



# Bathurst Rural Clinical School



## CLINICAL DEAN

Welcome to another edition of our Newsletter & another rural academic year.

Our world is forever changing; these days not only do our students have to learn several text-books worth of knowledge, they also have to be reliable, well presented, courteous & respectful- in other words –professional. And in today’s world, just like in the workplace, we ask our students to sign a “Code of conduct”-which speaks to issues such as respect, confidentiality, consent, self-care, use of social media & commitment to lifelong learning. Well, so much for a carefree youth- welcome to the weight of professional life – (at such a young age-with many of you in your early twenties); it is, of course, what our communities expect. Wouldn’t it be nice if our politicians signed a similar code!

Which all leads (in some way) to another topical discussion- student welfare. Such an important issue for our Medical school, & for educational institutions across the world. We know medical students are more vulnerable to stress & burnout & it is easy to see how it might all be just quite overwhelming at times. It is so important for us as supervisors to nurture learning & professional growth. Of course, if there are concerns, we have student support services in place, both locally & across the wider University.

On a similar note, I recently came upon an excellent article in The Journal of the American Medical association (JAMA) titled “Advice for a student starting Medical School”. It’s probably best to read it yourselves, but the gist of it was contained in three messages:

- 1) - The most important things we give to our patients are our time & consideration.
- 2) - Much of what you will be taught is wrong.
- 3) - Keep a “Sunshine folder” where you collate positive feedback & thankyou cards – Medicine, after all, can be a tough job.

So in a similar vein, my three pieces of advice for our Medical students starting in Bathurst might be (& our readers might like to add to this discussion):

- 1) - Use your clinical placements as opportunities for learning from your patients- this is the sort of learning which is hard to forget.
- 2) - Your Bathurst teachers are usually right.
- 3) - Use the new social opportunities for positive personal growth. Partake in as many extracurricular activities as you can.

There is lots more news- A full medical school program based in Orange/Bathurst; Post Graduate opportunities from WSU Bathurst-(Masters in Rural Generalism) & starting soon; Internships in Bathurst- so please read on.

Tim McCrossin

September 2018  
Spring Newsletter

## SAVE THE DATE

TO CELEBRATE THE COMPLETION OF THE  
2018 WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY MEDICINE COHORT

# Graduation Ball

17TH DECEMBER 2018 | OATLANDS HOUSE

DRESS CODE: FORMAL



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Clinical Dean .....	1
Director of Rural Health .....	2
Student Coordinator.....	2
Interview with Emma Dasey .....	3
Survey .....	3
BRCS–Jane Thompson .....	4
RIPL.....	5
RHUWS .....	6
Research .....	7
Mental Health.....	8
New postgraduate studies .....	9
Aboriginal Health.....	10
Rural School's Engagement .....	11
The Weathered Wattle Poem .....	12
RHUWS Rural Placement Grants .....	13

## Hospital Grand Rounds Dates

5th Oct Paediatrics  
19th October Mental Health  
2nd November TBA  
16th November RPA–Liver Disease  
30th November Surgery  
14th December End of Year Quiz



Professor Ross Wilson

## DIRECTOR OF RURAL HEALTH PROFESSOR ROSS WILSON

Welcome!

With a new group of students in Bathurst and Lismore, the education programme is in full swing.

Recent visits to the “Mother Ship” at Campbelltown and Macarthur have exposed other years to the wonders of rural medicine.

The year promises to be interesting with an increased focus on inter-

professional learning, community engagement and high class research.

The rural health staff at both Bathurst and Lismore look forward to hearing and seeing more of the whole cohort of students – give us a shout at any time.



Professor Ross Wilson,  
Premier Gladys Berejiklian  
and Paul Toole MP



## STUDENT CO-ORDINATOR—BRONWYN BAUER

The ninth cohort of sixteen students commenced on 2 July to much fanfare from many areas, including an official mayoral reception followed by ice-skating and a visit from the NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian and the State Member for Bathurst Paul Toole MP.

They have all settled in well, adapting to new routines and expectations whilst rotating through each of their clinical placements. We especially welcomed James Grogan as our 100<sup>th</sup> student to attend the Rural Clinical School in Bathurst.

