

# Rustica Annual Report 2007



## President's Report

The year 2007 was certainly an exciting and different one. While we still held the old favourites like Skills Night, there were many novel events such as the Aboriginal Cultural Awareness trip to Bruny Island and the Bonded Medical Place night.

We started out with the goals of increasing student membership and involvement from the different faculties, and while these goals have been achieved, they can continue to be taken to higher levels.

Our long term goals will still be upheld into the year ahead and we will have greater means to achieve it, especially via the National University Rural Health Conference 2008 which will be held in Launceston. This is a very exciting event which should see the representatives from 22 rural health clubs converging in Launceston in April 2008. It will be an excellent forum for Tasmanian rural health issues to be aired and discussed.

2007 also saw many cross-organizational involvements and we hope to continue our great working relationships with our partners into the future. All the great work of 2007 could not have been carried out without the contributions of the members of the Rustica committee. They are a hard-working and passionate bunch of people who carried the society into the next year, stronger than it ever was. We look forward to the successes of Rustica in the future.

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## Executive & Committee

<b>President</b>	Juliana Ahmad
<b>Vice-President</b>	Sandra Zammit
<b>Treasurer</b>	Andrew Tierney
<b>Secretary</b>	Marion Davies
<b>NRHN Senior Rep</b>	Matthew Van Zetten
<b>ATSI Rep</b>	Jade Woon
<b>NRHN Junior Rep</b>	Matthew Cane
<b>Societies Rep</b>	Arella Kier
<b>Media and Publications</b>	Kaylee Nash-Rawnsley
<b>RHSV Rep</b>	Gail Edwards
<b>Pharmacy Rep</b>	Anita Thomas
<b>Newnham Rep</b>	Robert Withington
<b>Launceston Reps</b>	Caroline Mooney & Wendy Henderson
<b>North-West Rep</b>	Dani Buchanan George Chandler
<b>Scholarships Reps</b>	Emma Mitchell & Diane Lim
<b>First Year Reps</b>	Janice Yeh Keith Nicolas Elizabeth Nguyen Ken Hui Yee Luke Hamilton
<b>Second Year Rep</b>	Nick Stacey

## Membership Demographics

### Gender Distribution

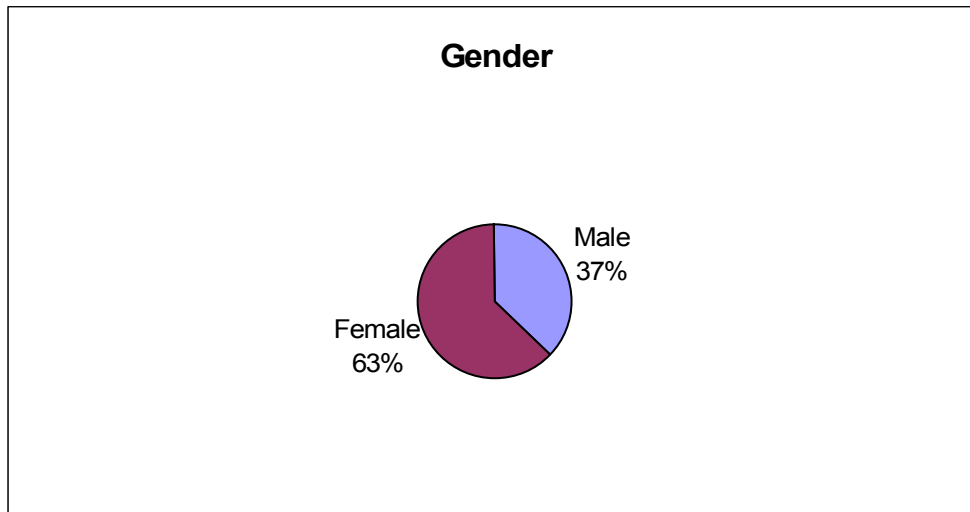


Chart 1: Pie Chart showing the gender distribution (where disclosed) of members in 2007.

### Distributions of Members by Faculty

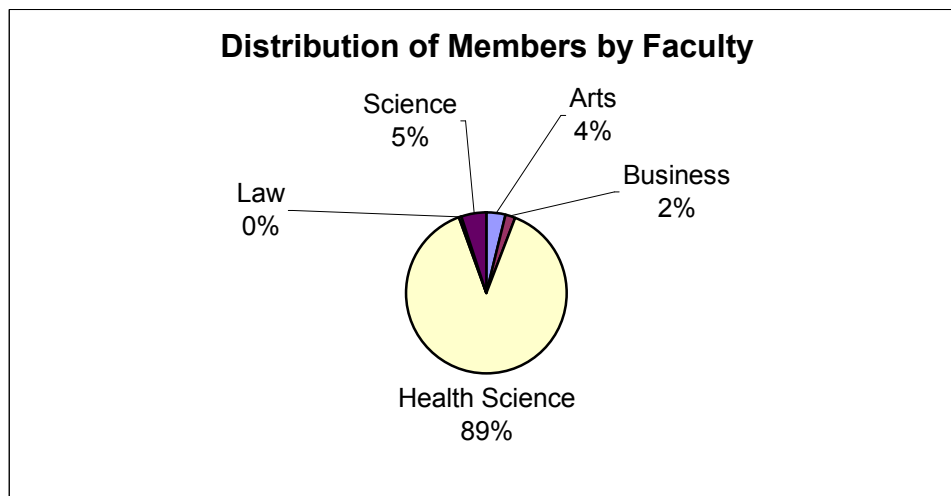
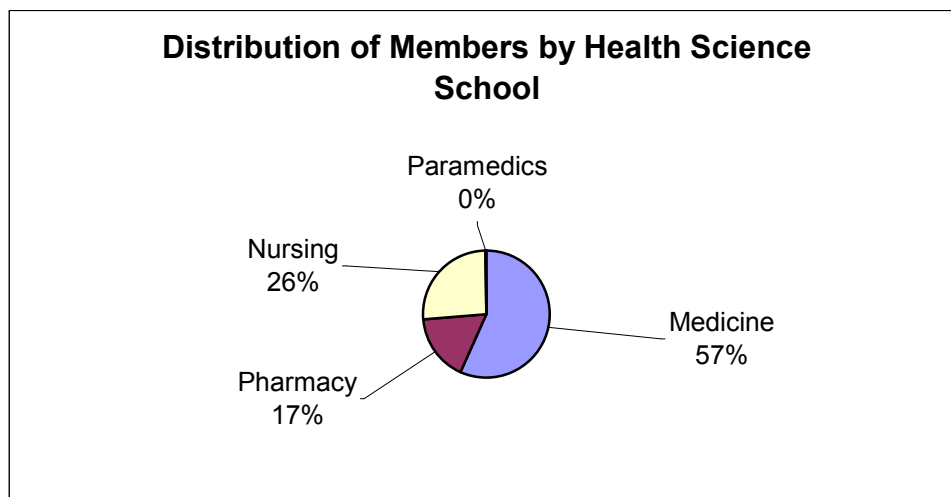


