

Dear friends and patients

This to let you know that I am hanging up my stethoscope and starting a new life, in short retiring. I have been a GP since 1979 and many of us have known each other since that time and the 1980s. It has been very fulfilling to be there when some of you entered the world and when others drew their last breath. All that goes between has been a reflection of the troubles and joys of life. Thank you all for your loyalty, for the laughter, the tears and the times of reflection.

I will be replaced by one of our recent registrars. Pulasthri Mithraratne impressed us with his knowledge, diligence, thoroughness and kindness. He is NZ trained and this bright young man has a long career ahead of him in General Practice.

I have a large garden to develop. In some ways this is a metaphor for the work of a GP, raising of young plants, managing plant disease and decay. End of life issues are perhaps easier in a garden. And then there are books, friends, family, grandchildren, and music.

As we face very uncertain times we cannot take anything for granted. Every new day of health is reason for gratitude. Every day of adversity is reason for reaching out to each other, for acceptance and a spirit of forgiveness. May this be your experience in the years ahead.

Respectfully

Alan Broom