

Welcome to the New Zealand Rural General Practice Network e-zine for 10 May 2019



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The Network's health promotion partner.

Conference 2020 Auckland – NZRGPN gets behind WONCA Asia Pacific



In 2020 the Network will join the Royal New Zealand College of GPs to host the WONCA Asia Pacific Regional Conference in Auckland. The dates are April 23-26 and the venue is the Aotea Centre.

The decision to join the College in 2020 means the Network's and the College's annual conferences will be held under the WONCA (World Organisation of Family Doctors) banner and under the same roof next year. The conference will have a rural stream as part of the programme, says Network Chief Executive Dalton Kelly.

"Rural health professionals: doctors, nurses, midwives, pharmacists and other allied health professionals are invited to register for and attend the WONCA Conference in Auckland.

"There will be a huge range of topics and speakers to choose from. Delegates are expected to come from all parts of New Zealand, Australia and the Asia Pacific Region, so this prestigious event will feature a diverse range of people, professions and learning.

The Network will hold its Committee meeting and Annual General Meeting at the 2020 conference.

Mr Kelly said the Network's regular National Rural Health Conference will resume in 2021 with a planned return to Christchurch as host city.

Family medicine theme

The theme of the 2020 conference will be 'Family Medicine leading the way towards an advanced world of equity, quality and compassion'. The essence of this theme is captured in the Māori whakatauki (proverb): Ko te pae tawhiti whāia kia tata, ko te pae tata whakamaua kia tina, which translates to "Seek distant horizons in pursuit of excellence".

Key themes of the scientific programme are:

Patient-centred care
Rural Health
Equity
Mental health
E-health: health technology
Multi-disciplinary primary health teams.

Abstracts submissions are now open. To visit the official Asia Pacific WONCA website visit this [LINK](#).

World Family Doctor Day - May 19 - a day to celebrate

World Family Doctor Day – May 19 - was first declared by the World Organization of Family Doctors (WONCA) in 2010 and it has become a day to highlight the role and contribution of family doctors in health care systems around the world. The event has gained momentum globally each year and it is a wonderful opportunity to acknowledge the central role of the specialty in the delivery of personal, comprehensive and continuing health care for patients. It's also a chance to celebrate the progress being made in family medicine and the special contributions of family doctors all around the world.



Last year WONCA colleagues across the globe celebrated the day by organising a variety of events and activities, and WONCA received reports and photographs from many countries, which featured in WONCA News. This year WONCA has produced a template for countries and college and societies and associations, to aid reporting, [available here](#).

Meanwhile, this week is National Nurses Week and it culminates with the celebration of [Florence Nightingale's birthday](#) on May 12, [International Nurses Day](#). Also visit the Rural Nurses NZ [website](#).

New Zealand needs a rural health commissioner to oversee health training hubs: NZ Rural GP Network

Health training hubs in far-flung towns could stop rural communities struggling to get local healthcare, a rural doctors' organisation says. (Waikato Times)

But it would take many groups working together to make that reality, so the NZ Rural General Practice Network wants a Kiwi rural health commissioner.

[Read more.](#)

GP impressed with new triage system

The Gore Medical Centre is reorganising the way patients who need to see a doctor urgently can receive help. (The Ensign)

The new system is called GP Triage, which is a process that allows a doctor to sort people according to the urgency of their need.

[Read more.](#)

In the News

Measles arrives in Northland amid low immunisation rate, pair treated at Kawakawa

An 11-year-old visitor to Northland has been diagnosed with measles while a toddler who is a foreign tourist is suspected of carrying the disease. (NZ Herald)

The 14-month-old is from Australia and both were treated at the Bay of Islands Hospital in Kawakawa recently but neither were admitted.

[Read more.](#)

Let's celebrate our health volunteers

Health Minister David Clark is asking New Zealanders to think of how they've benefited from or seen the work of those who freely share their time, energy, and compassion to help improve the health and wellbeing of others. (Beehive)

Nominations open for the 2019 Minister of Health Volunteer Awards. They close at 5pm on Wednesday, May 29, 2019.

[Read more.](#)

Pharmac to be clearer about declining medicines as part of overhaul

Pharmac is set to become more transparent about its funding decisions by taking the step of formally rejecting medications it decides aren't worth it, rather than leaving them open in the application process. (Stuff)

The change will not mean medicines are permanently ruled out of contention for funding, but it is designed to give patients and drug companies clarity. If new data can be found that supports a medicine's efficacy, then funding applications can be resubmitted.

[Read more.](#)

Gaps in rural health services exposed

OPINION: The Government's recent \$1 million grant for the Maniototo Hospital rebuild has only served to expose the yawning gap in rural health services across other parts of Otago and Southland.

