

Report RMIP 2020

2020 has been a year for disruption but the resilience of the students has been remarkable. They



had seven weeks of being unable to access health facilities during the nation's level four and level three response to the COVID – 19 pandemic. The students dispersed around the country as soon as lockdown was announced, some remaining on site and some going home. However they operated as a cohesive group attending zoom teaching sessions with their coordinators, myself and Garry Nixon. They were enthusiastically led by their class rep Wilson Mitchell

who displayed the full force of his leadership abilities. He produced a quiz, he led their own teaching sessions and he directed a most touching dawn service on zoom on ANZAC Day which I also attended.

We had twenty-four students this year having started four students in the new centre based in Ashburton. Thanks to Janine Lander and Alex Feberwee their maiden year went smoothly and the students reported a wonderful year. Unfortunately, we were only able to get two students in Balclutha. All centres ran efficiently and the students overall had a good year. The three residentials, Hauora Maori and the Pacifica session were all held, but the latter two and the Christchurch residentials were conducted online thanks to the efforts



of presenters from the Christchurch Campus, the MIHI group and the Pacifica group. Needless to say, everyone was zoomed out by the end of all of that but grateful for the experience. Being able to attend the Wellington Residential was a welcome contrast enjoyed by the students although it was an exercise in multimodal teaching with the Southland students, marooned in Queenstown, attending by zoom. The students worked very hard throughout and it was gratifying to see them all passing the common end of year exams. My thanks to Dale and the other service support staff of the General Practice and Rural Health Unit.

Branko Sijnja, Director

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This year was unusual in that we had a number of graduate students who had past work experience.



We had psychologists, physiotherapists, nutritionists, Chinese medicine graduates specialised in acupuncture, advanced care ambulance officers and rural paramedics. One of our students attached to the West Coast teaching centre, a married student with a wife and two children living in Christchurch, performed exemplary service to the community engaging in his own time

with hard to reach Maori and Pacific men to help them access healthcare in partnership with the

local Maori healthcare provider, and attended Men's group meetings on an evening to help provide support for men who have ongoing social, mental health and addiction issues.

We completed the year with all students passing their end of year exams, a good outcome. Credit goes to the regional coordinators and their administrators who supported us and the students through this year.

We have had two successful teach the teachers events with a good number of new teachers attending, amongst them nurses, general surgeons, GPs and midwives reporting back on an excellent learning experience.