What’s On Calendar

February
6, 7  Orientation for Bachelor of Nursing students.
29 – 2 Mar  International Student visit to region

March
11  Community Forum – Dr Paul Collits, Research Fellow, Regional Development
11  Community Advisory Group Meeting

Welcome for 2008

Welcome to another academic year. A particular welcome to our nursing students who undertook an early orientation last week as our Nursing Program Coordinator and one of our Hamilton nursing students are now visiting RMIT Vietnam as part of the University’s 120th birthday celebrations. Also congratulations to the graduating cohort from 2007.

Staff at RMIT University in Hamilton are committed to bringing quality learning and teaching and research programs. Our first Community Forum will feature Dr Paul Collits, Research Fellow, Regional Development Program, newly arrived in Hamilton, talking on the ‘great questions of regional development’. Please note this for your diary.

RMIT’s program includes a number of relevant research topics with particular themes covering climate change, youth, regional development and sustainability. Congratulations to researchers associated with Hamilton, in particular, Professor Paul James who collected a number of RMIT Research Awards and David Warne who received a University Research Prize for excellence in a higher degree by research program.

RMIT University in Hamilton is a great resource for the local area and community members are encouraged to attend the range of activities on offer this year including Community Forums and short courses.

Dr Leone Wheeler
Head, Learning Community Partnerships

Upcoming Courses

Course in Property (Agents’ Representatives) and Certificate IV in Property (Real Estate Agency Practice)
RMIT University Hamilton is thrilled to be offering two new real estate programs in Hamilton from 2008.

Both provide the knowledge and skills required by law to practise in Australia, with the convenience of being delivered in Hamilton through face-to-face learning.

If you are interested in starting an exciting career in real estate as an agent or agent’s representative, apply now to register your interest.

Hurry, as places are limited and are going fast!

For more information about this course, please contact Marilyn Lyons, Learning Centre Coordinator on 5572 0502 or email marilyn.lyons@rmit.edu.au

Nursing and Midwifery

The 2008 academic year has almost begun. Orientation for students was held earlier than usual this year on February 6 and 7. Students learnt about the mixed mode of delivery of the Bachelor of Nursing Program, the requirements of the program and participated in fun activities to make it easier to get to know other students and ease into student life.

Kerry McMullan, Nursing Program Coordinator, is in Vietnam for 15 days in February as a part of RMIT Universities’ 120 year birthday celebrations. Kerry is supporting 8 nursing students gain clinical exposure in a variety of settings. One of the students visiting Vietnam is from the Hamilton Nursing Program. These students will also be supervised and supported by Australian nurses from the Australian Vietnam Veterans’ Reconstruction Group.

Kerry is passing on her considerable knowledge to Vietnamese nursing and medical personnel by speaking at conferences and seminars. Kerry is also visiting RMIT International University Vietnam which is located in Ho Chi Minh City.

Best wishes to Peter Francis who has moved on from his position as Clinical Nursing Educator. Peter brought a great deal of enthusiasm and experience to the role and he will be greatly missed. Peter’s vacant position will be filled shortly.

otherWISE Youth Project

RMIT University in Hamilton has taken on the challenge of being part of the otherWISE Youth Leadership for Sustainable Communities Project - a community capacity building program for Australia. The project aims to create more sustainable communities through inspirational and supportive partnerships between young Australians, community leaders and organisations.

The community and its environments will benefit by having a group of young sustainability champions who can continue to educate other young people about the importance of sustainable and responsible consumption practices while addressing their own consumption behaviour.

The initial meeting will be held on Monday 3 March at 4.00 pm at RMIT University. Please contact otherWISE Program Coordinator, Fiona Upstill if you would like to be a part of this exciting project. fiona.upstill@rmit.edu.au or 03 55720 500.

Go for your life

‘Challenging the Stereotypes: Going for our lives’ is a local project delivering the messages of the ‘Go for your life’ campaign. RMIT University in Hamilton is pleased to be one the local workplaces to commence the pilot program which will focus on increasing physical activity and healthy eating in the workplace and encourage workers and their families to maintain healthy lifestyles into the future.
Post Graduate Nursing Courses

Graduate Certificate in Gerontology
The Graduate Certificate in Gerontology is a distance education program that has become an exceedingly popular area of study due to an ageing population and an increase in career opportunities available within the Aged Care Nursing sector.

Graduate Diploma in Mental Health Nursing
The Graduate Diploma in Mental Health Nursing is a mixed mode distance education program, involving both online and face-to-face delivery of the program. The need for qualified Mental Health Nurses has been identified in this region.

