

SHARP Committee Meeting

Date: Friday 3 April 2009

Time: 12.30pm – 1.45pm

Location: 41.201



Chair: Simon Reid

Minutes: Teesha Downton

Present: Chris Bentley, Teena Downton, Teesha Downton, Amanda Francis, Emma Harvey, Kay Kent, Simon Reid, Brent Venning, Ed White, Aggie Williams, Catherine Williams.

1. Preliminary Business

(i) Opening and welcome

Simon, the president, welcomed everyone to the first Committee meeting for 2009. Simon handed out to everyone descriptions of what their committee position involves as specified in the SHARP Constitution. Simon encouraged everyone to become familiar with their roles.

(ii) Apologies and attendance

All committee members were in attendance. No apologies were received.

(iii) Confirmation of the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting (06/03/09)

The minutes of the AGM were confirmed as an accurate record of the proceedings.

2. Reports

(i) President's Report

(a) Event Wrap-Ups

Simon commented that the Close the Gap event, including the BBQ, went very well. Over 300 people signed the pledge – this was a bit less than last year but still a very good turnout given the poor weather. Holding the event in the University Hall foyer encouraged people from a variety of faculties to come along. There was coverage of the event on the local TV (WIN News) and a much positive feedback has been received, including from the Woolyungah Indigenous Centre and the Dean of Education Professor Paul Chandler.

The Bushdance was a huge success. The number of people who attended was three times that of the previous year, and this was attributed to great venue (UniBar) and the hard efforts of all those involved in organising the event.

SHARP did not end up entering a team into the UniCentre Cup. It was agreed that SHARP needed to provide more notice and encouragement to members to get involved. Next year it is hoped that SHARP can get a team organised early and plan some training sessions.

Kay described SHARP's participation in the multi-cultural festivities on the McKinnon lawn on the Thursday of Diversity Week. There was face painting, tattooing, and people were able to join SHARP and get their bushdance tickets. It was agreed that linking the bushdance to Diversity Week proved to be very successful. Aggie and Amanda suggest that next year we should aim for a similar arrangement and use the multi-cultural day stall to further increase interest in SHARP and the bushdance e.g. bushdance ticket give-aways.

Three weeks ago, Simon and Teena went to Melbourne for the Face2Face meeting of all RHC presidents, NRHSN senior reps and portfolio holders. Teena and Simon gave a run-down of the event including Teena's election to the position of Junior Medical Portfolio Holder on the NRHSN Council, and the grouping of RHCs into regional groups. SHARP is in the Northern NSW regional group with BREATHHE (Newcastle), NERCHA (UNE), RAHMS (UNSW), MIRAGE (Sydney), RHUUWS (UWS), ROUNDS (Notre Dame) and it is hoped we can work closely with each other to promote each other's events, co-ordinate RHSVs and Indigenous Festival involvement, and inter-club social events.

(ii) Secretary's report

(a) SHARP website

Teesha received confirmation from all the committee members to have their names, position and emails as well as a photo taken at the bushdance placed up on the SHARP website. It is aimed that this will increase awareness among SHARP members of who their representatives are, and encourage greater communication between everyone.

Teesha to work with Teena and Helen to get a page on the SHARP website about the Committee up and going.

Kay mentioned that she recently had a meeting with the Woolyungah Indigenous Centre. Woolyungah is keen to put a link to SHARP on their website, particularly to inform Indigenous students of scholarship opportunities. It was agreed that we also need to increase awareness of scholarship and placement opportunities to all health students, particularly those not studying at the Wollongong campus.

Each interdisciplinary rep to look at the scholarships page of the SHARP website, monitor the opening and closing dates, and inform Teesha and Teena of these so that these can be highlighted to students via email and alerts on the website.

Teena and Teesha to work with Helen to link the SHARP website up to the Woolyungah Indigenous Centre website.

(b) SHARP membership

Kay has been looking after the SHARP membership database. Due to the full-on start of the year for SHARP, we have not yet been able to systematically go through the membership database and identify those who have not renewed their membership from last year or who have graduated. Kay hopes to get this done in the next few weeks while things quieten down.

Kay raised some points for consideration: firstly, that next year we should amend the application form and specify that the email address provided be the UOW email address. This was agreed to be appropriate and easy to do; secondly, that since there are over 600 members she is unable to send out emails to all members at once. Kay mentioned that there are other avenues e.g. HBS_all emails, and is investigating and seeking approval for some options that will enable the SHARP emails to be sent out all at once. E.g. a SHARP_all email.

(iii) NRHSN Senior and Junior Representative

(a) NRHSN polo shirts

NRHSN polo shirts were handed out to each of the committee members. We were a few shirts short, but we will order some more so each committee member has one.

Kay to contact NRHSN about getting more NRHSN polo shirts.

(b) NRHSN Council Structure

Teena briefly outlined the structure of the NRHSN Council for everyone. The NRHSN Council comprises of the NRHSN executive, portfolio holders (senior and junior) and NRHSN representatives from each RHC. Working alongside the council are staff and internal officers.

