

## Welcome to the New Zealand Rural General Practice Network e-zine for 24 May 2019



**In this issue:** Health training hubs critical as rural health workforce declines • Push for north and south rural hubs as sector urges speedy results • Regional population surge puts pressure on rural GPs 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.

### Health training hubs critical as rural health workforce declines



Government commitment to establishing a network of rural health training hubs is now critically important to reversing a continued decline in the rural health workforce, according to the organisation representing almost every rural medical practice in the country.

Speaking on the recent release of the Royal College of GPs' general practice workforce study, New Zealand Rural General Practice Network CEO, Dalton Kelly (pictured), said there were concerning trends for general practice across New Zealand, but particularly in rural communities.

[Read more](#)

ALSO listen to Radio NZ: Dalton Kelly May 14 from the 2 minute 32 sec mark: [https://www.radionz.co.nz/audio/player?audio\\_id=2018694918](https://www.radionz.co.nz/audio/player?audio_id=2018694918)

Radio NZ: RNZCGPs' Dr Sam Murton May 13 from the 4 min 40 sec mark: [https://www.radionz.co.nz/audio/player?audio\\_id=2018694815](https://www.radionz.co.nz/audio/player?audio_id=2018694815)

### Push for north and south rural hubs as sector urges speedy results

More than 100 representatives from across the health sector met in Wellington recently to push forward plans for the country's first rural health training hubs. (NZ Doctor – log-in required)

[Read more](#)

### Regional population surge puts pressure on rural GPs

It's a perfect storm of sorts - with many GPs reaching patient capacity just as a wave of retirees cash in on house prices in cities like Auckland - and move north.

In the Far North, medical centres in Kaitiaki and Coopers Beach - a popular retirement location - are no longer accepting new patients, and in Whangarei, only two GP practices are taking new enrolments.

[Read more](#)

### Connectivity poses a problem for rural business adopting technology

Rural connectivity poses a problem for business adopting cloud-based technology, says an Amazon principal solutions architect. (Stuff)

Amazon principal solutions architect Jonathon Meichtry said New Zealand had a good network between cities but rural connectivity was still an issue.

[Read more](#)

### 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](#).

### Conference 2019 – presentations, interviews and function photos 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.

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

Sessions slides from the conference are now available on the Conference 2019 website. Visit <http://www.nationalruralhealthconference.org.nz/nrhcf19>

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

### Securing the future of ambulance services

Deputy Prime Minister Winston Peters and Health Minister Dr David Clark have announced extra support for road ambulance services to help them plan for a secure long-term future so they can continue providing life-saving care to Kiwis. (Beehive release)

"New Zealanders know we have high quality ambulance services in St John and Wellington Free Ambulance, but we can't take them for granted," Winston Peters says.

[Read more](#)

Also read [St John Health Shuttle to begin operation in Timaru](#) (Timaru Herald)

### 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](#)

### NZ Doctor stories (log-in required)

#### Name change shows commitment to rural and urban Canterbury communities

Rural Canterbury PHO has announced a name change, in order to better reflect its commitment to rural and urban communities across Canterbury.

After supporting general practices and providing community-based health services since 2003, the PHO will now be called Waitaha Primary Health.

[Read more](#)

#### PHO upheaval in eastern BoP as chief exec quits and practices seek change

The reshaping of the PHO landscape around the country is creating more upheaval, this time in Bay of Plenty.

Eastern Bay Primary Health Alliance chief executive Michelle Murray has quit, as it appears increasingly likely that the alliance will merge with neighbouring Western Bay of Plenty PHO.

[Read more](#)

#### Memoir of brave rural GP wins big at book awards

It was a proud moment for Chessie Henry recently when she won an Ockham New Zealand proud award for her memoir detailing the challenges of life as a rural GP.

She was awarded the E H McCormick prize and \$2500 for best work of general non-fiction for her book We Can Make A Life, at an awards ceremony in Auckland's Aotea Centre.

[Read more](#)

#### RNZCGP looks at ways to retain GPs at both ends of their careers

Longer appointment times, with fewer patients per day and more frequent holidays are key factors that could persuade older GPs to keep working and help stave off the impending retirement crisis.

The RNZCGPs 2018 workforce survey found 27 per cent of GPs intend to retire within five years, and many have already started reducing their workloads. Forty-seven per cent of the existing GP workforce intends to retire within the next 10 years, a figure which has been creeping upwards over the past few years.

[Read more](#)

#### Stern approach on its way for favourite inflammation relievers

The official information on non-steroidal anti-inflammatories is changing, to make people more aware of the drugs' cardiovascular risk.

The increased risk associated with NSAIDs should no longer be described as small, says Medsafe group manager Chris James.

[Read more](#)

#### Concerns over 'fragility' of PRIME but partners not sitting on their hands

Emergency medical responders in rural communities must do all they can to improve efficiency, says Rural General Practice Network chief executive Dalton Kelly.

This was the reality in the absence of extra funding. Mr Kelly said at last month's National Rural Health Conference.

[Read more](#)

#### GP crisis not Kaitiaki's alone

The Northland DHB, PHO and providers are working on a solution to Kaitiaki's shortage of GPs (GP crisis bites Kaitiaki, May 9), but DHB chief executive, Dr Nick Chamberlain, said the situation was the inevitable consequence of challenges in recruiting and retaining a general practice workforce that all rural health care services were experiencing.

"This is a common issue across all of rural New Zealand," he said.

[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 (log-in required)

#### Busy rural GPs near end of tether with med-student mentoring added to heavy load

Overworked GPs in rural areas will soon be closing their doors to medical students if adequate support and resources are not provided, New Plymouth GP Rose Bruce says.

GPs are becoming "Cinderellas", mentoring medical students in their own time and out of goodwill, without recompense or recognition, Dr Bruce says.

[Read more](#)

#### Te Waka Wahine Hauora: Women's Health Bus to debut in Cromwell

Eighteen months in the making, Otago's mobile health bus for rural women hits the road this week.

Te Waka Wahine Hauora: The Women's Health Bus is already fully booked with its first clinic on Friday at the Junction Health Centre in Cromwell, says Helen Paterson, instigator of the initiative.

[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](#).



#### 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.