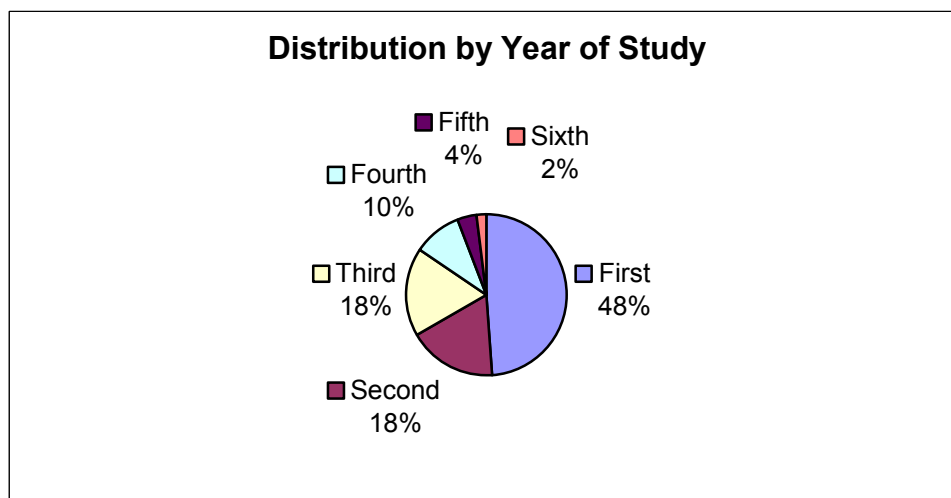
Chart 2: Pie chart showing the faculties RUSTICA members study within, note that 89% of members study within Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy and Paramedic studies.

## Distribution of Members by Health Science Course



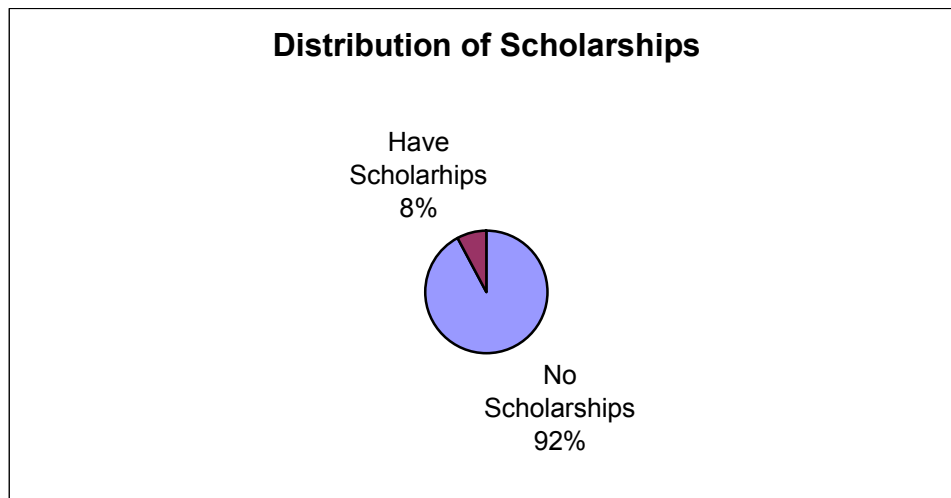
**Chart 3:** Pie chart showing that over half of respondents are enrolled in medicine and over a quarter are in nursing, note: One member was identified as being enrolled in paramedic studies.

