I would like to thank everyone for the warm welcome I have received since my appointment as Director in August last year. It is exciting to be working with colleagues whose commitment and passion for what they do is evident in the successes of the Rural Clinical School (RCS) programs. Student numbers continue to increase and we are delighted to see our students returning to work in rural communities. I look forward to expanding on the impressive work already happening in the student programs and community engagement, and will bring to the position a goal of building our presence and reputation in academic research.

I extend gratitude to both Associate Professor Lizzi Shires and Associate Professor Peter Arvier for their contributions to the Rural Clinical School as Co-Directors prior to my appointment. I look forward to working closely with them both into the future. Whilst Peter moves into his new role, Lizzi remains as Associate Head — joined by Dr Debbie Wilson.

We will also welcome Lyndal Bond to the team in February — in the position of School Business Manager.

I hope you all had a relaxing festive season, and are coming back to work suitably rejuvenated, ready to face the challenges of 2012.

Pursuing his passions: Associate Professor Peter Arvier

Associate Professor Peter Arvier will leave his position as Associate Head of Rural Clinical School (RCS) and take up new role as Associate Professor of Rural and Remote Medicine for the RCS in 2012.

Moving to the new position he will continue an active involvement in teaching in a clinical environment, but will have a lesser involvement in the administrative side of the program — freeing up time to pursue some of his other passions in life.

His new role will have a general teaching and mentoring component — with a specific focus on indigenous health and broader global health issues. The role will also have a strong research component.

"My new challenge will be a PhD research degree. I'm interested in the transition pathways for medical students to post graduate specialties, with a particular focus on being able to pursue a specialist career in rural and remote areas." Assoc. Prof. Arvier said.

He will look at the barriers and opportunities around students pursuing a specialty in rural and remote areas, and what might be established to overcome some of the barriers.

His PhD will also have a focus on other island communities, and how they solve the challenges that a geographically isolated environment creates for the provision of health care services.

As part of his Masters research he visited other Rural Clinical Schools in Canada and the UK, and he is keen to return to further strengthen the
Head of RCS celebrates 100th peer review paper

Professor Timothy Skinner in the simulated learning environment at the RCS Burnie

Director of the Rural Clinical School (RCS), Professor Timothy Skinner, has achieved the outstanding accolade of having his 100th peer reviewed paper accepted for publishing.

Professor Skinner’s most recent paper accepted into “Diabetes Research and Clinical Practice” – the official journal of the International Diabetes Federation – addressed the question as to whether intensive pharmacotherapy intervention and management, combined with structured patient education for patients with type 2 diabetes led to significant improvements in metabolic control and cardiovascular risk profiles and lower rates of moderate and severe hypoglycaemia.

The study concluded that the ‘treatment to target’ approach – as opposed to ‘normal’ medical care – showed a significant benefit in glycaemic control and overall metabolic profile.

Of his many research projects related to chronic disease care, Professor Skinner highlighted that an area that still needs significant work is around agreement between GPs and specialists regarding drug dosages for chronic disease management. A recent study concluded that only one third of GP’s agreed with specialists on the dose and choice of statins, and approximately half agreed with specialists on blood pressure medication. The research suggests significant under-dosing by GP’s.

Professor Skinner said as he has now achieved his professional goal of 100 published peer review papers—he can turn his focus to a new challenge.

“In my role as Director of the RCS, my new goal is to mentor and support other researchers.”

Professor Skinner said that one of his proudest achievements is having an intervention program for diabetes care that he developed being delivered in over 100 primary care trusts in the UK. He sees this as the ultimate reward for his research achievements.

“The idea that long after I have gone something I achieved in my career will still be making a difference in people’s lives is why I do what I do.”

Funding extension for eHIE research project

Of his many research projects related to chronic disease care, Professor Skinner highlighted that an area that still needs significant work is around agreement between GPs and specialists regarding drug dosages for chronic disease management. A recent study concluded that only one third of GP’s agreed with specialists on the dose and choice of statins, and approximately half agreed with specialists on blood pressure medication. The research suggests significant under-dosing by GP’s.

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The Cradle Coast Electronic Health Information Exchange (eHIE) was one of only nine organisations nation wide to receive second round Australian Government funding to continue their project that will develop personally controlled electronic health records for aged care residents in Tasmania.

A collaboration of the University of Tasmania Rural Clinical School, General Practice North West, North West Area Health Service and the Cradle Coast Authority, eHIE is working to build on existing computer systems to deliver secure electronic communication between health care services.

