

# FIREFRONT

**Issue 2, 2013**

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

**Kate Avery**

Greetings Wildfire members!

The year 2013 is well and truly underway with Wildfire busy and active at several sites around the state. Some of the great events held to date recently include Bendigo's Trivia Fundraiser for the Otis Foundation and visits to our local schools, with members advocating health careers to high school students.

Exciting events coming up soon include Bendigo Ball and Rural Careers Day held in conjunction with Deakin and Melbourne University. Also keep an eye out for the upcoming Indigenous Mental Health First Aid and Clinical Skills Weekend!

2013 is Wildfire's 20th Anniversary as a rural health club and Wildfire will be celebrating the occasion at our Annual Dinner. All past members welcome!

Finally, I am pleased to announce that Wildfire will have 6 representatives at the NRHSN NextGen Conference. Congratulations to Will Goss, Stephanie Oopt' Hoog, Clare Matheson, Hannah Bills, Ruth McLeod and Ashlea Doery who will all be attending!

Kate Avery

Wildfire Council President 2013

## **TEDDY BEAR HOSPITAL**

### **BENDIGO**

**Beth Hough**

With lots of sick soft toys to attend to, the Teddy Bear Hospital has been flourishing within Bendigo this year. We had around 25 third and fourth year medical students (the 'Teddy Doctors') attend two local primary schools and run the program for 50 prep students at each school! They were both a great success with the preps, teachers and med students all having a fantastic time. The students rotated through stations including plastering, x-ray, emergency, ambulance and surgery as they gained an insight into what hospitals (and doctors) are like. Through the events we hope to alleviate some of the 'white-coat anxiety' kids often feel when they go to the doctor. The preps enjoyed all of the stations but everyone's highlight seemed to be chasing 'Big Teddy' (a big thank you to Marcus, David and Pat who braved the teddy suit).



Thanks for all those students involved - looking forward to more events throughout semester two!



**MILDURA  
Fleur Muirhead**



The first ever Teddy Bear Hospital (TBH) programme for the Mildura area has been held! It was an exciting time for everyone involved as it has been in the pipeline for a number of years!

We were invited by the Mildura West Primary School to spend the morning with their prep classes and their teddy bears. The aim of the TBH programme is to help breakdown the fears associated children might have about going to the hospital and seeing a doctor. It also makes our future practice easier when dealing with children if they are able to associate the doctor experience with the “fun learning” morning with Teddy and the medical students.

We ran 8 stations, ranging from first aid to surgery and spent most of the morning rotating the students through each of the learning areas. We have already been invited to other local primary schools, which is a good indication of how successful the morning was!

A special thanks must go out to Danielle, who helped co-organised the morning, the Mildura WILDFIRE subcommittee and the Mildura Clinical School staff. Thanks to you it all went off without a hitch!



## **BENDIGO TRIVIA NIGHT**

**Marcus Hall**

As a great way to end last semester, WILDFIRE Bendigo Subcommittee organised a trivia night to raise money for a local charity! The Otis Foundation was founded by one of the surgeons at Bendigo Health and aims to alleviate suffering of women with breast cancer and their families by providing support and offering retreats so they can take a bit of a break!

The night was a huge success, raising \$726 for the foundation. Third, fourth & fifth year medical students attended as well as clinical school staff, nurses, La Trobe allied health students and a team from the local ophthalmology clinic. It was a close battle with "Ghostship" coming in first place!

# OTIS THE FOUNDATION



## **RURAL HIGH SCHOOL VISIT**

**Grace Andrews**

### **CAREERS NEWS**

#### **Monash and Melbourne Rural Medicine Students TALK**

Last Thursday, Coollock was host to four students studying Medicine in Victoria. Two students were second year students from Monash University and two were second year graduate entry at Melbourne University. All four medical students had very interesting career pathways which they happily shared with 15 students during a lunchtime. Many questions were answered and it was a rewarding experience for our students. Many discussion points were centred around studying, how to get into Medicine but also what University life is like and what you do as a medical student. We would like to thank Olivia, Connor, Grace and Ellie for coming in and sharing their experiences and knowledge.



Four medical students (two undergraduates from Monash and two post-graduates from Melbourne) attended a careers info session at a local high school in Bendigo to promote rural health as a career and study option! We discussed entry pathways as well as study techniques and even perspectives on things like gap year programs, centrelink and student accommodation options at each university. There were students from years 10 to 12 who gave up their lunchtime to listen to our stories and advice. We were thanked by one student afterwards who really appreciated the first hand insights into following her dream career path which made it a worthwhile experience!

## GET EXCITED FOR - BENDIGO BALL!

To be held THIS SATURDAY 27<sup>th</sup> July, Wildfire is putting on its infamous Bendigo Ball! With a 2 course meal and **UNLIMITED BEER & WINE**, it is guaranteed to be a bundle of fun! Tickets are still on sale, for only 76\$ so get around it!!



Avant presents  
*Wildfire's  
Annual Bendigo  
Ball*

Château Doré  
303 Mandurang Rd  
27<sup>th</sup> July  
7pm - 11pm  
Formal Attire

Tickets \$76  
Includes two course meal and drinks  
Ticket sales through Ellen O'Connor & Kate Maxfield  
Email [wildfirebendigoball@gmail.com](mailto:wildfirebendigoball@gmail.com)

Logos for Wildfire, Avant, and Beyond Education are visible at the bottom of the poster.





The rural health careers day is on this Saturday! For those who have bought tickets, here is the agenda:

**10.00am - 10.30am**

Welcome and Introduction - D2.194

Talks from sponsors Avant, MIPS and MDA National

**10.30am - 11.00am**

Rural Career Pathway information session for Nursing and Medicine.

Nursing - D2.194, Speaker - Leanne McKenrie.