## Year of Study for Members



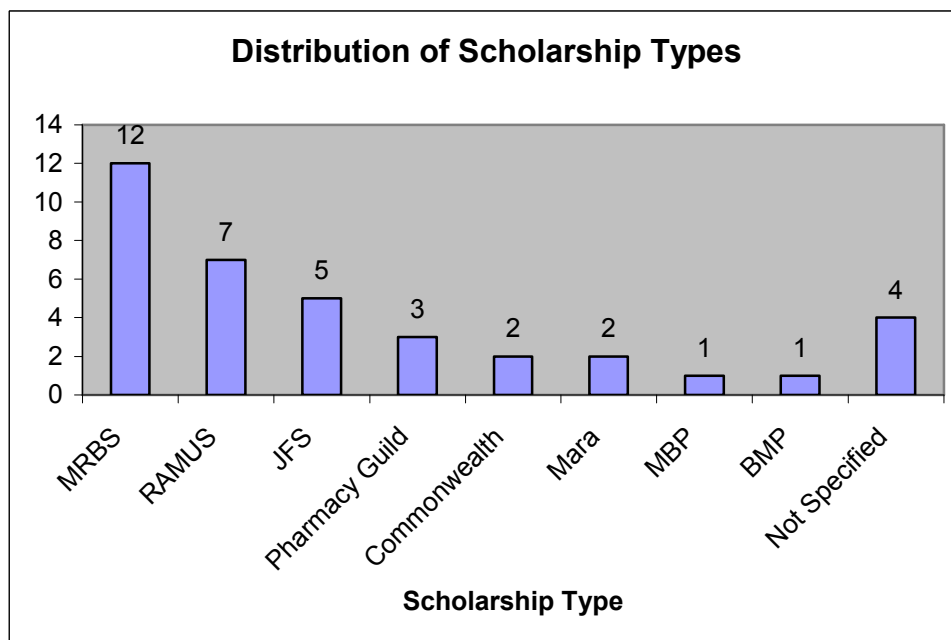
**Chart 4:** Pie chart showing that almost half of all respondents are first year students.

## Scholarship Holders



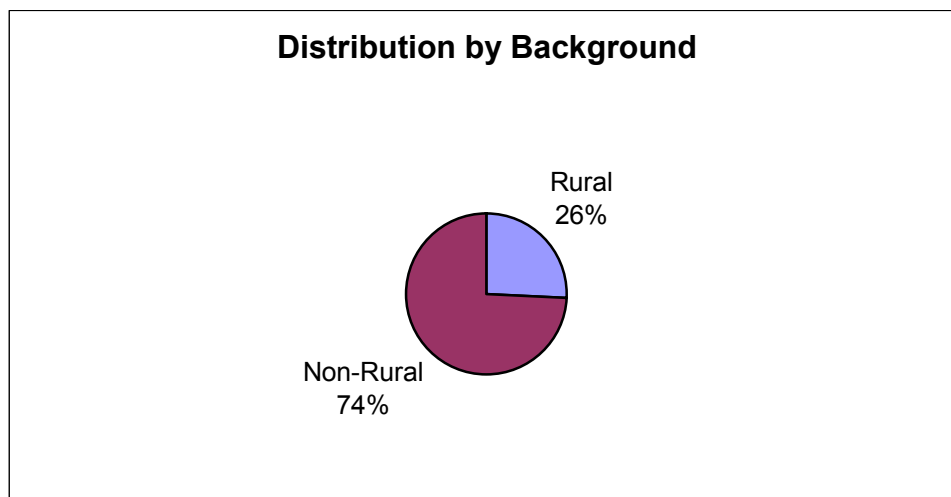
**Chart 5: Pie Chart showing that only 8 percent of respondents have scholarship assisted study.**

## Distribution of Scholarship Supported Members



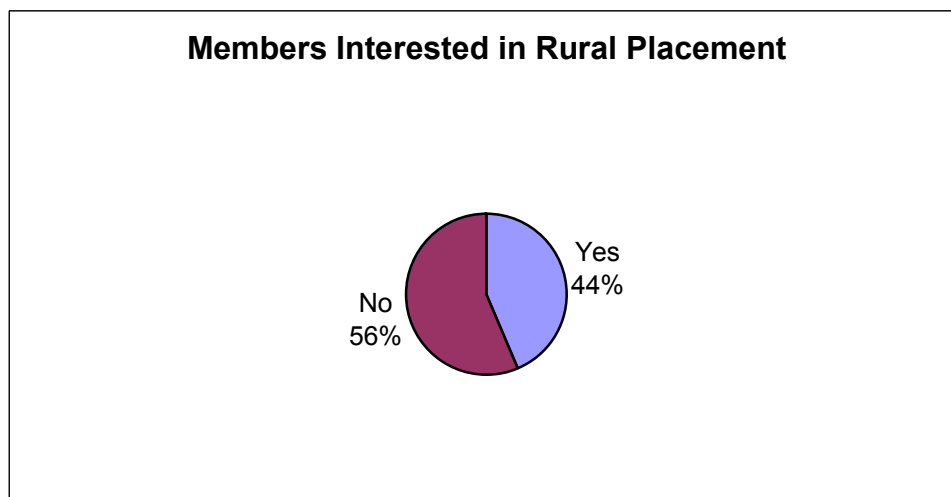
**Graph 1: Pie Chart showing that the majority of respondents a Medical Rural Bonded Scholarship, a Rural Australia Medical Undergraduate Scholarship, or a John Flynn Scholarship.**

## Distribution of Member Origin



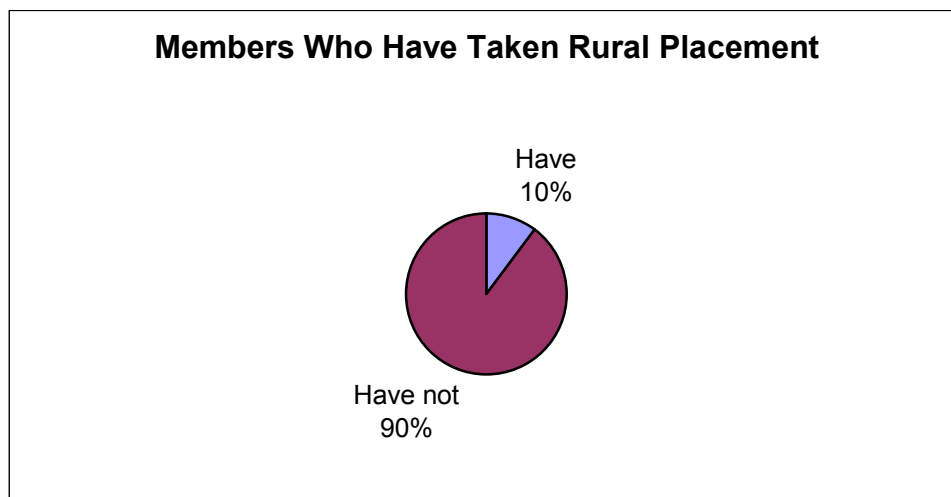
**Chart 6:** Pie chart showing that a quarter of respondents have a rural background.

