Our teaching year is now in full swing. On behalf of the School, I welcome students to our East Gippsland and South Gippsland sites in 2018. It was great to meet and talk with you at the various welcome dinners and sessions. This year we have a good mix of students who have studied at a rural site before and students who are first timers in an extended rural placement. You will have a rich and fulfilling year of study within the region. Your site has planned the very best of what rural placement can offer you in terms of access to patients and clinicians, as well as engagement with your local community.

I have also enjoyed meeting clinicians that are supporting students at our sites. Many of you have had long associations with your local site and remain strongly committed to preparing the next generation of young doctors soon to enter the workforce. A number of these students will settle into practice in regional areas after graduation. It was great to have Associate Professor Michael Nowotny, the Head of the Gippsland Training Hub visit our sites recently and talk to students, staff and our healthcare partners about the development of greater opportunities for young doctors, particularly at PGY2 and 3 level, to complete specialty training in Gippsland.

I would like to acknowledge the extensive contribution of Associate Professor David Campbell to rural health education, especially his commitment to the local region. The search for a suitable person to replace David as Director continues. We will keep you informed on progress. In the meantime Professor Robyn Langham and I will continue to support the East and South Gippsland sites. I welcome a number of new clinicians who have become involved in our teaching programs this year, and I thank our established clinicians who have taken on new roles this year to support students.

Of course, our engagement with Schools and local Indigenous communities continues this year. Julieanne McLuckie from the Gippsland Medical Student Network is a valuable partner in our Schools program.

I wish our staff, as well as our healthcare service and community partners, in the East and South Gippsland sites a productive and rewarding year.

Assoc. Professor Shane Bullock
Acting Director,
Monash Rural Health
East & South Gippsland

SEEKING PARTICIPANTS FOR A RESEARCH PROJECT

Attention: East Gippsland Community members and Businesses

Have you ever been involved with the Monash University, School of Rural Health – Bairnsdale or its students?

Research is now being undertaken on a project titled: “Monash University, School of Rural Health, impact on the East Gippsland community”

The purpose of this study is to examine the social and economic impact the Monash University, School of Rural Health – Bairnsdale site has on the East Gippsland community.

Ms Marnie Connolly would like to invite you to share your knowledge concerning your experiences and perceptions of the Monash University – School of Rural Health in the East Gippsland region.

If you would like to participate in a questionnaire and interview or for more information about this project please contact:

Chief Investigator: Ms Marnie Connolly
Tel: 5150 3615
Email: marnie.connolly@monash.edu
Thank you for your consideration
Monash University’s Gippsland Regional Training Hub is starting to take shape and make inroads into developing a pathway for the continuum of rural and regional medical training. Director, Assoc Prof Michael Nowotny is now supported by Assistant Director, Dr Gary Campain and Coordinator, Ms Larissa Attard. The Hub team are working hard to inform and engage local stakeholders, and so far the response has been overwhelmingly positive. Productive meetings have been held with Eastern Victoria GP Training, Gippsland Primary Health Network and local health services’ Chief Medical Officers.

The Hub Team are in the process of auditing existing training positions and reviewing population health / workforce needs data so that they can determine where specialist services are most needed. Assoc Prof Nowotny and Dr Campain are utilising their links to specialist colleges, the RACP and ACEM respectively, to start the conversation about “reversing the pipeline”. It is hoped that a regional paediatrics training program will be developed that could act as a pilot for other specialties.

Of the 5 Expressions of Interest submitted in October 2017, one paediatrics post at LRH was successful and has been funded for 2018. Another two posts (Paediatrics & General Medicine at WGHG) have been placed on the reserve list and will go ahead once funding is available.

The Hub Team are identifying and recruiting “clinical champions” in the various disciplines throughout Gippsland. As the name suggests, the Clinical Champions will promote rural practice and lobby the specialist colleges to support rural & regional training programs, encourage fellow clinicians to upskill as Supervisors, and act as Mentors for students and trainees interested in pursuing rural careers. A series of workshops around “Supervision, Mentoring & Giving Feedback” will be rolled out later in the year for interested clinicians.

