



## MERREN ARMSTRONG

REGISTERED NURSE, SMITHTON

### ABOUT CIRCULAR HEAD

Located in Far North West Tasmania, Circular Head covers an area of 4,917km<sup>2</sup> and includes the rural towns of Smithton (the regional centre), Stanley, Arthur River, Marrawah, Irishtown and Edith Creek.

The region's beautiful, unspoilt coastline is one of the longest in the State. With rich soil and a gently undulating landscape, it supports 33% of Tasmania's dairy farms. Other key industries include commercial fishing and aquaculture, forestry, manufacturing, prime beef production, agriculture and tourism.

The town of Smithton, with some 3,500 residents is a close-knit rural community with active sporting interests.

### ABOUT RURAL PLACEMENTS

A rural placement offers you:

- First-hand experience of a rural lifestyle and work environment
- Exposure to a more diverse range of experiences
- Extra support including learning and teaching, social and accommodation support
- Opportunities to connect with other students
- Potential job opportunities – there is a shortage of rural health professionals ... experiencing rural practice and engaging with the community could entice you to work here
- An opportunity for so many great experiences and to see and do things that you otherwise might not.

### ABOUT ME

I am a senior member of staff at the Smithton District Hospital where I have worked for about 29 years. I am a UTAS graduate and hold a Master's Degree in Clinical Nursing. I also work at Emmerton Park Aged Care Facility as the ACFI (Aged Care Funding Instrument) Coordinator.

I am very passionate about nursing and love my profession.

My other interests include spending time with family, walking our 4 active dogs, going to gym, reading, crocheting and knitting.

## RURAL PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE PLACEMENTS

# YOUR WHOLE OF COMMUNITY FACILITATOR

The University's College of Health and Medicine has engaged part-time Whole of Community Facilitators in rural and remote communities across Tasmania.

Our role is to provide local support for you to get the most from your rural placement and to enjoy the opportunity to live and work in our community.

We are here to guide and mentor you while you are on placement and to support you in your learning.

This may include:

LEARNING SUPPORT	RESOURCES	SOCIAL SUPPORT
<p>Helping you with your learning strategies and plans</p> <p>Making sure you have access to one-on-one support</p> <p>Liaising with your supervisor/preceptor or Unit Coordinator – either with you, or on your behalf</p> <p>In some cases we may be involved in your supervision and assessment – either directly or indirectly</p>	<p>Helping you access the resources you need</p> <p>Arranging orientation tours of the facility that is hosting you on placement</p> <p>Providing lists of key contacts at the University and in the community who are the "go to" people if you have any issues or problems</p>	<p>Showing you where things are and how to get around</p> <p>Helping you work out what to do while you are here</p> <p>Putting you in touch with other students on placement in our community</p>

### CONTACT INFORMATION

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<http://www.utas.edu.au/health/virtual-tour/rural-health/smithton/>



<http://www.utas.edu.au/health/virtual-tour/rural-health/emmerton-park/>

To learn more about Smithton and Circular Head visit: [www.discovertasmania.com.au](http://www.discovertasmania.com.au)

