

CEUpdate

7 April 2015



We've had some very exciting additions to the West Coast DHB team recently and we're looking forward to the new thinking and ideas they will bring to our work.

Just before Christmas our new Quality and Patient Safety Manager Paul Norton started, and he's recently recruited former Mental health quality facilitator Sue Duff as the new Patient Safety Officer.

New Occupational Therapy Clinical Manager and Brit Joy Aiton is settling in well, and Lara Bakes-Denham has just started as Associate Director Allied Health, reporting to Stella Ward.

B4 School Checks coordinator Lorraine Williams has retired and taking up her former role is American Joelle Dedanann.

Long serving South Westland doctor Martin London has given up his post (although tells us he'll be back as a locum) and British general practitioner couple Jenny James and Robin Barraclough have stepped into those shoes.

In Buller, general practitioner Vaughan Leigh leaves us soon. There are more staff appointments pending. We'll try and keep staff informed about these appointments, and note those who have made their contributions and are moving on.

We recently received a school paper written by Buller High School pupil Samara, reflecting on the topic of "manaakitanga" (hospitality/respect/kindness). Here's some snippets that could be echoed by so many of the patients that come through our system:

"December 2010 was a traumatic time of my life. On the 12th of December out of the blue I was rushed to the Westport Hospital for a stomach scan to see if I had appendicitis. A horrifying hour after

we arrived to the hospital my appendix actually burst! So my amazing parents rushed me to the fantastic Greymouth Hospital. When we arrived the amazing doctors took me to the emergency theatre. After my operation I was admitted to Parfitt Ward where I would stay for the next four nights.

"... the nurses looked after me and my family as if we were their own. The hospitality was outstanding and I felt as though I was in the safest hands possible.

"... These extraordinary people in Greymouth Hospital helped me realise how important it is to look after myself and how important it is to look after others that live around you... Every night there would be a nurse waking me up at nearly each hour of the night to give me my medication to ensure I was in the best state of recovery, and every day they would serve us breakfast, lunch, morning tea and afternoon tea for everyone in the hospital, which was the nicest food ever!!



"... If I ever wind up in a hospital again, I would hope that it would be Greymouth Hospital because it has the best hospitality that I have ever had in my entire life and I am sure I will never forget what everyone in that large hospital did for me."

David Meates
CEO



HEALTH QUALITY & SAFETY
COMMISSION NEW ZEALAND
Algohe Teaurangi Hauora ki Aotearoa



The Health Quality & Safety Commission was established under the New Zealand Public Health & Disability Amendment Act 2010 to ensure all New Zealanders receive the best health and disability care within our available resources.

PLEASE [CLICK HERE](#) TO READ THEIR LATEST NEWSLETTER.

Mountains attract new rural GPs

General Practitioners Robin Barraclough & Jenny James have taken a circuitous route to their new positions as rural GPs based in South Westland.

Robin is originally from Nottingham and Jenny from Shropshire. Before arriving in Franz Josef in December, the couple worked for New Zealander of the Year Lance O'Sullivan at his low-cost health clinic Te Kohanga Whakaora in Kaitaia, and had a six month stint in Gisborne.

The two have worked in emergency departments, intensive care and anaesthetics, in Australia and the United Kingdom. And both have had other non-medical lives as well, Robin as a high school science teacher and Jenny as a research scientist.

They're now what Robin would describe as "rural generalists with a lot of hard medical skills".

"We've both worked in the busiest emergency department in Europe, with upwards of 500 patients a day. At the moment we're quite busy as people want to get to know us, but it's a very different type of busy."

Jenny has been impressed that New Zealanders are provided with the best healthcare and the "red tape" is not allowed to stand in the way.

"I'm used to a system of free healthcare and have found it difficult when charging patients, particularly for repeat appointments. Up in Kaitaia it is a low socio-economic area and people often couldn't afford to pay for appointments. Through charitable donations and an arrangement with the pharmacy, we were able to make sure no-one missed out on healthcare."



British general practitioner couple Jenny James and Robin Barraclough

They've noticed that the people of South Westland are remarkably healthy, with very different medical issues from those up north.

"In the far north they're predominantly Maori and you're basically practising indigenous medicine. We had a walk in clinic every morning mostly funded by ACC, and a school programme to eradicate rheumatic fever. Some children have never worn shoes. We have seen a lot of deprivation in the UK, we had expected New Zealand to be a bit more equitable," Robin says.

