



# TASMANIAN RURAL GENERALIST PATHWAY NEWSLETTER

May 2023



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## From the Director

We had a great Tasmanian Rural Health Conference and Pre-Hospital Emergency Care workshop. Our speakers were inspiring and insightful.

Professor Paul Worley shared his work in South Australia where the Riverland Academy of Clinical Excellence (RACE) has transformed the recruitment and retention of doctors to this area. He emphasised we needed to "shear the whole sheep" – not just attend to bits of the sheep if we are going to have a healthy sheep - as a metaphor to ensure we join up all the bits of the rural pathway.



This month we can advertise our joined up rural pathway with adverts for scholarships for medical students, RMO posts for Rural Generalists and Rural GPs and advanced skills for registrars and existing GP's that want to enhance their skills in a clinical area. We are also pleased to be able to offer our GP registrars a single employer model as part of a Pilot initiative.

The Honourable Emma McBride MP, Assistant Minister for Rural and Regional Health shared her governments vision to support rural health with Conference delegates and medical students.

The Honourable Jason Clare MP, Minister for Education also paid a visit to the North West last week. He heard about the importance of access to local training for all health professionals. Education is about to offer additional medical school placements for rural areas and the Rural Clinical School was able to share the work they have done to support rural training and the pilot for training medical students from year one in the North of the state.

Thank you to everyone who came to the conference and all our amazing speakers. Enjoy the pictures from the conference and we look forward to getting together again next year.

— Professor Lizzi Shires – Director, Tas Rural Pathways



Panel Discussion L-R: Professor Paul Worley, Dr Allison Turnock, Assoc Prof Anthea Dallas, Assoc Prof Michael Clements, Hon Emma McBride MP, Dr Dan Halliday, Dr Raymond Lewandowski



Professor Paul Worley at the Saturday morning plenary 'Coming Back for our Communities'



Dr Louise Parry giving her plenary talk 'Infectious Diseases - What's Next?'



Dr Anna Seth giving her plenary talk 'Climate Change and Health - What can we do?'



Partners program attendees with their dahlia creations from the Devonport Regional Gallery tour



Dinner attendees working on MC extraordinaire Peter Barns' quizzes

## Training posts available for aspiring Rural GPs and Rural Generalists

Applications for our 2024 RG RMO and Advanced Skills Training position are now open.



### RMO - RURAL GENERALIST

**APPLICATIONS OPEN NOW!!!**

Interested in a career in rural generalism or rural general practice??  
Follow the QR code below to apply for your position by the 31st of May 2023



**Positions include**

- Preferential term allocation
- Access to paediatrics, anaesthetics, obstetrics & gynaecology and GP
- Terms tailored to your interests and training needs
- Additional education and support from the THS and TRGP

### Rural Generalist Advanced Skills Registrar 2024

AST training available in

- Emergency medicine
- Paediatrics
- Mental health
- O&G
- Surgery
- Internal medicine
- Palliative care
- Anaesthetics



Tell us where you want to train and in what and we will assist in placing you!!

For more information, scan the QR codes above or view the Tas Government jobs pages for the [RMO – RG positions](#) or [Rural Generalist Advanced Skills Registrar positions](#).

## Tasmanian Rural Generalist Scholarship for medical students

Applications are open for the 2024 Tasmanian Rural Generalist Scholarship, which is available to fifth-year medical students in Tasmania.

Visit the [HR Plus website](#) or click the image to learn more and apply.



### 2023 TASMANIAN RURAL GENERALIST SCHOLARSHIP

Are you currently a fifth year medical student in Tasmania, seeking to kick-start your career as a Rural Generalist?

Recieve up to **\$15,000** towards achieving this dream with our scholarship program.



Scan to apply or visit [hrplustas.com.au/scholarships](https://hrplustas.com.au/scholarships)

**APPLY NOW 2023**



For the wellbeing of Tasmanians



TASMANIAN RURAL GENERALIST PATHWAY



SUPPORTED BY Tasmanian Government

The Tasmanian Rural Generalist Pathway is supported by funding from the Australian Government under the National Rural Generalist Pathway Initiative.

## Growing our own

How can we supervise more learners in general practice – can we make it a business model?

