**FACULTY NEWS**

The Faculty 3 minute thesis final was held in August and event showcased projects of a high standard from diverse and exciting research areas. The Faculty final winner was Filomena Bua from Public Health, with the topic: Animal Assisted Crisis Response (AACR): Its relevance for the crisis counselling fields. The runner up was Andrew Westle from ARCSHS, topic:  To be dancing “like a man”. Both Filomena and Andrew represented the Faculty at the La Trobe final.

We are delighted to acknowledge the achievements of two staff members, Sarah Barradell and Tracy Fortune who received a National Citation for Outstanding Contributions to Student Learning for 2013. Sarah Baradell received a citation for the development of physiotherapy curricula and resources that facilitate disciplinary ways of thinking and practising. Tracy Fortune received a citation for developing an engaging project-based learning program that enables occupational therapy students to practise capabilities critical to influencing change in the health system. Congratulations Sarah and Tracy!

**LRHS**

La Trobe Rural Health School hosted the State Cabinet meeting at the Bendigo Campus on Monday August 26. Visitors were given a tour of the new teaching building for La Trobe Rural Health School. The event was hosted in the new Nancy Long Dining Hall and included an announcement of a $1 million funding from the Regional Partnerships Facilitation Fund for a project involving Bendigo Regional Institute of TAFE, Bendigo Senior Secondary College and La Trobe University and the signing of an MOU with Sharepoint Factory Pty Ltd.

The Indigenous Student Festival was held at the Bendigo Campus on Tuesday September 17. The festival celebrated Aboriginal culture, and gave staff a chance to promote health careers to indigenous secondary students.

La Trobe Rural Health School, in partnership with the Loddon Mallee Murray Medicare Local, James Cook University, Townsville Mackay Medicare Local, Dental Health Services Victoria, Royal Flying Doctors Service (Victoria and Queensland) and The Victorian Department of Health, have attracted highly competitive National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) funding, totalling $418,183.00

**NURSING AND MIDWIFERY**

Congratulations to Professor Jeni Warburton, Chair of Rural Aged Care Research at the John Richards Initiative, and co-investigators Anne Lowe and Dr Suzanne Hodgkin, in obtaining funding from the IRT Research Foundation for their project *Enabling the community care workforce in rural areas to address the needs of those ageing in place.* The research aims at building the quality and level of training to equip a future aged care workforce. It will investigate the current and future needs of a rural aged care workforce through a multi-stage project.

**ALLIED HEALTH**

Prof Christine Bigby, was awarded $261,933 from the ARC Linkage Scheme and will lead the project “*Enabling Engagement and Inclusion: Organisational Factors that Embed Active Support in Accommodation Services for People with Intellectual Disability*”. The project will investigate the processes and structures necessary to ensure frontline staff deliver high quality support to people with intellectual disability which enables them to engage in meaningful activity.