The School of Medicine has ‘re-branded’ the Rural Undergraduate Stream to the Undergraduate Rural Pathway with the aim: *to identify, encourage and support a small number of medical students who are genuinely interested in and demonstrate a strong commitment to working in rural health.* The successful year 2 applicants were selected in September and join the year 3s already on the pathway. This early start should help facilitate a rural trajectory for their medical career. What an impressive start to their rural pathway as they were presented their certificates by Professor Brad Frankum who along with his many roles was instrumental in the development of Bathurst Rural Clinical School.

On 6 August five new John Flynn scholars from our school were inducted into their program. This brings the total to 27 medical students from WSU who are part of this scholarship which states: *Medical students' early exposure to rural clinical practice and the unique lifestyle that comes with it, is a key influence in them undertaking a rural medical career in the future. That's exactly what the John Flynn Placement Program aims to do!*



Professor Brad Frankum  
and Rural Undergraduate  
Pathway Students





## INTERVIEW WITH DR EMMA DASEY (BATHURST STUDENT 2017-18)

### Most memorable time in Bathurst?

I loved all my time in Bathurst (well, most of it!). Some of my memorable moments include riding the Blayney to Bathurst bike ride, a Sunday afternoon spent assisting Dr Elbourne with an appendectomy, long chats with Bron in the Basement and extravagant Wednesday night dinners with the Darwin Drive housemates.

### Where are you doing your internship?

Orange Hospital. I was very torn between Orange and Canberra for internship. I think my Bathurst time was what made the final decision for me.

### What are you hoping to have achieved in the next 5 years? Where do you see yourself??

By my calculations, all this moving around for med school attachments/uni/exams means that I've stayed in 10 different places this year alone. I am hoping to do rural generalist training over the next 5 years - while hopefully having just a bit more stability in my life.

### What was your favourite attachment and why?

One of the hard things about med school has been the constant rotation through many different teams and hospitals, from General Practice in Oberon to Neurosurgery at RPA. I think it was the Gen Med term with Dr McGarity in Bathurst where I really had a great balance between hospital time and formal teaching, so I'll nominate that as my favourite term. But my whole rural year was a time when I really grew as a medical student.

### What would you say to students thinking of coming to Bathurst?

Bathurst is the best part of med school. You know all that formal teaching and mentoring that you really lack in 3rd year metro attachments? You'll get more of that in Bathurst than you ever dreamed of (and sometimes, more than you actually wanted :))

### Any other comments about your time in Bathurst?

The Bathurst year goes really quickly, and it's easy to be entirely uni-focused...but don't fall into that trap. My time with a Bathurst church, cycling club and triathlon club, as well as trips with the housemates to nearby towns to



## Survey: Utilisation of Cardiovascular Risk Calculators

An RACGP study conducted in 2016 found that many GPs want to better utilise eHealth technology for patient education and clinical decision-making. Western Sydney University (WSU) is conducting research to identify how eHealth technology can be utilised to improve the efficiency and accuracy of cardiovascular risk assessment and management in general practice.

[Click here to complete the 5-minute survey >>](#)



Farm Safety Day at Prof Wilson's farm



Farm Safety day



Simulation at Farm Safety Day

## BRCS—JANE THOMPSON

From the frenetic activity that's happening on a daily basis with students and staff to strategic planning across multiple stakeholder groups, BRCS continues to be an exciting and dynamic environment. It continues to support and produce work ready clinicians that we look forward to welcoming back to our communities. I was hoping to succinctly identify some key highlights since our last newsletter however there are too many to list. Two stand out though and that is the level of interest and engagement from the medical students as junior as year 1. The second is the success of our Rural Interprofessional Learning (RIPL) sessions including the collaboration and involvement of our paramedicine lecturers during our rural sessions. The multidisciplinary rural focus is very much alive and they are thirsty for more knowledge and hands on experience.

The focus and strategic direction of the Commonwealth Department of Health continues to build and demonstrates a robust vision for a "Stronger Rural Health Strategy". The impact of this for us is exciting and challenging. The main focus over the next couple of years will be the continuation of funding for the rural clinical school till the end of 2020, during which time a review will have been undertaken to evaluate the national outcomes, along with the development of the Murray Darling Medical School Network (MDMSN) of which we are an integral part. The new medical school will be located in Orange and developed in collaboration with CSU commencing 2021. Still in the early stages of development but we will endeavour to keep you posted as this changes.

