

Nau mai. Haere mai. Ki te pānui o RHĀNZ mō tēnei wiki (Te Reo for welcome to the RHĀNZ Newsletter for this week).

In this issue: Re-booting health, an exciting new campaign with Skellerup, RHĀNZ entrusted with Govt funding to assist RSTs in North Canterbury and Marlborough, Rural Connectivity Symposium & Emerging Tech in Health Symposium, big welcome to new member Massey University, plus a selection of relevant media and research articles...

Who are RHĀNZ?

The Rural Health Alliance Aotearoa New Zealand represents a united voice from across multiple rural sector organisations. Our aim is to provide solutions and influence policy affecting the health and wellbeing of rural communities.

[Visit our website](#)



We thank our partners.



RURAL MENTAL HEALTH INITIATIVES

Last week the Minister of Health, Dr Jonathan Coleman, made a welcomed announcement that Government was making available an additional \$500k to support the ongoing health and wellbeing needs for the communities impacted by the 14 November earthquake in North Canterbury & Marlborough.

As part of this package RHĀNZ has been entrusted with \$50,000 to work with the North Canterbury and the Top of the South Rural Support Trusts. We have had an initial meeting with Ministry of Health and Ministry for Primary Industries officials and we await the contractual details. We are hoping to meet with the key players on the ground within the next fortnight to discuss ideas for how this money can be best put to use and we will provide more information once the details are known. We are delighted to be involved with this important initiative.

[Read more](#)

RURAL CONNECTIVITY SYMPOSIUM



Plans are well advanced for the Rural Connectivity Symposium to be held in Wellington, 23 May, 2017 and the new event, Emerging Tech in Health Symposium, to be held at the same venue the following day, 24 May, 2017. The first Symposium explores how connectivity is helping to improve: emergency and disaster responses in rural NZ (using Kaikoura as a case study); rural health outcomes; rural business opportunities and rural living in general. Given this is an election year, the event presents us with a unique opportunity to influence rural connectivity and we need as many rural stakeholders involved as possible.

The second Symposium explores how healthcare will be provided in 10 years' time and the part technology will play in this – across both urban and rural NZ.

Both these events provide us with golden opportunities to come up to speed with RB12 developments and the Govt's future policy developments, to share information and experiences, and ultimately to ensure rural communities can be part of 21st century technologies.

Five organisations are working together to make these events possible (RHĀNZ, TUANZ, YFNZ, NZHIT and HINZ) and we have kept the daily registration fee as low as possible (\$149 inc GST) for members (if your organisation is a member of RHĀNZ, then any of your members can enjoy the "member" rate). You can attend one or both events, with a further discount available for both events.

We really hope you can make one, or both of these events.

Click here for more information and registration details:

Rural Connectivity Symposium tuanz.org.nz/rural-symposium-2017/
Emerging Tech in Health Symposium www.bit.ly/etih2017

Media Watch

Should doctors and vets work more closely together?

This is an interesting and thought provoking BBC programme which asks whether doctors and vets should be working more closely together for the good of people and animals. It explores the potential of vets and doctors training and researching together to better understand the DNA of disease across species. There is a dire warning from one of the presenters that should we fail to do this, it will be the unravelling of modern medicine as we know it.

There are also some thought provoking examples where rural vets are treating fractures in humans and even providing midwifery services. Similarly, human dentists are providing animal dentistry. The potential for collaboration between the professions and the pharmaceutical companies is clearly significant. It's an interesting listen.

[Read more.](#)

A long road to clean up waterways

While the public might hope for rapid restoration of water quality in all rivers and lakes in New Zealand, this is unrealistic and scientifically impossible.

So says Sir Peter Gluckman, the Prime Minister's chief science advisor. "In some cases we are dealing with contamination that occurred decades ago, and the legacy effects may take a similar time to flush from the system," he says in his report 'New Zealand's fresh waters: values, states, trends and human impacts.' "Moreover there are no silver bullets in water restoration: multiple actions are needed, requiring partnerships between central and local authorities, iwi, citizens and businesses including farmers.' (Rural News)

[Read more](#)

Shift to online classes 'discriminates' against rural children, mother claims

Families living in the middle of nowhere – far from the reach of the World Wide Web – are worried about the future of home schooling in isolated areas as the Correspondence School shifts to online learning. (Manawatu Standard)

[Read more](#)

Extra \$700,000 to support Bay of Plenty

An extra \$700,000 will be available to further support businesses affected by the flooding in Edgecumbe and the Bay of Plenty, say Minister for Economic Development Simon Bridges and Lead Minister for Edgecumbe Anne Tolley. "It's going to be some time before things get back to normal after the flooding which devastated Edgecumbe and the Bay of Plenty," says Mr Bridges.

"It's important the Government provides the appropriate support to help people get back on their feet. Cabinet has today agreed to a \$700,000 package which will assist around 100 local businesses affected by flooding. \$200,000 will be available for Rural Assistance payments to help rural families with essential living costs, and an extra \$250,000 will assist the Rural Support Trust to help farmers and growers to assess crop damage. An extra \$250,000 towards a Disaster Relief Fund will support businesses. (Voxy)

[Read more](#)

National interest and consultation are paramount

The joint bid of Waikato University and Waikato District Health Board to establish the country's third medical school is opposed by the University of Otago and the University of Auckland medical schools.

