What’s On Calendar

July
10 Community Forum – Jeremy Reynolds
25 Helen & Geoff Handbury Fellowship Applications
31 Community Forum – Deb Verhoeven

August
4,5 Sheevention – visit RMIT at site 314 in TM1.
13 Teacher PD – Phillip Doecke
20 Open Evening – Bachelor of Nursing Program at RMIT University Hamilton
22 Early Childhood Conference

Community Forum

“What Future for Southern Grampians Shire? The Demographic and Social Changes Ahead”
Presenter: Jeremy Reynolds – Manager of Demographic Research, Department of Planning and Community Development

Australia and Victoria are now experiencing record amounts of population growth. Further strong population growth is likely given our relatively strong economy and ongoing skills shortages. However that growth is occurring in an uneven manner, reflecting the living imperatives and preferences of our economy and society. In Victoria, Melbourne is the focus of this growth; in regional Victoria, growth is concentrated in specific places and regions. Meanwhile, Victoria’s population ages, generating changes in the demand for government investment and services.

Where do Western Victoria and Hamilton sit within this landscape of change? What challenges need to be faced?

Jeremy Reynolds has worked on urban and regional planning and development issues since 1971. This began with work on housing renewal projects in London's East End, and from 1975 in Victoria working on metropolitan planning strategies and regional development issues.

In 1993 the State Government established a research unit within the planning department and Jeremy has overseen its development most of the time since. One of the unit’s main tasks is preparing population projections for the State, regions and local government areas. These projections are used to plan infrastructure and service delivery across Victoria.

In 2008, it is clear that cities and regions are undergoing major transitions in their economic and social roles which present many planning challenges. The release of 2006 census data in the second half of 2007 provides an opportunity to renew this debate.

Thursday, 10 July 2008, 5.30pm to 7.00pm
RMIT University, 200 Ballarat Road, Hamilton

For more information or to RSVP, contact Quin Curcio
tel: 5572 0500 or email quin.curcio@rmit.edu.au

“Sheep and the Australian Cinema”
Presenter: Deb Verhoeven - Associate Professor of Screen Studies, School of Applied Communication, RMIT University

Australian audiences may love to flock to the cinema but the unsung stars of our home grown movies are undoubtedly the thousands of sheep that have grazed and gambolled across our silver screens. RMIT's Deb Verhoeven will show and talk about some of the key sheep movie clips that have graced our cinemas over the years.

Thursday, 31 July 2008, 5.30pm to 7.00pm
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Short Courses and Professional Development

Course in Property (Agents’ Representatives) and Certificate IV in Property (Real Estate Agency Practice)
Course in Property (Agents’ Representatives) will commence on Monday 18 August 5.30-8.30pm and continue Monday and Wednesday evenings for 10 weeks. Cost will be $670.

Certificate IV in Property (Real Estate Agency Practice) will commence in Semester II.

To register your interest, or for more information, please contact Marilyn Lyons, Learning Centre Coordinator on 5572 0502 or marilyn.lyons@rmit.edu.au

Professional Development for Educators

Challenging Activities and Games
Dr Phillip Doecke will be conducting a workshop for teachers of middle to upper primary school involving initiative activities, parachute and juggling activities, as well as partner games. Participants will learn how to use these activities as warm-ups, or major teaching points, and how these may be blended into language and numeracy activities.

Dr Phillip Doecke is lecturer in health and physical education at RMIT University in Bundoora.

Wednesday 13 August 2008
4.30pm – 6.30pm
Cost: $70

To register your interest, or for more information, please contact Marilyn Lyons, Learning Centre Coordinator on 5572 0502 or marilyn.lyons@rmit.edu.au

For more information or to RSVP, contact Quin Curcio
tel: 5572 0500 or email quin.curcio@rmit.edu.au
Keynote Speaker: Colleen DeVeyrac B.PE, B.Ed.  
Presentation: ‘Save your sanity: proactive strategies for challenging children’.  
Colleen believes educators being proactive and positive when working with children is paramount in creating an atmosphere that encourages engagement and excitement for learning. Examining educator’s reactions and ability to handle stressful situations in relation to challenging children can be powerful in creating a more positive environment. Increasing resilience in children and assisting them to transition to school in the most successful manner is crucial for creating confident and competent learners not only in school but also in life. Colleen’s “Save Your Sanity” presentations concentrate on highlighting those skills and strategies to increase resiliency in preschool children as well as providing specific strategies for educators to decrease their stress levels and reactions to challenging situations.  
Colleen DeVeyrac is an international public speaker, teacher, and educational consultant presenting workshops across Australia, Canada, and New Zealand. Colleen graduated from the University of Calgary, Canada with a Bachelor of Education and Bachelor of Physical Education.

Conference Workshops:

Emma Moore: Interactive scenarios of case examples to explore and discuss what is a child protection concern, what is Child First referral, who could/should support family and the child’s best interests. Emma has 9 years’ experience in child protection, foster care and permanent care within the Dept. of Human Services and Community Service Organisations.

Sophie Roberts: Food for Thought explores what is healthy eating for children, the Kids—Go For Your Life program messages and resources available to kinders. The session includes label reading of food products, a look at what’s in popular snacks and drinks, which foods go in which food group and the role of kinders in promoting healthy eating. Sophie is an accredited practising dietician (APD) from Western District Health Service. She has worked in both clinical and community settings and has been involved with Kids—Go For Your Life programs in the region.

