

School Newsletter

January - February 2017 report



Message from Deb and Lizzi

Dear all,

Welcome back to staff and to our 53 new and returning fourth and fifth year students for 2017. We are looking forward to another productive and successful academic year at the Rural Clinical School.

It is also exciting to see our 2016 graduates filling 12 of this year's 15 North-West internships and we wish them all the best. We enjoy seeing them around the wards and already participating in teaching the students.

Already, 2017 has proved busy with a number of community engagement programs running in January. This has included our Information Evening BBQ for prospective Year 1 medical students, and our Community Welcome celebration event which was well attended by staff, students and distinguished guests from across the North-West region.

This month, research co-authored by Rural Clinical School staff along with our former students was also published in the Australian Family Physician publication which highlighted the perceptions young people in the region have about General Practice, and you can read more within this edition.

We welcome new staff members to the Rural Clinical School team to share our journey throughout 2017. Sarvin Randhawa has joined us as our first Academic Registrar, and will be working part-time with us and in General Practice. Karen Lowe has also joined as Administrative Officer - Mersey and Primary Care following Maggie's retirement, Zoe Page is assisting with Community Engagement and based at the Launceston Clinical School, and Shantelle Rodman will now be on site at our Burnie campus two days each week as the Rural Clinical School Media and Communications Officer.

We have a busy year ahead, and wish each of you all the best for 2017.

We look forward to catching up with you.

2017 Interns

The Rural Clinical School is excited to be further contributing to the rural health workforce with our 2016 graduates filling 12 out of the 15 North-West hospital internships offered this year. The group joins two graduates from the Hobart Clinical School as well as a paramedic in their new roles. The Rural Clinical School wishes the new interns all the best with staff and students looking forward to seeing them around campus and on the wards.



JMO Peer of the Year 2016

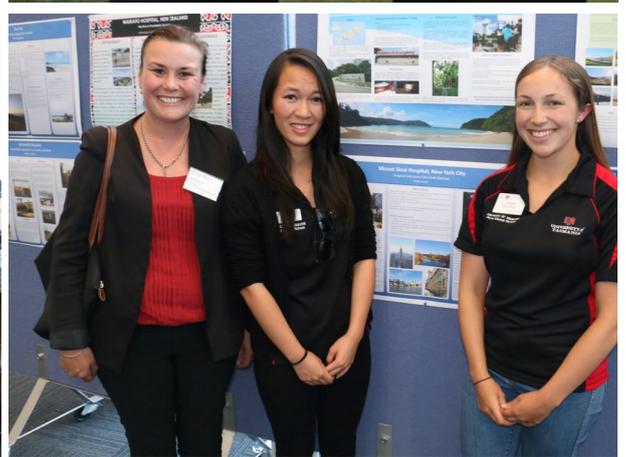


Congratulations to Dr Muruges Nidyananda who was voted the 2016 recipient of the Junior Medical Officer THS—NW Peer of the Year award. Dr Nidyananda was recognised as an outstanding team member who consistently displays excellent interpersonal qualities, inspires those around him, demonstrates initiative, is a team player and who is also support-

ive of his colleagues. The award was presented by Dr Robert Pegram, Tasmanian Health Service Director of Medical Services during a ceremony in January.

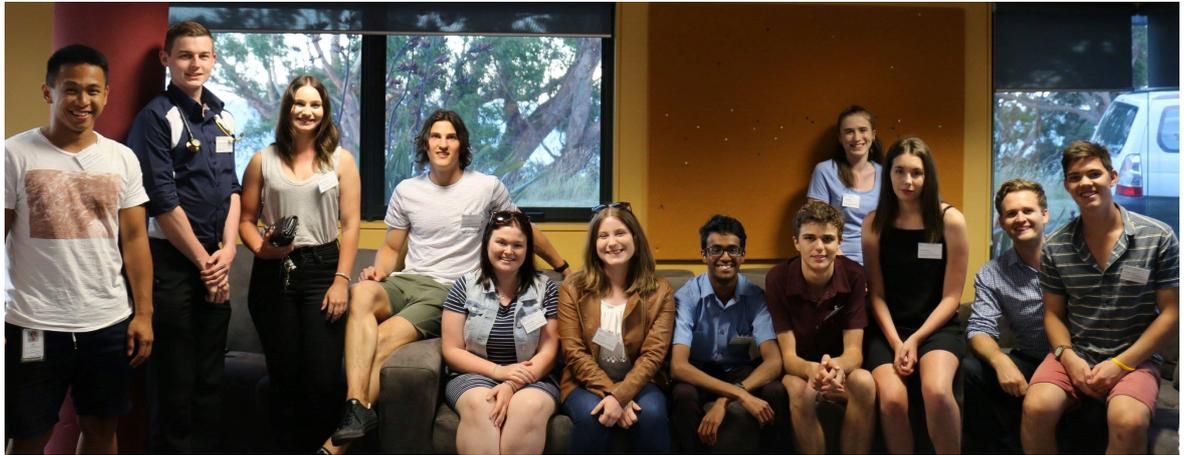
Community welcome

Earlier this month the Rural Clinical School's 53 new and returning students were welcomed to the North-West at the annual *Community BBQ* hosted at the Cradle Coast campus. The event was well attended by staff, distinguished guests and representatives of the wider North-West community. Two prestigious medical awards were also presented on the night. Fifth year student Ben Dodds received the Simon Monks Memorial Award for Excellence, while fourth year Emma Brown was recognised as this year's recipient of the Rotary Club of Wynyard Scholarship in Rural Medicine. Fifth year students Callan Oakeshott, Shivanthi Bartlett and Nathan Vos also delivered presentations as part of the formalities, highlighting their overseas clinical elective experiences during the summer break. The remaining fifth year cohort also shared their trips with guests, with a poster gallery on display during the event. The Community Welcome BBQ was covered by The Advocate in the Friday, 3 February edition and also detailed extensively in the Mayor's Message on Tuesday, 7 February.