## Distribution of Intended Career Location



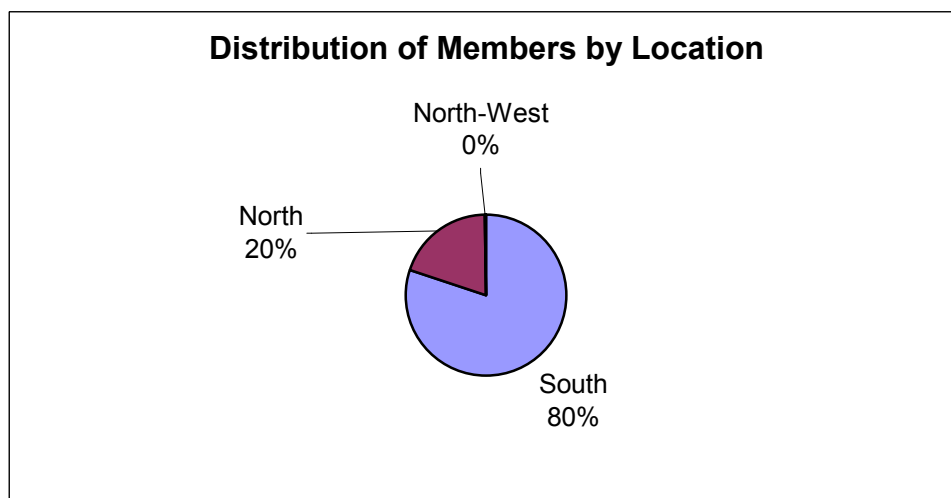
**Chart 7:** Pie chart showing the distribution of members planning to work in a rural area after graduation.

## Distribution of Undergraduate Rural Placement



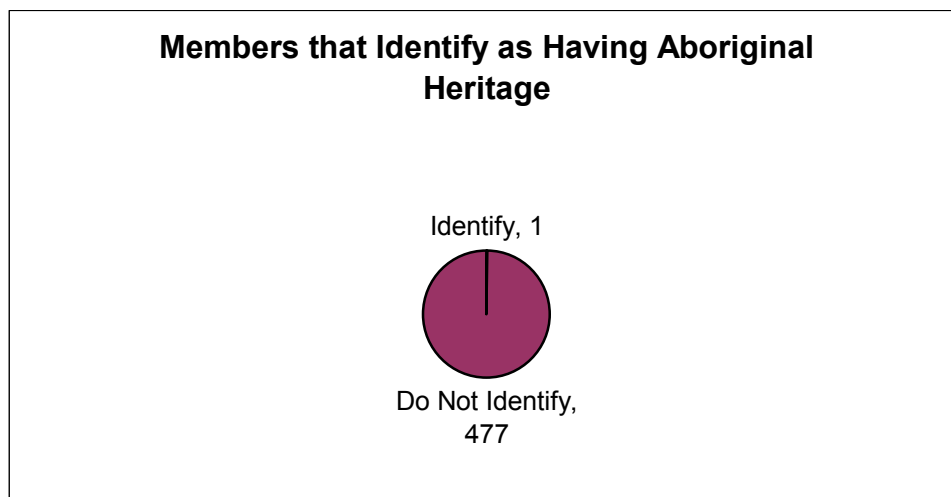
**Chart 8:** Pie chart showing the members that have already taken a form of rural placement during undergraduate study.

## Distribution of Membership by Branch



**Chart 9:** Pie chart showing distributions of members by geographical location.

### Distribution of Members that Identify as Having Aboriginal Heritage



**Chart 10:** *Pie Chart showing that only one respondent identifies with aboriginal heritage.*

### Distribution of Members that had taken an RHSV Workshop



**Chart 11:** *Pie chart showing that 8 percent of respondents have participated in a rural workshop during secondary school.*



## Profit & Loss Statement

<b>Income and Spending</b>			
<b>Between 1/01/2007 and 31/12/2007</b>			
<b>Category</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Income Categories</b>		<b>Expense Categories</b>	
Burnie Cash Box Income	100	1st and 2nd Year Camp	3300
CPD Weekend Income	68	Administrator Pay	3204.5
Electives Night Income	1250	Agfest	246.75
First Aid Course Income	900	AGM Expenses	238.15
Funding	28000	Albury Conference	239
Investment Income	75.08	ATSI	363
Kayaking Income	438	ATSI Camp	649.59
Launceston Careers Night Income	500	ATSI Conference	262
Membership Income	889.55	ATSI Lunch	285.15
Scholarships Night Income	250	BMP Meeting	316.15
Societies Council Funding	1130	Burnie Expenses	566.45
Welcome Income	751.3	Bursary	6000
<b>Total Income Categories</b>	<b>34444.23</b>	Class Bursary	13.6
		CPD Weekend	737.75
		Electives Night Expenses	1000
		First Aid Course Expenses	1544
		Grad Ball	500
		Handover	700
		Kayaking	871.9
		Launceston Careers Night Expenses	940
		Library Books	59.95
		Med Orientation	397.57
		Meeting Food	467.35
		Membership Cards	96.8
		Mental Health Week	970.5
		NURHC Expenses	163.6
		Office Supplies	570.35
		Pharm Ball	250
		Pharm Orientation	150
		Phone Charges	151.8
		Photo Comp Prizes	241.5
		Photocopy Charges	681.7
		Promotion	2594.58
		Quiz Night Expenses	16
		RSA Course	150
		RSV	1653.2
		Scholarships Expenses	32.95
		Scholarships Night Expenses	406.8
		Skills Night Expenses	1268.24
		Skills Night Pharmacy	333
		Societies Day Expenses	924.25
		Website	62.45
		Welcome Expenses	1017.5
		<b>Total Expense Categories</b>	<b>34730.38</b>
		<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>-286.15</b>

