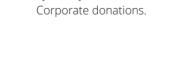


Welcome to the New Zealand Rural General Practice Network e-zine for 09 August 2019



In this issue: Network Chairperson a Distinguished Fellow • Peter Snow Memorial Award 2020 – call for nominations • WONCA 2020 and much more...



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Network Chairperson a Distinguished Fellow



Dr Fiona Bolden was awarded a Distinguished Fellowship of the Royal New Zealand College of GPs at a ceremony in Dunedin recently.

Fellowship was awarded to 174 doctors in the past year, of that total 49 new Fellows and 14 award recipients attended the graduation in Dunedin at the Royal New Zealand College of GPs conference on Saturday evening, July 27.

Dr Bolden pictured (right) with RNZCGP president Dr Samantha Murton (left) was described by her Raglan-based kaumatua Russell Riki as "more than a doctor. To her community, she is a friend, sister, daughter and confidante." After qualifying in the UK, Fiona visited New Zealand to complete locums in Whaingaroa and Kawhia. She fell in love with the country, and within a year had returned with her family. She joined a practice in Raglan, where she worked until 2018. During this time, Fiona has improved mental healthcare on a local and national scale, she has been a fierce advocate for Māori health. She has been Network Chair since April this year, succeeding Nurse Practitioner Sharon Hansen in the role.

Dr Katharina Blattner was awarded a Distinguished Fellowship of both the College and the Division of Rural Hospital Medicine – the first time such an award has been given. Dr Blattner works at Rawene Hospital in the Hokianga and is a senior leader in her profession. In 2000 she became a Fellow of the College and a DRHM Fellow in 2009.

Rural GP Nico Van Egmond, who works at Clutha First, was amongst those attending the graduation to be awarded a College Fellowship. Nico was recruited by NZLocums from the Netherlands, worked as a roving locum during 2010/11 and was employed permanently at Clutha First in 2012.

[Read more.](#)

Peter Snow Memorial Award 2020 – call for nominations

The Network is seeking nominations from the rural health sector for the 2020 Peter Snow Memorial Award. Do you know of a medical or nursing colleague in rural health deserving of this accolade?

Nominations are now open for this award, which will be announced at the WONCA Asia Pacific Conference 2020, April 23-26 at the Aotea Centre in Auckland. This event will be co-hosted by the Network and The Royal New Zealand College of GPs, replacing both organisations' regular conferences.

The award was set up to honour the life and work of Dr Peter Snow who passed away in March 2006. Dr Snow was a rural general practitioner based in Tapanui.

For more information, nomination guidelines or to nominate someone click [HERE](#).

Or contact Network communications manager Rob Olsen, email: rob@rgpn.org.nz or telephone 04 495 5887 or 021 472 556.

[Read more.](#)

WONCA 2020

The decision to co-host the conference 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](#).

Northland is home forever for American doctor

Dr Valerie August first came to Hokianga in 2006 on a short locum position and now lives there with her family.

The iconic Kiwi movie Whale Rider inspired Dr August to visit New Zealand but it was the warmth and generosity of Hokianga locals that hooked her.

[Read more.](#)

Mental health report snubbed

A report recommending 100 mental health staff were needed for the Queenstown/Central Otago area was ignored by the Southern District Health Board (SDHB). (Mountain Scene)

In 2013, Otago-based psychiatric nurse Kerry Hand was commissioned by the board to produce a mental health development plan for the area.

[Read more.](#)

\$8000 donation for Otago Rescue Helicopter Trust

The Otago Rescue Helicopter Trust (ORHT) has benefited from \$8000 in funds raised by the Valley Roar. (Clutha Leader)

The Clydevale-based hunting and fishing contest donated the money during a visit by its organising committee to the ORHT headquarters at Taieri aerodrome and heliport, near Mosgiel, recently.

[Read more.](#)

Medicines access for cancer must also be Fair for Rare

Rare Disorders NZ welcomes the National Party's recent announcement on cancer care but calls on both the opposition and the coalition government to widen their medicines access proposals beyond cancer to include provision for people living with rare disorders. (RDNZ)

"Too often New Zealanders with a serious uncommon health condition fall between the cracks and don't get the health care they deserve," says Chief Executive of Rare Disorders NZ Lisa Foster.

[Read more.](#)

That's Interesting

The Last Midwife

The East Cape is one of the most remote regions in New Zealand.

Corrina Parata is the only midwife for 200 kilometres along this rugged coastline, delivering the first babies in the world in heartland Ngāti Porou territory.

[Read more.](#)

Midwife wants to show PM

A Central Otago midwife has spoken out about maternity services in the district and invited the Prime Minister and Health Minister to visit the region "to get a better understanding of what women and midwives are facing on a daily basis". (ODT)

[Read more.](#)

ALSO read [Locum midwife placed at Lumsden but no inquiry into downgrade of maternity centre](#) (Stuff)

The Checkup's Dr Samantha Bailey on the pros and cons of online consultations

Christchurch doctor Samantha Bailey was working at an after-hours clinic one long weekend when she had a lightbulb moment. (Stuff)

"I saw a lady who had been waiting three hours to see a doctor," recalls Bailey.

"She had a really simple problem and I apologised to her for the wait because it was Waitangi weekend and she said, 'Don't worry. This is the status quo'."

[Read more.](#)

Nominations sought for District Health Boards

Nominations for elected DHB Board members close on August 16, 2019. Voting documents will be issued in September with elections on October 12, 2019.

