

RuralNetworker

April 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 22 April 2010.

In this issue • Network Board resignation • 2011 conference dates and venue confirmed • Benefits in bigger PHO and much more...

Network Board resignation

It was with great regret that the Network's Executive Board accepted Dr Andy Minett's resignation - for personal and professional reasons - at its April 19 meeting.

Dr Minett was re-elected to the Board at the March AGM in Christchurch as the Western Middle North Island representative having previously held the Eastern Middle North Island role. Both the Eastern and Western Middle North Island seats on the Board are now vacant.

For information or to express interest in either role, please contact Dr David Wilson 07 866 5911 or email davidwilson.mbmc@gmail.com or communications manager Rob Olsen: 04 495 5887, 021 82 2468 or email rob@rgpn.org.nz.

Dr Minett will still lead the RRS review on behalf of the Network.

Calling all spouses

The Network wants input from partners of rural general practitioners about the content of the spouses' programme at its annual conference. We welcome your ideas, feedback or input into this important section of the conference. Ideally we'd like someone to represent spouses on the conference committee, which meets via telephone - monthly in the lead-up to conference.

Please contact communications manager Rob Olsen on 04 495 5887, 021 82 2468 or email rob@rgpn.org.nz to register your interest.

Benefits in bigger PHO

Cheap prescription charges will be portable throughout the MidCentral Health district from July when the four primary health organisations are planning to merge. (Manawatu Standard)

The groups are in the process of forming one mega-PHO for the district combining the Manawatu, Tararua, Horowhenua and Otaki PHOs. Manawatu PHO manager Nicky Hart said the merger was a response to the changed environment, including a \$350,000 cut to the management fees available for the district's PHOs.

Read more

Palliative care lectures

With funding from Genesis Oncology Trust, Hospice New Zealand offers free access to its monthly Palliative Care Lectures. These take place on the first Thursday of every month from February - December from 7.30am-8.30am.

The lectures cover a range of topics and are delivered via teleconference usually with a power point presentation that the speaker takes participants through. The last 10-15 minutes of each session are dedicated to questions, giving you the opportunity raise anything specific with the speaker.

Please [click here](#) to find out more, see this year's schedule of lectures and to register to access this opportunity.

Pandemic Influenza H1N1 2010 update

The overall level of influenza in New Zealand continues to be low, with some local variation. The number of people visiting a GP with influenza-like illness continues to remain below baseline levels.

The number of people calling Healthline (0800 611 116) for advice relating to influenza is relatively stable. Primary care report there has been strong demand for seasonal influenza vaccine, and immunisation rates are higher than they were at this time last year.

(Scoop)
[Read more](#)

For health information and advice, call Healthline 0800 611 116. For latest updates on Pandemic Influenza H1N1 2009 (swine flu), visit <http://www.moh.govt.nz>.

Follow us on Twitter: <http://twitter.com/minhealthnz>.

2011 conference dates and venue confirmed

Wellington will host next year's New Zealand Rural General Practice Network conference. The event will be staged in the Wellington Convention Centre from March 17 - 20.

Programme planning will begin next month and registrations of interest or suggestions can be made to rob@rgpn.org.nz

Membership workshop

NZRGPN Membership committee members will meet in Wellington on May 12 to discuss and plan Membership matters such as growth, benefits, representation, communication and advocacy, amongst other things. Information-driven practice visits are also on the agenda.

If you have any ideas or suggestions to enhance, improve or add to Membership services please contact communications manager Rob Olsen on 04 495 5887, 021 82 2468, rob@rgpn.org.nz.

Your views and opinions matter, so let us know your thoughts.

Whanau Ora report

The Whanau Ora Taskforce Report, which sets out options for improving social, education and other support services for families across New Zealand has been released.

Whanau Ora Taskforce Report (pdf, 319 Kb)

Pharmacy change at Tokoroa Hospital

Waikato Hospital's pharmacy services will take over the supply of medicines and pharmacy service at Tokoroa Hospital from July 1.

All pharmaceuticals will come from Waikato Hospital with a technician and pharmacist providing and overseeing the service.

(Scoop)
[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.

If you would like to unsubscribe from this e-zine please [click here](#).