

Welcome to the New Zealand Rural General Practice Network e-zine for 23 January 2015.

In this issue • Conference CME endorsement • Early Bird Conference registration ends this month • Final call for Peter Snow Memorial Award 2015 and much more...

### Conference CME endorsement

The NZRGPN-RHAANZ National Rural Health Conference 2015 in Rotorua 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 7.00, Day One up to 7.00 and Day 2 up to 7:00) 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 that also record this statement. These certificates should be sent 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.

### Early Bird Conference registration ends this month

Be an Early Bird delegate for the 2015 NZRGPN-RHAANZ national rural health conference and go into the draw to have your registration refunded. Early Bird registrations end January 30.



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) with keynote presentations from Te Ohu Rata O Aotearoa Maori Practitioners and medical and nursing students.

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

### Final call for Peter Snow Memorial Award 2015

Nominations for the Peter Snow Memorial Award close at noon on February 6.

To date we have received one nomination for this annual award, so if you know of a medical or nursing colleague in rural health worthy of this accolade please nominate them now. The award was set up to honour the life and work of Dr Peter Snow who passed away in March 2006. Dr Snow was a rural general practitioner based in Tapanui.

The award will be presented at the Network's March conference in Rotorua.

For more information, nomination guidelines or to nominate someone click [HERE](#) or contact Network communications manager Rob Olsen, email: [rob@rgpn.org.nz](mailto:rob@rgpn.org.nz) or telephone 04 495 5887 or 021 472 556.

### Northland receives new airborne ultrasound equipment

Northlanders in need of urgent medical attention are now benefiting from new diagnostic ultrasound equipment on board the Northland Electricity Rescue Helicopters, speeding up diagnosis time during life-threatening emergencies. (Scoop)

[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.

### Consultation on under 13 care support proposal

The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) would like to advise that it is consulting on behalf of the Minister for ACC on a proposal to increase the rates paid in the Accident Compensation (Liability to Pay or Contribute to Cost of Treatment) Regulations 2003 to help support free GP visits for children under 13.

The consultation runs until 5pm on Tuesday, January 27, 2015. The consultation document, and information on how to make a submission, is available [here](#)

The proposal is to provide an additional contribution under the regulations to encourage GPs to provide free visits to children under 13 years. The new under 13s contribution will replace the current contribution provided for GP visits by children under six. [READ MORE](#) about the proposal.

### Consultation on NP scope of practice & qualifications

The Nursing Council is undertaking a review of the nurse practitioner scope of practice and prescribed qualifications. The health care environment has changed considerably since 2001 when nurse practitioner was introduced. This consultation is focused on the future requirements for the nurse practitioner scope of practice and qualifications. It discusses the positioning of nurse practitioner in relation to projected health need and service delivery changes and the potential implications of the introduction of further registered nurse prescribing. Submissions close Friday, February 27, 2015.

[Read more.](#)

### 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](http://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>
- Samaritans 0800 376 633
- Samaritans 0800 726 666
- Depression helpline 0800 111 757
- Rural Support Trusts 0800 787 254.

### UK med student seeks rural NZ elective

Welsh medical student Elin Powell has New Zealand in her sights for her 2016 medical elective and is keen to hear from a rural practice prepared to host her.

Elin's Cardiff Medical School elective runs from February 29 to April 22, 2016 and she is hoping to get four to six weeks experience in a mixture of hospital and general practice settings in rural New Zealand. Elin is particularly interested in general practice and hopes to work in either New Zealand or Australia for a couple of years following her F2 placement and a job to gain some experience in either country ahead of applying for a job.

Expressions of interest can be made to Network communications manager Rob Olsen in the first instance, email [rob@rgpn.org.nz](mailto:rob@rgpn.org.nz)

### Move to ban smoking when children in car

A Northland health worker wants smoking banned in vehicles where there are children after new Canadian research "makes it clear that children's health rights are being violated by smoking in vehicles". (Northern Advocate)

Northland DHB Smokefree adviser Bridget Rowse said a ban on smoking in vehicles while carrying children under the age of 18 would be one specific measure New Zealand could take to protect that right.

[Read more.](#)



The Network's health promotion partner



### Need a GP?

NZLocums is the recruitment division of the NZRGPN.

Rural practices can take advantage of our free recruitment service!

So let us find the right solution for you.

[Contact us today.](#)

### 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)



### Doctor visits go online with Doctor2Go

Doctor visits will be the latest service to go online with the launch next month of Doctor2Go, a premium-priced "medical concierge" service that lets patients consult GPs by video through their web browser. (Stuff)

Doctor2Go is targeting corporate clients as well as individuals, arguing companies that enroll executives can expect improved productivity as a result of staff getting medical advice early and spending less time travelling to and sitting around in waiting rooms.

[Read more.](#)

### Tamahere nurse heads to Sierra Leone to fight Ebola

A Tamahere nurse is set to do her bit to help combat the Ebola virus. (Stuff)

Waikato Hospital emergency department nurse Robby Berghan will head to Sierra Leone later this month on a seven week deployment with the International Rescue Committee (IRC).

[Read more.](#)

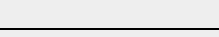
### Publications and resources:

- 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](#).
- 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](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
  - Pharmacist
  - 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



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