

# RMIP Newsletter - March 2014

## Tour of the Regional Teaching Centres

Branko Sijnja - RMIP Director

In the last week I took a trip around the Regional Teaching Centres. This was aimed at seeing the coordinators, others involved in the organisation in each regional teaching centre and students in their groups. This involved quite a bit of travelling in a few days but it was rewarding to see the staff, students and other personnel who make the programme work.



### GP CONFERENCE

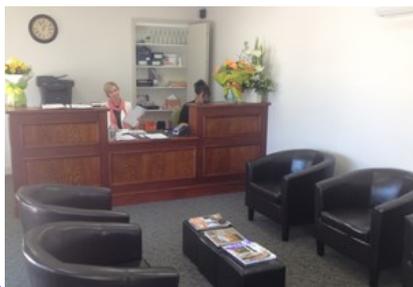
I started off at the Rural GP Network Conference. This was a great conference and good to see the rich spirit in rural general practice shining through. The students who attended enjoyed the conference and commented that they got a lot from seeing, for the first time, the wider sector aspects and the political context of rural general practice and rural/provincial hospital medicine.

### Dannevirke, Pahiatua, Masterton and Carterton!

Dannevirke was the first stop and I met the students in their traditional residence, the house behind the hospital. It was a very pleasant evening with Marta and she cooked a scrumptious duck for tea. I met with Sharon Wards of the Tararua Health Group that operates the hospital and primary care in the Tararua area. A quick stop in Pahiatua to meet with Sam Wilson and onto Masterton where I had coffee with Alan Shirley, surgeon and Board member of Wairarapa DHB. I met the CEO of Masterton Medical. I was impressed that having had a disastrous fire in their building just a couple of weeks earlier, they were up and running, albeit fragmented, then moving to a hospital facility till their own is rebuilt and still taking on our students through this time. Tremendous work. I met the students in their education room and all is well with them. Travelled to Carterton where I met with David in his newly renovated rooms and his new practice manager Donna King. This was followed with dinner at David's. We observed the mock accident at Featherstone and I returned to Masterton for the rest of the evening.

### BUZZ'S NEW PRACTICE!

The next day was a big one. I travelled over the Rimutakas and caught a plane to Blenheim where I met Jo Des Forges, our contact in the Wairau Hospital. I saw Buzz' new surgery in Renwick, a house beautifully done up and rearranged for its new purpose, very well set up for patients and for having students. Paula McVicar is his practice manager and is starting to find her way around the programme.



## **Blenheim, Rotherham, Clutha, Gore, Queenstown, Cromwell & West Coast**

I met three of the Marlborough students in Renwick, all going well and then drove on to Rotherham to meet with the fourth student who showed me around the new health centre. The impressive Amuri Community Health Centre is new, well set up and 100% community owned. An old classmate Graeme Scrivener was working there at the time. Then followed a quick trip to Christchurch and I flew home for the Wednesday. Early Thursday morning I resumed



**Amuri Community Health Centre ~ New!**

my journey and travelled to Balclutha to meet with the students and caught up with the third at Gore. The meeting with Karl Metzger, CEO of Gore Hospital showed the enthusiasm with which the programme is met in Gore and it's going well with the support of local staff. Then a drive to Lakes District Hospital to meet the students and Jez Leftley our coordinator. All is going well there and the students are being very attentive to the hospital facility. I drove over the Crown Range Road to Wanaka to meet with GP Julian Pettit and a third student. This is a good strong attachment in a well-appointed facility. I met with John Hillock in Cromwell and then back to Clutha. The next leg was to get to the West Coast. There I met with Juliette Reese, Tom Fiddes and then the students. The ViPr session was then conducted from there and then I was grateful to have a very impressive meal put on by the students with Juliette and son, Emma with Bing and two sons. Great house, good food and well looked after by the students. A mean Risotto. Flew home the next day having spent a bit of money when I succumbed to the stuff in the window of the Pounamu shop in Hokitika.

**A good trip all round. My only advice is to those students who are living independently that they must make a big effort to work as a group with the other students in their locality. Everywhere I found the support for the programme to be very positive. The staff is stable and know what they are doing. It is pleasing to see all going so well with no major issues with our regional teaching centre network. Similarly the students are well ensconced in their teaching centres and operational. The overwhelming, spontaneous, feedback from every region was very positive. I came away with a picture of the students enjoying their attachments and the staff in contact with them enthusiastic about their attitude. They find them all to be very attentive and adaptable. I feel we are set up for a good year for everyone.**

Branko

## **RMIP MOCK ACCIDENTS 2014!**

I have been privileged to be able to see the enactment of three road accidents in Clutha, Frankton and Wairarapa. Happily all twelve patients survived and were well cared for.

### **CLUTHA**



At Balclutha a crashed car in a wrecker's yard was found to contain four injured persons. The students assessed all patients, airways were managed, spines supported and pneumothorax duly deflated. The pregnancy caused much consternation as did the absence of the ambulance service. Although all the doors were open, the intrepid fire brigade removed the roof of the car and carefully levitated the patients from the scene to complete the incident in the local hospital.



## QUEENSTOWN



In Frankton a quiet country road was turned into a scene of carnage. A car went down a steep grassy bank, a truck stopped and a van ran into the back of that with a total of four persons injured. A team of medical students out on a Sunday drive to see their new neighbourhood were first on the scene. Realising the seriousness of the event the emergency services were immediately called. Two fire appliances and an ambulance arrived with large numbers of personnel. The cool student team managed with the fire and ambulance crews the two quite separate sites and despite the intervention of a very cold deluge of rain they emerged smiling.



## WAIRARAPA



In the Wairarapa on a quiet street in Featherston there was a similar crash with also two vehicles but one had struck a pole that fell across the bonnet of the car draping it with high tension power wires. Once it was established that the two scenes were safe the attending students assessed the injuries, established the priorities for extraction and evacuation. They went on to apply neck braces, insert an intercostal tube and check vital signs till all four patients were despatched from the scene.

**In all three incidents all participants were debriefed after the event and there was a good interchange of feedback between the attending services. This is a very useful learning activity where students are confronted with their first accident scene under simulated and supported conditions. This prepares them for their future when they will be confronted with other emergency situations. Similar activities take place in the Westcoast, Tararua and Marlborough. The RMIP is always grateful to the services who participate, the actor patients and the owners who offer cars to be decapitated to convertibles.**