(c) Linking discipline representatives to NRHSN representatives

Teena encouraged SHARP's interdisciplinary and Indigenous health representatives to get in contact with their corresponding NRHSN Council medical, allied health, nursing and Indigenous health portfolio holders (contact details were provided by Teena). At the Face2Face it was discussed that this would open up communication nationwide and enable reps to help one another.

Each interdisciplinary rep to email and introduce themselves to their corresponding portfolio holders.

(d) NRHSN Life Membership

On behalf of SHARP, Teena, Kay and Simon have submitted a NRHSN Life Membership nomination for Naomi Piyaratna and Litsa Kane. Naomi was SHARP President from 2006 – 2008 and Litsa was the Executive Officer of the NRHSN from 2005 – 2008.

(e) NRHSN Pool of Funding

Teena described the pool of funding from the NRHSN that is available to SHARP. The funding cannot be used for NURHC, but can be used to purchase merchandise, equipment e.g. scrubs for relays at Broken Hill Wakakirri. The closing date for applications is April 15.

Teena and Emma to put together and submit an application for funding from the NRHSN pool.

(f) RUSTICA and Broken Hill

Kay recently talked to Matt Cane of RUSTICA in Launceston, Tasmania. RUSTICA is hoping to combine with SHARP to go to Broken Hill for the Wakakirri Festival and RHSV.

Kay to start investigating accommodation, etc. for Broken Hill trip.

(g) Rural Appreciation Weekend (RAW) 2009

This year's RAW will be held on the October long weekend (Oct 2-5) again. Teena informed us that Shannon Nott was looking for someone from SHARP to be a contact person for RAW. The contact person will be required to jump onto teleconferences during the year, and be involved with the planning and promotion of the event. Emma expressed her interest in taking on this role and now has the role.

The executive agreed that this year we need more advertising for RAW, and encourage more of the hard-working SHARPIes to attend through a more personalised approach/invitations (e.g. "We want to take you to RAW"). Shannon has indicated that there will be room for SHARP to take 20-25 people to RAW and the cost will be \$50-\$80 per person. It was agreed that a price increase from last year was justified because of the large costs involved in running the weekend, and the issue of people pulling out at the last minute.

Teena to inform Shannon that Emma is SHARP's RAW rep.

(h) SHARP page on the NRHSN website

Teena and Emma informed everyone that they are working on updating the SHARP page on the NRHSN website and making it more exciting. They are hoping to add photos and encourage SHARPIes to visit the page and increase the number of hits.

(iv) RHSV Project Officer

(a) Bomaderry High School Visit with RHUUWS

Amanda reported on the RHSV by SHARP (Zorica, Catherine, Amanda, Kay) and RHUUWS to a Health Careers Expo held at the Bomaderry Bowling Club recently. High School students from the Shoalhaven participated in information stalls, panel sessions (local health professionals talking to students), and interactive sessions run by RHUUWS with the help of SHARP. Amanda commented that RHUUWS were very well organised and ran the activities very well. RHUUWS and SHARP members talked to the high school students about the experience of applying for and studying at university, and worked through scenarios with the students that demonstrated how a variety of health professionals work together to help care for a patient.

Amanda handed out a copy of the feedback received by students who attended the event. Amanda highlighted the high rating the UNI Health team received compared to the panel session. Amanda believes that this can be explained by the high school students finding it easier to relate to the university students; and the jargon used and repetitiveness of some of the panel presentations. Amanda also highlighted the suggested improvements and her observations that the high school students were most interested in finding out specific information e.g. subject choice for HSC, UAls, and different university courses and pathways. It was agreed that SHARP should take along H&BS course guides, etc. along to future RHSVs.

Amanda and Simon highlighted the importance of RHCs working together when it comes to RHSV and how the focus of a RHSV is health and not catchment to a particular university. Amanda also highlighted that at RHSVs, we want to particularly focus on promoting allied health, and not just medicine and nursing. By working with other RHCs, we enhance the experience for the participating high school students e.g. have university students from a wider range of health disciplines and specialties, and give the high school students more university options to consider and explore.

3. Committee Business

(i) NURHC09 Update and Fundraising

A strong response was received from SHARP members interested in attending and presenting at NURHC09. 11 SHARP delegates were short-listed and fundraising efforts are underway to help get the team to Cairns. 3 abstracts for the student presentations section of the conference were submitted by SHARP (1 from Chris, 1 from Teena, and 1 from Amanda in conjunction with Lana Prout) and the outcome will likely be known by the end of the month.

Kay and Aggie have looked into a number of fundraising options and have decided on and started organising a Krispy Kreme doughnut drive. For each box of doughnuts we sell, we make \$5, and for every 100 boxes ordered we get 10 boxes free. A combined flyer and doughnut order form has been prepared by Aggie. All committee members and SHARP delegates received a copy of the flyer/form and are encouraged to start collecting orders (and money at the same time). The person taking the orders must collect the doughnuts in person when they arrive on May 19. We hope to get the doughnuts delivered, if not we will drive up to Campbelltown to pick them up and Amanda volunteered her Dad's ute. Order forms and money are to be returned to Kay by May 12, and Aggie will put together a spreadsheet.

