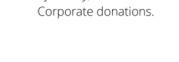


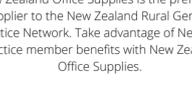
Welcome to the New Zealand Rural General Practice Network e-zine for 24 August 2018



In this issue: Call for conference abstracts extended • Magical Marlborough beckons • Peter Snow Memorial Award 2019 – nominations sought and much more...



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HOT OFF THE PRESS

RNZCGP President steps down

The President of The Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners, Dr Tim Malloy, announced today that he is stepping down from his role.

"I have made the difficult decision to step down from the Board for health reasons. My resignation will be effective from September 5 when the College Board next meets."

Dr Malloy said he had made the decision to stand down after experiencing another health set-back.

[Read more.](#)

Call for conference abstracts extended

The call for abstracts for the Network's 2019 National Rural Health Conference has been extended until September 28.

Next year's conference, to be held at the Marlborough Convention Centre from April 4-7, offers CME accredited workshops, plenary and concurrent presentations with a rural primary and rural hospital health care focus to a wide ranging audience, which includes doctors, nurses, universities and students New Zealand-wide.

Following the success of the abstract process for the 2018 conference we are once again offering you the opportunity to present either an oral or poster abstract.

Themes

We are particularly interested in the following themes for rural-focussed presentations and preference may be given to abstracts related to these: Equity, Diversity, Sustainability.

To assist us with programme development you will be asked to select one of the below categories. Please select the most relevant one to your presentation.

Categories

Clinical, Nursing, Management, Community, Research.

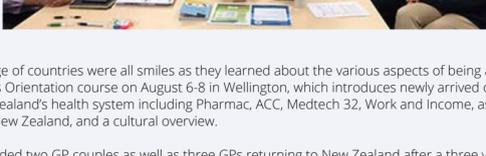
Key dates

Abstract submission closes September 28, 2018

Author acceptance notification: October 2018.

Please click [HERE](#) for more information and to submit your abstract.

Smiles for miles around New Zealand



Ten doctors from a range of countries were all smiles as they learned about the various aspects of being a GP in New Zealand. All attended the NZLocums Orientation course on August 6-8 in Wellington, which introduces newly arrived overseas GPs to characteristics of New Zealand's health system including Pharmac, ACC, Medtech 32, Work and Income, as well as topics such as driving and banking in New Zealand, and a cultural overview.

The August course included two GP couples as well as three GPs returning to New Zealand after a three year absence. Their countries of origin include the USA, Denmark, Australia, the Netherlands, Canada and South Africa. They are working in practices in Dannevirke, Kawau Bay, Whangamata, Te Kauwhata, Roxburgh, Inglewood, Katikati and Darfield.

Pictured from left to right are Dr Richard Neill and Dr Elaine Reed (USA), Dr Christina Petersen (Denmark), Dr Koriki Love (Australia/NZ), Dr Camilla Elliot (UK), Dr Maarten de Krom (the Netherlands), Dr John Kouch (USA), Dr Mariska de Velde Harsenhorst (the Netherlands), Dr Laurens Klopper (Canada/South Africa) and Dr Bonnie Zijsling (the Netherlands).

For information about the NZLocums course visit www.nzlocums.co.nz

Surgeon credits team effort in rural health award win

Timaru orthopaedic surgeon Bill Taine has been accorded a rare honour by his colleagues. Last week in Queenstown he received the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons' rural health award. (Timaru Courier)

Dr Taine, who is a fellow of the college and now retired in Timaru, said he was surprised by the award but believed it was not just recognition of his work, but also that of others with whom he worked.

[Read more.](#)

NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH CONFERENCE 2019

Magical Marlborough beckons

The Marlborough region's reputation rests rightly on its obvious attributes – sunshine, sauvignon blanc and spectacular scenery – and it's also the perfect central location for the New Zealand Rural General Practice Network's 2019 National Rural Health Conference.

