Welcome for 2007
Happy New Year - in this first e-news for 2007 we are delighted to announce the publication of our Hamilton Course Guide. Please make sure you contact us to receive a copy or download from our web site (www.rmit.edu.au/hamilton). We remain committed to bringing quality short courses, undergraduate nursing and a range of post graduate programmes to the Western District of Victoria. Also let us know if you have ideas about how RMIT can contribute to your organisation's professional development requirements.

Dr Leone Wheeler
Head, Learning Community Partnerships

Contact Carol Burger on 55720500 or carol.burger@rmit.edu.au for your copy of the RMIT University Hamilton Course Guide.

Teacher Professional Development Program
A series of early evening, monthly workshops designed to appeal to educators and teaching practitioners across the early learning, primary and secondary areas has been arranged. Full details of these are given in the Hamilton Course Guide, Semester 1, 2007.

The program begins on Thursday February 15, with a Primary Dance Workshop presented by Lee Anton Hem.

This practical dance course will explore ways to use an exploratory approach and social dance to engage boys and girls, from infant to Grade 6, in dance sessions. The workshop will feature the Primary Dance Curriculum@work Hip Hop Dance computer animated program.

Ms Lee Anton-Hem MSptBus is a Lecturer in the Division of Exercise Sciences, School of Medical Science, RMIT University and a published author, co-writer and editor in the field of motorskills and physical education.

The workshop will be conducted at the George Street Primary School, 32-48 George Street Hamilton from 4.30-6.30pm. Cost is $50.

Please be aware that this will be a physically active session, so appropriate clothing, footwear and a drink bottle are suggested.

To register for this course, please contact Carol Burger 55720500 or carol.burger@rmit.edu.au

MBA
As previously advertised, RMIT University Hamilton hosted an information session on December 6, 2006. where Dr Doug Thomson, MBA Programs Manager, Graduate School of Business, outlined the variety of MBA programs available. Considerable local interest has been shown in the MBA (Executive) which is a partnership between RMIT University and Open Universities Australia and is offered on-line. Enrolment closes for the February intake on February 9. For further information visit the RMIT Graduate School of Business www.rmit.edu.au/bus/gradschool or Open Universities Australia on www.open.edu.au or contact Marilyn Lyons on 03 55720502 or marilyn.lyons@rmit.edu.au

Nursing
The 2007 academic year is almost upon us. Early round offers and enrolments were completed in late 2006. First Round enrolments were completed on January 24 and second round enrolments will take place on February 8. Enrolled students thus far prove to be an exciting, passionate and progressive group and both Peter Francis and myself are looking forward to teaching them in 2007.

Places are filling up fast, with a number of students enquiring about the placement of irregular offers. News of our flexible mode of delivery, small class sizes, increased lecturer availability is filtering out to the wider community with students changing preferences to Hamilton – a decision that we welcome and encourage. Enquiries about the placement of irregular offers and / or study in 2008 are most welcome.

2007 lecture delivery mode for Year 2 and 3 will differ slightly from previous years with a mix of ‘real time’ lectures sent directly from Bundoora campus and Camtasia (which is a method of prerecording an audio file and video file) and will be a more flexible way of learning. Orientation for Year 1 students is set for February 14th and 15th and we are sure it will be an exciting time of induction for new students. Year 2 & 3 orientation will be the following week on February 22nd.

Kerry McMullan
Program Coordinator - Bachelor of Nursing
Hamilton RMIT
Young People Speak Out
Young people from across the Southern Grampians and Glenelg Shires have the opportunity to become part of a research team of the 10MMM Project to look at how mobile phones, ipods, the internet and other new technologies affect the lives of rural young people. The research team which will be made up entirely of young people aged 12-20 will, with the support of RMIT University Hamilton researchers, learn basic research techniques such as designing surveys and running focus groups. No previous research experience is required. If you are interested or know of someone who may be interested, for more information contact Leanne Watt at YouthBiz, on 55712233 or Helen Lane on 55720500 or helen.lane@rmit.edu.au

Handbury Fellowship Program Celebration
On the first of December, the Handbury Fellowship Program Celebrations were held at RMIT Hamilton. More than 300 invited guests attended the event, enabling an exchange of information and the sharing of information regarding the development of the program and its achievements over the last four years. Guests included Hugh Delahunty, Member for Lowan, Geoff Handbury, Mayor Mick Lemming, Councillors, Southern Grampian Shire, Professor Alan Cumming, Vice Chancellor’s representative, David Knight, RMIT Council, Paul James, Director, Globalism Institute. Handbury Fellowship holders were on hand to talk about their work. Globalism Institute staff and students produced a DVD of the research projects which was showcased that evening. In addition, a Handbury Fellowship Folder as well as a website http://www.communitysustainability.info/assresearch/handbury.html, providing details and future research directions were launched. Two RMIT PhD research students volunteered cultural activities (Bollywood dancing, Hip Hop) as part of their contribution to the evening and the Fellowship program. Catering was provided by the students of The Hamilton and Alexandra College. A special thanks to all staff and community members who helped organise this successful event.

Dr Yaso Nadarajah
Senior Research Fellow
Globalism Institute

Scholarships
RMIT University has many scholarships and funding opportunities to offer students. Many scholarships are not based on academic merit, but rather on students’ financial and living circumstances. To see what opportunities are available visit www.rmit.edu.au/students/scholarships

Communications Project Officer
A vacancy exists for a Communications Project Officer to assist the Head of Learning Community Partnerships to market and promote the teaching and learning and research activities of RMIT University in Hamilton. For application details see under General Employment Opportunities at RMIT www.rmit.edu.au/pc/jobs or contact Dr Leone Wheeler on 99253733 or 0407856212. Applications close on January 29.

Staff Changes
The Director of the 'Regional Development in Global Context' program, Dr Robyn Eversole has taken up a position with the University of Tasmania's Institute for Regional Development in Burnie. During her time at RMIT Hamilton she has supported local community researchers, as well as those from larger organisations such as WDHS. She has been a prolific writer, taking out the RMIT Design and Social Context Portfolio's Award for Publications in 2006 and has undertaken research over a broad spectrum in the Western District and internationally. Locally, this has included research with Iluka Resources, Hamilton P & A Society, WDHS and Victorian Aboriginal Youth Sport and Recreation (VAYSAR). RMIT and the wider community will miss Robyn’s expertise, but we wish her success in her new position.

Dinah Hallam, Communications Project Officer is currently on maternity leave. Her position will be filled by a fixed term appointment...

We welcome Helen Lane who begins work shortly as the 10MMM Project Officer. Helen has a background in arts/theatre, writing and cultural development, and more recently marketing.

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 please send an email to Carol Burger, carol.burger@rmit.edu.au