In this issue:

- Indigenous Health Clinics Well Received
- SCU Students visit Broken Hill
- Centre for Remote Health Research news
- Far West Health Library news
- New Student Housing
- What’s on at the BH UDRH
- Staff news

Indigenous Health Clinics Well Received

A team of medical specialists are planning to visit far west New South Wales up to five times a year, after the success of recent first Indigenous health clinics. It is part of Sydney University's new Centre for Indigenous Health that has been established with a $10 million donation from businessman Greg Poche. A rheumatologist, adolescent health worker, physiotherapist and endocrinologist saw about 100 patients in Bourke and Brewarrina over two days.

The University’s Dean of Medicine, Professor Bruce Robinson, says the clinics were well received. "Brewarrina hadn’t seen those type of specialists in the past because that I think was very valuable because people with rheumatoid disease previously had to go to the city to be seen and adolescent health issues I don’t think had really been dealt with by a specialist in the past at all,” he said. He says a new team will return in a few months. "We'll review and speak to the people in Bourke and Brewarrina to find out to decide how they have regarded the visit and whether there are other areas they would like us to bring instead next time - we might find that we bring a cardiologist every couple of visits and instead next time bring a different sort of specialist," he said.

Professor Robinson says planning is underway to extend the service to other western communities. "The sense that we have from both Dubbo and Broken Hill is that it will probably be best if we send our specialists to enable the specialists who are already working in those towns to go out to those remote communities nearby, they think that would be [a] better model so they can then form a relationship with those communities rather than us forming them,” he said.

Southern Cross University students visit Broken Hill

The BH UDRH and Southern Cross University (SCU) have collaborated over the past few years to provide under-graduate student nurses with a Primary Health Care experience as part of their studies. The success of this program has lead to an expansion of support by BHUDRH to nursing students from SCU. June 2008 has seen the commencement of acute placements for nursing students at Broken Hill Health Service, Wilcannia and Brewarrina. The first of 3 groups of nursing students commenced on the 16th June at Broken Hill and Brewarrina and are with us for three weeks, the other cohorts of students will commence on the 7th July for three weeks and the 4th August for a five-week placement. For further information please contact Deb Jones, BH UDRH Director of PHC on 08 8080 1239 or Paul Bennett, Health Education Officer on 08 8080 1205.

Broken Hill Centre for Remote Health Research

AAA - A Fight for Life

By Helen Cameron

The Broken Hill Centre for Remote Health Research is currently running an Institute of Rural Clinical Services and Teaching (IRCS) funded project looking at the feasibility of running a screening program for Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA) within a remote area. At the beginning of May 2008, a second round of AAA screening occurred. The level of community participation in the screening program was encouraging as was the level of assistance that was provided by local community groups, such as the Lions Club of Broken Hill. In all, over both the screening programs, 566 men were screened, with 515 men in the target age 65-74 previously unscreened. Of these men 53 were found to have an abnormal aortic diameter, including two referred for surgery.
FAR WEST HEALTH LIBRARY NEWS
By Don Keast

GWASH Libraries Blog:
The GWASH Libraries Blog now lists over 230 (mostly free) resources & services of interest to rural health professionals. Go to http://gwa.shlibrariesblog.blogspot.com

Important book release in Australian rural health:
The Australian Rural Health Education network (ARHEN) has produced a landmark textbook with the recent publication of its “A Textbook of Australian Rural Health”. Complete with many case studies and problem-based learning objectives, this publication is destined to become an important text. Available from ARHEN in hard copy or an electronic version at: http://www.arhen.org.au/docs_a_text_book_of_australian_rural_health_arhen_april_2008.pdf

The Australian Resource Centre for Healthcare Innovations (ARCHI):
ARCHI is a useful information service for health professionals. It promotes the dissemination of resources related to innovative health care delivery both in hospitals and across the community. It is particularly strong in the area of health promotion projects and community health projects. It also provides access to a network of health professionals via its enquiry service and newsletters. These services are provided to save time and to help our clients avoid ‘reinventing’ the wheel. A new search interface has recently been added to the site at http://www.archi.net.au (or via the CIAP site).

Cutting edge medicine from the literature:
Lee, I.M, Paffenberger, R.S.
Life is sweet: candy consumption and longevity; BMJ 317 (7174), 1683-4, 1998.
Witcombe, B., Meyer D.
Sword swallowing and its side effects; BMJ 333 (7582), 1285-6, 2006.

Please note staff changes in the Library;
Don Keast - Librarian (Monday to Wednesdays)
DKeast@gwahs.health.nsw.gov.au
Jocelyn Morris - Librarian (Thursday & Fridays)
JMorriss@gwahs.health.nsw.gov.au

The Far West Health Library can be contacted direct on 08 8080 1210 or faxed on 08 8087 5240.

New Student Housing
The BH UDRH Student Placement program periodically sends medical, nursing and allied health students to various remote locations for their rural and remote placement experiences. Due to Commonwealth Funding received from Department of Health & Ageing, much needed new transportable student accommodation units have now been built at the Health Service grounds of Wentworth, Bourke and Brewarrina. The modern units were constructed by EziBuild at their Melbourne factory and then transported to the three sites. Each unit has two bedrooms with their own ensuite, and shared living and kitchen facilities. The units will also be fitted out with computers for the student’s use. The Wentworth unit was completed in early June and the Bourke and Brewarrina units finished in late June. Info & pic supplied by Mandy Royle.

What’s on at the BH UDRH
Cross Cultural Perspectives in Aboriginal Health course dates: July 1, 8 & 29, and August 5 & 12 (contact Aboriginal Health Education Officers Tony Kickett on 08 8080 1202 or Maria Tattersall on 08 8080 1213).
Nursing Academy: July 4 (contact Kathie Naden – Community Development Project Officer, Indigenous Education on 08 8080 1245).
Isolated Practice Workshop - August 11 &12 (contact Paul Bennett - PHC Education Officer on 08 8080 1205).

Staff News
New Appointments
Assistant Librarian Veronica Barlow - now also Teaching Support Officer and Research Project Officer, Honor Beck - Acting Rural Attachment Programs Coordinator, Melinda Glisson- Gladman - Research Officer, Don Keast and Jocelyn Morris - Librarians and Research Development Participants, Associate Professor David Perkins - Director, Centre for Remote Health and Emily Saurman - Research Officer (Orange NSW).
Farewell
Lisa Baker - Acting Research Centre Manager and Katina Kardamandis - Trainee Public Health Officer.

CONTACT US:
Broken Hill University Department of Rural Health
Corindah Court Broken Hill Health Service, PO Box 457 BROKEN HILL NSW 2880
Phone: 08 8080 1200  Fax: 08 8087 5240  Web: www.drh.med.usyd.edu.au