As well as developing specialist training pathways, the Hub team are exploring options for generalist training in PGY2 & 3. Junior doctors often relocate to metropolitan hospitals for PGY2 & 3 due to lack of opportunities beyond internship and no clear training pathway at regional hospitals. The Hub Team hope to change all this with a generalist year that allows junior doctors to “dip their toes” into specialties including anaesthetics, emergency medicine, paediatrics and general practice. The Hub Team are encouraged by emails from current GRIT interns keen to continue living and training in Gippsland and looking for options for PGY2 & 3.

Co-location of the Hub with Monash Rural Health allows for easy connection with students interested in pursuing rural practice. Further plans for engagement with students include liaison with Monash’s Rural Student Club, Wildfire and EVGPT’s, Gippsland Students Medical Network. The Hub Team plan to collate a database of students and junior doctors who may be interested in being partnered with a mentor or kept updated on the development of training pathways. Interested students should email Larissa.attard@monash.edu. A Hub website is currently in development and will be launched soon.

It’s an exciting time and the future looks promising for rural medical education and training.

GIPPSLAND REGIONAL TRAINING HUB

HELPING CHILDREN TO REDUCE ANY FEARS

On Monday December 4, 2017, nineteen prep students from Paynesville Primary School visited Monash Rural Health Bairnsdale and the Bairnsdale Regional Health Service (BRHS) with the aim of reducing any fears they may have of hospitals, and to encourage an interest in a career in health.

The students participated in four practical stations including bandaging, moulage (fake bruising), SimMan (listening to the heart, chest and abdominal sounds) and familiarising them with equipment around the bedside, where items used within hospitals were explained. This included X-rays, IV poles, urine catheter bags, oxygen masks, sat probes, thermometers, blood pressure machines, screens etc.

Students then went on a tour of BRHS, which covered many of the areas a Prep student could encounter on a trip to hospital. Starting at the helipad the tour included the ambulance bay, emergency department entrance, medical imaging, consulting rooms and Rotamah (children’s ward).

STUDENT NEWS

YEAR 3B SALE

This year we welcome ten new, keen and eager Year 3B medical students, to Sale. The students are adjusting to the demands of the Year 3B program nicely and have integrated themselves well into the school and the clinical environment. Students will spend time in a number of areas throughout Central Gippsland Health (CGH) over the course of the year, with the majority of their time dedicated to general surgery and general medicine. The students all seem to be a pro-active and friendly group and I look forward to watching them grow and learn over the year.

Casey Stubbs
Year 3B Academic Coordinator

Year 3B Sale students L/R: Chris McGuan – Wevill, Jason Ong, Michael McLure, Elizabeth Suo, Ebony Renyn, Charlotte O’Callaghan, Melissa Bruerton, Olivia Ferretti, Max McKenzie and Darren Trinh.
YEAR 4C BAIRNSDALE

It is hard to believe that the Bairnsdale Year 4C medicine programme is one third of the way through semester one with, all (8) students immersing themselves into the clinical environment and enjoying some of the regions fantastic attractions.

After commencing with a packed orientation week of tutorials and practical skills, the students are now settling into placements at their allocated General Practice clinics and local health services under the watchful eyes of the academic and clinical teams.

In Year 4C the East & South Gippsland students spend their entire academic year within the region studying the disciplines of General Practice, Medicine of the Mind and Children’s and Women’s Health. The Year 4C students are fortunate to have clinical supervisors from the community and acute health care sectors who will provide tutorials and guidance throughout the academic year.

All students have taken the opportunity to start exploring the great East Gippsland region and the many activities it has to offer as well as joining some of the sporting and community groups around town. I believe there has been many koala bears sighted on Raymond Island!

This smooth transition into the clinical and community environment could not be possible if not for the dedicated clinical supervisors, health services and community members who will support the Year 4C medicine programme, thank you to all.

Marnie Connolly
Year 4C Senior Academic Coordinator

YEAR 4C SALE

After a very successful year for the Year 4C students in Sale in 2017, Sale has welcomed eight new students into the Year 4C program for 2018. The students have quickly settled into Sale and surrounding communities and are already very competitive at trivia nights held locally at the Star Hotel in Sale.

A welcome lunch was held at the Monash site in Sale for both the eight Year 4C students and the ten Year 3B students. The lunch was well attended by local clinicians and hospital staff kicking off a very positive and exciting year for all of the students.