"The population in South Westland is very different. In the northern parts of the area, they're older and tend to be farming families, Franz and Fox are

tourism towns, and Haast is unique."

The two are looking forward to spending more time outdoors. They're keen on rock climbing, kayaking and mountain biking. So far, they've traversed the Remarkables in Queenstown, done a lot of paddling and been on a "wonderful" trip up the Copeland Valley. Robin is also about to compete in a 35km waka ama competition around Rangitoto Island – the Takapuna Beach Cup.

"Everyone has been very warm and welcoming. One of our main jobs is to support and help manage the wonderful nursing team here. And of course the community has had a phenomenal service from Martin London – we've got massive shoes to fill," he says.

Martin London

It's a measure of the man who has done so much for rural general practice that he starts telling me about leaving South Westland by saying the service is going to be unrecognisably better in the next 12 months.

"It's easy to get past your use-by date. It's helpful to have new eyes with new backgrounds and training, who will do things in a different way."

He is talking about the new general practitioners Jenny James and Robin Barraclough who are already settling in to the practice and bringing about valuable changes.

"I recognise them as myself 30 years ago – dying to get their hands on things when I leave. It feels like a good time to move on."

Martin's professional life has been portioned out in 10 year blocks – he did 10 years as a general practitioner in Akaroa, the next 10 in Christchurch and then his South Westland stint. So, for the past 10 years, he's been living in Whataroa and working the clinics from Hari Hari to Haast.

"One of the joys of rural practice is the close connection with the community. 10 years is plenty of time to get to know people well – on a personal level as well as patients."

Martin and his wife Karol have planted a hazelnut orchard with about 150 trees, plus trees for shade and shelter and a small herd of Belted Galloway cattle.

"We've particularly enjoyed the experience of role reversal as the local farmers watch us struggling as 'Mickey-Mouse farmers' with our piece of land. They're the experts and we're the ones coming along seeking guidance, which has a gratifyingly levelling effect and has generated close friendships."

But now their 10 hectares is on the market.



General Practitioner Martin London volunteers during a training session led by new South Westland general practitioner Robin Barraclough recently.

"We were looking at building a house here (in South Westland), but it would have had to be a rather expensive 'greenfield' and energy independent job and we would have been seriously over-capitalised. Okay if we were planning to retire here, but we decided we needed to be nearer to our children and (hopefully) grandchildren."

The couple now have land in Little River, near Christchurch where they are planting more trees – 100s of them!

"When Whataroa sells, we plan to build on the Little River land".

This move is not retirement. Martin will be doing rural locums and perhaps some rural health consultancy. As one of the initiators of the New Zealand Rural General Practice network, he has "rural practice mates" all over the country. Already he's hearing from several who are aware that he might be available.

"This is actually a bit of a 'Clayton's' departure. I'll be back as a locum and doing some clinical leadership work for the West Coast DHB. But from 1 May technically I'll be unemployed. The advice I've received from my rural locum colleagues is that the hardest thing is learning to say 'no', so it seems that there'll be no shortage of work."

They are very aware of their carbon footprint.

"We've spent far too much time and fuel driving or flying over the mountains which is another reason for settling back on the 'Dry Coast'."

"The practice has been great. A close team. Great colleagues. Increasingly close support from the hospital. I've been here during some quite dramatic changes in the service we offer in South Westland – new buildings, computerisation, the involvement of students."

CEUpdate

7 April 2015



...continued from overleaf

Along with the late Pat Farry of Queenstown and Greville Wood in Greymouth, Martin was instrumental in setting up the Rural Medical Immersion Programme for undergraduate medical students.

"Apart from the education we offer, it's really important for them to see people happily working in rural areas. They're the future of rural practice. So we work hard to make sure that they have a good experience. We are also very aware of how much they bring to the practice – their questions, their enthusiasm and, as they settle in, their very practical help. It's great for the staff - we learn from the students and get more professional

contact with other parts of the service."

Following time down here, medical students have expressed lots of interest in working in rural general practice settings.

"I believe it is going to be profoundly important as a retention and recruitment tool."

"When I came here, they were offering gold for somebody to come and work here. Now, as I leave, there are loads of people who want to come and work in South Westland. So some good things must have happened."