## Activities Summary Semester One

### **Welcome Party**

#### **Event**

Rustica Welcome

#### **Date**

23/03/07, 7pm

#### **Location**

The Black Prince Hotel, Hobart

#### **Number Attended**

65 Rustica members

#### **Demographics**

55 medical, 9 pharmacy, 1 nursing student.

Mostly from Hobart campus

Equal distribution of rural and non rural background

17 – 45 years of age

Equal male and female

#### **Number of New Sign Ups**

20 (mostly medical students)

#### **Event Details**

Sit down dinner (RUSTICA subsidised half of the dinner).

Included a display of RUSTICA, NRHN, CRANA and other publications

Lucky door prize purchased from ArtMob and was an original piece of Indigenous art.

Feedback from the event was positive, with more members keen to be involved with RUSTICA.

#### **Cost**

\$ 1017.5

## ***Societies Day***

### **Event**

Tasmanian University Union Society's Day

### **Date**

21/02/2007

### **Location**

TUU Building car park and refectory steps.

### **Number Attended**

Over 1000 Students.

### **Demographics**

The entire student body.

### **Number of New Sign Ups**

227.

### **Details**

Societies day was another great event. A lot of complications leading up to societies day that were to do with licensing, the TUU expressed some doubt but in the end all liability issues were resolved. Over two hundred new members signed up, some bought t-shirts and coolers. Rustica was once again one of the more popular societies because of the deals we were able to offer and the promise of many exciting events.

### **Cost**

\$ 924.25

## **Pharmacy BBQ**

### **Event**

Rustica and TAPS BBQ

### **Date**

26<sup>th</sup> of March

### **Location**

Pharmacy BBQ Area

### **Number Attended**

50.

### **Demographics**

Majority were pharmacy students and some medicine students.

### **Number of New Sign Ups**

20.

### **Event Details**

On the 26<sup>th</sup> of March, Rustica aided TAPS (Tasmanian Association of Pharmacy Students), in holding a "Welcome Barbeque" for the first year pharmacy students. The main purpose of the barbeque was to raise awareness of Rustica amongst the new pharmacy students, and to encourage membership, as well as involvement in other Rustica events. The day was a huge success, with around twenty new members signing up, adding to the total number of around forty Rustica members present on the day, which is quite a large number for a pharmacy-focused event. The total funds spent were \$100, to provide food for the day. The day was ultimately successful in increasing the awareness of Rustica and at encouraging pharmacy students to become more involved with Rustica and more aware of issues surrounding rural health.

### **Cost**

\$150.

## **NRHN Conference**

### **Event**

NRHN Conference

### **Date**

5th – 6th of March

### **Location**

Albury

### **Number Attended**

300.

### **Demographics**

All health science disciplines.

### **Number of New Sign Ups**

0.

### **Event Details**

From the 5th – 6th of March, 2007, I attended the 2007 NRHN conference in Albury. This event was attended by over 300 delegates, all members of the NRHN and subsequently members of at least one of the nineteen rural health clubs across Australia. The delegates came from all disciplines, including nursing, medicine, pharmacy and allied health. This event was funded by the department of health and ageing.

The theme of the conference was 'staying strong – thriving in the bush,' its focus was on maintaining mental healthiness as both a rural student and practitioner. Speakers included Janie Dade Smith, a remote area nurse with years of experience, Jeff Kennett, the former Victorian Premier and current chairman of Beyond Blue and Sarah Chunys, the 2004 NT young Australian of the Year.

The conference also comprised of a series of workshops and seminars. I attended various workshops on 'how to run a rural health club.' As a new member of the RUSTICA executive, these seminars proved invaluable in providing practical tips on how RUSTICA can run more smoothly and efficiently, as well as getting some interesting ideas on some events

### **Cost**

Nil.

***Electives night report*****Event**

Combined Rustica (Marion) and IMPACT (Libby and Anna) event.

**Date**

28/03/2007

**Location**

Hobart Clinical School.

**Number Attended**

120

**Demographics**

Medicine students mostly in years 1,2 and 3 (some 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>).

**Number of New Sign Ups**

25.

**Event Details**

Domestic Electives: 6pm-7.15pm followed by supper.

Promoting remote and rural Australian medical electives. Electives presented included to Tasmania (RHH DEM) and NTGPE (Katherine and Arnhem Land).

**Cost**

Funding received from Rustica for catering: \$500 Other: \$500. Total \$1000.

## ***Clinical Skills Night***

### **Event**

Hobart Clinical Skills Night.

### **Date**

02/05/2007

### **Location**

Hobart Clinical School.

### **Number Attended**

100 (+/- 10)

### **Demographics**

All Rustica members from Medicine, Nursing and Pharmacy.

### **Number of New Sign Ups**

25.

