



PRACTICE NEWSLETTER NO.6

Christmas Hours:

The surgery will be closed on the weekends and public holidays over the Xmas New Year period. The Medical and Injury Centre (546 8881) will be open for urgent care on those days.

If you phone the surgery as usual, your call will be diverted there.

We will be open from 9am - 4pm for urgent problems on Tuesday December 29th, Wednesday 30th and Thursday 31st. Please phone for appointments as there will be no online bookings then.

We will resume normal service on Tuesday January 5th. Please remember to order your regular medication so you don't run out over the holiday period.

The Changing Face of Nelson Family Medicine:

It seems nothing stays the same for long.

Reception

Our receptionist/health care assistant Sandy has been inspired to take up nursing and will begin her course early next year. She will make an excellent nurse and we wish her well.

Sadie has started as a part-time receptionist/HCA and is learning quickly. She will move to full-time when Sandy leaves in January.

This means there will be no new faces on reception. The nursing team also remains the same.

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The Changing Face of Nelson Family Medicine Part 2:

It seems nothing stays the same for long.

Doctors

Next year we will have some absences among the doctors, although all but one is temporary. We have been extremely lucky to find high calibre replacements to cover these absences.

Dr Alannah Stockwell took maternity leave from Wednesday 28th October to have her second baby. Dr Janneke Patterson will also be on maternity leave from around March. Dr Ed Johnson will also be taking leave from March. He was due to take it this year, but he had to postpone it because of Covid.

The only doctor we are losing permanently is Dr Cherry Laurensen who is moving to ChCh to be closer to family in the new year. She will be sorely missed.

Dr Lizzie Thomas will be joining us in early December. She is a NZ graduate who has been working in Motueka and Golden Bay this year.

Dr Arwen Mohr will be joining us in early February. She is a hard-working American doctor who has been working in Greytown Medical Centre. She and her family have wanted to immigrate to NZ, and Nelson in particular for a very long time.

You will be free to see our other doctors while your own doctor is away. Your medical records, test results and recalls will be managed by the other doctors here so you will have seamless service.

Cherry's patients can choose who they would like to enrol with. Dr McKenzie-Pollock is the only doctor whose books are full. He will still be the only doctor doing Aviation Medicals until Dr Patterson returns.