

May 2017 Newsletter

Over the last 3 months we have had 10 new members from throughout the country. We warmly welcome them to the network. It is always great to increase our membership whether clinical, non clinical or corporate so please encourage your colleagues working in rural hospitals around New Zealand to join the RHN. Application for Membership Forms are available through our website www.nzrh.co.nz

It was another successful National Rural Health Conference. This year the conference was held in Wellington from 31st March – 2nd April. The Rural Hospital Network had an exhibition stand and it was great to meet all the members who passed by



Our stand at the 2017 National Rural Health Conference

Our AGM was also held at the National Rural Health Conference along with the election of officers. They are as follows:
Chairman – Robert Gonzales (Waitaki)
Treasurer – Ray Anton (Balclutha)
Secretary – Andrea Cairns (Waitaki)
Committee members –
Sharon Wards (Taranaki), Debi Lawry (Dunstan), Scott Wilson (Dargaville), John Wigglesworth (Hokianga) and Rhonda Johnson (Dunstan). Rhonda Johnson is new to our executive team, we welcome Rhonda and look forward to her input on our Exec.

The Chairman's and Treasurer's annual reports which were delivered at our AGM will be available for members viewing on our website soon

Rural Hospital Clinical Leaders from around New Zealand met in Auckland on April 24th for the biannual forum. This was very well attended and with the exception of the inaugural meeting in 2014, was our largest to date. I believe this is testimony to the perseverance of the group, increased visibility and recognition on the national stage and a better understanding of the strength of our network. Various issues were discussed and debated, including procedural sedation in rural environments, training posts and medical student rotation and integrated models of care. The group were also updated on regional and national developments such as the telehealth working groups, the deteriorating patient programme from HQSC and the major trauma destination policy which the forum received recognition for their role in developing the staging guidelines. Following the meeting a closed Facebook page has been created for members to continue discussions and there has been considerable interest within the group to be involved in national policy development. A number of new members have come on board in recent weeks and we look forward to meeting again in October to continue the conversations.

Scott Wilson
Chair
NZ Rural Hospital Clinical Leaders Forum

The RHN offered sponsorship of registration for 2 lucky RHN members to attend the National Rural Health Conference. The successful applicants this year were Carolyn Dobson and Sharon Sandilands both from Dunstan. We hope they enjoyed the conference

Rural Nurses NZ Update

The challenges of working in rural and remote areas are well documented by research and literature both internationally and in New Zealand. Solutions and strategies to assist with these challenges (such as retention of staff, professional supervision, professional

development, networking and support for rural nurses who are all facing their unique version of these challenges, in particular those new to rural work or those working in isolation.

Following the recent National Rural Health Conference in Wellington, Rural Nurses were supportive of the need to establish a working party to commence work on raising the profile of NZ Rural Nurses nationally; assist in providing national connections; and contribute to career pathways and support for nurses working in a rural context.

In order to represent NZ Rural Nurses, the working party is aiming to achieve membership of 9-10 currently practicing Rural Nurses that reflect the variety of contexts that rural nurses work in across the nation and aims to include:

- Primary Rural Nurses
- Secondary Rural Nurses
- Remote Rural Nurses
- North Island Rural Nurses
- South Island Rural Nurses
- Educators/Academics with Rural interest
- Maori Rural Nurses

Expressions of interest for the working party closed on the 22nd of May with good interest nationally. A survey has been created to allow rural nurses to vote for the candidates they would like to see represent NZ Rural Nurses on the working party. We would like to encourage all nurses who work in a rural context to complete this survey and vote for their preferred candidates. To do this access survey at:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ruralnursesnz>

A closed facebook page has been created which has just over 130 followers to date. This is a useful medium for communication and making connections nationally. Please search for 'Rural Nurses NZ' on your facebook page and ask to join. A member of the admin team will ensure you are connected promptly.

For any queries regarding the Rural Nurses NZ working party, please contact Rhonda Johnson: rhonda.johnson@cohealth.co.nz

The Mobile Surgical Bus celebrated 15 years on the road in March this year. More than 21,335 people have been operated on-board in 24 different towns. The Mobile Surgical Service celebrated their 15th anniversary in Waipukurau with a day of dentistry. We congratulate the Mobile Surgical Service on their 15 years of service to rural communities



Massey University is seeking placements for third-year nursing students from its three New Zealand campuses at Albany, Palmerston North and Wellington. “We have students who are very interested in regional and rural nursing placement opportunities for their 9 week pre graduate placement, which usually starts around the last 2 weeks of July each year”, says Deborah Lecuchars, Senior Professional Clinician/Clinical Manager, School of Nursing and College of Health and Massey. Some students want to do their final pre-graduate placement either closer to home or in more remote areas of New Zealand, she says. As third year students they are in their final clinical placement for their Bachelor of Nursing and have completed at least 8 placements already. These have been in aged and residential care, primary health care, acute medical/surgical, both in wards and units, long-term conditions-chronic illness and rehabilitation wards and 2 placements in mental health usually one in the community

and one inpatient. Some will have also had paediatric/child health placements. Massey's BN programme gives students over 1200 hours, more than the required NCNZ 1100 clinical hours, says Ms Leuchars.

If your hospital is interested in hosting a student please email Deb Leuchars:
D.A.Leuchars@massey.ac.nz

If you or your hospital have a project or news that you would like added to our website or facebook page for everyone to see, let Andrea our Secretary know
andrea.cairns@southerndhb.govt.nz and she will post these for you
