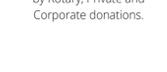


Welcome to the New Zealand Rural General Practice Network e-zine for 20 September 2019



In this issue: Celebrate family medicine at WONCA 2020 in Auckland, NZ • Rural Research Day 2020: Call for abstracts • RSLAT survey reminder and much more...



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The Network's health promotion partner.

Celebrate family medicine at WONCA 2020 in Auckland, NZ



The Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners and the New Zealand Rural General Practice Network are proud to be hosting the [WONCA Asia Pacific Regional Conference 2020](#) in New Zealand from April 23-26.

This major primary healthcare event will see more than 1500 GPs and primary care practitioners from New Zealand and the Asia Pacific region gather in Auckland, New Zealand for four days of learning, debate, inspiration and celebration.

It has been 20 years since the WONCA conference was hosted in New Zealand – the last WONCA conference from New Zealand/Australia was held in Christchurch in the year 2000. WONCA 2020 marks the first time the conference has been held in Auckland.

This WONCA conference is particularly special as it will also be the first time that the RNZCGP and the NZRGNP join forces to host a primary health care conference. Together, these two organisations represent more than 6,000 GPs and primary health practitioners from all corners of New Zealand.

With equity at the heart of the conference, WONCA 2020 promises to deliver an inspiring and diverse programme of plenary sessions, panel discussions, skills workshops and debates which explore the theme of: **Family Medicine - leading the way towards an advanced world of equity, quality and compassion.**

Network Chief Executive Dalton Kelly says rural health professionals - doctors, nurses, midwives, pharmacists and other allied health professionals - are invited to submit abstracts, register 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."

Call for abstracts

The Programme Committee are currently seeking presenters for WONCA 2020. This is a great opportunity to share your work with others from New Zealand and abroad. If you would like to present, you're invited to submit an abstract before 31 October 2019.

We are accepting proposals for lectures, posters or workshops that relate to the core themes of the conference:

- Clinical research that informs daily practice
- Ways to achieve a more equitable future with equal health outcomes for all
- All aspects of Quality Improvement
- The importance of compassion, of continuity of care and other core values of family practice
- Innovation in health care delivery, integration
- Benefits and potential harms of advances in technology
- Sustainability in all its forms
- Particular issues focusing on Rural Health.

SUBMIT YOUR ABSTRACT HERE:

http://www.conference.co.nz/wonca20/call_for_abstracts/callforabstracts

Register now for Early Bird pricing

Registration for WONCA is open now. Register before 20 December to secure the fantastic Early Bird fees on offer.

Early Bird fees start from \$590.00, and include entry to all conference sessions, day catering, a conference satchel, and a ticket to the Welcome Reception on Wednesday 22 April.

REGISTER HERE:

<http://www.conference.co.nz/wonca20/registration/registration>

Rural Research Day 2020: Call for abstracts

The College's Rural Chapter and the Network are calling for submissions of abstracts and posters for the 2020 Annual Rural Research Day: Whakawhanaugātanga - we are all connected. Taking place on Wednesday 22 April, this Rural Research Day will be a special event, as it will be held as a pre-conference day ahead of the WONCA Asia Pacific Conference in Auckland.

The Conference is keen to hear from potential speakers from all research fields relating to rural health, not just health professionals. This is a great opportunity to present your research to an international audience. There will also be prizes on offer for the best presentations and posters. If you're interested in sharing your original rural health research, submit your abstract online by 30 November. Poster proposals are due by 15 March 2020.

Submit your abstract:

http://www.conference.co.nz/wonca20/call_for_abstracts/callforabstracts

RSLAT survey reminder

On September 3 a short survey was sent to rural practices by email hoping to capture their degree of engagement with Rural Service Level Alliance Teams (RSLATs).

The idea of the survey was to enable the Network and the Ministry of Health to gain a nationwide snapshot of engagement to date.

If you did not receive the survey or have had difficulty completing it please contact Rob Olsen, email rob@rgpn.org.nz or telephone 021 472 556. Or follow the [LINK](#) to access the survey.

Conversely if you have completed the survey, thank you and please disregard this reminder.

Taranaki maternity services staff tell of exhaustion amid staffing 'crisis'

Taranaki maternity staff say they are exhausted, overworked and under-resourced and fear the situation is putting themselves and mothers and babies at risk. (Taranaki Daily News)

It comes after internal correspondence, including memos, meeting agendas and emails, obtained under the Official Information Act show concerns and complaints around the lack of staffing were raised to senior management 44 times between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2019 - an average of one incident every two-and-a-half weeks.

[Read more.](#)

Wellbeing a hot topic after sister's death

Losing a family member to suicide can take a huge toll.

Federated Farmers chief executive Terry Copeland lost his sister to suicide in 2016 and said mental health could impact on the whole family. (ODT)

[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.

Nominations will soon open for the Network's Rural General Practice of the Year Award 2020. Watch this newsletter and our [website](#) for more information.

Meanwhile, nominations for the inaugural [New Zealand Primary Healthcare Awards](#) are open.

It's time for GPs, nurses, practice managers, pharmacists and friends of the primary healthcare industry to step up and be counted as heroes in our healthcare system.