The new funding will support the North West Area Health Service Residential Aged Care Facilities Project (NWAHS RACF) to develop and share electronic health records for residents of aged care.
Focus on Nursing research in new role

Newly appointed Professor of Nursing Rural and Regional Practice Development, Professor Isabelle Ellis, sees building the capacity of nurses and midwives to critically look at nursing practice and work together to solve complex health delivery problems as a priority for the North West region.

A qualified nurse and midwife with a PhD in Public Health and a Masters in Business, Professor Ellis has a strong background in rural communities, having worked as the Head of Department of Nursing and Midwifery at Latrobe Rural Health School in Bendigo and also in Western Australia for the Combined Universities Centre for Rural Health.

Prof. Ellis says nursing research is in its infancy here in Tasmania, with the main focus in the past having been on teaching - rather than the quality of care for patients in rural and isolated communities.

"Small communities often have a basic range of general services available to them, with needs for specialised services varying depending on community demographics."

"There are limited funds to provide those services – and that will not change moving forward. What Tasmania has is an abundance of incredibly well trained and committed staff. The challenge moving forward is to create a new way to utilise their skills to the best advantage of the community."

Funding extension for eHIE research project

(Continued from page 2)

facilities with General Practice, after hours general practices, acute hospital facilities, and specialist services.

The key aim of the NWAHS RACF Project is to ensure continuity of care and to allow health professionals access to the individual patient’s advance care plan.

The University of Tasmania has a significant role to play in the next phase of the project – with the UTAS Projects Office assisting with document preparation, project plans and mapping information flows and the UTAS Department of Computing and Information Systems conducting usability testing.

A research and evaluation committee, headed by RCS Director Professor Tim Skinner, has also been established.

Key research questions for this project can be viewed at: www.utas.edu.au/rural-clinical-school/research/research-projects-partnerships/ehealth/ehie

(Continued from page 2)

$iPad project starts in Smithton$

The challenges for GP’s working in a rural/remote community are many and varied, but with the introduction of iPad technology and the National Broadband Network (NBN) in Smithton, GP’s there can now access their practice notes remotely with ease and speed.

Prior to the rollout of the NBN, local doctors were not able to access their patient notes when visiting the Registered Aged Care Facility or the Community Hospital due to variable and slow broadband, which meant a full patient history, including test results, had not been available to them.

The eHIE project is now up and running and has provided Smithton GP’s with iPad2 technology, accessible at all 3 locations.

The project has seen the

(Continued on page 4)
Research news

Does an Aspirin a day keep the doctor away?

The UTAS Rural Clinical School Burnie and GP’s in the North-West of the state are participating in Australia’s largest clinical trial on the health benefits of aspirin in the elderly.

Cardiovascular disease and stroke are two of the most common causes of death and account for the largest burden of physical disability and health costs in the Australian elderly population. The study follows increasing international interest in the role of Aspirin in preventing such diseases in healthy individuals.

Aspirin in Reducing Events in the Elderly (ASPREE) is a five year study being undertaken by Monash University in conjunction with the University of Tasmania’s Menzies Research Institute Tasmania, the Australian National University, University of Melbourne and the Berman Centre for Outcomes and Clinical Research in the United States.

ASPREE is funded by the National Institute on Aging, the National Institute of Health (USA) and the National Health and Medical Research Council of Australia.

Professor and Chair, Discipline of General Practice at the UTAS Menzies Research Institute Tasmania, Professor Audrey Heggarty and Shirley Cleland are North West Clinical Trial Co-ordinators

Mark Nelson, says ASPREE will determine if daily consumption of Aspirin will help older Australians remain physically active and productively involved with their families and wider communities.

“It will track the differences in physical disability, brain and heart function, as well as general quality of life.”

“Benefits versus risks will determine whether health practitioners in Australia and internationally should routinely recommend low-dose Aspirin for their older patients,” Professor Nelson said.

The target is to recruit 1000 Tasmanians into the groundbreaking study, in which 12,500 Australians and 6,500 (minority groups) in the USA will participate.

Locally, Clinical Trial Co-ordinators Audrey Heggarty and Shirley Cleland are thrilled with the response to the program.

“The response from GPs as co-investigators, and the general public as participants here on the North West Coast has been an outstanding success.” Ms Heggarty said.

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“Benefits versus risks will determine whether health practitioners in Australia and internationally should routinely recommend low-dose Aspirin for their older patients,” Professor Nelson said.

More participants are needed, however.

“If you are over the age of 70 and generally healthy, we’d love to get you on board.”

