

School Newsletter

April 2017 report



Message from Lizzi

Dear all,

Welcome to the April edition of the Rural Clinical School newsletter.

It has been another busy month of academic and engagement programs, most recently our Year 2 Rural Week where the entire second year cohort 'went rural'. Here in the North-West, we hosted 60 medical students who were immersed in an enormous and extensive placement program across 9 municipalities. Students spent time in community health placements, in industry, and with charities and volunteers to gain perspectives in rural health and communities. Year 2 Rural Week is an important part of our rural pathway to encourage early year students to come and study in rural communities.

Last month, we delivered our annual Emergency Skills course to 29 fifth year medical students on the West Coast which allowed them to test their emergency medicine knowledge in realistic training exercises. This was a valuable opportunity for the students to experience what it is like to respond to a medical emergency in a rural area where resources are limited. The students learnt about the vital part that working partnerships play with local health professionals, the emergency services and community representatives in delivering acute and early response care at the scene of an accident.

We are very grateful to all our community partners for their work and dedication in supporting these amazing opportunities for so many students. Thank you to all our staff who have worked so hard to deliver these programs. Take some time to look at the pictures and media coverage of these unique learning opportunities.

We felt very proud that research led by our students and academics received national recognition in the media. *Young people have their say: What makes a youth-friendly general practice* was picked up by national ABC outlets during March, including popular youth station Triple J. It also received strong local coverage providing wonderful exposure for the RCS, particularly our graduates who co-authored the research.

Welcome to Helen Eyles, a Faculty of Health staff member who has joined the Rural Clinical School as a Lecturer in Paramedicine and a big congratulations to Nicole Reeves (Administration Officer - Research Support) on the safe arrival of baby Stella Jayne Radford.

I wish you all a happy and safe Easter break.

Yours,
Lizzi

Rural Clinical School

Rural Week

Earlier this month, the Rural Clinical School welcomed 60 second year medical students to the North-West for *Rural Week*, an annual placement experience which forms part of the Bachelor of Medicine/Bachelor of Surgery curriculum. The students were immersed in 9 municipalities across the region, gaining clinical exposure with local GPs, while also visiting hospitals, health hubs, community services, and touring industry workplaces to observe and learn about occupational health and safety practices. The Rural Clinical School coordinates and delivers the entire North-West program. A further 64 students were placed in rural communities in the Northern and Southern regions of Tasmania as part of the state-wide program. Media coverage of Rural Week can be found by clicking the following links: [The Advocate](#), [The Examiner Friday, 31 March](#), [The Examiner Monday, 3 April](#), [ABC News Tasmanian Online](#), [Circular Head Chronicle](#), [The Kentish Voice](#), [WIN News](#), [The Tasmanian Country](#), and [Health Times](#). Rural Week was also broadcast on local ABC Radio, ABC Television, and featured extensively in the Advocate's Coast to Coast section: [Latrobe](#), [Circular Head](#), [Waratah-Wynyard \(Tuesday, 4 April\)](#), [Waratah-Wynyard \(Tuesday, 11 April\)](#), [Kentish](#), [West Coast](#).



Emergency Skills

During March, the Rural Clinical School delivered another successful *Emergency Skills* course on the West Coast which provided an opportunity for final year medical students to test their knowledge and skills in large-scale realistic training exercises. Under the guidance of emergency services personnel, health professionals and staff, the 29 students responded to simulated time-critical disasters in Queenstown and Strahan over two days, facilitating patient treatment, retrieval and mock medical phone calls. Coordinated annually, the Emergency Skills course allows students to practice responding to unforeseen emergencies in rural areas with limited resources. Associate Professor Dr Deb Wilson and fifth year students Ben Dodds were interviewed by West Coast radio station 7XS while Dr Lizzi Shires featured on ABC local radio across two days. Further media coverage by the Advocate can be read by [clicking here](#) and [here](#).



Dream BIG higher education visits

During March, the Rural Clinical School delivered a hands-on health program at the Cradle Coast campus to 60 grade five students taking part in a Dream BIG initiative, allowing them to experience and learn about higher education. Guided by fourth and fifth year medical students, the young participants from Cooee and Somerset Primary Schools dressed in surgical hats, gloves and masks to perform pretend operations, practiced hand hygiene and learned how to keep their hearts healthy while hearing what they sound like through the use of a stethoscope. Dream BIG is an initiative of the BIG committee, a coalition of local leaders working to raise the educational aspirations of Burnie-based young people.



School visit

Students and staff from the Rural Clinical School visited Romaine Park Primary School this week for a schools engagement program which aimed to raise their interest in health and health careers. During the Romaine Park visit, the fourth year medical students guided participants through a number of interactive stations. Healthy hearts allowed them to hear their heartbeat through stethoscopes while plastic food props educated them about the levels of fat in foods. The students discovered how easily germs are spread during demonstrations using glow gel and a special torch and learned how doctors protect patients against germs while dressing in surgical hats, masks and gloves for a pretend operations. The role of sleep and its links to relaxation and health was also discussed, and students also learned more about human behaviour including how thoughts and emotions can affect our health and how to seek help.



Rural and remote placements

Rural Clinical School fifth year students on placement in Smithton during 2017 were recently featured in the Circular Head Chronicle. Samantha Rose was interviewed for the article and detailed her positive experience in the municipality, thanking the community for their reception. Dr Lizzi Shires was also featured, highlighting the importance of the program in helping build the knowledge and skills of students, particularly in rural health, prior to them graduating as doctors. To read the article online, [click here](#).



