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From the Director

As the holiday season approaches, I wish you all some well-deserved time out for family friends and refreshment.

We are all saddened by the untimely death of Dennis Pashen last week. He was a passionate and inspirational leader and advocate for rural health, who led by example in every element of his professional life. Through his deep commitment to rural

and remote medicine, he made profound contributions to Australia and the communities he served, including most recently in Queenstown in Tasmania.

Dennis will be deeply missed and our thoughts are with his family and friends.

It has been a busy year for the Tasmanian Rural Generalist Co-ordination Unit, and I am reluctantly stepping down from my RG role to concentrate on my university role to ensure more students can train in medicine from rural backgrounds and promote more training in our rural areas. However I am delighted to pass the baton to my successor, Dr Brian Treanor. Brian will bring a wealth of experience and enthusiasm to the role, and we all look forward to working with him.



Reflecting on the past two years, I am immensely proud of what we have achieved together. From the expansion of junior doctor placements to the increased number of scholarship holders on a pathway to rural generalism, and the commencement of the Single Employer Model for GP registrars - each milestone represents our collective dedication to advancing rural healthcare in our region.

I am excited to announce that we have been awarded an RACGP research award to look at the impact of our integrated pathway and what further work needs to be done to support medical students and junior doctors who want to stay and train rurally.

I am continuing in my role as Director for the Rural Clinical school and will continue to advocate for more rural training and resources.

I am grateful for all the support I have had over the last two years and the positive changes we've been able to make.

Wishing you a joyful holiday season and a successful New Year.

Yours, Lizzi



A message from Brian - New Rural Pathways Director

I am really looking forward to taking on the role of Director Rural Pathways.

Although I originally hail from Ireland, I lived in Tasmania for 25 years before moving to Far North Queensland in 2016, to work as a Rural Generalist with an advanced skill in anaesthetics. Prior to undertaking my medical studies at UTAS, I had a career in nursing and worked in the community services sector. I am keen to add to the tremendous work that the Rural Pathways team have undertaken to date. I look forward to meeting people when I return "home" to start in the new role in January 2024.

Workforce Incentive Program Rural Advanced Skills Stream

The Rural Advanced Skills Stream rewards investment in specialist qualifications and advanced skills and encourages more doctors to work in a variety of settings using these skills in regional, rural and remote areas.

This will recognise rural and regional doctors using additional skills to meet the needs of their community and will provide an additional \$4,000-\$10,500 per year.

The Rural Advanced Skills payments are scaled to encourage service delivery in more regional/remote areas. Doctors will be able to submit an annual application for payment in coming months for services provided in 2023 for payment after 1 January 2024. Further information on the payment, including Program Guidelines, is available from the Department of Health's website.

[Find out more on the Australian Government Department of Health website](#)

Have your say- Rural Generalist Medicine as a New Field of Speciality Practice

The Medical Board of Australia is consulting on a joint application from the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine and the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners proposing that Rural Generalist Medicine be recognised under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as a new field of speciality practice within the current speciality of General Practice.

Please provide written submissions by email, marked: '*Consultation on the recognition of Rural Generalist Medicine*' to medboardconsultation@ahpra.gov.au by close of business on **Tuesday 12 December 2023**.

[Find out more on the Medical Board Australia website](#)

FRACGP to FRACGP-RG: A Streamlined Approach

Are you a rural GP with substantive experience working in rural or remote areas?

RACGP is making it easier for FRACGP and FARGPs to be assessed for a Rural Generalist (RG) Fellowship through recognition of prior learning and experience. This streamlined assessment process for RG is part of our continued commitment to members supporting our regional and remote communities. Plus, they're waiving the fee until 17 May 2024.

To apply for RPLE as a FRACGP, [click here](#).

To apply for RPLE as a FARGP, [click here](#).

Single Employer Model

Late July 2023 saw the beginning of the statewide Single Employer Model (SEM) as we welcomed 4 registrars across the state into the pilot. 2 Registrars in the South, 1 in the North and 1 in the North West. Australian Minister for Health and Aged Care, Mark Butler and Tasmanian Minister for Health and Aged Care, Guy Barnett travelled to a participating site in Deloraine to officially announce the start of the pilot on the 19th of September.

We are looking forward to expanding the SEM pilot in 2024.

[Read more on the Premier of Tasmania's website](#)

Grants for Infrastructure and Supervision

As part of the Single Employer Model pilot there will also be grants available to support increased training capacity in the near future so watch this space for more information as it become available.

