Rural Networker

31 January 2020 | Healthy Rural Communities

Welcome to the New Zealand Rural General Practice Network e-zine for 31 January 2020

In this issue: Network named as finalist in inaugural NZ Primary Healthcare Awards • Rural Research Day • Warm WONCA Welcome • WONCA Keynote speakers confirmed to date and much more...

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The Network's health promotion partner.

Network named as finalist in inaugural NZ Primary Healthcare Awards

An NZRGPN designed and driven programme to encourage rural school students to take up rural health careers is one of two finalists in the Research and Education category at the first-ever New Zealand Primary Healthcare Awards.

Award winners will be announced at a formal, black-tie ceremony in Auckland on 29 February.

"I'm absolutely delighted that the NZRGPN has been confirmed as a finalist in the inaugural New Zealand Primary Healthcare Awards," said Chief Executive Dalton Kelly.

"I'm really proud of the team for this acknowledgment. It recognises how, led by Rural Health Careers Programme Manager, Esther Maxim, we have really started to get some traction in encouraging rural students into healthcare careers."

More detail on the award is available here: https://www.nzphawards.co.nz/finalists

"This builds on last year's success with the NZRGPN winning the SEEK award for medium-sized recruiter of the year and sets us up well for another strong year," said Mr Kelly.

Register NOW for WONCA 2020

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 22-26.

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 five 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

Rural Research Day

The Rural Chapter of the Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners and the New Zealand Rural General Practice Network Annual Rural Research Day will be held on Wednesday, April 22. Follow the link for more information and to register: http://woncanz2020.com/wonca20/additional_programme/rural_research_day

Warm WONCA Welcome

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, 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) are amongst the confirmed Keynote speakers at WONCA 2020. 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. The inaugural award was won by Raglan's West Coast Health Clinic in 2015, followed by Martinborough Medical Centre in 2016, Ngunguru 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

University of Waikato announces two new senior health appointments

The University of Waikato recently announced two senior appointments which will boost the University's teaching and learning capability in the health sector.

Professor Sarah Strasser, who will be joining Waikato from the University of Queensland, will be taking up the position of Dean of Te Huataki Waiora School of Health, and Professor Roger Strasser will be taking up the role of Professor of Rural Health within the school.

Read more.

PHARMAC advisory - (Apo-Cilazapril with Hydrochlorothiazide)

Apotex, the supplier of cilazapril with hydrochlorothiazide (Apo-Cilazapril with Hydrochlorothiazide) has informed PHARMAC it will no longer be able to supply this medicine in New Zealand. Based on current usage trends, PHARMAC estimates that the current supply is likely to run out in July 2020.

Apo-Cilazapril/Hydrochlorothiazide is the only Medsafe registered brand of cilazapril with hydrochlorothiazide tablets in New Zealand. This means cilazapril with hydrochlorothiazide will no longer be available to patients once the current supply runs out.

Please note that this discontinuation does not apply to cilazapril tablets (without hydrochlorothiazide). Supplies of cilazapril tablets have been secured until 2022. It is important to note, however, that cilazapril is used infrequently or not at all in other countries and we are aware of only one manufacturer of the active ingredient internationally. This means that there could be significant impact to patients and health care professionals should a supply issue occur.

What this means for prescribers:

- An endorsement will be placed on cilazapril with hydrochlorothiazide, effective from 1 March, 2020, meaning no new patients can be initiated on this medicine.
- Prescribers should start transitioning patients currently on cilazapril with hydrochlorothiazide to alternative treatments.
- A list of the currently funded ACE inhibitors, angiotensin II antagonists and combination products is available in the online schedule.

From 1 March, 2020, prescribers should endorse any prescriptions for cilazapril with hydrochlorothiazide for patients who were taking this medicine prior to 1 March, 2020. Pharmacists may annotate the prescription as endorsed where there exists a record of prior dispensing of cilazapril with hydrochlorothiazide.
Further information on this discontinuation, application of endorsement and anticipated timeframes is available on PHARMAC'S web site: www.pharmac.govt.nz/cilazaprilHCTZ

Burial and Cremation Act 1964 reform update

Following Cabinet approval, the Ministry of Health has formally commenced consultation on options to reform the Burial and Cremation Act 1964 and related legislation. This work follows the 2015 Law Commission report Death, Burial and Cremation: A new law for contemporary New Zealand, which made recommendations to modernise the law that governs death, burial, cremation and funerals in New Zealand.