Tasmanian Rural Health Conference



During March, Rural Clinical School staff and students had involvement in the Tasmanian Health Conference in Hobart which was well-attended. Fifth year medical student Ben Dodds gave a presentation as part of event.

New arrival

Congratulations to Nicole Reeves (Administration Officer - Research Support) on the arrival of her baby girl Stella Jayne Radford on Wednesday, 29 March. We wish Nicole all the best and look forward to her return at the Rural Clinical School.



Ally Network training



Human Resources has extended an invitation to participate in upcoming workshops to become part of the Ally Network—a group of trained staff and students who are supportive of and respectful to people of diverse genders, sexes and sexualities across the University community, and who believe in positive and inclusive behaviours. The training workshops prepare and equip participants with awareness of issues experienced by people of diverse genders, sexes and sexualities, and the cultural differences across gender and sexuality. The workshops are activity based and highly interactive and will take place at the Cradle Coast campus on Thursday, 11 May 10am–1.30pm in the Board Room. To register, [click here](#). Other sessions will be held in [Hobart](#) on Tuesday, 9 May and in [Launceston](#) on Wednesday, 10 May.

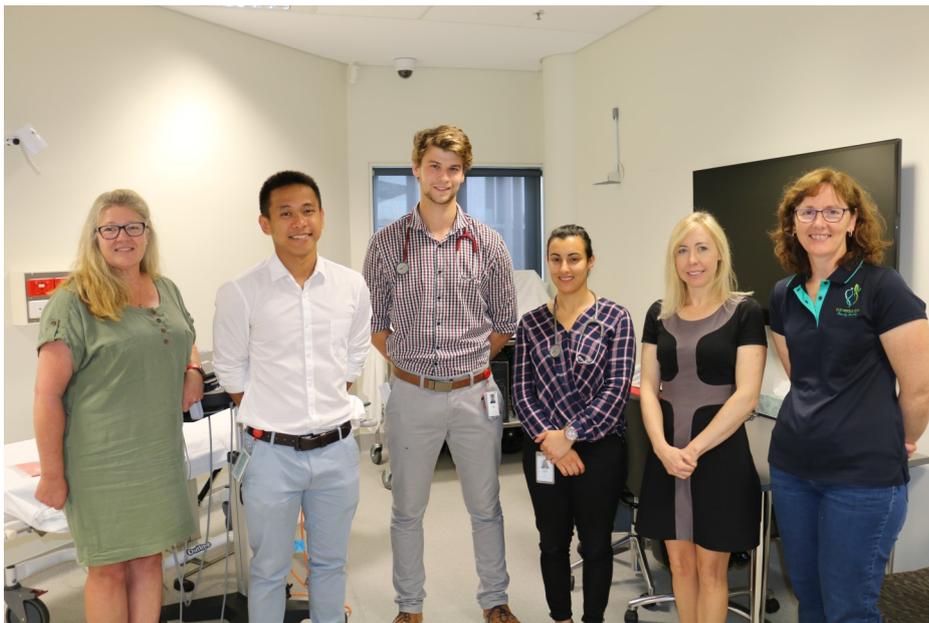
Easter site operation

During the Easter Break (Friday, 14 April–Tuesday 18 April), building access to the Rural Clinical School will revert to the weekend settings and resume as usual on Wednesday morning (19 April). 24 hour access to the public areas will continue via the use of swipe cards.

Publications, Conference Presentations and Achievements

National recognition

During March, the paper *Young people have their say: What makes a youth-friendly general practice* which was co-authored by Rural Clinical School students and staff, was featured in national news programs, notably an interview with Dr Jane Cooper on ABC Radio interstate and Triple J. The research also received media coverage locally and was broadcast across a number of ABC Radio Hobart



and Northern Tasmania news segments. To read the article which featured in the Sunday Examiner, [click here](#). Pictured L-R: Co-authors Colleen Cheek, Dr Julian Chang, Dr Jack Strugnell, Dr Isabel Di Tommaso, Dr Penny Allen and Dr Jane Cooper.

Publications:

Infant with a circumferential constricting limb-threatening band

Published in the Journal of Paediatrics and Child Health Letters to the Editor, the paper details a rare complication involving a patient identification band which constricted the limb of a baby girl.

To view the paper online, [click here](#).

Authors: Dr Anutosh Shee, Dr Therese Thanh-Khuong Post, Dr Henrich Weber, Dr Sooriya Wijewardena, Dr Lara North—Department of Paediatrics North-West Regional Hospital, Burnie.

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 rsc.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

Easter break:	Year 3 weekend visit to Burnie:
Staff: 14 April–18 April	29-30 April
Students: 14 April–21 April	Year 5 Group Learning Week:
Year 4 Group Learning Week:	1–5 May
24-28 April	Smithton Health & Wellbeing Expo
Anzac Day P/H:	3 May
25 April	Agfest:
<u>Rural Health Conference:</u>	5-6 May
26–29 April, Cairns	Year 10 Health Careers:
<u>WONCA World Rural Health Conference:</u>	23 May (Burnie)
29 April–2 May, Cairns	24 May (Mersey)
	Creating My Career:
	26 May