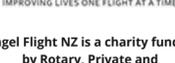




# Welcome to the New Zealand Rural General Practice Network e-zine for 19 October 2018



In this issue: Enhanced air ambulance service for the South - Leaning on Fence Posts - Te Kaha GP's work with trainee doctors recognised and much more...



Angel Flight NZ is a charity funded by Rotary, Private and Corporate donations.



New Zealand Office Supplies is the preferred supplier to the New Zealand Rural General Practice Network. Take advantage of Network practice member benefits with New Zealand Office Supplies.



The Network's health promotion partner.

## HOT OFF THE PRESS

### Enhanced air ambulance service for the South

Health Minister Dr David Clark has announced the third and final agreement in principle has been reached for new air ambulance services that will be safer, better and firmly focused on patients.

The southern region agreement has now been signed with new provider Helicopter Emergency Medical Services New Zealand Limited (HEMS). This follows earlier announcements covering the northern and central regions.

[Read more.](#)

**ALSO see Air Ambulance Southern Region key messages and South Island rescue helicopter bases saved, new dedicated service for Queenstown (Southland Times).**

### Leaning on Fence Posts

Welcome to the new rural research blog - Leaning on Fence Posts - brought to you by the newly established section of rural health at Otago University's Department of General Practice and Rural Health. This blog will showcase important papers - either "hot off the press" or that have been identified as important to rural health.

The latest five posts can be accessed by clicking [HERE](#). For previous posts use the search function or the menu on the left.

The Blog's author is Dr Rory Miller, rural doctor Thames/Whangamata, senior lecturer, deputy director of rural postgraduate programme, University of Otago. Members of the newly established rural section will also contribute to the blog.

## NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH CONFERENCE 2019

The Marlborough Convention Centre and ASB Theatre are the venues for the New Zealand Rural General Practice Network's 2019 conference.

To be held from April 4 - 7 the conference 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.

PICTURED: The ASB Theatre auditorium will host the conference's keynote sessions.



### Peter Snow Memorial Award 2019 - final call for nominations

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](mailto:rob@rgpn.org.nz) or telephone 04 495 5887 or 021 472 556.

## WHAT'S IN THE NEWS

### Te Kaha GP's work with trainee doctors recognised

An Eastern Bay GP who goes above and beyond to train the next generation of doctors has been recognised with a prestigious award. (Scoop)

Te Kaha Medical Centre GP Rachel Thomson has won a Dennis Pickup Clinical Educator Award - at Auckland University's Faculty of Medical & Health Sciences Annual Teaching Awards - for her work supervising and mentoring trainee doctors.

[Read more.](#)

### Giving rural people's health top priority

Kelly Burnett's career aspiration is simple: to continue helping rural people get the best out of their bodies. (ODT)

The Dunedin-based osteopath has a passion for farming and the rural community, and her masters degree research looked at how to help farmers maintain their physical health.

[Read more.](#)

### Midwife notches 200th, and next-generation, home birth

Bonnie Harrington is midwife Terryl McDowell's 200th home birth - and she also delivered the baby's mother, Megan Harrington. (The Ensign, Gore)

Mrs Harrington had planned to have her first child Cooper (17 months) at home, but that did not work out as she had to be induced when she was 10 days overdue.

[Read more.](#)

### Golden Bay's GP shortage a warning of wider rural doctor issues

A doctor shortage in Golden Bay is the "canary in a coal mine" for rural communities facing similar problems, a general practitioner leader says. (Nelson Mail)

Nelson GP spokesperson Graham Loveridge said the state of healthcare in the small rural community of Golden Bay highlighted a worsening issue across the country as general practices struggled to recruit young GPs.

The shortage in small towns was quickly growing as GPs retire, a trend predicted to accelerate over the next decade.

[Read more.](#)

### Rural dwellers less likely to talk to health professionals

A recent survey has found that 70 percent of rural New Zealanders have felt more stress over the last five years. (Scoop)

The *State of the Rural Nation Survey*, conducted by Bayer New Zealand and Country TV, asked participants several questions regarding their views on critical topics impacting rural New Zealand today, including a series of questions around mental health.

[Read more.](#)

### Rural, Maori mental health stats grim

Being young, male, Māori and living in rural Northland can be a prescription for mental illness, according to recent statistics and commentary. (ODT)

Northland general practitioner and medical innovator Dr Lance O'Sullivan has spoken out about what he calls "an epidemic of mental illness", especially in rural areas.

O'Sullivan did not refer to Māori in particular but Northland suicide figures indicate it as a high-risk group.

