

a witchdoctor's potion cured a toddler's eczema



From tormented tot to eczema-free – little Alicia Kyle with mum Karen.

MAIN PHOTOGRAPHS: JENNY COONEY

completely within two weeks of using the magical African cream.

'There must be something in all this witchdoctor stuff,' says Karen, 'Alicia is the proof. It used to be that when Alicia's skin would start to heal it would get all scabby and itch and she'd scratch it off again. But when we put the cream on, the skin started to repair itself and grow back without causing any itching. We haven't had to use the cream at all recently because her eczema has gone completely.'

The cream was discovered in 1999 by English woman, Lesley Robinson, when she was on a holiday in Zimbabwe. She'd torn ligaments and badly damaged a knee three months earlier and, despite an operation to repair the damage, was still crippled. She told her African tour guide that she wouldn't be able to take the guided walk on offer.

The guide insisted Lesley visit a genuine African witchdoctor, a local healer who looked just as you'd expect... porcupine quills in her hair, sitting on the floor of her hut surrounded by healing herbs.

The witchdoctor gave Lesley some roots to boil up and dab on both her injured and good knees. 'I was thinking

that I'd give it a go, but I didn't hold out much hope,' admits Lesley, a clinical marketing manager for a high flying pharmaceutical company.

The effect was miraculous. Within 48 hours Lesley was completely pain free, able to undertake the 14km guided walk and has not had pain in the leg since.

An astonished Lesley spent time investigating supplies in a local Zimbabwean pharmacy, and among the remedies she found was kigelia, a root known to help eczema sufferers.

Lesley bought several jars of kigelia root balm, and family and friends back home found that within weeks it cleared up eczema, psoriasis and dry skin conditions they had suffered from for years.

Lesley quit her medical job and asked a pharmacist in the Zimbabwean capital of Harare to formulate kigelia cream for export.

News of the miraculous healing cream spread quickly, and Lesley has appeared in magazines, television and on radio in England talking about the miracle cream.

By Kimberley Paterson

It made a terrible mess of her face and she would scratch incessantly

daughter

Balm a last resort

Unassuming Eketahuna farmer's wife Carrie Mead is the face behind the kagelia root balm in New Zealand. Carrie became involved in the product when her son Glenn and daughter-in-law Kate (who is Lesley Robinson's daughter) visited from England and Kate whipped out a pottle of cream to help with eczema on her leg.

Now Carrie finds herself supplying Themba Herbal Skin Balm to friends and contacts all over the King Country, as well being busy helping husband Arthur manage their 2600-acre sheep and cattle farm.

'I've seen some amazing results from the balm,' says Carrie, 'most people use it as a last resort after trying everything else and are usually quite tentative to start with, but then find it really works. I've got a number of local ladies taking 'before and after' shots of treatment with the cream because they are so excited about what it's doing for them.'

● Contact Carrie at Nga Puka Farms, Castlehill Road, RD3, Eketahuna. Phone 06 375 0612.



Two-year-old Ben from England before the cream...



...and two weeks after using it.