

inside

- A note from Rotarian Coordinator, PP Glenda Sherwin-Lane 2
- Did you know? Rotarians fund the future 2
- What does Interplast do? 3
- RIPE Kalyan sees first hand what Interplast does 3
- Meet Tanvi—a beautiful young girl 'full of play' thanks to Interplast 3
- Contact Details / Interplast District Chairs / Donation Form 4

RIPE Kalyan Banerjee & Binota join an Interplast team in Fiji and meet four-month-old baby Tavish



Interplast Australia & New Zealand is a project actively supported by Rotarians in Clubs and Districts throughout Australia and New Zealand.



ROYAL AUSTRALASIAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS



Before—who could resist those eyes



After—in recovery with his Interplast teddy and being warmed by infrared

Four-month-old baby Tavish was one of 95 seen on clinic day by the Interplast team in Lautoka, Fiji in April and one of 31 lucky to receive life-changing surgery. RIPE Kalyan met Tavish and his mother the day after the operation. *Read more on page 3 ...*

A note from Rotarian Coordinator, PP Glenda Sherwin-Lane

"Would travel be a problem for you?" was the last question I was asked before being appointed to the staff of Interplast. "Not at all," I replied.

Rotarians in Clubs and Districts throughout Australia and New Zealand actively support Interplast. "Without Rotary, Interplast simply would not be," said PDG John Barnes, Interplast Director and Company Member.

As generous as Rotarians are, to use a seasonal colloquialism, we 'must not take our eye off the ball'.

Interplast has developed beyond offering humanitarian programs of surgery alone. **Treatment** is still an extremely important part of what we do. **Training and building health systems** for tomorrow is an integral part of every Interplast program.

The need is great. Our capacity to help is only restricted by the funding of programs.

There are several ways to promote the work of Interplast to Rotarians. Getting out and about and meeting you

face-to-face remains the most effective.

With 28 Rotary Districts in Australia and New Zealand, attending District Assemblies or participating in an Interplast 'Roadshow' is the most practical and valuable use of my time.

I have been most appreciative of the opportunities to speak at various District Assemblies from Queensland to Tasmania—experiencing Rotary's famous hospitality and fellowship and learning as much about Rotary as, hopefully, I impart about Interplast.

Comments in praise of the work of the Interplast volunteer surgical teams abound. I also hear: "I have always thought highly of Interplast but had no idea how extensive and far reaching the programs are."

The Hon Dr Kay Patterson, Vice President of the Interplast Board, and I participated in an Interplast Roadshow in Districts 9500 and 9520 recently—speaking to over 500 Rotarians in five days. We received a truly wonderful



District 9830 Assembly in Launceston

reception and have been heartened by the response. My thanks go to Reg Hutchinson and Elizabeth Briggs of D9500 for their hard work in Adelaide to coordinate the Roadshow in both Districts and to DGs Ed King (D9500) and Malcolm Lindquist (D9520) for lending their support to the concept.

There's a wealth of information throughout Rotary about the work of Interplast—members of the Rotarian Committee, former Rotarian Observers, surgeons, anaesthetists and nurses who have been part of an Interplast team and, of course, your Interplast District Chair.

If you would like to update your club members about the work of Interplast, please contact me at the Interplast office on (03) 9249 1231. I will find an appropriate speaker—or please give some thought to holding a group or cluster meeting.

I will also welcome the opportunity to speak at your District Assembly or arrange a speaker for your District Conference. ■



Inter City Dinner in Tanunda South Australia on 14 April hosted by the Rotary Club of Barossa Valley which was attended by 125 Rotarians from the Barossa Valley.
L-R: Hon Dr Kay Patterson, Pres Bob Sloane, Glenda, Elizabeth Briggs.

Did you know? Rotarians fund the future ...

Since 1996, Interplast Australia & New Zealand (IANZ) has delivered 12 visits to Laos, funded by Rotary Clubs and Districts, to train local staff in the techniques of cleft lip and palate repair. This training has resulted in the establishment of a local Laos Cleft team from Mahosot General Hospital, Vientiane, comprising two surgeons, an anaesthetist and a dedicated clinical nurse specialist. The local team is now capable of providing cleft lip and palate services and as a result, since 2008 Interplast's assistance has shifted to supporting the Laos team to build capacity to deliver cleft outreach services in the provinces independently, and to provide training to counterparts in the provincial centres.

With the development of local skills in providing cleft lip and palate surgery, IANZ's surgical training program is now focused on assisting the local team from Mahosot General Hospital to treat and manage patients suffering from burns injuries. This training is more technically challenging and resource intensive so a long term approach to establishing local sustainability in the management of burns patients has been taken.

What Does Interplast Do?

