

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

In this issue: Fieldays Health Hub, Council Members 2017-2018, Stroke Awareness Campaign, a warm welcome to Wairoa District Council and 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.



FAST Campaign



Last month we referenced the Stroke Awareness Campaign being run by the Health Promotion Agency, the Ministry of Health and the Stroke Foundation. The campaign was officially launched this week and will run for three months. The aim is to encourage people to learn the signs of stroke by using the easily remembered FAST mnemonic.

The key message of the campaign is one of urgent action, especially for those living in rural and remote regions. Any stroke is a medical emergency and people should call 111 rather than their doctor, family and friends, or waiting for it to pass. Calling 111 is the best means of achieving a positive outcome.

The Stroke Foundation would like to ask RHĀNZ members to promote their campaign in their workplaces, websites, electronic newsletters or social media channels. They have provided the following resources to help with this:

- A [Word document](#) with campaign key messages suitable for use in articles.
- Jpeg images from the campaign imagery that are suitable for electronic channels: [square webtile](#) and [rectangle webtile](#)
- A [pdf poster](#) suitable to print as A3

If you require larger files for print or other purposes please contact HPA direct enquiries@hpa.org.nz.

We hope you will support this worthy campaign.

Media Watch

Blow to 400 patients as cancer nurse funds axed

The MidCentral District Health Board has pulled the contract to provide a community cancer nurse in our district, leaving a huge hole in services here for 400 cancer patients. The funding cut is despite the board receiving an extra \$19 million in new money this year from the Budget, taking the board's total funding to \$614m for 2017/18 - an extra \$158m in funding over the past nine years.

Our community deserved the best in health services, Tararua Health Group chief executive Sharon Wards said. "This community is blessed with having a wonderful range of service providers, but why is the health board cutting this community nurse service? Cancer hasn't stopped," she said.

[Read more](#)

IPCA launches investigation into small-town policing nationwide

The behaviour of police officers in small-town New Zealand is being investigated by the country's police watchdog. Managing conflicts of interest and how best to supervise officers remotely are two of the issues the IPCA will focus on. Assistant Police Commissioner Sam Hoyle acknowledged there were challenges for police in smaller communities that big city officers did not have. They're never off duty. It's not like an officer who works in a city and often doesn't live in the area they police. (Stuff)

[Read more](#)

VBS part of the rural workforce challenge

The Voluntary Bonding Scheme is making a valuable contribution to solving rural workforce shortages but is only part of the ongoing response to GP and nurse shortages in rural areas, says New Zealand Rural General Practice Network Chief Executive Dalton Kelly. (Scoop).

[Read more](#)

College of Health joins RHAANZ

Massey University's College of Health has joined the Rural Health Alliance Aotearoa New Zealand (RHAANZ), with College Pro Vice-Chancellor Professor Jane Mills elected to its Council. (Massey University)

[Read more](#)

Jane was also interviewed as part of Rural News, Radio NZ, 6 June. Hear what she had to say about our research priorities. (near the end of the news report, about the 6 mins mark)

[Read more](#)

Rural sector achievements highlighted in honours list

Federated Farmers congratulates all those who received awards in the Queen's Birthday Honours list this year and is delighted to see the rural sector and the people involved in it commended for their outstanding achievements and contributions.

"The number of Queen's Birthday Honours which have an agricultural connection shows the significant contribution farmers and agribusiness continue to play in New Zealand.

"These awards recognise contributions in science and innovation, mental health, business and the environment indicating the diversity of effort in the rural community," says Dr William Rolleston Federated Farmers' National President.

Overall, there were 13 people associated with the rural sector honoured. (Federated Farmers)

[Read more](#)

Maori growing part of NZ ag – PM

People are starting to realise Maori are not fly-by-night investors, he says. They are in business – farms, commercial buildings, investments -- for the long haul.

English said this at an event celebrating the award of the Ahuwhenua Trophy for the top Maori sheep and beef farm, this year won by the Omapere Rangihamama Trust farm, near Kaikohe.

He praised the awards, saying that 20 years ago few people would not have known much about Maori farming. But now the prominence of the Ahuwhenua Trophy has generated huge interest in Maori farming among agribusiness people and news media. (Rural News)

[Read more](#)

Services to rural women recognised with honour

Rotorua's Wendy McGowan is excited and thankful about being made an officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to rural women. Mrs McGowan has been a member of Rural Women New Zealand (RWNZ) since 1975 and has held offices with the Kaharoa Branch, Provincial and Inter-Provincial Committees. She said she felt excited about the honour and very thankful to the people who had nominated her. (The Country)

[Read more](#)

\$14.4m to support Kaikōura earthquake recovery

Minister of Civil Defence Nathan Guy has announced additional support of \$14.4 million for Kaikōura's earthquake recovery efforts today. "This new funding will help repair essential infrastructure and recognises that Kaikōura has a small council and ratepayer base," says Mr Guy.

