Eforum Newsletter: NRHA eforum 15 September 2006

National Rural Health Alliance E-forum – 15 September 2006
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9th NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH CONFERENCE

Up to a thousand people will Stand Up for Rural and Remote Health at the 9th Conference in Albury next March.

Conference themes are:
1 Health across borders - State and professional (including developments along the Murray River). How teamwork is being developed across professional and disciplinary boundaries, and how quality is assured in inter-disciplinary work.
2 A focus on regional and local success stories in rural and remote health. What are their key characteristics and what contribution is made to them by IT and transport? Those relating to Indigenous health are of particular interest. And what have been the key issues where services have not been effective?
3 The politics and economics of early intervention: what are the political or professional constraints and where are the successes? What is the evidence for the benefits of early intervention, and are sufficient resources being directed to it?
4 How do we measure up in rural and remote areas on evidence, access and equity? What is the status of the evidence base in rural and remote health and what are the appropriate measures to be used? Where are the key research gaps? How do rural and remote health services compare across regions and with other nations?
5 What are the particular characteristics of chronic disease in rural and remote Australia: diabetes, obesity, oral and dental disease, mental illness and heart disease? What intervention and management systems work well, including for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people? What are the roles of screening and self-management systems? Can we overcome skill shortages relating to chronic disease?
6 Preparation for and community response to natural disasters. What are (or would be) the rural and remote aspects of drought, flood and fire, avian flu, foot and mouth? How prepared are we in country areas? What are the characteristics of communities and health services which make some regions more resilient?

The Conference website is at http://www.ruralhealth.org.au

For further information, contact:
The 9th National Rural Health Conference
PO Box 280
DEAKIN WEST ACT 2600
Phone: 02 6285 4660
Fax: 02 6285 4670
Email: conference@ruralhealth.org.au

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From: Rural Health Education Foundation
Subject: Clinical Toxicology: Bites and Stings

Presented by the Rural Health Education Foundation
LIVE national satellite television broadcast

Tuesday 26th September 8:00pm EST
(repeated Friday 29th September 12:30pm EST)

Funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing

This program examines injury from Australia's most common and notorious snakes, spiders and marine stingers using a series of case studies illustrating management issues from pre hospital care through to long term management of ongoing sequelae.

Some of the "myths" associated with envenomation and management will also be explored.

Further details about the program visit http://www.rhef.com.au/programs/611/611.html

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From: Ann Kreger
Subject: Positions with the NSW Centre for Rural and Remote Mental Health

Currently advertised positions with the NSW Centre for Rural and Remote Mental Health:

Associate Professor / Senior Lecturer in Rural Mental Health Service Development and Planning @ CRRMH Orange
http://www.newcastle.edu.au/service/employment/506.pdf

Post Doctoral Research Fellowship in Rural Mental Health @ CRRMH Orange
http://www.newcastle.edu.au/service/employment/520.pdf

Ann Kreger
Implementation Project Officer
Centre for Rural and Remote Mental Health Queensland
Tropical Health Institute
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Manuscript submissions to The Australian Journal of Rural Health can now be made online through Manuscript Central. Easy and fast submission process; track the progress of your article at any time; safe and secure site. Simply log on to http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/ajrh to submit your manuscript today and share the wealth of your knowledge. Full author instructions and guidelines can be found at the AJRH homepage - http://www.blackwellpublishing.com/ajr

The August 2006 issue of the journal is available online now at http://www.blackwell-synergy.com/links/toc/ajr. Articles include:
* Treating acute mental illness in rural general hospitals: Necessity or choice?
* Community participation in organising rural general practice: Is it sustainable?
* Co-morbid drug and alcohol and mental health issues in a rural New South Wales Area Health Service
* Statistical methods for analysis of repeated measures on maternal morbidity
* An outbreak of acute post-streptococcal glomerulonephritis in remote Far North Queensland
* Hearing loss in recreational shooters in Central Queensland: A pilot study
* Letters to the Editor
* Grazings

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Join friends of the Alliance in 2006. By joining friends you will receive the updated CD 'Rural and Remote Health Papers 1991-2005', a 2006 friends certificate , regular issues of PARTYline newsletter, and be eligible for a discounted registration at the 9th National Rural Health Conference to be held in Albury in March 2007. Membership of friends would also give you the opportunity to be involved more closely with the Alliance's information dissemination and policy work. You will become part of a group of people who contribute to and support the work of the National Rural Health Alliance.

