

Welcome to the New Zealand Rural General Practice Network e-zine for 18 October 2019



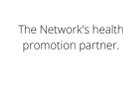
In this issue: NZLocums a finalist in SEEK recruitment awards • Rural Health Careers Promotion programme – request for donated medical equipment • Keynote WONCA speakers confirmed and much more...



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.

NZLocums a finalist in SEEK recruitment awards

Given the critical role that NZLocums plays in keeping GPs in rural communities, we thought we needed to do a better job of celebrating this work and letting more people know about it.

So we entered this year's annual SEEK Recruitment Awards and we've just been listed as one of four finalists in the Medium Sized Recruiter of the Year Award. This is welcome acknowledgement for Recruitment Team Leader, Jacinta Sanders and her team's work, professionalism and commitment. NZLocums makes a massive difference for rural communities right across New Zealand and we are all hugely proud of this acknowledgement.

The winner of this award will be announced at the annual Awards ceremony on 21 November. We'll be there and we'll let you know how we go. In the meantime, big congratulations to the NZLocums team!

Rural Health Careers Promotion programme – request for donated medical equipment

Following the Network's highly successful June 2019 tour of 34 rural schools in the Otago, Canterbury, Manawatu and Taupo regions by 20 tertiary students training across a range of health disciplines including nursing, psychology, dentistry, pharmacy and medicine, we are now organising another series of tours early to mid-November throughout Southland, Wairarapa, Hawke's Bay, Waikato, Coromandel and Northland. During the tours, the tertiary students will be given the opportunity to visit several rural practices, hospitals and health champions and will be given insight into the unique and gratifying experiences each place has to offer.

They will also be visiting a wide range of rural schools to promote rural health careers and give pupils the opportunity to use authentic medical equipment. In the past we have relied on medical students bringing their own equipment or borrowing it from their training institutions, but we would like to develop some kits which they can simply pick up and take with them, eliminating any issue with obtaining enough equipment and the risk that some items might get broken. We would like to obtain a wide assortment of medical equipment such as stethoscopes, tendon hammers, CPR dummies, anatomy models, surgical implements – anything which is safe, clean and has plenty of life left in it for the school pupils to use. If you have any items you would like to donate please contact Esther Maxim, Rural Health Careers Promotion Programme Manager on 021 547 853 or at esther@rgpn.org.nz

Read the [Rural Health Careers Promotion update](#).

Keynote WONCA speakers confirmed



WONCA 2020 Keynote speakers include Ian Couper (Stellenbosch University – rural health issues); Trish Greenhalgh (Nuffield department of primary care – quality in primary care); Alexander Ng (Tencent.com – digital technology); James Renwick (Victoria University of Wellington – climate change); Elizabeth Iro (WHO chief nursing officer and member of WHO leadership team - nursing) and Gilbert Enoka (mental skills coach).

Click [HERE](#) to view their bios.

Meet Professor Les Toop

Introducing Distinguished Fellow, Professor Les Toop from the WONCA2020 organising committee. Les answered questions about his time as a GP, general practice in New Zealand and what his hopes for the conference were. [Read the full interview](#).

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 Auckland 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 for four days of learning, debate, inspiration and celebration.

It has been 20 years since a WONCA conference was hosted in New Zealand – the last WONCA conference on New Zealand shores was held in Christchurch in 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 NZRGP 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.

The committee is 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 ABSTRACTS 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>

Keynote speakers confirmed to date

WONCA 2020 Keynote speakers include Professor Ian Couper, Professor Trish Greenhalgh, Dr Alexander Ng, Dr James Renwick, Elizabeth Iro, World Health Organisation Chief Nursing Officer and Gilbert Enoka. Click [HERE](#) to view their bios.

Rural Research Day 2020: Call for abstracts

The College's Rural Chapter and the Network are calling for abstract and poster submissions for the 2020 Annual Rural Research Day: Whakawhanauatanga - we are all connected. Taking place on Wednesday, April 22, 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](#)

Nurses star as Govt rebuilds health workforces

A record number of nurses are now working to deliver health services to New Zealanders as the Government's increased funding and new initiatives rebuild key workforces start to show results, Health Minister Dr David Clark says. (Beehive media release)

- 1458 more DHB nurses since the Government took office
- 106 more midwives
- 582 more doctors
- 531 more allied health workers.

[Read more.](#)

Marlborough Sounds' pioneer nurse deserves more recognition

OPINION: It's shameful we keep giving knighthoods and honours to fat cat businessmen. This country was pioneered by many selfless, highly capable individuals, and we should never lose sight of their values. (Stuff)

Take Carol King-Turner, who became the Marlborough Sound's first District Nurse in 1946, based at French Pass. She's not that well known out of Marlborough, but in my eyes she should be a national heroine. [Read more.](#)

Major upgrade for Taranaki Base Hospital

The Government has approved the next stage of a major redevelopment of Taranaki Base Hospital, which will deliver new and improved facilities for patients. (Beehive media release)

Health Minister Dr David Clark has announced details of a \$300 million dollar project to build a new East Wing at the New Plymouth hospital. It will be funded out of the \$1.7 billion set aside in Budget 2019 for upgrading our hospitals and health facilities.

