Welcome back to 2016 and particularly to our new fourth year students and those of you who are returning for your final year at the RCS. It is exciting to see so many of our graduates now working in the wards of the North West Regional Hospital as interns, JMO’s and registrars. We would also like to extend a warm welcome to our Alumni, who will this year take on tutoring roles at the RCS.

We would also like to welcome back all returning staff, and this year we have some new faces joining our existing team. Nicky Weber will be taking on the Medical Education Advisor role, while Elvie Hales joins us as School and Community Manager. Professor Ben Canny is our new Head, of the School of Medicine.

It has been a busy start to 2016 with several exciting events preceding the beginning of semester, including a BBQ for prospective Year 1 students which is part of our Rural Application Pathway.

We held a diverse number of Orientation Week activities including defensive driving for all our students. Our welcome BBQ was well supported by the community. The Minister of Health, the Honourable Michael Ferguson attended to welcome our students and to emphasise just how important training in rural areas is and their role in delivering future health care.

Our annual Emergency Skills Course was held in Queenstown this month, where we received a wonderful community reception, and a high level of support from local medical staff and emergency services personnel. The simulated disaster scenarios and the work with the local hospital ensured our students are better prepared for any future emergencies they may be involved in.

With such a busy few weeks it’s hard to believe we have fitted so much in to the start of term. Do take some time to read about all the events the students have been involved in.

We look forward to 2016 and wish you all the best and look forward to working with you all.
Welcome to the 2016 interns and returning RCS graduates to the NWRH

In early January we welcomed 12 new interns to the region, 8 of them were returning RCS graduates. We were also excited to see several of our previous graduates returning as registrars in the hospital. The JMO awards were also held to announce the recipients of the Paul Huang Intern of the Year (joint winners Dr Julian Koh and Dr Johnny Tiong) and R.E. Buttfield RMO award (Dr Bailey Dunn).

Click here to read the Advocate’s article online (features returning RCS graduate and NWRH intern, Dr Bradley Williams).

The Mercury also featured an article about Dr Victoria Jordan who has returned for her intern year. This article can be found on the ‘wall of fame’ in the RCS student area.

Click here to read the UTAS article online (Medical graduates take up local internships).

Welcome BBQ for prospective Year 1 MBBS students

An information evening was held in January for local prospective Year 1 medical students who had received an offer to study medicine at UTAS. This provided them and their parents with an opportunity to talk with current medical students to learn more about what it’s really like to study medicine.

Click here to read the Advocate’s article online.

Science Experience 2016

Associate Professor Lizzi Shires and RCS students hosted a medical skills session as part of the Science Experience 2016 programme held at the Cradle Coast Campus. This session offered a snap shot of a range of medical skills used in hospitals and general practices and provided opportunities for Year 9 and 10 students to speak with those studying at the RCS.

Click here to read the Advocate’s article online.

Orientation Week

Orientation Week for RCS students was held in the first week of February where they participated in a range of activities. We also held two welcome events. The first was specifically for students and interns to meet. The second was for our key community supporters to welcome new students to the region, and to celebrate the start of the 2016 academic year. Students were greeted by a number of guest speakers including the Honourable Michael Ferguson, Minister for Health, Alderman Anita Dow, Mayor of Burnie and hospital and GP representatives.

At this event, we announced the recipients of the Simon Monks Memorial Award (Alex Tucker) and 2016-2017 Rotary Club of Burnie Scholarship in Rural Medicine (Ben Dodds). Congratulations to these very deserving students.

An article featuring the award winners was published in the Advocate newspaper. Social photos from the BBQ were also featured. This article and the photos can be found on the ‘wall of fame’ in the RCS student area.
L-R: Dr Maryse Daniel, Aishwarya Sudhakaran, Katherine Davis, Alexander Zucchi & Manoj Subramanian.

L-R: Vincent Gan, Dr Bradley Williams, Isabel Di Tommaso, Samantha Rose, Ben Dodds & Michael Assenheimer.

L-R: Emily Doole, Dong Cheah, Callan Oakeshott & Nishant Chintapalli.

L-R: Dr Margret Oetterli, GP, Latrobe Family Practice & Alex Tucker recipient of the Simon Monks Memorial Award for Excellence in GP in 2015.

L-R: Stan French, President, Rotary Club of Burnie & Ben Dodds recipient of the Rotary Club of Burnie 2016-2017 Scholarship in Rural Medicine.

L-R: Charlotte McKenzie, Richard Arnot, Bron Tidey, Sam Brandise, Manoj Subramanian, Alex Tucker, Leah Spencer, Jack Strugnell & Isabel Di Tommaso.

L-R: Sam Penman, Charles Rose, Dr Annette Pantle, Caitlin Cannan, Hannah Cunningham, Rachel Stafford, Katherine Davis, Ronnie Mathew, Hayley Elmer & Dion Triffet.

