



National Rural Health Conference 2019, April 4-7, Blenheim. Register [HERE](#).



In this issue: Early Bird Conference 2019 registration ends next week - CME allocation - NZRGN Rural General Practice Team of the Year Award 2019 and much more...



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Early Bird Conference 2019 registration ends next week

Be an Early Bird and catch a great registration rate to this year's National Rural Health Conference at the Marlborough Convention Centre and ASB Theatre, Blenheim from April 4-7.

The Early Bird offer ends on Thursday, February 14.

The conference will feature workshops, research presentations, concurrent sessions and eight keynote speakers across three days concluding with a Members' political and breakfast forum. A Gala Dinner and Awards Night, Welcome Function and several other dinners will again be features of the conference. To view the programme and register follow this [LINK](#).

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

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

CME allocation

The "NZRGN National Rural Health Conference 2019, Blenheim" activities have been endorsed by The Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners (RNZCGP) and have been approved for up to 19.25 CME credits for the General Practice Educational Programme (GPEP) and Continuing Professional Development (CPD) purposes.

General Practitioners who complete the programme will need certificates that record this statement. These will be issued after participants have completed the programme, so medical practitioners participating in GPEP or CPD have the necessary documentation for submission to the college when this is requested.

NZRGN Rural General Practice Team of the Year Award 2019

The search is on again for New Zealand's best Rural General Practice Team of the Year as judged by the community.

The award, now in its fifth year, will be announced at the New Zealand Rural General Practice Network's National Rural Health Conference in Blenheim, April 4-7, 2019.

The inaugural award was won by Raglan's West Coast Health Clinic in 2015, followed by Martinborough Medical Centre in 2016, Ngunguru Medical Centre in 2017 and Aotea Health (Great Barrier Island) in 2018.

"This is a great award that gives rural people the opportunity to tell their stories about how their rural general practice team goes 'above and beyond' the call of duty in providing health services in their communities," says Network Chief Executive Dalton Kelly.

"We want to encourage as many people as possible to tell their stories and nominate their favourite rural practice for the award.

"We are delighted once again to be offering this award recognising exemplary rural general practice teams in the rural setting."

Entries are open until 4pm on Friday, March 1, 2019. The winning practice and winning nominator will be announced as part of the formal awards ceremony at the Network's annual conference in Blenheim on Saturday evening, April 6. The winning practice and the winning nominator will each receive a prize.

Postcards will this month be mailed to Network member practices. Patients can complete their postcard and mail direct to: 'Rural General Practice of the Year Award', PO Box 547, Wellington, 6140 or hand it to the practice receptionist who can then forward the entries in bulk.

For more information please contact Rob Olsen, NZRGN Communications Manager, 021 472 556 or Marie Daly, 027 203 1080.

Conference to host Pat Farry Trust fundraiser film premier

The Pat Farry Rural Health Education Trust is delighted to announce that it will host a film fundraiser as part of the National Rural Health Conference in Blenheim this year. A private screening of "She Shears" will take place at 7pm on the evening of April 5, 2019 at the ASB Theatre, immediately following the conference Welcome Function (between 5.15pm and 6.30pm).

Click [here](#) to book your ticket. You can also enjoy a 'gourmet dinner box' (optional), \$35 per person.

At the conclusion of "She Shears" there will be a Q+A session with the film's director Jack Nicol, hosted by Dr Martin London.



The Network in the media - PRIME

Survival mode: Why some rural emergency services are under threat

Rural GPs and nurses are thin on the ground and the pressure on those trying to provide life saving emergency help is even more evident over the summer. *RNZ's Otago/Southland reporter, Tess Brunton* explores if they can continue as demand rises.

Listen to the audio here.

Tourist demands mean rural practices left without GP for hours

The pressure of having to look after an influx of tourists is leaving some rural doctor's practices without a GP for hours on end. (RNZ)

In an emergency, doctors have to abandon the patients at their practices to go out to help.

[Read more](#)
And read TVNZ on PRIME and the pressures of tourism: [TVNZ on PRIME](#).

Surge in tourists leaves rural practices without GPs

The pressure of having to look after an influx of tourists is leaving some rural doctor's practices without a GP for hours on end. (ODT)

In an emergency, doctors have to abandon the patients at their practices to go out to help.

