

A Message from Dr John Almond

The time has come to talk about the dreaded R word.

I appreciate it has been raised a few times during consultations and more so recently.

My strenuous denials of late have become less convincing even to my own ears.

My trusty old stethoscope seemed to reinforce the message when it came to a sad end just a few days ago.

So, from September I will be retiring from Te Puke Medical Centre.

This has not been an easy decision to make and I will miss my contact with all of you. (**NOTE** my last consulting day to see patients will be **Thursday 26th August**)

I arrived here with my young family for a 3 month locum at a time when the Australian cricketers were introducing NZ to the finer art of underarm bowling. Fast forward forty years and that time seems to have gone in a flash.

I feel very privileged to have been a part of your lives and see your families grow and work through some of life's challenges. There are many long associations and caring for several generations of families has been very special.

I have been humbled to have such loyal patients who have taught me so much over the years. Hopefully in return I have been able to help you in some small way.

I have really enjoyed my work but the time is right to explore a future outside of medicine.

I would like to acknowledge all my wonderful colleagues at Te Puke Medical Centre.

They are an amazing supportive team that will continue to provide you with the best possible care for the future.

I would also like to mention the late Roy Harris and Doug Caird who were my early mentors and passed on a wealth of experience when medicine was more art than science.

I remain very grateful to both doctors.

I would like to welcome and introduce Lisa Wain who will be taking over my work.

Lisa will already be known to many of you as she has been providing holiday cover at the medical centre for a number of years. Lisa is a very experienced and capable doctor and I have every confidence leaving my patients in her excellent hands.

I wish you all the very best for the future.

Kind Regards

John