

## VANUATU

Country Coordinator:  
Mr Ian Holten

In June 2013, the annual Interplast surgical visit to Port Vila in Vanuatu was led by volunteer Country Coordinator and surgeon, Ian Holten, and included surgeons, Mark Duncan-Smith and Rebecca Wyten (on her first Interplast program), anaesthetist, Rob Grace and nurses, Helen Chadwick and Tanya Karal.

Over the course of the week, the team consulted 47 patients, with 36 surgical procedures undertaken including a number of cleft lip and palate repairs, burn scar contracture releases and the treatment of other congenital and acquired conditions.

The visit included a significant training component, with ni-Vanuatu surgical registrar, Dr Samuel Kemuel, travelling from his training at the Fiji School of Medicine in Suva to be present with the Interplast team in Port Vila. Dr Kemuel pre-screened patients in the lead up to the team's arrival and assisted with most procedures performed by the Interplast team. Other hands-on training was provided to the local surgeons, anaesthetists and nurses throughout the week and a lecture was delivered by Mark Duncan-Smith on wounds and acute burns care.

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**36 procedures**  
**47 consultations**  
**1 surgical activity**

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## VIETNAM

Country Coordinator:  
Dr James Masson  
(previously Mr Allan Meares)

In November 2012, a program review of the effectiveness of Vietnam's current country program was undertaken. A team of two volunteers and one staff member visited four cities where Interplast have previously implemented activities – Ho Chi Minh City, Da Nang, Tam Kỳ and Hanoi – to review what ingredients are required for successful future programming.

Over a five-day period the review team visited the Hospital for Traumatology and Orthopedics and Cho Ray Hospital in Ho Chi Minh City, Da Nang Hospital in Da Nang, Quang Nam General Hospital in Tam Kỳ and Saint Paul Hospital and National Hospital of Pediatrics in Hanoi. Meetings were held with key plastic surgeons and their staff, as well as with the Australian Consul-General, senior AusAID representative and various non-government organisations.

As a result, Interplast will implement activities in the 2013/14 financial year with a focus on capacity building, specifically around hand surgery and advanced microsurgery mentoring.

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### 1 **planning and evaluation activity**

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**Three training activities had a regional focus and are not included in the country-specific information.**



## ESALA VAKAMACAWAI

FIJIAN SURGICAL REGISTRAR

"Fiji is a developing country with 45 per cent of people living in poverty. I realised that in this specialty, I could make a difference to many of these people who cannot pay for overseas treatment. I am currently studying as a second year student in the postgraduate Masters in General Surgery at the Fiji School of Medicine. My interest in plastic surgery began a few years ago after witnessing tears of joy from a mother after seeing her son's outcome of a cleft lip repair.

I thank Interplast for sending teams to Fiji and giving patients a fair chance for treatment. I have worked with the teams in Lautoka, Labasa and Suva where these attachments have exposed me to quality surgical procedures and principles that will allow me to become a skilled and safe surgeon in the future. It also ensures that when the teams return home, I should be able to continue what they have started.

This year, I've been sponsored by Interplast to attend two additional attachments. This has not only broadened my knowledge but has also given me a chance to meet other surgeons from neighbouring countries. We have initiated a network where we can discuss cases and ideas – there's always more than one solution to a single problem! I look forward to working with the Interplast teams towards changing lives in Fiji and the Pacific region in the future."



Tonga had 2012/13's

**OLDEST  
PATIENT**  
**81-YEAR-OLD WOMAN**

While there was no activity to Myanmar this year, Interplast will be undertaking activities in 2013/14. (Country Coordinator: Associate Professor Michael Leung, previously Dr Michael McGlynn OAM).