



FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCE JUNE 2011

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Report from the Co-Directors

Associate Professor Peter Arvier & Associate Professor Lizzi Shires
Acting Co-Directors, University of Tasmania, Rural Clinical School

2011 brought record number of medical students to the Rural Clinical School. This year we have 57 students (Year 4 – 33 students, Year 5 – 24 students). All 24 of the Year 5 students are returning students. The students have been overwhelmingly positive about their clinical placements and time on the North West Coast. We would like to thank all staff and the community for making their clinical years so positive.

The hospital has welcomed back five University of Tasmania (UTAS) graduates as interns for the North West Area Health Service and we are pleased that several of our alumni have returned as registrars and are participating in the teaching program. We are also particularly pleased to welcome to the RCS five local students who are returning to the North West Coast.



To accommodate our ever increasing student numbers the RCS is having some internal alterations to create another skills centre, tutorial room and additional teaching space.



New RCS Director

Professor Timothy Skinner has been appointed to the role of Director of the Rural Clinical School, he will commence on 1st August 2011. Professor Skinner has a background in health psychology and an excellent research record in the area of diabetes and the primary care management of chronic diseases. He has recently worked for the Combined University Centre for Rural Health in Western Australia and is currently working as Director of Research at the Flinders University Rural Clinical School.

News From The RCS

Community Welcome and Awards Presentation Evening



January 2011 New and returning students were welcomed by the North West community at an evening function at the Rural Clinical School. Key note speeches by community leaders highlighted the varied clinical and social opportunities for the students. Margret Oetterli presented the GPNW Simon Monks Award for Excellence to Hilary Taylor-Evans. The Wynyard Rotary scholarship in Rural Medicine was present to Emma Beddows by Tony Wilson and Peter Radel. (pictured left - Hilary Taylor-Evans & Emma Beddows)



Professor Carmichael retires. Professor Allan Carmichael has recently retired as the Dean, Faculty of Health Science. We would like to acknowledge his valuable contribution to the conception and building of the Rural Clinical School. He has been a strong supporter of the RCS and his leadership was celebrated over lunch with Community Advisory Board members, students and staff. (pictured left - Professor Carmichael with staff and students)

Community Advisory Board (CAB) is a vital link with our communities. The CAB meets twice yearly and has representatives from the Burnie, Smithton, Queenstown and King Island communities along with the University.

News From The RCS cont.

Mersey Community Hospital Centre of Excellence Works began in March on the construction of a \$1.48 million University of Tasmania (UTAS) rural education Centre of Excellence at the Mersey Community Hospital. The new centre will position Mersey as an active participant in contemporary rural clinical education and complements the well established Rural Clinical School in Burnie. (Sid Sidebottom MP – pictured below - opening the MCH Works)



Sustainability – Dr Nick Towle, RCS Clinical Medical Education Advisor (pictured below) with the first of our “fruits of labour” from fruit trees that have been recently planted in the RCS grounds.



Going Green – Staff and students at the RCS continue to support green initiatives. New recycling and “green compost bins” have been placed in the RCS Staff Lounge, Clinicians’ Lounge and Students’ Kitchenette area. (RCS Students Alexandra Frain & Fadh Yusof pictured below.)



Year 2 Rural Communities Program

The RCS hosted 35 Year 2 MBBS students as part of the Rural Communities Program (April 11-15, 2011).

The aim of this program is to give students practical insights into the health needs and culture of Tasmania’s rural communities. Students gained first-hand experience of the roles of various health professionals working in rural areas and a broad appreciation of the inter-professional nature of health care.

Students were placed at Queenstown, Smithton, Wynyard, Ulverstone/Penguin, Port Sorell, Latrobe & Sheffield communities

Students spent time with local health professionals, patients and community leaders. They attended community events including Rotary Club meetings.

“I gained an appreciation of health professionals in small communities and noticed positive outcomes such as the familiarity between GP’s and patients” . Year 2 Medical Student

“It was obvious that the students relished the opportunity and that the experience has given them a much greater insight into rural communities – both the advantages and disadvantages” . - HON. MIKE GAFFNEY, MLC, Member for Mersey, Latrobe Mayor

They participated in clinical skills training at the Rural Clinical School, Burnie, visited aged care facilities, engaged in health promotion activities including the CORES Suicide Prevention program in Sheffield, attended paramedic call outs and aspects of Aboriginal health.

Students’ feedback presentations to the communities at the end of the week outlined their overwhelmingly positive experience.

We hope that students attending rural week will return one day to study or work in rural communities.

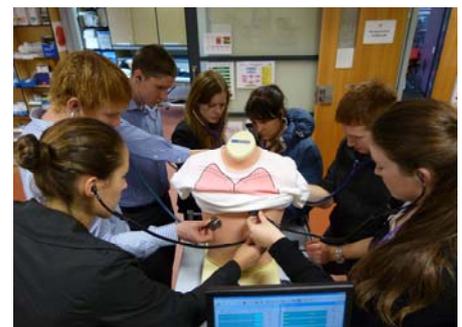
The Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing (DoHA) supports medical students to spend at least four weeks of their degree in a rural area to gain practical insights into health and health care in rural communities.



