



Interplast™



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A great night of laughs and music

Now Arbraar will be able to eat and talk like other children



Arbraar, 3, was born in Fiji with a cleft lip and palate. His lip was repaired by an Interplast team in 2014 when he was six months old. But in the years since, his cleft palate has caused problems with eating and learning how to speak, and he has had constant infections.

Arbraar's mum understands all he has been through – she was also born with a cleft lip and palate, but has only had her lip repaired. Earlier this year, an Interplast team fixed Arbraar's cleft palate, but could not operate on his mum as she had to look after him in recovery. Now she is on the waiting list for the next Interplast visit.



Our recent Changing Futures Concert was a great success, with more than 350 people enjoying laughs from Richard Stubbs and entertainment from Daryl Braithwaite, Russell Morris and Chris Wilson. A big thanks to all the performers for volunteering their time and talent, and to the Athenaeum for putting on such a great show. Also thanks to our enthusiastic audience who not only sang along with the wonderful music but also embraced our work.

[Check out some of the photos from the night on our Facebook album.](#)

[Find out more about their story on our website.](#)

[Change lives for people like Abraar in Fiji and across the Pacific by joining our Fiji Trek.](#)

An update on our Ambassador, Turia Pitt



The inspirational Turia Pitt continues to lend her support to Interplast whenever she can. As you may be aware, Turia and her fiancé Michael are looking forward to a very exciting challenge – the birth of their first child later this year. We wish them the very best with this next chapter in their lives. We'll keep you posted!

Turia's Everest Trek in May was a great success, and while Turia was not able to join the actual trek, her efforts beforehand and her decision to join trekkers in Nepal in the very early stages of her pregnancy demonstrate her amazing dedication and passion. A highlight of the trip was a visit by Turia and the trekkers to Kirtipur Hospital in Kathmandu to see the work that they helped make possible. Turia has also continued to provide valuable support for Interplast through various radio and magazine interviews and through her social media activity.

A surgeon's mission to help Nepal's burn patients



Interplast's Nepalese partner Dr Shankar Man Rai, pictured above with the grateful wife of a patient, features in a three-part special series on burns in Nepal published in Global Health NOW. He runs the Nepal Cleft and Burn Centre in Kathmandu and Interplast has worked closely with him for a number of years.

“Before the surgery began that September afternoon, the third and fourth fingers on Malla’s right hand were fused and tightly bent—made nearly useless. As a toddler, he knocked over a kerosene lamp, burning his hand badly. For 18 years, thick scars called contractures bound the two fingers together. The X-ray the doctors held up to the window showed how the pull from the contractures had twisted his finger bones around each other...

“Burns like Malla’s aren’t high up on the global health agenda, but they take a toll. In Nepal, the government estimates there were 56,000 serious burns and 2,100 deaths in 2008. For several decades Malla’s plastic surgeon, 61-year-old **Shankar Man Rai** has been on the forefront of a movement to bring more attention and resources to burn treatment and prevention in Nepal.”

[Read the full story on the Global Health NOW website.](#)

[Please help us support Dr Man Rai's work in Nepal. Donate now.](#)

Pacific Island surgeons taking on the Eureka Climb for Interplast



The Eureka Climb is rapidly approaching and participants are busy training and fundraising. It promises to be a great day to celebrate the event's 10th anniversary! For the first time we have a team of Pacific Island surgeons from our program countries taking part, and they will be met by a "friendly challenge" from a team of our Melbourne-based volunteer surgeons.

If you would like to compete **it is not too late to register**, but you'll need to be quick as the event is almost sold out.

We would love it if you could support our **Pacific Island surgeons by donating to their team**. If you are not climbing on the day, please feel free to come along and watch and get involved in the experience.

Good luck everyone!

October was another busy month for Interplast!



In late October we were delighted to welcome Indonesian anaesthetic registrars **Dr Rizki Subing** and **Dr Arinanda Hayu** to the Interplast office as part of their month-long training placement based in Ballarat in regional Victoria.

We also delivered a two-week surgical and allied health mentoring program in Bhutan – a country known for measuring its 'Gross National Happiness'. Our team of two surgeons, anaesthetist, nurses and allied health therapists travelled to the capital, Thimphu, to work closely with local staff.

Other highlights included a week-long allied health mentoring program in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, and supporting Fijian allied health therapist Miliana Bavatu to undertake a short placement in Adelaide. She was joined there by Fijian surgeon Semesa Matanaicake for the Australia and New Zealand Burn Association Conference.

Keep changing futures across the Asia Pacific

Your donation today will enable us to continue sending surgical and medical teams to countries throughout our region, along with training local medical professionals.

Find out more and make your donation at:
www.interplast.org.au/donate

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