We know that a positive experience in general practice is key in recruiting future GPs. How can we deliver consistent high-level supervision for learners across the levels to ensure we have more applicants for GP training? Do we need to change our model and make it part of our business?

Dr Natalie Burch, GP and supervisor at Ochre Scottsdale, demonstrated how becoming a supervisor of lots of learners in Scottsdale resolved their workforce crisis. Can we do something similar in other practices?

There is funding from the Single Employer Model pilot to trial ways of increasing supervision and providing infrastructure to support this.

There will be expressions of interest later in the year, but we are happy to start talking to any practices that feel they could expand or change their teaching model. Please email [Tas Rural Pathways](#) if you would like to discuss.

### Finance already available to support supervision:

<b>Medical Students</b> <i>up to 30 weeks a year</i>	\$2,000 a week (\$200 dollars a session, \$400 dollars a day) Plus all billings of patients seen.				
<b>Junior Doctors</b> <i>Per 12 week term</i>		<b>MMM 1</b>	<b>MMM 2-3</b>	<b>MMM 4-5</b>	<b>MMM 6-7</b>
		N/A	\$10,000	\$12,500	\$15,000
	Plus all billings of patients seen				
<b>Registrars</b> <i>Per 26 week term</i>	<b>Term</b>	<b>MMM 1-2</b>	<b>MMM 3-4</b>	<b>MMM 5</b>	<b>MMM 6-7</b>
	GPT1/CGT1	\$11,700	\$13,700	\$14,700	\$15,700
	GPT2/CGT2	\$6,750	\$8,750	\$9,750	\$10,750
	GPT3/CGT3	\$2,800	\$4,800	\$5,800	\$6,800
	Plus approx. 50% billings of patients seen. <a href="https://gpsupervisorsaustralia.org.au/subsidies-and-allowances/">https://gpsupervisorsaustralia.org.au/subsidies-and-allowances/</a> <a href="https://gpsupervisorsaustralia.org.au/ntcer/">https://gpsupervisorsaustralia.org.au/ntcer/</a>  Additional funding to be made available under Single Employer Model pilot - How could you support more learners and grow your own future workforce?				

## Celebrating Rural Success

### Simon Monks Memorial Award

The Simon Monks Memorial Award was presented at the Tasmanian Rural Health Conference (TRHC) for the first time. Dr Margret Oetterli presented the Award to William Hogge, a final year medical student at the Rural Clinical School (RCS).

Previous award winners were also at the TRHC and included Dr Ben Dodds, President Rural Doctors Association of Tasmania, Dr Rohan Church, Consultant in Emergency Medicine and EMET facilitator, and Dr Emma Hicks, one of our RG RMO's.



## Rural Doctors Association of Tasmania (RDAT) Annual Awards



**RDAT's Tasmanian Rural Doctor of the Year 2023** is Dr Marielle Ruigrok, who has worked in North West Tasmania as an Emergency Physician since 2009.

During her time there she has been the Clinical Lead for Emergency Medicine across the North-West Regional and Mersey Community Hospitals, and has been a strong supporter of rural GPs and District Hospitals. "Marielle has progressed implementation of the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine's (ACRRM's) Emergency Skills training posts, delivered a blended model of emergency care for the Mersey Community Hospital using both Emergency Specialists and Rural Generalist doctors, and provided excellent training opportunities to GPs working on the West Coast and Far North-west Coast" RDAT President, Dr Ben Dodds, said. "She has been a strong leader of healthcare services in the North West region through the highs and lows of recent years, and has a loyal following of clinicians. As she is returning to the mainland soon for family reasons, we really wanted to recognise all she has done over many years to improve the health and wellbeing of Tasmanians in the North West."

Dr Ruigrok said: "I have been an Emergency Specialist for 23 years and here in the North West for 14 years. I really am passionate about improving the service for rural people."

The TRGP would also like to acknowledge Dr Ruigrok's support of medical students and rural health through the RCS over the years.

### **The RDAT Tasmanian Rural Doctor in Training of the Year 2023**

is Dr Montana (Monty) Chugg, a palawa woman who is currently a medical intern at Launceston General Hospital and a Tasmanian Rural Generalist Pathway scholarship holder.

