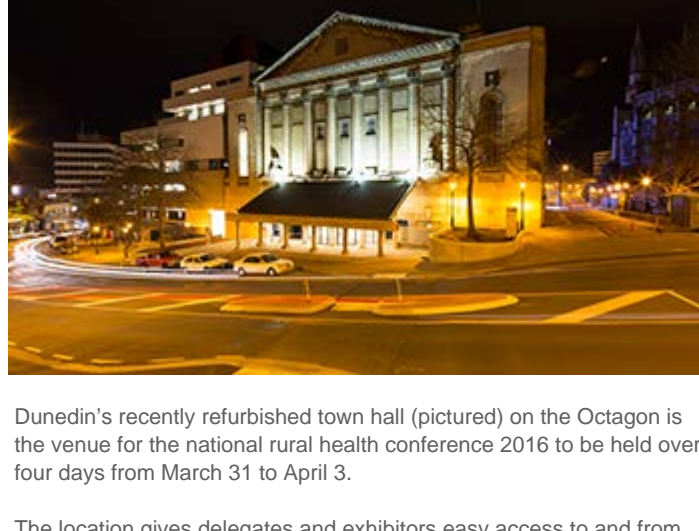


Welcome to the New Zealand Rural General Practice Network e-zine for 17 April 2015.

In this issue • Conference 2016 venue and dates announced • Feedback required on draft PCC document • Obesity campaign launched and much more...

## Conference 2016 venue and dates announced



Dunedin's recently refurbished town hall (pictured) on the Octagon is the venue for the national rural health conference 2016 to be held over four days from March 31 to April 3.

The location gives delegates and exhibitors easy access to and from hotels and parking, as well as to the CBD and surrounding cafes and restaurants. Several venues were considered to host the conference including the Forsyth Barr Stadium and the Edgar Centre. The town hall's central location, its recent upgrade, range of spaces (exhibition, plenary and concurrent/breakout rooms), with extra session rooms minutes away, made it the logical choice.

Several locations are being considered for the conference gala dinner including Larnach Castle on the Otago Peninsula. Keep watching this newsletter for updates.

## Will you be at conference 2016?

Complete our short survey and go into the draw to win a free registration to conference 2016

We'd like to know if you intend to come to next year's national rural health conference in Dunedin. Click on the following link to access a short survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/WPKTFNN>

## Conference 2015 sessions, photos and stories

If you were unable to attend the recent national rural health conference in Rotorua, presentations from sessions are available on the official conference website. Just click [here](#).

Speaker interviews YouTube (courtesy Mobile Health) [https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLXcr1B4-AeKGrnGGO\\_27EQvKXuaVdEMx](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLXcr1B4-AeKGrnGGO_27EQvKXuaVdEMx).

Photos from the conference are also available by clicking [HERE](#).

Also see [Peter Snow Memorial Award](#). And [nurse leads Network](#).

## Levin nurse practitioner sees 28 per cent drop in elderly going to ED

A reduction in ED presentations by almost a third is due to multidisciplinary meetings says the nurse practitioner appointed to help two Levin aged care providers. (NZ Doctor)

Central PHO older adult nurse practitioner Sylvia Meijer was appointed at Masonic Villages Trust and Enliven Presbyterian Support Central with the goal of providing better support to their residents in three aged care facilities.

[Read more.](#)

## Changes proposed at Ashburton and Rural Health Services

A proposal to change the existing leadership and management structure of Ashburton and Rural Health Services has been released to affected staff. (Scoop)

Michael Frampton, General Manager - People and Capability for the Canterbury DHB, says the DHB's investment in new facilities, models of care and workforce development and the need for locally focused and integrated health services in each rural area is creating an environment of change.

[Read more.](#)

## Auckland practice network extends footprint to the far north

An Auckland-based Pasifika general practice network has launched its free whanau ora services in Kaikohe. (NZ Doctor)

The Fono whanau ora navigator Falesiu Fotu says the new service acknowledges the presence of Pacific people in the far north with funded services finally reaching this cohort.

