



RuralNetworker

December 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 December 2010.

In this issue • Christmas arrangements for the Network office • Locum payments • Network Conference 2011 - Early Bird registrations still open and much more...

Christmas arrangements for the Network office

The Network office will be closed for the Christmas break from December 24, 2010 to January 5, 2011. We will be back at work from Wednesday, January 5, 2011.

The emergency contact for NZLocums or the Network during the holiday break is Julie Wilson, telephone 021 547 160.

Locum payments

All invoices submitted after December 20 will not be paid until Thursday, January 6, 2011. Visit our website for more details: www.rpgn.org.nz

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

Network Conference 2011 - Early Bird registrations open

Take advantage of Early Bird registration rates for the Network's 2011 conference in Wellington. The theme of next year's conference is "Family Matters: Supporting rural general practice, rural communities, practitioners and their families".

The showcase rural health event will be held from March 17-20 at the Wellington Convention Centre (Michael Fowler Centre). The provisional programme is available by clicking [here](#).

The New Zealand Rural General Practice Network was formed in the early 1990s by a group of GPs who were passionate about providing quality healthcare to rural communities and supporting rural GPs and their families. The 2011 Conference revisits these core values.

For information on the programme, registration, exhibition stands, sponsorship and social events [click here](#). Or contact Communications and Membership Manager Rob Olsen directly on 04 495 5887 or 021 82 2468.

Peter Snow Memorial Award 2011

Rural GPs! Do you know of a colleague whose work in either research or innovation is worthy of recognition? Nominations are now open for the annual Peter Snow Memorial Award to be announced at the Network's 2011 conference in Wellington, March 17-20.

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 please [click here](#).

Doctors so happy to hang around

Taranaki's lifestyle has 10 second-year doctors hooked. (Taranaki Daily News)

Having just completed their first year as junior doctors at Taranaki Base Hospital, they were entitled to head off in search of medical opportunities elsewhere.

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GPs, nurses offer help on West Coast

A GP working for West Coast DHB has been "humbled" by the number of GPs and practice nurses who have offered to help out with cover in the aftermath of the Pike River Coal mine explosion. (NZ Doctor)

The seven GPs and two practice nurses who are going to help out in three Greymouth practices are only a handful of those who offered to help, chief medical officer Carol Atmore says.

[Read more](#)

Broadband services getting better

Broadband services in New Zealand continue to improve, with web speeds becoming more consistent across peak and non-peak times, according to the Commerce Commission. (The Press)

A report on the performance of internet service providers in major New Zealand cities reveals a reduction in internet "downtime", and shows TelstraClear's cable broadband service delivers "materially faster national browsing speeds" than copper DSL connections, says the commission.

Web browsing speeds for ISPs that installed their own equipment in Telecom exchanges were about 20 per cent faster than those provided by ISPs wholesaling Telecom connections.

Doctor says thanks for support

The husband of an Australian doctor injured during a swim with the dolphins in the Marlborough Sounds says the family has been thrilled by the support they have received from Australians and New Zealanders. (Marlborough Express)

"This has been a very challenging time and we are so thankful to everyone across New Zealand and Australia who has offered us their support," Clive Carlyle said.

[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.

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.rpgn.org.nz



Hospital staff fears abuse

Nurses may resort to wearing protective vests in some hospitals as assaults on medical staff continue to worry authorities. (NZ Herald)

Latest statistics show hundreds of attacks on nurses, doctors, security and administration staff each year.

[Read more](#)

Odd Spot - Dr Oz's sexy show 'demeaning'

The Dr Oz Show needs a transfusion of respect for the nursing profession, a media watchdog group said, after the TV show featured women costumed as sexy nurses. (Stuff)

The November segment about weight loss featured six women wearing high heels, retro nurses' caps and white dresses with red lingerie peeking out. The women danced briefly with series host Dr Mehmet Oz and the audience.

[Read more](#)

Otago Medical Research Foundation's Laurensen Awards announced

Five medical research projects at the University of Otago are being supported through the latest round of the Otago Medical Research Foundation's Laurensen Awards.

The projects include studying whether heavy opioid drug treatment can cause nerve problems, designing light-activated cancer drugs and trialling the effects of iodine supplements on young adult's cognition and wellbeing.

[Read more](#)

Rise in sexual assaults expected

Christmas and New Year will see a spike in sexual assaults, says one Timaru GP already dealing with up to three a month. (Timaru Herald)

Dr Louise Bourke has retired from her role as the doctor called on by the police when a sexual assault takes place.

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