

Welcome to the New Zealand Rural General Practice Network e-zine for 13 December 2019



In this issue: Don't miss the WONCA 2020 Early Bird registration deadline – offer ends December 20! • WONCA Keynote speakers confirmed to date • Does your Rural General Practice Team go 'above and beyond'? • Christmas wishes ...



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.

Don't miss the WONCA 2020 Early Bird registration deadline – offer ends December 20!



[REGISTER HERE](#)

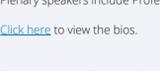
The Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners, New Zealand Rural General Practice Network and Te Oha Rau Aotearoa – Māori Medical Practitioners Association (Te ORA) are proud to be hosting the [WONCA Asia Pacific Regional Conference 2020](#) in Auckland from April 23-26.

This major primary healthcare event will see up to 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.**

[REGISTER HERE – DON'T MISS THE EARLY BIRD OFFER – ENDS DECEMBER 20.](#)



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

WONCA Keynote speakers confirmed to date

Professor Papaarangi Reid joins the ranks of confirmed WONCA 2020 Keynote speakers, who 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).

Plenary speakers include Professor Paul Glasziou (Professor of Evidence-Based Medicine at Bond University).

[Click here](#) to view the bios.

Does your Rural General Practice Team go 'above and beyond'?

The search is on again for New Zealand's best Rural General Practice Team of the Year as judged by the community. Rural practices should have received packs containing award information and entry forms for patients/members of community to fill in.

Now in its sixth year, the award will be announced at the WONCA 2020 Asia Pacific Regional Conference at the Aotea Centre, Auckland on April 25 at the Gala Dinner.

The inaugural award was won by Raglan's West Coast Health Clinic in 2015, followed by Martinborough Medical Centre in 2016, Ngunuru Medical Centre in 2017, Aotea Health (Great Barrier Island) in 2018 and Matamata Medical Centre in 2019.

Entries can be submitted online or posted. However, to make collation and judging easier we would prefer as many entries as possible are completed [online](#). Patients can complete their postcard and post direct to P O Box 547, Wellington, 6140 or hand it to the practice receptionist who can then forward the entries in bulk.

Postcards can be downloaded from [www.rgpn.org.nz](#) or further hardcopies can be ordered from [rob@rgpn.org.nz](#)

Christmas arrangements for the Network office

The Network office will be closed for the Christmas break 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).

Christmas wishes

Network staff and the NZLocums team would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and thank you for all your support during the last year.

NZRGPN's three-year Strategic Plan released

The New Zealand Rural General Practice Network Committee proudly presents the organisation's Strategic Plan for the next three years. We confirm that our most important mission is: **To support and promote the current and future rural health workforce.**

[Read More](#)

News

Flying doctors nurse touches down in Hawke's Bay

Jackie Hardy's nursing career has taken her to the centre of conflicts, terrorist attacks and deadly tsunamis. (Scoop)

Now she's bringing her new years of experience to one of the biggest flight teams in New Zealand as the new Clinical Nurse Manager of Flight and Transport at Hawke's Bay District Health Board (HBDHB).

[Read more](#)

Plea from GP for pain relief drug at maternal and child hub

A plea from a Te Anau GP that the Southern District Health Board add a common pain relief drug to the medicines available at the Lumsden maternal and child hub will be considered. (ODT)

Dr Matthew Stokes made his request to the SDHB in August, just after an early morning birth where a mother opted to give birth at Winton — where Entonox (nitrous oxide) was available — rather than at Lumsden, where the SDHB had decided not to stock the drug.

[Read more](#)

GP shortage predicted as graduate doctors eye other specialities

New Zealand could be heading for a shortage of GPs as a wave of retirements approach. (Stuff)

That's one finding from a study which compared plans of graduating medical students with what the Kiwi medical workforce needs. A GP leader foresees a crisis if not enough new GPs come through, some clinics are already struggling to recruit, and bids for a third medical school have been shelved. The biggest potential mismatch between need and new doctors' plans is in general practice, a study published in the *New Zealand Medical Journal* says.

[Read more](#)

New framework to drive health research

The Government has taken a major step towards ensuring health research in New Zealand brings maximum benefit to all New Zealanders. (Scoop)

A December 2 joint announcement from the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) and the Health Research Council of New Zealand (HRC) centres on a Prioritisation Framework which for the first time sets out a national vision for health research that will guide all government investment in this country and help coordinate research efforts across the sector.