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August PARTYLine now available at http://www.ruralhealth.org.au/nrhapublic/Index.cfm?Category=PartyLine. Contents include:
* medical students Kimberley style
* core services close to home
* oral and dental health
* housing and remote podiarty
* investing in remote communities
* choice and access in education
* fresh food and remote transport
* Rown Nicks Russell Drysdale Fellowship
* an Indigenous Outstations policy
* US recruitment and retention initiatives
* friends photographic festival
* 9th Conference update
* a photographic tribute to rural pets

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INCREASED SUPPORT FOR GP OBSTETRICIANS IN RURAL AUSTRALIA

GPs providing obstetric services in rural and remote areas will be eligible for increased payments through the Australian Government's Practice Incentives Program. From November 2006, GPs who deliver 20 or more babies a year will be eligible for a Procedural Payment of $17,000 per year. This will replace the current payment of $10,000.

The full text of the Government announcement is at http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/health-mediarel-yr2006-ta-abb129.htm

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LIFELINE'S JUST ASK - 1 300 13 11 14

Your Rural Mental Health Information Service
Lifeline's Just ask is a rural mental health information service. Information provided includes: referral to services and web sites, printed material and a range of self help resources. The self-help resources focus on practical steps to help promote mental health in a range of areas. For information and copies of resources call or visit http://www.justask.org.au and further information is available at national@lifeline.org.au and http://www.lifeline.org.au

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BUSH CRISIS LINE - 1800 805 391

Bush Crisis Line is a twenty-four hour confidential telephone support and debriefing service for multi-disciplinary remote and rural health practitioners and their families. It is staffed by qualified psychologists with remote and cross-cultural experience, is toll free and available from anywhere in Australia. For more information http://www.bushcrisisline.org.au

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NEW ARTICLES IN "RURAL AND REMOTE HEALTH"

'Progressing the agenda for rural mental health research'
This journal has recently published two studies that have apparently conflicting evidence about the prevelance of mental illness in rural Australian communities. This Editorial offers an explanation for these results and suggests the necessary steps forward for further research in this vitally important area.
http://rrh.deakin.edu.au/articles/showarticlenew.asp?ArticleID=615

'Incidence of Chlamydia infection among asymptomatic women pesented for routine Papanicolaou smear: experience in South-Western Victoria, Australia'
Interested in implementing a practice based approach to STI screening? This letter from rural Victoria documents one practice's experience.
http://rrh.deakin.edu.au/articles/showarticlenew.asp?ArticleID=633

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ROLLOUT OF UNLEADED OPAL FUEL IN ALICE SPRINGS

Opal fuel will shortly replace unleaded fuel in most petrol stations in Alice Springs as part of the Australian Government's campaign to curb the epidemic of petrol sniffing in Indigenous communities. Opal fuel is a product of collaboration between BP and the Commonwealth Government to devise a non-sniffable petrol. Further information on unleaded Opal fuel is at http://www.bp.com/au

The full statement by the Australian Government is at http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/health-mediarel-yr2006-ta-abb128.htm

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RURAL HEALTH ON THE WEB
(from http://www.googlealert.com)

Rural Health
An Australian Government resource for health professionals, service providers,
rural communities and consumers, with information on support services, ...
http://www6.health.gov.au/internet/wcms/publishing.nsf/Content/Rural+Health-1

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THE CONGRESS of ABORIGINAL and TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER NURSES (CATSIN)
8th NATIONAL CONFERENCE and ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Conference Theme: BACK TO THE FUTURE - The future is Ours!
WHERE: Tasmania
WHEN: 27th- 29th September 2006
VENUE: The Old Woolstore Apartment Hotel.
REGISTRATION COST: $400.00

Roslyn Lockhart
CATSIN Project Officer
PO Box 124
Jerilderie
Ph/Fax: 03 58860505
Email: lockharr@bigpond.net.au

Information at http://www.indiginet.com.au/catsin

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From: Elaine Chan
Subject: Anti-Poverty Week 2006 - An Invitation to Health Workers

Anti-Poverty Week begins this year on Sunday 15 October and finishes on Saturday 21 October. As usual, it includes International Anti-Poverty Day which has been designated by the UN as October 17. The Week focuses on poverty around the world, especially in the poorest countries but also in wealthier countries such as Australia. This year, Health and Poverty is a major theme.