Monty is passionate about rural healthcare and will undertake a rotation in General Practice at St Helens later this year. "Monty is not only a high-quality doctor with excellent skills, but also a passionate advocate of the palawa people, and strongly involved in education about First Nations people, their culture and needs" Dr Dodds said. "She is a strong advocate for her junior doctor colleagues and has demonstrated leadership skills even at this early stage of her career. Doctors in Rural General Practice have spoken very highly of her eagerness to learn, her compassion for patients and her awareness of the many issues that impact on healthcare delivery and outcomes in rural and remote Tasmania."

Dr Chugg said: "I grew up knowing the beauty of lutruwita/Tasmania - my parents were both born and raised in remote areas, and they'd take me travelling all around our beautiful state every summer. But at the age of 5, when my pop passed away from a melanoma he never got checked out, I realised that living rurally could be hard sometimes. "As I've progressed through Medicine and experienced rural placements, I've found such a passion in helping rural Australians receive the healthcare they need, exactly where they are. My broad interest in all specialties of Medicine and love of a good challenge has also led me towards a career in remote areas, as it offers opportunities to practise a wide range of skills, tackle complex problems and make a real, tangible difference in the lives of my patients."





**The Tasmanian Rural Medical Student of the Year 2023** is Clay Ritchie, a fifth year medical student at the University of Tasmania who recently undertook a clinical placement on Flinders Island and has shown a keen interest in Rural Medicine as his potential career path.

“Clay has engaged in his General Practice placements with enthusiasm, and has received excellent reports from his supervisors over the past two years” Dr Dodds said. “He found his Rural General Practice placement on Flinders Island to be fantastic and said it definitely bumped this area of Medicine into his field of view as a potential future career direction. “It is important to note that not all medical students will accept a placement in such a remote setting - Clay not only accepted the placement but went to the next level and engaged completely in the experience. “Clay’s fiancée is training as a firefighter so he will ultimately aim to be where she is located, but he hopes to obtain an intern position in Launceston or Burnie once he graduates from his medical degree.”

Clay said: “I’m very honoured to be receiving this award and I’m thankful for the recognition of my efforts by RDAT. I understand the importance of rural health in Tasmania and look forward to seeing how I can contribute to healthcare in the future.”

Dr Dodds said: “We warmly congratulate Marielle, Monty and Clay on this highly deserved recognition, and thank each of them for their dedication and commitment to rural and remote healthcare in Tasmania.”

### **Hon Emma McBride MP, Assistant Minister for Rural and Regional Health visits the North West Coast**

The RCS welcomed the Honourable Emma McBride MP, Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, Assistant Minister for Rural and Regional Health last week, along with Senator Anne Urquhart, and Central Coast Councillor Amanda Diprose.

Minister McBride gave a tour of RCS facilities, including the wall of Rural Pathways, and students had the opportunity to discuss with Minister McBride where they’re from, where they hope to be and the reasons they’ve chosen to study rurally.



## Hon Jason Clare MP, Federal Minister for Education visits the UTAS Cradle Coast Campus

The Hon Jason Clare MP, Federal Minister for Education, Senator Anne Urquhart, and staff from the College of Health and Rural Clinical School met at UTAS Cradle Coast Campus last week to discuss the advantages of offering health courses in the North West.

The Minister heard of our workforce shortages and the successful pilot that has allowed students to study medicine from first year in the North and North West. Studying and working locally will let us grow our Rural Health Workforce.



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## Point-of-care Ultrasound Course

RACGP will be running a full-day workshop on 5 August 2023 which will increase your understanding of the applications of point-of-care ultrasound in the diagnostic process.

The workshop runs from 8.30am to 4.30pm and will be offered to RACGP members at \$995 (incl. GST) and to non members for \$1,295 (incl. GST).

RACGP members can register online via the [RACGP website](#), and non-members can email [rural@racgp.org.au](mailto:rural@racgp.org.au) or call 1800 636 764.

For more information, see the flyer attached.

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## 2023 Conferences

**RMA 2023** Hobart 18-21 October 2023. Abstracts are open until 10 May 2023, and Early Bird tickets available until 30 June 2023. For more information, visit the [ACRRM RMA23 page](#).

