

# Why rural rules

*Dr Andrew Ure, Gore*

Rural general practice ... where to begin  
The options are many that will welcome you in  
The welcomes are warm, and the houses are cheap  
Just got to put up with some cattle and sheep

If your dream's for adventure and pathology and fame  
Then rural's your ticket and medicine your game  
Where else do the GPs call choppers for arrests  
Or stabilise STEMI's or decompress chests  
Or work with volunteers from the fire brigade  
As they prepare to assist with another MVA

A new doctor in town is a newspaper event  
You'll be heralded and welcomed as if heaven sent  
You'll quickly be known by the community vine  
And your skills and your vices discussed over wine

Rural's the place where the air is so clean  
Where commuting to work is a no-traffic-lights dream  
Yes, the WIFI is spotty, and the cafés are few  
But the coffee is quality, and you can't beat the view

Rural's the place where the bugs are more varied  
Where zoonotic load can keep you quite wearied  
From ORF to Giardia to the leptospirosis  
Where "she'll be right Doc" can be Endocarditis

Rural's the place where the post-code thing hits  
It's a long way to hospital when you live in the sticks  
Thank goodness for tele-med options for patients  
Cos' you need to provide care aware of locations

Rural's the place where community shows up  
Where whānau and friendships are resilient and tough  
Where local means valued, and neighbour means known  
And medicine means treating those who live near your home

The new look localities are the thing in our day  
And it seems in these rural is leading the way  
The community ownership is already there  
But we still need the people to provide local care

A "Little" awareness of rural's hard-working teams  
And a "Little" support would just make our dreams  
Yes there are challenges, I know you're not fools  
But in my humble opinion, rural GP rules!