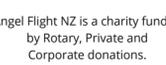


Welcome to the New Zealand Rural General Practice Network e-zine for 10 March 2017



In this issue: Rural GP offers a rural lens to Auckland medical students - Conference keynote speakers cover the issues - College of Nurses endorses conference programme and much more...



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The Network's health promotion partner.

Rural GP offers a rural lens to Auckland medical students



Opotiki GP Dr Mark Hayward (pictured) said he was humbled by a recent experience of speaking to a large group Auckland University medical students about life as a rural GP.

"They are truly the next generation who will be looking after me so I guess we better teach them well.

"I believe our knowledge and experience isn't ours alone to keep but it is to be passed on, as we only 'borrow' it for a while and then should give it to others to develop and use for the benefit of all."

The initiative came about after two students on the Network Committee (Board), Blair Mason and Katelyn Thorn, approached the Head of the University of Auckland Medical Programme to propose the incorporation of a rural medicine lecture, delivered by a rural general practitioner, to the pre-clinical classes of the University's MBChB programme. The university agreed and Dr Hayward took time away from his busy practice to speak to 280 enthusiastic students at the Grafton Campus in Auckland on Thursday, March 2.

Dr Hayward delivered an entertaining and clinically challenging lecture that put a "rural lens" on General Practice for students. He spoke of his experiences as a GP in rural, remote New Zealand, the challenges and excitement, the highs and the lows and of the amazing relationship and kinship that he has with his Opotiki community.

The lecture was chaired by Associate Professor Roger Booth, from the university's faculty of medical and health sciences. Co-presenters were Professor Warwick Bagg, Head of the Medical Programme who spoke about preparing students for a medical career and Dr Miriam Nakatsuji, a GP who works in South Auckland, who spoke about why she chose General Practice.

The Network is dedicated to promoting and advocating for rural health and has identified long-term workforce security as a key strategic focus for the organisation. "We were delighted that Dr Hayward was able to speak to the students and relay his experiences and knowledge to them," said Network Chief Executive Dalton Kelly.

"We hope to continue this arrangement with the University of Auckland to increase the exposure of pre-clinical medical students to rural General Practice."

Conference keynote speakers cover the issues



With just three weeks remaining until this year's national rural health conference in Wellington, there is still time to register, and book flights and accommodation to secure your seat at the country's premiere rural health conference.

Keynote speakers include Dr Robyn Toomath (Fat Science), Norm Hewitt (bullying and domestic violence in NZ), Marnie Prickett (water quality in NZ), Dr Eric Crampton (health economics), Matt Shirtcliff (mental health), Does NZ need a rural school of medicine? (Professor Ross Lawrenson and Dr Garry Nixon), and a PRIME review panel.

Visit the conference website to register and see the academic programme, accommodation options and social events. Follow the [LINK](#) to access the website.

The programme also features six concurrent session streams covering medical and nursing, management, research, rural hospital models of care and community presentations over the two main days - Friday, March 31 and Saturday, April 1.

A pre-conference research day and workshops will be held on Thursday, March 30, followed by keynote and concurrent sessions and exhibition/trade days on Friday, March 31 and Saturday, April 1, culminating with members' breakfasts and political sessions on Sunday, April 2.

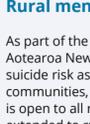
The conference theme is "Healthy Rural Communities - Mauri Ora, Whanau Ora, Wai Ora" and the **TSB Arena-Shed 6** complex on the Wellington waterfront is the venue. The dates are March 30 to April 2, 2017.

College of GPs endorses conference programme

The NZRGN National Rural Health Conference 2017 Wellington has been endorsed by The Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners (RNZCGP) and has been approved for up to 17.25 credits CME for the General Practice Educational Programme (GPEP) and Maintenance of Professional Standards (MOPS) purposes.

General Practitioners who complete the programme will need certificates from the Network that also record this statement. These certificates should be sent after participants have completed the programme, so medical practitioners participating in GPEP or MOPS have the necessary documentation for submission to the college when this is requested.

College of Nurses endorses conference programme



The 2017 conference has been endorsed by the College of Nurses Aotearoa New Zealand and has been approved for up to eight hours per day for Professional Development purposes.

Nurses who complete the programme will need certificates from the Network that record this attendance. These certificates will be emailed to you after the conference.

