

# East Gippsland Regional Clinical School

School of Rural Health  
Newsletter, Spring 2013

## Director's Report

In our last Report I detailed some of the developments in medical education across Gippsland this year; in this report I would like to highlight some of the "horizontal integration" activities in which our School has been involved. "Horizontal integration" loosely refers to the combination of health education involving several disciplines; medicine, nursing and allied health.

Many of you will be aware of the Monash Nursing Degree program conducted from the Bairnsdale campus of the School, where 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Year students are able to complete their program without the need to travel to the Monash Churchill campus. This will continue next year, with those students currently enrolled in the Monash degree completing that degree, and new students entering the Course in 2014 undertaking the program as students of the new Federation University Australia.

We are currently negotiating to provide all three years of the Degree in Bairnsdale in the near future, which will enable students to undertake all of their education locally without the need to travel to Churchill.

The presence of nursing and medical students under the one roof has enabled us to build an inter-professional learning program based on procedural skills in particular, and we plan to build on this program next year.

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## Simulation News: SimMan Turns 1



*A first birthday celebration for the 'Sim Family' held at the Bairnsdale campus.*

In 2012 East Gippsland Regional Clinical School (EGRCS) received a grant of approximately \$320,000 from Health Workforce Australia (HWA) to assist with the purchase of simulation equipment and to fund a Project Officer to manage the Simulated Learning Environment (SLE) at the Bairnsdale campus. The funding enabled the clinical school to purchase SimMan, SimMom, SimNewB and other part task training equipment

With this equipment, the EGRCS is able to offer education opportunities to medical students, nurses, paramedics and all health professionals looking to enhance their knowledge base and skills.

This equipment was purchased a year ago and to date various models have travelled throughout the East Gippsland region including Mallacoota, Omeo and Lakes Entrance.

To celebrate SimMan's first year, a birthday party was held at the Bairnsdale campus with the whole "Sim family" joined by staff members including simulation suite manager, Marnie Connolly and Simulation Learning Environment Project Officer Laurea Atkinson. Marnie and Laurea are responsible for the ongoing management and planning of the many teaching and learning opportunities the simulation equipment has made available through the Bairnsdale campus..

In addition to the acquisition of the simulated models the school was able to purchase sophisticated computer software for both the Bairnsdale and Sale campuses which allows for a simulation activity to be observed, recorded and discussed at a later date. See story on page 2.



## Studiocode updated in East Gippsland



Simulation training using the Studiocode technology.

An Education day was held in September at the EGRCS Bairnsdale Campus, with Mr Troy Baker from Studiocode.

Further installation of the Studiocode equipment has enabled the Simulation Learning Environment to expand the learner's experience by providing scenario viewing to another tutorial room. Students and academic staff can now view "live" events occurring in the simulation suite and provide feedback on participant's performance. This technology also allows the academic staff to code events highlighted during the simulation to be included into the debriefing session or viewed at a later learning session.

Ms Marnie Connolly (Bairnsdale Simulation Suite Manager), Ms Laurea Atkinson (Project Officer) & Ms Carly Spicer (Professional staff) participated in the education day relating to the upgrades with Studiocode.

Mr Baker from Studiocode also visited the Sale Campus to update and install new studiocode programs. Ms Loy Perryman (Sale Simulation Suite Manager), Mrs Alda Dunlop (Clinical Educator) and Mr Paul Battista (Monash IT Services) undertook training on the complexities of recording and building scenarios in Studiocode. It is anticipated that the technology will complement the existing simulation facility at the Sale campus.

The outcomes and additional technology now established at both the Bairnsdale and Sale campuses will enable the simulation learning experience to progress to new learning opportunities in East Gippsland.

## Teddy Bear Hospital visits Leongatha

The Monash University Medical Undergraduates' Society (MUMUS) teddy Bear Hospital was held at Leongatha Primary School recently, and introduced the 93 grade preps to hospital and clinical settings.



The MUMUS Teddy Bear Hospital was run by Monash medical students who played the role of Teddy doctors. The Monash students, through the event, aim to help reduce the anxiety children may experience if they or someone close to them has to go to hospital.

The preps each filled out a chart about their teddy saying why teddy needed to go to hospital. The children were then divided into smaller groups to visit four stations: Ambulance and Emergency; Hygiene and Surgery; Exercise and Healthy Eating and X-ray and Plastering.

