



STARTING OUT: PMCT administrator Cate Rejman has her blood pressure taken by interns Emily Doole and Jacqueline Lim. Picture: Brodie Weeding

# A rural opportunity

BY SARAH LANSDOWN

MEDICAL graduates will take on the challenge of learning in a remote setting as part of a new rural intern program.

As well as completing compulsory rotations, eight interns will be going to Queenstown and King Island to gain experience in rural medicine.

Emily Doole, who will be heading to King Island, said there were great benefits to

rural placements.

"I think rural placements give you a good opportunity to see a wide variety of presentations," she said.

"It also gives you the opportunity to have a lot of hands-on experience because it is a smaller staff."

Jacqueline Lim will be working in general practice at Queenstown for the first thirteen-week rotation after a short stint there last year.

She said the most challenging part of the rotation

would be the isolation from her peers.

"Luckily with social media and the internet you can still call and talk to people if you have to so it's not that bad.

"The medical staff there are very supportive and they're very keen on making this program work."

The rural internship program aims to get young doctors working in rural areas so they will be more likely to return.

For the second year, all of

the 12 internship positions at the Rural Clinical School in Burnie have been filled by University of Tasmania graduates.

The school welcomed the new interns and recognised the achievements of outgoing junior doctors at an award presentation at the North West Regional Hospital on Wednesday.

Dr Arthur Lee was named Intern of the Year 2017 and Dr Bradley Williams was awarded the Resident Med-

ical Officer of the year 2017.

Dr Williams said the award was 'humbling' because it was voted by staff from across the whole hospital.

"Everybody in this hospital is very supportive... It was just nice to come to work every day and I feel like I learned a lot."

Dr Williams, who is originally from Queenstown and later moved to Burnie, will be starting as a general practice registrar at Patrick Street Clinic in Ulverstone.