Pharmac consultation over new medicines funding

The Minister of Health Dr David Clark has announced an increase to the Combined Pharmaceutical Budget. There will be an extra \$20 million this financial year and \$40 million the next year.

PHARMAC is now consulting on proposals for funding new medicines and widening access to current medicines. Of perhaps particular interest in primary health and public health services settings are proposals for levonorgestrel intrauterine systems (Mirena, Jaydess) and meningococcal ACWY vaccine:

- widening funded access to a [levonorgestrel intrauterine system](#) (LIUS) for contraception (Mirena), and funding of a new lower strength form of the Jaydess LIUS
- widening funded access to the [meningococcal ACWY vaccine](#) to people aged 13 to 25 years who are in close living situations such as university hostels and army barracks.

For details, click on the above hyperlinks. Please note consultation closes for these at 5 pm on Monday, September 16, 2019, and feedback can be emailed to consult@pharmac.govt.nz.

Please note this additional funding for the Combined Pharmaceutical Budget coincides with the announcement of the Government's ten-year [New Zealand Cancer Action Plan](#). The funding increase applies to any pharmaceuticals, and will mean PHARMAC can fund a range of new medicines, including new cancer treatments. PHARMAC is also consulting on funding three medicines for cancers ([olaparib](#) for ovarian cancer, [fulvestrant](#) for breast cancer, [venetoclax](#) for chronic lymphocytic leukaemia).

That's interesting!

Rural valley residents set up internet group after years in dial-up 'Dark Ages'

A Marlborough community has taken wireless internet into their own hands after waiting years for the Rural Broadband Initiative to reach them. (Stuff)

The Onamalutu Valley, 30 minutes from Blenheim, was living in "the Dark Ages", according to one resident, with dial-up internet and patchy mobile phone connection.

[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 thrombectomy 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

Ambitious plan for a charity hospital in Southland

Blair Vining is a man who has been giving his all to New Zealand while he's battling the odds to spend more time with his family. (Southland Times)

Time is precious for Blair and his wife Melissa, but they are not ready to quit their campaigning yet and have announced an ambitious plan to start a community charity hospital in Southland to ensure other Southlanders get timely access to, initially, bowel cancer diagnosis, to improve their chances of survival.

[Read more.](#)

Midwife ends short contract

Lumsden's back-up midwife has finished her short-term contract, leaving expectant Northern Southland mothers dependent on a Facebook messenger group, Clutha-Southland MP Hamish Walker says. (ODT)

"When an expectant mother goes into labour, a message will be sent, and the midwife will rely on someone seeing and reacting to the message in time."

[Read more.](#)

Waikato DHB investigating after patient waited six weeks for doctor appointment

Excessive wait times for doctors' appointments in a South Waikato town has sparked an urgent Waikato District Health Board investigation.

It comes amid a Tokoroa Medical Centre patient having to wait over a month to see his doctor for a sore throat.

[Read more.](#)

Health Care Home gives new meaning to doctors on call

More than 1000 Marlborough patients have 'seen' their doctor over the phone as part of a new health care model. (Stuff)

Health Care Home is a practice model designed to improve patient access to healthcare, with a "big emphasis" on providing alternatives to face-to-face appointments.

[Read more.](#)

NZ Doctor stories – log-in required

Show us the evidence that voluntary bonding works, says rural GP advocate

A decade after the launch of the Voluntary Bonding Scheme there is scant evidence it has improved recruitment and retention in the rural health sector, says New Zealand Rural General Practice Network chair, Fiona Bolden.

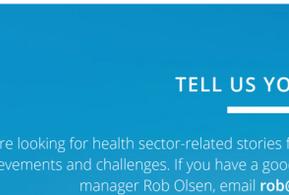
[Read more.](#)

New branding for Northland primary care, but has anything changed?

Nearly two and a half months after the launch of Northland's single primary health entity, the new Mahitahi Hauora branding covers the former Manaia Health PHO building in Whangārei. But what has really changed?

Chief executive Phillip Balmer sits in the office which his Manaia predecessor Donovan Clarke inhabited for about two and a half years – and Chris Farrelly for 13 years before that.

[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 to start an application form or contact Rob Olsen on 021 472 556.



Testimonial

"In locating 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

Māori psychology school pitched to counter shortage

Dr Waikaremoana Waitoki has an aspiration that could shake up psychology in Aotearoa.

It's a standalone tertiary institute where Māori can study psychology in a way that reflects their culture. (Waikato Times)

[Read more.](#)

Community and Public Health issue Gastrointestinal bug warning for calving and lambing seasons

The arrival of new lambs and calves brings with it an increase in gastrointestinal illness and health authorities have urged people to take extra care over the season. (Timaru Herald)

Community and Public Health, which is aligned to the South Canterbury District Health Board and provides assistance in areas of environmental health and infectious diseases, says at this time each year in the region there is an increase in the number of people with gastrointestinal illnesses.

[Read more.](#)

Links

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

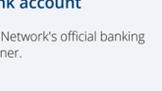
Leaning on Fence Posts, Otago University rural research blog, click [here](#).

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.