**Calendar of Events**

**December**

1. Helen & Geoff Handbury Fellowship Celebration
2. RMIT Management Meeting
3. Community Advisory Group Meeting
4. RMIT Graduation Parade & Ceremony

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**Helen & Geoff Handbury Fellowship Celebrations**

Professor Margaret Gardner, Vice Chancellor and President RMIT University, is hosting the Helen and Geoff Handbury Fellowships Celebrations at RMIT University, Hamilton on 1 December 2006, from 6.30 pm to 9.30 pm.

This event will draw together the sponsors, community, researchers and related community groups and organisations to hear about the positive benefits of the fellowship projects across the region.

This event is being co-ordinated by the Globalism Institute. RSVP to Victoria Finch on 5572 0513 or victoria.finch@rmit.edu.au.

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**MBA (Executive) Information Session**

**Advance Your Career**

Give your career a boost! RMIT University Hamilton, is pleased to be able to provide a Masters in Business Administration (Executive) in 2007, for students wishing to partake in postgraduate study to advance their career.

An information session will be held on Wednesday, 6th December at 5.45pm at the RMIT University Hamilton Site on Ballarat Road, for those interested in finding out more about the course.

This course is suited to high performing or high-potential managers and integrates work and learning as a part-time program, providing flexibility, convenience and choice for the student, and will be run subject to viable student numbers.

This MBA (Executive) program allows the student to choose a specialist 'major', for example, International Management Stream, which translates as being more applicable for the student, and more beneficial for the workplace.

For further information, please contact Marilyn Lyons, Learning Centre Co-ordinator on 55720502 or marilyn.lyons@rmit.edu.au.

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**2006 Graduation Parade and Ceremony**

RMIT University Hamilton is proud to announce its 100th Nursing Graduate will attend the 2006 RMIT University Graduation Parade and Ceremony.

This milestone will be celebrated as the Hamilton Nursing students attend the RMIT University Graduation Parade and Ceremony on Wednesday 13 December.

This year’s Swanston Street parade will begin at 10.00am and will be an inspiring curtain-raiser to the University’s biggest night of the year, the Graduation Ceremony at Telstra Dome.

RMIT students, past and present staff, senior alumni dressed in their academic robes will be a colourful and joyful sight as they make their way to Melbourne Town Hall.

That evening, the Hamilton Nursing Program students will join more than 27,000 graduates, staff and guests at Telstra Dome in Australia’s largest graduation ceremony, to celebrate after working hard to achieve their qualifications.

Parents and friends will look on as students dressed in their academic regalia receive the awards that recognise their educational achievements. It will be a celebration and a night to remember.

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**Short Course Guide**

The RMIT University Hamilton Course Guide details a range of quality short courses that will be offered in Semester 1, 2007, along with information about postgraduate programs and proposed community forums.

The Teacher Professional Development Program is a series of early evening, monthly workshops designed to appeal to teaching practitioners across the early learning, primary and secondary areas. These workshops will be run by specialists in their field and will include learning for sustainability, physical education, dance and information literacy.

The Guide lists a variety of courses in the areas of business, creative arts, environment, information systems and health and science.

The Hamilton Course Guide will be published in December and will be available on our website from early January in PDF form.

For further information contact Marilyn Lyons on 5572 0502 or marilyn.lyons@rmit.edu.au.
**Research News**

RMIT’s evaluation unit, CIRCLE, is a partner in one of the four major research projects announced by the Gardiner Foundation recently. The Geoffrey Gardiner Dairy Foundation Ltd was established in 2001, with assets in excess of $60 million to promote and support the Victorian dairy industry and dairying communities for the benefit of the wider community.

Improving the Sustainability of Dairy Farmer Workforce - An Economic Evaluation of the Sustainable Dairy Farm Families Program:

The SDFF project (2005-2007) aims to improve the health behaviours of dairy farm families to increase their health, wellbeing and safety outcomes. It consists of annual workshops, pre and post knowledge surveys, farm safety survey, personal farmer action plans, newsletters, industry association and annual measurement of clinical indicators over three years.

The project will undertake an analysis of the costs of implementing the SDFF project (cost analysis), evidence about changes in behaviour and in clinical indicators in dairy farming families (cost-effectiveness), projected changes to morbidity and mortality in dairy farming families (based on these clinical indicators), and on the estimated value of these changes in terms of quality of life (cost utility) and cost-savings. It will build onto previous work undertaken in the broadacre dryland program funded by RIRDC.

All these factors have increasing relevance to the Victorian Dairy industry as the health and age of the dairy human resource becomes a pivotal factor in the future of the dairy industry. This important research will assist in determining how best to reduce the burden of harm attributable to the health-related behaviours of Victorian Dairy farmers, thereby extending knowledge of the relative performance of interventions and informing resource allocation decisions to ensure the greatest contribution to health improvement possible given a limited budget.

The project will involve Susan Brumby from the Western District Health Service, Associate Professor Patricia Rogers from CIRCLE (Collaborative Institute for Research, Consulting and Learning in Evaluation) and Dr Jonathan Boymal from the School of Economics, Finance and Marketing and build on their earlier RIRDC-funded project.

**Online Postgraduate Nursing Opportunities in 2007**

Graduate Certificates are now being offered in: Child and Adolescent Health, Gerontology, Neuroscience Nursing and Management for Health Care Professionals.

For further information phone 9925 7453, see www.rmit.edu.au/nursing or email nursing@rmit.edu.au

**Message from Dr Leone Wheeler**

**Head, Learning Community Partnerships**

I thank everyone in Hamilton and surrounding regions for supporting our work this year. I also thank our local staff - academics, and support staff, as well as the local businesses and organisations that cater for us, keep our grounds in excellent condition, provide security and manage our property. This would not happen without great support from Melbourne - especially Professor Alan Cumming, Melbourne academics who visit regularly and contribute to community forums, and often introduce Australian and International students to the region. RMIT Hamilton also has tremendous support from central services - Property Services, ITS, Student Services, the Library and the DSC financial team.

Celebration of success is important and RMIT Hamilton has held a number of celebrations this year. The ones that come to mind are the Mela: International Festival of Food and Thought, the celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the Potter Farmland Project, the 100th nursing graduate and today is the celebration of the Helen and Geoff Handbury Fellowships. I also recognise the work of our nursing students, and post-graduate students and thank them for choosing to study with us. I look forward to working with you next year. Have a safe and happy Christmas and New Year Break.

-Dr Leone Wheeler

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, Learning Centre 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 Dinah Hallam, Communications Project Officer - dinah.hallam@rmit.edu.au

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**RMIT Christmas Close-down**

RMIT University Hamilton will be closed from noon Friday, 22 December 2006 and will reopen on Tuesday, 2 January 2007.

The staff at RMIT University Hamilton, wish everyone a safe and happy festive season, and look forward to working with you in 2007.