

## Welcome to the New Zealand Rural General Practice Network e-zine for 12 April 2019



**In this issue:** New Network Chair welcomes health hubs, calls for National Rural Health Commissioner • Commitment to rural health hubs delights sector • New leader at Network helm 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.



### New Network Chair welcomes health hubs, calls for National Rural Health Commissioner

Newly-elected Chair of the New Zealand Rural General Practice Network, Dr Fiona Bolden, ended the organisation's annual conference by welcoming government commitment to creating rural health training hubs and suggesting a new position of National Rural Health Commissioner.

Fiona Bolden (pictured) is a GP who has most recently practiced for 17 years in Raglan and now provides locum support to New Zealand's rural general practices. She said it was an exciting time to be elected to chair the NZRGN, which represents almost every rural practice in New Zealand.

[Read more.](#)

### Commitment to rural health hubs delights sector

Speaking at the New Zealand Rural General Practice Network's annual conference in Blenheim on April 5, the Minister of Health said he favoured an approach of developing rural training hubs in which a range of medical professionals are trained inside rural communities. He also announced that he would be asking the sector to develop an implementation programme for the first rural health training hub, from which more would follow.

NZRGN Chief Executive Dalton Kelly (pictured right) said this was a hugely significant announcement that would delight the rural health sector.

[Read more.](#)

Listen to [RNZ Midday Rural Report](#) (3.04 mark). ALSO read the [Minister of Health's speech](#).



### New leader at Network helm



At the recent National Rural Health Conference in Blenheim, deputy Chairperson, Dr Fiona Bolden, was named interim Network Chair at the Committee meeting held on April 4.

Outgoing Chair and Nurse Practitioner Sharon Hansen (pictured left) later led the AGM and then handed over the reins to Dr Bolden (pictured right).

Dr Bolden has been a rural GP for almost 25 years. She initially started in the West Country (UK) and until recently had been in the West Coast of the North Island (Raglan) practising for the past 17 years. She served on the Network Committee between 2010 and 2015, returning after a two year gap when she was solely dedicated to her practice in Raglan. She worked for Midlands PHO as a clinical lead in mental health and addictions for four years and has been on the Midlands Rural SLAT since 2012.

Long-serving rural GP Dr David Wilson also stepped down from the Network Committee. Dr Wilson has been a rural GP in Whitianga since 1991. He was initially co-opted onto the Network Committee in 2003 serving as Secretary on the Core Executive for eight years until 2011. After an absence of four years he re-joined the Committee in 2016 as deputy Chairperson, until he again became Secretary in June 2018.

Another long-serving Network Committee member Dr James Reid has taken over the role of deputy Chair. Rural Nurse Rhonda Johnson is the new Committee Secretary.

### Kawhia GP 2019 Peter Snow Memorial Award recipient

The 2019 Peter Snow Memorial Award has gone to long-time Kawhia GP Dr John Burton (pictured right).

The award was announced at a ceremony at the New Zealand Rural General Practice Network's annual conference in Blenheim on April 6.

Dr Burton was nominated for "innovation and service to rural health in New Zealand".

He has practised in the Kawhia community for 27 years, is a long-time member of the New Zealand Rural General Practice Network and a past member of the NZRGN Executive and Board.

[Read more.](#)



### Matamata Medical Centre named Rural General Practice Team of the Year

Going above and beyond the call of duty in the mental health arena has earned Matamata Medical Centre the 2019 Rural General Practice Team of the Year Award.

All NZRGN member practices were invited to participate in the award, which is decided by popular public vote with one particular entry amongst the many received catching the judges' attention:

The nominator explained that: [Read more.](#)



### Fellowships awarded

Two Fellowships of the Division of Rural Hospital Medicine of New Zealand were made to Dr Hannah Lawn and Dr Tom Dawson. The James Reid Award for Excellence and Innovation 2019 went to Emma Davey.