At the stations Teddy doctors, took the preps through what you should do if someone is

hurt, what happens when someone has an operation and why the doctor might need to take an X-ray. At the healthy eating station the preps got the chance to munch on some of the fresh fruit provided by Woolworths' Leongatha.

Teddies of all shapes and sizes attended the event, including dogs, a hammerhead shark and superman. These poor teddies were afflicted with sore tummies, broken legs and in the case of the hammerhead one killer headache. Despite their suffering a lot of fun was had by all. "This is awesome", exclaimed one prep whilst gowned and masked at the Surgery station. Fortunately all teddies were feeling a lot better by the end of the day.

Thank you to the teachers and children at Leongatha Primary School for hosting the MUMUS Teddy Bear Hospital.

**Margaret Young**  
Year 4C South Gippsland

## Manager's Report

Here we are well into Semester II, with practice OSCE's being held at campuses in East and South Gippsland indicating we are heading towards the end of another academic year. I cannot believe how each year passes so quickly.

The School has been busy with many varied workshops, everything from Advanced Paediatric Life Support to Teddy Bear Hospitals. Many local emergency services have taken advantage of the Simulation Workshops making the Simulation Suites high traffic areas as are the tutorial rooms. In fact all facilities are highly sought after for training by many local and state-wide health providers delivering workshops and courses in the East Gippsland area. We continue to integrate into our local communities providing mentors and tutoring to the local secondary colleges and attending local community events.

The annual Community Advisory Committee meeting was held recently, chaired by Dr David Campbell with the Federal Member for Gippsland Darren Chester, Secondary Schools careers advisors and community members in attendance.

Findings of the Research project "Barriers to East Gippsland high school students becoming Health Professionals", undertaken in conjunction with the East Gippsland School for Aboriginal Health Professionals (EGSAHP), were presented at a recent well attended forum.

We welcome Alda Dunlop to the position of Year 3B Academic Coordinator based in Sale. Alda has taken over from Jennie Casey who has side stepped into the position of Year 4C academic



Alda Dunlop

coordinator based in South Gippsland, giving stability to this newly introduced program. We are hopeful of moving the Leongatha School to a more suitable environment in the near future.

By the time this goes to print I am hoping we will have been successful in retaining the "Pat Farry Cup" which will be hotly contested between our MBBS Year 3B and 4C students and MBBS students of Otago University New Zealand.

As this will be our final newsletter for the year, I wish all our students well for their exams, we have been lucky to have such a great cohort again this year and may their future careers be everything they hoped for and more. I wish to thank the staff for their hard work, innovative idea's , and look forward to working with you all again next year.

**Deb Johnston**  
Regional Manager, EGRCS

## Year 2 student placement activities

### Bairnsdale campus – A Busy Bruthen Big day out!

An early start for staff last week, not for the first time during the Year 2 placement in Bairnsdale, this time heading for the village of Bruthen.

Bruthen is a small town (2006 census gives population of 624) located alongside the Tambo river approximately 25 kms from Bairnsdale on the Great Alpine Road in East Gippsland. Nestled in the hills the small town boasts the last coffee before the snow fields which gives it a daily buzz more akin to a larger town.

Bruthen Primary School has 44 students in all and so it was a manageable ratio to our 16 Year 2 students to visit and help with first aid training. The primary students were engaged from the beginning with our medical students giving them hands on activities in small groups of mixed grade levels. Practicing CPR on our simulated equipment was a great hit as was helping locate body parts and learn how lungs work.

It was then time to feed our students. They had worked hard and earned a fabulous bbq in the park, and the afternoon was their turn to be the students again.

We were very fortunate to have Scott Fyfe, a paramedic from Omeo, come to Bruthen to conduct hands on BLS sessions complete with Jimmy, the simulated model who had fallen from his bike and later had cut his leg with an axe. The inclement weather meant we lay claim to the towns rotunda but this failed to dampen the spirits of those involved and even engage travellers in the town who were intrigued with the activity.

The Year 2 students at Bairnsdale campus finished off the week with more community activities and in their spare time were able to explore the area and even go kayaking in the canals at Paynesville. We are sure they will take back to Melbourne stories of a great placements which combined lots of fun with a valuable learning experience.



Medical students instruct primary students on the finer points of first aid in an outdoor classroom.



Scott Fyfe and students act out a basic life support scenario.

### Sale campus activities



Year 2 students practicing Paediatric Basic Life Support.