The Rural Medical Workforce Centre Opens

The Rural Medical Workforce Centre officially opened at the Mersey Community Hospital in October. The centre will provide training opportunities to medical graduates, trainee doctors and health professionals resulting in more doctors and nurses on the North West coast.

[For more information please visit the Department of Health website](#)

New Scholarship Holders

We welcome

| | |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| Clay Ritchie | Raymond Pavlov |
| Crystelle Vanderplas | Seniya Wijewardena |
| Freya Prebble | Senudi Wijewardena |
| Lauren O'Sullivan | Sophia Casanova-Clarke |

To our Rural Generalist Scholarship Program. The scholarship holders are staying on in the North and North West of the state and will have the opportunity to spend time in rural practice.

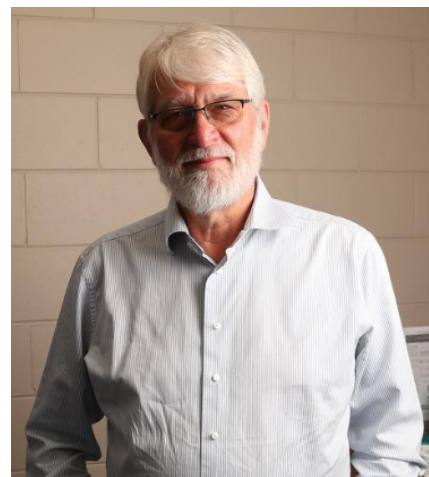


Vale: Dennis Pashen

We all mourn the loss of the Dennis Pashen, past President of the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM), and former President of the Rural Doctors Association of Australia, after he died on the 23rd of November.

He was a passionate advocate for rural health and rural communities and one of the leaders in the drive for Rural Generalist recognition. Last year he was awarded Tasmanian Rural GP of the year. We are grateful for all he has given over the years as mentor, teacher, GP and advocate. Our thoughts are with his family and friends.

[Read more on the ACRRM Website](#)



The Pathway to More Rural Doctors: The Role of Universities

Lizzi Shires, along with Matthew R McGrail, Zelda Doyle, Lara Fuller, Tarun Sen Gupta, and Lucie Walters recently had an article published in the Medical Journal of Australia - *The pathway to more rural doctors: the role of universities*.

The article discusses the importance of growing a workforce of our own and the critical role medical schools play in addressing the shortage.

[To read the full article visit the Medical Journal of Australia website.](#)

Conference Updates

FRAME

We had an amazing nation-wide conference held in Devonport in October which almost 100 people attended from across the country (and internationally) as well as 40+ delegates on Zoom. The Federation of Rural and Australian Medical Educators (FRAME) is a collaborative effort of all Rural Clinical Schools and Rural Workforce Hubs across Australia. Medical educators who attended had the opportunity to engage with experts, explore innovative solutions and collaborate on strategies to increase the number of rural doctors.

This event not only provided a brilliant academic program but also showcased the scenic North West region of Tasmania to participants from across Australia. We had some great media coverage and even made the front page of the [Advocate](#).

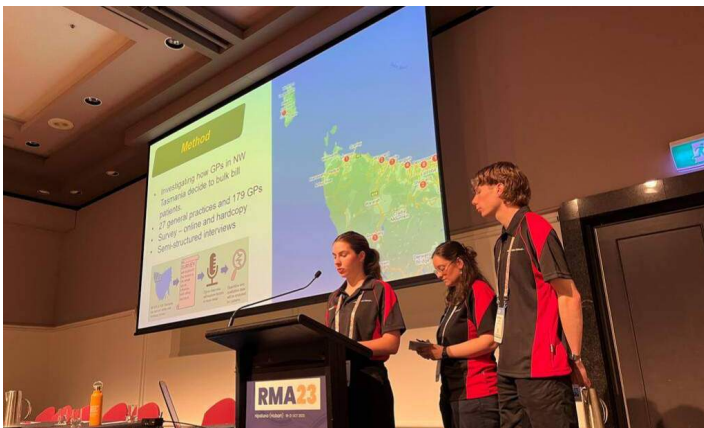


RMA23

Rural Medicine Australia (RMA) 23 was held in Hobart, so it was an excellent opportunity for Tasmania to shine.

Rural Clinical School (RCS) students and staff presented posters and gave presentations at RMA covering diverse topics such as bulk billing decision making and managing chronic pain in rural areas. It was brilliant to see so many RCS alumni who have been working in rural and remote Australia who were also in attendance.

