

Early bird conference 2018 registration offer now open

Early bird registration is open for the 2018 New Zealand Rural General Practice Network National Rural Health Conference. From now until February 16, 2018 discounted rates apply. Everyone who registers and pays by close of the early bird option will enter a draw to win a FitBit. For more details on the programme, registration information and to book accommodation, visit the official conference website by clicking this [LINK](#).

Auckland's Pullman will host next year's conference from April 5 – 8. The theme is "Healthy Rural Communities – Mauri Ora, Whanau Ora, Wai Ora".

The four-day programme is stacked with interesting speakers, workshops, meetings and social events. It all kicks off with an array of preconference workshops on Thursday, April 5. These include: Rural hospital medicines update; Te Ao Maori and why protocols exist; Musculoskeletal medicine and therapy; nurses' skills workshop/forum; Goodyarn mental health workshop; Bayer contraception workshop; ultrasound training, and a rural research day.

Keynote and concurrent sessions, and exhibition/trade days are on Friday, April 6 and Saturday, April 7. The exciting line-up of nine keynote sessions include Kyle Eggleton (*"Addressing health inequity through community, practice, person and self"*); Maori child and infant health panel featuring Professor David Tipene-Leach and Dr Rawiri Jansen; Amohaere Tangitu, (*Maori child and infant health*); Adele Robertson and Leonie Howie (*"A World of its Own - Great Barrier Island"*); Siouxsie Wiles, (*Antimicrobial resistance and antimicrobial stewardship*); John Wakerman (*rural and remote health research collaboration in Australia*); Mark Bryan, (*Global health issue: AMR resistance/One Health*); a PRIME panel update (*What's been achieved one year on and where to next?*); and an opening political keynote session (Friday, April 6).

Six concurrent session streams cover medical and nursing, management, research, rural hospital, community/models of care and student presentations over the two main conference days. See the [programme](#) for speaker and topic details.

CME accreditation will be notified on this site when approved by the Royal New Zealand College of GPs.

The Network Board will meet at 5pm on Thursday, April 5 and the Network's AGM and Board elections will be held on Saturday, April 7 at 5.15pm. The conference culminates in a members' breakfast and political session on Sunday, April 8.

A range of social activities including an official Welcome Function, Conference and Awards Dinner, Doctors' and Nurses' Dinner and a student function, as well as casual networking opportunities are on offer. The Pat Farry Trust will host a silent art auction at the conference and a fundraising dinner after the Friday night Welcome Function. You can register for any of these events via the conference registration [LINK](#).

The Awards' Ceremony will be held in conjunction with the Conference Dinner at the Pullman on Saturday evening, April 7 when accolades including the Peter Snow Memorial Award, division of rural hospital medicine NZ fellowships, the practice of the year as voted by the community, and Pat Farry Trust scholarships, will be announced.

The conference will be held in association with the New Zealand Rural Hospital Network and the Rural Health Alliance Aotearoa New Zealand.

On behalf of the 2018 conference organising committee, we invite you to attend this exciting event and be part of an annual celebration of rural primary health care. We look forward to seeing you in Auckland in April 2018.