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Practice managers meet after two-year break



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Practice Managers and Administrations Association of New Zealand chair Michelle Te Kira says association membership is growing, and the feeling is positive [Image: NZD]

Thwarted twice by the pandemic and their programme being changed 10 times, practice managers finally got to celebrate their 25th conference in Rotorua late last month.

Chair of the Practice Managers and Administrators Association of New Zealand, Michelle Te Kira, says members were out on the dance floor before the entrées were served at the gala dinner. About 360 delegates attended the conference, along with 120 others, including speakers and exhibitors.

“Very full-on” but “really successful” is how Ms Te Kira describes the event, held from 27 to 29 October.

The conference is the biggest drawcard for membership and 70 per cent of attendees were new practice managers or new to PMAANZ, she says.

Speakers included RNZCGP president Samantha Murton, foodbank operator and ex-boxer David Letele, aka the Brown Buttabean, microbiologist Siouxsie Wiles and journalists Nicole Bremner and Paula Penfold.

There are two new faces on the PMAANZ executive: Karen Greer from Bulls Medical Centre takes on the membership portfolio and Third Age Health aged residential care practice manager Niomi Fleming, the education portfolio.

Lower Hutt After Hours Medical Centre general manager Mark O'Connor and Dodson Medical Centre practice manager Bethan Rajwer have stepped down. Mr O'Connor and Karori Medical Centre practice manager Lyn Allen are now honorary life members.

A membership structure change means practices can pay a set price for all staff, rather than for each person.

Practice Manager Specialist of the Year was Tanziha Matin, from St Lukes Medical Centre in Auckland, and Mrs Greer was runner-up.

Ms Fleming received a \$3500 scholarship for a UNE Partnerships diploma.

Ms Te Kira says the feeling of the organisation is positive, with membership growing daily and people already booking for next year's conference.

The venue will be in Christchurch because PMAANZ has outgrown the Rotorua site.

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