

RuralNetworker

May 2010 | Promoting the networking, support and advocacy of the rural general practice workforce

Welcome to the New Zealand Rural General Practice Network e-zine for 20 May 2010.

In this issue • Survey reminder • Overseas student work experience request • Rural medics start new ambulance service and much more...

Survey reminder

The New Zealand Rural General Practice Network is seeking feedback from rural general practices, GPs and Locums around New Zealand about the quality of its NZLocums' recruitment service.

A survey questionnaire was recently emailed to rural practices and GPs, and Locums. Your feedback is greatly appreciated and will help us to continually improve the recruitment services we provide. So far we have received about 90 responses – approximately half from locums and half from GPs and practices - from about 500 questionnaires sent out. Thanks for taking the time to respond and keep them coming, as ideally, we would like to see a 50-60 per cent return rate.

The questionnaire can also be downloaded from the Network's [website](#) and returned via email: survey@rgpn.org.nz, fax: 04 472 0904 or post to: NZRGN, PO Box 547 Wellington 6140 by May 25, 2010. (Word document 942 KB).

If you have any queries or for a copy of the survey, please call Communications Manager Rob Olsen on 04 495 5887 or 021 82 2468.

Overseas student work experience request

The Network has received a request from a third year medical student from Wurzburg, Germany who would like to undertake unpaid work experience in rural New Zealand early next year.

The 21-year-old plans to come here in March/April 2011 and would like to stay about four or five weeks. By then she will have completed her seventh semester (out of 12) and a placement in internal medicine in Germany, one in a surgical unit in Italy as well as one with a general practitioner in her hometown.

For more details or if anyone is interested in hosting this student for all or part of the time stipulated please contact Network Communications Manager Rob Olsen on 04 495 5887 or email: rob@rgpn.org.nz

Rural medics start new ambulance service

A rural general practice in Central Otago has started up a new ambulance service.

GP Erika Hollow and her paramedic husband, Brent, directors of Cromwell medical centre, Junction Health, began the new ambulance patient transport service on May 12.

(NZ Doctor)
[Read more](#)

Eight nurses win awards

Eight Southland nurses received nursing excellence awards on the anniversary of Florence Nightingale's birthday (May 12).

The annual Southland Nursing Excellence Awards are into their third year and are timed to coincide with International Nurses' Day.

Twenty-one nurses were nominated for the awards and the winners were announced at a function attended by 110 nurses in Invercargill on May 12. Violet McBain awards went to registered nurses Sue Ballam, who is working in Southland Hospital's outpatients' clinic, Sandy Borland, in the Pacific Island nursing service, and Ian Ryder, in mental health.

A research award went to Amanda McCracken, RN, practice nurse, Tuatapere. Primary healthcare awards went to registered nurses Rachel Hall, Southland immunisation co-ordinator, and Alison Wilden, nurse manager, Gore Medical Centre.

The aged care award went to Molly Muir, enrolled nurse, Peacehaven, while the Southern Institute of Technology award went to Boyd Frame, RN, medical ward, Southland Hospital.

Nursing dream finally realised

For as long as she can remember, Michelle Davis has wanted to nurse. As a Blenheim teenager, she joined St John Ambulance then trained as a nurse at Nelson Polytechnic, graduating in 1990.

However, like most of her class, she could not find a job. "It was a time of cost-cutting and restraints in the health sector," she recalls.

(Marlborough Express)
[Read more](#)

One manager for two rural hospitals

Tokoroa Hospital will soon be under shared management following a decision by the Waikato District Health Board to unite the management structure of all South Waikato and King Country hospitals.

The board initially decided to go ahead with joint management for Taumarunui and Tokoroa hospitals with the vision of adding Te Kuiti hospital under the same manager in years to come.

(Waikato Times)
[Read more](#)

Wairarapa Ambulance to take over in Sth Wairarapa

Wairarapa District Health Board (DHB) is to discontinue its south Wairarapa after-hours ambulance service contract with St John.

Instead, southern Wairarapa residents will receive paramedic care when they need it 24 hours a day from the DHB's owned and operated Wairarapa Ambulance Service.

(Wairarapa News)
[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 04 495 5887.

Patient transfer service welcomed

A new ambulance service designed to overcome delays for non-urgent transfers between Dunstan and Dunedin Hospitals carried its first patients recently. Its establishment follows concern last year about patients having to wait to be transferred when St John ambulances were unavailable.

(Otago Daily Times)
[Read more](#)

West Coast considers radical bureaucracy cull

West Coast health leaders are pondering whether their PHO or DHB should be closed down. The options of removing one or the other are proposed in the West Coast's EOI business case for Better Sooner More Convenient primary healthcare. Another option is to focus on better integration and alliance contracting.

(NZ Doctor)
[Read more](#)

Stroke patient praises hospital staff

A Blenheim woman is singing the praises of the nurses at Wairau Hospital after a stroke left her hospitalised for two weeks. Joan Wyatt, 62, was discharged from hospital on Wednesday after suffering a minor stroke while on a trip with her husband to Port Underwood just over two weeks ago.

(Marlborough Express)
[Read more](#)

District nursing cuts a disgrace - Labour

The Labour Party says a move to end the last 24 hour district nursing service in new Zealand is an absolute disgrace. MidCentral District Health Board is considering three options to reduce the service, including cutting it to business hours, Monday - Friday or from 7am - 11pm, seven days per week.

(RNZ)
[Read more](#)

DHB takes on hospice patient care

Hawke's Bay District Health Board is taking responsibility for inpatient palliative care provided by the region's only hospice for the next six months.

Last month, an independent audit of Cranford in Hastings found a dysfunctional relationship between staff and said the working environment was unsustainable.

(RNZ)
[Read more](#)

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