



# PRACTICE NEWSLETTER NO.5

## Medical Staff:

Dr Alannah Stockwell is back from maternity leave at the end of October.

When she left her clinics were: all day Monday, all day Wednesday, Tuesday and Thursday afternoons.

When she comes back Dr Ed Johnson, who has been doing her maternity locum, will stay on. He has been extremely popular with patients and staff alike. He will be doing regular sessions and locum cover.

The regular sessions will be Monday afternoons and Wednesday mornings for Alannah until next July while Alannah completes her advanced skin surgery qualification. Dr Simon Harbinson has also been selected for this course. He has already done training and teaching in this field in the UK.

We plan to work with the hospital and PHO to fill some of the big gaps left by Dr Sears' retirement and Dr Keefe's shift to ChCh.

Currently the Skin Centre provides a service for Nelson patients from Dr Sears' former rooms 207 Bridge St and the Skin Institute provides a service from Lower Queen St Health 355 Queen St Richmond.



## Reception Staff Changes:

The reception team is changing.

Recently Faye took Denise's place and Julie-Anne was taken on to help with our increased workload. Now Kathryn's family is moving South at the end of October. We are very sorry to lose Kathryn's wonderful smile and calm manner, but we wish them all the best for their move.

Kathryn will be replaced by Karenne, who starts mid-October. Karenne has a lot of administrative experience and comes from another practice so we expect her to settle in quickly.

## National Bowel Screening:

Has now been rolled out to the Nelson Marlborough region.

A simple test kit with instructions will be sent to people aged 60-74 over the next two years. It is important that we have your correct postal address. In other areas where this programme started some people missed out on screening because their addresses were out of date.

If you get a positive test it does not mean that you have bowel cancer but your doctor will be notified and they would arrange with you to have further investigation to exclude (in most cases) or confirm bowel cancer. If your home test is negative you will be notified of this by the National Bowel Screening Co-ordination Centre.

## Patient Portal:

Please remember that the Connectmed website has a support function. See "help" at the bottom of the homepage. You can submit a request or read frequently requested instructions. You can also email [sharon@nelsonfamilymedicine.co.nz](mailto:sharon@nelsonfamilymedicine.co.nz) with any queries.