

Welcome to the New Zealand Rural General Practice Network e-zine for 6 March 2015.

In this issue • It's not too late to register for NZ's premier rural health conference • Conference 2015 CME endorsement • Rural Service Level Alliance Team (RSLAT) survey reminder and much more...

It's not too late to register for NZ's premier rural health conference

Great location, great speakers, enticing social events, awards and accolades galore, comprehensive exhibition area – make sure you book your place at NZ's showcase national rural health conference in Rotorua this month.



Conference 2015
12 - 15 MARCH, ROTORUA

Click [HERE](#) to register for the conference.

Or click [HERE](#) to view the programme.

The countdown is on with five days remaining until opening day, March 12. The conference begins with a day of pre-conference workshops (Thursday, March 12) followed by two days of keynote presentations, concurrent sessions, forums, social events and loads of networking opportunities.

The keynote speaker line-up includes Health Minister Jonathan Coleman, Kiwibank New Zealander of the Year 2014 Dr Lance O'Sullivan, Dr Rawiri Jansen (MBChB, MRNZCGP, BHB, BA (Maori), Dip Teaching Ngati Raukawa) who will speak on challenges for Maori medical practitioners, Dr Ernesto Sirolli (keynote session and workshop, see story below).

An extended programme and format covers six concurrent streams (42 sessions) across clinical (medical and nursing) rural hospital, research, management and community themes.

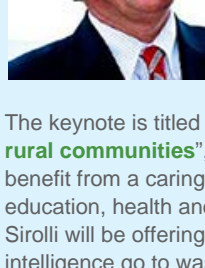
There's a range of social events including doctors' and nurses' dinners, the gala dinner, welcome function, awards ceremony and breakfast forums for members and delegates.

The conference has CME endorsement up to 21 credits (see the story below).

There's a comprehensive exhibition space with health and pharmaceutical sector representation.

You can view the official conference programme and speakers by following this [LINK](#).

Rural economic development guru coming to Conference 2015



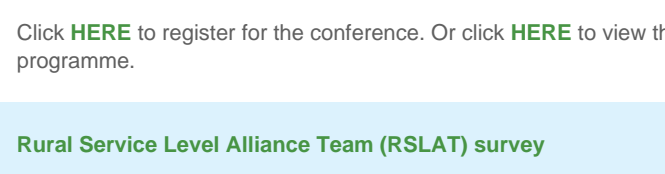
Dr **Ernesto Sirolli** an international superstar of sustainable economic development for rural communities whose TED talk on the Christchurch earthquakes has received over **two million views**, will deliver a keynote address and workshop during the conference.

The keynote is titled "**Facilitated Health Services – responding to rural communities**", which explores ways in which communities benefit from a caring, listening, facilitative approach to the delivery of education, health and social programmes. Following the keynote Dr Sirolli will be offering a workshop titled "Don't let a single ounce of intelligence go to waste – best practices for growing local economies."

While the keynote will be tailored to health services, the underlying principles and teachings will help any entrepreneur looking to improve or grow their business. The workshop the next day will further expand on best practices for growing local economies. Please help the Network by circulating this information amongst your colleagues and business contacts. To view the programme or register click [HERE](#).

Conference 2015 CME endorsement

The NZRGP-NZHAANZ 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.

Rural Service Level Alliance Team (RSLAT) survey

Thanks to everyone who has already completed our survey on Rural Service Level Alliance teams.

We've had a good response so far with lots of feedback and comments. However, we encourage you to respond even if it's just to say you've had no involvement. We hope to be able to share the results with you by providing an overview of the Alliances picture and hopefully share some situations where things are working well.

The survey will close at the end of our conference (March 12-15), so click on the link below to take part.

Survey link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/R6YZ8SW>

Get your Locum requests in!

With the April holidays already on the horizon it's time to find out if your GPs are taking any leave. As soon as you know please send us your Locum Request Form so we can start looking straight away.

Looking further ahead – will you need locum cover in the winter holidays? This is a notoriously trickier time to find cover, especially if it's a late request. So ask around now and be at the head of the queue!

Download your Locum Request Form [here](#).
Send all requests to enquiries@nzlocums.com

Nominate your rural GP hero

As a WONCA* Member Organization the Network has been invited by the WONCA Working Party on Rural Practice to celebrate the life and work of a rural doctor from New Zealand who has inspired others, and led the way in family medicine for rural communities. Network practice and individual members are invited to nominate a GP hero for consideration to go forward as New Zealand's representative nominee at the WONCA Rural Health Conference 2015 in Dubrovnik, Croatia, April 15-18.

Your nomination should include the nominees' name, year of birth, and work of, rural biography, why they have been nominated as a "rural hero", publications and photos. Click [HERE](#) to access nomination form (Word document).

Nominations should be made by Friday, March 20, 2015 and returned to Network communications manager Rob Olsen, email: rob@rgpn.org.nz

WONCA* is an acronym for World Organisation of National Colleges, Academies and Academic Associations of General Practitioners/Family Physicians or World Organisation of Family Doctors for short.

To visit the official WONCA website click [HERE](#).

PHARMAC survey

PHARMAC is giving you the opportunity to tell them how they're doing, what it's like to work with them and what they can do better in a **stakeholder survey** which is currently underway.

If you haven't already, and you want to get involved and influence how PHARMAC works, have a look at the [survey online](#).