### Conference media

**Professor Paul Worley is Australia's inaugural Rural Health Commissioner - a role that was established in 2017 (RNZ)**

**Rural health training hub could be antidote to shortage of regional healthcare workers (Marlborough Express)**

Listen to [RNZ Midday Rural Report](#) (3.04 mark)

Read the [Minister of Health's speech](#) and [Rural health training hubs praised](#) (Beehive)

**Commitment to rural health hubs delights sector (Scoop)**

**Matamata Medical Centre named Rural General Practice Team of the Year (NZ Doctor - log-in required)**

**New rural network chair sees at first hand the urgency of workforce boost (NZ Doctor - log-in required)**

**Health minister boosts hopes for rural GP training with 'hub' announcement (NZ Doctor - log-in required)**

Sessions slides and photos from the conference will be available on the Conference 2019 website within the next fortnight. Visit <http://www.nationalruralhealthconference.org.nz/nrh19> Or [www.rgpn.org.nz](http://www.rgpn.org.nz)

### Rural Nurses New Zealand official website launch

Rural Nurses New Zealand (RNNZ) are thrilled to announce the launch of their new website which provides a central point of access for New Zealand rural nurses to connect, collaborate, and discover research and events related to rural health provision.

"This is an exciting time to be using technology to our advantage and assisting to strengthen a workforce often practising in isolated environments with increasing workloads and expectations," says RNNZ Chairperson Rhonda Johnson.

"We encourage all rural nurses to access and contribute to the online forums within this website to support connections and sharing of knowledge and experiences with rural nurses across New Zealand.

"We are extremely grateful to have had the opportunity to collaborate with the New Zealand Rural General Practice Network (NZRGN) in the development of this website and for the support and sponsorship they have provided to ensure this vision came to fruition."

New Zealand Rural General Practice Network Chief Executive Dalton Kelly said the website launch is the culmination of months of planning and collaboration between the two organisations which can now, through the website, better serve the needs of rural nurses country-wide.

"The website gives rural nurses a great online platform to securely communicate with each other on rural health topics and issues."

Visit the website today and become a member to support RNNZ and receive full site access: [www.rnnz.org.nz](http://www.rnnz.org.nz) or visit [www.rgpn.org.nz](http://www.rgpn.org.nz)

### Register today for putting rural health back on the map - Australian/New Zealand

Join The Network: TUFH for a Symposium titled: Putting rural health back on the map - Australian/New Zealand, taking place on April 23, 2019 18:00 - 19:15 ACST.

Moderator: John Wakerman: Professor of Remote and Rural Health Services Research at Menzies School of Health Research.

Panelists: Ruth Stewart: President of Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM); Associate Professor of Rural Medicine James Cook University; Ross Lawrenson: Professor of Population Health at the University of Waikato; Garry Nixon: Director Rural Postgraduate Programme and Senior Lecturer at Dunedin School of Medicine, University of Otago; Narelle Campbell: Associate Professor and Academic Lead - Engagement and Social Accountability at Flinders Northern Territory; Hugh Heggie: Chief Health Officer, Northern Territory Department of Health.

Register [HERE](#).

### Could Nurse Practitioners fill gaps in rural health sector?

A quarter of all rural medical practices are short of a GP - but is a solution already there?

Jenny Carryer, Professor of Nursing at Massey University joins Kathryn Ryan to explain how Nurse Practitioners are already doing the work of GPs out in the regions.

[LISTEN here.](#)

### GP burnout rate rising as business and clinical pressures mount

Burnout among GPs is steadily rising, with more than a quarter of respondents to the latest RNZCGP workforce survey saying they feel burned out by their jobs to some degree.

Twenty-six per cent of respondents to the 2018 survey rated themselves between 7 and 10 on a scale assessing the extent to which they feel burned out. A rating of 10 equates to feeling "extremely burned out".

[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.



### Links

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

Leaning on Fence Posts, Otago University rural research, 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.

### Fears St John's rural ambulance funding under threat with Govt tertiary reforms

Fears of funding cuts to St John Ambulance Service under a proposed vocational education reform have been brushed by the Education Minister. (Stuff)

[Read more.](#)



## 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.