### **Event Details**

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2007, RUSTICA held the first of their "SKILLS NIGHTS" for 2007. More than 100 RUSTICA members (medicine, pharmacy and nursing students) from most year levels were in attendance. Practical stations conducted included; Venepuncture/Cannulation, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health (ATSI), CPR, Suturing, Wound Care. The night provided the opportunity for new and old RUSTICA members to hone their practical skills under the guidance of fellow medical students, paramedic studies and the Director of ATSI Health here in Tasmania (Deborah Hocking). All stations were a success, with suturing once again proving to be the most successful (we had to run the session 3 times to accommodate the large number of students!). At the conclusion of the evening, RUSTICA provided a dinner once again whilst new members were able to find out about upcoming events!

### **Cost**

\$756

**Agfest****Event**

Agfest.

**Date**

Saturday the 5<sup>th</sup> of May.

**Location**

Carrick

**Number Attended**

4.

**Demographics**

Medical and pharmacy students.

**Number of New Sign Ups**

None.

**Event Details**

Rustica sponsored trip to Agfest to assist at rural pharmacy stall, 4 Rustica members attended and interacted with several hundred primary and high school students, promoting healthy living to rural families walking by the stand.

**Cost**

\$246.75

***BMP Night*****Event**

Bonded Medical Placement night.

**Date**

21<sup>st</sup> of May.

**Location**

Hobart Clinical School

**Number Attended**

20.

**Demographics**

Medical students.

**Number of New Sign Ups**

0.

**Event Details**

The BMP meet with the representative from Canberra, the AMSA President and the NRHN Secretary on 21 May proved to be beneficial for all who attended. Both speakers and students were able to hold open communication about the contentious issues around the Bonded Medical Place. At the end of the night, everyone went away with having a better idea of the other party's perspective, as well as having a well formed idea of what having a BMP meant. It will be recommended that this event occurs yearly from now on – so that new students will have a proper introduction to their contractual requirements as well as the support programs available to them.

**Cost**

\$ 316.15

## **ATSI Lunch**

### **Event**

ATSI Lunch.

### **Date**

31<sup>st</sup> of May.

### **Location**

Hobart Clinical School.

### **Number Attended**

40.

### **Demographics**

Mostly 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> year medical students.

### **Number of New Sign Ups**

Nil.

### **Event Details**

The ATSI lunch was held at the Hobart Clinical School on the 31<sup>st</sup> May, at 1pm. It was attended by about 40 RUSTICA members. Most of the attendees were 4<sup>th</sup> year and 5<sup>th</sup> year medical students. The guest speaker, Rodney Dillon (ex ATSI commissioner for Tasmania) talked about various Indigenous Issues, including health, housing and drug and alcohol issues. Those who attended participated enthusiastically, many of them missing class to discuss these issues (the talk went overtime).

RUSTICA also held an ATSI quiz (via email) - the three winners of the quiz were Brad Harvey, Katherine Ngo and Alex Smith, who each won a double pass to the movies, 15 people entered the competition.

### **Cost**

\$285.

## **CPD Weekend**

### **Event**

Continuing Professional Development Weekend.

### **Date**

31/3-1/4

### **Location**

Shearwater.

### **Number Attended**

7.

### **Demographics**

Medical Students

### **Number of New Sign Ups**

0.

### **Event Details**

The Rural GP Wellbeing Seminar (CPD weekend) run by GP workforce was an excellent excursion for the 7 Rustica members who attended. Not only were the topics on time and stress management extremely relevant for the medical students, but it also allowed us the opportunity to learn about what sort of stressors were faced by rural GPs – in a setting where they were free to express them. It was run by two extremely knowledgeable speakers – who have years in experience of specifically dealing with rural GP issues, as well as post-graduate student issues. Their presentations were well run – with many visual aids and skits facilitating the understanding of their concepts on Wellbeing.

The CPD (Continual Professional Development) Weekend run by GP Workforce is aimed towards educating rural GPs, but they have been so kind to allow medical students to partake in these gatherings. The interaction with the GPs is usually the highlight of the weekend. In this context, we have the opportunity to discuss with our future medical colleagues about the ins and outs of our future occupation – medicine overall, and General Practice specifically (for those interested). I think it is a good opportunity for anyone to get to know more about Medicine from a primary health care view, as well as have a weekend away at a very low cost (Rustica and GP Workforce take care of everything money wise, except for half the cost of the formal dinner)!

### **Cost**

\$737.75

## ***Rustica Recruitment Drive***

### **Event**

Rustica Recruitment Drive

### **Date**

17/04/2007

### **Location**

Newnham Campus.

### **Number Attended**

50+.

### **Demographics**

Nursing Students

### **Number of New Sign Ups**

50.

### **Event Details**

On Tuesday 17th, Rustica conducted a Recruitment Drive BBQ event at the Launceston Uni campus, signed up approximately 50 members, new memberships. Most members signing up on this occasion were all nursing students. This opportunity to explain Rustica's many roles was well utilised, with members being told of Rustica's planned events for 2007.

The membership form completed by each member signing up surveyed them about their knowledge of the National Rural Health Network so as Rustica can ascertain the level of knowledge amongst its members and thereby identify areas of deficit which need to be better publicised to members.

### **Cost**

0

## **Renal Lecture**

### **Event**

Rustica Renal Presentation/ Lecture

### **Date**

21/04/2007

### **Location**

Newnham Campus.

### **Number Attended**

60.

### **Demographics**

Nursing Students (In their first and second year of study)

### **Number of New Sign Ups**

0.

### **Event Details**

Training session at the LGH on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> of April. The guest speaker was Melinda Hay, one of our leading supervisors from Launceston General Hospital, Renal Unit, Melinda gave a presentation covering the renal anatomy and physiology, acute and chronic renal failure, testing methods and treatments, including transplants in conjunction with the effects it has on the rural communities. There was also a chance after the lecture to ask questions and have a look at different dialysis equipment. Fifty Rustica members and ten non-members attended the presentation and these numbers were a mixture of both first and second year nursing students. The evening was informative for all and a great success.

