

ERROL BOURN'S...

King Island

Casting Workshop



Errol Bourn is a Certified Cast Technologist from Burnie Tasmania. He recently spent a weekend on King Island teaching the Medical staff, casting & splinting. King Island is above the North west coast of Tasmania. Its famous for its beef and dairy produce. Here is his story...

I was asked to help out at a workshop on King Island by Dr Brady Tassicker, who is a Consultant in our Emergency Department. Dr Tassicker received the highest marks in Australia for his exams. Also attending the workshop was Carol Scott, who is our No. 1 Clinical Nurse Educator and Dr Nick Towle, from the Rural Clinical School. It was a great opportunity to teach some doctors and nurses the basics of applying a cast.

We flew out of Wynyard-Burnie airport at 6.30 am on a Friday morning. I was meant to fly out by myself, but when I arrived the other three were there. This was funny as they were meant to fly out the day before to set up, but too much wind and rain had stopped them from flying. So here we all go off to King Island on an 8 seater plane. It is a 50 minute flight along the North West Coast of Tasmania until you get to Smithton, the plane then hangs a rightturn and onwards to King Island. It was a beautiful flight with clear skies and clear water. I highly recommend it to anyone. We landed safely picked up our hire ute, and made our way toward the hospital. You must remember that when on the island, it is mandatory to wave as you pass each other on the road. We arrived at the hospital, introductions were made and with a shake of hands, it was on with the job.

Its great when you get to teach people that right from the start want to be there. It gets the best out of you and it is great for them.

The sessions went like this – Groups of 4-6 did airway management. Another group did cannulation, while the remaining group did some training with L.M.A and in that group, two went with me to do plasters before all rotating. As the rotations went on you would think some would lose interest or not be interested at all! But, two by two they came, in 25 minute slots and they were all just as keen as the first two.



Errol with one of his students.