



Welcome to the New Zealand Rural General Practice Network e-zine for 26 April 2019



In this issue: Conference 2019 – presentations, interviews and function photos now online • The Colville Project • Health bus nearly ready to roll and much more...



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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/nrhc19>

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

Conference media

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

Commitment to rural health hubs delights sector (Scoop)

Country TV interviews Dr Fiona Bolden on rural health training, follow the [LINK](#)

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)

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).

The Colville Project

The remote, rural Colville community is digging deep trying to fund a new wellbeing and education centre for its 700 strong population. (RNZ)

The purpose-built complex would house medical and social services and provide training opportunities for rural doctors, carers and allied health professionals. It would also include housing for over 65s. The local doctor Kate Armstrong believes the Colville model could be a pilot for other rural communities.

Follow the [LINK](#) to listen to the interview.

Health bus nearly ready to roll

The new Women's Health Bus (Te Waka Wahine Hauora) is expected to arrive in the Otago and Southland region next month, service co-founder Dr Helen Paterson, of Dunedin, says. (ODT)

The non-profit mobile health service has been in the planning stages for about two years, but last year obstetrician and gynaecologist Dr Paterson and Junction Health practice co-owner and practice nurse Alice van Zijl, of Cromwell, ordered the purpose-built vehicle from a specialist Whangaparaoa building firm.

[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)

Excitement over prospect of GP consultants for rural training

GP consultants are being mooted as a means to keep valuable rural GPs in the workforce longer to help with medical training.

The GP consultant would act in a manner similar to hospital consultants, overseeing a team of

St Bathans dance raises funds for defibrillator

St Bathans is proving small communities can do big things (The News, Central Otago).

In just one night, the St Bathans Area Community Association raised more than \$7000 for a defibrillator, which will be made publicly accessible within the township in the near future.

[Read more.](#)

Ultrafast Broadband to roll out

Roll out of ultrafast broadband across Central Otago and Wanaka will take place over the coming months and, in some cases, years. (The News, Central Otago).

Wanaka-Lake Hawea is scheduled to be connected by the end of June.

[Read more.](#)

MP Barbara Kuriger presents petition calling for better rural healthcare

Taranaki — King Country MP Barbara Kuriger recently presented a petition to Parliament's Health Select Committee with the aim of reversing this Government's "neglectful approach to rural healthcare". (NZ Herald)

"My petition asks the Government to accurately measure rural healthcare needs while imploring Health Minister David Clark and Rural Communities Minister Damien O'Connor to provide adequate funding for these needs to be met," said Barbara.

[Read more.](#)

Right first time – success of training hub critical says rural GP network boss

Much is riding on the success of the first rural training hub proposed by the health minister, says Rural General Practice Network chief executive Dalton Kelly. (NZ Doctor – login required)

"It's absolutely critical the first one works," Mr Kelly says. "If the first one is a failure, it will be a hard battle back from there."

[Read more.](#)

Health decision-makers blasted: It's time to make some noise says Macaskill-Smith

Primary care leader John Macaskill-Smith says there has been a shocking deterioration in health sector leadership, and he's calling for a grass-roots

students and doctors at various levels of training, explains Kāwhia GP John Burton.

[Read more.](#)

Size makes a difference for thriving Waikato rural practice

"Keep coming back" is the plea award-winning Matamata Medical Centre makes to would-be rural doctors.

With more than 14,000 enrolees, the centre has successfully boosted and retained GP numbers over the last few years, said long-time doctor Greg Dunn to New Zealand Doctor during its February visit.

[Read more.](#)

Rural dwellers less likely to talk to health professionals

A recent survey has found that 70 percent of rural New Zealanders have felt more stress over the last five years.

The State of the Rural Nation Survey, conducted by Bayer New Zealand and Country TV, asked participants several questions regarding their views on critical topics impacting rural New Zealand today, including a series of questions around mental health.

[Read more.](#)



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resurgence to replace the failed schemes of bureaucrats. (NZ Doctor – login required)

Showing a cartoon image of the Titanic sinking while passengers in the water take photos and selfies with their phones, Mr Macaskill-Smith asked a rural health audience how long people were prepared to watch as the health system foundered.

[Read more.](#)

Time to address ‘invisible epidemic’ of brain injuries and suicide says Elder

More awareness is needed among health professionals to deal with the “invisible epidemic” of traumatic brain injury and suicide among men, especially in rural areas, says psychiatrist Hinemoa Elder.

Dr Elder told an audience at the National Rural Health Conference in Blenheim earlier this month the two issues are “interwoven” for men.

[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.



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