[Read more](#)

News

Northland nurse leaves to take up Government role with Ministry of Health

Former Northland District Health Board nursing and midwifery director Margaret Brock will be leaving her role as the Ministry of Health's chief nursing officer.

[Read more.](#)

MoH committed to developing plan addressing health workforce well-being

This commitment to developing a plan is the key result of a medical workforce workshop convened by the Director-General of Health late in 2018 with representatives from DHBs, DHB National CMOs, Medical Council of NZ, NZ Medical Association, Royal NZ College of GPs, Specialist Trainees of NZ and the Ministry of Health. The discussions were intended to directly inform the work of the Ministry as it assumes a more prominent national leadership role in health workforce strategy, planning, commissioning and monitoring.

[Read more.](#)

Ministry of Health is exploring the feasibility of a sugar tax but Govt says it won't implement one this term

The Ministry of Health is looking into a sugar tax but the Government continues to rule one out for the time being. (NZ Herald)

Health Minister David Clark said the ministry chose to prepare a document, which explored the feasibility of a sugar tax, to provide him with a range of potential interventions to help tackle obesity.

[Read more.](#)

Resources

ACC roadshows aim to connect with General Practice

Together with their partners - NZMA, RNZCGP and GPNZ - ACC think there could be a better way to do business with General Practice.

ACC is running a series of roadshows across 13 centres, starting 11 February 2019, to provide an opportunity for front line General Practice teams and owners to participate in a discussion around how ACC can build a partnership to increase client access to care, ensure quality and consistency of care, and improve client outcomes.

These 90-minute sessions are open to any interested primary care sector stakeholders (including GPs, nurses, practice managers, business owners and PHOs) and provide an opportunity to give your thoughts on how ACC could do things differently. If you would like to attend and have your say, please RSVP to GPConnect@acc.co.nz.

To see the roadshow dates and times follow this [LINK](#).

New skin cancer infographic for New Zealand working men aged 50-64 years

New Zealanders 50+ years are most at risk of developing skin cancer, and men are twice as likely to die from melanoma as women.

In 2018, the Health Promotion Agency (HPA) contracted Research First to provide insights into behaviours and attitudes towards overall health in working men aged 50 to 64 years of age, including early detection of skin cancer. The findings suggested that men aged 50 to 64 years found an infographic to be an effective way to promote the importance of early detection.

HPA has subsequently developed a New Zealand specific skin cancer infographic with technical support from Dr Mary-Jane Sneyd (Mary-Jane is a Medical Epidemiologist and senior research fellow in the Hugh Adam Cancer Epidemiology Unit, University of Otago.) as well as a one page summary of Research First's findings.

Both are available [HERE](#).

The infographic will be useful for health professionals to talk to their patients about:

- the current burden of skin cancer in New Zealand, including melanoma
- the importance of using all five prevention steps and the three free recommended ways to check daily UV levels in New Zealand
- the ABCDE guide for melanoma
- how to self-check
- the importance of obtaining a full body skin check by a GP or specialist if patients are concerned about a spot, mole or freckle.

The need to check mole or freckle prevention with a GP or specialist is consistent with [NZ Skin Cancer Primary Prevention and Early Detection Strategy 2017 to 2022](#) and the Ministry of Health [Standards of Service Provision for Melanoma Patients in New Zealand D Provisional 2013](#).

Call for papers - Otago Polytechnic

Scope: Contemporary research topics (health and well-being) 4 Rural This issue will provide the opportunity for authors from different disciplines to consider, discuss and debate how the 'rural' is understood in relation to health and well-being.

Papers presented will showcase work drawn from the areas of nursing, medicine, occupational health, sociology, sport, counselling, geography, education, and narrative with a focus on research and community projects which attempt to (re)build and (re)foster the dialogue and engagement of health, well-being in the 'rural'.

[Read more.](#)

University of Otago - PUBH 740

Special topic: One Health (distance taught)
15 points, Term 1 (25 February to 12 April 2019)
Prerequisites: Completed undergraduate degree in any discipline.

[Read more.](#)

Proposal to change the funded brand of oral flecainide acetate

The funded brand of flecainide acetate tab 50 mg would change from Tambacor (supplied by Radiant Health) to Flecainide BNM (supplied by Boucher) following a transition period starting on 1 September 2019.