The TRGP also sponsored the Rural Doctors in Training Networking event held at the Hanging Gardens in Hobart.



WONCA (World Organisation of Family Doctors)

Australia hosted the international WONCA conference for 2023 at the International Convention Centre in Sydney.

WONCA was one of the biggest conferences we have ever attended with over 4000 delegates from around the world. We had a dedicated rural stream, and we were proud to sponsor the rural emergency pre-conference workshop. We presented a workshop on expanding and supporting rural supervision and I was proud to share the stage with colleagues from across Australia looking at how we address this important issue to create more RGs for the future.

It was great to see some of the Rural Clinical School students and staff also attended WONCA and presented outstanding posters.

DRIVERS Conference

Congratulations to our 2024 TRGP Scholarship holder, Crystelle, who attended and presented at the Monash Doctors for Regional Innovation, Vision, Excellence, Research & Scholarship (DRIVERS) Conference in Bendigo in September. Her presentation about her GP placement on King Island was awarded the DRIVERS Regional Training Hub Director's Award for Excellence.



AIDA 23

It was a privilege to attend the Australian Indigenous Doctors Association (AIDA) conference in Hobart and to catch up with so many friends and colleagues. Dr Monty Chugg, an RG Scholarship holder, opened the conference with a welcome to country in language, which helped us reflect on the space between the stars. Monty is undertaking her intern year in Launceston before heading off to Cairns next year for more RG training.

Rural Generalists Recognised at 2023 Palliative Care Awards

In August, Dr Cyril Latt, Rural Generalist at St Mary's Community Health Centre, was awarded winner of the Outstanding Palliative Care Professional award at the 2023 Palliative Care Awards. Dr Jane Cooper, Rural Generalist at Don Medical Centre, was also recognised as a finalist and Dr David Knowles, General Practitioner at Glebe Hill Family Practice was awarded runner up. Congratulations to all rewarded for their dedication and hard work.

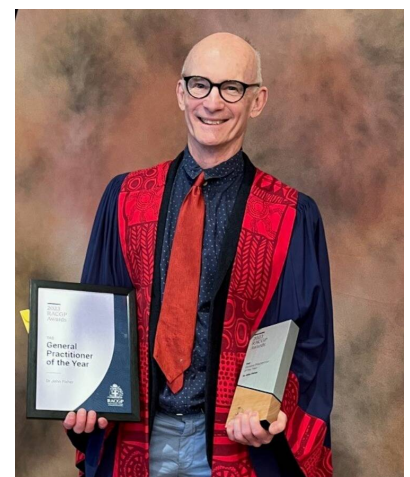
[For more information on the awards, please visit the Palliative Care Tasmanian website.](#)

RACGP Tasmanian GP of the Year 2023

Congratulations to Dr John Fisher of Patrick Street Clinic, Ulverstone - John has been awarded RACGP Tasmanian GP of the Year 2023.

John has been an amazing supervisor for generations of students and registrars, teaching them all the complexities of General Practice and how to juggle.

Thanks John for your service to patients on the NW Coast and for educating the next generation of GPs.



ACRRM and RACGP Dental Workshop

In September the TRGP sponsored a Dental Workshop for General Practice delivered by the Tasmanian Health Service - Northern Dental Centre in Launceston.

This interactive workshop focused on the role General Practitioners have in assessing, diagnosing, preventing and managing oral diseases and included practical sessions on:

- Extraoral and intraoral examinations
- Dental local anaesthesia on a manikin
- Temporary fillings
- Dental trauma management, including splinting teeth



Future GP Workforce

General Practice Students Network (GPSN)'s National Chair, Sarah Bresnehan, has released an article outlining the importance of early exposure to general practice and sparking interest in the field for medical students.

Our members continually tell us the importance of quality early exposure to general practice at the beginning of their journey, and this work needs to be done before hospital training. Our GPSN members want to connect with general practice, understand it, and be supported in professional peer exchange with existing GPs early on in their medical school experience.

We all know that early positive impressions of general practice will go a long way to increasing the number of medical students becoming GPs. GPSN members want an opportunity to get to know general practice and GPs early in their first few years of training.

[Read more of Sarah's article and her thoughts on a new approach to addressing the national GP shortage on the GPSN website.](#)

Link up with other Tasmanian RG's

Did you know there is a Tasmanian RG Facebook group? A place we can ask questions, share advice on training posts and discuss rural health issues in Tasmania. If you would like to join us and share your story please come and find us on [facebook](#).



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