Interplast Australia & New Zealand sends teams of **volunteer** plastic and reconstructive surgeons, anaesthetists and nurses to developing countries of the Asia Pacific region to provide free medical **treatment and training**.

Volunteers

Each member of an Interplast program is fully qualified in their field of expertise and **VOLUNTEER** their time to participate in an Interplast program.

Treatment

Interplast volunteers provide free treatment to people living with a disability from a congenital condition such as cleft lip and palate, or an acquired condition such as burn scar contractures. Treatment is targeted to the indigent population who would otherwise not be able to afford to access services.

Training

Interplast assists with developing local capacity to provide plastic and reconstructive surgery services by providing training and mentoring programs for medical and allied health professionals. All Interplast programs are training programs — leaving a legacy long after the team has gone. ■



Meet Tanvi

The same Interplast team that was in Lautoka in April 2011 operated on Tanvi in 2009. You can imagine their delight at being able to meet Tanvi again and to be able to see a beautiful child *“...full of play ... is healthy and able to do everything any normal child can. We have been blessed,”* said Tanvi’s mother, who added that she and her husband owed the Interplast team a lot because they could never have afforded the treatment for their daughter.



RIPE Kalyan sees first hand what Interplast does



Interplast Anaesthetist Dr Robert Buckland explains while RIPE Kalyan Banerjee, PDG Brian Guest (Interplast Director) and Binota Banerjee observe one of the operations conducted by the Interplast team at Lautoka General Hospital, Fiji

When the recent celebration of 75 years of Rotary in Fiji coincided with a visit to the Lautoka General Hospital by an Interplast volunteer reconstructive surgical team, it provided the perfect opportunity for RIPE Kalyan Banerjee to see firsthand exactly what Interplast does.

“I have heard of your work but to actually witness it is beautiful. I am amazed at the commitment, dedication and sincerity of this team; it is outstanding,” he told the Interplast team.

While travelling in Fiji, Kalyan and his wife Binota were accompanied by D9920 (New Zealand) DG Nicolas Spillman and DGE Alan Eyes, both of whom were overwhelmed by their experience. *“A second life has been given to these children ... thanks to Australian and New Zealand Rotarians and to the skills of surgical teams from both countries,”* said DG Nicolas. *“... the work done by Interplast teams is miraculous,”* said DGE Alan. *“I am so proud our District funded this program.”*

Not only was the program funded by a New Zealand District, the two surgeons came from New Zealand, with the anaesthetist and two theatre nurses from Australia—Interplast Australia & New Zealand in deed as in fact.

During their morning with the Interplast team, Kalyan, Binota and the Rotary delegation met Mala Reddy with her son Tavish. *“I am so thankful for the Interplast team’s help in giving my son a normal life. It is a great thing they are doing ... Now my hopes for my son have come true and I am so happy.”*

Very moved by what he had seen, RIPE Kalyan said to PDG Brian Guest, D9465 and Interplast Director *“...every Rotarian should be proud they are still involved with Interplast after so many years.”*

Surgeons, anaesthetists and theatre nurses from Fiji gained valuable experience and training during the two weeks of the Interplast program.

Contact Us

Interplast has a District Chair in all of the Australian and New Zealand Rotary Districts. Please contact them or the Interplast office if you would like any further information sent to you, or would like to host a speaker who has experienced first hand the incredible work of Interplast's highly motivated and caring volunteers.

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Interplast is grateful to the District Chairs and Committee members for their time and effort on our behalf.

Donation Form

Yes I would like to rebuild lives

Title _____ Name _____ Surname _____

Address _____

Suburb _____ State _____ Post Code _____

Email _____

Phone _____ Mobile _____

By making a donation of \$ _____ My cheque is payable to-
Interplast Australia & New Zealand Overseas Aid Fund
 From my credit card (complete details below)

ROTARY CLUB

Please credit Rotary Club _____ **District** _____

JOIN THE REBUILDING LIVES FELLOWSHIP

I would like to join the **Rebuilding Lives Fellowship** and make monthly donations from my credit card.

Please deduct \$ _____ on the _____ of every month from my credit card until further notice.

Insert amount

CREDIT CARD DETAILS

Visa Mastercard Diners Club AMEX

Card Number _____ Expiry Date _____

Name on Card _____ Signature _____

Any information you provide to Interplast will be treated in the strictest of confidence. Interplast will only use your personal details in order to provide you with the opportunity of a range of services and facilities that will benefit Interplast programs. Interplast does not rent, lease, or sell your personal details to any other organisation. Interplast Australia & New Zealand respects your privacy, for more information on our privacy policy please see our website at www.interplast.com.au. Please check this box if you do not wish to receive further material from Interplast.

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