



# Rural Medical Immersion Programme

## First Quarter Newsletter, 2015

### 2015 RMIP PROGRAMME BEGINS!



This is our new cohort of RMIP students for 2015.

Back row (from left): Reuben Bennett (CSM), Christina Noetzli (CSM), Ricki-Lea Aitchison (CSM), Rose Sutherland (CSM), Jono Paulin (DSM), Vanessa Bowden (DSM), Ella Thompson (WSM), Anna Charles-Jones, (DSM) Phoebe Hunt (WSM), Caroline Newson (WSM), Sally Studholme, (DSM), Dayle Keown (CSM), Matthew Pollard (DSM) Juliet Kane (WSM) and Charlotte Bonny (CSM).

Front row (from left): Olivia Wright (WSM), Leah Pihama (DSM) Faye Hudson (WSM), Katelyn Thorn (CSM) and Alex Stothart (CSM).

**Note the gumboots—ready for rural life!**

### INTRODUCTORY WEEK

RMIP students start their year off in Dunedin with an entire week together, getting to know each other and the RMIP staff.

During the week long Residential, the students learned everything they need to know for their upcoming year out in rural New Zealand. They were introduced to the MedTech training programme they will use, walked through how their assessment would look throughout the year as well as the expectations involved with being an RMIP student in the local community.

During the Introductory week, the newly minted RMIP students were also

lucky enough to have presentations and lectures on a wide range of topics that will prove to be invaluable during their rural year such as: ethical issues in rural health, managing death, x-ray interpretation, paediatric emergencies, practicing suturing and bandaging (photos on the right) as well as many other interesting and pertinent topics.

The majority of the students particularly enjoyed the sessions where they did the Myers Briggs Personality testing, as this was something they had mostly not done before and thought it may come

in useful while living together for the year!

The students also met the Coordinators from the area where they were being placed and then the students, Regional Coordinators, Regional Administrators and Dunedin RMIP staff all went out for an awesome dinner at Café Rue, with the students showing up in their gumboots (photo above).

It was awesome to get to know each other before the students were sent off on their adventures—best of luck guys!



# MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT!



Alex Stothart, in Queenstown



Faye Hudson, in Queenstown



Dayle Keown, in Balclutha

A key feature of the first quarter of the RMIP year is the simulated motor vehicle accident (MVA). All six regions have held their MVA this year and the students have performed incredibly well as the first responders on the scene.

Usually the students are aware of when their MVA is

going to take place, so they may even have a little time to prepare.....however this was not the case for the Queenstown students, who thought they were going out on a nice sightseeing walk, along with their Regional Coordinator, Dr Jez Leftley. Little did they know that they were going to come across an "MVA" and they were expected to take

charge of the scenes and use all of their medical knowledge gained so far to 'save' the 'patients'. As you can see from the photos above, they really stepped up to the mark and weren't afraid to get right in there.

The RMIP programme is about learning while experiencing, and the MVA is a key example of that.



Phoebe, Alex and Faye after the 'accident' in Queenstown

## AN UPDATE FROM BRANKO, RMIP DIRECTOR

This year we have eight students from the Christchurch School and six each from Wellington and Dunedin. The first quarter seemed to pass in a flash and indeed it was only eight weeks long. The first Residential went very well with participation in the emergency medicine week of the Dunedin School and then the programme we had in the second week in the Department of General Practice and Rural Health. I have been around the localities twice now and am happy that everyone has settled in well and that the staff in the facilities are happy with the arrangements for students learning in the clinical situations in their area. The most important thing for me is seeing that everyone is enjoying themselves and certainly I have been welcomed with a smile from every student I met and the smiles have continued.

I was impressed with the amazing brand new residence of the Marlborough group of

students and the reoccupation of the mansion in Greymouth. The Southland group in Queenstown has the most quirky residence, it is nice though. Clutha has a nice family type house and in Dannevirke they stay in the house traditionally occupied by the students with the hospital through a hole in the back fence. I wasn't able to see the Wairarapa house but that may happen in the future.

Each year of students has been unique. I think the gumboots of the night out in Dunedin signalled the theme of the year, get down to earth and get on with it.

The Rural General Practice Network Conference in Rotorua was brilliant. The content inspiring and the dancing after the meal great fun as usual. It was pleasing to see the results of the survey conducted by Olivia Hill and Dan Albon. It surveyed seventy three ex RMIP students, up to and including the 2012 group and

confirmed what Kate Margetts had earlier found that there was a big change in attitude of students towards working in smaller or rural localities. They found that significant numbers of ex students were actually working in these communities. That is what it is all about.



RMIP students, along with Dr Branko Sijnja (RMIP Director), attending the Rural GP Conference in Rotorua, in March 2015.

## CONTACT RMIP

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