Kay has already got staff from a number of faculties interested. It is anticipated that we can attract media coverage with the event and that we will sell the bonus doughnuts on the Duckpond lawn at \$2.50 each on the day.

Teesha, Teena, Kay and Simon put together and submitted yesterday an application for a Clubs and Societies Training Grant – funding for NURHC09. The outcome will be known in about a week's time.

Kay has discussed NURHC09 with the Head of the School of Nursing, and has secured \$500 in sponsorship/funding from the school. Kay will also be seeking funding from the School of Health Sciences and the Graduate School of Medicine.

(ii) Working Party to investigate viability and possibilities of hosting NURHC10

Teena outlined an idea that has developed over the last few months – for SHARP to put in a bid to host NURHC next year. Since the NRHSN tries to spread NURHC around the country, SHARP has a good chance of being successful, though much research needs to be done into a venue. For example, NURHC needs to be held in a rural location, and Wollongong is not considered rural. Current ideas include the Shoalhaven and Griffith. Aggie, Amanda, Brent, Catherine, Emma, Simon put their hands up to be part of a

NURHC10 working party. More SHARPIes may later be sought for the working party from outside of the committee.

Teena to communicate with Working Party members about the NURHC10 project.

(iii) Indigenous Festival Involvement

SHARP is required to indicate to Frankie and Maria the Indigenous Festivals that SHARP would like to become involved in by April 5. It was agreed that SHARP will plan to take 5 members to each of the Broken Hill Wakakirri and Coonamble Vibe Alive festivals.

Simon to email Frankie and Maria about SHARP's involvement in Indigenous Festivals.

(iv) SHARP Merchandise – for both NURHC and in general

Simon encouraged everyone to let him know of any ideas for SHARP merchandise – for those going to NURHC, to swap at NURHC, and in general. Ideas raised included hoodies, undies, and boardies. Aggie suggested that we open up orders for hoodies to all SHARP members.

Everyone to inform Simon of any ideas for SHARP merchandise, and Simon and Kay to research the options and costs.

(v) SHARP at the Shoalhaven Campus

There is increasing interest in SHARP at the Shoalhaven Campus. Kay is organising a SHARP BBQ at the Shoalhaven campus for April 22. It was agreed that we want to get students from as many of the different faculties at the Shoalhaven campus involved.

Amanda to contact the nursing student rep at the Shoalhaven Campus about SHARP.

(vi) Community Engagement Grants Scheme 2009

Teesha and Simon informed the rest of the committee about the Community Engagement Grants Scheme and the opportunity to receive up to \$5000 towards a project (RHSV equipment?) that engages the University with the wider community. Expressions of Interest need to be submitted to the Office of Community and Partnerships by May 8.

Everyone to visit <http://www.uow.edu.au/about/community/cegs/index.html> and have a read of the Community Engagement Grants Scheme Teesha and Simon to coordinate a possible application from SHARP for a grant.

(vii) Schizophrenia Awareness Event

Elisabeth Frank and Kelly Newell are schizophrenia researchers at UOW and are organising a Schizophrenia Awareness Event in May with the support of SHARP and the Schizophrenia Research Institute. Kay handed out to all committee members a copy of an email outlining the planned events - a BBQ lunch on the duckpond lawn run by WUSA on May 20 and the awareness event (which SHARP will be funding the catering for) on the evening of May 21. Kay is also hoping to tie the next Hills Hoist Seminar into the event.

Simon and Kay talked to WIN News about doing a story on the event during their visit to the university for Close the Gap. Ed, Amanda and Aggie highlighted that the event will tie in well with units being studied by nursing and medical students, and Kay highlighted it will also be an informative event for university academics.

- (viii) Clubs & Societies – rep, BBQ training, C&S mailing list

Simon talked to Catherine about handing over business regarding Clubs & Societies to her.

Simon to pass Catherine's contact details on to Clubs and Societies; Catherine to attend the BBQ training session if possible.

- (ix) Upcoming Events on the SHARP Calendar

It was agreed that SHARP will not organise an event for International Nurses Day given that many nurses will not be on the campus on that day.

Teesha to work with Teena and Helen to update the SHARP Calendar with the dates and details of KK Day, Schizophrenia Awareness Week, the Shoalie BBQ and the Southern Highlands RHSV.

4. Late business and Next Committee Meeting

- (i) Date of the next Committee meeting

It was agreed that the next Committee meeting should be in the week before or of the Schizophrenia Awareness Event.

Teesha to organise the date and venue of the next Committee meeting.

- (ii) Other business

Kay informed the Committee that Sue Brady, whom she met during the Bomaderry RHSV, is interested in holding a Health Careers Expo at UOW for high school students in the region. Sue is the Regional Industry Career Adviser for the Greater Illawarra and South Coast. Kay will be attending a meeting on April 22 to discuss the event further with organisers. It is aimed that the expo will be held at the end of August at URAC.

The Woolyungah Indigenous Centre has expressed their interest to Kay about coming along to some Indigenous Festivals with SHARP to see what we do. Woolyungah is willing to fund themselves for the trips. The committee agreed that Woolyungah is more than welcome to come along.