



SHARP SEMESTER TWO 2006 **NEWSLETTER**

Events Held:

Saturday 19th August – ‘Working Together To Make A Difference’ Conference

This event was held at Wollongong University and was targeted at students from a wide range of disciplines. Many allied health students were in attendance as well as University Staff and SHARP members. The conference followed a workshop format with many key note guest speakers who gave inspiring and at times



emotional speeches about their experiences in Indigenous and Rural Health. Guest speakers included Gordon Gregory (Executive director of NRHA since 1993), Dr. Ngiare Brown (one of the first Aboriginal Medical graduates in Australia who is assisting in curriculum development for UOW's new Graduate School of Medicine), Dr. Sally Goold (the first Indigenous female nurse in NSW and 2006 Senior Australian of The Year), and Mr. Jeff McMullen (former 60 Minutes reporter, and current Director of Ian Thorpe's Fountain for Youth).



Several other wonderful speakers also gave their time to the event and certainly motivated many student members of the audience to get involved in rural health,

with the first step being to sign up to become a member of SHARP! The conference concluded with an introduction to the local Koori Youth Network.

ON THE ROAD for Moree Croc Fest - Monday 25th September – Friday 28th September

SHARP's Administrator Kay Kent along with 5 new members of SHARP headed north to Moree (proximal to the NSW/QLD border) to represent SHARP's first appearance at CrocFest. CrocFest celebrates youth and culture in rural and remote communities and SHARP members contributed to this event by promoting and generating an interest in Health and the study of Health Sciences during tertiary education. We all had a great time during our week in Moree and teamed up with students from UNSW, USYD and Charles Sturt University to form a multidisciplinary student alliance representing degrees such as Population Health, Indigenous Health, Medical Science, Medicine, Occupational Health, Podiatry etc.

Thank you to Kay for getting us involved and taking a leading role during CrocFest (and keeping us entertained) and a special thank you must also go to the central liaison Shannon Nott from UNSW who put in, what was no doubt, a super effort to organize the whole trip.



Our role at Moree CrocFest proved to be a great success with 'getting plastered' being one of most popular activities at CrocFest. Ok so it was an alcohol free event, but, over 1000 arms were plastered by the Moree Uni team with many school children fabricating amazing stories to tell their

parents about how they had broken their arms. Members of SHARP arrived back in Wollongong with many anecdotes from the trip. Some of the many highlights from the trip would have to be losing luggage from the bus trailer before we had even left Sydney. This occurred just an hour after silencing the concerns of one of the SHARP members who suggested 'checking the lock'. Another highlight was getting a flat tyre between "downtown" Orange and "uptown" Bathurst. Was it a dull moment for us



though? No! We created our own entertainment until the NRMA arrived almost 2 hours later. All thanks to the farmer who walked down the highway to see if we were okay. Only in the country!

The 5 members of SHARP came back home with an enthusiasm and motivation for future rural and remote health work as well as a network of new contacts and friends.

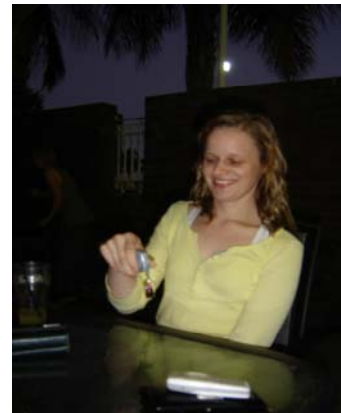
Thursday 26th October – SHARP AGM



The SHARP-NRHN executive for 2007 was elected after the NRHN was formally introduced to the SHARP members in attendance by Nick Moore (2006 NRHN Secretary/2007 Co Chair) and Litsa Kane (Executive Support Officer) at our 2006 AGM. Members of SHARP were given a run-down on the structure of the NRHN

as well as the activities and events that can take place within a Rural Health Club. Members of SHARP and the 2007 SHARP Executive can look forward to an exciting year 2007 starting with several delegates set to attend the Albury NRHN/NRHA Conference in March.

The opening of the new Graduate School of Medicine at Wollongong University on 2007 will see SHARP recruiting more members to form a body of both Allied Health and Medical



Students with a common goal of improving the health workforce in rural/remote Australia and improving health outcomes. Litsa and Nick have agreed to speak at the Orientation Session for the incoming medical students regarding the benefits of being involved in a rural health club.



A Calendar of events is being finalised for 2007 to be available for viewing by all new students and our website will undergo reconstruction during the break.

What to Listen Out for in 2007

Members of SHARP and the 2007 SHARP executive can look forward to an eventful 2007 with 10 delegates already selected to attend the Albury NRHN/NRHA Conference in March.

The 2007 Conference will have a focus on mental health and self care issues and the NRHN's Mental Health Guide, "When the Cowpat Hits the Windmill", produced in conjunction with Beyond Blue, will be launched at the conference.

Other major events to look forward to in 07 include;

- The recruitment of more SHARP members from the Graduate School of Medicine to form a body of both Allied Health and Medical Students.
- SHARP representation at the Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences Open Day
- SHARP Stall at Clubs & Societies Day
- The 2007 Annual CrocFest
- Rural High School Visits
- Social events!!!
- National and International Health Days (Australia's Biggest Morning Tea, World Health Day, Red Apple Day, International Nurses Day)
- The 12th National Indigenous Tertiary Education Student Games at UOW taking place from 26th September – 29th September.

Report – Naomi Piyaratna (NRHN Senior Rep at UOW for 2007)