



Interplast Australia
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Royal Australasian College of Surgeons
Spring Street, Melbourne
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Treasurer: PETER WATT

INTERPLAST ROTARY AUSTRALIA SNIPPETS

Volume 7 August 2006



Sue Attwood has been working for Interplast since 1991. Sue is our roving Interplast Ambassador, and travels extensively throughout Australia speaking to Rotary Clubs. Sue is a Paul Harris Fellow and an Honorary Member of the Rotary Club of Clayton (D9810). Give Sue a call should you require a Guest speaker. **Tel: 03 9 249 1231 Email: SAttwood.Interplast@surgeons.org**

Interplast is extremely grateful to Rotary Clubs throughout Australia and New Zealand for their fantastic financial support. And we are indebted to those dedicated Interplast District Chairmen and their Committee members who have worked so hard to raise the awareness of Interplast throughout their Rotary Districts. Please accept our grateful thanks.

MORE INTERPLAST.....'IN A NUTSHELL'

- for all of those 23 years, Rotary and Rotarians in Australia have been equal partners in this remarkable program
- since 1983, more than 350 programs have been conducted -16,040 operations have been carried out by Interplast teams
- from July 2005 Interplast has conducted **17** programs, and **792** life-changing operations have been carried out
- another **13** programs are planned for the remainder of 2006
- the cost of sending an Interplast team away for two weeks presently stands at **\$40,000** the costs cover airfares, accommodation, meals, medical equipment and supplies
- the surgeons and other team members receive no remuneration – like Rotarians, they volunteer their time
- with around 60 operations performed each visit, it translates to approx **\$650** per operation
- there is **no cost** to the patient
- education and training of the local doctors and nurses in the countries the teams visit is a vital part of Interplast's work
- 30 Rotarians have accompanied teams to witness at first hand Interplast team members

Due to increasing costs of medical supplies, medical equipment, airfares etc, the Directors of Interplast have reviewed the costs of programs and the budget is now \$40,000. However, with around 60 operations performed each visit, it translates to \$650 per operation – still making it a most cost effective program.

Education and training is an important part of Interplast programs. Interplast has produced educational CD's for cleft lip and palate repair and burns management. Workshops have been developed for micro surgery, hand surgery and burns management.

Interplast has a five year agreement with the Ministry of Health in Burma to bring 5 trainees to Australia for 12 months to further their skills in plastic and reconstructive surgery practices. Dr Tun Tun our fourth trainee has recently returned to Mandalay after completing his training in Melbourne. Our fifth surgeon Dr Moe Moe is due to arrive in early October to commence her twelve months of training in Sydney.

Interplast is delighted to welcome PDG 9470 Brian Guest (WA) and PDG 9630 Ross Forgione (QLD) onto our Interplast Rotary Committee they are also Interplast chairmen for respective Districts. Brian and Ross bring a wealth of Rotary knowledge to Interplast and we are very grateful for their interest and support.



Interplast Australia (Inc Vic) is a non profit company founded in 1983 as a partnership between the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons and Rotary District 980. It provides voluntary medical teams who carry out plastic and reconstructive surgery in developing countries. Programs are actively supported by Rotary Districts and Clubs throughout Australia and New Zealand. Rotarians are members of the Company, the Board and the Rotary Committee.



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District 9790 Fanstastic effort

District 9790 is to be congratulated for raising \$150,000 for Interplast. Photograph shows Interplast representatives I-r District 9790 Interplast Chair Alan Anderson, Jan Yap, DG 9790 David Yap, Interplast Rotary Co-ordinator Sue Attwood and Interplast Secretary and Interplast Rotary Chairman DGN 9810 John Barnes with a huge cheque!



Rotary Briefing Weekend – Sydney NSW 2006

Once again the Interplast program was presented to the 23 Australian DGsE and their partners in July. There are now District Interplast Chairs in all Australian Districts and the on-going support of our program is greatly appreciated by all at Interplast. Rotary now funds some 10 teams each year therefore changing the lives of around 600 people and as a consequence, 10 more Australian Rotarians have become Interplast ambassadors to their Districts by accompanying an Interplast team as a Rotary observer and seeing our life-changing program at first hand.

Rotary Briefing Weekend – Auckland NZ 2006

The Interplast program was first presented to New Zealand Rotarians at their Institute in November 2005 and we were delighted to be invited to participate in their Briefing session in Auckland on 5/6 August when we outlined our program to the 6 New Zealand DGsE and their partners and renewed some past acquaintances. It seems natural to extend our program into New Zealand from whom we receive good support from Surgeons, Anaesthetists and Nurses and we look forward to establishing links with all 6 New Zealand Districts. Interplast is a part of District 9980 and 9920 and in the near future we are looking to establish a New Zealand committee to make support and communication easier.

DG 9920 Warwick Pleass

DG Warwick who resides in Suva, Fiji visited the IA team whilst they were in Lautoka, Fiji. Three of the team members were New Zealanders. Warwick was invited into the operating theatre to observe an IA team at work. Warwick was amazed at the dedication of the team.

Rotary Zone Institute – Gold Coast Qld 2006

Interplast will again be participating in the forthcoming Institute to be held on the Gold Coast later this year. Again Interplast will have our customary booth and a reception for the District Governors Elect will be held on Thursday 16th November. Our new CD "Interplast Interaction" produced by Rotarian 9820 Bob Pitman will be available.

Did you know?

Interplast is arguably one of Australia's best kept foreign aid secrets. A partnership since 1983 between the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons and Rotary throughout Australia and New Zealand – without Rotary funding Interplast would not be in a position to provide treatment for the many patients that have benefited by plastic and reconstructive surgery.

Interplast has a new DVD "Interplast Interaction" produced by Rotarian 9820 Bob Pitman –this is available upon request.

All donations to Interplast over \$2 are tax deductible

