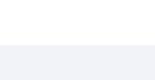




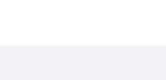
Welcome to the New Zealand Rural General Practice Network e-zine for 15 November 2019



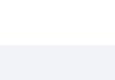
In this issue: Rural GP network welcomes commitment to rural health workforce • Landmark partnership announced for international medical conference in 2020 • Second rural health careers promotion tour and much more...



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The Network's health promotion partner.

Rural GP network welcomes commitment to rural health workforce

The New Zealand Rural General Practice Network today welcomed a commitment to addressing a rural health workforce crisis in the National Party's Education Discussion document.

The NZRGP is the membership network representing rural general practices across New Zealand.

NZRGP Chair, Dr Fiona Bolden, said she was pleased with the recognition in the discussion document of the need to structurally address the crisis in the rural health workforce – particularly through education.

Read the [PRESS RELEASE](#).

Landmark partnership announced for international medical conference in 2020

In 2017, The Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners (the College) won its bid to host the 2020 WONCA Asia Pacific Regional Conference in Auckland, 23 – 26 April. (media release)

The College is joined by two other significant New Zealand medical, nursing and allied health professional membership organisations to host WONCA 2020, which is expected to attract approximately 1,500 local and international health professionals. Co-hosted by the College, the New Zealand Rural General Practice Network (the Network), and Te Ohu Rata o Aotearoa – Māori Medical Practitioners Association (Te ORA), this conference is the first of its kind in New Zealand.

[Read more](#).



See WONCA welcome message from Network Chairperson Dr Fiona Bolden and College President Dr Sam Murton. Click on the photo and see the video!

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.

Celebrate family medicine at WONCA 2020 in Auckland, NZ

The Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners, New Zealand Rural General Practice Network and Te Ohu Rata o Aotearoa – Māori Medical Practitioners Association (Te ORA) 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.

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."

Rural Health Commissioner call extended



Kaikoura GP Dr Chris Henry on the need for a rural health commissioner.

[Click the photo](#) to view the video.

Ongoing problems in New Zealand's rural health sector, and a Government commissioned report have prompted calls for a Rural Health Commissioner to be appointed. (1 News Now)

Dr Chris Henry, a member of the Rural Health Alliance and a GP in Kaikoura told TVNZ1's Breakfast that the main problem also highlighted in the report is "stretched services" around the country.

[Read more](#).

AND read [Time for a NZ Rural Health Commissioner?](#) (Scoop) OR read [NZ Herald article](#).

Formal recognition at last for paramedics' frontline medical role

New Zealand's more than 1000 paramedics are to have their role as key frontline health professionals formally recognised and regulated in the same way as doctors and nurses, Health Minister David Clark says. (Beehive media release)

The Government has agreed to regulate paramedics under the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003.

[Read more](#).

Rakaia GP keen to hear from others about farmer consults

Following four recent successful "out of office" farmer consult clinics, Rakaia GP Sue Fowle is keen to hear from others who might want to emulate the method. Supported by Global HQ, Sue organised wellness checks where farmers were in their own setting – one at a stock sale, another at the Waimate shearers' competition and also events at Hastings and Dannevirke, using a horse float/caravan as a consult room - and the response has been pleasing in all instances, she says.

Read the full story [here](#).

"We would like to hear from GPs in rural areas who are willing to help with this initiative in their local area – perhaps one or, in bigger areas, two a year. Farmers Weekly are looking to fund this by providing a place for the checks and buying the necessary equipment."

If this is something you would like to be involved in please contact Dr Fowle by email: sue@rakaiaimedic.co.nz or call her on 021 190 4504.

Second rural health careers promotion tour

A second grand promotional tour of the regions to encourage rural school pupils into rural health careers is underway.

Organised by the New Zealand Rural General Practice Network and supported by 40 medical, nursing and allied health students, the tour will take in 41 rural high schools, seven rural hospitals and 11 General Practices in Southland, South Otago, Wairarapa, Hawke's Bay, Coromandel, Waikato and Northland during a three-week period from 4-22 November.

The tertiary health students will speak to year nine and ten pupils about the possibility of careers in health in sessions that will allow the school pupils to have hands-on experience with instruments such as stethoscopes and blood pressure cuffs as well as hear first-hand from the tertiary health students about their own journeys into their medical and health careers. The pupils will also be directed to the newly launched website www.socha.org.nz which has been developed by Students of Rural Health Aotearoa – New Zealand's first and only multidisciplinary rural health student network.

Read the media release [here](#).

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 of equipment which 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](#).

Telehealth helps close gaps

Northland DHB has developed a new acute care telehealth network linking all of its rural hospitals; Kaitiaki, Bay of Islands, Dargaville, and in 2020, Rawene, to the Intensive Care Unit at Whangarei Hospital. (Scoop – NDHB media release).

The Northland Telehealth and Mobility team developed this network in conjunction with Northland DHB intensive care physicians, Connect NZ, healthAlliance and the University of Queensland Centre for Online Health.

[Read more](#).

New \$50,000 St John base on target for completion in Pleasant Point

It is all steam ahead for Pleasant Point's \$50,000 repurposed St John ambulance station. (Timaru Herald)

In just four months the town has raised the money required and St John staff were at the Pleasant Point Museum and Railway to accept the latest donation - \$1500 - which has helped them reach the target.

[Read more](#).

Single eastern European country tied to med student work placement deception

Kiwi medical students who falsified overseas work placement reports to go on holiday all attended the same country in eastern Europe. (Stuff)

Recently, the University of Otago [confirmed academic misconduct findings against 15 trainee intern medical students](#) in their sixth and final year of training.