In response, the Ministry of Health has prepared a consultation document that identifies and considers options for modernising the legislation relating to death, burial, cremation and funerals in New Zealand. They are now seeking widespread feedback on the options developed.

The consultation document and related survey can be found here: https://consult.health.govt.nz/environmental-and-border-health/death-funerals-burial-and-cremation/

The reform options proposed may have implications for the role of primary care providers as it includes proposals for medical referees and death certification, as well as being of general interest. Your feedback via the survey (follow the link above) or by email below is welcome. Detail on how to make a formal submission is included in the link above. Consultation closes April 10, 2020. Or you can send your feedback to rob@rgpn.org.nz by February 28, 2020.

Coronavirus

Coronavirus now notifiable

Effective from Thursday, 30 January 2020, 'novel coronavirus capable of causing severe respiratory illness' will be added to Section B of Part 1 of Schedule 1 of the Health Act 1956. This will make 2019-nCoV an infectious disease notifiable to the Medical Officer of Health.

Please refer to the Ministry of Health website for the latest information on 2019-nCov and in particular the Interim Advice for Health Professionals which includes the case definitions.

If you have any queries about the operational arrangements for notification, please contact your local DHB-based public health unit.

If you have any policy queries about nCoV notification, please contact ncovresponse@health.govt.nz.

Response on Coronavirus

Director-General of Health Dr Ashley Bloomfield and Director of Public Health Dr Caroline McElnay respond to New Zealand's concerns around the new coronavirus. (Video/Jason Walls/NZ Herald).

Follow the LINK.

Coronavirus: Everything you need to know

New Zealand officials say it's highly likely a new coronavirus called 2019-nCoV will arrive in the country, as its spread around the world continues. What is it? And what might it mean for New Zealand if it arrives here? Science reporter Jamie Morton explains. (New Zealand Herald)

Read more

Wuhan coronavirus epidemic: Cases rising rapidly

The number of cases and deaths from the new coronavirus epidemic that has exploded out of Wuhan is rising rapidly. (NZ Doctor stories - log-in required)

Authorities in the Chinese city report that by January 22 there had been 444 confirmed cases, including 17 deaths.
Read more

Expanding checks for coronavirus would mean checking 23,000 passengers a day at airports

Tens of thousands of people fly into New Zealand a day, most of them from countries with reported coronavirus cases. If the outbreak expands globally, is it even possible to check everyone at the New Zealand's border? (Stuff)

On an average January day, about 23,000 people arrived in New Zealand from overseas, most through Auckland, Christchurch and Wellington airports.
Read more

That's Interesting

Graduate midwife swaps city for country and is ready to catch babies around Thames, Hauraki

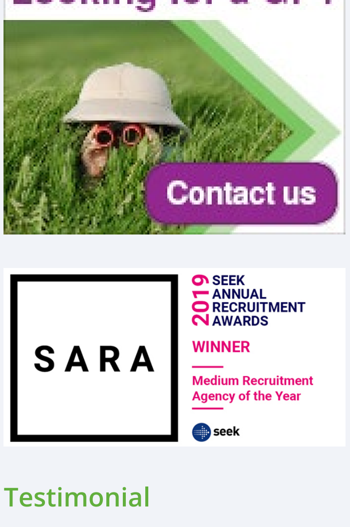
A shortage of midwives in the Thames-Coromandel meant staff had to turn expecting mothers away or risk getting "burnt out". (NZ Herald)

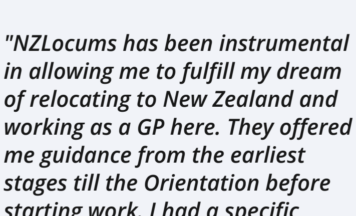
But the Thames Birthing Unit has found success with a new "caseload team" and midwifery programme which encourages graduates to undertake their First Year of Practice in the area.
Read more

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.





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 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**.

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