The membership presentation covering the renal anatomy and physiology, acute and chronic renal failure, testing methods and treatments, including transplants in conjunction with the effects it has on the rural communities.

### **Cost**

0



## Activities Summary Semester Two

### **Semester 2 Skills Night**

**Event**

Skills Night

**Date**

15/08/2007

**Location**

Hobart Clinical School

**Cost**

\$512.24

**Event Details**

Skills Night Semester 2 saw a great variety of presenters – from Phlebotomists, ED Nurses, St. John First Aiders and members of our own medical student body. It was a great success, with the sessions being educational and enjoyable.

45 students attended this semester's sessions, which included Venepuncture, Urinary Catheterisation, Suturing and a First Aid obstacle course.

Overall, there were many reports of an enjoyable night – with many important skills being honed.

**Number of New Sign Ups**

0

**Demographics**

All medical students

**Number Attended**

45

## ***Mental Health Week***

### **Event**

Mental Health Week

### **Date**

24/09/2007 – 28/09/2007

### **Location**

Hobart, Launceston

### **Cost**

\$970.5

### **Event Details**

On Tuesday 25th of September RUSTICA held a Mental Health Week Morning Tea in the Tutorial Room of the Launceston Clinical School. Over 30 Rustica members attended the event which also launched free student copies of "When the Cowpat hits the Windmill" the mental health guidebook for students embarking on rural electives developed by the NRHN.

Participants also went into draw for mental-health gifts such as lolly bags & movie tickets. Overall the morning was a success with many students enjoying their free copies of the handbook.

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Participants also went into draw for mental-health gifts such as lolly bags & movie tickets. Overall the morning was a success with many students enjoying their free copies of the handbook.

RUSTICA/MIPS Career's Night on Wednesday the 10th of October, RUSTICA held a Career's evening for 5th & 6th year medical students at the Launceston General Hospital. Starting

at 6pm in the Lecture theatre, over 50 RUSTICA student members had the opportunity to hear all the ins-and-outs of training programs from a variety of speciality programs including; Surgery, Physician, General Practice, Rural &

Remote Medicine, Psychiatry, Pathology, Paediatrics, Obstetrics & Gynae, Emergency Medicine, Ophthalmology and Anaesthetics.

Students & presenters mingled over dinner & drinks to discuss the finer points of these career pathways and to get practical advice on applications. The evening was a huge success and many hope that it will become a regular fixture on the LGH RUSTICA calendar. We must also extend our thanks to MIPS for their generous sponsorship.

**Number of New Sign Ups**

0

**Demographics**

All Disciplines

**Number Attended**

50-150 state-wide

**Table Tennis Comp****Event**

Table Tennis Competition

**Date**

12/09/2007

**Location**

Cradle-Coast

**Cost**

\$566.45

**Event Details**

Twenty medical students attended the table tennis competition. The competition was conducted under the rules of elimination with wildcard entry in later rounds for people who presented the most convincing argument or exhibited the most sporting prowess in earlier rounds. The evening was very enjoyable with very stiff competition put up to win the tournament, this resulted in a playoff between Jo Ambrose and Dani Buchanan. (Dan won).

**Number of New Sign Ups**

0

**Demographics**

Medical Students

**Number Attended**

20

## **GP Night**

### **Event**

GP Information Night

### **Date**

19/09/2007

### **Location**

Theatre Royal Hotel

### **Cost**

0

### **Event Details**

A successful GP Training information night was held on the 19/ 09/ 2007 at the Theatre Royal Hotel. Approximately 25 students were present, with representatives from 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> year.

Telena Eastly, the UTAS GPSN ambassador, supervised the night and also provided information on the GP Student Network (GPSN). This is a new national network, with the aim of stimulating medical student interest in general practice.

Speeches were given by representatives from Tasmania's GP training provider (GPET) and members from the College of General Practice. A GP registrar (Michael) also talked about his experiences whilst training as a GP.

There were a number of general themes that were repeated by all speakers. The flexible and positive life/work balances that GP work provides was emphasised. The speakers also tried to remove the stigma of 'just a GP' by providing a positive image of the diversity of working conditions that is available in general practice for those who 'up skill' in obstetrics, remote emergency medicine, anaesthesia and general surgery. The rewards of 'continuity of care' were also emphasised. Finally, the financial and remuneration aspects of general practice were covered.

The night concluded with a mix and mingle with food and drinks provided by RUSTICA. – Henry Nowlan

### **Number of New Sign Ups**

0

**Demographics**

All Medical Students

**Number Attended**

25

## ***Rural Health Week***

### **Event**

Rural Health Week

### **Date**

10/09/2007 – 14/09/2007

### **Location**

Statewide

### **Cost**

0

### **Event Details**

Rural Health Week for the first year medical students was held from September 10<sup>th</sup> to September 14<sup>th</sup>. This week allowed the students to participate in a range of activities, from visiting various healthcare locations in rural areas ( e.g. Swansea, Oatlands) to giving presentations on rural health. This gave them a valuable opportunity to gain first-hand knowledge on healthcare provision in the rural setting.

I was also fortunate enough to attend and judge their rural health presentations. This gave me an opportunity to understand, through them, what they had learned from their rural health week experience. I was impressed by the level of knowledge they showed. They presented their work in a variety of ways, such as role-play, debates, etc, and they managed to all-in-all, cover very important aspects of rural health. These included the access and provision of healthcare in rural areas, the recruitment and retention of healthcare workers and last but not least, the state of rural health in other countries. Rural health is certainly an important aspect of Australian healthcare to be explored in the early years of a medical degree, and I believe this has been well managed through the Rural Health Week program.