Anyone who is willing to assist should ask their GP if they are eligible or contact the toll free number 1800 728 745.

2012 Research Roundup – lunchtime seminars

2012 will see the introduction of a new initiative “Research Roundup” - a series of research seminars held at either Mersey or Burnie (video conference to other site live)

Professor Isabelle Ellis will present at the first seminar in Feb 2012 – with guest speakers planned for throughout the year.

Dates for your diary... (Presenters to be advised. All Seminars are from 12.30-1.30pm.)

23 February Burnie - Latrobe 2C21 Seminar 1 & Multi A - ASPREE Project update
22 March - Burnie – Multi A & 2C21 Seminar 1—Ethics Presentation
26 April - MCH - Latrobe 2C21 Seminar 1 & Multi A—TBA
24 May - Burnie – Multi A & 2C21 Seminar 1– TBA

Conference Presentations

‘Early Anterior Dynamic Ultrasound compared with Graf Ultrasound in the assessment of neonatal hips in the “at risk” population: A pilot study’ presented at Physiotherapy Conference in Brisbane between 27 and 30 October, by Sue Charlton, Adrian School (Supervisor: Prof. Timothy Skinner – RCS Director).

‘Personal Experiences of Australian Aboriginal Women with Diabetes in Pregnancy’ presented at the Society of Obstetric Medicine of Australia and New Zealand (SOMANZ) and Australasian Diabetes in Pregnancy Society (ADIPS) Joint Scientific Meeting in Brisbane between 4 and 7 November, by Cynthia Porter (Supervisor: Prof. Timothy Skinner – RCS Director).

‘Climate Change and Primary Health Care: Towards better Regional Health Impact and Risk Assessments’ presented at the Primary Health Care Research, Evaluation and Development Scheme (PHCRED) Conference in Hobart on 10 November by Dr Nick Towle, Clinical Medical Education Advisor, Rural Clinical School.
The Rural Clinical School (RCS) has recently acquired the latest high fidelity SimMan 3G human patient simulator. This highly evolved manikin allows participants the capability to interact with the 'patient/client' during simulated learning. The 3G manikin is able to perspire, cry, bleed and urinate on command when programmed. The manikin is also able to change pupil size in response to light, replicate seizure activity and speak to participants - allowing enhanced immersion in the learning experience. The manikin is operated via a wireless system. This potential for mobility allows for use in clinical and in situ training environments. The 3G manikin will be utilised not only for undergraduate MBBS students at the RCS but also for team training and interdisciplinary education.

Simulation Learning Environments renovations

Recent renovations to the RCS ground floor area have provided more space for simulated learning. The additional areas will allow for more than one user group to facilitate programs at the same time increasing the capacity for teaching and learning activities.

Visitors to the Rural Clinical School, Burnie

Professor Playford

Professor Raymond Playford, UTAS Dean, Faculty of Health Science, visited the RCS in August to welcome new Director Timothy Skinner and attend the Community Advisory Board meeting and community dinner in Smithton.

Glen Paley

The NW Postgraduate Medical Education Council of Tasmania (PMCT) team recently hosted a visit from Glen Paley. Glen works with PMCT at the Royal Hobart Hospital in a role primarily focused on supporting International Medical Graduates working as junior doctors. Glen is currently working with a DHHS committee to develop resource sharing in medical education through the use of the Moodle internet platform. Her visit provided an opportunity to demonstrate how the software can be applied and to talk about how best to support the ongoing education of junior doctors from non-Australian cultural backgrounds.

Dr Kris Luscombe

Academic and psychiatrist Dr Kris Luscombe, from Memorial University, Newfoundland, visited the Rural Clinical School in September. The University of Tasmania RCS and University of Western Australia RCS co-sponsored Dr Luscombe’s visit.

Dr Luscombe is a sole psychiatrist practicing in the remote rural community of Grand Falls, Windsor, in central Newfoundland. He has a particular interest in recruiting and retaining health professionals in rural communities. The highly successful model developed in Grand Falls is now being replicated in other Newfoundland communities.

Dr Luscombe also has interests in different models of rural psychiatric care involving the use of Family Physicians and Nurse Practitioners. He has also been instrumental in development of Electronic Medical Records relevant to small communities.

While at the RCS, Dr Luscombe met individually with a number of staff and delivered several presentations, including a series of case discussions with medical students highlighting aspects of mental health assessment in a rural context, and a presentation on developing rural psychiatric services to an audience of mental health staff, students and RCS staff.

