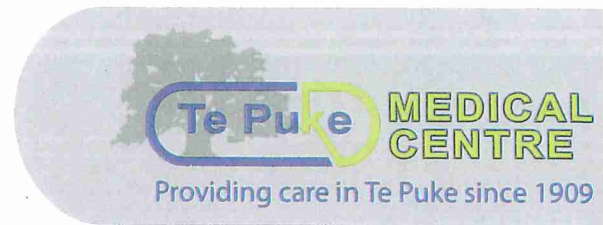


Special Letter to Dr Roger Ward's patients



The last 43 years have flown by as I have endeavoured to fulfil my duty of care for patients at Te Puke Medical Centre .

But: "There is nothing permanent except change "and I will be retiring at the end of 2021 .

1978 seems such a short time ago when my wife Jan and I with children Marc and Melanie arrived in what was then a little country town to be part of a 4 doctor rural practice .

The automatic telephone exchange had just replaced the manual operator exchange, the maternity unit was busy with deliveries and the exact rural address of some patients in order to visit them was at times rather vague. Appointments were slightly haphazard because rural accidents and maternity calls got in the way. Hand written notes were in "doctors' handwriting " .

Now we have smart phones, better roads, precise addresses and the maternity unit is long closed . Appointments and patient notes are computer driven and as organised as human illnesses allow.

The ever present constant has been the support of a succession of clerical staff , nurses and fellow doctors .Their knowledge, collegiality and commitment to care under at times stressful conditions over the years has sustained Te Puke Medical Centre .

Being a General Practitioner has changed immensely since 1978 but human qualities have not.

My family, especially Jan are an emotional backbone without whom life as a GP would be extremely difficult.

Of course, it is the patients and their illnesses that have stressed , puzzled and rewarded me over the years .

Thank you all, for permitting me to be part of your lives .

I am happy to endorse and sincerely recommend Dr Scott Rieper as my successor. He is an energetic, kind and skilled G.P.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Roger Ward".

Roger Ward