

Blog: 25.07.22

It was both a funny and a very sad funeral for Dr Mick on the 14th July. A little notice in The Herald two days before was seen by a lot of patients and the small chapel at Tipene Funeral Home in Onehunga was crowded. Other patients who were technically savvy watched it on live streaming. We had thought it was just to be family and close friends. Dr Mick's three children and his wife Hilary shared their memories of him, lots of funny tales were related between tears, and did him proud. Two close friends and both brothers Dr Bob and Dr Charlie did likewise. He would have loved it that all the grandchildren were there too including the two babies. We will all miss him.

And when we were looking forward to Dr Andrew's arrival next Monday and thought we would have more capacity to see patients, Dr Dominic goes and breaks his lower right leg at Touch Rugby on Saturday afternoon! He had surgery at Auckland Sunday afternoon to insert a nail, and currently is still in hospital at Auckland so we shall have to see how he goes and when he will be getting back to work. Who said Touch was not a contact sport? So I apologise in advance for delays in getting appointments this week in particular.

We really will endeavour to see everyone who has serious problems in a timely manner but with just me on duty and already stretched and tired, I can't do it all, even though I am trying to.

There are absolutely no locums available. We have tried and tried and will keep trying. Counties And E and both Pukekohe A and E's, despite their often long wait times will see our patients if need be. If there is something that needs to be seen that day, please ask to talk with our nurse Rachael this week. [Paulette is off on leave too this week as we all are exhausted and Mick's death has affected us deeply]].

Rachael can organise scripts too as she is Nurse Practitioner. She can see people and sort out quite a lot, and will talk with me if she needs to. If something is quite routine, please can you put it off just for another week until Dr Andrew gets here and we know when Dr Dominic will be back hobbling around in a moonboot?

In two weeks time nurse Kathy will be back too from her busman's holiday in Fiji volunteering as a scrub nurse for an ophthalmologist doing cataract surgeries and be on deck to pick up our covid -19 patients again, and thus free up nurse Kay who has taken over looking after our patients with covid-19. That will let nurse Kay provide background support for nurse Paulette who will be back at the beginning of August, and nurse Rachael. It has been a very difficult time for us all and covid-19 has been only one cause.

Thank you for your understanding, help and patience. In particular thank you for all the kind thoughts and support over the loss of our much loved colleague of eighteen years, Dr Michael Munro Eason. Moe, moe ra.

Jacqueline and all of us at Tiakina Te Ora.

