

Day 4

Talofa lava. Another day, another wound. Fortunately we are getting into the definitive stage of the wound management, with loads of skin grafts, primary closures and local flaps occurring today. We were steaming through the day's cases and thought it may be an early finish. That was until the last case, when after unravelling the wound the plastic surgeon said "hmmm interesting, I haven't done a flap like this for a while". Three hours later we were trucking home. Sigh....maybe tomorrow we will get that cocktail. The girls say they are managing to get a bit of sun between cases. Interesting seeing how far scrubs can get rolled up. The boys are as pasty as ever. Shows who does the work really...

The PACU girls have been having yarns with some of the injured locals both before and after operations. It is all pretty heart wrenching, and the more we get to know them the more personal it becomes. April (McFarland) and Janine (Lee) have done very well in this regards, often talking with them the most, and managing to give a personal touch despite the language barrier.

Roelof (van Dalen) has continued to impress us all with his ever expanding medical expertise. Yesterday he was the wound nurse, patiently changing dressings on the ward whilst hushing the sobs from the patients. Today he put his hand to ED, suturing head wounds and the like. Not even holding back when a patient wanted to thank him and shake his very bloodied hand.

It is still hot. At night the choice is being kept awake by noisy air conditioning, or by the heat. The team is definitely getting tired. Even April is talking less.

For Siew Ling Ong – due to lack of moments in Samoa, there is an abundance of motions....

By the way, Debbie (Ratima) can do half a pull up, April can do one (with thrusting leg motions), Andrea (Jarocki) can do one, we told John (Smithells) to stop because Debbie ran out of fingers, and Roelof passed.

Fa

The team

P.S. Here's some more visual highlights oh and by the way we love the [feedback](#) keep it coming! We enjoy your messages so [contact](#) us today.



Barbara Roberts, Jason Donovan and Jeremy Simcock (Chch Plastic Surgeon), big flap.

National Health Services
TTH Hospital

CONSENT FORM
(To Be Filled in and Signed on Admission To Hospital)

I hereby give full consent for
(Block Letters)
(a) Self
(b) who is under the age of 18 years and whose
(Block Letters)
parent or legal guardian I am, to undergo any Anaesthetic or Operation which may be
considered by the Hospital Staff.

Signed:
(Patients Parent state relationship)

.....
(If Guardian state relationship)

Witness:

Date: 5/10/09

Operation consent form. This covers surgical and anaesthetic consent along with both check ins and 'time-out'



Walking to the hospital in the morning



Jason and Samoan surgical registrar reducing a fracture



Andrea Jarocki with some of the donated orthopaedic equipment



Christian Fougere (Auckland) in action



Joe (samoan registrar) and Andrea Jarocki



Debbie Ratima cleaning instruments with a toothbrush at end of each case



Jeremy Simcock at work





Barbara Roberts with blisters



April McFarland and Debbie Ratima taking pictures of themselves again