

SHARP General Meeting

Date: Friday 7 August 2009

Time: 12.30pm

Location: The duckpond/science lawn between Buildings 36 and 41

Chair: Simon Reid

Minutes: Teesha Downton



Present: Thomas Barnett, Susan Beale, Chris Bentley, Heather Bray, Ellie Coxsedge, Theresa Crossing, Teena Downton, Teesha Downton, Kilu Dutkowska, Hayley Edmonds, Yolante Eeles, Janette Ellis, Amanda Francis, Lisa Greer, Shelley Griffiths, Jacki Harb, Rhys Harding, Jeremy Harris, Emma Harvey, Natalie Jimenez, Rosemarie Johnston, Hannah Jones, Kay Kent, Philips Kesa, Kacey King, Viktor Ko, Peter Kroek, Adrian Kurz, Anaahi Latunipula, Ivonne Lichtenberg, Phil Manczak, Arielle McLaren, Rajesh Pathy, Simon Reid, Matt Rice, Danae Robinson, Luigi Sarkissan, Nicola Saxton, Bronwen Spalding, Clair Spry, Sarika Sundar, Pat Tam, Aaron Tonna, Rebecca Trethowan, Ariane Turner, Hannah Walker, Ed White, Aggie Williams, Catherine Williams, Naomi Yates, Morgan Yeatman, Xiao Xiao Yuan

Apologies: Brent Venning

1. Preliminary Business

(i) Opening and welcome

Simon, the president, welcomed everyone to the general meeting and introduced each of the Committee members and their roles for the benefit of those who had only recently joined SHARP. Agendas for the meeting were distributed, along with a draft itinerary for the "Rockin' Rural Road Trip to the Murrumbidgee" and a flyer for the upcoming "Mental Health Education Forum".

(ii) Apologies and attendance

Everyone in attendance at the meeting was invited to record their attendance on a sheet of paper. Apologies were received from Brent Venning.

2. Committee Reports

(i) Brief recap of SHARP so far in 2009

Simon gave a brief overview of SHARP, the NRHSN, and some activities that SHARP has been a part of, including Rural High School Visits (Bomaderry, Moss Vale), Vibe Alive Indigenous Festival (Coonamble), Shining a Light on Schizophrenia, the annual bushdance, and a number of BBQs.

(ii) NURHC 09 Wrap-up

14 students from medicine, nursing and allied health disciplines represented SHARP and the University of Wollongong at the 11th National University Rural Health Conference (NURHC) in Cairns in late July. At the NURHC, the students participated in several workshops and heard from a range of fantastic speakers, and were able to meet and build friendships with students from rural health clubs all around Australia. Highlights of the conference included Teena Downton receiving the 2009 award for most outstanding dedication and leadership to a Rural Health Club, and Kay

Kent and Naomi Piyaratna (former SHARP president) both receiving life membership of the NRHSN. SHARP looks forward to sending another group of delegates to next year's NURHC.

(iii) NURHC10 Proposal Update

Teena described how each year NURHC is hosted by a rural health club, and is held in a new rural location in Australia. SHARP is in the process of preparing a bid to host the next NURHC in Griffith. Anyone interested in joining the NURHC10 Working Party was encouraged to contact Kay Kent or a member of the SHARP committee.

3. General Business

(i) Events

Simon highlighted that there are many events on the SHARP calendar for the rest of 2009, including those tabulated below. Some events are on campus, other events are off campus. At the meeting there were sheets of paper for interested persons to register their interest in attending or helping out. Further information on any of the events can be obtained by contacting Kay Kent (Rm. 41.231; kkent@uow.edu.au; (02) 4221 4078) or any SHARP Committee member. Event details will also be advertised in future SHARP emails and "Latest News & Events" page of the SHARP website as they become available.

	When?	What?	Where?	Any other info:
(a)	August 28-30	Rockin' Rural Road Trip	Griffith, Leeton, Narrandera	More details will be released soon
(b)	August 31	Mental Health Education Forum	UOW	See the flyer
(c)	September 2-3	Deadly Days Indigenous Festival	Port Macquarie	SHARP is looking for members to attend
(d)	September 4	Health Careers Expo for Illawarra High School Students	Wollongong Hospital	SHARP is looking for members who can help out on the day
(e)	September 11 6.30-10pm (followed by an after party in Sydney)	Combined Harbour Cruise with other NSW Rural Health Clubs	Sydney	Tickets are \$40 and include drinks, pizza and cruising.
(f)	September 14-20	Sexual Health Week	UOW	SHARP is looking for members to help organise our Event
(g)	October 2-5	Rural Appreciation Weekend (RAW)	Dunedoo	More details will be released soon
(h)	October 28	Pink Ribbon Breakfast	UOW	SHARP is planning a range of fundraising events in the lead up to this event also.

Simon also gave brief talk about AIME (Australian Indigenous Mentoring Experience), a program that many SHARP members are involved in.

(ii) Conferences of National Significance (CoNS)

SHARP members are eligible to apply for Conferences of National Significance (CoNS) funding to support their attendance at conferences with a rural and remote health focus. The CoNS program is administered by the NRHSN and funded by the Commonwealth Department of Health and

Ageing. Teesha informed everyone of 2 relevant CoNS conferences coming up later in the year (tabulated below), and all SHARP members are encouraged to consider attending and applying for CoNS funding. Any interested SHARP members should contact Kay Kent to register their interest and for help with the application process. More information is available on the “Conferences” page of the SHARP website (<http://www.uow.edu.au/health/sharp/conferences/index.html>).

	When?	What?	Where?	Disciplines
(a)	October 14-17	CRAN <i>Aplus</i> Conference - “Remote Health: Unveiling the Mystery”	Alice Springs	Nursing
(b)	November 12-13	4th NSW Rural Allied Health Conference – “Beyond the Rhetoric”	Tamworth	Allied Health

(iii) Scholarship and Placements

The SHARP website has a “Scholarships and Placements” page which provides information on rural and remote health scholarship and placement opportunities. Teena informed everyone of 2 scholarship and placement schemes that are currently accepting applications.

	When?	What?	Disciplines
(a)	Applications close on September 18	QLD Health Rural Scholarship Scheme	Nursing and Allied Health
(b)	Applications for placements from June 2009-January 2010 close on September 18	NSW Rural Allied Health Clinical Placement Grants	Allied Health

(iv) Westpac RDAA Medical Student of the Year 2009

Teena informed everyone of this award for which applications recently opened. Applications are open to all medical students currently studying at an Australian University who have contributed to advancing the objectives of the RDAA, which focus on advancing the health of Australian living in rural and remote communities through the provision of a vibrant and sustainable medical workforce. The Westpac RDAA Medical Student of the Year 2009 will receive up to \$2000 to support them in a rural health focused project (including a rural placement). Anyone interested was encouraged to see the SHARP and NRHSN websites for further information.

4. Late business and Next Meeting

(i) Date of the next meeting

Teesha mentioned that the SHARP Committee meets once every 1-2 months to discuss SHARP and NRHSN business. All SHARP members are more than welcome to come along to the meetings, even if they are not Committee members. The meetings are a great way to find out more about how SHARP and the NRHSN works, especially for those interested in running for a Committee position next year. Pizza lunch is usually provided. The minutes of past meetings are now available on the “SHARP Committee” page of the SHARP website. Future meeting dates will be advertised in SHARP emails.

(ii) Other business

No other business was raised.

Meeting closed at 1.05pm