[Read more](#).

Maternity plan 'waste of two years'

The Southern District Health Board's maternity strategy has been "a waste of two years", Waitaki MP Jacqui Dean says. (ODT)

The SDHB's implementation of the 2018 strategy was the subject of a highly critical report by Ernst and Young, released recently.

[Read more](#).

New patients in Hawke's Bay aren't taking on new patients, but work is being done

With a growing population, many private doctors practices across Hawke's Bay aren't taking on new patients, but work is being done ease lengthy waiting times. (Stuff)

A Neighbourhood poll conducted by Stuff, revealed that 54 per cent of participants were experiencing longer waiting times than usual when booking with their GP, while 28 per cent said no and 17 per cent said "sometimes".

[Read more](#).

Christmas arrangements for the Network office

The Network office will be closed for the Christmas break from 12:00pm midday, Tuesday, 24 December 2019 and will reopen on Monday, 6 January 2020.

Locum payments

We wish to remind all our locums who are working over this period that you will need to submit your timesheet and tax invoice on:

- Monday, 16 December 2019 (for payment on Wednesday 18 December 2019)

We will then process a pay run three weeks later and you will need to submit your timesheet and tax invoice on:

- Monday, 6 January 2020 (for payment on Wednesday 8 January 2020).

New framework for e-mental health services

The Ministry of Health has announced a new framework to better support New Zealand's rapidly expanding e-mental health services. "Digital mental health programmes, such as e-coaching, e-screening and e-therapy, are revolutionising our country's mental health services, but we need to ensure they're safe and fit-for-purpose," says Mental Health and Addiction Deputy Director-General, Robyn Shearer.

[Read more](#).

Medical care 'at mercy of location'

A Wanaka mother whose baby was born with a serious heart condition is joining the call for better health services in the Queenstown Lakes district. (ODT)

Arna Craig's 15-month-old daughter Ida has a mechanical heart valve and is on blood-thinning medication.

[Read more](#).

NZ Doctor stories - log-in required

Rural health training hubs still a work in progress

The Ministry of Health is working with management consultants Sapere Research Group to assess both the feasibility and requirements necessary for establishing rural training hubs.

The training hubs were announced by health minister David Clark in April, seemingly taking the place of a proposed rural health training school mooted by the previous government.

[Read more](#).

Auckland-based ProCare Network buys its first general practice

The medical company that manages New Zealand's largest PHO is dipping its toe into cooperative centre ownership for the first time.

Auckland-based ProCare Network Ltd has bought the Kaipara Medical Centre located in the town of Helensville in the region's northwest.

[Read more](#).

How a Northland GP discovered his unconscious ethnic bias through self-audit

The RNZCGP has endorsed a video campaign designed to address ethnic biases in healthcare.

The learning modules containing the videos have been made public as part of Patient Safety Week/Wiki Haumaru Tūroro, coordinated by the Health Quality & Safety Commission.

[Read more](#).

Hopes pinned on Northland provider ending 'very bad year' for Whangaroa

Whangaroa's new primary care provider, Whānau Ora Community Clinic, moves into the Kaero clinic on November 20 and expects to have two GPs living in the Far North community by next March.

The changes follow last year's Ernst & Young report on problems within the previous provider, Whangaroa Health Services Trust, which resulted in resignations and the decision to find another entity to take over the primary care role.

[Read more](#).

Champing at the bit for AAA screening now the hard yards have been done

Wellsford GP Tim Malloy is calling on the Ministry of Health to get on with national screening for abdominal aortic aneurysms.

This follows the completion of Waitemata and Auckland pilot programmes that researchers – including Dr Malloy at Coast to Coast Healthcare – consider a success.

[Read more](#).

Southland GPs fight for better care for spinal patients

Southland GPs are fighting for better care for spinal patients in the region. (Southland Times)

Southland Hospital's spinal surgeon/consultant is leaving at the end of November and a group of 14 Southland GPs have expressed alarm at the "inappropriate" level of follow-up care the SDHB plans to give spinal patients in the Southland.

[Read more](#).

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 compiles a selection of free resources from Melanoma NZ, Cancer Society, MelNet and the Health Promotion Agency/Te Hiringa 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.

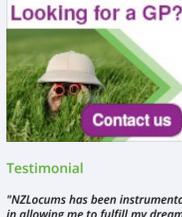
Another resource is a new brochure, Finding Skin Cancer Early Could Save Your Life. It has new illustrations on how to self-check and examples of what to look for in the A to G Guide to Melanoma.

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.

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

The resources help you promote early detection to your patients

To order go to SunSmart.org.nz



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

Links

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

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

Health Workerforce New Zealand stakeholder bulletin, [click here](#).

Mobile Health news, [click here](#).

Medline (USA rural health) [click here](#).

Death of Health's Project (Ministry of Health), [click here](#).

Health Quality & Safety Commission Implicit Bias (resource video), [click here](#).

NZ Doctor stories - log-in required

Latest vision for Queenstown clinic: An IFHC on steroids, says former GP

An on-again, off-again, \$20 million multi-storey health clinic for Queenstown is back on, as developers seek consent for an integrated family health centre "on steroids".

Developer Remarkables Park Ltd (RPL) will push ahead with its long-planned multi-storey Queenstown Clinic, including a general practice and appearance medical clinic.

[Read more](#).

Fewer GPs in the making as registrar intake drops for third year running

The NZCGP continues to expect the Government to fund more registrar training positions – despite accepting 186 candidates for the next intake, down from 191 and 192 in the previous two years.

[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 5566.