Rural mental health initiatives

As part of the Thursday pre-conference schedule the Rural Health Alliance Aotearoa New Zealand (RHAANZ) is holding a special workshop focusing on suicide risk assessment and suicide prevention strategies for rural communities, with a specific emphasis on farming families. The free workshop is open to all rural health professionals and where space allows, will be extended to rural industry and community groups.

To register click [HERE](#).

Insight: NZ's GP service in critical condition

Already more than half a million New Zealanders can't afford to see their GP, and family doctors fear the situation could get even worse. They are angry about what they believe is a lack of government action over the way GP visits are funded, despite recommendations for sweeping changes.

[Read more.](#)

Audio player: http://www.radionz.co.nz/audio/player?audio_id=201835159.

General Practice under pressure

General Practices throughout New Zealand face funding issues, and both GPs and their patients are struggling, says the Chair of the New Zealand Medical Association's General Practitioner Council, Dr Kate Baddock. (Scoop)

Speaking on Radio NZ's Insight documentary, Dr Baddock says lack of investment in primary care means some GPs will go out of business, and fewer doctors are likely to take up General Practice as an option. "And patients are suffering through not being able to access the care they need," says Dr Baddock.

[Read more.](#)

'Scrap it!' Tim Malloy draws line in sand over vexed VLCA debate

Very Low Cost Access funding has been a lightning rod of debate in primary care for the past few years, with repeated calls from GPs and others in primary care for the "inequitable" system to be scrapped - calls which have so far been ignored by Health Minister Jonathan Coleman. (NZ Doctor - log-in required)

[Read more.](#)

Nine in 10 healthcare workers feel understaffed and under-resourced

Understaffing and fears of burnout among health workers could be jeopardising patient safety, and reducing access to care, unions have warned. (Dominion Post)

A survey of almost 6000 paramedics, nurses, mental health workers and support staff has found 90 per cent felt the healthcare system was understaffed and under-resourced.

[Read more.](#)

Country doctors head to Parliament to demand more rural resources

The Government is going to have to put more resources into rural health and social services if it wants the sector to thrive. (NZ Doctor)

That's the message advocacy group Rural Health Alliance Aotearoa New Zealand (RHAANZ) plans to get across when it presents its case to Parliament on 16 March.

[Read more.](#)

Motueka GP offers sage advice to injured caver as they hang in abyss

Hanging on the end of a rope while helping rescue an injured woman from a cave on Takaka Hill recently, Motueka GP Michael Brewer was able to reassure her he knew exactly what she was going through. (NZ Doctor - log-in required)

A decade earlier the caving enthusiast GP was himself rescued from a cave in the nearby Middle Earth system, when he fell nearly 2m after being hit by a stray rock.

[Read more.](#)

Orientation course a winner

NZLocums offers a three-day **Orientation Course** at the New Zealand Rural General Practice Network office in Wellington that provides a comprehensive introduction to the working environment in the health sector covering topics such as introductions to Pharmac, ACC, and Work and Income. If you would like to book a place for a newly recruited GP or practice nurse on the Orientation Course please contact us at enquiries@nzlocums.com or call our office on 0800 695628. Or read [February and inquiry story](#).

[Read more.](#)

Rural Hospitals

Cardiology telemedicine clinic launches in Dunstan Hospital

Cardiology patients in Central Otago will save time, money and hundreds of kilometres of travel thanks to a new telemedicine clinic between Dunstan Hospital and the Southern District Health Board. (Scoop)

The virtual clinic means that in many instances patients recovering from heart surgery, catheterisation, or receiving other specialist care can stay close to home and still receive cardiac consultation from a Dunedin clinician via video link.

[Read more.](#)

Hospitals slap do-not-resuscitate orders on patients without consent

Life-ending orders continue to be slapped on unsuspecting hospital patients who doctors think should be left to die. (Manawatu Standard)

Patients are having do-not-resuscitate orders placed on them without their consent or that of their family.

Stuff understands there has been one such case in recent weeks at Palmerston North Hospital, where a patient had an order placed on them without their family's knowledge.

[Read more.](#)

That's interesting!

New pill powered by your own stomach acid sends data straight to your phone while it works

A "silver bullet" pill powered by your own stomach acid will send health data from inside your body to your phone. (NZ Herald)

It is believed the tiny pill could revolutionise medicine by constantly monitoring your health and administering medicine, [Daily Mail](#) reports.