Running a longitudinal program the students are busy finding their feet and appear to be already relishing in the diverse clinical rotations involved as part of the Year 4C program. Students are on placement at Heyfield Medical Centre, Maffra Medical Group, Clocktower Medical Centre and Sale Medical Centre over the entire year.

The students also have the opportunity to mix with the Year 4C students in Bairnsdale as they are having several study days together throughout the year. We are very fortunate to have such a well-supported clinical program from Central Gippsland Health as well as Latrobe Community Mental Health (based in Sale) and Flynn ward based at Latrobe Regional Hospital, in order to fill the student’s curricula requirements.

We are very happy to have this wonderful group of students in Sale this year and we are excited for all of the opportunities that await them!

Prue Berry
Year 4C Sale Academic Coordinator

YEAR 4C SOUTH GIPPSLAND

After a terrific farewell dinner for our 2017 Year 4C students, I’m glad to report that all the students did very well in their end of year exams and have now commenced final year.

We have now welcomed a new group of ten students, and have kicked off the year with a dinner at the Monash Rural Health education site in Leongatha. Tutors, GP’s and GP Practice staff from across the region joined the students for an evening of food, fun and an inspirational talk from Dr Jacqui McDonnell. Jacqui was part of the first cohort of Year 4C medical students in South Gippsland back in 2010, and has returned as a GP to Korumburra Medical Centre. Jacqui talked about her journey through medical school and beyond, giving the students lots of food for thought.

Professor and Head, School of Rural Health Robyn Langham and Associate Professor Shane Bullock joined us for the evening. It was great for the students and the local supporters of the program to meet them and make connections.

Monash Rural Health South Gippsland are fortunate to have another group of excellent students, and we are all looking forward to both the challenges and learning experiences they will encounter as part of rural practice this year.

Jennie Casey
Year 4C Academic Coordinator
South Gippsland
NEW NHET-SIM PROGRAMME COMES TO THE EAST

Clinical Educators from all over Gippsland gathered at the Monash Rural Health site in Bairnsdale in February to participate in a NHET-Sim workshop.

NHET-Sim (National Health Education and Training in Simulation) is a nationwide training programme for healthcare professionals and educators aimed at improving clinical training capacity.

Facilitated by the very experienced Dr Cameron Knott, sixteen Clinical Educators participated in a workshop that focussed on two of fourteen online modules and workshops available through the NHET-Sim programme. The modules covered in Bairnsdale were focussed around using Simulated Patients as a teaching modality and, the newly released module on Interprofessional Simulation.

Participants of the NHET-SIM workshop held in Bairnsdale

A diverse group of participants from the disciplines of Sports Science, Physiotherapy, Nursing, Research and Academia, lead to much vibrant discussion and interaction throughout the workshop.

We would like to acknowledge the support of Professor Debra Nestel, the Programme Lead and, the Commonwealth Government for availing this workshop in the East Gippsland Region.

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Do you have an interest in research to address local health issues?

Monash Rural Health (MRH) East & South Gippsland are seeking persons interested in becoming members of a ‘Research Advisory Group’ (RAG).

The Research Advisory Group (RAG) are seeking membership from persons who reside in the geographic areas of Bass Coast, South Gippsland, Wellington and East Gippsland Shires.

To find out more or to express your interest in being a member of the MRH East & South Gippsland Research Advisory Group, please contact:

Research Lead: Dr Eleanor Mitchell
Tel: 5122 7187
Email: eleanor.mitchell@monash.edu

Thank you for your consideration.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2018

SEMICLTER DATES

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CONTACT US: MONASH RURAL HEALTH – EAST AND SOUTH GIPPSLAND

Bairnsdale
Telephone: +61 3 5150 3613
Facsimile: +61 3 5150 3614
Postal Address
Monash Rural Health Bairnsdale
PO Box 1497, Bairnsdale, Victoria 3875

Sale
Telephone: +61 3 5143 8500
Facsimile: +61 3 5143 8123
Postal Address
Monash Rural Health Sale
PO Box 9159, Sale, Victoria 3850

Leongatha
Telephone: +61 3 5122 6403
Postal Address
Monash Rural Health Leongatha
PO Box 729, Leongatha, Victoria 3953

Website: www.med.monash.edu/srh/eastgippsland

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