



TRAIL BLAZERS: University of Tasmania medical graduates Emily Doole, left, and Jacqueline Lim are heading to remote health centres to begin their careers as hospital interns.

First doctors on rural internships

HELEN KEMPTON

TWO medical graduates about to start in hospital wards are making history as the first in Tasmania to head to remote health centres as rural interns.

In the North-West, 12 students who completed the final years of a Bachelor of Medicine/Bachelor of Surgery at the Rural Clinical School in Burnie are remaining in the region to start their careers as hospital interns.

Among them are Jacqueline Lim and Emily

Doole, who will head to Queenstown and King Island respectively to start their internship year.

Six of their colleagues will also have the opportunity to rotate through this placement in addition to the traditional hospital rotations.

Director of the Rural Clinical School Lizzi Shires said it was exciting to see University of Tasmania graduates filling all 12 of the internships offered this year.

"This is a wonderful outcome for the North-West

that will ultimately increase the capacity of rural medical services," Dr Shires said.

"It is also exciting to see UTAS graduates taking up the very first rural internships to ever be offered in Tasmania — an initiative which aims to get young doctors working in rural areas during the early stages of their careers.

"By having junior doctors in rural placements for longer, we anticipate they are more likely to return and practise in these areas after completing all of their training."

University graduates taking up North-West internships this year are: Jacqueline Lim, Emily Doole, Nathan Vos, Dong Cheah, Callan Oakeshott, Ben Dodds, Chris Etherington, William Hughes, Shivanthi Bartlett, Alex Zucchi, Ellen Bateman and Gabby Reardon — all of whom will be based in the North-West.

A further three UTAS graduates will start the first rural placements to be offered at St Helens, Huonville and Flinders Island next week.