What’s On Calendar

May
2  Catering for individual differences and multiplicative thinking – Professional Development for Educators
13  Conversations with Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Secondary School Students – Professional Development for Educators and Health Workers
21,22  Grammar and Punctuation – Short Course
22  Community Forum – Tony Sorensen

Community Forum

“Regional Australia Tomorrow: the importance of envisioning the future”

Presenter: Adjunct Professor Tony Sorensen – Deputy Director, Centre for Applied Research in Social Science, School of Behavioural, Cognitive and Social Science, University of New England.

There are good news examples from around Australia and in other developed countries where some combination of individuals, companies, organisations, communities and governments have greatly assisted regional development. If we examine the processes and forces at work in these instances, we can distil several key ingredients that, incidentally, closely mirror successful business development.

Critical among these are future orientation (as measured by innovation, research and development, and imagination), commitment (including risk acceptance and willingness to back vision with capital outlays), and leadership (across the community spectrum).

The principal focus of this presentation is to explore the nature of future orientation, whether it can be nurtured in any concerted ways, and how some combination of individuals, governments, businesses or other institutions might best to accomplish this task. It is possible to argue that, in Australia’s case, the last twenty years have witnessed a dramatic and unanticipated flowering of forward thinking.

The presentation concludes with informed speculation about regional (mainly rural) Australia’s possible futures.

Tony Sorensen has taught and researched regional development for over 30 years. He is an expert in regional policy, rural communities and the role of leadership in regional development.

Thursday, 22 May 2008, 5.30pm to 7.00pm
RMIT University, 200 Ballarat Road
Hamilton

For more information or to RSVP, contact Bernadette Delahunty
Ph: 5572 0500 or email bernadette.delahunty@rmit.edu.au

Nursing and Midwifery

At just over half way through semester 1, students are starting to prepare themselves for end of semester exams and practical assessments.

RMIT Hamilton welcomes new Clinical teacher Catherine Fenton. Catherine is a highly experienced registered nurse and brings with her a wealth of knowledge in the areas of medical / surgical nursing, and midwifery. Her current nursing knowledge and practical teaching ability are a welcome addition to nursing laboratory sessions.

Year 3 students will welcome the opening of the computer match service on 4th of May which will allow them to begin placing their preferences for future employment positions. This exciting time is important for year 3 students as it is a milestone signifying the final stages of their study, and pending registration as Division 1 registered Nurses.

To assist students in the computer match process, RMIT Nursing provide students with the opportunity to attend expo’s where potential employers showcase their ‘Graduate Nurse Programs’. The purpose of the expo’s are to allow students to preview what individual hospitals offer graduates by way of professional development, future education opportunities, and support for the transition from graduate to novice to expert. Students are therefore positioned to make more informed decisions about their future employment.

As an adjunct to this service, RMIT Hamilton is offering local students a ‘rural expo’, where rural health facilities will be offered an opportunity to showcase their graduate programs to Hamilton Nursing graduates on 6 June. This service is designed to encourage students to choose rural health facilities as their future places of employment and career development.

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.

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’.

Date: 13 May  Time: 4.30 – 6.30pm
Location: RMIT University Hamilton, 200 Ballarat Rd

Further information: Marilyn Lyons, 5572 0502 or email marilyn.lyons@rmit.edu.au
Short Courses and Professional Development

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.

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.

Limited places left – book now!

Location: RMIT University Hamilton, 200 Ballarat Rd.
Further information: Marilyn Lyons, 5572 0502 or email marilyn.lyons@rmit.edu.au.

Course in Property (Agents’ Representatives) and Certificate IV in Property (Real Estate Agency Practice)

Course in Property (Agents’ Representatives) commenced on Monday 28 April and continues Monday and Wednesday evenings for 10 weeks.

Another Course in Property Agents’ Representative will commence on Monday August 18.
Certificate IV in Property (Real Estate Agency Practice) will commence in Semester II.

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

Helen & Geoff Handbury Fellowship Program

Applications for the 2008 Helen & Geoff Handbury Fellowship Program are now open and individuals and groups from across western Victoria are invited to apply.

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.

The scholarship fund is a community-university partnership supporting projects that provide direct and tangible benefits for the sustainability of the region. The fellowship program is particularly interested in the ideas and work of people who might fall outside of other grant processes, or who would not see themselves as capable of applying for a grant.

The research projects may work towards a range of sustainable economic, social, cultural, educational or environmental benefits for the region, with successful applicants receiving financial support ranging from $10,000 to $40,000. Applications close July 25, 2008.

Projects that develop ongoing partnerships between the community, RMIT staff and/or students are particularly encouraged.

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/handbury.html.

Learning to live otherWISE

Young People aged 15 – 25 are invited to attend the first otherWISE Youth Workshop

Young people in Australia have a critical role to play in shaping future consumption patterns and promoting sustainable lifestyles.

- How big is your ecological footprint?
- What can you do to help?

Come along and make a difference by attending the otherWISE Youth Workshop and discover all the actions you can take to make this world a better place to live.

When: Sunday 18 May
Where: Hamilton Institute of Rural Learning (HIRL) 333 North Boundary Rd HAMILTON
Time: 10.30 am to 4.00 pm – lunch provided!

For more info or to register to attend Tel: Fiona 5572 0503 or 0417 823 534 or Email: fiona.upstill@rmit.edu.au.

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 Registration Form can be downloaded from our website at: http://www.communitysustainability.info/events/FoodandThought2.html

For any further information please contact the Local Global Project Office, RMIT University Hamilton on 5572 0513 or email victoria.finch@rmit.edu.au.

New Art Group

A new art group has started up and is looking for new members. Come along to learn new skills using a variety of mediums and themes. Members can work on their own projects, must be comfortable with peer-feedback and have an open mind.

Cost is $8 per session to cover room hire. If you are interested in finding out more, come along on Wednesday evening at the RMIT Art Studio from 6pm, or call Megan Jackson on 0439 039 958.

Helpful Websites

RMIT University www.rmit.edu.au/hamilton
Southern Grampians Shire www.sgrampians.com.au
SW TAFE www.swtafe.vic.edu.au
Southern Grampians Adult Education www.sgae.vic.edu.au
Rural Industry Skills Training www.rist.com.au
GSG LLEN www.gsgllen.org.au

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 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 0549.
Local – Global Program: Vicki Finch at victoria.finch@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.