The main aims of the Week are to:
* strengthen public understanding of the causes and consequences of poverty and hardship;
* encourage research, discussion and action to address these problems.

We hope that Health Workers throughout Australia will organise something during the Week, whether it is a big event or a more modest activity. We have suggested Thursday 19 October as a special day for Health and Poverty. But you are very welcome to hold activities on whichever days of the Week suit you. Here are a few ideas:
* Launch a health campaign to address poverty-related health issues
* Arrange for a guest speaker to visit your organisation
* Conduct a survey on health and poverty-related issues
* Hold a fundraiser night at your organisation, with proceeds going to a local health or welfare organisation
* Publish a special Anti-Poverty Week edition of a health newsletter or magazine

How can Anti-Poverty Week support an event?

* A listing on the Activities page of our website
* Anti-Poverty Week posters to help promote the activity
* An electronic information kit on Australian and international poverty.
* Information and advice on how to find more about poverty and possible speakers for events
* Contact details of people planning activities in your area

FOR MORE INFORMATION see http://www.antipovertyweek.org.au or
contact us at 1-300-797-290 or coordinator@antipovertyweek.org.au

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AARN NATIONAL CONFERENCE
'Moving with the Times'
Contemporary issues in rural nursing practice
25 - 27 October 2006, Brisbane

See http://www.aarn.asn.au/whatsnew/conf.htm for details.

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From: Michael Gleeson
Subject: ACRRM 4th Scientific Forum

The Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM) will conduct its 4th Scientific Forum at the University of Adelaide on 16-19 November 2006 and will present research, forum discussions, plenary sessions and clinical workshops specifically on the practical implementation of Rural and Remote Medicine.

Details are at http://www.acrrm.org.au/main.asp?NodeID=19252

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Pacific Region Indigenous Doctors Congress 2006
Roroua Convention Centre, New Zealand, 6-10 December 2006

Information at http://www.conference.co.nz/pridoc2006

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From: Mcalpin, Susan
Subject: International Rural Network World Rural Forum

The International Rural Network World Rural Forum, India, Late Jan-Early Feb 2008: Innovation for Sustainable Local Development.

The main focus of the Forum will be on innovation in education, health, resource management, governance, and sustainable development to improve the quality of life of rural people and reduce rural poverty and social exclusion.

The forum will be based in the beautiful rural town of Udaipur, Rajasthan, which is also the home of IRN Board Member Lakshmi Murthy.

The Forum will involve five days, with at least one day (or equivalent) in local field visits to see the relevant work of NGOs etc. There are likely to be optional additional visits after the Forum either to the famous Institute of Rural Management in Anand, Gujarat and/or to the equally famous Birla Institute of Technology in Pilani, Rajasthan.

The date of the conference will be around the end of January or beginning of February 2008. If you are interested, please check out our website at http://www.International-Rural-Network.org and email Nicola.swan@btinternet.com to register your interest in keeping informed as soon as possible.

IRN Aims
Poverty and disadvantage is a common feature of rural areas and people across the world. This is explicitly recognised in the UN Millennium Development Goals. By providing a global forum for academics, practitioners, NGOs and policy makers concerned with sustainable rural development, education and health, the IRN aims to stimulate exchange of knowledge, experience and ideas, and create regional and global support networks. In this way it helps to develop a storehouse of knowledge and expertise on rural concerns, and to raise the profile and policy impacts of rural people, their NGOs and other organisations aiming for local empowerment, engagement, and supporting activities including policies.

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CONTRIBUTION AND SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION AND DISCLAIMER

The NRHA e-forum is edited by a third party moderator, Jim Groves. Contributions are sought on any topic relevant to rural health concerns. Please send contributions to the moderator at grovesc@winshop.com.au (do not "reply" to this email - send contributions to grovesc@winshop.com.au).

As such, the Alliance does not control postings and the contents do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Alliance. Nor do postings necessarily reflect the view of Jim Groves or any organisation he is associated with. Jim Groves can be contacted at grovesc@winshop.com.au.

This issue is going to 2,541 email addresses. Please forward a copy to any colleague you think may be interested.