Photo: PMCT staff Rose Moore, Richard Rozendaal and Luanne Steven talk with Glenn Paley of the RHH PMCT team.

Photo: Associate Professor Peter Arvier and RCS students welcome Dr Kris Luscombe to the RCS.
connections with academic staff there. These relationships have in the past led to both academic and student exchanges.

“I also want to establish working relationships with medical schools in other island communities around the world. It is widely acknowledged that people with island heritage have a strong allegiance to their communities – and often return to work in them.”

“I want to explore why they leave, and why they return. This is knowledge that will assist in the development of programs that foster and encourage strong links with rural communities.”

“Islands are unique as they are usually geographically remote and often need to be self supporting in the provision of educational and medical services. They need to develop innovative ideas to overcome the geographical barriers.

Global health issues are another area where his seemingly endless enthusiasm extends.

“Training doctors to work in rural and remote Australia is part of the charter of the Rural Clinical School.”

“We want our students to have an understanding of how their knowledge and experience can contribute to the world in a national and international context” he said.

“It is important to extend our knowledge to developing countries—in particular the Pacific Island nations. We have a responsibility as global citizens to help our neighbours - to share the knowledge and experience we gain. There are few countries in the world that enjoy the level of health care and services we do in Australia.”

Also on the cards is more time for what he calls his ‘real life’ – the farm he runs with his wife and three sons.

“We run a small herd of beef cattle, and I have an interest in sustainable farming and energy systems. We are self sustaining – we generate our own power, grow our own vegetables and eat meat from our own herd of cows. “

“I also want to continue my involvement as a volunteer firefighter. It’s something else the boys and I share a passion for.”

Assoc. Prof Arvier will still be based at the RCS in Burnie, and will be replaced by Dr Debbie Wilson in the role of Associate Head of Acute Medicine.

Associate Professor Peter Arvier enjoying what he calls his ‘real life’ - bike riding on the Devonport waterfront, fighting fires and skiing in Canada.

Staff changes

Prof. Isabelle Ellis commenced her role of Professor of Nursing: Rural & Regional Practice Development in August

Melissa White, Administration Officer (Hospitals Program) has changed roles from Accommodation Officer

Marguerite Clancy and Scott Aumont who are job sharing in the position of Administration Officer- Facilities and Accommodation

Dr Penny Allen, was appointed as a Research Fellow and commenced work at the end of October. Dr Allen will be based predominantly at the Rural Clinical School, Mersey.

Dr Sharon Condon, was appointed as Research Fellow and commenced work on 7 November.

Ms Winifred van der Ploeg, was appointed as Junior Research Fellow and commenced on 15 October, 2011.

Karlie Bamford, was appointed as Administration Officer- Academic, and will be based across the Burnie and Mersey sites.

Dr Ali McGuinness, Lecturer Clinical Psychology at the RCS has extended her secondment in Hobart with UTAS School of Psychology as a Clinic Director/Placement Co-ordinator until December 2013.

Ms Julie Beechy has been appointed Lecturer in Pharmacy in a jointly funded position. Under the terms of this agreement Ms Beechy will work 0.20FTE for the RCS and 0.10FTE for the UTAS School of Pharmacy.
Appointment of Dr. Debbie Wilson to Associate Head Acute Medicine

Dr. Debbie Wilson - snapshot

- Rural background – grew up on a farm in WA
- Undergraduate MBBS at University of Western Australia
- Completed her residency at Royal Hobart Hospital
- Postgraduate training in Anaesthetics at the Western Australia
- Anaesthetic fellowship in Vancouver, Canada
- Returned with her husband to Tasmania in 1998 and lives on a farm in the beautiful North West Tasmania.
- Is studying a Postgraduate Certificate in Teaching and Learning for Health Professionals
- Has 2 children and enjoys the challenge of keeping a work/life balance!

Dr Debbie Wilson will replace Associate Professor Peter Arvier as the new Rural Clinical School Associate Head of Acute Medicine from the beginning of 2012.

Dr Wilson is currently working as Clinical Senior Lecturer, a role she has held at the RCS for 3 years. She is also consultant Anaesthetist for both the public and private hospitals across the North West Coast, provides after hours cover for the intensive care unit and is the Supervisor of Training for Anaesthetic Registrars – roles she will continue to fill when she takes up her new appointment.

Dr Wilson is excited to take up the new reins - despite the particularly challenging times ahead for the health system in the North West.

“I will use that experience to assess the current anaesthetics undergraduate program, and the broader MBBS clinical years curriculum” she said.