[Read more.](#)

Extra support for rural families

Extra funding will allow Rural Support Trusts to help farming families, says Minister for Rural Communities and Agriculture Damien O'Connor. (Beehive media release)

"I know that rural families are worried about some of the challenges facing them, including the ongoing uncertainty created by the Mycoplasma bovis outbreak.

[Read more.](#)

New Greymouth hospital opening already more than a year late

Delays finishing Greymouth's new hospital will cost West Coast health authorities about \$4 million, according to an estimate provided to Stuff.

The Te Nikau Grey Hospital and Health Centre project has been beset by delays. The Ministry of Health is now seeking damages from Fletcher Construction using a liquidated damages clause in the construction contract.

[Read more.](#)

Woodville residents concerned the town may lose its ambulance

A Taranaki town is scrambling to save its only ambulance after hearing it may be lost due to lack of volunteers. (Manawatu Standard)

Woodville residents are concerned after word spread the town may lose its ambulance as St John continues its four-year programme to ensure [ambulances are double-crewed](#) to improve safety.

[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.

Consultations

Podiatrists' Designated Prescribing proposal feedback

The Podiatrists Board of New Zealand is seeking feedback on a proposal that will enable podiatrists to prescribe medicines to their patients.

You are invited to provide feedback by 5pm, Monday, October 21, 2019.

The proposal will enable appropriately trained podiatrists to prescribe from a list of medicines relevant to their clinical practice. This is known as Designated Prescribing.

Currently, podiatrists use other medications under exemption, and refer their patients back to their GP or other prescribers, when they require other medications.

Prescribing by podiatrists will reduce delays in accessing treatment and enable more equitable and cost-effective access to medicines for patients.

There are eight questions, and this should take approximately 10 to 15 minutes to complete, depending on your responses.

Here is the link to the consultation document and to provide feedback:

<https://podiatristsboard.org.nz/news-resources/forms/consultations/proposal-for-podiatrist-prescribing/>

The Podiatrists Board of New Zealand is also undertaking face-to-face meetings with interested stakeholders. If you would like to organise a face-to-face meeting, please email: registrar@podiatristsboard.org.nz

Resources

New patient resources for early detection of skin cancer

The chances of developing skin cancer, including melanoma, increase with age. Men aged 50 years are the most at risk of skin cancer, and men are twice as likely to die from melanoma as women.

A new Early Detection of Skin Cancer Toolkit for Primary Care makes it easy to access information and promotional resources for this group. It comprises a selection of free resources from the New Zealand Cancer Society, MelNet and the Health Promotion Agency/Te Hirainga Hauoro (HPA). The Toolkit can help GPs to communicate to patients the importance of getting any skin changes or moles of concern checked early to prevent skin cancer.

The Melanoma Risk Calculator is one resource that can be accessed from the Toolkit. It is available to primary care practices in New Zealand to identify an individual's risk.

Another resource is a new brochure, Finding Skin Cancer Early Could Save Your Life. It has new illustrations on how to self-check and examples of what to look for in the A to G Guide to Melanoma.

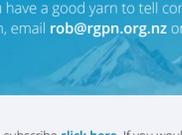
To access the online toolkit simply go to from the resources section at SunSmart.org.nz. You can download resources as well as order hard copies.

New patient resources for skin cancer

Most skin cancers are preventable. And if detected early, most can be successfully treated.

The resources can help you promote early detection to your patients

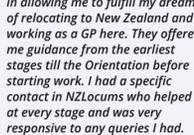
To order go to SunSmart.org.nz



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

Decision to widen access to levonorgestrel intrauterine (LIUS) systems (Mirena and Jaydess)

Pharmac are pleased to announce a decision to widen access to levonorgestrel intrauterine systems (LIUS), brand name Mirena, and list a new LIUS, brand name Jaydess.

This will result in the following changes from 1 November 2019:

- the Special Authority and Hospital Restrictions for LIUS 52 mg (Mirena) will be removed
- a new LIUS 13.5 mg (Jaydess) will be funded with no restriction
- Bayer (the supplier of Mirena and Jaydess) will be awarded sole supply, meaning that Mirena and Jaydess would be the only funded brands of LIUS from 1 November 2019 until 31 October 2022
- the overall net price of LIUS per person will reduce.

[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.](#)



Open your New Zealand bank account

The Network's official banking partner.

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.