Legal Practice in Rural and Regional Communities is an exciting elective offering for Spring 2015. The subject focuses on the issues, skills, knowledge and law as it relates to legal practice in rural and regional communities in Australia. The subject aims to expose students to the many opportunities and challenges of rural and regional legal practice, and equip them with the necessary skills to work and live in rural and regional areas.

The subject will begin with a consideration of the rural context for legal practice and an appreciation of the diversity of these communities. It will explore such topics as: the rural and regional lawyer – both traditional and contemporary constructions; rural and regional legal practice, including the distinctive skills, knowledge, legal issues and clientele. Rural client care and the particular ethical dimensions of practice in the rural and regional context will also be considered. The course will conclude with a focus on professional and interpersonal skills employed in rural and regional legal practice and the opportunity to consider your own personal career development.

The subject is being offered by Dr Trish Mundy who has significant experience practising within rural and regional communities and working in the areas of access to justice and the provision of legal services to the bush. Throughout the semester, it is envisaged that we will be joined by rural practitioners who will also share their knowledge and expertise.