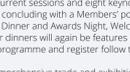




National Rural Health Conference 2019, April 4-7, Blenheim. Register [HERE](#).



**In this issue:** Have you registered for conference 2019? • RNZCGPs CME accreditation • College of Nurses Aotearoa (NZ) Inc endorsement and much more...



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The Network's health promotion partner.

## Have you registered for conference 2019?

Don't miss out on the opportunity to attend the New Zealand Rural General Practice Network's National Rural Health Conference in Blenheim from April 4-7. Come along and enjoy the CME, collegiality and Marlborough hospitality.

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 [LNK](#).

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

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

### RNZCGPs CME accreditation



The 'NZRGNP 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 (GPSE) 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.

### College of Nurses Aotearoa (NZ) Inc endorsement

The College of Nurses Aotearoa (NZ) Inc is delighted to endorse the National Rural Health Conference being held 4 April – 7 April 2019.

Nurses attending the conference can be allocated the appropriate Professional Development Hours for the actual hours they have attended over the duration of the conference.



### NZRGNP 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 at 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 have been 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.

Or patients can fill in the online form via this [LNK](#).

For more information please contact Rob Olsen, NZRGNP 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 will also enjoy a "gourmet dinner box" (optional), \$35 per person.

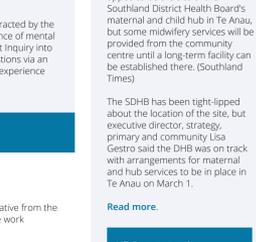
At the conclusion of **'She Shears'** there will be a Q+A session with the film's director Jack Nicol, hosted by Dr Martin London.

### Five go forth into rural NZ

Five doctors from countries including the USA, the UK, Malaysia, and the Netherlands attended NZLocums Orientation for overseas trained GPs held in Wellington from 28 – 30 January.

The three-day Orientation course introduced them to New Zealand's health system and numerous important aspects of living and working in New Zealand including cultural induction and practical MedTech training.

Pictured from left to right: Ayumi Sakakibara (Programme Coordinator at NZLocums), Dr Joost Moerman based in Welford, Dr Hanafiah Hamidon in Putaruru, Dr Stuart Mackie in Tauranga, Dr Alexander Corbett in Kaitiaki, and Dr Daniel Smithson in Buller.



NZLocums Orientation course is tailor-made for internationally trained GPs and Practice Nurses, which prepares them for their new posts in New Zealand.

Contact Ayumi today for more information, email: [ayumi@nzlocums.com](mailto:ayumi@nzlocums.com) or visit [www.nzlocums.com](http://www.nzlocums.com)

## News

### Medical Centre being sued by developer

Wanaka Medical Centre Ltd is being taken to court by Northlake Investments Ltd. (ODT)

Northlake Investments is the developer of the 1500-house subdivision on the northern outskirts of Wanaka, which features in its advertising plans for a "healthcare centre including medical practice, pharmacy, physio and dentist".

[Read more.](#)

### Dr Curtis Walker elected Medical Council chairperson

Dr Walker succeeds Mr Andrew Connolly who has been the Council's chair since February 2014.

Announcing the appointment, the Council's chief executive, Joan Simeon said Dr Walker would bring "a tremendous depth of knowledge and experience" to the role, which would be invaluable to the Council in its role of protecting public health and safety.

[Read more.](#)

### National campaign encourages conversations about what matters at end of life

A new campaign Kia korero - Let's talk encourages people to plan for their future health care, with a focus on what matters to them. It features the personal stories of six New Zealanders at different stages of life and wellness. The campaign was launched on February 19 by Minister of Health Dr David Clark.

[Read more.](#)

### Mental Health and Addiction Inquiry Report

Feedback on the Mental Health and Addiction Inquiry Report and priorities for the transformation from people with lived experience and whanau.

