



New Zealand Rural Hospital Network

February 2016 Newsletter

Happy New Year to all our members. We trust you had a safe and happy holiday season catching up with friends and family.

At the end of November, Ray our Treasurer, Sharon an exec member and Robert our Chairman visited 7 rural hospitals including Te Puia Springs, Wairoa, Taupo, Tokoroa, Te Kuiti, Taumarunui and Hawera to promote the network and also gain understanding on the varying models of care delivery in these rural hospitals. This trip proved to be very successful and we are hoping to make this an annual event with the intent on covering all areas throughout New Zealand.



Sharon, Julie Eilers Service Manager at Taupo Hospital and Ray

The 2016 National Rural Health Conference is fast approaching and will be held in Dunedin 31st March – 3rd April. We hope you have got your registration in for this, if not it is not too late, visit

<http://www.conference.co.nz/nrhc16/home>.

Here you can also obtain details of the conference and programme. There are a range of plenary speakers that we hope will interest all attendees.

The RHN recently offered sponsorship of registration for 3 lucky RHN members to attend the National Rural Health Conference. We congratulate Mark Emmerson from Dannevirke Community Hospital, Aleida Spoelstra from Dargaville Hospital and Te Pare Meihana from Wairoa Hospital as being the lucky recipients. We look forward to seeing them at the conference.

For those of you that are attending the National Rural Health Conference the NZRHN AGM will be on Saturday 2nd April at 1pm and we encourage all RHN members present to attend. We will be calling for nominations for our exec shortly and welcome anyone who may be interested in joining us in this capacity.

Also to be held in conjunction with the National Rural Health Conference is our next Clinical Directors Forum. The last forum that took place in Wellington in September 2015 was very successful with a wide range of topics up for discussion. We are expecting a good turn out again. This will be Friday 1st April from 9.30 – 4pm at the Southern Cross Hotel in Dunedin. You do not need to be attending the conference to attend the Clinical Directors forum. If you would like to attend or have any items you would like added to the agenda please contact Andrea our Secretary at andrea.cairns@southerndhb.govt.nz



The Otago Community Trust has agreed to sponsor 18 registrations to attend the National Rural Health Conference and this is open to all Rural Nurses, Rural Midwives, Rural Allied Health professionals and Senior Admin staff Practice Managers from Rural Hospitals and Rural GP Practices within the Otago Region. If you wish to apply for this an application form can be obtained from our Secretary andrea.cairns@southerdhb.govt.nz applications close Friday 11th March.

The NZRHN are looking at the possibility of holding a Rural Hospital Manager's Forum similar to our Clinical Directors Forum. This will be discussed at our AGM to be held at the National Rural Health Conference and we urge Rural Hospital Managers to attend and take part in this discussion.

Recently the NZRHN were invited to join the National Rural Health Advisory Group. Robert Gonzales our chairperson will represent the NZRHN on this group and attend regular meetings. This is a fantastic opportunity for Robert to express rural issues at that level.

In November our officers had our annual face to face committee meeting in Wellington to review our Network goals and strategies, discuss any pertinent issues and plan for the upcoming year including the National Rural Health Conference. This meeting was very beneficial and a lot more achieved than is possible via our monthly teleconference meetings.

Our website www.nzrhn.co.nz is continuing to develop with the recent addition of an 'about us' tab. The website 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 and has more photos of Ray, Sharon and Robert's trip to the 7 rural hospitals they visited in November.