That doesn't take anything away from the tenacity and relentless fundraising by Maniototo Health Services and the local community in getting this project over the line, but it does challenge the Government's health funding criteria.

[Read more.](#)

Free access to digital health sites trialled

New Zealanders will be able to visit some digital health websites for free as part of a three-month trial run by the Ministry of Health, Health Promotion Agency and WellSouth. (Scoop)

Three telecommunications companies – Spark, Vodafone and 2degrees – are involved in the proof of concept to provide zero-rated data for three websites run by the Health Promotion Agency and two patient portals used in the southern region, starting on May 1, 2019.

[Read more.](#)

Primary Health Alliance appoints new Chief Executive Officer

The Primary Health Alliance (the Alliance), whose purpose includes promoting primary and community health through integrated multi-agency and multi-professional partnerships, has announced the appointment of Sharron Harris as its new Chief Executive Officer. (Scoop)

[Read more.](#)

Dargaville Hospital just got more comfortable

A Gold Star wish list first drawn up in 2007 by staff at Dargaville Hospital is slowly being ticked off thanks to donations from the community and substantial fundraising efforts from local service clubs. (Scoop)

[Read more.](#)

Addressing the impact of eczema, nurse-led clinic reduces hospitalisations

Seeing children struggling with chronic eczema led Pam Manley to start the South Island's first nurse-led clinic dedicated to the condition. (Marlborough Express)

In her work as a public health nurse, Manley met a 5-year-old boy referred to her for behavioural issues. She visited him at school and found a miserable, aggressive child with "head to toe" eczema.

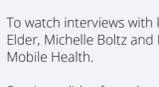
[Read more.](#)

Emergency medical staff to get te reo, tikanga training

The country's leading body for emergency medicine will give all senior staff and trainees education in te reo Māori and the Treaty of Waitangi. (RNZ)

[Read more.](#)

Conference 2019 – presentations, interviews and function photos now online



To watch interviews with keynote speakers Professor Paul Worley, Hinemoana Elder, Michelle Boltz and Ruth Stewart follow the [YouTube LINK](#) – Courtesy of Mobile Health.

Sessions slides from the conference are now available on the Conference 2019 website. Visit this [LINK](#).

You can access each speaker's slides by selecting "presentation" under each session title within the programme menu.

To see photos from the Welcome Function and Gala Dinner follow this [LINK](#).

Kaitaia's GPs are no longer accepting new patients

An ongoing shortage of GPs has forced Kaitaia's general practices to close their doors to new enrolments. (NZ Herald)

The only exceptions will be the future children of existing patients, while the practices will continue to manage accidents and medical emergencies, alongside Kaitaia Hospital, for visitors and those who are not registered with a local practice.

[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.



NZ Doctor Stories (login required)

Vision for 'new norm' general practice adds more nurses and costs more

An extra half a billion dollars a year would be needed to fund general practices across the country if they all offered similarly comprehensive care.

This is a finding from research commissioned by General Practice New Zealand and released at 5pm on April 29.

[Read more.](#)

The rise and rise of nurse practitioners

After years of frustration at slow progress for nurse practitioners, Michal Boyd is quietly excited about their future.

It's an enthusiasm Dr Boyd keeps on the down-low because, as some interjections during her presentation at the Goodfellow Symposium demonstrated, critics of this emerging role remain.

[Read more.](#)

Pharmac unlikely to fund EpiPen despite pleas from allergy community

Pharmac to fund a life-saving device continue to be ignored, and an allergy advocate says it can have "catastrophic" outcomes for families.

Allergy NZ said it was "beyond ridiculous" that Pharmac continued to deny a subsidy for the life-saving EpiPen device, which could be used when an allergy sufferer had an anaphylactic reaction.

[Read more.](#)

Government recommends smokers dump the cigarettes and pick up the vape

Vaping is about to become a Government-recommended way for smokers to quit cigarettes. (Stuff)

Despite being [increasingly banned in public places](#), the use of e-cigarettes will soon be promoted as a safer alternative to smoking by the Ministry of Health.

[Read more.](#)

Breakaway Hauraki PHO practices eye Pinnacle as limbo beckons

Nineteen breakaway practices who plan to leave Waikato's Hauraki PHO are staying tight-lipped but some may join the Pinnacle PHO fold.

Pinnacle Midlands Health chief executive David Oldershaw and medical director Jo Scott-Jones are talking with some of the breakaway practices about joining. Pinnacle Ventures chief executive John Macaskill-Smith told New Zealand Doctor.

[Read more.](#)

Links

Ministry of Health online bulletins, click [here](#).

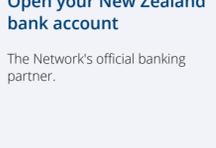
Leaning on Fence Posts, Otago University rural research blog, click [here](#).

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](#).



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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.