Time away from the practice has been typically full. Martin has "climbed a few mountains" and taken loads of

photographs. Latterly, he and particularly Karol have been closely involved in a project to extend the West Coast Wilderness Trail south from Ross to the Glaciers.

"This is another thing that will keep us coming back to the Coast. Let's face it, anyone who has spent part of their lives here never completely leaves. We've spent 10 years living in this most wonderful part of the world. It gets under your skin and becomes part of you. We know we're not 4th generation, but we hope that, in a small way, we've become part of it, too."



Gardener Todd has produced some wonderful displays at the hospital recently.

CEUpdate

7 April 2015



WERO is back ...

with new i-pad/i-phone apps and social media links, plus their website, to help people quit smoking.

What is WERO?

It is a regional contest in which teams of 10 people compete to see how many have quit smoking three months from the start date. The team with the most 'quitters' wins \$5000 for their nominated charity or community group. There are also prizes of \$500 for the team in front at four weeks and at eight weeks, plus another \$500 at the end for the team that has blogged and participated the most on the website. And for pregnant mums who succeed in quitting, there is a prize pack for baby.

How does it work?

Each team selects a coach, to co-ordinate their group efforts. Local cessation services (DHB/Aukati KaiPaipa/Coast Quit/Quit Line) provide the medication and quitting advice to individuals, plus CO monitoring to confirm who is smoking/not smoking. The WERO website provides an up-to-date view of team progress throughout the region and a way for participants to keep in touch with each other, plus day-to-day tips on quitting.

Will it help me to quit?

Quit rates from WERO are high: for the first contest, back in 2012, the verified quit rate at three months across a total of 15 teams was 36%. In subsequent contests there have been a number of teams achieving three month quit rates of 90 and 100%!

When does the next contest start?

April 1st, 2015.


Can individuals join without a team?

Yes. You don't need to come as a group of 10; individual participants can sign-on and be allocated to a group by the regional co-ordinator.

For more information, or to sign up, check out www.wero.me or contact Joe Mason (AKP Quit Coach) at Community and Public Health (ph 03 768 1160, ext 712), or Trish Fraser (WERO Regional Co-ordinator) at 03 442 9236 or 0274 435 241.



Joe Mason (AKP Quit Coach)



HealthPathways is continually being updated with new content localised for the West Coast. To keep up with the latest changes, make sure you subscribe to monthly updates:

[://wc.healthpathways.org.nz/13454.htm](http://wc.healthpathways.org.nz/13454.htm)

Contact the West Coast Coordinator for the username and password to access the HealthPathways West Coast site (03) 768 1305.

If anyone would like to submit West Coast resources to be included in HealthPathways, or would like to get involved in reviewing or localising the pathways contact Marie West, West Coast HealthPathways Coordinator, Phone DDI: 03 768 1305 Fax: 03 768 6184, wc@healthpathways.org.nz





CLICK HERE to read more.

Commission forum a rare opportunity to hear and talk with Dr Atul Gawande

The Health Quality & Safety Commission is urging people working in the health and disability and aged care sectors to take full advantage of a rare opportunity to hear and talk with one of the world's most respected and forward-thinking health communicators, American surgeon and writer Dr Atul Gawande.

Dr Gawande, who writes about health for the *New Yorker* magazine and is the author of bestsellers such as *The Checklist Manifesto: How to Get Things Right* and, most recently, *Being Mortal: Illness, Medicine, and What Matters in the End*, will be headlining a day-long forum in Wellington on Monday 18 May.

Dr Gawande is a surgeon at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston and

professor in both the Department of Health Policy and Management at the Harvard School of Public Health and the Department of Surgery at Harvard Medical School.

The forum is at the Visa Platinum Gallery, Te Papa, Wellington, 9.30am-4.30pm, Monday 18 May. The fee is \$280.

Booking is essential from www.hqsc.govt.nz/atul-gawande (where you can

also see the forum programme) or by emailing info@hqsc.govt.nz.

For further information on the forum with Dr Gawande, contact Commission communications coordinator Guy Somerset, (04) 913 1745, 021 813 591, guy.somerset@hqsc.govt.nz.

January 2015 Nurse Entry To Practice Programme New Graduate Registered Nurses

The January 2015 Nurse Entry To Practice Programme new graduate registered nurses who started their careers with WCDHB with current DHB staff are from back left: Brittany Jenkins, Vicki McGhie, Kas Beaufill and Chris Black; Row 3: Sarah Ford, Claire Judd, Sarah Bellman (floral jacket), Mary Fitzsimmons (stripes); Row 2: Georgia McInroe, Christina Gray, Joseph Machock, Mandy Gardenbroek; Front row: Stephanie Sanson, Nadine Fricker, Grace Mangnall, Jessie Gibbens, Rachel Hussey.



