

MEDIA RELEASE

Date: Wednesday, 4 February 2009



Record intake of new GPs for region

Nineteen new doctors will soon join general practices across North East Victoria, the Goulburn Valley and the Border region.

The new recruits will come together in Wodonga this week (4 - 6 February) for an orientation and their first GP training session with Bogong Regional Training Network.

Bogong offers training for fully qualified doctors who have chosen General Practice as their medical specialty. It services an area that includes Albury Wodonga, Wangaratta, Benalla, Yarrawonga and Shepparton.

Chief Executive, Ms Nicki Melville, welcomed a record intake for the 'GP class of 2009'.

"Bogong was oversubscribed for its GP training places for the first time ever this year. We're delighted to have attracted such a skilled group of medical professionals to our region."

Each year Bogong competes for GP registrars from a national pool of applicants. If they meet certain criteria, applicants are interviewed and, if successful, commence training in the Bogong region the following year.

Ms Melville said all of the new doctors hold Australian or overseas medical qualifications and are committed to working with people in rural and regional areas.

"These doctors have chosen General Practice as their specialty. Our job now is to deliver first class training that ensures our doctors deliver excellent care for patients."

The new GPs will be working in the following centres:

Location	Practice	GP name
Albury Wodonga	Lavington Medical	Dr Haissam Naim
	Central Medical Group, Wodonga	Dr Jason Rajakulendran *
	Central Medical Group, Wodonga	Dr Aloka Chatterjee
	Federation Clinic, Wodonga	Dr Andrew Pennington
	Gardens Medical, Albury	Dr Fahima Satter
Beechworth	Beechworth Surgery	Dr Bruce Wu
Benalla	Church Street	Dr Alana Young
	Carrier Street	Dr Sandra Arunathan
Bright	Bright Medical	Dr Doug Devereux
Euroa	Euroa Medical Family Practice	Dr Amy Zhao
Mt Beauty	Mt Beauty Medical Centre	Dr Dominic Blanks
Mansfield	Mansfield Medical Clinic	Dr Katherine Savage
	Mansfield Medical Clinic	Dr Brad Treload
	Central General Practice	Dr Rowena Christiansen
Shepparton	Lister House Medical Centre	Dr Seikisi Mosenki
Wangaratta	Ovens Medical Group	Dr Joanne Davey
	Phillipson Street & Green Street	Dr Jana Gharti-Magar
Yarrawonga	Yarrawonga Denis Medical	Dr Stephen Watty
	Yarrawonga Medical	Dr Bong Yong *

* chose the Bogong region for their rural rotation as part of Melbourne based training.

The class of 2009 are part of a larger GP resource coming on-line for the Bogong region.

Another nine doctors will complete hospital training placements before relocating to the Bogong region later this year. A further two doctors are undertaking Advanced Rural Skills training in anaesthetics and obstetrics/gynaecology.

“This means that a total of 30 new doctors are coming through the Bogong GP training program at various stages throughout 2009,” said Ms Melville.

Bogong is proving to be a leading choice for medical graduates who want to train in General Practice in a diverse, rural environment with proximity to capital cities.

“ Our Region is home to Victoria’s highest mountain and the pinnacle in GP training. We are attractive to doctors choosing General Practice as their speciality as we can offer first class training, a varied and stimulating career and a great lifestyle,” she concluded.

Photo opportunity:

The new GP group will be attending a Rural Emergency Skills training at La Trobe University, Wodonga Campus on **Friday 6 February**. Interviews/photo opportunities available from **10.15-10.45am**. Nicki Melville will be available for interview from 10.45am.

For further information about Bogong or to arrange an interview please contact:

Mary-Anne Scully, Bogong Media Consultant – **Tel: 0408 685 225**

Nicki Melville, Chief Executive, Bogong Regional Training Network – Tel: **(02) 6057 8600**