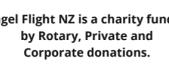




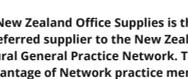
# Welcome to the New Zealand Rural General Practice Network e-zine for 5 October 2018



In this issue: New Network student sub-committee representatives named - Call for abstracts closed - Peter Snow Memorial Award 2019 - nominations sought and much more...



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## NEWS FROM THE NETWORK

### New Network student sub-committee representatives named

Two medical students have been elected as Chairperson and Deputy Chair of the Network's student sub-committee. They are Jibi Kunnetheadam (Chairperson) and Ben Alsop-ten Hove (Deputy Chairperson).

Jibi is a fifth-year medical student in the inaugural Taranaki Regional Rural Programme at the University of Auckland, he is the President of the New Zealand Medical Students' Association and he serves on the New Zealand Medical Association Board, Doctors in Training Council and two advisory taskforces for the Ministry of Health. He will be stepping down from these roles at the end of this year but wishes to continue his service to the student body of New Zealand by combining his passion for rural health and student advocacy as the Chairperson and National Student Representative on the NZRGPN Committee. Growing up in Oamaru, North Otago, Jibi has strong rural roots and a passion for serving the smaller communities of New Zealand. This, combined with his experience as a student leader, has led to the development of a unique skill-set which can be used effectively as a voice for the rural health sector. He is familiar with navigating political landscapes, working successfully in a diverse team and he is genuinely interested in representing and continuing being a leading voice for like-minded students.

Ben is a fourth-year medical student at the University of Auckland and comes from the small South Island town of Leeston, an hour outside of Christchurch. His initial interest in rural health grew from a love of the rural lifestyle. Ben has held various student leader roles and he is the current President of the Grassroots Rural Health Club, the largest of its kind in the country. He has been involved in a wide range of activities for the club, such as trips to rural schools to promote rural health as a career and he also presented at this year's National Rural Health Conference in Auckland. Ben serves as the Auckland University Medical Students' Association Class Representative and the New Zealand Medical Students' Association Conference Coordinator, and next year he will also be serving as the NZMSA Vice President External.

Outgoing student representative Kaz Noiri said he has thoroughly enjoyed his time and the role, conducting research, supporting/advocating/promoting rural health to students, and helping to organise the National Rural Health Conference. "It had been an incredible experience," said Kaz, who is now working as a nurse in ICU at Dunedin Hospital.

### NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH CONFERENCE 2019 UPDATE

#### Call for abstracts closed

A total of 55 abstracts have been received by the conference organising committee and will be considered for inclusion in the 2019 programme over the next two weeks.

The programme and registration is expected to go live by the end of October. Thanks to all those who took the time to submit a presentation abstract for the academic programme.

All submitters will be notified of inclusion or otherwise in the coming weeks. The call for abstracts closed on September 21.

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.

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



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

### WHAT'S IN THE NEWS

#### Expanding NP training programme now on hold

Plans to expand the successful Nurse Practitioner Training Programme to more would-be NPs is on hold until 2020. (Nursing Review)

Health Workforce New Zealand had said it would put NPTP out to competitive tender in late August for 2019 after a [successful evaluation project](#) of the pilot and [feedback](#) that the programme should be expanded. But it had now decided to roll-over the current funding contract for 20 NPTP places for 2019.

[Read more.](#)

#### Women: 'We're the glue for rural communities'

Country women are still facing a high level of isolation, the president of Rural Women New Zealand (RWNZ) says. (RNZ)

Fiona Gower is a fifth generation New Zealand farmer, her family migrated to New Zealand in 1840. She has worked on farms and in wool sheds around the country. And as the president of RWNZ she comes from a long line of community advocates.

[Read more.](#)

#### Air ambulance changes will strengthen service

Health Minister Dr David Clark says a second agreement in principle for air ambulance services covering the North Island south of Auckland is a key part of an improved national service.

The Ministry of Health and ACC are in the final stages of agreeing a four-year contract with an agency combining a number of trusts already operating in the central region. Today's (October 5) agreement in principle follows the [recent announcement covering Auckland and Northland](#).

Also read [Air Ambulance Northern region announcement](#).  
Also read [Air Ambulance Central announcement](#).  
Or visit the [Network's website](#).

#### Northern DHBs collaborate on health IT

HealthAlliance has gone to tender for a regional collaborative community care solution as part of the new strategic direction of the Northern region DHBs. (Scoop)

The tender is on behalf of the four Northern DHBs - Auckland, Northland, Waitemata and Counties Manukau - but the chosen system could also be used by community care organisations and general practices.

[Read more.](#)

#### Four-week wait to see GP sends frustrated Golden Bay patients over the hill

A doctor shortage means Golden Bay residents face a month-long wait to see a GP, forcing many to drive an hour over the Takaka Hill to see a doctor. (Stuff)

But many say the biggest concern is the lack of continuity of medical care as its almost impossible to see the same doctor twice.

An 80-year-old resident, Dave Heraud, was unwell with a chest infection and tried to book an appointment at Golden Bay Community Health's (GBCH) medical centre in Takaka for antibiotics.

[Read more.](#)

#### The \$10m primary healthcare kitty and where it goes

The primary healthcare sector in Marlborough got \$10 million in funding last year. So where did it go? (Stuff)

It might sound like a lot of money, but about three quarters of that was used to keep the cost of doctor visits down, health bosses say.

[Read more.](#)

#### Dying South Island town's last stand

A South Island town is fighting to stay alive - and its residents are begging to keep the playground and pool. (Stuff)

Pareora, just south of Timaru, has a population of just under 500, and has had a torrid time of late.