[Read more.](#)

2nd Cxbladder test paper accepted

Dunedin cancer diagnostic company Pacific Edge has announced a scientific and clinical paper validating its mainstay Cxbladder product is to be published in a second leading US medical journal. (ODT)

[Read more.](#)

Publications

- Latest Network News, click [here](#).
- RHAANZ newsletter, click [here](#).
- Division of Rural Hospital Medicine e-newsletter, click [here](#).
- Rural Women New Zealand, Bulletin Aotearoa, click [here](#).
- Health Workforce New Zealand stakeholder bulletin, click [here](#).
- IT Health Board newsletter, click [here](#).
- ALAC newsletter Ease Up, click [here](#).
- Mobile Health news, click [here](#).
- Medline (USA rural health) click [here](#).
- To access the PRIME St John website, click [here](#).
- PRIME Committee contacts, click [here](#).
- Medical Council News click [here](#).

Not a member? Join the Network!

The Network is the only nationwide membership-based organisation in New Zealand representing the interests of rural general practice.

Visit our [website](#) for additional information and an online application form or contact Rob Olsen on 021 472 556.

Testimonial

"NZLocums have been helpful and supportive from beginning to end. I would not have been confident about starting a locum post in New Zealand without their support"

Tony Pearson, GP, UK.



Need a GP?

Follow this link!

Doctors angry government slow to fix GP funding woes

Doctors are angry about what they believe is government inaction over growing financial troubles in their sector, a year on since a working group recommended sweeping changes to a hotly debated aspect of general practice funding. (RNZ)

[Read more.](#)

Water standards push up health risks for users of 'swimmable' rivers

New Zealand has some of the highest levels of zoonotic diseases in the world, and veterinarian and ecologist Alison Dewes fears rates will only worsen under new water quality standards. (NZ Doctor - log-in required)

The Government's new standards, announced recently, will result in water quality declining, Dr Dewes says.

[Read more.](#)

ALSO READ [Forest & Bird quits water forum, saying govt ignores advice](#).

Lack of jobs for spouses keeping young GP workforce out of regions and rural NZ

A lack of jobs for partners, financial instability and a lack of experience may be keeping young doctors in New Zealand's cities and away from smaller hubs. (NZ Doctor D log-in required)

Hawke's Bay DHB chief medical officer for primary care Mark Peterson says his region has difficulty filling the eight spots allocated for new GP registrars each year, with some years only seeing three come on board.

[Read more.](#)

College wants trebling of Maori GP trainee numbers in drive to improve equity

The RNZCGPs wants to see Maori make up 22 per cent of the doctors entering GP training by 2021, more than double the proportion this year. (NZ Doctor - log-in required)

[Read more.](#)

Registered nurses step onto last rung to gain right to prescribe within team

Registered nurse prescribers are one step closer this month with the prescribing practicum now available at four training institutes. (NZ Doctor - log-in required)

Nurses in practice teams can now prescribe on a designated list of medicines once they have done a prescribing qualification, the equivalent of half of the Master of Nursing programme already offered.

[Read more.](#)

Who's getting what? MAS on pay and contract trends in 315 practices

GP-owned practices are paying their salaried GPs between \$181,000 and \$190,000 a year, the latest survey from insurer and business adviser MAS shows. (NZ Doctor - log-in required)

That median salary has remained stable over the past year, while the hourly rate for contracted GPs has increased by 4.8 per cent to between \$106 and \$110.

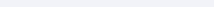
[Read more.](#)

General practitioner top paid profession - Seek

General practitioners' salaries advertised on Seek have jumped 40 per cent in the past year and with a growing population and longer life expectancy, the job-seeker website expects it to remain among the country's most lucrative careers.

Seek recently released its advertised New Zealand's highest advertised salaries, which placed GPs at the top of the pile with an average annual pay packet of \$155,000 in February - up 40 per cent on February last year.

[Read more.](#)



Open your New Zealand bank account

The Network's official banking partner.

Resources

PRIME services review update, click [HERE](#).

NZRGN resources click [HERE](#).

St John offers free to when somebody has a cardiac arrest.

Pharmac seminar series (new listings)

The seminar series provides high quality education covering a variety of topics, and caters to a range of health professionals. Click [HERE](#) to access the resource.

TELL US YOUR STORY

We are looking for health sector-related stories from around rural New Zealand. People, places, achievements and challenges. If you have a good yarn to tell contact Network communications manager Rob Olsen, email rob@rgpn.org.nz or 021 472 556.

