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## Thousands tackle the Eureka Climb, raising almost \$220,000 for Interplast and Whitelion

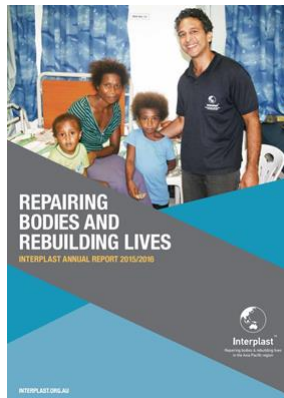


The annual Eureka Climb on Sunday, November 13, was a great success, raising almost \$220,000 for the life-changing work of [Interplast](#) and [Whitelion](#).

One of the highlights of the day was 68-year-old Barb Wall finally reaching her goal of conquering the tower with her Step Sisters teammate, Deb Shiell, after months of training. But they didn't just conquer the tower, they also topped the team fundraising table, with a huge total of more than \$9000.

Read Barb's reflections in [this story on our website](#), and have a look at a [gallery of images from the day on our Facebook page](#).

Annual Report now  
available online



Our Annual Report for the 2015–16 financial year is now available on our website. You can download the full document as a pdf file from our [publications page](#).

## CEO Prue Ingram visits Bhutan and Nepal to plan for the future of our programs



Last week our CEO Prue Ingram and Program Coordinator Thomas Loporto travelled to Bhutan for high-level meetings with the Ministry of Health and our two partners, the Khesar Gyalpo University of Medical Sciences and the Jigme Dorji Wangchuck National Referral Hospital, to finalise a Memorandum of Understanding. This MoU will allow the partners, including Interplast, to undertake programs more effectively and to jointly plan for the future of plastic and other surgeries in Bhutan.

Prue then travelled to Kathmandu in Nepal to meet with various local partners to discuss current and future program activities. This also included meeting with a range of Government officials, along with the Australian Ambassador to Nepal, to address visa issues that have prevented Interplast teams from legally practising in Nepal over recent years. Prue is pictured with the Secretary of the Nepalese Ministry of Health, Dr Senendra Raj Upreti.

Help us give a round of [#GlobalApplause](#) to volunteers who make our programs happen

**#GlobalApplause**   
Give volunteers a hand

Today is International Volunteer Day. Volunteers are at the heart of Interplast – thanks to their commitment and selfless effort, thousands of people across the Asia Pacific have received life–

changing surgery and medical support that opens up a new future.

Over the past week we have been honouring our volunteers by taking part in the official International Volunteer Day social media campaign under the theme 'Global Applause: Give volunteers a hand'.

Have a look at the posts on our social media platforms ([Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#)) and join in the round of applause by sharing, commenting, and using the applause emoji 👏.

## Honoring 33 years of dedication to changing futures with Interplast



November 15 marked a significant milestone for Interplast as we honoured outgoing board President David Inglis (pictured, right). He has served in this role since 2009, but he has been deeply involved since the organisation's inception in 1983, including significant contributions to establishing Interplast. His incredible commitment and dedication over 33 years was recognised and honored by many past and present Interplast volunteers, Board members and supporters at a special function at the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, where we also farewelled Professor Mark Ashton as he retired from his position as Board Director. We are excited to welcome Mr Keith Muitimer (pictured, left) as our incoming President.

## Rotary supporters get active for Interplast





Rotary supporters across the country have been busy raising awareness and funds for Interplast. In October the Frankston Rotary Club (Victoria) held a Mad Hatter's Day, pictured above, that raised \$3000, and Interplast Rotarian Coordinator Di Gillies spoke at group forums throughout Tasmania attended by 17 clubs in all. In November the Wandin Rotary Club (Victoria) hosted a dinner for 230 people that raised \$22,000, Rotary District 9455 (WA) held a night of opera in Perth's Stirk Park that was very well attended, and the Keilor Rotary Club (Victoria) held a wine appreciation event attended by 35 people that raised almost \$1500.

Significant Rotary related events that are coming up include Di Gillies speaking to the Vernier Society about Interplast's work and connection with Rotary, and Women in Rotary will hold the annual International Women's Day breakfast at the Crown Palladium on March 8, 2017. For tickets and information keep an eye on [www.rotarywomen.org.au](http://www.rotarywomen.org.au) – the 2016 breakfast raised more than \$50,000 for selected charities, including Interplast.

## Angel's amazing transformation



Find out about Angel's amazing transformation in this [interactive report from Fairfax Media](#).

Angel was born with a large brain hernia that covered most of her face. Her parents contacted us in 2014, and she was seen by an Interplast team later that year in her home country, the Philippines. Our team recommended that she be brought to Australia for more complex surgery, and we referred her to our friends at [Children First Foundation](#).

Thanks to surgery she received in Australia, Angel is now happy and home with her family.

## What we've been up to during November



During November we delivered 10 program activities across the Asia Pacific and in Australia. In PNG, a small team travelled throughout the Freida River region in partnership with PanAust to assess patients in remote communities who require plastic and reconstructive surgery. Patients will be supported to travel to one of the hospitals on the north coast of PNG in 2017 to be treated by a visiting Interplast surgical team. Pictured here is Interplast surgeon Russell, assessing a local community member in the village of Ok Isai.

In Bhutan, a plastic and reconstructive and hand surgery and training visit ran alongside a hand therapy mentoring program in Thimphu. In Kiribati, a general plastic and reconstructive surgical team delivered a two-week surgical program, complemented by a nurse education visit. In Fiji, a small surgical mentoring team spent one week in Suva, delivering training to the local surgeons, anaesthetists and nurses, including specific burns nurse education. Finally, we supported two surgeons, one from Nepal and one from Bangladesh, to undertake a professional development and training visit to Australia.

## Help change futures across the Asia Pacific

Your ongoing financial support allows us to continue our work to repair bodies and rebuild

lives. Please make a [secure online donation via our website donation page](#).

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