The funded brand of flecainide acetate cap long-acting 100 mg and 200 mg would change from Tambacor CR (supplied by Radiant Health) to Flecainide Controlled Release Teva (supplied by Teva) following a transition period starting on 1 July 2019.

From the end of the transition periods, Flecainide BNM and Flecainide Controlled Release Teva would be the only funded brands in both the community and hospital settings.

[Read more.](#)

PHARMAC welcomes feedback on this proposal.

To provide feedback please email procurement@pharmac.govt.nz by 4pm on Monday, 18 February, 2019.

THAT'S INTERESTING

Author Roald Dahl saw benefits of vaccines, sharing heartbreak of young daughter's death from measles virus

Anti-vaxxers have been officially named by the World Health Organisation (WHO) as a threat to global health - which is something Roald Dahl would most likely be to happy about. (NZ Herald)

The anti-vaxxer movement is said to be to blame for the numerous outbreaks of measles and other diseases that had previously been fought by herd immunisation and vaccines.

[Read more.](#)

Not a member? Join the Network!

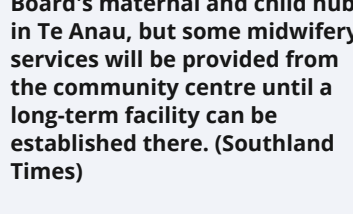
The Network is the only nationwide membership-based organisation in New Zealand representing the interests of rural general practice.

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!

Medical centre mooted as Te Anau's maternal and child hub

The Fiordland Medical Centre is tipped to be the site of the Southland District Health Board's maternal and child hub in Te Anau, but some midwifery services will be provided from the community centre until a long-term facility can be established there. (Southland Times)

The SDHB has been tight-lipped about the location of the site, but on Monday executive director, strategy, primary and community Lisa Gestro said the DHB was on track with arrangements for maternal and hub services to be in place in Te Anau on March 1.

[Read more.](#)

NZ Doctor stories (log-in required)

Taranaki GP swaps rural funding for personal freedom

Hawera GP Keith Blayney is done with 'earning below the minimum wage' and 'providing charity', so he's cutting financial ties to Taranaki DHB, switching up his business model and charging what he is worth.

Tired of the stress of having the DHB breathing down his neck, Dr Blayney, who has always eschewed PHO membership, decided to forego around \$65,000 a year in rural retention funding from the DHB, in order to be free of 'inappropriate audits'.

[Read more.](#)

Summer life-saving all in a day's work for Te Kaha medical centre

A Bay of Plenty mum is forever grateful to the staff of a small general practice in the isolated settlement of Te Kaha after her daughter suffered a life-threatening anaphylactic reaction on holiday.

Rosie Entwistle's six-year-old daughter Maggie was stung by a bee a couple of days after Christmas. She quickly began to suffer breathing difficulties and turned 'very blue', says Ms Entwistle.

[Read more.](#)

Doctor who served small town community for 40 years is remembered

Tributes have been paid to a doctor who served his Taranaki community for more than 40 years, following his sudden death at the age of 68.

Dr Michael (Mike) John Whitwell will be remembered for his dedication to his many patients and the enduring love he had for his family.

[Read more.](#)

'Energizer' Malloy puts dark days behind him to keep going and going

A quad bike sitting on his chest for five hours and a coronary attack couldn't keep former RNZCGP president Tim Malloy down. But last year's near-fatal aortic dissection led to his resignation and a long period of recovery. Cliff Taylor finds this year's To Infinity and Beyond award winner still buzzing and back in general practice. Photographs by Chris Reid.

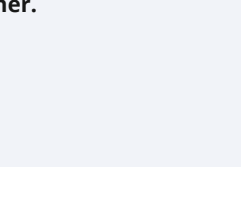
[Read more.](#)

Recognition from the 'off island' crowd for Hauraki Gulf practice

The directors of Great Barrier Island's Aotea Health can stick another award on the mantelpiece this year, this time bestowed by the Rotary, Club members.

Retired GP Ivan Howie, and rural nurse specialists Leonie Howie and Adele Robertson received one of New Zealand Rotary's highest awards on New Year's Day in recognition of their 30-plus years of service to their rural island community.

[Read more.](#)



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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.