

Welcome to the New Zealand Rural General Practice Network e-zine for 18 May 2015.

In this issue • Kaeo after-hours GP service closes • Opotiki GPs continue standoff due to changes to after-hours roster • Practice staff step up as West Coast loses yet another GP and much more...

Kaeo after-hours GP service closes

Whangaroa residents have to drive an extra 110km and spend significantly more to see a doctor outside working hours after Kaeo's after-hours GP service was shut down. (Northern Advocate)

Patients of the Whangaroa Health Services Trust (WHST) are among the few in Northland to enjoy free GP visits. Until February that included free after-hours visits at the former Kaeo Hospital.

[Read more.](#)

Or see [NZ Doctor story](#).

Opotiki GPs continue standoff due to changes to after-hours roster

An Opotiki GP is crying foul at what he says is a neighbouring practice's aggressive enrolment campaign after changes were made to the town's after-hours GP roster.

Toi Ora Health solo GP Mark Haywood says the campaign by Church Street Surgery GP Jo Scott-Jones is "hypocritical", after he had previously advocated alliancing between practices.

[Read more.](#)

Practice staff step up as West Coast loses yet another GP

The West Coast is losing one of its long-serving GPs, although the Greymouth doctor claims he would have stayed longer if the DHB had gone through with its offer of taking over his practice. (NZ Doctor)

Instead, GP JD Naidoo has sold his practice, the High Street Medical Centre in Greymouth, to a group of the practice's current staff members who will have to recruit GPs to treat the practice's 5000 patients.

[Read more.](#)

Bleak winter ahead for Dunstan Hospital services

"Winter is coming for Dunstan Hospital in central Otago as it faces a \$1 million budget shortfall, closure of hospital beds, and staff and service reductions," says Ian Powell, Executive Director of the Association of Salaried Medical Specialists (ASMS). (Scoop – media release)

"This is a direct consequence of the Southern District Health Board's short-sighted decision to reduce the hospital's funding by 5% for the 2015-16 year, and is an unbelievable blow for a rural hospital like Dunstan."

[Read more.](#)

OR see [Community rallies](#)

The community-owned company which runs Dunstan Hospital in Central Otago has called a series of public meetings from this week to highlight a threat to its services posed by Southern DHB funding cuts. (NZ Doctor)

[Read more.](#)

Double celebration for Lake's District Hospital midwives

Midwives at Lakes District Hospital are celebrating two major events, signifying good news for local mums-to-be and their future families. (Scoop)

Staff at the Lakes Maternity Unit have successfully received approval from the New Zealand Breastfeeding Authority to renew their accreditation as a "Baby Friendly Hospital", under the Baby friendly Hospital Initiative (BFHI). This is a worldwide programme led by the World Health Organization and UNICEF, to strengthen the capacity of national health systems to protect and support breastfeeding.

[Read more.](#)

Have a say on NZ's post 2020 climate target

The Minister for Climate Change Issues has **announced public consultation** on NZ's post-2020 international climate change target to 2025/2030.

View the public discussion document [here](#) or online submission form [here](#). Also see OraTaiao's ministerial briefing [here](#).

Public consultation has begun around the country (for remaining regional meetings, see below):

May 18: Whangarei: Hui/Public meeting 5.30pm at Discovery Settlers Hotel, 61 - 69 Hatea Drive, Rotorua: Hui/Public meeting 5.30pm at Copthorne Rotorua, 328/348 Fenton Street. Auckland: Public meeting 7pm at Copthorne Auckland City, 150 Anzac Avenue.

May 19: New Plymouth: Public meeting 11.30am, Hui 2.30pm at Copthorne Hotel Grand Central, 42 Powerderham Street. Wellington: Public meeting 7pm at The Thorndon Hotel, 24 Hawkestone Street.

May 20: Christchurch: Hui 5pm, Public meeting 7.15pm at Russley Golf Club and Function Centre, 428 Memorial Ave.

I really don't think I'm better than you

(Blog by Suzy McKinney, NZ Doctor)

If an anthropologist visited the medical school at the University of Auckland, he or she might note that students of the various health disciplines segregate themselves into tight social groups, and that these are only really broken by the use of communal bathrooms.

I hear that medical students have been campaigning for separate water fountains for years but have so far been unsuccessful.

[Read more.](#)

Will you be attending conference 2016?

Thanks to all those who have completed our short survey however, we'd still like to know if you intend to come to next year's national rural health conference at the **Dunedin Centre**.

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

Click on the following link to access a short survey:
www.surveymonkey.com/s/WPKTFNN

The recently refurbished Dunedin Centre and town hall on the Octagon is the venue for 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 Dunedin Centre'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, the Dunedin Public Art Gallery and the Otago Settlers Museum. Keep watching this newsletter for updates.

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](#).



The Network's health promotion partner



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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



5,500 more doctors and nurses in our hospitals

Health Minister Jonathan Coleman says a record number of doctors and nurses are working in District Health Boards across the country.

"Our dedicated health workforce is making a difference to the lives of New Zealanders day in and day out," says Dr Coleman.

[Read more.](#)

South Island practice nurses to have access to Lippincott

Primary care nurses in the South Island are expected to have access to Lippincott Procedures in the next 12 months.

DHB nurses will first be able to access the online information source in the hope that these nurses will be able to provide support to other nurses in future, South Island Regional Training Hub programme director Kate Rawlings says.

[Read more.](#)

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)

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

Also see [Peter Snow Memorial Award](#).

And [nurse leads Network](#).

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:

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