[Read more.](#)

## Med Council updates qualifications list for locums

For the first time in more than two decades the Medical Council has updated its list of approved qualifications for locums seeking work in this country. (NZ Doctor)

The council has made numerous changes, adding some South African, US and Irish qualifications to the list, **while one South African qualification has been removed.**

[Read more.](#)

## Clyde hospital warns on funding cut

A Central Otago hospital is warning it may have to cut back on beds if the Southern District Health Board (DHB) goes ahead with a \$500,000 funding cut. (RNZ)

Dunstan Hospital operating company chair Russell McGeorge said the Southern DHB had signalled it would cut 5 percent of its funding for the next financial year, despite a boom in Clyde's population and a surge in the demand for its services.

[Read more.](#)

## Waikato nurse sees Ebola first hand

A Tamahere nurse who journeyed to Sierra Leone to help fight the Ebola outbreak has been given the all clear after returning home. (Waikato Times)

Arriving in Africa towards the end of January, Robby Berghan caught the fading end of the Ebola outbreak, but still had her fair share of cases before she returned home in late March.

[Read more.](#)

## Hearty thanks for hospital

As debate continues over the lack of a reliable patient shuttle service between Nelson and Wairua hospitals, 81-year-old Picton man Tony Mortiboy tells of his experience in the care of the health system. (Marlborough Express)

Having finished making the large "green cross" label to be tagged on to the first aid kit I'd assembled to fit under the driver's seat of my car, I don't know what mental process suggested that I ought to do something about the slightly sore shoulder which had been nagging me since I woke up on February 18.

[Read more.](#)

## Nervous times for rural hospitals as Southern DHB considers cuts

Small hospitals in Otago and Southland are bracing themselves for funding cuts which could threaten their survival as the struggling Southern DHB searches for savings. (NZ Doctor)

[Read more.](#)

## Review threatens funding reserved for Northland emergency helicopters

Northland Regional Council is seeking public feedback on how it will fund emergency services in the next decade. (NZ Doctor)

But at Northland Emergency Services Trust, the region's emergency helicopter service provider, chair Paul Ahlers is concerned the review threatens the helicopter service's guaranteed funding of \$600,000 a year.

[Read more.](#)

## Partnership in healthcare for the mid north

Meeting the future healthcare needs for the people of the mid north is something Northland DHB has considered carefully. (Scoop)

Making the decision to upgrade Bay of Islands Hospital has also made way for an opportunity to partner with Ngāti Hine Health Trust in the development of a new Whānau Ora Centre (Integrated Family Health Centre) adjacent to the hospital.

[Read more.](#)

## Bestselling US health writer to give Wellington public lecture

Dr Atul Gawande, one of the world's biggest-selling and most influential health writers, is to give a public lecture in Wellington. (Scoop).

Dr Gawande, an American surgeon who writes about health for the New Yorker magazine, is the author of books such as The Checklist Manifesto: How to Get Things Right and, most recently, Being Mortal: Illness, Medicine, and What Matters in the End.

His Wellington lecture is on Monday, 18 May at 6pm-7.30pm (doors open 5.30pm) in Shed 6 on Wellington waterfront and is being hosted by the Health Quality & Safety Commission, with support from PWC. Tickets are \$10 (plus booking fee).

[Read more.](#)

## New rules for natural health

Claims made about the benefits of natural health products such as vitamins will need to be backed by evidence under a new system. (NZ Herald)

An industry body has hailed the move and says it will help the banning of products such as the "miracle" Ebola cure recently sold by a "health and healing" church.

[Read more.](#)

## Southland DHB adopts suicide prevention plan

The Southern District Health Board has adopted an action plan to address suicide rates in the south.

The board discussed the plan unanimously at a meeting this month. (Southland Times)

The key details of the plan include developing a suicide prevention training programme, a continuation of support and building awareness within communities to deal with suicide aftermath, and to develop a Southern DHB suicide response plan to be used in response to suicide clusters.

[Read more.](#)

## Wintour ambulance hours leave people in panic

A Centre Bush who was a Southlander was about to die before an ambulance could get to him (Southland Times)

John Scully was at the St Thomas Aquinas Church in Winton when fellow parishioner Bill Carrick, 84, vomited during the vigil mass and became unconscious.

[Read more.](#)

## Thames Hospital emergency department leads the way

Thames Hospital is leading the way with its Emergency Department (ED) Quality Framework initiatives if a presentation given by staff to a health forum in Wellington is anything to go by. (Waikato DHB)

ED medical officer Gillian Twinem and registered nurse Michelle DellaBarca presented on "Quality in a Rural Setting" at the Ministry of Health-hosted forum.