Dr Wilson will also focus on the introduction of workplace-based assessment, both for medical students and postgraduate trainees.

“I want to see students assessed in a more authentic way – while they are in the workplace on clinical attachments.”

Also a strong advocate for Simulated Learning Environments, Dr Wilson is excited about the introduction of a High Fidelity SimMan and the extensions to the simulation training spaces at the RCS.

Dr Wilson said “the technology allows for more clinically realistic patient responses and monitoring. It also provides us with the opportunity to teach teamwork and other professional attributes to the students.”

An accredited Australian Resuscitation Council Immediate Life Support (ILS) Instructor, Dr Wilson will include the ILS course in the final year MBBS program and continue to collaborate with instructors and stakeholders to provide inter-professional programs throughout the state.

Professor Tim Skinner welcomes the strong focus on curriculum development that Dr Wilson brings and looks forward to working closely with her and her colleague Dr Lizzi Shires, who is the Associate Head of Community Medicine.

Sustainability update

The profile of the Rural Clinical School as an ambassador for sustainability actions has grown considerably this year. Associate Professor Peter Arvier led the way with the establishment of a regular ride/walk to work day during the student group learning weeks. It is hoped this successful endeavour will be replicated by other schools of the university.

The RCS Administration Team have been pivotal in the sustainability endeavours this year, establishing a monthly team meeting with a focus on actions within the workplace. Combining this with the passion of some of our academic staff and students, the Sustainability Team have hosted a range of informative presentations on topics ranging from how to perform a home energy assessment through to discussion of the effect of a price on carbon pollution.

A highlight for 2011 was a winning entry in the University of Tasmania Energy Challenge month held in August. The Sustainability Team broadened the scope of their contributions to encompass a wider range of sustainability actions. Some of the proposed actions included installation of water efficient (5L/min) showerheads, home energy assessment workshops for students and purchase of an RCS compost tumbler to reduce the amount of green waste going to landfill.

Inspired by the successes of 2011 the Team are looking forward to pursuing further sustainability endeavours in 2012 - and considering the intimate link between the health of our environment and human health it stands to reason that we should all strive to be sustainability leaders.

RCS Admin Officer, Facilities and Accommodation, Scott Aumont, with the newly constructed compost tumbler.
Refugee camps in Nepal provide valuable lessons

Working in refugee camps in Eastern Nepal will provide invaluable experience for two UTAS Rural Clinical School (RCS) medical students about how health care can be better delivered in a rural community.

With over 1000 refugees from the camps in Nepal already relocated and living in Tasmania - the students will also bring home with them first hand knowledge of the mental and physical issues faced by displaced Bhutanese refugees.

Anna Norris and Helen Bills, both 4th year medical students at the RCS Burnie, are currently in the Eastern Nepal city of Damak which has a population of approximately 30,000 people.

During the 6 week placement the students will work for the Association of Medical Doctors of Asia-Nepal (AMDA) - a non government organisation responsible for the health, nutrition, physical safety, primary and secondary care of 50,000 Bhutanese refugees in four camps across the region.

The placement was organised by Associate Professor in Rural Paediatrics, Dr Bert Shugg, whose own daughter is working in Nepal as a child protection officer for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

Dr Shugg says the purpose of the student placement in Nepal is to show the medical students how the AMDA delivers both primary and secondary health care in a rural and isolated environment.

"The students will observe and learn how an international organisation delivers health services in a rural environment— and be able to return to our rural environment here in North West Tasmania and compare how we provide health care. Although a refugee camp in Nepal has different challenges to rural Tasmania – there will be valuable lessons to be learned." Dr Shugg said.

Ms Norris said they had been overwhelmed by both the cultural and professional experience so far.

She says “The hospitality shown to us has been so very generous, kind and well placed. The landscape here is incredibly beautiful — it is the food bowl of Nepal. We have seen Mt Everest. It is difficult to describe such an incredible sight.”

The enormity of the health lessons have also hit home for the students. “It has become apparent that this is primarily a public health placement and as such there is an incredible amount to learn about the complex public health systems supporting the Bhutanese refugee population – but for us this is very exciting!” said Ms Norris.

Ms Bills and Ms Norris both received scholarships through the UTAS RCS to travel to Nepal for the placement. They will return in early January 2012.

Running for their lives

The Rural Clinical School entered several teams into the 2011 Burnie Ten. Although this year the always challenging 10km road race was made particularly difficult by some wet weather and serious head wind on the home stretch, the students did themselves and the RCS proud with their participation, with an especially inspiring effort from 4th year student James Correy, who finished 37th in the race, with a scorching time of 36 min 23 secs.

