

Welcome to the New Zealand Rural General Practice Network e-zine for 5 February 2015.

In this issue • Conference 2015 CME endorsement • Exciting speaker line-up at rural health conference 2015 • NZRGNP AGM - process for raising an issue for discussion and much more...



The Network's health promotion partner

Need a GP?

NZLocums is the recruitment division of the NZRGNP.

Rural practices can take advantage of our free recruitment service!

So let us find the right solution for you.

Contact us today.

Conference 2015 CME endorsement

The NZRGNP-RHAANZ National Rural Health Conference 2015 in Rotorua (March 12-15) has been endorsed by the Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners (RNZCGP) and has been approved for up to **21.00 credits** (pre-conference day 7, day one up to 7 and day two up to 7) CME for General Practice Educational Programme Stage 2 (GPEP2) and Maintenance of Professional Standards (MOPS) purposes. General Practitioners who complete the programme will need certificates from the Network.

These certificates will be available after participants have completed the programme, so medical practitioners participating in GPEP2 or MOPS have the necessary documentation for submission to the college when this is requested.



Click [HERE](#) to register for the conference. Or click [HERE](#) to view the programme.

Exciting speaker line-up at rural health conference 2015

There are many good reasons to attend the 2015 national rural health conference in March – 12-15 – at the Rotorua Energy Events Centre.



Health Minister Jonathan Coleman is the political keynote speaker and joins a high-profile line-up of keynote speakers including Kiwibank New Zealander of the Year 2014 Dr Lance O'Sullivan, a GP based in Kaitiaki; Julianne Badenock, Vice President, Australian Primary Health Care Nurses Association (APNA); Dr Lucie Walters, Dr Peter Crampton and Dr Gary Nixon (Connecting the Rural Education Pipeline); Ian Proudfoot (Global Agriculture Outlook and the importance of having rural people with the right capabilities – concurrent session) with keynote presentations from Doctor Rawiri Jansen (Te Ohu Rata O Aotearoa Maori Practitioners) and medical and nursing students.

This year's conference has an extended programme and format covering six concurrent streams (42 sessions) across clinical (medical and nursing) rural hospital, research, management and community themes. There's also a range of social events on the agenda from doctors' and nurses' dinners, the gala dinner, welcome function, awards ceremony and breakfast forums.

The Network invites recently qualified nurse practitioners working in rural to contact them regarding the awards ceremony, which will include acknowledgement of their achievement. Please email rob@rgpn.org.nz

You can view the official conference programme and speakers by following this [LINK](#). Keep watching the [conference website](#) and this newsletter for updates.

NZRGNP AGM - process for raising an issue for discussion

The Network's AGM will be held during its Rotorua conference on Saturday, March 15. The agenda and supporting papers will be distributed by February 20 in line with the Network's Constitution. All members are encouraged to attend and have their say. If you would like to raise an issue for discussion please forward a one-pager outlining the issue, its importance to the Network/rural general practice and the action you are proposing. Your paper needs to be with the Network's communications manager Rob Olsen (rob@rgpn.org.nz) by **Monday, February 16, 2015**.

Network CE takes to the road



New Network chief executive Dalton Kelly had a whirlwind tour of Canterbury recently including a stop-off at Pleasant Point's medical centre to see nurse practitioner and Network board member Tania Kemp. Tania and registered nurse Chris Chamberlain took ownership of the Point of Care Medical Centre earlier in 2014.

Dalton and Network General Manager Rural Linda Reynolds spent several days in Canterbury last week visiting practices in the north and south of the region and also met with the Rural Canterbury PHO board, the Ministry of Primary Industries and the South Canterbury Rural Support Trust to discuss a range of issues including the impact of the drought on rural communities. They also met with Waimakariri National MP Matt Doocoy.

Dalton is pictured above at the Pleasant Point medical centre with co-owner Tania Kemp.

[Read more.](#)

Big turnout at NZLocums 'O' day



It was a bumper-sized group of doctors and their families who took the tour Te Papa as part of NZLocums three-day January Orientation course in Wellington. The large group of 28 people – including 13 GPs - were split in half for the tour; the balance were family members who are always invited to share the experience.

The group pictured above was at the end of the Maori Highlights Tour at the contemporary marae (Te Marae o Te Papa Tongarewa). Pictured (from left to right) are Dr Hans West and Dr Christine Houe with family from Denmark both practising at Dannevirke; Dr Esther Coats with partner Duncan from England practising at Warkworth, Dr Anthoinet Top with partner Erwin and family from Netherlands practising at Wellsford, Dr Annabelle Mascott with partner Stuart, a returning GP from England practising at Martinborough, and Dr Cathryn Robertson with partner Warren from Scotland practising at Alexandra.