Together with Bathurst hospital we were successful in being awarded additional funding to support longer intern rotations at Bathurst. During their time, the interns will be rotated into a 10-week placement with one or more general practices and or an Aboriginal Medical Service. This is another very exciting development in relation to working with our local communities supporting further workforce development. The first interns to participate in this will commence in 2019.



Another exciting development that we have had the opportunity to be a part of is the Rural Doctors Network "Rural Primary Health Workforce Needs Assessment" taskforce group. There have been a number of meetings and interviews that we have contributed to grappling with the challenge of building our local health workforce, what the needs are, how to attract, recruit and retain clinicians across the Western NSW district?

Life at the Clinical School is never dull but we could not achieve as much as we do without the tremendous support of our clinicians, academic and professional staff across all disciplines both at the hospital and in primary health care, our wonderful community partners from all interest groups and industries. So a huge thank you from us all at the Bathurst Rural Clinical School.



# RIPL (RURAL-INTERPROFESSIONAL LEARNING— KAREN BEATTIE & JANE THOMPSON

## Simulation Sessions

Exciting and innovative teaching at Bathurst Rural Clinical School (BRCS) continues to develop with increasing Inter-Professional Education (IPE) opportunities for students. A students understanding and respect for the different roles and skillsets of other professionals are an integral part of the learning experience. The aim of Rural Interprofessional Education is to create a workforce with improved levels of team work, collaboration, knowledge sharing and problem solving ultimately leading to better client/patient outcomes in the health care setting. In our daily clinical practice we have moved to a multidisciplinary patient- centred approach so our RIPL simulation sessions are planned to support students learning in a similar environment. BRCS have pulled together a number of RIPL simulation sessions. Our first one was in collaboration with Charles Sturt University, in their simulation centre, involving paramedicine, nursing and medical students. We have subsequently developed further training opportunities engaging a broader network of students including physiotherapy, social worker and occupational therapy.

The diverse settings in which we conduct these RIPLs aim to achieve a balance of challenging and varied environments that the students may encounter during their health careers. From scenarios including deteriorating paediatric patients, varied General Practice cases to simulated farming accidents on a local property, all of these sessions have been facilitated by a team of health professionals. A detailed debrief at the completion of each scenario was conducted. We look forward to continue the development of these opportunities for our current and future multidisciplinary students and welcome any suggestions for future inter-professional topics/scenarios.

The team are now busily planning a trip to Tamworth in conjunction with Newcastle University early November which will involve medical students and other multi-disciplinary teams.



DEPARTMENT OF  
RURAL HEALTH



## RURAL HEALTH UNION OF WESTERN SYDNEY (RHUWS) SHAFIUL HAQUE (TREASURER)



Farm Safety Day at  
Professor Ross Wilson's farm



Simulation at Farm



Clinical Skills night



Professor Jenny Reath  
assisting in the RHUWS  
clinical skills session

The Rural Health Union of Western Sydney (RHUWS) has been more active than ever as of late! Our members recently attended the Rural Inter-Professional Education day held by the Bathurst Clinical School where we learnt about the harsh conditions our rural medics and health professionals fight through and were fascinated to see how each profession came together to provide top notch care for patients.

We also ran our annual Clinical Skills Night wherein students from all across the health science spectrum came together to learn the practical skills involved in patient care, from providing injections through the bone to how to navigate the perils of the NDIS. Close to one hundred students came along and by the end of the night we learnt some great new skills and made some amazing friends!

To end the year, we are planning a rural excursion/road trip with a multidisciplinary team of students to visit schools and encourage them to think about a future career in health. Very exciting .. don't forget you can keep up to date with our activities on our

facebook page [https://  
www.facebook.com/  
RHUWS/](https://www.facebook.com/RHUWS/)



Paramedicine Students at Clinical  
Skills night



## RESEARCH - DR JANNINE BAILEY

The research team, led by Dr Jannine Bailey, and their research projects continue to grow and diversify. Collaboration across multiple partners continues to be successful in both research projects and in obtaining funding. One such partnership was successful in being awarded the HCF Research Foundation, together with Orange Aboriginal Medical Service (OAMS). This project will evaluate the implementation of a home medicines review service at OAMS. See link below to a local newspaper article on the project:

<http://www.centralwesterndaily.com.au/story/4593479/managing-the-medication-orange-aboriginal-medical-service-takes-part-in-research/>

Another successful collaborative research submission was to the Lowitja Institute who subsequently are funding a project investigating Career Pathways for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Professionals. This has taken us on multiple trips across the length and breadth of NSW talking to and collecting information from our Aboriginal Medical services and communities.

