

ZOWTA

# Bombs, blackouts: all in a day's work

## ELEANOR PEARSON

WHEN Judith White visits Nepal each April she knows she could be working amid bombings, blackouts, water failure, petrol failure and strikes.

But, as the Turramurra recovery nurse, said: "I'm fulfilling a dream."

Mrs White has been recognised with an OAM for her nursing work with patients with cleft lips and palates, or burns in Nepal.

The Nepal Reconstructive Surgery project was established by Charles Sharpe in 1994 at the behest of missionary and Adventist Development Relief Agency (ADRA) director Paul Dalhanty.

"Australia is God's country, babies are repaired at birth if they are born with cleft lips and palates," Mrs White said.

"In Nepal if they live, they live, if they die, they die.

"They have no financial means to be repaired."

In 2005 a burn contractures unit was also established in Nepal. Mrs White has been to Nepal every year since 1994.

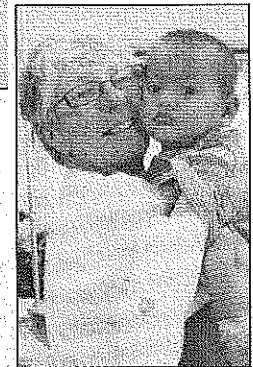
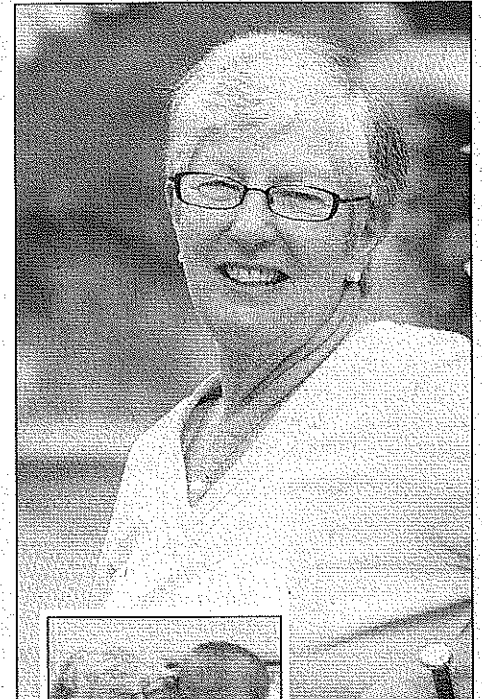
She said the team of 35 medics each pay for their own travel costs. They set up a freestanding day surgery unit, with all their own equipment.

"We see 100 patients in a fortnight, it's very intense," she said.

Mrs White is also proud of her work providing birthing kits to women in Third World

countries, including Nepal, Vietnam, Kenya and Ethiopia. Mrs White is a member of the Zonta club of the Northern Beaches. With her club Mrs White raises money and provides breast cushions to give comfort to women recovering from mastectomies and lumpectomies.

The club also provides drainage bags for mastectomy patients at Sydney Adventist hospital.



**HOME AND AWAY: Judith White, who works in Nepal every April.**

Picture: SARA NIXON

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