Fourth year student Harry Laughlin, who finished in a time of 47 min 32 secs in his first effort in the race, said the Burnie Ten is a great event for the community.

“The area has some of the worst disease rates in the country, and an event like this promotes a healthier lifestyle” he said.
Real life scenario challenges

Approximately 40 year 4 and 5 students participated in the Rural Clinical School annual Emergency Skills Weekend in Smithton from September 22-24.

After a day spent honing their practical skills and knowledge, students were joined by SES volunteers, ambulance officers, fire brigade and police for a surprise mock disaster on the Saturday.

Held at the Smithton Swimming Pool, students responded to a call for a fire and gas leak explosion. Assoc. Prof. Peter Arvier said the mock disaster scenarios were invaluable for student learning.

“There were some quite complex medical situations to consider. Not only did the students have to assess the initial impact of the fire and gas leak – but they also had to consider the impact of these scenarios on the casualties and also themselves as the treating doctors.”

Pseudo patients, played by members of the Smithton community, were transported to the Smithton Hospital where hospital staff assisted students with treatment options.

“Hospital staff helped to assess if patients needed to be transferred to other facilities for further treatment.”

“We looked at what happens if resources are overwhelmed in situations like this” Assoc. Prof. Arvier said.

According to Assoc. Prof Arvier, the Emergency Skills Weekend is an invaluable tool for student learning – providing experience with real life scenarios they are likely to encounter as practitioners working in rural communities.

Students heading to Solomon Islands

Emma Beddows and Amy House are among a group of Year 4 Rural Clinical School medical students who are busily raising funds before heading overseas to make a difference as part of their hospital elective this year.

From the start of December, the students will spend six weeks on a small island that hosts the second largest hospital in the Solomons.

“The Kili’ ufi Hospital has six doctors and serves a population of approximately 8000 people,” said Ms Beddows.

The students have been undertaking fundraising activities throughout the year in order to assist the hospital – which Ms Beddows says faces huge obstacles in the provision of healthcare.

“The hospital faces critical water shortages – which makes the sanitisation of equipment extremely difficult.”

“They also have a shortage of basic medical equipment such as scrubs, gloves and an ECG machine. That is why we are fundraising. They are desperate for things that we take for granted in our hospitals.” she said.

The students held BBQ’s, joined with the Rotary Club of Wynyard to host a wine and cheese tasting, and hosted an event featuring a band afternoon in the Gutteridge Gardens.

The Rotary Club of Wynyard visited the RCS in December to tour the premises and present the medical supplies purchased with the $3500 the students raised.

RCS Volleyball fun

Frenzied lunges at the net, inspired flashes of athleticism and shouts of ‘mine’ and ‘help’, defined another solid year for the RCS Volleyball teams.

Led by Mariana Sheales (coach) and Nick Ha (assistant coach), strong interest from 4th and 5th year students allowed the RCS to field two teams in the Wednesday night competition. Team members Ingrid Smethurst, Margot Tidey, David Benjabutr, Darren Liew, Mike Nguyen, Maighdlin Galea, Mariana Sheales, J C Chin, Nick Ha, Patrick Lau, Jacob Wilson, Steven Van Der Werf and Luke Hamilton all displayed inspirational enthusiasm and commitment.

With varied combinations of dig, set and occasional spike (more often a slap), both teams made the finals. Congratulations must go to all players, especially since many were embarking on their maiden voyage as Volleyball stars. Notable on-court performances included Ingrid’s ‘Red Army’ longest run of unreturnable serves; ‘Monkey Magic’ Chin’s consistent ‘must dive for everything’ approach; and ‘Jumping’ Jacob’s brilliant “I didn’t hit it that hard” winners.
### End of year roundup

Dressed to the nine’s, over 100 students, staff and friends bid farewell to a successful year at the 2011 RCS End of Year Dinner on October 21.

Held at the Burnie Greens Bistro in Cooee, the evening began with barefoot bowls, and also included spectacular displays of musical talent by students Harry Laughlin (solo guitar) and RCS band members Maighdlin Galea (vocals) Ted Stoklosa and Luke Hamilton (guitar), Damien Brauchli (drums), Amy House (keyboard) and Grace Reynolds (saxophone). The student band was ‘supported’ by Four Star Nation - who had the crowd on their feet late into the evening.