See link to the project website below:

<https://www.lowitja.org.au/career-pathways>

With a significant focus on mental health we are also working with our colleagues at the Lismore University Centre for Rural Health (UCRH) in a major project around significant climate related severe weather events in response to the last catastrophic flood in Lismore

Support and guidance of our sixteen students in their community research projects is a crucial part of their placement here in Bathurst along with the support of our honours students.

The research team have been exceedingly busy in the participation in numerous conferences including the recent Western NSW Health Research Network (WHRN), the 14<sup>th</sup> National Rural Health Conference, 14<sup>th</sup> World Rural Health Conference, both of which were held in sunny Cairns. At the National Rural Health Conference, Laurinne Campbell, a Primary Health Care Nurse from Marathon Health, gave a presentation on a project they are conducting on the acceptability and feasibility of HPV Self-Sampling for cervical cancer screening in Aboriginal Communities in Western NSW. BRCS is a major collaborator on this exciting project. Immediately following this conference was the 14<sup>th</sup> World Rural Health Conference (or Rural WONCA as it is otherwise known). This conference saw, Jannine and Sabrina Pit (UCRH) jointly present a poster titled: *Urban medical student's rural training experience: Does it work?* The poster explored the experiences and future rural intentions of past cohorts of Bathurst and Lismore students.

Sabrina and Jannine will also be presenting a poster on the knowledge and perceptions of medical students on telehealth at the forthcoming NSW Rural Health & Research Congress in Tamworth on 5-7<sup>th</sup> September.

In 2017, the research team initiated the Bathurst Research Appreciation Group (BRAG) meetings at Bathurst Hospital; workshops designed to assist health professionals in understanding the research process and provide support to help get projects off the ground. So far attendance at the monthly sessions has continued to increase as word spreads. Sessions are held from 2:30-3:00pm on the last Wednesday of every month in the Bathurst hospital ICU/ED meeting room. Attendance is open to everyone, so if you are interested in hearing about local research projects and research in general please come along!

In September Alice Munro and Phil Sanders gave us a talk about the LHD's newly released research strategy and the directions the LHD is heading in relation to research.

A special thank you to our team as it continues to grow and evolve with the changing research demands; Tegan Dutton; Kristy Payne, Dr Kam Wong; Dr Sandra Mendel and more recently Krista Cockrell along with all of our other contributors. Looking forward to the next busy 12 months using our research to help shape the future rural health needs and workforce.



Dr Jannine Bailey and  
Sabrina Pit  
Poster presentation



Dr Jannine Bailey and  
Sabrina Pit another  
Poster presentation



Yvonne Chia, Phil Sanders,  
Alice Munro, Melissa  
Grabham and Kristy  
Payne at BRAG  
(Bathurst Research Ap-  
preciation Group)

## MENTAL HEALTH AT BATHURST RURAL CLINICAL SCHOOL

### **Mental Health at Bathurst Rural Clinical School (BRCS)**

The latest *'Global Burden of Disease Study'* indicates that by 2030 mental disorders will be more costly - both economically and in terms of the impact on health, wellbeing and relationships in our local communities - than *"heart disease & cancer, diabetes & respiratory diseases combined"*. Consequently, we're keen to equip our medical students to deal as well as possible with this increasing demand, in their multiple areas of practice.

Over the past 3 years, the BRCS mental health rotation has continued to evolve from a rural / metro partnership to a greater collaboration with our local rural clinicians and community, resulting in a full-time, 8-week rotation here in the region. We would like to acknowledge the various organizations which, with their ongoing support and commitment, provide our students with a variety of rich clinical experiences that otherwise would not take place. These partners include Panorama Clinic, Bathurst; Dudley Clinic, Orange; Centacare, Bathurst; CAMHS/Wollemi Clinic, Orange; Centacare, Community Mental Health and several key General Practices in Bathurst - to name but a few.

