

East Gippsland Regional Clinical School

School of Rural Health

Newsletter, December 2012



Director's Report

Sitting at Gippsland Medical School in Churchill as I put this report together, while our Year 4C students undertake their "OSCE" exams downstairs, channelling 12 months' worth of knowledge into a series of 8 minute vignettes, with cases entitled "Poppy has a cough", "An abnormal scrotum", "menorrhagia", and "Divina is yellow". At least our case writers have no lack of imagination.

The students seem fairly relaxed and we expect them all to do well in their exams after another successful year of the East Gippsland program.

I was fortunate to attend the "RENDEZ-VOUS 2012" Conference in Thunder Bay, Canada in October (accompanied by about another 100 Australians!), hosted by the Northern Ontario School of Medicine (NOSM). Roger Strasser is the Dean of NOSM, and welcomed about 850 people from 50 countries to the Conference. The major themes of the conference were social accountability of medical education, community engagement and the impact of longitudinal integrated community placements during clinical training.

Many of the presentations on these themes, and subsequent discussions, reaffirmed that EGRCS is leading the way with innovation and modernisation of the Monash MBBS curriculum.

We have recently piloted a revised approach to rural placements during Year 2 of the MBBS course, with

students rotating for 2 weeks in small groups throughout the academic year, and receiving local delivery of the Year 2 curriculum, mixed with the rural curriculum for Year 2, during these placements.

The Year 3B placements at Central Gippsland Health Service in Sale continue to be popular (and over-subscribed) with central and GMS students alike. This serves as EGRCS's introduction to full-year longitudinal integrated placements.

The Year 4C clusters in Sale and Bairnsdale continue to produce students of high calibre, with a good understanding of rural community practice, including immersion in team-based health care, management of chronic illness, continuity of care, etc, as well as a profound exposure to issues of access to health care in rural areas, the health status of rural communities and attitudes to care.

A variety of 6-week Year 5D placements are available in East Gippsland, including the excellent and innovative Aged Care placement in Heyfield, which we hope to replicate in other parts of the region over the next two years.

The undergraduate nursing program at our Bairnsdale campus is growing each year, providing opportunity for inter-professional education activities. This is supported by the \$600,000 worth of equipment recently delivered

to our Simulation/Clinical Skills laboratory, which will provide clinical training opportunities for a whole range of groups in years to come, from Sale to the NSW border. Welcome to Laurea Atkinson who is running our Simulation Project.

Finally, our partnership with the East Gippsland School for Aboriginal Health Professionals (EGSAHP) is coming to fruition with the appointment of Maria Power to conduct the secondary schools research project on behalf of the local Aboriginal community represented by EGSAHP.

All of these programs represent the extent of our engagement with the East Gippsland community, and we can look forward with confidence to our students emerging from the rigours of their exams and future training, and returning to our region as GPs and specialists, as a demonstration of our accountability to this community.

On behalf of all EGRCS staff and students I would like to thank all involved in our programs for another successful year, and wish you all a happy and safe Festive Season.

David Campbell
Director
EGRCS



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Season's Greetings and best wishes for the New Year from



January

- After a very successful pilot program, Years 2 & 3 Division 1 Nursing students began their studies at the Bairnsdale campus.
- Eleanor Mitchell received a research grant from the Windermere Foundation and will look at health knowledge and iodine intake of pregnant women across Gippsland.
- In partnership with Southern GP Training, the School of Rural Health in Gippsland is undertaking a large survey of the training requirements in procedural skills amongst health professionals in Gippsland.



February

- Student orientation was held at Mingling Waters Retreat and provided a great opportunity to relax, take part in organised tutorials and to get to know each other, and some staff, in a beautiful part of Gippsland.
- Marnie Connolly, clinical educator and coordinator of the Year 4C program at the Bairnsdale campus, attended a Simulation Learning Environments Program conducted by Health Workforce Australia.



May

- Angelo D'Amore and Eleanor Mitchell began a partnership with Tambo Upper Primary School in the "Science in Schools" program, aimed at creating and supporting partnerships between teachers and scientists.
- Eleanor Mitchell received a Victorian Women's Governance Scholarship, awarded as part of her role on the Board of Directors of SNAP, a Special Needs Access Program in Gippsland.
- Bairnsdale Regional Health Service, Gippsland Region – Rural Maternity Support program and the EGRCS held an Obstetric Emergency Workshop for medical students and midwives.