Its primary school is set to close in December, due to dwindling numbers. The New Zealand Transport Agency refused to lower the speed limit from 100kmh for the dangerous and crash-prone part of State Highway 1 that leads to the town, despite a 4000-signature petition requesting the change.

[Read more.](#)

#### Supporting people with housing needs

The new Ministry of Housing and Urban Development will be working to increase public and private housing supply, make housing affordable for people to rent and buy, address homelessness, and make existing homes warmer and healthier. You can find out more on the Ministry's new website [www.hud.govt.nz](http://www.hud.govt.nz)

If you know someone who is homeless or needs access to public housing, please encourage them to get in touch with the Ministry of Social Development on 0800 559 009, or visit their nearest Service Centre. There's also information on the [Work and Income website](#).

#### Poll: 68% want binding referendum on medical aid in dying

New Zealanders want a binding referendum on proposed End of Life Choice law. (Scoop)

A [HorizonPoll](#) finds 68% say yes to having a binding referendum, 33% say no.

The result overwhelmingly supports a New Zealand First proposal to hold a referendum, which will determine if its MPs support the End of Life Choice Bill. The referendum would be held if the bill passes in Parliament but before it is given Royal assent to become law.

[Read more.](#)

### MBOVIS INFORMATION FOR RURAL GENERAL PRACTICE & MPI

As MPI and industry partners work on the eradication of Mycoplasma bovis, they know that many rural communities are affected by stress, uncertainty, fear and grief. While they have human welfare as part of their response team, with Rural Support Trusts contracted in key areas, they are grateful for support across providers in rural communities who can extend beyond directly affected farmers.

Below are links to two key documents that you, your staff and patients might find useful.

The first is general information about biosecurity to help keep properties free of Mycoplasma bovis (and other diseases): <https://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/dmsdocument/19148/loggedin>

The second is on types of assistance available for affected farms. (Only those under legal movement restrictions are eligible for compensation; those under surveillance without restrictions are not and may need other support). Rural Support Trusts feature strongly in this aspect. They may also be a conduit to other support and this includes putting farmers or families in contact with rural health professionals: <https://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/dmsdocument/22171/loggedin>

General information is on [mpi.govt.nz/bovis](http://mpi.govt.nz/bovis). If you are interested in keeping up to date on the eradication, there is a weekly stakeholder update that anyone interested is encouraged to sign up for: [Join the mailing list](#).

### LINKS

Health Workforce New Zealand stakeholder bulletin, click [here](#).  
Mobile Health news, click [here](#).  
Medline (USA rural health) click [here](#).

### THAT'S INTERESTING

#### Pak'nSave Hastings staff getting health boost

Pak'nSave workers in Hastings will be among the first in the region able to bypass GP waiting lists and consultation fees - all without leaving the supermarket.

About 200 staff at Pak'nSave Hastings will next month be eligible to consult a doctor through the Doctor2Go tele medicine programme.

[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.



Need a GP?  
NZLocums  
Follow this link!

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

#### NZMA suggests relaxing of Med Council's hard line on doctor-patient boundaries

The NZMA wants the Medical Council to relax some of the rules in its draft statements on sexual and professional boundaries between doctors and patients.

There may be circumstances where a sexual relationship between a doctor and a patient "might not be entirely inappropriate", the NZMA says in a submission on the council's review.

[Read more.](#)

#### Hard graft and aroha of practice nurse and NP rewarded by nurses' union

Aroha Ruha-Hiraka loves to put people at ease when they visit Kawerau Medical Centre by speaking to them in te reo Māori.

The Bay of Plenty practice nurse was joint winner of the NZNO's Young Nurse of the Year Award, presented in Wellington recently.

[Read more.](#)

#### Hawke's Bay community seeks better health with new clinic

Waipukurau's Tuki Tuki Medical in central Hawke's Bay has established a satellite clinic in the isolated coastal community of Pōrangahau to improve healthcare for locals.

[Read more.](#)

#### Primary care duo's virtual consults trial wins \$9000 in Southern Innovation Challenge

A collaborative initiative between a Dunedin pharmacy chain and a Northland GP has been recognised with a prize in the Southern Innovation Challenge.

As reported in Pharmacy Today, Antidote co-owner Chin Loh and GP Lance O'Sullivan are planning to trial offering virtual GP consults from the seven Antidote pharmacies using Dr O'Sullivan's MAiHEALTH software.

[Read more.](#)

#### Goodbye SmartHealth, hello Jabber Guest for Waikato patients

Waikato DHB is trialling a new virtual health platform to enhance delivery of outpatient appointments.

In April, the DHB ditched its online doctor service, SmartHealth, after a two-year trial which, at a cost of \$25.7 million, blew its budget by \$8.91 million amid a reported lack of financial oversight.

Auditors Ernst & Young also found the telehealth platform, developed by US tech firm HealthTap, did not suit New Zealand's public health system.

[Read more.](#)

#### Natural-born advocate

With an East Coast farm and Repa her childhood foundations, Melanie Wi Repa has learned how to fit in wherever she travels. Still roving - as a locum GP Dr she tells [Virginia McMillan](#) about her life and priorities as the leading voice for Māori at the RNZCGP.

[Read more.](#)

### EVENTS

#### 2018 New Zealand Melanoma Summit

2-3 November, Auckland.

Join GPs, nurses, pathologists, dermatologists, surgeons, oncologists, researchers and health promoters 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 dermatology in skin cancer diagnosis, including the basics of the 'chaos and clues' approach to dermatology.

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](#).

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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](mailto:rob@rgpn.org.nz) or 021 472 556.