Fostering future careers

During January, the Rural Clinical School also hosted an information BBQ for local students who received an offer to study medicine with the University of Tasmania's Faculty of Health in 2017. The event provided an opportunity for prospective medical students to engage with current students and staff to learn more about the curriculum and what university life is really like. The students and their parents were also invited to tour the RCS facilities while hearing how they could elect to return to the region and continue the final two years of their study. Read the Advocate's coverage of Year 1 student Austin Roberts from Rocky Cape, [here](#).



Science Experience

Year 9 and 10 students from the North-West spent a morning at the Rural Clinical School last month as part of this year's Science Experience, a three-day national school holiday program. The students learned how medicine meets science through interactive stations highlighting the diagnosis and treatment of diabetes. The Science Experience was attended by just under 20 students from Burnie High, Devonport High, Marist Regional College, Penguin District School, St Brendan-Shaw College and Wynyard High. The Rural Clinical School program was covered by The Advocate on Thursday, 19 January.



Hands-on with health

Participants of the Children's University visited the Rural Clinical School (Mersey campus) during January, to learn about different aspects of health through an interactive program facilitated by Lizzi, Luanne and Anne-Maree. The East Devonport Primary School students wore hats, gloves and masks for an operation activity, shone a special torch to spot germs, and listened to their hearts using stethoscopes. The hospital outing formed part of the *Passports to Learning* project where students collect stamps for participating in activities outside of classroom hours, culminating in a graduation ceremony each year. Children's University Tasmania is an initiative of the Peter Underwood Centre for Educational Attainment. The session was streamed live to Facebook by The Advocate which can be viewed [here](#). More can be read about the outing [here](#). To view coverage on Southern Cross News [click here](#), navigate to the Friday, 20 January bulletin and buffer to approximately 8 minutes 45 seconds.



New Role for Luanne



The Rural Clinical School is also pleased to announce that Luanne Steven is extending her education role to include the Medical Educator position.

Luanne has contributed 7 years to the Rural Clinical School, working with students and junior doctors on the wards, and also in simulation as a Clinical Educator.

Luanne has extensive skills in this area and also holds a Master of Nursing (Clinical Education).

She is available to students and staff at both campuses for educational support and skill development.

Please contact Luanne via email: Luanne.Steven@utas.edu.au or by phoning 6430 1608.

Publications, Conference Presentations and Achievements

Congratulations to staff and students from the Rural Clinical School whose research has been published in the Australian Family Physician. *Young people have their say: What makes a youth-friendly general practice?* details a study which surveyed 155 North-West rural high school students about their views and preferences when presenting to their General Practitioner. The research found that general practice plays an important role in youth health with 95% of participants considering a GP to be their primary healthcare provider. The results also showed survey participants highly valued GPs with good communication skills, who avoided medical jargon, made assurances about confidentiality, and who respected their views and choices. 86% of participants stated they thought it important to discuss issues such as mental health, substance use, and sexual health with their GP even if they presented for a different problem, as they might not feel confident bringing it up themselves. Barriers to healthcare for youth were also detailed in the paper. The publication was co-authored by Rural Clinical School staff alongside students Laura Turner, Leah Spencer, Jack Strugnell, Julian Chang, Isabel Di Tommaso (all of whom have since graduated), and also Magella Tate who passed away in September 2015 and was acknowledged for her important contribution in the research. [Click here](#) to read the publication online. (Laura Turner, Leah Spencer, Jack Strugnell, Julian Chang, Isabel Di Tommaso, Magella Tate, Penny Allen, Colleen Cheek, Jane Cooper (2017) *Young people have their say: What makes a youth-friendly general practice?* VOL.46, NO.1-2, JAN-FEB 2017). *Pictured: Student co-authors of the paper Isabel Di Tommaso and Jack Strugnell (now interns at North-West Regional Hospital in Burnie).*



Fleming, T.M., Bavin, L., Stasiak, K., Hermansson-Webb, E., Merry, S.N., Cheek, C., Lucassen, M., Lau, H.M., Pollmuller, B. and Hetrick, S., 2017. *Serious Games and Gamification for Mental Health: Current Status and Promising Directions.* *Frontiers in Psychiatry*, 7.



Zoe Page (Community Engagement Officer, Launceston Clinical School) will be embarking on a 223 kilometre trek across Australia's iconic Red Centre in June to raise funds for the Royal Flying Doctor Service. Zoe is one of seven fundraisers participating in the charity trek, and all money donated to her personal campaign will be allocated to the RFDS in Tasmania. [Click here](#) to visit Zoe's website and make a donation.

RCS Facebook Page



Have you liked the RCS on Facebook? If not, you can like our page by clicking the blue Facebook logo above to receive regular updates on what we are doing! We also post various photos and media from our student and community engagement activities.

If any students have an interesting story or update on what they have been doing on the NW coast (including a photo) and would like to share it on our Facebook page - please email Kayla at rca.ce@utas.edu.au. NB: It doesn't need to be related to the clinical setting.

The Launceston Clinical School now has a Facebook page—if you would like to keep up to date with what the students and school are doing [click here](#).

Upcoming Events and Activities

(March 2017)

26 February: Festival in the Park

8–9 March: Health Careers Information Sessions for Year 11 & 12 (Burnie campus, 8 March 6pm–7.30pm, Mersey campus, 9 March 6pm–7.30pm)

15–17 March: Emergency Skills Program (West Coast)

3–7 April: Year 2 Rural Week program