Our recently appointed Year 2 (and 3B) academic coordinator, Alda Dunlop, was thrown in the deep end when 15 Year 2 Monash medical students recently spent 2 weeks in Sale as part of their curriculum, getting a taste of rural medicine. Alda had only been with the East Gippsland Regional Clinical School for a matter of weeks when asked to coordinate the Year 2 program. She was fortunate to have the assistance of Jennie Casey who had run the program over previous years but wasn't far away. Jennie has moved to manage the Year 4C program at the South Gippsland campus.

Activities over the 2 weeks varied from visits to local medical practices, hospital wards and pharmacies, a day out with the Community Health department of the Central Gippsland Health Service to hands on plastering and basic life support tutorials.

All students agreed that the East Gippsland region has a lot to offer in both lifestyle and medical education opportunities. We hope some will return for more rural experiences at some stage during the remainder of their medical studies.

# Greymouth Exchange

Each year there is an opportunity for two Year 4C students from the East Gippsland Regional Clinical School, to undertake an exchange with two students from the University of Otago Rural Medical Immersion Program (RMIP). Students spend the two weeks alongside the RMIP students and are involved in all aspects of the program, also managing to fit in some sightseeing. This is one student's report:

Greymouth is a town on the West Coast of New Zealand's South Island, with a population of approximately 13,300. Grey Hospital is a 100 bed hospital that provides services such as General Medicine, General Surgery, Orthopaedics, Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Psychiatry, Paediatrics, Geriatrics and Anaesthetics. During the two weeks at Grey I was able to attend clinics such as Orthopaedics, Cardiology, General Medicine, Endocrinology and Paediatrics. I spent time on the Medical ward and was able to assist the House Surgeons in many tasks and gain great experience seeing both common and rare conditions.

Although Grey hospital is of comparable

size to Central Gippsland Health Service, it services a much larger geographic area with a diverse patient demographic. The exchange program enabled me to appreciate the unique challenges that can affect health care, both

from the perspective of comparing the differences in procedures and policies from an international viewpoint, as well as from a rural/metropolitan stance. Although the hospital has a few resident Consultants, the majority of specialist health care is provided by Liaison Consultants who travel from Christchurch on a regular basis. Greymouth is a rural town that can be quite isolated when access roads to Christchurch are closed due to snow (as they frequently can be during winter). This imposes some unique challenges regarding transporting critically ill patients to a tertiary care hospital. It was not uncommon for patients to be flown in one of the helicopters or in the fixed wing



Lake Matheson.

aircraft, even for semi-urgent investigations such as an MRI.

While on exchange I was fortunate enough to experience some of New Zealand's breathtaking sights. From the Canterbury Snow Fields to the spectacular train ride across the coast-traversing plains, high-country, alpine ranges and rain forests- to the Glaciers and beaches of the West Coast.

The experience provided a fantastic and unforgettable learning experience that has greatly added to my professional development and interest in both global and rural health.

**Cassie Coetzee, Year 4C Sale**

## Director's Report

*Continued from front page...*

In addition, Ambulance Victoria paramedics recently made use of the simulation skills centre at our Bairnsdale campus, with volunteer ambulance officers from the "far east" undertaking a revision and consolidation of emergency resuscitation skills.

In July we hosted a highly-successful two-day Advanced Paediatric Life Support course, attended by local doctors and doctors from other parts of rural Australia.

In our Sale simulation centre, there have been two recent REST (Rural Emergency Skills Training) courses auspiced by Southern GP Training, involving GP Registrars in the GP Training Program.

Next month we are holding a one-day Advanced Life Support course for local doctors and nurses at our Bairnsdale campus.

Throughout the year we have continued to provide the program for the Practice Nurse Education Group, with nurses from practices in Orbost, Lakes Entrance, Bairnsdale and Paynesville undertaking a program of self-selected topics relevant to their work in primary care.

Finally, we have continued to provide clinical orientation for the Interns on placement at Bairnsdale Regional Health Service, with the Interns undertaking a series of clinical skills and scenario rotations in the simulation centre.

I would particularly like to acknowledge the work of Marnie Connolly, Loy Perryman and Laurea Atkinson in planning and delivering

these programs. These activities are extra to our "core business", and reflect the level of commitment to our local community and health care practitioners by these staff and our numerous teachers, supervisors and tutors, ably assisted by our professional and administrative staff led by Debra Johnston; a strong and cohesive team. Well done.

**David Campbell**  
Director, EGRCS

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