Great contribution to Parfitt & McBrearty Wards


Parfitt and McBrearty Wards have had a huge boost thanks to the annual Countdown Kids Hospital Appeal last year.

The fundraiser resulted in a cheque for \$57,064 being presented to Parfitt Clinical Nurse Leader Dot O'Connor and McBrearty Clinical Midwife Manager Chris Davey. One of the children who has regularly benefited from telemed sessions, Ruben Stewart (2) and his mum Katrina were at the presentation, along with DHB General Manager Grey Westland Mark Newsome and Countdown Kids Chair Ruth Krippner, Greymouth Mayor Tony Kokshoorn and several Greymouth and Buller Countdown staff.

The funds will be used to purchase paediatric cots and beds, educational resources and a resuscitation trolley for maternity, and a vital signs monitor, among other items.



Whānau Ora Update
for District Health Boards



Whānau Ora

Tēnā koutou

[CLICK HERE](#) to read the 28th issue of Te Kete Hauora's electronic newsletter, providing District Health Boards with Whānau Ora updates.

Previous newsletters are available online at the [National Service Framework Library](#).



B4 School Check coordinators – Lorraine retires

Retiring B4 School Check coordinator Lorraine Williams is looking forward to spending more time with her 10 grandchildren and caravanning with her husband.

After 30 years with the DHB, Lorraine retired in December. Her work has encompassed all sorts of care and welfare issues, from the time she graduated from hospital-based Registered Nursing training in Oamaru, through relief rural nursing in Otira and into public health nursing before her retiring role with B4SC.

“Public health nurses are quite privileged to be able to go into people’s homes. And of course we did a lot of work within schools, dealing with head lice, scabies, skin conditions, children without lunch, children with hygiene issues, communicable diseases, the lot,” she says.

She believes health promotion work is important.

“It’s about accepting people for who they are, offering some information for them to be able to make some change for themselves. It is their choice.”

B4SC was introduced in 2008 and Lorraine has been involved since 2011. The Ministry of Health initiative was set up as a one stop shop, with three public nurses delivering core well child checks following vision/hearing checks.

“My role was to find the children, contact parents, make appointments, find halls up and down the coast and then a public health nurse would deliver the checks, along with vision and hearing staff at the same time.

“For a start it was a challenge – something to test my organisational skills!”

The Jacksons resident was looking forward to retirement.

“The DHB has looked after me and have been a good organisation to work



with. I’ve had great support from my managers. And just the other day it was lovely when I had some say to me they could now give advice because of the

support and advice I’d given them over the years.”

continued overleaf...

... continued from overleaf

Joelle starts

Former Greymouth/Hokitika Plunket nurse Joelle DeDanann has started at the DHB as the B4 School Checks Co-ordinator.

The Southern Californian first came to New Zealand to study nursing in Auckland a few years back, after a stint working in a café and horse-riding guide on Kauai, Hawaii.

After graduating as a registered nurse, two years ago Joelle's first nursing job brought her to Greymouth to work as the area's Plunket nurse. Joelle is now also armed with a post-graduate certificate in Well Child.



Joelle DeDanann and Jamie Green (4) on the first B4 School Clinic for the year.

She started as the B4 School Checks coordinator before Christmas and has been enjoying the transition to the DHB position.

"It's about organising and administration. I'm more distanced from working with people, but I'm able to continue to improve the service for people."

One of those areas will be improving the teeth of young Coasters.

"The statistics aren't good at all. I'll be looking at ways to improve how we deliver information about looking after teeth and oral health."

The DHB figures show there will be 423 four-year-olds on the Coast this year and the Ministry of Health target is to check 90% of these. Each check takes between 45 and 60 minutes and covers dental care, vision and hearing, growth and development, behaviour and immunisation.

"I'm very keen to get feedback from anyone willing to provide ideas – ways



Joelle DeDanann and her dog Buddy

in which they think we could improve the service."

The first B4 School Checks started for 2015 on Tuesday 20 January at the All Saints Hall in Hokitika. A complete list of visits is available at [here](#).