For more information on the election process, including guidance for candidates, conflicts of interest and contact details for electoral officers, go to the Ministry's website: www.health.govt.nz or Local Government New Zealand's website: www.lgnz.co.nz/vote2019

Taranaki doctor involved in peddling an untested cancer cure Te Kiri Gold struck off

A Taranaki doctor involved in peddling an untested liquid solution said to help people with cancer has been struck off by the Health Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal. (Stuff).

Following a two-day hearing Dr Mitchell Dean Feller, part owner of PureCure, the company behind Te Kiri Gold, was also fined \$5000 and ordered to pay \$56,100 in costs.

[Read more.](#)

Dust pollution killing one Northlander every two years

Dust from unsealed roads is killing an estimated one Northlander every two years and costing the health sector nearly \$3 million annually, a new study has found. (NZ Herald)

The study, a first in New Zealand - prepared by Emission Possible for the Ministry of Health - assessed chronic health impacts and costs of exposure to air pollution from all unsealed roads in Northland.

[Read more.](#)

George Abbott Symposium

The University of Otago, Christchurch is once again hosting the George Abbott Symposium and the event theme is: General Paediatrics: The challenges in regional New Zealand.

Event details:
George Abbott Symposium 2019
General Paediatrics: The challenges in regional New Zealand
Date: August 23 and 24
Keynote speaker: Professor Anthony Smith, Centre for Health Services Research, Faculty of Medicine, The University of Queensland
Venue: Rolleston Lecture Theatre, University of Otago, Christchurch. 2 Riccarton Ave, Christchurch
Registration: <https://www.otago.ac.nz/conferences/george-abbott-2019>
Cost: \$150.

Join this two-day conference to hear from 15 local and international experts on a range of topics including:

Cochlear implants
Meningitis
Encephalitis
Neonatal hypoglycaemia
Tech in health
NETS transport model
Enterovirus and HPeV infections
Telehealth.

For more information, contact: Associate Professor Tony Walls tony.walls@otago.ac.nz (conference content) Events Coordinator Paula de Roeper paula.deroeper@otago.ac.nz (venue and registration).

University of Otago Rural Generalist CME Workshop 2019 – November 1-3

This is the eighth annual rural CME workshop held by the Rural Postgraduate Team. This year at Taranaki, Taranaki Base and Hawera clinical teams will facilitate case-based discussions reviewing latest evidence applied to the rural context. Topics include acute paediatric, renal, rural obstetric cases, alcohol withdrawal, mana enhancing practice, rural experience with tracheostomy and more. It is suitable to both GPs and rural hospital doctors. Numbers limited to 25 participants.

[Visit the website](#)

Or contact Yan Wong 027 577 2740 yan.wong@otago.ac.nz

2020-21 Harkness Fellowships in Health Care Policy and Practice call for applications

The Commonwealth Fund is pleased to announce the co-sponsorship of the New Zealand Ministry of Health in the Harkness Fellowships in Health Care Policy and Practice, bringing to the programme an invaluable policy perspective and commitment to a high performing health care system that will further enrich the experience of Fellows and their impact upon returning home. October 7, 2019 is the deadline for receipt of applications from New Zealand. For further information visit: www.harknessfellowships.org

The Rural Youth & Adult Literacy Trust

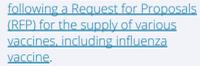
This trust provides free reading and writing lessons to rural/isolated teenagers and adults. This service is available nationwide. Over 1 in 10 New Zealanders leave school without the literacy skills they need to participate fully in society. Word of mouth is really important when reaching out to those who are pre-iterate. If you know anyone who might benefit from literacy support please ask them to call the Trust on 0800 891 339. The lessons are free and are over the phone or by Skype, so it's private and there are no classes to attend. For more information visit www.adultliteracy.ac.nz or find them on Facebook [Rural Youth & Adult Literacy Trust](#)



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 has been instrumental in allowing me to fulfill my dream of relocating to New Zealand and working as a GP here. They offered me guidance from the earliest stages till the Orientation before starting work. I had a specific contact in NZLocums who helped at every stage and was very responsive to any queries I had. The Orientation material and programme were invaluable in getting me familiar with the workings of the NZ health system. I cannot thank them enough."

Dr Nicole Yuen, Singapore

Pharmac notification

Changes to funded vaccines in the National Immunisation Schedule

Pharmac has announced decisions related to the National Immunisation Schedule that will take effect from 1 July 2020. [The decisions have been made following a Request for Proposals \(RFP\) for the supply of various vaccines, including influenza vaccine.](#)

[Read more.](#)

NZ Doctor Stories (login required)

'Drive through' clinics plan rise up GP lead at NZMA – O'Sullivan unrepentant

Auckland GP Lance O'Sullivan is planning to introduce mobile medical clinics to New Zealand – an idea sparking condemnation from NZMA GP Council chair Jan White.

Northcote-based Dr O'Sullivan on July 30 unveiled plans to import the first of about 200 "drive through", self-contained clinics.

[Read more.](#)

ALSO see [NZ Herald video](#) AND [Mobile medical clinics could help gout patients](#) (Scoop)

GP trainee sings praises of burnout and urges advocacy

GP trainee Kirsten Taplin defied the narrative that has older GPs holding their head in their hands and young GPs not interested in owning a practice.

Already co-founder of a new practice, Dr Taplin gave the Peter Arnyon memorial address at this year's RNZCGP Conference for General Practice.

[Read more.](#)

'Ominous': 20% drop in GP training applicants

The current state of the GP training program — where places are now going unfilled — is an "incredibly ominous sign" for the future of general practice, president Dr Tony Bartone says.

His comments come after the Health Minister revealed the number of eligible junior doctors applying to join the specialty has dropped from 2460 doctors four years ago to just 2015 in 2019.

[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.