Medicine - D2.193, Speakers - Pauline Ingham and UoM Rural Health Academic Centre

**11.00am - 12.00pm**

Information Expo- Costa Hall Foyer L2

Royal Australian College of Surgeons

Rural Health Workforce Australia

RWAV Health Professional Solutions

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners

**12.15pm - 3.00pm**

Lunch at The Lord Nelson, Corner of Bellerine and Malop St, Geelong

Nursing speaker - Donna Field

Medicine speakers - Dr David Campbell

**3.15pm - 5.00pm**

Skills Workshops

Suturing - D2.194, D2.193

Plastering - Costa Hall Foyer

## CLINICAL SKILLS WEEKEND

On the 23rd August, you ambitious first & second year students should get up to Bendigo for the Clinical Skills weekend!

You will have the opportunity to practice basic life support on the new mannequin technology! You will also be taught basic procedural skills by doctors & students – from putting in IV drips to intubation!

It is a great opportunity to learn some useful skills that will put you in good stead for hospital medicine and check out the ERC scene in Bendigo, with the third year students looking out for you!

We'll get you to and from Bendigo via Vline and accomodation will be included!

**35\$** Keep your ears open for ticket sales!





## INDIGENOUS MENTAL FIRST AID

This is a two day course held on two occasions in Theatre S1 at Monash from 9-4:

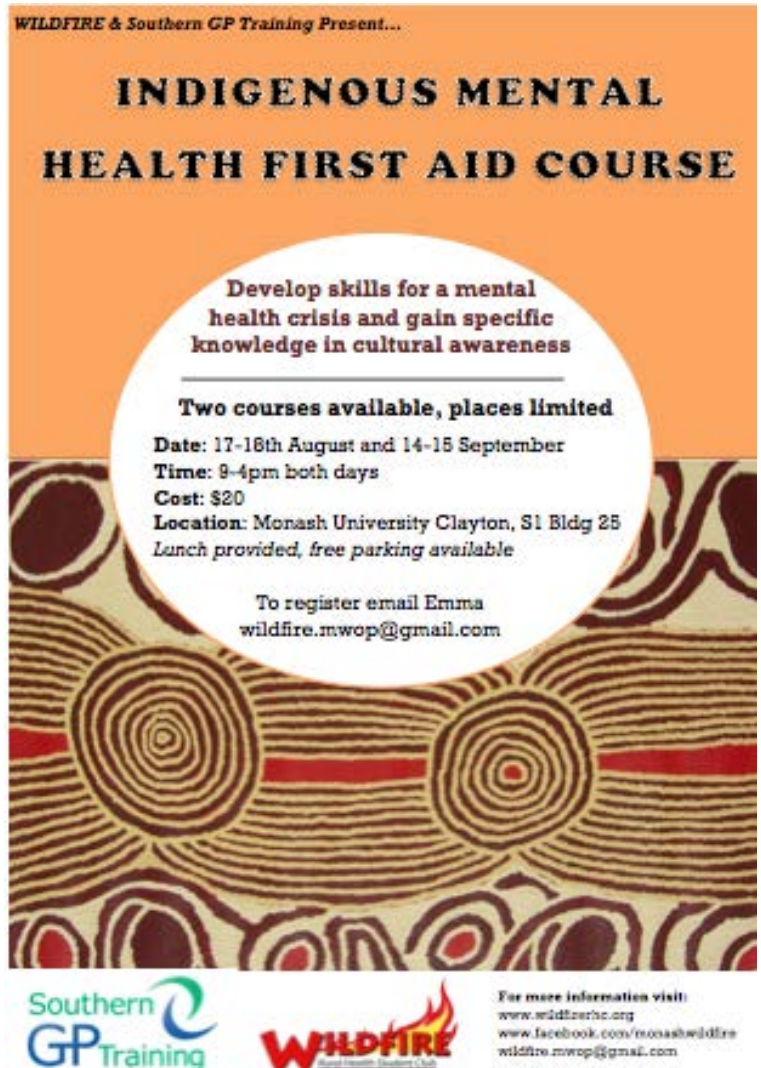
17th & 18th of August  
14th & 15th of September

With teaching on general Mental Health First AID in addition to covering the cultural aspects specific to Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islanders, this course aims to help you if difficult situations arise!

It is a great chance to learn some essential skills & you will get a certificate to put on your CV as well!

Only **20\$** ! Tickets are selling quick so email Emma if you/re interested!

[wildfire.mwop@gmail.com](mailto:wildfire.mwop@gmail.com)



WILDFIRE & Southern GP Training Present...

### INDIGENOUS MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID COURSE

Develop skills for a mental health crisis and gain specific knowledge in cultural awareness

Two courses available, places limited

**Date:** 17-18th August and 14-15 September  
**Time:** 9-4pm both days  
**Cost:** \$20  
**Location:** Monash University Clayton, S1 Bldg 25  
*Lunch provided, free parking available*

To register email Emma  
[wildfire.mwop@gmail.com](mailto:wildfire.mwop@gmail.com)

Southern GP Training

**WILDFIRE**  
Mental Health First Aid

For more information visit:  
[www.wildfirehc.org](http://www.wildfirehc.org)  
[www.facebook.com/monashwildfire](https://www.facebook.com/monashwildfire)  
[wildfire.mwop@gmail.com](mailto:wildfire.mwop@gmail.com)

## **WILDFIRE'S 20<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY!**

Wildfire has hit its 20th birthday  
and we will be celebrating on the 20th September  
at **ANNUAL DINNER!!**

Why not join us?

Annual dinner is a great time to catch up with rural mates or check out what Wildfire is all about! There will also be a guest speaker who will be undoubtedly inspiring to our young ears!

Details to come!