The survey should only take 15 minutes to complete but you can hop in and out of the survey as you have time. It will only be open until 5pm, March 6, 2015 so get in quick.

PHARMAC, an independent research company, will be doing the survey on PHARMAC's behalf.

Palliative Care Council positions

The Palliative Care Council is calling for expressions of interest in Palliative Care Council Chair and Deputy Chair positions.

Click [here](#) to find more information about the Palliative Care Council and [here](#) to review the terms of reference.

Please email your CV and cover letter to office@cancercontrolnz.govt.nz by Friday, March 13, 2015.

Northland PHO structure not set in stone

The heads of Northland's two PHOs say they are happy with the status quo, but cannot rule out further changes to the primary healthcare landscape in the region. (NZ Doctor)

Mania Health and Te Tai Tokerau PHOs are the sole survivors of a **cull in 2010** which saw three smaller Northland PHOs disappear. The DHB had backed a subsequent proposal to reduce the number to one, but the idea was shelved in 2013 after feedback supported retaining two separate organisations.

[Read more.](#)

Farewell to Northland pioneer doctor

He's the man responsible for introducing the 'Grommet Blitz' to Northland and much more but recently the well-respected Northland ear, nose and throat surgeon was farewelled for a joint retirement with anaesthetist wife Sue.

Dr Jeremy (Jerry) Gathercole, who pioneered otological health and improving outcomes for indigenous people in Northland, has been the ORL consultant/head and neck surgeon at Whangarei hospital since 1980 after moving to New Zealand where he trained in otolaryngology. His registrar training gave him a huge variety of patients to work with, as well as the opportunity to spot important connections between middle ear health and socioeconomic status early in his career.

[Read more.](#)

'Unsustainable' Ohakune practice to close its doors this month

The central North Island tourist town of Ohakune will lose its only doctor's surgery at the end of this month, with services to be provided instead from a practice 11km away in Raetihi. (NZ Doctor)

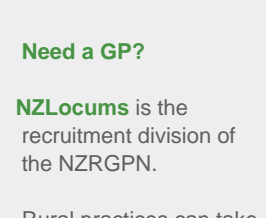
The Ohakune practice has been run for more than three years by Whanganui-based Te Oranganui Iwi Health Authority the closure on 31 March will leave the small town with no general practice.

The gap will be filled by Jim Corbett of Waimarino Health Limited who is planning to expand his Raetihi-based practice to cover both communities.

[Read more.](#)



The Network's health promotion partner



Need a GP?

NZLocums is the recruitment division of the NZRGP.

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



MCNZ elections reminder

MCNZ elections close at midday on March 20 and the voting rate stands at 13.5% of the profession. Doctors whose valid email is recorded with the Medical Council of New Zealand will have received voting details by email. Candidate profiles can be viewed by clicking [here](#), and can also be viewed once you have logged into the voting site. To access the voting page and cast your vote you will require your unique personal identification number (PIN) and Password (all lowercase). Votes can be cast by clicking [here](#).

Immigration medicals in far fewer hands, practice 'gutted' at missing out

Hundreds of health professionals are being shut out of doing immigration medicals, with some firms at risk of closure. (NZ Doctor)

One owner of a provincial city business reports feeling "gutted", saying the loss of income will be huge, and staff may have to be made redundant.

Immigration New Zealand last week advised providers whether the **tender they submitted** last year had been successful or not. The answer was yes for 134 clinics and no for 375.

[Read more.](#)

Orthopaedic Skype appointments trialled

Skype appointments with orthopaedic surgeons are being trialled by the South Canterbury District Health Board (SCDHB). (Timaru Herald)

Chief executive Nigel Trainor said four patients in Twizel, who in the first instance did not need access to Timaru Hospital, were given the opportunity to Skype orthopaedic surgeons from their general practitioner's office for their first specialist appointment.

[Read more.](#)

Congratulations to new Fellows

Network chairman Dr Jo Scott-Jones extends his congratulations to Dr Mark Alexander-Smith, Dr Mohamed Shameem Safih, Dr Lucinda Thatcher and Dr Janine Lander who were recently awarded Fellowship of the Division of Rural Hospital Medicine New Zealand by the Royal New Zealand College of GPs.

Health service split aired

Waitaki's health service is pondering a split from the financially troubled Southern District Health Board. (ODT)

The issue is raised in a report by Waitaki District Health Services, the company owned by the Waitaki District Council to provide health services in the district and to own and operate Oamaru Hospital.

[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 Aotearoa, click [here](#).

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](#).

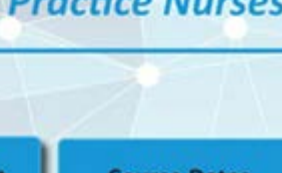
PRIME responders, click [here](#).

Medical Council News click [here](#).

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

[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 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.

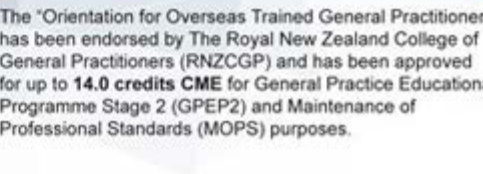
- Some of the topics included are:
- Presentation from a local practitioner
 - ACC
 - Pharmac
 - Work & Income
 - St John resuscitation workshop
 - Medtech32 practical training

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

Click for:

[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 | +64 4 495 5877



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