

Blog: 3.8.2022

So much going on as it's been a very full and emotional month since Dr Mick Eason passed away.... but we kept going. Saw all our patients who needed us, managed all the emergencies, surgeries and hospitalisations needed over this time, just as Mick would have wanted us to.

We knew what he would say, "Just look after my patients!" and we have been trying our best to do that. You, our patients have been so understanding and so patient too, so thank you from us all.

Eleven days ago Dr Dominic broke his Right lower leg so badly he needed an operation and has been confined to crutches, home and telephone calling but we are hoping he will transfer to a moonboot soon and be available clomping around the surgery.

It was not helped too by a mix up this week that sent Dr Andrew to work at another surgery but he returns to us next Monday and is keen to get to know patients.

We realise Dr Mick is not replaceable, and especially for patients who travelled long distances to see him, this is a wise time to find a closer doctor. As soon as we get notification of enrolment in another practice we will send the notes through electronically to ensure continuity of medicine supplies and medical care for his transferring patients. Please arrange this with plenty of time to ensure medications are not stopped as each practice has different policies on the issuing of repeats, and it is good medical practice of a new doctor to require you to be seen in person before repeat prescriptions are issued [if the practice does these]. Also some practices have very long wait times to be seen , so please arrange your new home practice as soon as you can if this applies to you, and familiarise yourself with their rules and protocols so you are not caught out.

Both Dr Dominic and Dr Andrew will be looking after patients previously seen by Dr Mick, but of course as standard for the way our surgery runs, patients are welcome to see me, or on Friday's Dr Ranche too.

Anyway both Dr Ranche and I are always available to our younger doctors for advice and backup. That is how we work. [Even then Dr Mick and I despite our many years of experience would sometimes wander into the others room and ask the other to come and check a tummy etc, or act as sounding board for our diagnoses and plans forward.]

I go on holiday 22nd August to 4th September for a very overdue chillout, rest and recover. Over this time Dr Lance O'Sullivan will be at the surgery Monday to Thursday and available to the young doctors for advice and backup and help in managing emergency and difficult cases.

I am very grateful to Lance for this opportunity, as I am exhausted with all the extra work generated by the Covid-19 pandemic, and being short staffed.

Locums are non-existent and all our advertising failed to find someone even for 2-3 weeks who could give me a break, let alone someone to replace Dr Cathy Latu who left In January this year.

A few weeks ago I resorted to ringing GP colleagues to see if they had access to a doctor doing locums: their answer was always the same, “Pleeeeeease, if you find someone, please can you let me know too?”

Stay safe, be well, Dr Jacqueline and all the team at Tiakina Te Ora.