In a departure from recent years the Network has opted to take the conference from an urban to a rural setting, and as it is the South Island's turn to host the event next year, Marlborough and more specifically Blenheim ticked all the boxes.

We take great pleasure in inviting you to come to Marlborough in April 2019 and experience all this comprehensive event and exciting, friendly region has to offer.

The conference venue is the Marlborough Convention Centre and ASB Theatre and the dates are April 4 – 7.

Conference 2019 will feature workshops, concurrent sessions and nine keynote speakers across three days concluding with a Members' political and breakfast forum on the morning of the fourth day. A Gala Dinner and Awards Night, Welcome Function and several other dinners will again be features of the conference. Programme details, online registration, dinner venues and accommodation options will be available on the Network's website in the coming weeks.

CME accreditation will be notified when approved by the Royal New Zealand College of GPs.

A comprehensive trade and exhibition space will give delegates the opportunity to engage with industry representatives during the breaks.

WHAT: NZRGPN National Rural Health Conference
WHERE: Marlborough Convention Centre/ASB Theatre
WHEN: April 4 – 7, 2019

Peter Snow Memorial Award 2019 – nominations sought

Do you know of a medical or nursing colleague in rural health deserving of this accolade?

Nominations are now open for the annual Peter Snow Memorial Award to be announced at the Network's 2019 conference.

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.

For more information, nomination guidelines or to nominate someone click [HERE](#).

Or contact Network communications manager Rob Olsen, email: rob@rgpn.org.nz or telephone 04 495 5887 or 021 472 556.

SECTOR NEWS

'Wrong measurement' — maternity centre may take action

The operators of Lumsden Maternity Centre believe the decision to downgrade the centre was based on an inaccurate comparison of data and are still considering taking legal action to maintain its status. (Otago Daily Times)

LMC is a primary birthing unit but under the Southern District Health Board maternity services review it becomes a "mother and child hub".

[Read more.](#)

Eketahuna's nurse-led healthcare rouses interest

Eketahuna lost its GP 30 years ago but the town's resilience in dealing with health issues is inspiring health and wellbeing advocates from the rest of Tararua who are determined to visit and find out how they do things. (Nursing Review)

When Eketahuna's last GP retired, the southern Tararua community set up the first nurse-led health clinic in New Zealand in April 1988.

[Read more.](#)

Nurse care 'equal or even better' than GP care for some conditions, finds review

An updated Cochrane Review – Nurses as substitutes for doctors in primary care – was published last month and analysed 17 randomised trials comparing first contact and ongoing care provided by primary care nurses and doctors (GPs) to similar patients with similar health needs.

The authors said the review was prompted by moves in many countries to use nurses more to help address the growing health needs due to chronic disease and an ageing population but also doctor and other health worker shortages.

[Read more.](#)

Read the [Cochrane Report](#).

Volunteer shortage bites

The Amuri St John Ambulance is in a perilous position. (North Canterbury News)

Once the rock of North Canterbury's ambulance ranks, it is struggling to crew its ambulances.

Publicity officer Rob Field says it has prided itself in recent times on being able to not only crew the Culverden 1 ambulance, but also the Culverden 2 ambulance as the need arose.

[Read more.](#)

Melanomas may be missed by doctors – study

Potentially lethal melanomas may be being missed by doctors because the formula they are taught to recognise skin cancers often fails to identify thick melanomas, a University of Otago researcher says. (RNZ)

Doctors are taught the "ABCDE" method of diagnosing **melanoma** - asymmetry, border irregularity, colour variability, diameter greater than 6mm, evolution.

[Read more.](#)

Hospital yet to advertise for chief executive

It may be some time before a new chief executive is appointed at Oamaru Hospital. (ODT)

The position has remained vacant since former chief executive Robert Gonzales announced his sudden departure on May 4 after 17 years in the role.

[Read more.](#)

Nurse practitioners solve the GP shortage at their Northland clinic

A Northland practice has overcome its GP recruitment problem by having three nurse practitioners on the staff instead.