"The region suffered around \$20 million of damage to assets such as water pipes and bore holes after the earthquake. The Government will pay its share of 60 per cent of repair costs upfront by providing cash advances of up to \$12 million to the council. (Beehive).

[Read more](#)

Health Hubs 2017



Next week, in partnership with Mobile Health and the New Zealand Rural General Practice Network, we'll be leading the inaugural Health Hub at the NZ Agricultural Fieldays in Hamilton.

The overarching theme for this year's Fieldays is Leading Change and the Health Hub aims to showcase innovations in health care delivery and to change how rural people think about their own health and wellbeing.

We're aiming to create an interactive, fun and non-threatening space designed to educate and inform visitors about rural health issues. We have over 20 organisations involved in the Health Hub, including the amazing surgical bus – with mock surgery, a giant inflatable bowel from Bowel Cancer NZ – large enough for people to walk through and spot early warning signs, and a UV camera - for people to see instantaneously the damage to their skin caused by the sun.

We also have our own stand "Healthy Behaviours Challenge" where individuals will be asked to indicate by placement of a various tokens how well they stack up against the "5 Ways to Wellbeing". Every person taking the challenge will go into the daily draw to win a pair of Quatro gumboots, thanks to our strategic supporter Skellerup. We'll also be doing something exciting as part of the Rural Bachelor of the Year Challenge. The Hub will be hosting a series of expert speakers doing free "MED Talks". These are 10 minute presentations based on the popular "TED Talks" concept. Our Health Hub will be formally opened by the Fieldays Board, VIPs and Government Ministers, including Ministers Coleman and Guy on Wednesday 14 June 2017 at 11:00am.

We've also been extraordinarily lucky to have secured John McBeth, well known sports commentator and media personality and Graeme Williams, farmer and bush poet, both of whom will help bring pizzazz to the Health Hub. This should be a fabulous event. Come and see us! We're just along from the Village Green – look for the surgical bus – it will be hard to miss.

Speaking of hubs, this week the elected Council members met to appoint a "health hub" of our very own. They appointed our office holders and co-opted members and as a result our governing body for the 2017-2018 term is as follows:

- Dr Martin London (Independent Chairperson)
- Professor Jane Mills, College of Health, Massey University (Deputy Chairperson)
- Bill Eschenbach, Rural Canterbury PHO (Treasurer)
- Sharon Wards, New Zealand Rural Hospital Network (Secretary)
- Mark Eager, Mobile Health (5th Executive Committee Member)
- Craig Young, Telecommunications Users Association New Zealand
- Katie Milne, Federated Farmers
- Neil Bateup, Rural Support Trusts
- Cathy Brown, Dairy Women's Network
- Rachael Pretorius, College of Nurses Aotearoa New Zealand
- Roger Parton, Rural Contractors New Zealand
- Dr Chris Henry, Kaikoura Health Te Ha o Te Ora
- Dr David Wilson, New Zealand Rural General Practice Network
- Bill Nathan, Kaumātua

Congratulations and a big thank you to all our member representatives who have made themselves so willingly available for our governing body. There is no doubt that the next 12 months is set to be busy and we look forward to working with them all for the betterment of rural health and wellbeing.

Finally, bouquets to Sharon Wards and Professor Jane Mills, both of whom took the opportunity to promote key RHĀNZ messages as part of their engagement with the health sector/media recently.

Sharon - while voicing her displeasure about funding cuts to community cancer nursing at her local DHB meeting – reinforced the need for rural proofing across government policy and reiterated the economic and political value of the rural constituency.

Jane – while being interviewed on Radio NZ, took the opportunity to push our research priorities, namely the need for a nationally consistent definition of rural and better mining of existing databases.

See their full articles under Media Watch. We'll be pushing these messages from the top but the more they can be done from the grassroots level the better. Our united rural voice has the potential to be very powerful in election year so let's keep it up.

Cheers and best wishes,
Michelle

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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

New Members

We are delighted to welcome Wairoa District Council as a member of the Rural Health Alliance Aotearoa New Zealand and in particular their named representative Kitea Tipuna.

This brings our membership to 48 organisations and we are very much looking forward to working with the team at Wairoa District Council to help deliver on our promise of making rural NZ healthier.

Research & Resources Watch

Work-read: the challenges and workforces

This editorial appeared in the Australian Journal of Medicine this week (5 June) and provides some useful information to the current medical school/rural health school debate happening in NZ.

[Read more](#)

Events Watch

Hold the date – National Rural Health Conference, Auckland, 5-8 April 2018.