### Recipients of the annual student awards

#### Year 4 Prizes

- **Simon Monks Award** - Rohan Church (sponsored by General Practice North West)
- **Obstetrics & Gynaecology Award** - Georgie Woolveridge (sponsored by North West Private Hospital)
- **Psychiatry Award** - Jessica Oldham (sponsored by Rural Clinical School)
- **Paediatrics Award** - Sabin Smith (sponsored by Rural Clinical School)
- **General Practice Award** - Daniele Lanzlinger (sponsored by Rural Clinical School)

#### Year 5 Prizes

- **Emergency Medicine Award** - Elen O'Donnell (sponsored by Department of Emergency Medicine)
- **General Medicine Award** - Douglas Copson (sponsored by Rural Clinical School)
- **Anaesthetics Award** - Steven Van der Werf (sponsored by Anesthetics Department)
- **Anaesthetics Highly Commended Award** - Nick Ha (sponsored by Anesthetics Department)
- **General Surgery Award** - Patrick Lau (sponsored by Rural Clinical School)
- **Orthopaedics Award** - Ted Stoklosa (sponsored by Rural Clinical School)
- **Chronic Disease Award** - Damian Brauchli (sponsored by Rural Clinical School)
- **Rural Medicine - RDAA Award** - Ingrid Smethurst (sponsored by RDAA)
- **Global Health - ACRRM Award** - Alexandra Frain (sponsored by ACRMM)
- **Remote Practice - Queenstown** - Maighdlin Galea (sponsored by Rural Clinical School)
- **Remote Practice - Smithton** - Hilary Taylor-Evans (sponsored by Rural Clinical School)
- **Remote Practice - King Island** - Jin Chew Chin (sponsored by Rural Clinical School)
- **Community Engagement Prize** - Grace Reynolds (sponsored by Rural Clinical School)

The RCS would like to thank all sponsors for prizes, and for all their generous support.
**ACRRM Conference**

At the end of October four Rural Clinical School students travelled to Alice Springs for the annual ACRRM conference. Alex Frain, Jenny Warner, Lisa Walker and David Benjaburut enjoyed 3 days of networking and engagement in rural health in the sweltering heat of the NT.

Students had the opportunity to participate in forensic medicine, sexual health and advanced life support workshops. A highlight of the trip was a bush rescue scenario involving search, rescue, retrieval and medical management of an injured patient.

RCS students Jenny Warner and Lisa Walker took leadership roles in the scenario and were responsible for coordinating the 43 student participants.

The conference provided fantastic opportunities for students to network with rural doctors and gain insight into the diversity of rural medical practice.

The students would like to give a special thank you to Associate Professor Peter Arvier for all his help and support whilst they were grounded for a few extra days in Alice due to flight cancellations.

**Photographic success for graduating student**

Year 5 student Damian Brauchli has a hobby that has brought a little bit of fame to Burnie. Damian’s a keen photographer—and his portrait of the Burnie waterfront precinct at night has been chosen by the National Rural Health Alliance inc. *Friends of the Alliance* 2012 calendar. Damian said “I was so excited to have a new camera that I braved the 5am chill and headed down to the waterfront to catch the sunrise. I noticed that if I took a long exposure, the lights at the dock glowed beautifully. It was a stark contrast to the wet and the cold of the rest of the scene, so I experimented until I got it just right.”

Damian says the North West Coast lends itself so easily to photographing.

“I certainly recommend waking up early and heading down to see it in a different light.” he said.

**Community engagement**

**Year 10 Health Careers Camp**

The Rural Clinical School (RCS) held its annual Health Careers Camp for forty Year 10 students from the North West region in July this year.

Dr Lizzi Shires noted that ‘the main purpose of the camp is to expose young people from the North West Coast to the wide variety of careers available in health’.

Around 35 high school students enjoyed the action packed program that mixed lectures with hands-on workshops. The first day was held at Camp Clayton where the interactive hands-on program featured workshops on medicine, nursing, pharmacy, radiography, health and biomedical sciences, medical research, psychology, dentistry, allied health and more. On the second day sessions were held at the RCS and included radiology, pathology, paramedicine, occupational therapy, physiotherapy, speech pathology, social work, nursing and midwifery presentations.

In addition, participants were also able to meet UTAS students currently studying pharmacy, nursing, medicine and physiotherapy and they also received information on the various courses offered by the University of Tasmania.

The RCS would like to thank the Department of Education, the North West Area Health Service (NWAHS) and the UTAS Faculty of Health Science for their assistance in making the 2011 Year 10 Health Careers Camp a huge success.

