

Blog 21.12.2021

It has been a hard year for everyone and we were hoping for a respite and recovery time over Christmas and into the New Year but it is not going to be like that.

Dr Mick has just been notified he is going to need an urgent medical procedure and will be off work from 8<sup>th</sup> January for three months. Hopefully some of that time he will be available on the phone for limited hours each day for his patients but he will not be back at the surgery until early April. After all when we sent him home to work in August for the month of level 4 he missed contact with his patients so much, so the rest of us wonder how well he will manage three months! I will try to persuade him to do these blogs throughout his time away: I'm sure he will have unique insights into what it means to be a patient in our medical system under covid-19 restrictions. He did not know until yesterday, but I apologise to everyone if they feel they haven't had enough notice.

Added to this we are losing Dr Cathy Latu on 21<sup>st</sup> January who is leaving for family reasons and won't be practicing at all for a while. Once her clouds clear we are hoping to lure her back even on a part time basis as she brings her warm gentle manner to our practice and lots of laughter within our staff.

We are urgently trying to find a doctor to help out over this time, but as you can imagine what it is like with everyone is already closing down for Christmas holidays and advertising and locum agencies not really available until late January. I know we will cope, we always do, but all these issues converging at once this will make it tough over January: Dr Hazel Wilks and I will be here Monday to Friday for all patients and I am trying hard to find us another doctor.

We will send out a letter to all our patients. In the meantime, have a lovely Christmas, New Year and holiday for those having time off. I hope you get time to recharge, reconnect and relax. From Jacqueline and all the team at Tiakina Te Ora.

Message from Dr Mick:

I will greatly miss seeing my patients, but look forward to being of service to you all again in April 2022.