Complaints against GPs top health and disability figures

GPs were the most complained about practitioners in the health sector during a record-breaking year in 2013/14, according to the Health and Disability Commissioner's annual report, although the figures need to be put into context, says Medical Council chair Andrew Connolly. (NZ Doctor)

Mr Connolly says the high volume of consultations GPs are doing could skew the figures and the result is not a cause for concern about declining standards in general practice.

[Read more.](#)

PRIME responders can seek advice

The three St John ambulance communications centres each have a clinical desk manned by an experienced Intensive Care Paramedic - 12 hours a day in Christchurch, 12 hours a day in Wellington and 24 hours a day in Auckland. Part of their role is to provide clinical advice to ambulance crews at the scene of an accident or emergency.

St John is happy for PRIME responders to also utilise the clinical desk for advice. If the Intensive Care Paramedic cannot provide the advice required they will immediately forward the call to a specialist with experience in pre-hospital care (either an intensive care specialist or an emergency medicine specialist) 24/7.

The numbers are:

Southcomm (Christchurch) – 0800 244111, pause and dial 3, then pause again and dial 9.

Centralcomm (Wellington) – 0800 244111, pause and dial 4, then pause again and dial 9.

Northcomm (Auckland) – 0800 244111, pause and dial 9, then pause again and dial 9.

In the event the call is not answered on the clinical desk within the centre you have called within 20 seconds, it will 'bounce' to another clinical desk. At night the clinical desk phone in Southcomm and Centralcomm automatically forwards the call to Northcomm.

Mental health helpline resources

The New Zealand Rural General Practice Network has compiled a list of contacts you might find useful should your patients present with mental health-related issues. Also included is the following link to the Health Promotion Agency (HPA) web page where you can order the rural depression postcards and smaller cards:

<http://www.hpa.org.nz/what-we-do/mental-health/resources>

- HPA: www.depression.org.nz/rural
- Mental Health Foundation helplines: <http://www.mentalhealth.org.nz/get-help/in-crisis/helplines/>
- Mental Health Foundation in Crisis: <http://www.mentalhealth.org.nz/get-help/in-crisis/>
- Federated Farmers: "When Life's a Bitch"
- Ministry of Health: <http://www.health.govt.nz/your-health/services-and-support/health-care-services/mental-health-services>
- Suicide Prevention Information NZ: <http://www.spinz.org.nz/test/114-helplines-and-support-services>
- Supporting Families in Mental Illness: <http://www.supportingfamilies.org.nz/resources/mental-health-info/counselling-and-helplines.aspx>
- Youthline 0800 376 633
- Samaritans 0800 726 666
- Depression helpline 0800 111 757
- Rural Support Trusts 0800 787 254.

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



Planned birthing to recommence in Buller

A new provider has been contracted by the West Coast District Health Board to run the Buller Hospital's Kawatiri Birthing Unit. Chief Executive David Meates announced recently. (Scoop)

A planned birthing service will recommence in the Westport facility in early March.

[Read more.](#)

New General Manager appointed to Medicines New Zealand

The start of the New Year was marked at Medicines New Zealand by the appointment of a new General Manager, Dr Graeme Jarvis. (Scoop)

[Read more.](#)

'We will see more of these planes'

Buller Mayor Garry Howard says a new partnership between the district council and Sounds Air could be used as a model for other regions. (RNZ)

Air New Zealand announced in November it would pull out of Westport in April 2015.

The Buller District Council has teamed up with Sounds Air to provide 26 flights a week between Westport and Wellington. The fares will be set at \$199 each way.

[Read more.](#)

ALSO see Buller District Council [WEBSITE](#).

Applications open for Māori health scheme

Applications are now being taken for the Māori Health Development Scheme 2015/16. Māori health and disability providers have used the funding to improve infrastructure, achieve service integration, improve the quality of services and develop workforce skills.

The Hauora Māori Scholarships assists a minimum of 535 people each year who are studying across a range of fields such as nursing, pharmacy, dentistry, physiotherapy and social work.

Further information about the scheme and applications forms can be found on the Ministry of Health website, www.health.govt.nz.

Applications close midday 13 March.

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](#).

Research Review – Management of Atopic Dermatitis click [here](#).

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 or 021 472 556.

Orientation for Overseas Trained GPs & Practice Nurses

Do you have an overseas trained GP or Nurse joining our 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
- Pharmac
- 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:



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 | +64 4 495 5877