Parents who haven't been contacted about a B4 School Check for their child can ring Joelle to make appointments – on 03 769 7487, or email joelle.dedanann@westcoastdhb.health.nz

A reminder about patient contact details:

It is the responsibility of West Coast DHB clerical staff and nurses within the Emergency/ Outpatient Departments, practices and mental health services to update all patient details whenever a patient enters our services.

What happens when patient details are not updated:

- Time and money is wasted trying to contact patients with wrong phone numbers and addresses
- In some cases patients are not able to be contacted and patient care or follow-up does not happen. This could mean poor outcomes for patients
- There has been an increase throughout the organisation of "Did Not Attend" - when patients do not turn up for their appointments
- Medical Secretaries are having patient letters returned due to wrong addresses, along with incorrect General Practitioner information.

New OT leader starts

The English-born new Clinical Manager for Occupational Therapy at the District Health Board describes herself as “a bit of a gypsy” and she has done the air miles to prove it.

Joy Aiton has just taken up her new position, based in Greymouth in the allied health area on the lower ground floor of Grey Base Hospital. Her previous position was managing residential support services for people with disabilities in Nelson.

Joy qualified as an OT 27 years ago in Northampton, UK. In between then and now, she's lived in Florida, US for about 12 years working as an OT and running an assistive technology business; worked in England and Scotland, then shifted to Taranaki for a position.

“While I loved the work I was doing in Nelson, and developed managerially during that time (she managed about 25 staff), I missed my allied health background. When this role came up, I could see it was a real opportunity,” Joy says.



Joy Aiton

As someone who likes change, Joy is feeling buoyant about transitioning to a new facility in the next couple of years and helping to lead new ways of working.

“Allied health is so important in hospital care, as well as in the community. When someone comes in to hospital, we are immediately working on their discharge plan – and looking at how we can support that person to get home and remain there safely for as long as possible.”

OTs historically have not been good at “blowing their own trumpets”, and as a profession, they often found people didn't really understand their role. Sometimes, even other health professionals are unaware of the scope of their work.


Joy will be endeavouring to address that, while also planning for the transition to the new facilities and enhancing links with Canterbury.

“And generally, I'm looking forward to providing some motivation and leadership for a great group of people,” she says.


Corporate Solicitor Greg Brogden

With the increasing requests for Coroner's reports, training on the Coronial Process and Coroner Report writing has been identified with the WCDHB Corporate Solicitor as essential training for all doctors irrespective of primary, secondary or tertiary care provision.

The training is to ensure Coronial Reports are completed in accordance with DHB policy and Coronial requirements. If you are a doctor your attendance at one of the sessions is required, all other disciplines attendance is optional.



THE WEST COAST HEALTH SYSTEM
- supporting you to be well




The Coronial Process and Coroner Report Writing

with
GREG BROGDEN

Wednesday 10 June 2015

3.15 to 4.30pm & 6.00 to 7.15pm

The Lecture Theatre and Virtual Meeting Room 3



West Coast
DISTRICT HEALTH BOARD
TE POARI HAUORAA ROHE O TAI POUTINI

CEUpdate

7 April 2015



Sharon Naughton

Gerontology Nurse Specialist

What does your job involve?

Quite a lot... I cover the whole Buller Region including Reefton and up to Karamea as the nurse specialist in Gerontology. My role includes comprehensive geriatric assessments of complex older people, generally in their own home, gerontology issue advice and support to other health professionals and an active member of the interdisciplinary Team in Buller and Reefton.

Why do you choose to work in this field?

I'm passionate about people who are vulnerable and isolated. There are many in this age group who are and it's a good fit for me. Looking at the whole holistic

picture of a person in their world can hone down on key geriatric issues that often threaten a person's independence. I also am very passionate about prevention and early intervention.

What do you love about what you do?

The people, the clients, their family/whānau and the amazing people I work with. We truly have a fantastic team of dedicated workers in our health system on the West Coast.

What are the challenging bits?

Lack of time and lots of travel, on the road again...

Who inspires you?

My son Ollie who faces adversity plus muscular dystrophy everyday and is such an inspiration

What was the last book you read and/or movie you saw?

Your Home and Garden Magazine - building a house inspiration, so many ideas, so little time... I move in to my new house in 2 weeks!!! Eek!

If you could be anywhere in the world, where would you be?

Just one????- Hawaii- and I'll be there in May- ahhh, bliss. Italy would be my ultimate.



