Connecting Community

Calendar of Events

July
15 The Heartland Rural Development Workshop
16 Rural Challenges & Innovative Responses International Conference
22-25 E-TEAM Visit (University of South Dakota)
29-30 Wimmera Mallee Careers Expo (Horsham)

August
3-4 Sheeptestion – 494, Trade Marquee 1
19 Bachelor of Nursing Open Evening
19 Aspirations Day
27 Community Forum – Prof. Stephen Bird

Rural Challenges & Innovative Responses

The Heartland Regional Development Conference

Thursday 16 July 2009, 9am – 4pm
RMIT University Hamilton will host a range of North American regional and rural development specialists, as part of an innovative international conference to be held 16 July.

The full day conference will consist of a series of presentations, panels and forums, featuring international and Australian research and policy making specialists.

The conference is part of RMIT University’s Heartland Project, which is building collaborative research partnerships with rural researchers in North America and will investigate the key drivers of rural community survival and decline in the “heartland” regions of the two continents.

The conference will follow a one day closed workshop which will establish a number of outcomes for the research project, and which will be presented at the conference. There are still limited places available and those wanting to attend can contact RMIT University Hamilton, 03 5572 0500.

HAMilton OPEN EVENING – Bachelor of Nursing

Now taking enquiries for the 2010 intake

19 August 2009, 7 – 9pm
RMIT University Hamilton will open it’s doors for the annual Bachelor of Nursing Open Evening. Prospective students are encouraged to come along to gather information, ask questions, tour facilities and meet with RMIT University Hamilton staff. Professor Eleanor Holroyd, RMIT Head of the Discipline of Health Sciences in the college of Science, Engineering & Health, will be in attendance and available to speak with interested people.

All community members, school groups, friends and family are welcome. We encourage you to come along if you are considering nursing as a career path and want the benefit of studying locally.

For more information contact Kerry McMullan, kerry.mcmullan@rmit.edu.au, or 03 5572 0500.

Young Entrepreneurs Workshop

Calling Hamilton’s future business leaders

Friday 24 July 2009, 4 – 6pm
Are you, or is someone you know, one of the regions future business leaders?

As part of the Young Entrepreneurs Program, RMIT University Hamilton are encouraging regional youth to start exploring the future entrepreneur within, by participating in a two hour workshop on 24 July, 4-6pm.

The workshop will be hosted by the E-Team, international visitors and leaders in their field from the University of South Dakota, who will explore and discuss exciting business opportunities and workshop innovative ideas.
Coordinated by RMIT University, the workshop encourages local youth to think about starting a business regionally, provide information on the necessary technical skills, offer networking opportunities with like-minded peers and champion community support and mentoring for program participants.

The program is supported by Southern Grampians Shire Council, the Hamilton Regional Business Association and other organisations interested in regional youth, their future and the local community.

All interested youth are invited to attend the workshop, which will finish with pizza and refreshments. To book your place contact Rachel McDonald, rachel.mcdonald@rmit.edu.au 03 5572 0500. The workshop is free of charge.

Master of Economic Development

Enrolments now being taken – incorporating Graduate Diploma and Graduate Certificate

Offered on-line and delivered through RMIT University Hamilton, the Master of Economic Development provides a unique postgraduate program on local and regional economic development.

Relevant to your learning needs, whether you are working in a city, suburban, regional or rural economic development environment, and whatever stage of your professional career you have reached, the program is designed for individuals who want an intensive professional education in economic development, that will equip you to work as a qualified practitioner in this field.

The program will help you as a practitioner, whether you work in local government, a State or Commonwealth agency, in a region-scale organisation whose primary task is economic development, or in another organisation which has economic development responsibilities or interests.

There is also the option of completing a minor thesis or minor research project, allowing students to further develop their knowledge of a particular area.

The following two courses are being offered in second semester (20 July – 16 October, 2009). Enrolments must be taken prior to semester start.

ECON 1253 – Introduction to Economic Development
ECON 1256 – Community Economic Analysis

For more information contact Shelagh Krummel, shelagh.krummel@rmit.edu.au, 03 5572 0532.

Next Gen Rural Leaders Network

Program launch and call for nominations

RMIT will establish a community of practice to encourage the next generation of rural leaders in the Hamilton region.

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) have recently granted RMIT funding under the Farming Future initiative Next Gen Farmers (NGF) scheme.

