I would like to wish everyone a happy Christmas and a restful and safe holiday season. Thank you to all our community and industry partners, our Community Advisory Group and others who continue to support our work in Hamilton.

Congratulations to our nursing graduates and all RMIT staff who have contributed to the success of our learning and teaching, research and community engagement activities in 2008.

We look forward to working with you in 2009.

Leone Wheeler
Program Director
Learning Community Partnerships.

Bachelor of Nursing Program

The academic year has now come to a close. Examinations are complete and year 2 students are now completing their final week of clinical practicum 3.

2008 has seen the graduation of another 20 highly sought after RMIT University Hamilton nursing students, 16 of whom opted to celebrate at the Telstra Dome in Melbourne. These students have taken up graduate positions all over the state and even a couple interstate.

2009 is already looking to be an exciting year. The Division of Nursing and Midwifery celebrated the acceptance of our new and innovative curriculum to be introduced in 2009. The Nurses Board of Victoria described this curriculum as highly inclusive and well rounded, and congratulated academics on the content.

Early round enrolments on 8 December provided a sneak preview of the high calibre entrants we are expecting in 2009.

Year 2 orientation will be held on 28 January, heralding another early start to the academic year for year 2 students. These students will undertake 3 weeks of theoretical learning prior to their first 3 weeks of clinical practicum in 2009. Year 1 students will attend orientation on 24 and 25 February 2009.

Landscape for Youth

RMIT University in Hamilton, in conjunction with the Glenelg Southern Grampians LLEN, Southern Grampians Shire and Glenelg Shire have been awarded $346,700 by the Victorian Community Support Grant.

The key task of this three year project is to identify local solutions to local problems through collaborative engagement, planning and action with young people and professional agencies.

Project leader, Dr Kaye Scholfield, Chair of the Southern Grampians Youth Network said the research project would work cross sectorally in a bottom up, ‘whole of community’ approach to capacity building for young people and the youth sector, identifying and addressing issues of concern to young people in the two rural shires.

Research Grant

A Research Grant of $10,000 was awarded to Dr Collits in November from the The United States Studies Centre located at the University of Sydney.

The United States Study Centre is committed to high quality research, working with the Lowy Institute, the Australian Strategic Policy Institute and other leading Australian and US institutions to generate new ideas and dialogue on major policy issues in the United States and Australia.

Dr Collits was awarded one of ten grants selected from nearly 90 applications from a number of universities across Australia – some with international collaborators.

This grant will provide for a rural development conference to be held in Hamilton in 2009.

The conference will feature a number of visiting North American rural development experts as well as regional leaders, Australian researchers, policy makers and regional development practitioners.

Seasons Greetings!
Themes at the conference will include rural entrepreneurship, regional innovation, youth retention strategies and population attraction to rural areas.

RMIT University Hamilton will also be hosting a visit by a Minnesota rural development practitioner in March 2009 as part of the Heartland Project.

Want to study at RMIT in 2009?

Industry customised courses, short courses and professional development workshops

The following are planned to commence in 2009 at RMIT University Hamilton.

- Course in Property (Agents’ Representatives)
- Certificate III in Real Estate
- Certificate IV in Property Services (Real Estate)
- Grammar and Punctuation
- Writing for the Web
- Certificate IV in Workplace Training and Assessment (TAA40104)
- Occupational Health and Safety Certificate IV in Workplace
- Recruitment: assessment and selection strategies
- Introduction to Massage
- Caring for the Feet of the Elderly and People with a Disability in association with Mayfield Education
- Framework for Understanding Poverty with Nairn Walker from Social Solutions
- Brain Gym in Education with Clair Hocking
- Brain Gym in Aged Care with Claire Hocking
- Working Deeper with Multi Literate Texts – Dr Julie Faulkner
- A Follow-Up on Conversations with Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Secondary School Students.
- Explore The Learning Federation’s free digital curriculum materials
- Coaching Children in School/Community Sport

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

RMIT Online Programs

- The Regional Development Policy Environment (S365019)
- Business Attraction, Retention and Expansion (S365027)

See www.rmittraining.com.au for enrolment details for these two courses.

- Introduction to Applied Human Rights (HUSO2286) Online class number: 4028
- Transforming Organisations through Human Rights 1 (HUSO2288) Online class number: 4029

Further information: the Australian Centre for Human Rights Education. Tel: +61 3 9925 2395 or email achre@rmit.edu.au

- Master of Education (MEd) by coursework (MC039)

Further information: Berenice Nyland, Tel: 9925 7805 email berenice.nyland@rmit.edu.au

- Master of Education (MEd) by Research (MR018)
- Master of Arts (MR019)

Further information: Heather Fehring, Tel: 9925 7840 or email heather.fehring@rmit.edu.au Alternatively, contact Mr. Daniel Martini, AO to the School of Education Research Office, Tel: 9925 7877 or email daniel.martini@rmit.edu.au

Online Programs with Open Universities Australia and RMIT University

RMIT University in conjunction with Open Universities Australia are pleased to advise that the following programs are now available to prospective students that wish to study online or predominantly online.

For more information see www.open.edu.au/wps/portal

- Business Administration (MBA Executive) Program
- Bachelor of Business in Financial Planning
- Bachelor of Business (Logistics and Supply Chain Management)
- Bachelor of Science (Applied Science)
- Bachelor of Technology (Computer Studies)
- Master of Design Program
- Juris Doctor (JD) Program

10MMM January Workshops

Free Film Planning Workshop: Thursday 22 January, 10am – 4pm at RMIT University Hamilton. The 10MMM project will be working towards a youth film festival in May. Youth groups, young people, mentors, youth leaders, teachers and students are invited to a Planning Workshop to develop skills and plan their film entry for the festival. Catering and materials provided. Bookings are essential – Tel: 55720500

Free CLAYMATION Workshop: Tuesday 20 January and Wednesday 21 January, 10am – 4pm at RMIT University Hamilton. Learn the art of Claymation – make sets, figures and characters. Write and film stories of your characters. Catering and materials provided. Bookings are essential – Tel: 55720500

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.mcumullan@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.
- Local – Global Program: Vicki Finch at victoria.finch@rmit.edu.au or Tel: 5572 0549
- General Enquiries and Student Support: Carol Burger at carol.burger@rmit.edu.au or Tel: 5572 0500.
- Subscription to e-news: Dinah Hallam at dinah.hallam@rmit.edu.au or Tel: 5572 0505.