[Read more.](#)

**ALSO read Waitangi Tribunal investigates sick, racist health system that 'fails Māori'** (Stuff)

### Māori nurses suffer discrimination in sick health system

"My kids think I'm a joke. They say, oh mum why didn't you just drive a grader? I think I'm a joke too." (Stuff)

Beneath Mairi Lucas' humour lies a serious issue.

Lucas is part of a [Waitangi Tribunal claim alleging Māori nurses experience racism](#) and pay disparity in the health system. They also witness the struggle Māori patients deal with trying to access and receive proper care.

[Read more.](#)

### National seeks to return maternity services to Lumsden

All may not be lost for Lumsden maternity services, the National Party says. (ODT)

National's health spokesperson Michael Woodhouse and Clutha-Southland MP Hamish Walker announced National will reinstate full services at the Lumsden Maternity Centre if elected in 2020.

The Southern District Health Board decided to downgrade the centre from a primary birthing unit to a "maternal and child hub" in August, as part of its new maternity strategy, despite public outcry.

[Read more.](#)

**ALSO read Maternity centre exploring 'legal avenues'.**

### Patients' experience of primary health care in NZ revealed

Most patients feel their GP or practice nurse treats them with kindness, understanding and respect, results of a survey by the Health Quality & Safety Commission and Ministry of Health show. (Scoop)

The primary care patient experience survey, now published for the first time down to district health board (DHB) level, looks at people's experiences of primary care.

[Read more.](#)

**OR read Health staff need better communication: survey (ODT)**

## LINKS

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

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

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

Death Documents Project (Ministry of Health), click [here](#).

## Event

### RISC applications now open

Applications are now open for the 2019 Rural Inter-professional Simulation Course (RISC), a University of Otago Rural Postgraduate Programme to be held at the Ashburton Simulation Centre, May 13-15 and October 21-23.

RISC is a course run by the University of Otago Rural Postgraduate Programme designed specifically for inter-professional rural hospital teams in New Zealand. It is an immersive three-day course that focuses on emergency and trauma care using highly realistic skills and simulations.

[Read more.](#)



Spring 2018 Network News

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.



NZ DOCTOR STORIES  
(log-in to NZ Doctor required)

### GPs under starter's orders in five-horse race for RNZCGP presidency

The much-anticipated list of candidates to contest the election for the RNZCGP presidency is finally out, and it contains a couple of surprises.

Kerikeri GP Chris Reid, Napier GP Mark Peterson and Wellington GP Samantha Murton made no secret of the fact they were considering running in the election to replace Tim Malloy, who stepped down in August due to ill health.

[Read more.](#)

### A room with a rural view: Classed as urban, but serving country patients

When the Ministry of Health shifted the goalposts defining a rural general practice, some practices were centimetres out from touch - just shy of the rural ranking score needed to get them across the line.

[Read more.](#)

### Purchase by iwi gives struggling Patea clinic a chance to survive and thrive

South Taranaki iwi Ngāti Ruanui has purchased the health centre in Patea, a move the practice's former owner says gives the community some certainty their health needs will be met in the future.

The iwi's investment arm, Ngāti Ruanui Holdings Corporation, took over the practice on 1 August.

[Read more.](#)

### Deal or no deal? GPs weigh options on primary care funding agreement

Agreement has been reached on a package of \$376.2 million over four years for general practice to provide free visits for under-14s and expand use of the Community Services Card.

The Government will also inject an estimated \$21 million a year into supporting about 300 Very Low Cost Access practices.

[Read more.](#)

### "Radical" revamp of Northland's primary healthcare model on the way

Primary healthcare in Northland is set for a major shake-up with the launch of a "primary health entity" to provide a new model for the region. Whangarei GP Andrew Miller says the new approach, which has been two years in the making, will be a "radically different" way of providing healthcare, and could replace the existing two Northland PHOs.

[Read more.](#)

### 2018 New Zealand Melanoma Summit

2-3 November, Auckland.



Join GPs, nurses, pathologists, dermatologists, surgeons, oncologists, researchers who are passionate about reducing the incidence and impact of melanoma in New Zealand at this two-day multi-disciplinary meeting.

The programme features experts recognised internationally for their contribution to melanoma control, as well as workshops on prevention, diagnosis, clinical management and research.

The programme also includes a primary care-related workshop involving Associate Professor Cliff Rosendahl on the use of dermatoscopy in skin cancer diagnosis, including the basics of the "chaos and clues" approach to dermatoscopy.

The 2018 New Zealand Melanoma Summit has been endorsed by The Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners (RNZCGP) and has been approved for up to 11.5 CME credits for the General Practice Educational Programme (GPEP) and Continuing Professional Development (CPD) purposes.

For further information and to register [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.