La Trobe Rural Health School opening – video transcript 20/5/13

Narrator:

Professor John Dewar, Vice-Chancellor of La Trobe University and the Hon Sharon Bird, Minister for Higher Education and Skills, have officially launched three new Bendigo campus buildings designed to assist La Trobe University and the local community to meet future educational needs. Built at a total cost of 75.9 million dollars, the La Trobe Rural Health School building, Hillside Apartments and the Nancy Long Dinning Hall represent a sizable investment in Bendigo by La Trobe University, as well as the Australian and Victorian Governments. Professor Dewar says the new buildings will help students study in regional areas.

Professor John Dewar:

Talking to the students here today, how important the teaching we offer here is for them. Physically we are here, they don’t have to go to the city, and indeed we are attracting some students from the city to come and study in Bendigo because they prefer to be here than in the metropolitan area. But its not just about the programs, its also about the accommodation and one of the things that you very quickly learn when you walk around the accommodation facilities here is how much they mean to students, the students love it, they love having a tightly knit community here on campus, a supportive environment of fellow students. All of this, the new building, the new teaching facilities and the new accommodation are part of a really important package for students.

Narrator:

After officially launching the new buildings, Professor Dewar and Minister Bird were treated to a guided tour, witnessing firsthand the training that La Trobe Rural Health School students are undertaking in brand new state of the art simulation spaces and problem based learning rooms.

Hon Sharon Bird MP:

The students here were so enthusiastic about what they’re doing, nearly all of them I spoke to, only one came from Melbourne, had seen the light, had come out of the city out into the regions. All the others were local young people and they were really keen to get their professions under their belt and work in their local communities. Doing paramedic, doing occupational health work with people with disabilities or aged care services, all aspects were skills that will grow in demand, so a great future for them.

Narrator:

Professor Jane Farmer, Head of the La Trobe Rural Health School says that she is proud of the work that has gone into the new buildings.

Professor Jane Farmer:

It’s been such a journey, to see these buildings and the students really enjoying them and the student feedback, the students just love these new spaces. And the staff, have got so much dedication and commitment, it’s just a very proud and moving moment and it’s great for the community.

Narrator:

Years of strong, and steady growth in Bendigo’s medical and educational sectors is encouraging the University to aspire even higher at its second largest campus.

Professor John Dewar:

Our vision for Bendigo as we spell out in the Future Ready Strategic Plan, is that Bendigo has the potential to become a great university city.

That means a number of things, it means continuing to push for outstanding facilities such as the ones that we have opened here today, it means continuing to expand the programs we offer here, and it means in particular bringing iconic programs to Bendigo that we don’t offer anywhere else. We already have things like dentistry and pharmacy, which are unique to this campus, but we believe with the suite of allied health programs that we already offer, the logical next step in realizing that great university city vision is to have a medical school here as well.

Narrator:

A medical school will complement the existing La Trobe Rural Health School, which specialises in teaching and research in a wide rage of allied health fields.

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