(Above) Patient transport officer Greg Whittington (right) and Queenstown Ambulance station officer Tony Rinaudo speak to second year medical students.



Above: Students at a local Sassafras farm as part of their industry visit.



Above: Students undertake clinical skills sessions at the RCS

Year 9 Health Careers Workshop

40 Year 9 students were invited to attend a Health Careers Workshop on Thursday 26th May 2011 as part of a partnership provided by the RCS, North West Area Health Service and Department of Education.

The program provides an interactive experience for students with an interest in future careers in the health area.

The students attended workshops on selected professions including physiotherapy, oral health, social work, podiatry, diabetes, radiography, occupational therapy, pharmacy, nursing and medicine. They were also given information on career study paths, UTAS opportunities along with course



information and scholarships.

Positive comments from students & teachers who attended included;

'we are greatly appreciative, the workshop provided such a valuable experience for us;'
'the day gave the students a mountain of

information which will greatly assist them in their careers pathway.'

Many thanks to all the contributors for making this such a valuable program.



High school students get a feel for Physiotherapy from Lauren Richardson (left) & Nursing from Jacky Taylor (above)

Personally Controlled EHealth Records (PCEHRs)



A local eHealth project will help provide residents in aged care facilities on the NW Coast by developing a shared electronic health record .

Dr Robyn Brogan and Nurse Specialist Judith Harris commenced a Gold Standards Framework in Registered Aged Care Facilities project in late 2010, funded by the North West Area Health Service. This program promotes high

quality care for residents of aged care facilities in North West Tasmania.

The eHealth project has been planned by Cradle Coast eHIE, a consortium of General Practice North West, North West Area Health Service, UTAS Rural Clinical School and the Cradle Coast Authority. It will link Aged care facilities with GPs, after hours services, and acute hospitals to support better



communication of the resident's goals of care.

This project will demonstrate cross-boundary care locally, integrating primary and secondary health care services, and is funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing.

For more information about the project visit the website: <http://www.cradle-coast-ehealth.org.au/>

(Nurse Specialist Judith Harris & Dr Robyn Brogan pictured left.)

Growing Older and Keeping Healthy in Rural Tasmania

The Growing Older & Keeping Healthy in Rural Tasmania project has now been completed.

Key Findings Showed

- The most effective services and supports are based on understanding relationships between older people's health behaviors or lifestyles and their social environments and communities.

- Services which promote active rather than passive social contact—that is those that promote meaningful involvement in

local community—are more likely to have a positive impact on health & wellbeing.

For more information about the project visit the website:

www.rcs.utas.edu.au/growingolder

This project was conducted by the University of Tasmania, in partnership with the Home and Community Care (HACC) program of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), and the Tasmanian Council of Social Services (TasCOSS) and was funded by the Australian Research Council (ARC).



Visits to the RCS



◆ **The Vice Chancellor Peter Rathjen** (pictured far left with RCS students) visited the Rural Clinical School in May to tour the facilities, including the Clinical Skills and Simulation Centre and met with staff and students. Peter was formerly the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) at the University of Melbourne, he has a strong background in the tertiary sector and is also a leading researcher.



◆ **His Excellency the Honourable Peter Underwood AC**, Governor of Tasmania (pictured third left with RCS staff & students) visited the RCS recently. Mr Underwood is a former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Tasmania and current Governor of Tasmania.



◆ **Professor Malcolm Battersby** Professor of Psychiatry and Director of the Flinders Human Behaviour and Health Research Unit (pictured left sitting) visited the Rural Clinical School 3 - 5 May as a Visiting Research Fellow. During six teaching sessions held at the RCS Prof. Battersby shared his research and extensive experience in chronic condition self-management. He held mentoring sessions for local researchers. Over 200 health professionals and undergraduate medical students attended.



◆ **Prof. Gavin Mooney, Health Economist** (pictured left sitting) visited the Rural Clinical School in May. He is a research advisor for the evaluation of the Cradle Coast Connected Care (4C) Project.

Greatest Shave

RCS students Nick Starkey, Elen O'Donnell & Harry Laughlin (pictured right) were extremely brave to shave & wax body parts recently as part of fundraising for the "Worlds Greatest Shave".

Dr. Peter Arvier, RCS Acting Co-director also agreed to shave off his iconic beard & Dr Matthew Spotswood also kindly agreed to shave his beard and long locks.



About the Rural Clinical School:

The Rural Clinical School is funded through the Australian Government's Department of Health and Ageing, and is part of the University of Tasmania's Faculty of Health Science. The RCS is part of a national network of Rural Clinical Schools.



For more information about the Rural Clinical School or the material contained in this bulletin, please contact:
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