Margaret Hand, a nurse practitioner at Te Hau Awhiwhio o Otangarei, was announced last month as one of the winners of a new award from Pharmac and Te Pōari o Te Rūnanga o Aotearoa, the Māori arm of the New Zealand Nurses Organisation.

[Read more.](#) (NZ Doctor – log-in required)

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST SOUGHT

RNNZ seek exec committee member

Rural Nurses New Zealand (RNNZ) is seeking expressions of interest for a new executive committee member.

RNNZ strives to have representation from all sectors of rural nursing, however they currently have a gap for a North Island rural hospital representative and are particularly eager to have a nursing representative from a DHB funded rural hospital.

If you are interested in this opportunity send your expression of interest to Rhonda Johnson, Chairperson, RNNZ, via email: ruralnursesnz@gmail.com or phone 021 485 759.

Links

Rural Nurses NZ/Mobile Health webinar series:

Ben Harris, Med Lab Scientist, infection prevention and control, via [YouTube](#)

Nurse Practitioner, Michelle Boltz shares her experience in developing a hospitalist program in rural Arctic Alaska and the use of telemedicine via [YouTube](#)

Health Workforce New Zealand stakeholder bulletin, click [here](#).

Mobile Health news, click [here](#).

Medline (USA rural health) click [here](#).

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.

Testimonial

"NZLocums have been helpful and supportive from beginning to end. I would not have been confident about starting a locum post in New Zealand without their support."

Tony Pearson, GP, UK.



Online GP consultations threaten to create a two-tier healthcare system

By Patrick Burch, University of Manchester

GP at Hand is a medical practice in London with a difference. Unlike a traditional practice, eligible patients can register online in three minutes and have a video consultation on their smartphone with a GP within two hours. Great for smartphone-owning commuters who struggle to fit a daytime GP appointment around work, but how will it affect those of us who still want to see our usual GP face-to-face?

[Read more.](#)

Northland telehealth link passes first test in emergency dash for sick baby

A new telehealth system has proved its worth in reducing the "tyranny of distance" for people in Northland, after being used for the first time in an emergency mission to treat a sick baby.

The one year old was brought into Broadway Health Centre in Kaikohe late last month suffering from complications of bronchitis. Kaikohe is a 20-minute ambulance ride away from Bay of Islands Hospital in Kawakawa, and more than 60 minutes from the nearest city, Whangarei.

[Read more.](#)

Clark: Lower GP fees 'the heart of the matter', confident practice will cope

Health minister David Clark is confident general practices can manage the rise in demand when his Government's promise to lower patient fees becomes reality on 1 December. People who run general practices are by and large successful and clever businesspeople, Dr Clark tells New Zealand Doctor.

[Read more.](#)

College spurred to action as GPs vote to have 'specialist' added to title

Auckland GP Stephanie Taylor says young registrars and older GPs have welcomed her move formally seeking to have "specialist" added to the title. GP. Interest was high at the 28 July RNZCGP annual general meeting, where her motion to this effect passed comfortably, Dr Taylor says.

[Read more.](#)

EVENTS

Otago Spotlight Series: Infectious Disease Research Forum

Tuesday, September 11, 9am-3:30pm, Wellington

- Disease prevention and control
- Understanding bacteria, viruses and parasites

- Animal, plant and environmental links to human health.

Join in and hear over a dozen University of Otago researchers providing short, easy-to-understand outlines of their work. The programme will cater to a range of interests including human health, agriculture, biosecurity, the environment, pharmaceuticals, researchers, policymakers, clinicians, and research institutions, community and government agencies.

For more about the presenters follow this [LINK](#).

The venue is the University of Otago, Wellington, Nordmeyer Theatre, 23A Mein St, Newtown. Attendance is free (morning and afternoon teas and lunch provided).

Register now by [email](#).



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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.