For more information about either course, please contact Marilyn Lyons on 5572 0502 or marilyn.lyons@rmit.edu.au

Local Facilities to aid Study

What is available to me locally if I study through RMIT?
With many courses being offered online through RMIT University, students in the region are being given access to the facilities at RMIT University in Hamilton, to help and support local RMIT students.

RMIT students in Hamilton have access to computers, study rooms and the student lounge twenty four hours per day, seven days per week. They are fully supported by the Administration team and the Information Technology Officer who are available to assist students during business hours.

Hamilton students have the ability to tap into a rich academic and research culture on site, through interaction with other university students and staff – which is not available to students when studying at home alone. Students also have direct access to their tutors in Melbourne via an internal phone line and video conferencing technology, which helps to bridge the gap students may find when studying online or via distance education.

For more information about the support and facilities available to students in Hamilton, please contact Bernadette Delahunty on 5572 0500 or email Bernadette.delahunty@rmit.edu.au.

Staff Achievements

Congratulations to the following people that have won awards for their work. These people have had ongoing associations with Hamilton over some years in a diverse range of areas.

-Professor Paul James – Publications Award Winner for the highest number of DEST-recognised publications in Design and Social Context Portfolio.
-Lee Anton-Hem – Early Career Academic Teaching Award Winner.
-David Warne (Master of Education student) – University Research Prize for excellence in a higher degree by research program.

Changes in Staff

Our warmest congratulations to Carol Burger and husband Todd, on the safe arrival of their first child on December 3, 2007. Carol has been the Administration Officer at RMIT University Hamilton for a number of years.

We welcome Bernadette Delahunty who has been appointed as the Administration Officer while Carol is away on maternity leave.

We welcome back Dinah Hallam to the role of Communications Project Officer, and Fiona Upstill who has taken on a Community Engagement Project Officer role overseeing the Go For Your Life project and the otherWISE Youth Project.

Community Forum Series – what to expect in 2008

RMIT University Hamilton is pleased to present the 2008 Community Forum Series. This thought-provoking series is open to members of the public in the region who like to be inspired and have different views on the world opened up to them.

A broad range of guest speakers will be presenting on numerous and diverse topics and is provided to the public by Learning Community Partnerships, Regional Development and the Local-Global Project. Forums will be held at least once per month and will include speakers from many areas of academia.

The first forum for the year will be held on 11 March 2008 at 5.30pm with Dr Paul Collits as the guest speaker. Paul is the Research Fellow with Regional Development at RMIT University Hamilton. His presentation is titled 'The great questions of regional development'.

Wider RMIT

Global Cities Institute Launch
The Global Cities Institute was launched at a high profile event at RMIT Vietnam in Ho Chi Minh City on 5 November last year, signalling a strong ‘Vietnam focus’ for the Institute’s research programs. The launch signals the further development of research partnerships in and around Vietnam particularly regarding globalisation and climate change adaptation.

The Global Cities Institute has also recently been recognised by the United Nations as its global host for the UN Global Cities Compact. This Compact co-ordinates cities from across the world to activate key research projects on a range of issues (environmental, social, economic, governance) on behalf of the UN. As the secretariat of this Compact our Global Cities Institute will raise the research profile of RMIT worldwide.

Office and studio space to let

Do you have a business that requires office space or a small studio? Due to a reorganisation of working space, two offices and a small studio are now available at RMIT University Hamilton. For more information contact Jenny Bell on 5572 0500 or email jenny.bell@rmit.edu.au

Helpful Websites

RMIT University
www.rmit.edu.au

Southern Grampians Shire
www.sgrampians.com.au

SW TAFE
www.swtafe.vic.edu.au

Southern Grampians
www.sgrampians.com.au

Adult Education
www.sgrampians.com.au

Rural Industry Skills Training
www.rist.com.au

GSG LLEN
www.gsll.org.au

For local information please contact the following staff:
Local 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 Schofield, at kaye.schofield@rmit.edu.au or tel: 5572 0501.
Short Course Programs: Marilyn Lyons, at marilyn.lyons@rmit.edu.au or tel: 5572 0502.
General Enquiries and Student Support: Bernadette Delahunty, at bernadette.delahunty@rmit.edu.au or tel: 5572 0500.
Subscription to e-news: Dinah Hallam, dinah.hallam@rmit.edu.au or tel: 5572 0505.