Kate Sellers: Circle Time is the teaching of social skills and resilience to children in the Early Years of Schooling. It is a teaching method that provides students with the opportunity to develop self knowledge, relationships, emotional literacy and resilience.

RMIT Hamilton Research Day

Staff from RMIT in Hamilton and Melbourne will be presenting a showcase of the findings of their research in the Hamilton and Southern Grampians region. The presentations will be followed by discussions about potential research projects and collaborations which will be co-chaired by local leaders and RMIT researchers.

The objective of the presentation and discussions will be to identify new opportunities for research with outcomes which are significant for the region and for RMIT’s standing as a producer of high quality research that is relevant to the community. Key topics for discussion will include Natural Resource Management; Economic Development; Health Ageing and Social Development; and Education and Youth Issues.

The RMIT Hamilton Research Day will be held on September 3 2008. For more information, contact Shelagh Krummel on 5572 0532.

Computer Club

RMIT University Hamilton is starting up a computer club to run for the duration of Term 3. The computer club is available to secondary school students and provides opportunities to pursue interests around computers and software.

The club will be held twice a week on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 4.00pm to 5.30pm. Students will be encouraged to participate in self directed learning and will be aided by facilitator, Dean Banfield.

Students are able to learn a variety of skills including animation, drawing comic books, creating digital stories, designing computer games and more using computers and software.

The aim of the computer club is for students to be creative and generate new ideas with likeminded people while learning new skills.

Cost is $200 for 10 weeks, or alternatively, it will be $15 per student per session. Computer club will commence on Tuesday 15 July 2008.

For further information, please contact Quin Curcio on 5572 0500 or email quin.curcio@rmit.edu.au
Helen & Geoff Handbury Fellowship Program

A reminder that applications for the 2008 Helen & Geoff Handbury Fellowship Program are now open and individuals and groups from across western Victoria are invited to apply before 25 July.

Named after Southern Grampians’ residents, Geoff and the late Helen Handbury, the fellowship program was launched by RMIT University in 2002 to support research in the region. Since 2002, 16 fellowships have been awarded to fund various projects in western Victoria.

For more information and application forms, phone RMIT University Hamilton on (03) 5572 0513 or (03) 5572 0549. The prospectus, application forms and details of projects are available at www.communitysustainability.info/assresearch/hadbury.html

Nursing Open Evening at RMIT Hamilton

RMIT University Hamilton will open its doors on the evening of Wednesday 20 August 2008 to showcase the Bachelor of Nursing Program to prospective students.

Interested people will be able to discuss the program content with staff and take tours of the facilities.

If you have considered a career in nursing and want to study locally, this information session should not be missed.

For more information, please contact Kerry McMullan on 5572 0551 or email kerry.mcmullan@rmit.edu.au

Second International Food and Thought Mela held at RMIT Hamilton

A very rich feast of food and ideas was served up for around 70 participants of the Second International Food and Thought Mela held at RMIT campus in Hamilton on Saturday June 21. The day kicked off with a breakfast of mushrooms and hand-made sausages prepared by Graham Wood (Woody) and from there it moved into presentations about what we can learn from mushrooms about biodiversity and food security. Environmentalist and community activist from Ecuador, Carlos Zorrilla, gave a keynote speech on the global struggle to preserve biodiversity, reporting on a hard but successful struggle to prevent mining in the unique cloud forests of Ecuador. A later session focused on the changing nature of community in the contemporary world and the last session focused on stories of the future in the Hamilton region that have emerged from a community-based Scenarios Planning Workshop held at the RMIT Campus in early February.

During the day food was provided by local suppliers and the event concluded with a wonderful evening dinner, held at the Hamilton Institute of Rural Learning, with local food prepared by local chefs from Gilly’s Café. As far as possible food was sourced from within 30 km of Hamilton. Comedian Rod Quantock challenged dinner guests with his irreverent thoughts about rural life and food.

As well as panel presentations, workshops were held on the topics of ‘Beyond Oil’, ‘Dirty Hands, Fresh Food’, and ‘Acting Locally’. These featured a combination of local and non-local presenters with practical experience related to food, energy and community action.

International guests for the Mela included Carlos Zorrilla (mentioned above), Professor Thangavelu Vasantha Kumaran and Professor Venkatesan Kaviyranan from the University of Madras in Chennai, Associate Professor Glen Kuecker from De Pauw University in Indiana, and Robin Nicholas from the Los Alamos National Laboratory in the U.S.A. The first International Food and Thought Mela was held in Hamilton in February 2006 as a partnership between researchers in the Globalism Institute at RMIT Melbourne and members of the Local-Global Project in the Hamilton region. The next Mela is likely to be held in India if a suitable partnership can be forged.

Helpful Websites

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For local information please contact the following staff:

**Research in Regional Development:** Dr Paul Collits, at paul.collits@rmit.edu.au or tel: 5572 0537.

**Nursing and Midwifery:** Kerry McMullan, at kerry.mcmullan@rmit.edu.au or tel: 5572 0551.

**Community Engagement:** Dr Kaye Scholfield, at kaye.scholfield@rmit.edu.au or tel: 5572 0501.

**Short Course Programs:** Marilyn Lyons, at marilyn.lyons@rmit.edu.au or tel: 5572 0502.

**Local – Global Program:** Vicki Finch at victoria.finch@rmit.edu.au or tel: 5572 0549

**General Enquiries and Student Support:** Quin Cuncio, at quin.cuncio@rmit.edu.au or tel: 5572 0500.

**Subscription to e-news:** Dinah Hallam, dinah.hallam@rmit.edu.au or tel: 5572 0505.