What's your ultimate Sunday?

Sleeping in, coffee and brunch at The Town House – amazing award winning restaurant in Westport. Painting – I'm currently painting furniture with chalk board paint. I've just done my piano in French Grey and it looks incredible. That's a wee Sunday activity...

Fave food?

Strawberries and Raspberries.

Fave music?

Currently Cold Play – incredible musicians.



Special days...

Happy Easter

CEUpdate

7 April 2015



Bouquets

"During my recent hospital admission and post discharge follow up Dr Bopitiya was absolutely wonderful, I can't speak highly enough about him"



Learning & Development opportunities

Medical Terminology:

Distance learning course through AUT (Auckland University of Technology) second semester runs in July. Any interested staff should contact L&D.

Workplace Bullying Intervention:

Staff workshop in Greymouth, May 20; Managers workshop in Greymouth, June 17, see L&D webpages or contact Marion Davis for details.

NURS405 Health Assessment and Advanced Nursing Practice in Greymouth

The University of Otago will run study blocks in Greymouth for NURS405 Health Assessment and Advanced Nursing Practice in Semester 1 2015, in conjunction with the West Coast District Health Board. This does mean a change to the study block dates previously advised. The new dates have been approved by the Health Workforce New Zealand Funding Coordinator Vicki McGhie.

The new study block dates for Greymouth are:

Monday 2, Tuesday 3 and Wednesday 4 March

Tuesday 31 March and Wednesday 1 April

Monday 4 and Tuesday 5 May

Tuesday 9 June (exam day)

The study blocks will be held at the St John's, Greymouth offices, 112 Waterwalk Road, Greymouth (behind the hospital). Undertaking this paper locally will give you the opportunity to be part of a smaller class and will decrease the travel time for West Coasters.

The paper will be taught in Greymouth by Shirley Harris. Shirley works part time as a Senior Lecturer for the Department. She has a clinical role within primary practice at a medical centre and volunteers as a Paramedic with St John Ambulance Services and has recently become a Nurse Practitioner. Shirley has a broad clinical background including emergency, surgical, acute medical, primary health and palliative care.

Contact details for inquiries re the **Otago University Advanced Adult Assessment Course** that is being held on the West Coast this semester:

Amanda Clifford
Postgraduate Administrator

Centre for Postgraduate Nursing Studies
University of Otago, Christchurch • PO Box 4345, Christchurch 8140,
New Zealand

T: 03 364 3852 | F: 03 364 3855 | W: www.otago.ac.nz/christchurch
| E: amanda.clifford@otago.ac.nz

Westport hero honoured

Late last year Westport ISS worker Glenda Gray received the organisation's NZ quarterly Hero award for putting out a fire that had bounced off a mirror, on to a chair and then caught an elderly woman's hair. Glenda quickly put the fire out and alerted the nurses.

Glenda was nominated by her team mates and received a trophy and certificate.



Integrated Service Solutions (ISS)
Supervisor Maura Atkinson, Cleaner/orderly
Glenda Grey and ISS Contract Manager
Lorraine McCoid

CEUpdate

7 April 2015



Enhanced Retinal Screening appreciated

In the latter part of 2014, the PHO held the first Enhanced Retinal Screening clinic over several days in Greymouth.

This pilot brought together a range of clinicians who provided advice and discussed issues affecting people with diabetes while they were waiting at retinal screening clinics. The pilot was very well received by patients. Clinicians included a diabetes nurse specialist, nutritionist (who dispensed advice on suitable foods,

cooking, and food samples), podiatrist, health navigator, smoking cessation coordinator, and a health promoter.

A second two day Enhanced Retinal Screening Clinic was held in December in Westport. During this clinic 50 patients were seen.



The display set up for the retinal screening clinics.

Disneyland Magic

Dressed as Minnie Mouse by a Buller DHB team (and associated family members), including owner Donna Mackinnon, Sharon Naughton and Lynda Walker, Lucy the dog won first prize in Best Dressed Dog at the recent Buller A & P Show.



Santa comes to visit

Five-year-old Robbie Weston had a great telemed date late last year – he managed to talk to Santa in a real coup for Parfitt Ward.

Parfitt Clinical Nurse Leader Dot O'Connor says the ward has very good connections with the North Pole, although it took a bit of convincing to get shy Robbie to say anything to the convivial Santa.