- [Dr Nigel Murray's argument](#)

The sides squared off in this month's New Zealand Medical Journal. Today, Waikato District Health Board chief executive Dr Nigel Murray and Otago Medical School dean Prof Peter Crampton put their respective cases on the matter. (Otago Daily Times)

[Read more](#)

Local Rural Health Initiatives

Supporting the sustainability of health services for Oxford and surrounding areas

A group of health and social service providers are working to address the opportunities and challenges for health services in Oxford and its surrounding areas. Rural Health Project Manager, Shona Urquhart-Bevan said the work forms part of the Canterbury Rural Sustainability Project, a health system initiative aimed at supporting rural communities to lead the modelling of their health services.

[Read more](#)

Re-booting health, for the greater good



Next month marks the start of an exciting "Re-booting health" campaign between Skellerup and RHĀNZ. Skellerup is an iconic NZ company and a long-standing partner of rural NZ and during May and June this year, they will be donating \$15,000 from the sales of their high performance Quatro gumbboot, as well as their milking liners, to RHĀNZ.

This is an extraordinarily generous offer which will help us champion our Rural Health Road Map priorities in election year.

Skellerup national manager Perry Davis says "we understand the link between healthy people and healthy communities. Supporting RHĀNZ is one way for us to stand by the families who have stood by us for so long."

It's an honour to have been chosen as the recipient of this campaign, and we urge you to buy a pair of Quatro gumbboots and/or stock up on your milking liners during May and June this year. Please also encourage your family, friends and colleagues to do the same. I can honestly say that my Quatro gumbboots – Quatro Knees – are the most comfortable gumbboots I have ever owned. I can work on the farm and garden all day without foot ache or blisters and they look good too - I've even been known to pop down to the supermarket in them. Guess what the two daughters will be getting for Xmas?

We will be promoting this campaign in partnership with Skellerup through rural media and via our own social media networks, so please share and like as appropriate.

Skellerup are also sponsoring our Rural Connectivity Symposium in Wellington on 23 May and will be giving away a voucher for a family set of Red Band gumbboots to one lucky person.

Thanks Skellerup for all your support and for masterminding this campaign. It really is helping the rubber hit the road for us.

Cheers and best wishes,
Michelle

New Members

We are delighted to welcome Massey University's College of Health as a member of the Rural Health Alliance Aotearoa New Zealand and in particular, their named representative Professor Jane Mills, Pro Vice-Chancellor, College of Health. Jane is a nurse by profession, a rural stalwart and prior to settling in NZ, was one of Australia's leading nurse academics (James Cook University).

This brings our membership to 46 organisations and we are very much looking forward to working with the team at Massey University's College of Health to help deliver on our promise of making rural NZ healthier.

Member Column

Would you like to contribute an article for our newsletter? Tell a story about yourself or one of your members or something you're passionate about. Email your item to Michelle ce@rhaanz.org.nz

Subscribe

Anyone interested in rural health is welcome to subscribe to this newsletter. Keep up to date with us by [subscribing now](#).

Media Watch

Acceptable circumstances to carry passengers on quad bikes

WorkSafe New Zealand has clarified the circumstances in which it is acceptable to carry passengers on single-seat quad bikes, in consultation with Federated Farmers, Beef + Lamb NZ, and DairyNZ. Under the Health and Safety at Work Act (HSWA) 2015, persons conducting a business or undertaking such as farming must identify and manage risks arising from work, so far as is reasonably practicable.

WorkSafe's position on quad bikes is that single-seat quad bikes should not normally be used to carry passengers. Carrying a passenger on a quad bike that is not designed for more than one person can increase the risk of accidents by making it more unstable, more difficult to control, and more likely to rollover. (Scoop)

[Read more](#)

Work underway to address antimicrobial resistance

Health Minister Jonathan Coleman and Food Safety Minister David Bennett have welcomed steps to enhance New Zealand's ability to respond to the growing global issue of antimicrobial resistance (AMR).

"Like other countries, New Zealand has seen a rise in antibiotic resistant infections and it is important that we develop a clear plan to reduce AMR," says Dr Coleman.

"Antimicrobial resistance occurs when microorganisms such as bacteria and viruses change in ways that render the medications used to cure the infections they cause ineffective. (Scoop)

[Read more](#)

Events Watch

A World of Rural Health, International Conference, Cairns, Australia, 26 April – 2 May 2017

[Read more](#)

Dairy Women's Network Conference, Queenstown, 11-12 May 2017.

[Read more](#)

Rural Connectivity Symposium 23 May 2017, Westpac Stadium Wellington.

[Read more](#)

Emerging Tech in Health - 24 May 2017, Westpac Stadium Wellington.

[Read more](#)

RuralFestNZ - 25 May 2017, Federated Farmers, Wellington (for named representatives only).

[Read more](#)

Influencing Policy and Writing Submissions Symposium, Allied Health Aotearoa New Zealand (AHANZ), Wellington 31 May 2017

[Read more](#)