**ACRRM Conference**

At the end of October four Rural Clinical School students travelled to Alice Springs for the annual ACRRM conference. Alex Frain, Jenny Warner, Lisa Walker and David Benjaburut enjoyed 3 days of networking and engagement in rural health in the sweltering heat of the NT.

Students had the opportunity to participate in forensic medicine, sexual health and advanced life support workshops. A highlight of the trip was a bush rescue scenario involving search, rescue, retrieval and medical management of an injured patient.

RCS students Jenny Warner and Lisa Walker took leadership roles in the scenario and were responsible for coordinating the 43 student participants.

The conference provided fantastic opportunities for students to network with rural doctors and gain insight into the diversity of rural medical practice.

The students would like to give a special thank you to Associate Professor Peter Arvier for all his help and support whilst they were grounded for a few extra days in Alice due to flight cancellations.

**Photographic success for graduating student**

Year 5 student Damian Brauchli has a hobby that has brought a little bit of fame to Burnie. Damian’s a keen photographer—and his portrait of the Burnie waterfront precinct at night has been chosen by the National Rural Health Alliance inc. *Friends of the Alliance* 2012 calendar. Damian said “I was so excited to have a new camera that I braved the 5am chill and headed down to the waterfront to catch the sunrise. I noticed that if I took a long exposure, the lights at the dock glowed beautifully. It was a stark contrast to the wet and the cold of the rest of the scene, so I experimented until I got it just right.”

Damian says the North West Coast lends itself so easily to photographing.

“I certainly recommend waking up early and heading down to see it in a different light.” he said.

**Community engagement**

**Year 10 Health Careers Camp**

The Rural Clinical School (RCS) held its annual Health Careers Camp for forty Year 10 students from the North West region in July this year.

Dr Lizzi Shires noted that ‘the main purpose of the camp is to expose young people from the North West Coast to the wide variety of careers available in health’.

Around 35 high school students enjoyed the action packed program that mixed lectures with hands-on workshops. The first day was held at Camp Clayton where the interactive hands-on program featured workshops on medicine, nursing, pharmacy, radiography, health and biomedical sciences, medical research, psychology, dentistry, allied health and more. On the second day sessions were held at the RCS and included radiology, pathology, paramedicine, occupational therapy, physiotherapy, speech pathology, social work, nursing and midwifery presentations.

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The RCS would like to thank the Department of Education, the North West Area Health Service (NWAHS) and the UTAS Faculty of Health Science for their assistance in making the 2011 Year 10 Health Careers Camp a huge success.
In October the Rural Clinical School in Burnie hosted a Year 9 RCS Health Careers Workshop that was attended by 43 high school students from across the North West & West Coast.

This day long program was the final of a series of Health Careers programs that included two Year 9 workshops and a Year 10 camp held throughout the year.

The programs commenced in 2006 as a result of a partnership between the RCS, the North West Area Health Service (NWAHS) and the Department of Education.

To participate, students need to have a demonstrated interest in a health career, or a range of health careers, that require university study. The program complements Futures Planning and provides an exciting Pathway Experience for students, who benefit from being able to interact with a range of health professionals, RCS medical students, university academics and current health science students. They are encouraged to explore career options including medicine, nursing, pharmacy, radiography, health and biomedical sciences, psychology, dentistry, physiotherapy, occupational therapy and speech pathology.

The day was rated a huge success by the Year 9 high school student participants, who were impressed with the variety of careers displayed and the fun & interactive workshop.

In October the RCS held its Community Advisory Board (CAB) meeting at the Smithton District Hospital. The aim of the CAB is to facilitate the exchange of information and to identify and develop community engagement opportunities of mutual benefit to the North West, West Coast and King Island regions. The meeting was attended by current members of the CAB from across the North West of Tasmania, who were joined by new members: Chair, Professor Raymond Playford, Dean UTAS Faculty of Health Science; Professor Janelle Allison, Pro Vice Chancellor (Regional Development) UTAS Cradle Coast Campus; Mr Tim Wilson & Ms Penny Lane from the Kentish Community; and Ms Yvonne Stone from the Circular Head Community.

Whilst in Circular Head, RCS staff presented an update of community engagement activities as part of a workshop for the Circular Head Mayor and Councillors at the Council Chambers in Smithton. This was followed up with a Community Forum in Stanley attended by representatives from the Circular Head Health community. This forum provided an opportunity for the RCS to gather feedback on relevant health issues and potential research opportunities in the community.