We are always cognisant of the health and wellbeing of our students and staff, a key emphasis being on "self-care and lifestyle management". Seminars are provided for our students focusing on developing a healthy balance in their demanding rural year and their blossoming later careers in medicine.

A keen supporter of community engagement across all forums, BRCS collaborates and partners with the Anima Clinic to coordinate and host the Bathurst Mental Health Professionals Network (MHPN). Seminars have been held both for local mental health practitioners and, in addition, at the regular hospital grand rounds. Topics have included "Evidence - based treatment for adolescent eating disorders", "Trauma-informed care: doing it differently!"; "Management of ice addiction presentations in ED",

"Emotion-focused family therapy" and "Lessons learned from Panic Presentations in Emergency".

The BRCS out-reach is not just to our local communities and surrounding region, as we also have an active international involvement. Our senior lecturer in mental health has facilitated an international forum at various international psychology congresses for a number of years, with participation from Norway, UK, Canada, USA and Australia, the key focus being on driving collaborative, integrated primary mental health care in the general practice setting.



Our clinical lives and teaching never just "mark time". We are excited about future projects on the horizon - not least of which is a forthcoming round table discussion in November with the Federal Rural Health Commissioner, to drive and deliver improved mental health outcomes in rural communities. Our commitment to the education of future clinicians, in collaboration with those in our local communities, can only strengthen our future in rural mental health.

**Robyn F. Vines, Ph.D. Senior Lecturer in Mental Health**  
**Bathurst Rural Clinical School**  
**Email:** [r.vines@westernsydney.edu.au](mailto:r.vines@westernsydney.edu.au)



## NEW POSTGRADUATE STUDIES—RURAL GENERALISM

### NEW POSTGRADUATE STUDIES – RURAL GENERALISM

Attention all Rural Generalists whether you are commencing your training or have been a Rural Generalist for some time

Western Sydney University School of Medicine will be commencing a new **Masters of Medicine (Rural Generalism) in 2019.**

This course aims to enhance rural generalist medical training by providing additional clinical and research skills to post graduate doctors entering or in existing rural practice. Students will build on and integrate skills through online and face to face teaching over a two-year program. The program will enable students to examine current rural health policy, develop models of care that support a rural generalist approach and become skilled in managing undifferentiated, common and emergency clinical presentations in rural settings. They will also become proficient in research skills enabling ongoing research in their rural communities.



Dr Sandra Mendel—Academic lead-Masters of Rural Generalism

If you would like further information please contact Dr Sandra Mendel, Senior Lecturer in Rural Health [s.mendel@westernsydney.edu.au](mailto:s.mendel@westernsydney.edu.au) or [ruralmedicine@westernsydney.edu.au](mailto:ruralmedicine@westernsydney.edu.au)

# RURAL GENERALISM

WIDEN YOUR INFLUENCE

The Masters of Medicine (Rural Generalism) aims to enhance rural generalist medical training by providing additional clinical and research skills to postgraduate doctors entering rural practice. This is not limited to primary practice but also tailored for those working within any of the regional, rural or remote hospital settings.

This program is designed to be flexible to support our busy clinicians whilst recognising current and past experience and qualifications. Recognising the diversity of post graduate students, we will offer three different entry points to accommodate and support those clinicians.

The Rural Generalism curriculum has been acknowledged by both General Practice Colleges (RACGP and ACRGM) and is recognised as a training component for General Practice training pathway and ultimately Fellowship.

#### WHAT YOU'LL STUDY

You will build on and integrate skills through online and face-to-face teaching over a two-year program. You will be enabled to examine current rural health policy, develop models of care that support a rural generalist approach and become skilled in managing undifferentiated, common and emergency clinical presentations in rural settings. You will also become proficient in research skills, enabling ongoing research in rural communities.

#### CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Graduates will have career opportunities as a Rural Generalist to serve the health needs of rural and remote Australia in both community practice and rural hospital facilities.

