



Welcome to the New Zealand Rural General Practice Network e-zine for 12 December 2014.

In this issue • Network appoints new Chief Executive • Christmas arrangements for the Network office • Consultation on NP scope of practice & qualifications and much more...

Network appoints new Chief Executive

Former Cancer Society head Dalton Kelly is the New Zealand Rural General Practice Network's new Chief Executive Officer.



The appointment was made by the Network Board in November. "We were lucky enough to have a field of significantly impressive candidates at interview and we are delighted to have Dalton (pictured) join our team," says Network chairman Dr Jo Scott-Jones.

[Read more.](#)

Christmas arrangements for the Network office

The Network office will be closed for the Christmas break from 1pm, Wednesday, December 24, 2014. We will be back at work from Monday, January 5, 2015.

We wish to remind all our locums who are working over this period that the final day for you to submit your time sheets and invoices to be paid before Christmas is Monday, December 15, 2014.

All invoices submitted after this date will not be paid until Wednesday, January 7, 2015 and usual payment will resume on Wednesday, January 14, 2015.

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 past year.

The Rural Networker will resume publication in January 2015.

November – the only way to grow!

The month of Movember came and slowly went with a few comments, mumbles, sniggers and guffaws about the growth that appeared on the upper lips of Network chairman Dr Jo Scott-Jones and communications manager Rob Olsen.

Jo, a Movember veteran with three years under his belt, er ... on his top lip and Rob, a first time Movember supporter (although not a first time Mo grower – yes they were fashionable in the 1980s) managed to raise \$1070 for Movember, which is designed to raise awareness about men's health.

Huge thanks to all who donated.

Sadly (or not) the Mos were purged at the end of Movember with plans to support the initiative next year via the **Rural Mo Bros and Mo Sistas NZ Network**. If you'd like to support Movember and join the Rural MoBros and Sistas Network in 2015, visit the official **Movember** site to find out more. We'd love to see you get on board.

Mo removal video (Youtube)

Consultation on NP scope of practice & qualifications

The Nursing Council is undertaking a review of the nurse practitioner scope of practice and prescribed qualifications. The health care environment has changed considerably since 2001 when nurse practitioner was introduced. This consultation is focused on the future requirements for the nurse practitioner scope of practice and qualifications. It discusses the positioning of nurse practitioner in relation to projected health need and service delivery changes and the potential implications of the introduction of further registered nurse prescribing

[Read more.](#)

Feedback required on VoD

One of the Ministry of Health's work programmes is progressing a proposal to expand the group of practitioners authorised under a Coroner's rule to verify death.

The working group have concluded that the practitioners authorised to verify death should be expanded to include registered nurses, nurse practitioners, and ambulance personnel (from the level of emergency technician) and, in some situations, registered midwives.

In response to advice from the Ministry's working group the Chief Coroner has developed the **DRAFT FORM** (COR 31 Verification of Death) to use for documentation by all practitioners, and which will be used to replace the current most commonly used form, the POL265.

Network members are invited to provide feedback to Michael Howard at GPNZ before **Tuesday, December 16**. Please email feedback to: **Michael.Howard@gpnz.org.nz**

Click to access the **DRAFT FORM**.

Grab an Early Bird conference registration

Registrations are now open for the 2015 NZRGP-NZHAANZ national rural health conference. Be an Early Bird and go into the draw to have your registration refunded. If you register before the end of December, 2014 your conference registration could be FREE.



Health Minister Jonathan Coleman is invited as a political keynote speaker and joins a high-profile line-up of keynote speakers including Kiwibank New Zealander of the Year 2014 Dr Lance O'Sullivan, a rural GP based in Kaitiaki; Julianne Badenock, Vice President, Australian Primary Health Care Nurses Association (APNA); Dr Lucie Walters, Dr Peter Crampton and Dr Gary Nixon (Connecting the Rural Education Pipeline); Ian Proudfoot (Global Agriculture Outlook and the importance of having rural people with the right capabilities) with keynote presentations from the Maori Medical Practitioners, and medical and nursing students.

You can view the official conference programme and speakers by following this **LINK**. Keep watching the **conference website** and this newsletter for updates.

Peter Snow Memorial Award 2015

Nominations are now open for the annual Peter Snow Memorial Award to be announced at the Network's 2015 **conference** in Rotorua, March 12-15.

To date we have received two nominations for this annual award and would love more. So if you know of a medical or nursing colleague in rural health worthy of this accolade please nominate them now.

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.

Dubrovnik beckons junior docs and med students

Junior doctors and medical students working or studying in rural health in New Zealand are invited to contribute to the 2015 WONCA rural health conference in Dubrovnik by making a video.

Young doctors are invited to make a short video diary of rural practice to show just how diverse this area of medicine is. The videos would be two to three minutes in length and follow a template to guide the participants in summarising their thoughts and ideas. Click **HERE** to access the information template.

Rural medical students are invited to make a short video of rural practice/rural placement to get a better understanding of how diverse this field is. Click **HERE** to access the information To visit the WONCA conference website click **HERE**. Or expressions of interest can be made to Veronika Rasic: **ver.rasic@gmail.com**

UK med student seeks rural NZ elective

Welsh medical student Elin Powell has New Zealand in her sights for her 2016 medical elective and is keen to hear from a rural practice prepared to host her.

Elin's Cardiff Medical School elective period runs from February 29 to April 22, 2016 and she is hoping to get four to six weeks experience in a mixture of hospital and general practice settings in rural New Zealand. Elin is particularly interested in general practice and hopes to work in either New Zealand or Australia for a couple of years following her F2 placement and wants to gain some experience in either country ahead of applying for a job.

