

# My Secret Life

Four people share their passionate pastimes and show that you should never judge a book by its cover.

Interviews by **Rachel Eldred**

## Dr Scott Ingram

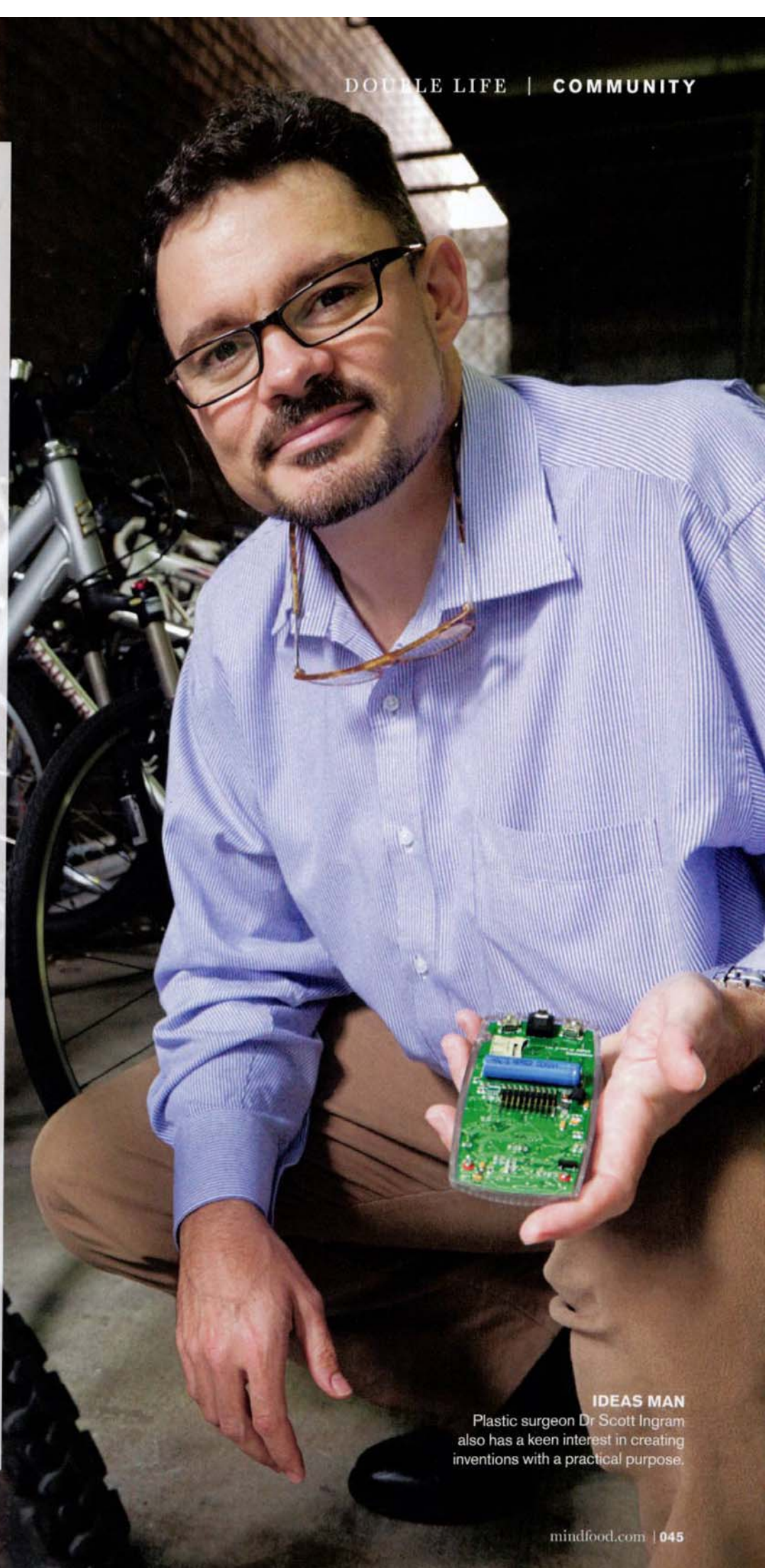
### BY DAY: PLASTIC SURGEON

"When I was a medical student I attended a lecture about congenital hand anomalies and I was fascinated by the way you could take an abnormal hand and improve its function. I went into the field not particularly interested in the cosmetic side of things, but through the training you learn that to be a quality specialist you can't do your best job without understanding how to work with the body aesthetically ... knowing how to do a breast augmentation helps with breast reconstruction; a facelift helps with craniofacial surgery. One of the best things about the job is being able to restore function to people who have lost body parts. I am able to exercise an artistic flair yet it is still an academic pursuit. One of the biggest challenges is matching patients' expectations with what can be achieved. There is a whole spectrum between normal and abnormal and with some people I just have to make that extra effort to manage their expectations with a realistic outcome."

### BY NIGHT: INVENTOR

"For the past 10 years I've had an 'Ideas' folder on my desktop. I have an active mind that sees a need and then figures out how to fulfil it. Over the past three or four years I've started working on my ideas with an engineer. One of our devices, which enables cyclists to know what gear they are in (*pictured*), has interest from a multi-national company. I'm also working on a few surgical instruments. One device enables you to measure the depth of a drill-hole in the bone more accurately in hand surgery. I am also building a house that is going to include a prototype of an enclosure for wheelie bins, to help deal with the smell and also to enable easy access to the bin regardless of which way you put it into the enclosure. I probably trace my interest in inventions to watching *The Inventors* when I was young and watching Dad tinker in his shed, where things were made to meet a practical purpose, such as something to hang a fishing rod on."

*Photography by Brad Wagner*



### IDEAS MAN

Plastic surgeon Dr Scott Ingram also has a keen interest in creating inventions with a practical purpose.