Balance Aotearoa and the Wellbeing Coalition Aotearoa were contacted by the Ministry of Health to gather feedback from people with lived experience of mental distress and addiction and whanau on the Report of the Government Inquiry into Mental Health and Addiction. Around 100 people responded to questions via an online feedback and voting platform and a group of 26 leaders lived experience and whanau leaders recently met to discuss the report.

## Expressions of Interest

### GP representative role – National Stroke Network

The National Stroke Network (NSN) is seeking to appoint a representative from the General Practice primary care sector to assist with the current stroke work program.

The Network has some coordination funding provided under a contract between the Stroke Foundation and the Ministry of Health but most members are clinicians and management representatives from within DHBs who are funded by their DHB. A Terms of Reference for the Stroke Network is available [HERE](#) for your information.

Stroke is the third largest cause of death and the most significant cause of adult disability in New Zealand. Since the Network has been in place substantial progress has been made by DHBs to implement clinical guidelines for stroke and improve access to quality stroke services. There is still much work to be done though. In 2019 the NSN is shifting its focus to include more emphasis on stroke rehabilitation and improving access to timely services for at-risk communities. It is also seeking to collaborate with primary care and other relevant communities in both the primary prevention aspect of stroke such as risk factor modification (including atrial fibrillation) and also at the community reintegration level following stroke.

The National Stroke Network meets for full day face-to-face meetings two to three times a year in either Wellington or Auckland and also by brief teleconference at least twice a year. The next full day meeting will be held in Wellington on Tuesday March 19.

You can contact either Alan Davis: [alan.davis@northlanddhb.org.nz](mailto:alan.davis@northlanddhb.org.nz) or Kate Lila NSN Administrator: [kate.lila@stroke.org.nz](mailto:kate.lila@stroke.org.nz)

Expressions of interest for this position are requested to Kate by Friday, March 1 2019.

## Resources

### 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)offer 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.](#)

## THAT'S INTERESTING

### 'Wireless' UFB option could provide gigabit speeds without the cabling

Chorus is testing a wireless ultrafast broadband technology that could mean phone customers are able to get gigabit broadband without needing an unsightly phone cable dangling across their property. (Stuff)

The company is considering using technology from Nokia to provide a wireless UFB connection from the street to the home in areas where it is hard to connect homes using cables, for example in apartment buildings or where access is a problem.

[Read more.](#)

### Study finds cheese is good for your health

Who doesn't love cheese? (NZ Herald)

Halloumi, goats cheese double brie, gruyere, camembert just a small handful of the hundreds of delicious varieties that tickle our taste buds with their rich flavours, scents and melt in the mouth deliciousness.

For many of us though, cheese remains on the special occasion list, to be enjoyed sparingly thanks to its relatively high fat and calorie content.

Now research published in The Lancet has somewhat refuted the belief that cheese should be consumed occasionally.

[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.

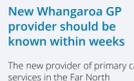
### Testimonial

*"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? Follow this link!



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

The Forland 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 DHB has been tight-lipped about the location of the site, but 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)

#### New Whangaroa GP provider should be known within weeks

The new provider of primary care services in the Far North community of Whangaroa should be known by the end of next month.

And it will be one of the existing general practices from Te Tai Tokerau PHO, according to Northland DHB.

Meanwhile, the DHB has put out a video to reassure the community about its health services after a decision to remove responsibility for providing GP cover from the local Whangaroa Health Services Trust. The video says GP visits will remain free, subsidised by the DHB.

[Read more.](#)

### Health sector in mourning after sudden death of great innovator

The health sector has been stunned and saddened by the sudden death of Stewart Jessamine, a much-loved and respected former Ministry of Health official.

Dr Jessamine died last night (February 7), and at this stage, no further information is available about his passing.

[Read more.](#)

### Top health executive leaves Ministry investigation continues into procurement

A senior Ministry of Health executive embroiled in an investigation into procurement practices has left after his role was disestablished in a restructuring.

Michael Hundleby, a powerful figure in the ministry close to controversial former director-general Chai Chui, oversaw significant hospital redevelopment projects in his role as critical projects director.

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