Expressions of interest can be made to Network communications manager Rob Olsen in the first instance, email **rob@rgpn.org.nz**

Fifth Integrated Performance and Incentive Framework (IPIF) programme sector update.

This update covers:

- Joint Project Steering Group Co-chairs updates
- Measures, Incentives & Reporting
- Integrated Performance Incentive Framework section of the Health Improvement and Innovation Resource Centre (HIIRC) website.

[Read more.](#)

Telemedicine: A difficult proposal for primary care to implement

Telemedicine is gaining momentum in DHBs, but primary care is lagging behind as it has a lot of barriers to overcome, Telehealth Forum chair John Garrett says. (NZ Doctor)

"There are pockets of excellence but there could be a whole lot more...[telemedicine] has been a difficult proposition because of how primary care works," Dr Garrett told *New Zealand Doctor*.

[Read more.](#)

DHB privacy breaches 'minor to moderate'

There have been seven privacy breaches at Nelson Marlborough District Health Board since April 1 last year. (Stuff)

An Official Information Act response prepared for Fairfax Media in September detailed four cases where patient information had been mistakenly shared during the 2013-2014 calendar year. A further three cases have been recorded since the end of March this year.

[Read more.](#)

2014 RNZCGP Workforce Survey released

New Zealand's general practitioner workforce needs to grow to meet the healthcare needs of its communities according to a workforce survey report released this week by The Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners.

"We have made good progress in the last couple of years and we have further opportunities to increase the intake for general practitioner with more medical graduates coming out of New Zealand's two medical schools," said College President Dr Tim Malloy.

[Read more.](#)



The Network's health promotion partner

[www.rgpn.org.nz](#)



Need a GP?

NZLocums is the recruitment division of the NZRGP.

Rural practices can take advantage of our free recruitment service!

So let us find the right solution for you.

Contact us today.

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.

[www.rgpn.org.nz](#)

Network on Twitter

You can follow the Network and associated rural health sector news, views and events on Twitter or sign up and give us your news and views - just click on the Twitter icon below or visit our website **www.rgpn.org.nz**



[www.rgpn.org.nz](#)

December changes go live

ACC began funding ambulance services in bulk payments from December 1, abandoning its previous fee-for-service model. Previously, St John charges ACC every time a patient is transported. (NZ Doctor)

[Read more.](#)

Big demand for Maori medical grants

Tangata whenua are snapping up grants to study health. The Government says a record 728 students received a Hauora Maori scholarship award this year. (RNZ)

Health Minister Jonathan Coleman said that was the highest number since the scholarship fund began in 2000.

[Read more.](#)

First National Education Grant

The National Burn Service invites interested parties to apply for a First National Education Grant. Applications will be considered by representatives from the National Burn Centre, Middlemore Foundation and First National Group NZ Limited. Closing date: March 1, 2015.

[Read more.](#)

MCNZ seeks nominations

The role of the Medical Council of New Zealand is to protect the public by promoting good medical practice. It requires a strong Council that both the public and profession can have confidence in.

Now is your chance to make sure you or your colleagues with the right qualities stand for the Council election to ensure a strong Council.

The Nomination Paper and Election Information can be downloaded **HERE** or requested by emailing **elections@electionz.com** or by calling the election helpline (toll-free) on 0508 666 104. Completed nominations must be emailed to **nominations@electionz.com** and must be received no later than 12 noon on Friday 16 January 2015.

Publications and resources:

- Latest Network News, click **here**.
- RHAANZ newsletter, click **here**.
- Division of Rural Hospital Medicine e-newsletter, click **here**.
- Rural Women New Zealand publication, click **here**.
- Health Workforce New Zealand stakeholder bulletin, click **here**.
- IT Health Board newsletter, click **here**.
- ALAC newsletter Ease Up, click **here**.
- Mobile Health news, click **here**.
- Medline (USA rural health) click **here**.
- To access the PRIME St John website, click **here**.
- PRIME Committee contacts, click **here**.
- PRIME responders, click **here**.
- Medical Council News click **here**.
- Research Review – Management of Atopic Dermatitis click **here**.
- Health Podcast - **Why did the chicken cross the road?**
- Alliancing workshop – September 4
- To view the sessions and interviews **click here**
- Click **HERE** to read more about Alliancing.

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.



NZRGPN staff wish all their readers a very Merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year

Orientation for Overseas Trained GPs & Practice Nurses

Do you have an overseas trained GP or Nurse joining your team soon?

Give them the best start and send them on our **CME endorsed course** in Wellington.

Our orientation ensures that all GPs and Practice Nurses are provided with a comprehensive foundation. This allows them to hit the ground running when they start working for you.

Some of the topics included are:

- Presentation from a local practitioner
- ACC
- Pharmac
- Work & Income
- St John resuscitation workshop
- Medtech32 practical training

We continually receive positive feedback from attendees and practices. Attendees comment that they couldn't comprehend starting work without it!

Click for:

Brochure & Cost

Course Dates



The "Orientation for Overseas Trained General Practitioners" has been endorsed by The Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners (RNZCGP) and has been approved for up to **14.0 credits CME** for General Practice Educational Programme Stage 2 (GPEP2) and Maintenance of Professional Standards (MOPS) purposes.

Limited spaces available - book now!

For more information or to reserve a place please contact Louise Pert, Course Co-ordinator:
louise@nzlocums.com | **+64 4 495 5877**



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