[Read more](#)

PRIME to provide speedy response to accidents and emergencies with new vehicle

Accidents and emergencies in rural areas can mean help is often hours away. Thanks to funding by the Raglan Community Charitable Trust, Raglan's PRIME (Primary Response in Medical Emergencies) has had a boost to the service that provides specialised, on-call backup to the local emergency services.

[Read more](#)

Huge strides in stroke treatment depend on fast action

Defence Force medic Vincent Lawford remembers lying at Palmerston North Hospital, virtually watching the stroke he was having disappear before his eyes. (Manawatu Standard)

A mere 45 minutes earlier, the 29-year-old had been in the chef's kitchen at Linton Military Camp, putting away capsicums.

[Read more](#)

That's interesting

The most remote emergency room: Life and death in rural America

A flashing red light summons Dr Brian Skow to his third emergency of the afternoon, and he hurries to a desk in a suburban office building. He sits in front of an oversize computer monitor, which shows a live video feed from inside a hospital room in eastern Montana. Two nurses are leaning over a patient on a stretcher, checking for a pulse, and squeezing oxygen out of a bag and into the patient's lungs.

[Read more](#)

The nonagenarian graduate: Doctorate in Medicine for 90-year-old Ron Trubuhovich

He's just graduated with a Doctorate in Medicine aged 90, and there's no stopping Dr Ron Trubuhovich. (NZ Herald)

The nonagenarian is already planning his next project, after he received his doctorate at the University of Auckland's Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences graduation recently.

[Read more](#)

The sad end of a rural school: Tuturumuri School closes after 97 years

The morning of the send-off, Ian Hunter cranked up Leonard Cohen's Anthem, sipped on tea and contemplated not going. (Stuff)

To the outsider, it's just a couple of classrooms, a swimming pool, a tennis court and playground.

[Read more](#)

NZ Doctor stories - log-in required

Waikato Uni reopens rural medical school debate, cites health crisis

The University of Waikato will make another plea next year for a graduate-entry medical school in the Waikato region.

With 2020 an election year, professor of population health Ross Lawrenson says the idea will be put forward again to help address the ongoing rural health crisis.

[Read more](#)

Let GPs provide hospital-in-the-home care, says Aussie college

Private health insurance should pay for GPs to treat cancer patients, dress wounds or provide post-cardiac care in patients' homes, says the RACGP. The Federal Government is attempting to shore up the health insurance industry, which critics say is in a death spiral resulting from increasing hospital costs and a diminishing number of inpatient holders.

[Read more](#)

Ambulance services urge Govt to take larger share of costs

St John and Wellington Free Ambulance have submitted a combined business case to the Government seeking more funding, in hopes the Cabinet will respond early next year. Budget 2019's one-off \$21 million funding top-up for St John and Wellington Free Ambulance is a Band-Aid, when a permanent fix is needed, St John medical director Tony Smith says.

[Read more](#)

Minister's good tidings point to looming crisis in general practice – Bryan Betty

National health survey results being touted as a "sign of real progress" by the minister of health are warnings of a looming crisis, says RNZCGP medical director Bryan Betty. Health Minister David Clark says results from the Ministry of Health's annual New Zealand Health Survey show that in the seven months since 1 April, about 75 per cent of Maori, Pasifika and high-needs patients with CSC cards visited their local GP at least once.

[Read more](#)

GP wears silk on her shoulders for PhD graduation

The bright red silk gown of Carol Atmore's trailblazing great-grandmother had a special airing at a University of Otago graduation ceremony in Dunedin recently. Former West Coast GP Dr Atmore graduated with a PhD for her rural health research, and wore the robe first worn by her great-grandmother Dr Emily Winifred Dickson when graduating in 1893.

[Read more](#)

A time of reckoning: Tribunal findings of failings in health can't be ignored

Waitangi Tribunal findings that primary healthcare funding arrangements are not equitable, and Māori rights have been breached, are not going to go away. After weeks of hearings into claims from Māori primary care providers as the first part of its Health Services and Outcomes Kaupapa Inquiry, the tribunal identified many breaches of the Treaty of Waitangi.

[Read more](#)

Auckland University moves to lift students' rural exposure while awaiting training hub plan

Academics at the University of Auckland are trying to increase medical students' rural footprint as they wait with bated breath for news of the first rural training hub. Starting in 2020, professor of general practice Felicity Goodyear-Smith has developed a new regional placement in the Waikato Lakes area for eight fifth-year medical students who will spend 10 weeks in a rural hospital and general practice.

[Read more](#)

Resources

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](#)