Discussion focussed on how much progress the department made towards implementing some 19 mandatory measures.

[Read more.](#)



The Network's health promotion partner

Members invited to comment on draft PCC document

The draft Principles and Guidance for the Last Days of Life: Te Ara Whakapiri - The Path of Closeness and Unity for sector consultation has been completed by the Palliative Care Council (PCC).

The guidance represents the recommended approach to caring, across all sectors and settings for New Zealanders who have life-limiting illness and are in their last days of life.

The draft is not publicly available yet, however for a copy of the document for Network members to review and comment on, please email Network communications manager Rob Olsen:

[rob@rgpn.org.nz](mailto:rob@rgpn.org.nz). The PCC are particularly interested to hear how this guidance fits with current tools and how clinically applicable it is across a range of settings. Please send any feedback [here](#) by May 6, 2015.

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.

Network on Social Media

You can follow the Network and associated rural health sector news, views and events now on Facebook and Twitter or sign up and give us your news and views - just click on one of the icons below or visit our website [www.rgpn.org.nz](http://www.rgpn.org.nz)

Find us on Facebook

twitter FOLLOW US

Nursing service subject of 15 complaints - SBHB

The Royal District Nursing Service (RDNS) has received 14 complaints from clients and one from a staff member since it took over a Southland home support contract in 2013, the Southern District Health Board says. (Southland Times)

[Read more.](#)

## Getting serious about tackling obesity

A flagship government programme designed to combat soaring obesity rates and other major health problems is launched today (April 17).

The Healthy Families New Zealand programme is modelled on an initiative in Victoria, Australia, that reduced waist sizes in children. (RNZ)

The programme gets under way in Gisborne today and will be rolled out in Invercargill, Spreydon-Heathcote, Lower Hutt, Rotorua, Whanganui, Manukau, Manurewa-Papakura, Waitakere and the Far North.

[Read more.](#)

## Leading GP Lance O'Sullivan: Parents 'compelled' to vaccinate

A leading New Zealand doctor has called on the Government to follow Australia's example to cut child welfare payments to families who do not vaccinate their children, saying the policy would help protect the most vulnerable in our society. (NZ Herald).

[Read more.](#)

## Immersion course excites interest in rural jobs

Rurally trained medical graduates are heading back to work in rural or smaller centres with the majority believing the clinical experience is superior to that of their urban-based colleagues. (NZ Doctor)

[Read more.](#)

## Nursing tales go live with launch of new website

Tales of the days of nursing hostel curfews, starched caps and when 'doctors were god' can be heard online with the launch of New Zealand's first nursing oral history archive. (Nursing Review)

[Read more.](#)

## Publications and resources:

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](#).

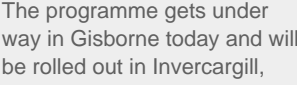
PRIME responders, click [here](#).

Medical Council News click [here](#).

GP Research Review Issue 95 click [here](#).

[Read more.](#)

## Open your New Zealand bank account



The Network's official banking partner.

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](mailto:rob@rgpn.org.nz) or 021 472 556.

## Orientation for Overseas Trained GPs & Practice Nurses

Do you have an overseas trained GP or Nurse joining your team soon?

Give them the best start and send them on our CME endorsed course in Wellington.

Our orientation ensures that all GPs and Practice Nurses are provided with a comprehensive foundation. This allows them to hit the ground running when they start working for you.

Some of the topics included are:

- Presentation from a local practitioner
- ACC
- Pharm
- Work & Income
- St John resuscitation workshop
- MedTech32 practical training

We continually receive positive feedback from attendees and practices. Attendees comment that they couldn't comprehend starting work without it!

Click for:

Brochure & Cost

Course Dates



The "Orientation for Overseas Trained General Practitioners" has been endorsed by The Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners (RNZCGP) and has been approved for up to 14.0 credits CME for General Practice Educational Programme Stage 2 (GPEP2) and Maintenance of Professional Standards (MOPS) purposes.

Limited spaces available - book now!

For more information or to reserve a place please contact Louise Pert, Course Co-ordinator: [louise@nzlocums.com](mailto:louise@nzlocums.com) | +64 4 495 5877