**RMA23**  
nipaluna (Hobart) · 18-21 OCT 2023

Early bird sale  
on now!

**REGISTER**

OFFICIAL PRE-WONCA 2023 EVENT

Australian College of Rural & Remote Medicine  
RURAL DOCTORS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

**WONCA 2023** Sydney 26-29 October 2023. For more information, visit the [WONCA2023 page](#).



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## Scholarships and Grants for Rural Generalists

We have opened a new scholarship opportunity for Rural Generalists and Rural GP's to support advanced skills in non-procedural areas.

For further information and to register for the Rural Generalist Advanced Skills Support program (RGASS), visit the [Scholarship Page](#)

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## Rural Education opportunities

You can find a large selection of online learning opportunities which enable rural GPs to participate in Continuing Professional Development without travel.

Local Webinars from Primary Health Tasmania are available on their [Events page](#)

### Highlights include:

GP Training – Initial Assessment and Referral (IAR) for Mental Healthcare: 7 June 2023

### Highlights from the RACGP program:

Rural Health Webinar Series – Fresh updates and new developments in diabetes management: 1 June 2023

Demystifying dementia – Primary care frameworks to support people living with dementia: 5 June 2023

Hepatitis B in Primary Care: 13 June 2023

For more information, visit the [RACGP Online Events page](#)

### Highlights from the ACRRM program:

Drug and Alcohol Addiction Education Program - Brief Interventions and Motivational Interviewing: 15 June 2023

For more information, visit the [ACRRM webinars page](#)

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## **Wanted: practices to grow their own John Flynn Rural Doctor**

The John Flynn Prevocational Doctor Program has started in 2023.

The Program places interns and Resident Medical Officers in GP practices for a 12-week term as part of their hospital-based rotations. The Scottsdale practice, who have been training junior doctors in for many years, have watched these junior doctors come back as registrars and then rural GP's and RG's.

If your practice is interested in being part of this important program, please contact the [Tas Rural Pathways team](#)

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*The Tasmanian Rural Generalist Pathway is supported by funding from the Australian Government under the National Rural Generalist Pathway Initiative.*



# RACGP

## Point-of-care ultrasound

Healthy Profession.  
Healthy Australia.

**BURNIE, TASMANIA**



 **RACGP** CPD Approved Activity

Educational Activities	Measuring Outcomes	Reviewing Performance
5 hours	0 hours	5 hours

Register online 

### Date

Saturday 5 August 2023

### Time

8.30am – 4.30pm AEST

### Venue

UTAS Rural Clinical School  
21 Brickport Road  
Burnie TAS 7320

### Cost

RACGP member \$995  
Non-member \$1,295

### Contact

RACGP Rural  
Tel 1800 636 764  
Email [rural@racgp.org.au](mailto:rural@racgp.org.au)

***This full-day workshop will increase your understanding of the applications of point-of-care ultrasound in the diagnostic process.***

Experienced rural doctors and sonographers will guide you through the diverse applications of point-of-care ultrasound in primary care services using advanced, high-end mobile ultrasound equipment provided by our sponsor, GE Healthcare.

Capped at 30 participants, you'll rotate through six stations:

- eFast
- deep venous thrombosis
- heart and lung ultrasound
- intravenous line placement and foreign object retrieval
- musculoskeletal soft tissue
- first trimester transabdominal obstetric ultrasound.

The workshop is a CPD Approved Activity within the 2023-2025 Triennium. Participants will be eligible for a total of 10 hours includes 5 hours Educational Activity and 5 hours of Reviewing Performance.


It is also approved for all categories of the [Rural Procedural Grants Program](#) and Tasmanian rural GPs and registrars in MMM3-7 can apply for a HR+ grant through the [Rural Generalist Advanced Skills Program](#).

The workshop runs from 8.30am to 4.30pm and will be offered to RACGP members at \$995 (incl. GST) and to non-members for \$1,295 (incl. GST). Morning tea and lunch will be provided.

### Sponsored by



RACGP members

Register online 



Non-members

Email [rural@racgp.org.au](mailto:rural@racgp.org.au)  
or call 1800 636 764.