

WHAT'S NEW IN THIS ISSUE:

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Update on our Beach Satellite Medical Centre :

We are so pleased to be underway finally with this exciting project. We have now completed the final Council consent requirements for the build and all the associated works, and have had a fence built and the old house removed. The next stage is to have all the earthworks done for levelling the site and laying of all the underground services, and once that is completed we will start on the actual building. We expect the build to take the rest of the year to complete. Check out our Waikanae Health website and facebook page for ongoing updates as we go along.

ManageMyHealth - On Line Access to your Health Centre:

It's great to see more and more people signing up for this great new service. When using the Manage My Health portal patients can make an appointment on line, email their doctor directly (rather than waiting to speak to a nurse who then has to wait to speak to the doctor.....), request a repeat prescription directly from their own doctor, view their test results and check on their recalls. If appropriate patients may have a consultation with their doctor by email (or phone) if the doctor agrees that there is no need for a face-to-face consultation. There will a charge for these consultations but it will usually be less than a face-to-face consultation fee. We can also email patients using this secure link so it is a great tool for improved communication with the practice team.

Access via Manage My Health can be via your computer or laptop, or via a Manage My Health app which can be downloaded on to smart phones, so people can access these on line services from anywhere at any time.

If you haven't yet signed up for this service you can go on to our website www.waikanaehealth.co.nz to download the Terms and Conditions which you will need to read and sign. You then need to bring this in to our reception team, along with photo ID, and you will be helped through the process of registering and activating your account.

Just a reminder that we do need up to 2 working days to process a prescription request, so please ensure you make your request well before your medications run out. In light of the frequency and severity of natural events which we are now seeing, it is wise to avoid any potential delays to the supply of your medications.

Dr Clive Cameron is retiring!

Most of you will know that Dr Cameron has decided to hang up his stethoscope after 35 years practising as a GP in Waikanae. Clive has made a huge contribution to the health and well being of generations of patients in Waikanae, and he will be greatly missed. He tells us he will miss us too....

We are very pleased that Dr Romain Kuhm, whom you may already know, will be taking over Clive's practice. Romain comes from France and joined our practice, along with his wife Dr Anne-Christine, over two years ago and has become a valued member of our clinical team.

We wish Clive the very best for the future and look forward to hearing about the new adventures retirement may bring..

Other staff news:

At the beginning of the year Drs Kate Mitchell and Dr Ram Naidu joined us and have quickly settled into a busy workload. In March Dr Zoe Fudakowski began working as a locum in the practice to cover doctors away on leave. She has been looking after Dr Jared Cook's patients over the last month while he is away, and she will be turning up as locum for various other doctors in the practice over the rest of the year.

As we struggle to fit everyone into our building we have had to move some doctors into the Specialist Centre. If you are a patient of Dr Herman van Kradenburg or Dr Kate Mitchell you will now need to go to that end of the building to see them.

We had a very difficult time over January - February with three nurses leaving us for various reasons. Recruitment and training takes a lot of time and effort, but we have been really impressed with the calibre of nurses looking to make Practice Nursing their career. Nurses Fran, Oksana, Michele and Haley all come with great experience and qualifications, and they have brought enthusiasm and freshness to the nursing team. We do apologise for the difficulties some patients have experienced when trying to get an appointment with a nurse over this period, but we are getting back to a full complement now and things are almost back to normal.

We have a new face at reception: Shelley has joined us as an extra receptionist to cover leave etc, and as we start to build our staffing levels for the Beach clinic.

Opening hours:

Don't forget that we are open in the evenings during the week, and also on Saturdays. We have extended our opening hours on a Saturday: we are now open from 9.00am in the morning until 4.00pm in the afternoon. We have two doctors available, one for routine booked appointments for people who find it difficult to get here during the week, and the other for urgent, on-the-day matters.

During the week we are open until 7.00pm Monday to Thursday, and until 5.30pm on Fridays. Again we have doctors available for late booked clinics as well as the urgent care doctor.

Outside of those hours we have a Waikanae Health doctor on call until 10.00pm every night of the week. After hours calls are diverted to our after hours service whose registered nurses answer our calls, provide advice and contact the on call doctor as needed. Patients can ring us at any time throughout the night between 7pm and 8am the next morning, and have their call answered by one of these nurses.

Flu vaccination clinics:

Yes - it's that time of year again with winter around the corner and coughs and colds already in evidence.

The influenza vaccination programme is under way and our flu clinics are now open for appointments. The vaccine is free to everyone over the age of 65 years, people with chronic conditions such as diabetes, and pregnant women. This year the funding period has been extended to 31 December 2017, so eligible patients can continue to ask for a free flu vaccination up until that date.

Of course, it is wise to have the vaccination before the illness starts to appear in our community, so now is the time to book it in. We have opened some evening and Saturday clinics to make it more convenient for those constrained by working hours.

EASTER OPENING HOURS:

We are open over Easter as follows:

Thursday 13 Easter: 8.00am - 5.30pm

Friday 14 April: CLOSED

Saturday 15 April: 9.00am - 4.00pm

Sunday 16 April: CLOSED

Monday 17 April: CLOSED

Tuesday 18 April: 8.00am - 7.00pm

Outside of these hours we have a doctor on call between 8.00am and 10.00pm every day.

Call 04 293 6005 to talk to one of the registered nurses who will help you.

The Waikanae Health team would like to wish everyone a safe and happy Easter.

AND NOW THE JOKE...

What do you call a Frenchman wearing jandals?

Phillipe Phillope.
