

Welcome to the New Zealand Rural General Practice Network e-zine for 23 August 2019



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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 (pictured) 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 021 472 556.

Nominations will also soon be open for the Network's Rural General Practice of the Year Award to be presented at the Gala dinner at WONCA 2020. All Network member practices are invited to participate in the award, which is decided by popular public vote. More details will be available soon. Keep an eye on this newsletter and the Network website: www.rgpn.org.nz

Meanwhile, news of the inaugural New Zealand Primary Healthcare Awards | He Tohu Mauri Ora has been greeted with excitement from the sector.

The hosts, The Health Media and Pharmacy Guild of New Zealand, are thrilled to see the number of people, organisations and sponsors who have come aboard since the event was announced on 2 August.

"It's really good to see momentum building," says Barbara Fountain, managing editor of The Health Media, publishers of New Zealand Doctor and Pharmacy Today.

[Read more](#). (NZ Doctor log-in required).

Or visit: <https://www.nzphawards.co.nz>

WONCA 2020

The decision to co-host a 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.

"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," says Network Chief Executive Dalton Kelly.

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

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](#).



Allied Health and nursing staff in rural Southland seeking pay equity

Allied Health and nursing staff at rural hospitals in the south are seeking wages similar to Southern District Health Board standard after being excluded from settlements last year. (Stuff)

Public Service Association union delegates from Clutha Health First, Oamaru and Dunstan rural hospitals along with PSA organiser Jenn Wilson met with the Southern DHB during a hospital advisory committee meeting earlier in the month.

[Read more](#).

Lumsden midwife cover remains in place for another month

A temporary midwife installed in Lumsden to help ensure 24/7 midwife care in the Northern Southland town has had her contract extended by a month. (ODT)

The midwife was brought in as a stop-gap measure, to work out of the former Lumsden Maternity Centre, after a meeting of parties involved in the bitter dispute over maternity services in the area.

[Read more](#).

'State-of-the-art' ambulance for Murupara to improve rural emergency health access

A new ambulance designed specifically to support rural and remote communities has arrived in the small Bay of Plenty town of Murupara. (NZ Herald)

On Saturday (August 17), an open day was held for the community and St John volunteers at the Murupara ambulance station at which the new First Response Unit was blessed.

[Read more](#).

New air ambulances for the South

Health Minister David Clark says two new air ambulances for the southern region are the latest addition to what is fast becoming a world class aeromedical service for New Zealand.

"Air ambulances are a critical life-saving service and one that requires sustained investment. That's why we invested [an extra \\$82.9 million over four years](#) in these services in our first Budget," David Clark said.

[Read more](#).

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 preliterare. 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](#)

NZ Doctor stories – log-in required

RNZCGP's new medical director straight outta Porirua

General practice is the heart of primary healthcare, says RNZCGP's newly appointed medical director Bryan Betty.

"I am a very strong believer in the role of GPs as community medicine specialists within the system, and a strong believer that general practice should be the heart of the primary healthcare system," Dr Betty says.

[Read more](#).

Nursing hopes to help more than just patient care

The recent Māori nursing awards were as much about celebrating the collective as the individual achievement.

The second annual Tapuhi Kaitiaki Awards, held in Auckland, were the showcase event of the Indigenous Nurses Aotearoa Conference, and aimed to recognise the positive influence Māori nurses have on whānau and the health system.

[Read more](#).

Lifeline sought for exhausted, desperate rural emergency responders

The GPs and nurses racing to the scene of rural accidents and medical emergencies can't keep up the service, and it needs life support, GPs told health minister David Clark in Christchurch recently.

The Primary Response in Medical Emergencies (PRIME) scheme is unsustainable and, if it dies it won't come back, Waimate GP Sarah Creegan said at the South GP CME meeting.

[Read more](#).

GP college takes tougher line after absorbing half-million-dollar deficit

The RNZCGP went into deficit to the tune of half a million dollars for the 2018/19 financial year, as internal upheaval added to its costs.

The new college management says "greater transparency" has been put in place, and it is looking at ways of increasing revenue, including by taking a tougher line on services offered for free.

[Read more](#).

GPs say 'no' to nationalisation, which they say would leave them worse off

Most GPs would not support any move by the Government to nationalise general practice and pay salaries to GPs, according to the latest New Zealand Doctor/IQVIA fax poll.

Nearly 70 per cent of respondents in the poll were opposed to nationalisation of general practice, while just over 18 per cent supported it.

[Read more](#).

Ministry commends general practice work in enrolment changeover

The \$2.3 million National Enrolment Service is running well, with the Ministry of Health acknowledging general practices worked hard to establish it.

After several delays, the long-promised system eventually went live on 1 April delivering faster capitation reconciliation for practices.

[Read more](#).

Northland nurses give up annual leave to help disabled in Tonga

Two Northland nurses are giving up two weeks of their annual leave to head to Tonga on a self-funded trip, to support people with disabilities in Nukualofa. (NZ Herald)

The trip will be a first for Te Atawhai Beirne, who will join her builder husband, Simon, who has been first to travel previously.

[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.



Looking for a GP?



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](#).

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.