What’s On Calendar

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

April
10      Community Forum – Dr Stephen Bird

Community Forum

“The great questions of regional development”
Dr Paul Collits – Research Fellow, Regional Development in a Global Context, RMIT University
What is the economic future of rural regions like Southern Grampians Shire in the context of current thinking about broader questions such as:
- what makes some regions economically viable while others struggle?
- how much can local action make a difference to regional futures?
- who is responsible for driving regional development?
- how do we define “success” in economic development?
Examining these big questions throws light on such important contemporary rural issues such as why young people leave rural regions and how we can attract the talented people and innovative companies that will drive the future local economy.

Dr Paul Collits is currently Research Fellow in Regional Development at RMIT University Hamilton, and has worked in regional development for over 15 years. He has also been involved in teaching at the University of New South Wales, and he recently contributed a chapter on regional planning in the Planning Australia text book.

Tuesday, 11 March 2008, 5.30pm to 7.00pm
RMIT University, 200 Ballarat Road, Hamilton
For more information or to RSVP, contact Bernadette Delahunty on 5572 0500, bernadette.delahunty@rmit.edu.au

Nursing and Midwifery

First semester began 3 weeks early for year 2 and 3 students. Year 2 students commenced early to ensure sufficient academic learning had taken place prior to their first medical / surgical clinical practicum placement which began this week. Year 3 students also started their first clinical practicum for 2008, 3 weeks prior to semester start.

A mix of mature age students and school leavers make up a pleasing cohort of 25 first year students comprising their first year of study in the Bachelor of Nursing program. Congratulations to these new students as they take their first step towards becoming qualified nurses.

Third year student, Elizabeth Drew, along with Nursing Program Coordinator, Kerry McMullan, have just returned from a 2 week visit to Vietnam. 8 students from all 3 Nursing programs visited Vietnam with a group of Australian Nurses from AVVRG (Australian Vietnam Veteran’s Reconstruction Group).

The aim was to increase knowledge, participate in cultural exchange and provide education. Kerry was able to take part in wonderful opportunities to speak at conferences and in-service lectures. Elizabeth and the other students also presented a lecture to post graduate nurses. All education sessions presented were extremely well received, with the group receiving many invitations to return next year.

International Student visit

16 international students on a field trip with the Studies in Australian Societies program were joined by community members at a barbecue at the Grampians Retreat last Saturday night. Local singing group ‘Footprints in the Custard’ also sang for the students. On Sunday, the students visited a working farm at Woodhouse and learned about farming and rural aspects of Australian life. Many of the students have decided they would like to return to the Hamilton area for a return visit later on in their time at RMIT in Melbourne. The students came from France, Germany, USA, Canada and Dubai.

Rural Grants

Rural Grants are available to RMIT students who are from a farming background. Grants will be made for a range of essential needs including text books and study materials, computers and other necessary academic equipment, living expenses and transport costs. Grants are available up to $5,000 and are for one year.

Eligible Students must be:
- Australian Citizens
- In a full time undergraduate or TAFE program at RMIT
- From a farming background
- Able to demonstrate significant financial disadvantage

For more information about these grants go to http://www.rmit.edu.au/browse;ID=v5ve4brp7rd3z
For further information about scholarships at RMIT, see http://www.rmit.edu.au/students/scholarships/2008undergraduate scholarships

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 28 April 5.30-8.30pm and continue Monday and Wednesday evenings for 10 weeks, concluding on Monday June 30. Cost will be $670. Enrolment packages will be mailed shortly to those who have already expressed an interest. Further enquiries are welcome.

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

This practical training course will help you to consolidate and further develop your understanding of grammar and punctuation, so you can write, or edit for, clear, concise and accurate prose.

At the end of this intensive course, you should be able to:
* understand the parts of speech and parts of a sentence
* recognise the role of idiom, register, style and usage when making decisions about grammar
* identify grammatical problems in writing and fix them
* understand how the standard punctuation marks are used
* punctuate lists, dialogue, quotations and shortened forms according to contemporary Australian style
* make confident hyphenation decisions and identify the grammar and typography of em and en dashes
* write in concise plain English
* feel more confident about your use of grammar and punctuation
* seek out useful references to help you in the future.

The presenter, Penny Johnson, is a writer, an editor and an educator. She has worked as a managing editor at Meanjin and Cultural Studies Review and lectures in RMIT’s Professional Writing and Editing course.

This course is essential for people who write and edit documents of importance in the workplace. It will be delivered over two full days on 21 and 22 May for the cost of $390 which includes course materials.

For more information, or to secure a place in the course, please contact Marilyn Lyons, Learning Centre Coordinator on 5572 0502 or email marilyn.lyons@rmit.edu.au

Professional Development for Educators

Conversations with Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Secondary School Students

This training workshop designed for teachers, youth workers, nurses and community workers aims to raise awareness around sexual and gender diversity issues that might impact on young people in secondary school and youth sector settings. Tension and anxieties often surface where questions around young people and sexualities intersect.

“Conversations” deploys the simple technique of reading aloud (based on poststructural theory) to ease tension and strategically promote attitudinal change.

This workshop has been delivered to over 2500 people over five years in various settings. Extensive learning materials and links will be supplied.

Presenter: Dr Michael Crowhurst is a lecturer in Teacher Education at RMIT School of Education. He is the author of Conversations with Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Secondary School Students: A Sexual Diversity Training Kit for School Communities.

This workshop will be held on Tuesday 13 May at RMIT University Hamilton from 4.30-6.30pm. For more information, or to secure a place in the course, please contact Marilyn Lyons, Learning Centre Coordinator on 5572 0502 or email marilyn.lyons@rmit.edu.au

Advanced Notice – date for diary!

The Second International Food & Thought MELA

Food, Community & the Future, Hamilton, Victoria

The Second International Food & Thought MELA will be held at RMIT University Hamilton and HIRL (Hamilton Institute of Rural Learning) on Friday 20 and Saturday 21 June 2008.

The MELA is a series of workshops and lectures covering the theme Food, Community and the Future. This intercultural and international event, organised by the Local Global program in partnership with community groups and local global researchers, is an opportunity for communities from the Hamilton region and beyond to hear and engage actively with international community activists, leading researchers, scholars and practitioners who are committed to contributing to the sustainable future of communities across the world, starting from the local.

MELA’ is a Sanskrit word for a community gathering and festival. In this tradition, the Food and Thought MELA is a chance for people to come together at a shared table and celebrate the rich diversity of their food communities whilst seeking dialogue and active responses to issues of food production, climate change and a sustainable future.

International and local speakers will cover a wide variety of topics on both days, with a Youth MELA (specifically for Year 11 and 12 students in the region) being held from 10.00am – 2.00pm on Friday 20 June.

On Saturday the program will commence at 7.30am with registration and breakfast with locally foraged mushrooms, cooked by a local restaurateur. Panels and workshops are to be held throughout the day including local and international speakers. A local produce dinner and keynote address presided by Paul James, RMIT University will be held at HIRL on Saturday 21 June.

Information will be available on websites and handouts by the end of March. A program brochure and tickets will be available by the end of April. For any further information please contact the Local Global Project Office, RMIT University Hamilton on 5572 0513 or email victoria.finch@rmit.edu.au, cicely.fenton@rmit.edu.au or terrie.nicholson@rmit.edu.au

Helpful Websites

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For local information please contact the following staff:
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Short Course Programs: Marilyn Lyons, at marilyn.lyons@rmit.edu.au or tel: 5572 0502.
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General Enquiries and Student Support: Bernadette Delahunty, at bernadette.delahunty@rmit.edu.au or tel: 5572 0500.
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