

## August 2016 Newsletter



Dunstan Hospital medical officer Dr Garry Nixon was made a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to health in the Queen's Birthday Honours list. Garry began working at Dunstan in 1992 and has been instrumental in establishing rural hospital medicine as a career speciality, within a defined scope of practice. Garry introduced several speciality training modules to benefit rural patients, such as the rural hospital medicine vocation in 2008. Garry and others introduced the certificate of clinician performed ultrasound programme, which is recognised as world class and of special benefit in remote areas. The Rural Hospital Network would like to congratulate Garry on his achievements and acknowledge his services to rural health.

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Sharon Wards a member on our exec has been co-opted to the exec of RHAANZ (Rural Health Alliance Aotearoa New Zealand). It is great for the Rural Hospital Network to have a voice on the RHAANZ exec

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Our next Rural Hospital Clinical Directors Forum will be held on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> October 0930 – 1600 at the Jet Park Hotel and Conference Centre at Auckland Airport. Those that attend the Rural Hospital Clinical Directors Forums find these very beneficial with interesting topics for discussion. Scott Wilson a member of our exec is the chair of the Rural Hospital Clinical Directors Forum and we thank Scott for all he brings to this forum. If you have not received the details regarding this and would like to attend contact our Secretary [Andrea.Cairns@southerndhb.govt.nz](mailto:Andrea.Cairns@southerndhb.govt.nz) for a registration form and details

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Planning has started for the 2017 National Rural Health Conference. This will be held at the end of March/beginning of April in Wellington. Debi Lawry an exec member of the RHN is on the organising committee for the National Rural Health Conference and will be keeping us posted on any updates as they arise. If you have any ideas or suggestions of what you might like incorporated in the Conference please let us know and Debi will take them to the organising committee.

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Ray Anton, Chief Executive Officer, Clutha Health First, recently wrote the below article for a local publication that you may be interested in reading:-  
*It is interesting to reflect on what is happening in Queenstown in regards to their endeavour to establish an alternative system for health delivery at the Hospital in Frankton. This is in*

*stark contrast to our successful integrated health service here at Clutha Health First.*

*Queenstown is not Balclutha in terms of its size and population growth potential and hence it is difficult to transpose our model. Nevertheless the District Health Board and the Ministry of Health have spent years reviewing, analysing and consulting various parties in order to determine the best direction for Queenstown. All this effort has come at a great cost, both financially as well as lost opportunity for the local community. Queenstown is underserved in terms of Outpatient Clinics and the Facility at Frankton has not been fit for purpose for years.*

*Some members of the Community see successful Rural Health Trusts and want to emulate our models, others are concerned that the level of funding for public services is constrained by the DHB and that a Trust would fail unless it is well funded. In the meantime decisions get deferred.*

*Recently we have seen a report from the Ministry and another from the SDHB suggesting that due to the demographics in the Queenstown area, a community owned trust is not a good idea, rather potentially sometime in the future a Public Private Partnership may be a good way forward. The Southern DHB has decided that in the short term they would invest in an upgraded Emergency Department, possibly a CT Scanner, and refurbishment of the Wards.*

*It is an interesting contrast with the Clutha Health First Scenario. Over the*

*same period of time, CHF spent \$3.8 Million on a complete refurbishment and upgrade of our Facility, we bought and integrated General Practice with the Hospital, we introduced the role of Nurse Practitioner in managing urgent care, and we introduced a significant number of new services to our community that they can access locally with up-skilled clinical staff working at the top of their scope.*

*It is important to note that there is probably not one model that will work well in every circumstance, but the CHF model has served our community with considerable success.*

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Our website [www.nzrh.co.nz](http://www.nzrh.co.nz) is continuing to develop and is regularly updated to ensure relevant rural hospital related news is captured in a timely manner for our members' viewing. Our NZRHN Facebook page is also updated on a regular basis.