Calendar of Events

July
10-12  Indonesian Nursing Delegation visit to Hamilton
26    Professional Development for Schools: “Sustainability in School Curriculum” – Professor John Fien
26    Meeting of “Potter Farmland Friends”
22&29  Community Barbecues for Australian Society Studies Students

August
2     RMIT University Community Forum
5 – 7  Visiting Korean nursing students
16    Early Childhood Conference

Handbury Fellowships Announced
The Helen and Geoff Handbury Fellowship has this year awarded up to $65,000 to research improving the quality of life of Western Victoria and the surrounding community. RMIT University announced the following successful projects for 2006:

‘Grampians Disability Accommodation Network’, a project assessing the sustainable living options of families with children with special needs. Awarded to Norelle Pearce on behalf of the Wimmera Parent Support Network, the Ararat Parent Support Group and the Hamilton Support Group for Parents of Children with Special Needs;

‘Sustaining a Future for Young People in Agriculture: Red Meat and Wool Industry’, a project looking at why young people no longer appear to see agriculture as a positive career and the strategies that can be put in place to reverse this trend. Awarded to Bill Hamill on behalf of the Rural Industries Skill Training Incorporated (RIST);

‘Stones, Streams, Stories and Dreams’, a project that will enable an artist to work with other local artists, local schools, RMIT University’s lab.3000 as well the Glenelg Hopkins CMA and the Glenelg Southern Grampians LLEN to stage an exhibition of specialised local work. Awarded to local artist Carolyn Rundell, who is working with the Hamilton Art Gallery.

Community Forum
The next RMIT Hamilton Community Forum is 7.30pm August 2, with the general theme of Wool - design, sustainable workforce, and opportunities for Hamilton. It will be of interest to everyone, not just wool growers. Please put this date in your diaries.

Bachelor of Nursing News
Semester one has finished, and all students are currently on a well deserved vacation. Semester two commences on July 24.

The 4th Annual Early Childhood Conference
The conference will be held at RMIT University, Hamilton on the 16th August 2006. This year’s program will focus on exploring natural play spaces, music and dance, and autism. Mark the date in your diary and come and join Susan Elliott, Shenanigans and Kerry Bull as they lead you through the magical, mystical world of our youngest learners. If you would like more information about the conference or to register your interest, please contact Carol Burger on 5572 0500.

Australian Society Studies
Once again, two groups of international students will be undertaking a field trip in the region as a part of their Australian Society Studies course. Group one are here from 21st to 24th July and group two will visit from 28th to 30th July. Community barbecues will be held on Saturday 22nd July and Saturday 29th July to give international students a chance to broaden their understanding of rural Australian culture. All are welcome to attend these barbecues. Please RSVP to Carol Burger on 5572 0500.

Hosts Needed
Host families are needed for Korean Nursing Students that will be visiting Hamilton from August 5th to 7th. If you can help us out, and at the same time learn more about the culture of Korea, please contact Dinah Hallam on 5572 0505.
**Teacher Professional Development**

Critically thinking about the BIG Issues! – using ‘sustainability’ as a theme

This workshop is designed to link practical skills in critical thinking into an important cross-disciplinary issue that looms large on the public agenda – sustainability.

The workshop takes the form of a forum and will be led by Professor John Fien, Professor of Sustainability at RMIT University. John has had wide experience in curriculum, teaching, research and understanding pedagogies. He has widely researched the views of young people about their attitudes towards sustainability and identified ‘action paralysis’. One of John’s interests lies in how ‘theory’ works in ‘practice’ – how young people can critically evaluate the information placed in various forms in front of them. How to equip students with some basic analytical tools; and especially how they can make decisions and responses based on their perceptions of problems – in this case, sustainability. John’s national and international experience as a teacher, academic, and curriculum writer give him unique insights into the challenges teachers face in integrating theory and enabling young people to analyse what they find out.

Cost: $15
Time: 4.30pm – 6pm
Date: 26 July 2006:
Venue: RMIT University, Hamilton
Refreshments will be provided.

**Writing Workshop**

Always wanted to write a book?

Have you ever had a great idea for a book, but never known how to put the idea on paper? Published Author, Dr Robyn Eversole, will be conducting a workshop for writers and aspiring writers on Tuesday 29 August 2006.

More information about the cost and theme will follow as it comes to hand, so watch this space. To register your interest in this workshop, please contact Carol Burger on 5572 0500.

**Staff Effort Rewarded**

Congratulations to Carol Burger, Administrative Officer at RMIT University Hamilton, who was awarded a Pride of Workmanship award from the Rotary Club of North Hamilton at a dinner on July 5th.

Dr Leone Wheeler made the following comments about Carol’s contribution to RMIT:

“Carol is the lynch-pin around which RMIT Hamilton operates. She provides an essential communications/administration conduit between students, staff and the general community and the pride she takes in her job ensures prompt and satisfactory outcomes. Yet she still takes time to continually improve her skills, this year successfully completing her Certificate IV in Workplace Assessment and Training”.

**Conferences**

**Learning Communities Conference**

24 – 27 September 2006
Brisbane, Queensland, Australia

The Australian Learning Communities Network biennial conference is a major three day conference focused on exploring the practitioners' perspectives of developing and sustaining learning communities.

The 2006 conference aims to provide networking, skills development, policy debate and trigger conversations and actions which will support increasing community activity making a positive social and economic impact in Australian communities.

The conference will actively bring together leaders in all forms of learning, service providers, industry and government to pursue how communities can embed real learning outcomes.

For more information about this conference, please go to the website: [http://www.learningcommunities2006.qut.edu.au](http://www.learningcommunities2006.qut.edu.au)

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

Dr Kaye Scholfield, Manager, Community Partnerships & Projects at kaye.scholfiled@rmit.edu.au or phone 5572 0501.

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