L-R: Warrick Manning, Frank Luo, Wei Soon & Shiva Selvarajan.
Emergency Skills Course

We held our annual Emergency Skills Course in mid-February which saw RCS students participate in a range of skills stations and in simulated disaster scenarios in Queenstown. This training event gave students an opportunity to exercise their medical knowledge and skills alongside experts in emergency procedures and response. Emergency services from across the North West region, local doctors and staff from the West Coast District Hospital participated in the full-scale, time critical, multi-casualty simulated scenarios, which were also used by personnel as training opportunities and a timely occasion to review management protocols.

A lot of media was generated from this event, including newspaper articles in the lead up to the event, and following it. There was radio coverage too, with an interview broadcast on ABC drive with RCS student Bron Tidey. Queenstown radio station, 7XS, also recorded and published a video of the simulated disaster scenario which can be viewed here.

Click here to read the Advocate’s article online.

Photos from the event can also be viewed on the RCS Facebook page.
You can find more photos from these events on the RCS Facebook page.
Above: Year 5 students standing out the front of the iconic West Coast Wilderness Railway in Queenstown with Mt Lyell in the background.

Above: Year 5 students with Associate Professor Deb Wilson at Montezuma Falls on the West Coast.
Alumni News

We were saddened to hear of the death of one of our previous students, Max Milaney. Our thoughts are with his family and friends.

We welcome back RCS graduates, Rohan Church, Emma Beddows, Alex Frain, Emily Munday and Paul Bremmer. We are pleased to also welcome back so many of our alumni to work in the North-West region. They are returning as RCS tutors to enrich our reaching programme and will also be teaching students on the wards.

2014 RCS graduate, Louis Scarrold (pictured right), has been awarded Intern of the Year for 2015. Louis completed his internship at the Royal Adelaide Hospital.

Student Elective Placements

Year 5 students have recently completed their elective placements in Tasmania, interstate and overseas.

Laura Turner and Leah Spencer (pictured right, photo courtesy of Rick Eaves) spent their recent elective placement in Samoa. Laura completed a rotation in obstetrics and gynaecology and Leah completed a rotation in anaesthetics.

Click here to listen to the interview with Laura, Leah & Rick Eaves from the ABC radio.

Visit to the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre (TAC)

Our incoming fourth year students spent an afternoon at the TAC. Students had an overview of the services provided by the TAC and the health issues that Aboriginal people face on the North-West coast.

Students learnt of the advocacy and health role of Aboriginal Health Workers and Pregnancy Support Workers. They also discovered more about the local Aboriginal culture and got an opportunity to cook damper in the lovely grounds of the centre.

Our thanks to Candy Murray, Allison Cann, Ashlee Murray and Chelsea Everett for organising our visit. We look forward to continuing to work with the TAC in 2016.

Tasmanian Young Achiever Awards – Healthier Communities Award

Congratulations to Laura Turner and RCS graduate Alice McGushin who were recently named semi-finalists in the St. Lukes Health Healthier Communities Awards category for the Tasmanian Young Achiever Awards. Alice has also been recognised as a finalist in this category. Winners will be announced on 8 April.
Publications, Conference Presentations and Achievements

Four Impediments to Embedding Education for Sustainability in Higher Education.

Low-acuity presentations to regional emergency departments: What is the issue?
Colleen was interviewed by 936 ABC Hobart radio about this research and also by the Advocate newspaper. Click here to read the Advocate’s article online.

Comparative Cohort Study of Visual Outcomes in Femtosecond Laser-Assisted versus Phacoemulsification Cataract Surgery.

Thinking Out Loud and e-Health for Coordinated Care - Lessons from User Requirements Gathering in the 4C Project

Childhood Bereavement: a case based discussion and review of existing research evidence on the effectiveness and shortcomings of current bereavement services in the UK.
Dr Thiru Thirukkumaran was recently appointed as a board member for the Rural Doctors Association of Tasmania (RDAT).

Upcoming Events and Activities

2 March - Community Advisory Board (CAB) meeting

9 March - Year 11 & 12 Health Careers Evening (Burnie)

10 March - Year 11 & 12 Health Careers Evening (Mersey)

14 March - Eight hours day (public holiday)

15 - 18 March - GLP 2 (Year 4)

16 March - Heart Foundation Community Speakers Training at the RCS Burnie (evening session open to Year 4 & 5 students - details to be advised).

21 - 24 March - GLW 2 (Year 5)

25 March - Good Friday (public holiday)

25 March - 3 April - Student Easter break

3 April - Burnie Challenge

4 - 8 April - Year 2 Rural Week

For more information about upcoming Community Engagement activities talk to Kayla/Anne-Maree and for Academic programme activities talk to Renee/Kylie.

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 rcs.ce@utas.edu.au. NB: It doesn’t need to be related to the clinical setting.

Car Parking

A reminder, where possible, please car pool to/from the RCS as there are limited spaces in the RCS car park. Parking is prohibited in the UTAS car spaces and emergency turning bay. Even better, ride your bike, otherwise there is also a discounted car park pass you can sign up for which entitles you to 24 hour parking in the NWRH car park for $2. Please see Richard Rozendaal at Student Services to sign up.