MASTER OF MEDICINE (RURAL GENERALISM)	
UAC Code	950405
Apply Direct Code	4760
CRICOS Code	N/A
Duration	2Y / 4P
Location	Online
Intakes	4 March 2019
Admission	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Masters of Medicine (Rural Generalism) 2 year Pathway (160 credit points) Applicants must have successfully completed an undergraduate degree in science, health, nursing or midwifery.</li><li>2. Masters of Medicine (Rural Generalism) 1.5 year Pathway (120 credit points) Applicants must have successfully completed an undergraduate degree in medicine AND have AHPRA general registration as a medical practitioner.</li><li>3. Masters of Medicine (Rural Generalism) 1 year Pathway (80 credit points) Applicants must have successfully completed an undergraduate degree in medicine and AHPRA general registration as a medical practitioner</li></ol> <p>AND</p> <p>Hold FACRRM or FRACGP +FARGP; OR; a minimum 7 years' full time equivalent professional experience in rural/remote health.</p> <p>Applicants entering at 80 &amp; 120 credit point level must supply a certified copy of their medical degree and current medical registration.</p> <p>Applicants seeking admission on the basis of work experience must support their application with a statement of service for all work experience listed on the application.</p> <p><b>Statement of Service</b> If you hold overseas qualifications from countries where English is not the standard language of instruction, you must provide evidence of English language proficiency. Refer to Western Sydney's English language proficiency requirements on UAC's website.</p> <p><a href="http://uac.edu.au/future-applicants/admission-criteria">uac.edu.au/future-applicants/admission-criteria</a></p>

Key: F = Full-time; P = Part-time; N/A = Not applicable.



## ABORIGINAL HEALTH ATTACHMENT—JILL DRISCOLL



Jess and Keshini AMS Attachment in Coonamble, won trivia night



Daniel and Andrew and cultural tour guide at Brewarrina Art Gallery

All Year 5 students undertake an Aboriginal Health Attachment with an Aboriginal Medical Service (AMS). The attachment gives students the opportunity to engage with an Aboriginal community and to integrate cultural immersion with medical education.

The program puts students in the heart of the Aboriginal community to experience Aboriginal health in urban, rural or remote settings and provides a practical experience in consulting with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients in a culturally safe environment. It also provides a unique opportunity for students to observe the complex roles of Aboriginal Health Workers and to see multidisciplinary health care in action. This whole program would not be possible without the truly generous support from the Aboriginal Medical Services.

The students travel across NSW to 24 different services; as far north as Ballina; as far south as Albury and as far west as Bourke with lots of places in between. Without fail the students find it a positive experience and come away with a broad understanding of primary health care, the varied roles of Aboriginal Medical Services and the importance of community control in health care delivery and services.

After feedback from our partners, our annual workshop is on the move. Last year's meeting relocated from Campbelltown to Parramatta and with great excitement we have invited everyone to Dubbo with Taronga Zoo as the venue. This is a great opportunity for everyone to get together and give us the chance to ensure we are not only supporting our students but our AMS partners. Re-evaluate the curriculum delivery and content as well as explore other ideas and projects initiated by both us and our partners.



Ian Kennedy and Herman Hofman AMS visits in NSW



## RURAL SCHOOLS COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OFFICER—NATHAN ROLLINSON

As always schools and community engagement has been extremely active.

From farewelling the 2016-2017 rural cohort and welcoming the 2017-2018 group, to recruiting the next generation of rural doctors, and supporting the local and surrounding communities, the RSCEO has been kept busy delivering fun and exciting activities and events.

As sad as we are to farewell one group, we are equally as excited to welcome the next 16 new members to our Bathurst family. Since their arrival, the new group have been treated to some good old fashioned country hospitality.

We continue to be overwhelmed with the enthusiastic engagement and support from our local community. From a traditional welcome by our local Aboriginal Elders to Mayoral reception, once again the students enjoyed a full week of orientation activities before the hard work started. A couple of the early student community activities included; The Bathurst Winter Festival, Ice Skating and running health checks at the Mudgee Small Farm Field Days and Burruga sheep show. Over the next 12 months more great activities are planned for the students to assist their integration into our local community. Community health checks are a big focus and the next event will be the Dubbo Aboriginal Rugby League knockout. We do allow the students some fun and relaxation. We take them horse riding, Dragon boat racing, play laser tag and battle it out in a Master Chef Challenge to name just a few.

No matter what the weather, together we are all out there including the huge winds and resulting destruction of the tent at Bathurst show!!! But nothing could deter our health checks.....

