

Changing lives together since 1983



Deki before her surgery in April 2024.

Deki's Story

In April 2024, an Interplast surgical team visited the Jigme Dorji Wangchuck National Referral Hospital (JDWRH) in Thimphu, the capital city of Bhutan. This visit was part of the strategy to assist Dr Sonam Jamtsho to establish a dedicated plastic and reconstructive surgery department.

incidence of preventable injuries like the burns Narangerel suffered.

Interplast has been visiting JDWRH for many years. Volunteer surgeon, the late Dr Tim Proudman, mentored Dr Sonam to become Nepal's first qualified plastic and reconstructive surgeon.

Rotary Canning River (formerly Kenwick) and its incredibly generous supporters have played a significant role in helping Dr Sonam to achieve his dream of a specialist plastic and reconstructive surgery department that will provide desperately needed services in Bhutan.

Donations made last year by Rotary Canning River and its supporters not only helped to make this surgical visit possible, but also sent 6 doctors and nurses from Bhutan to attend a month-long training program in Kathmandu, Nepal, in February 2024.

Whilst the Interplast volunteer team was in Thimphu, they were able to help 6 year old Deki, who was born with a congenital condition called macrostomia.

Children with this condition have a facial cleft that runs horizontally across their face, from the corner of the mouth.

This is the point at which several muscles involved in lip movement attach. Macrostomia can cause drooling, and problems with eating and speaking.

Dr Mark Moore from Australia, and Dr Dechen, a Bhutanese Ear Nose and Throat resident, performed oral maxillofacial surgery on Deki, to close the cleft and remove skin tags from the surrounding area.

Deki's parents are extremely grateful and happy about the surgical outcome for their daughter. Her father says "We were not aware that surgery could improve her appearance so much, we just wanted to avoid the stigma of poor appearance and mouth function but the result was more than expected. It even boosted her confidence in school".



Deki in a photo taken by her overjoyed parents in June, just 2 months after her surgery.

Deki can now look forward to a future without stigma, as can the other patients who received surgery made possible by Rotary Canning River and its generous partners. Thank you!