The result is an innovative project aimed to improve the leadership and representative capacity of regional young people entering or involved in primary industries, particularly in the context of the challenges and opportunities in these industries as a result of a changing climate.

The NEXT GEN RURAL LEADERS NETWORK will deliver 12 workshops, held over one year, covering issues, knowledge and skills relevant to young people in rural and farming communities.

RMIT will soon call for nominations to secure a maximum of 25 participants (from the Hamilton region) who are identified as young, up and coming leaders in the agricultural sector.

To nominate a future rural leader, or for more information on the official launch at Sheepvention, contact Rachel McDonald, 03 5572 0500.

Aspirations Day

Thursday 19 August, 2009

RMIT University, in conjunction with University of Ballarat and The University of Melbourne, will host 130 Yr 10 students from Heywood, Casterton, Baimbridge and Portland Secondary Colleges and The Hamilton & Alexandra College, in a pilot program to encourage regional students to consider tertiary education.

Sessions throughout the day will include breaking down barriers, pathways and transition and students will have an opportunity to ask questions of a university student panel.

RMIT supports Aboriginal health learning

21 July, 5.30 - 6.30pm
Windara, Heywood

RMIT University Hamilton and Winda Mara Aboriginal Corporation are working on an initiative to increase Indigenous community awareness of local health sector education opportunities.

RMIT will run a tailored information session for the Windara community, in conjunction with South West Institute of TAFE (SWIT).

It is hoped that the event will reduce barriers to tertiary education experienced by local Aboriginal youth, and eventually help to address the Indigenous health professional shortage in the region. The initiative also highlights the wonderful opportunities in the Indigenous health care sector in Victoria’s South-West.

Contact RMIT Hamilton on (03) 5572 0500 for more information.

Unexpected Sources of Hope-Community, Climate Change and the Future

The recently released monograph, Unexpected Sources of Hope – Community, Climate Change and the Future, is the first publication from a collaborative research project that is exploring the impacts of climate change and other global uncertainties on the future, for people living in the Hamilton regions. Contact RMIT University Hamilton if you would like to obtain a copy.
Youth Film Festival a success!

The premier gala event was a resounding success, with 12 fantastic entries created by regional youth, aged 12 - 25.

WINNERS announced on the night were:

Overall Winner:
'Dartmoor: Home of the Memorial Trees' – Beau Nieuwveld.

Technical Skills:
'The Attack of the Mutant Ants of Doom' – Valerian McCaskill.

Peoples Choice:
'15 Ways to Kill a Weasel' – Valerian McCaskill, Mathew Gebert, Tristain Pickering, Scott Pope & Josh Murray.

Encouragement:

High Commendations:
'One Night' – The Merino Youth Group.

'The Tractor' – The Merino Youth Group.

Guest judges on the night included RMIT University Associate Professor Deb Verhoven, local film maker Trevor Flinn, and Mary-Ann Brown from the Hamilton Film Society.

The films were screened at the Hamilton Cinema for two days following the gala event and attracted a good attendance form school groups and community members.

RMIT would like to thank all organisations and individuals involved in the Youth Film Festival and hope that the festivals great success will allow the community to make this an annual event.

If you were not able to make it to the recent screening and would like to view the films go to www.youtube.com/user/10MMMYouthfilmfest or find the films on Facebook under "Youthfilmfestival Hamilton".

Bachelor of Nursing update

Examinations weeks are over and students are currently on a well earned three week break. Semester 2 will commence 20 July, beginning with a three week clinical placement.

Semester 2 is an exciting semester for third year students, signalling the final semester of their studies before graduation and studying their preferred nursing specialty elective. Available electives include paediatrics, oncology and palliative care and rehabilitation nursing.

Computer match, a recruitment tool used to match students to employment, is currently being used by third year students beginning to select their preferred place of employment and make preparations for applications and interviews.

Second semester will see first year students undertake their first clinical practicum placement. This will be the students first experience of ‘real nursing’, allowing them to put theory into practice.

Farming the Future students visit region

26 – 29 June saw a group of RMIT University Melbourne students visit the Hamilton region as part of the Farming the Future unit offered by RMIT. Farming the Future provides opportunities to observe and discuss a range of issues related to human use and management of environment resources in a rural context on a four day field trip. Areas visited included Buangor, Branxholme, Glenthompson and Jigsaw Farms.