The Bathurst Rural Clinical School has also worked hard supporting rural students interested in studying Medicine/Allied Health/Nursing programs. The RSCEO has attended local and regional careers expos in the Central & Far West, Riverina, New England, Hunter, Northern Rivers and Mid-North Coast, along with providing on campus experiences for interested students.

### ANNOUNCEMENT from Dept GP:

It is our great pleasure to announce the winner of the 2018 Nick Collins Award –Christopher Kocx.

In his prize winning entry, Christopher demonstrated the sort of enthusiasm and commitment to General Practice that Nick would have celebrated. Christopher will be supported to attend the RACGP GP18 Conference at the Gold Coast 11-13 October, thanks to the generosity of donors to this award. This year GP Synergy are also assisting with the costs of Chris's attendance at the conference as he will be presenting a poster based on research he conducted whilst in receipt of a GP Synergy Research Scholarship.

For those who would like to contribute to future Nick Collins Awards please follow this link [https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/give/home/memorial\\_giving/dr\\_nick\\_collins\\_memorial\\_fund](https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/give/home/memorial_giving/dr_nick_collins_memorial_fund)

Warm Regards  
Jenny Reath



WSU students at Mudgee Small farm field days



Traditional Welcome by local Aboriginal Elders



Masterchef fun at 5 Kheira Gabsi

# The Weathered Wattle

THIS IS THE WATTLE, THE SYMBOL OF OUR LAND.  
YOU CAN PUT IT IN A BOTTLE, OR HOLD IT IN YOUR HAND.

THIS POEM IS AWFUL AND IT DOESN'T QUALIFY  
TO THE BOOK OF AUSTRALIAN POEMS, I APOLOGISE.

DRIVING THROUGH THE COUNTRY FROM SOFALA TO HILL END,  
WE HAVE HAD A GREAT EXPERIENCE AND A LOT OF TIME TO SPEND.

NON-STOP LEARNING FROM OCHRE HEALTH TO THE ART GALLERY,  
YOU'VE TAUGHT ME ABOUT MEDICINE, LIFE AND FATHER SLATTERY.

ANAESTHETICS COMBINED LMAS, THEATRES AND PERI-OPERATIVE CLINIC.  
BUT IT REALLY WAS OBSTETS THAT MADE SHIVANY LESS OF A CYNIC.

ENT EXAMS, ULTRASOUNDS AND BIRTHING IN THE BUSH,  
DR WILSON YOU HAVE GIVEN ME MORE THAN JUST A PUSH.

A STEP TOWARDS THE CONFIDENCE REQUIRED TO SUCCEED,  
TO BE USED IN ASSERTING DECISIONS FOR MY FUTURE PATIENTS IN NEED.

AND JUST LIKE THE POEM, THE MAN FROM IRONBARK,  
DR WILSON YOU HAVE WELL AND TRULY REALLY LEFT YOUR MARK.

- Bill #2 2017-2018





# RURAL PLACEMENT GRANTS

*RHUWS provides rural placement grants for students studying certain health-related degrees at Western Sydney University. These grants aim to help students enjoy their placement by easing financial burden, as well as encourage them to pursue a rewarding career in rural healthcare.*

## CRITERIA

- Be an Australian citizen or permanent resident
- Be enrolled in a health-related degree at Western Sydney University with the exception of Bachelor of Medicine/Surgery students
- Demonstrate proof of allocation to a rural or remote location for their placement, including the length of their placement. Placement location must be defined as RA2 to RA5 under the Australian Statistical Geographic Standards (ASGS).
- Be a member of RHUWS
- Submit a personal statement on their interests in rural health and why they should receive a grant
- Report on their rural experience post-placement
- Submit their application to [treasurer.rhuws@gmail.com](mailto:treasurer.rhuws@gmail.com)

## ELIGIBLE DEGREES

- Midwifery
- Nursing
- Occupational Therapy
- Paramedicine
- Physiotherapy
- Podiatric Medicine
- Sports and Exercise Science

## POST-PLACEMENT

Grant recipients are required to assist in furthering the goals of RHUWS by helping create resources for other students undertaking rural placement. This could be in the form of vlog or blog entries, completing a post-placement questionnaire, or other forms of resources to be agreed upon by the recipient and RHUWS Council members.