Calendar of Events

May

9  Physical Education & Sustainability – Teacher PD
17  Diane Siemon Mathematics Workshop – Teacher PD
24  Cardiovascular and Respiratory and Musculoskeletal /Hip Displacement Programs – Nursing PD

Bachelor of Nursing & Post Graduate Nursing Courses

Semester 1 is almost completed. With only 4 more teaching weeks left students are busy preparing for exams and year 3 students preparing for the second of their 3 final clinical placements before graduation.

As semester 1 2007 draws to a close, it is also the end of an era of RMIT Hamilton offering only Undergraduate courses in Nursing. As of semester 2, 2007 we will be a campus for postgraduate and undergraduate studies!

The original intent of the nursing program in Hamilton was to help meet a local need for division 1 nurses, and as the laws of supply and demand would demonstrate, we along with other universities that supply the Western District health area have successfully met that immediate demand. This is an exciting milestone for the Nursing program at RMIT because armed with this information we have been able to diversify our skill base and academic offerings to incorporate post graduate studies.

Through research and extensive discussions with local health care providers we have identified two immediate needs and they are in the areas of gerontology and mental health.

Our core focus for semester 2 2007 is caring for our local aging population. This is a specialty nursing area and RMIT Hamilton is passionate about positioning our local nurses to meet this need with a firmer foundational knowledge of aging. We are therefore offering both a post graduate Certificate and post graduate Diploma in gerontology.

For nursing enquiries please contact Kerry McMullan or Peter Francis at RMIT Hamilton on 55720551 or kerry.mcmullan@rmity.edu.au or peter.francis@rmit.edu.au

Teacher Professional Development

The Teacher Professional Development sessions that have run so far this year have been very well attended. The feedback has indicated that teachers are appreciative of the opportunities for learning that we are offering and the overwhelming convenience of attending courses in Hamilton.

Semester II planning is well underway and should you have a particular area of interest or need please contact Marilyn Lyons on 55720502 or marilyn.lyons@rmit.edu.au

Physical Activity in Literacy and Numeracy Tasks – 9 May

Recent research has shown that many schools are finding it difficult to meet the official target for students of 3 hours per week of physical activities and exercise. The subject matter of RMIT University Hamilton’s next teacher PD workshop aims to demonstrate the inclusion of quality physical activities and strategies in literacy and numeracy tasks in order to help meet this target.

This workshop promises to be a very worthwhile learning experience.

Developing the big ideas in Number at level 3 – A critical step on the road to success – 17 May

RMIT Hamilton, in conjunction with Heather Varrenti of Hamilton Innovation and Excellence Cluster, is hosting a professional development opportunity for Mathematics teachers to be held on 17 May.

The workshop, presented by Professor Di Siemon, will explore the transition from additive to multiplicative thinking which is one of the major barriers to learning mathematics in the middle years. This program is therefore essentially targeted at teachers of Years 3 and 4.

However, research has shown that a failure to grasp these skills and concepts at an early age contributes greatly to the difficulties many students find in higher primary and then of course in secondary mathematics. Adults too, returning to study, often find difficulty in this area.
Designed as a hands-on workshop, the day is therefore very relevant to teachers beyond the Year 3 and 4 level as they look for ways of developing their skills to meet the needs of their students in a wide variety of mathematical contexts.

For more information or to register for any of these courses please contact Carol Burger on 55720500 or email carol.burger@rmit.edu.au

History Workshops
Hamilton History Centre Inc in conjunction with the History Council of Victoria will be running two workshops on Thursday May 3, 2007. These are aimed at providing skills development and enlivening history by bringing together professional historians and history-lovers in the community.

Making History: A History Skills Workshop 1-4.30pm. Journey into History: Exploring Australia’s Past through Family History, Oral History and Digital Storytelling, 6.30-8.00pm. Bookings are essential. Contact the Hamilton History Centre on 55724933 (2-5pm only) or hamiltonhistory@ansonic.com.au

Local Global Series - Community Forum
Last Friday over 70 people attend a very successful discussion of Climate Change. Dr. Yaso Nadarajah, Local-Global research coordinator in welcoming attendees highlighted the opportunities to discuss both current global debate and more local practices and attitudes towards climate change.

Dr. Bill Kininmonth proposed that current climate change is part of a natural cycle which simply requires adapting to, while Prof. Peter Hayes suggested that climate change is actually within our control with mitigation and adaptation.

A panel of speakers reported on their practices in relation to climate change, including, John Pettigrew, an irrigation farmer from the Goulburn Broken Catchment, John Kane who spoke of Coleraine’s waste water treatment project and Peter Dark who talked of generational farming practice changes. Mark Wootton, Chair of the Climate Institute and Principal and Manager of Jigsaw Farms reported on future solutions, while Dr. Malcolm McCaskill, Dept of Primary Industry Hamilton spoke of the development of pasture species to meet changed growing environments.

In summary, Professor Paul James, Director of the Globalism Institute posed the question that if we are now at the threshold of climate change, where every action we take will have consequences, how do we get involved as a community to meet these challenges and changes? The sessions chaired by Dr Martin Mulligan of the Globalism Institute, provided much background for stimulating discussion.

A website address for the Climate Change Forum presentation material will be available on the Local-Global site in the near future. Information about the Local-Global Program can be viewed on: www.communitysustainability.info/research/our-data-network.html

Research
The Potter Farmland Plan - Past, Present and Future Scoping Project has been completed. The research based on ‘Potter’ continues through the two PhD students, Cathy Wagg and Mary Johnson. This Friday Professor John Hearne, Head of the School of Mathematics and Geospatial Sciences will be meeting with researchers and project people involved in the ‘Potter’ project at Hamilton to continue to develop the research project.

The Southern Grampians Youth Network has been meeting at RMIT to establish a protocol for organisations to work together for local youth.

Australian Universities Community Engagement Alliance (AUCEA)
The 4th Annual AUCEA Conference will be held at Charles Darwin University, Alice Springs, Northern Territory from 2-4 July 2007.

The theme of the conference - The Scholarship of Community Engagement: Australia’s Way Forward, challenges us to reflect upon how and why engaged teaching, learning and research is key to Australia’s economic and social future. Conference website: www.aucea.net.au/conference.

For further information contact Dr Leone Wheeler - leone.wheeler@rmit.edu.au

If you would like information about the facilities or services offered at RMIT Hamilton, please email Dr Leone Wheeler, Head, Learning Community Partnerships incorporating RMIT Hamilton at leone.wheeler@rmit.edu.au or phone 0407 856 212. or contact Dr Kaye Scholfield, Manager, Community Partnerships & Projects at kaye.scholfield@rmit.edu.au or phone 5572 0501. Marilyn Lyons, Short Course Co-ordinator at marilyn.lyons@rmit.edu.au or phone 5572 0502. If you have an item for the e-news, or would like to subscribe or unsubscribe please send an email to Fiona Upstill, Communications Project Officer. fiona.upstill@rmit.edu.au