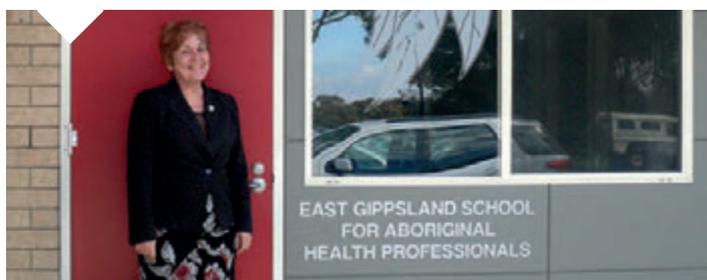
June

- A group of 20 participants, 6 instructors and 3 observers, took part in a Rural Emergency Skills Training program. Held over 2 days at the EGRCS Sale campus, and conducted by Southern GP Training in conjunction with the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM), the program offers participants a hands-on, flexible and interactive approach to training.
- Discussions commenced around involvement of EGRCS in a pilot program for Year 2 medical students which is aimed at giving the students a positive rural experience.



September

- EGRCS took part in the Year 2 Pilot program, planned to be introduced across the School of Rural Health in 2014.
- A workshop for The Practice Nurse Education Group (PNEG) was held at the Bairnsdale campus providing an opportunity to update skills and share knowledge.
- Members of the local Rotary Club toured the new facilities at the Bairnsdale campus as part of their vocation visit program.



October

- Maria Power joined EGRCS as Researcher for the East Gippsland School for Aboriginal Health Professionals looking at ways to encourage young Aboriginal people to engage in health related studies.
- EGRCS staff attended the Sim Health 2012 Conference gaining valuable knowledge and experience in simulation.
- The "RENDEZ-VOUS 2012" Conference in Canada was attended by a number of staff and is outlined in the Director's report.

From the staff of the East Gippsland Regional Clinical School.



March

- EGRCS began the major extension to the Bairnsdale campus of the Clinical School. Tutorial rooms, offices and simulation suite facilities were included in the plan in addition to office space for the East Gippsland School for Aboriginal Health Professionals.
- Staff members attended the Gippsland Clinical Placement Network workshop which addressed the issue "Models of Supervision in the Context of Best Practice Clinical Learning Environment Frameworks" Supervision models were presented by a number of organisations in the Gippsland region



April

- EGRCS Sale campus was visited by five medical students who have initiated the Local Rural Medical Student (LRMS) program. Its aim is to foster a collegiate relationship between local medical students at various year levels who may act as a mentors and provide peer support. In addition the LRMS seeks to encourage local secondary students to pursue a career in medicine.
- Preparations are underway for the year 2 medical students to spend a two week placement at the Sale and Bairnsdale campuses.



July

- As part of the SRH 20th Anniversary celebrations EGRCS held a Community Open Day to showcase the health education facilities and activities at each campus.
- Teddies of all shapes, brought along by their primary school owners, attended the first, and very successful EGRCS Teddy Bear Hospital, held at the Sale campus.
- A 2 week student exchange with Otago University was conducted for the third year with the students involved gaining an insight into the health and medical education of rural New Zealand.



August

- Extensions to the Bairnsdale campus were opened by the Hon. David Davis, Minister for Health and Minister for Ageing. With additional tutorial rooms, offices and simulation suite, opportunities for health education in Gippsland have increased greatly.
- The 3rd annual Trans Tasman Challenge between EGRCS and Otago University medical students was held. Playing for the coveted Pat Farry Cup, students ran neck and neck but a friendly draw was the outcome. The cup stays in Gippsland for another year.



November

- Laurea Atkinson joined EGRCS as Project Officer for the SLE, Simulation Learning Environment. Laurea will work closely with other staff to maximise the opportunities for simulation experiences for all health professionals throughout Gippsland.
- A meeting of the Federation of Rural Australian Medical Educators met with representatives of the Department of Health and Ageing to discuss the interpretation of the Rural Clinical School program with other levels of medical education.



East Gippsland Regional Clinical School wishes you a safe and happy Christmas and thanks you for your continued support in 2012.

December

- EGRCS welcomes the South Gippsland cluster into its program for 2013 where students will be involved in the Gippsland Rural Community Curriculum and based in medical practices for the entire academic year.
- Ten staff from EGRCS will attend the School of Rural Health Conference in the Yarra Valley with 8 of those presenting papers to the conference.



East Gippsland Regional Clinical School, Bainsdale Campus.



East Gippsland Regional Clinical School, Sale Campus.



East Gippsland Regional Clinical School, Leongatha Campus.

Important Dates for 2013

Placement Dates

- Year 2 Pilot Program
15 April – 26 April (TBC)
- Year 2 29 April – 10 May
09 September – 20 September

Semester Dates

- Year 3B Semester 1
04 February – 7 June
Semester 2
01 July – 01 November
- Year 4C Semester 1
11 February – 14 June
Semester 2
08 July – 08 November

- Year 5D 28 January – 4 October

Examination Period

- 11 November – 29 November (TBC)

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