### **Number of New Sign Ups**

0

### **Demographics**

First year medical students.

### **Number Attended**



**Quiz Night****Event**

Quiz Night

**Date**

29/08/2007

**Location**

Black Prince Hotel

**Cost**

\$ 16

**Event Details**

The annual TUMSS/RUSTICA Quiz Night was, as always, a huge success. About 150 people packed out the Black Prince Hotel for what was a great evening. Not only did the \$10 parmas go down a treat, the quizmaster could actually be heard. Great prizes donated from local businesses were awarded to the top two teams.

**Number of New Sign Ups**

0

**Demographics**

All Disciplines

**Number Attended**

150

**NLDS****Event**

National Development Leadership Seminar

**Date**

10/09/2007 – 12/09/2007

**Location**

Canberra

**Cost**

0

**Event Details**

The AMSA National Leadership Development Seminar was held in Canberra on 10-12 September 2007. It was an opportunity for 80 students from 17 medical schools to meet and be further educated on important issues in healthcare today. The seminar explored four different themes – contemporary role models in medicine, the practicalities in leadership, public issues in health and education and the parliamentary experience.

The seminar boasted a number of excellent speakers. These included Rev. Tim Costello (CEO of World Vision Australia), Mr Jeff McMullen (CEO of the Fountain for Youth Foundation), Ms Dea Delaney-Thiele (CEO of NACCHO), Dr Rosanna Capolingua (Federal President of the AMA) and Mr Laurie Wilson (Director of the National Press Club), just to name a few of the esteemed speakers. This certainly offered an excellent opportunity to learn about all those things that make a great leader, and this was best done by listening to the advice of the speakers - leaders in their field. It also involved learning important skills in leadership, such as effective media dealings and chairing meetings effectively. The seminar was great not only in what it offered, but also in the students who attended, many of whom had interesting experiences and opinions.

The most interesting thing for me was the session held on the first day – “Indigenous Health: Looking to the future”. It was no-holds barred for both the speakers and the audience. Contentious issues were both passionately argued and calmly explained. The differences between the speakers who had made indigenous health their life’s work was well displayed that day - from the

passionate and outspoken Dr. Bill Glasson, to the demure and strong Ms. Delaney-Thiele – they truly represented the different faces of Indigenous health.

Overall, my experience at the NLDS was a mixture of emotions. The speakers managed to draw a myriad of emotions from me because they all spoke from the heart, and that's what I believe makes a good leader – the power to effect change by moving people with their noble convictions.

**Number of New Sign Ups**

0

**Demographics**

Medicine Students

**Number Attended**

3

***Sandy Bay Clinical Skills*****Event**

Skills Night

**Date**

13/09/2007

**Location**

UTAS Sandy Bay Campus, Centenary Building

**Cost**

\$ 333

**Event Details**

The Sandy Bay Clinical Skills evening took place in the Centenary Building at the Sandy Bay UTAS campus.

**Number of New Sign Ups**

0

**Demographics**

Pharmacy

**Number Attended**

15

## ***Rural High School Visits***

### **Event**

Rural High School Visits

### **Date**

28/08/2007

### **Location**

Newstead College, then other high schools;

### **Cost**

\$1653.2

### **Event Details**

This semester the RHSV portfolio was taken over by Jackie Bellette. The first visit undertaken by Rustica students was to Newstead College on 28<sup>th</sup> August. Three fifth year medical students based at the Launceston General Hospital, Wendy Henderson, Thomas Volkman and Tristan Johnson with UDRH representative Leonie Coskun attended, speaking to a group of year 11 and 12 students. During their time at Newstead a slide presentation about career opportunities offered at UTAS was given. This included medicine, nursing, pharmacy, allied health, health administration and environmental health. Following this Wendy, Thomas and Tristan gave personal testimonies regarding their experiences in the course thus far, the health industry, rural medicine, and rural health scholarship schemes. Students were encouraged to ask questions and take pamphlets.

On the 20<sup>th</sup> November, Matt Cane (Pharmacy II) and Jackie Bellette (Med III) travelled to Campbell Town High School. They spoke to a group of 24 year 9 and 10 students about the various health careers offered at UTAS, scholarships available, university life, housing in Hobart and Launceston and the diversity and opportunities offered by a career in rural health. The second half of the visit was interactive with students shown how to give basic life support, with the use of the first aid dummies that Rustica has. Students were told of the importance of having a basic first aid knowledge and encouraged to complete first aid courses in the future. The visit finished with the handing out of bags containing pamphlets on rural health, medical career CD-ROM, pens, magnets, stickers and UTAS information.

Two days later Andrew Pryor (Pharmacy III), Sophia Avery (Pharmacy III) and Jackie Bellette attended the Year 9 Health Career Taster Day at the Nursing School at Newnham UTAS campus. This was organised by UDRH staff, Leonie Coskun and Martin Harris. The Rustica students had lunch with the approximately 30 year 9 students from high schools in the northern half of Tasmania. Jackie Bellette spoke about studying Medicine at UTAS, why one should consider rural health and Rustica's role at UTAS. Andrew, Sophia and Jackie then did a role play entitled "Who You Gonna Call?". This was a case presentation where the rather complex patient needed consultation from many different health professionals. This showed the students that there is more to health and doctors and nurses and was well received.

After a night in Launceston Sophia, Jackie, Matt Cane and Andrew Tierney (Medicine IV) visited Queechy High School. The 20 year 9 and 10 students had been selected to attend the session based on their interest in health careers. All the students were female, and most were interested in studying nursing. The students were told about health careers, courses available at UTAS, accommodation, uni life and scholarships. The Rustica students attending also gave testimony's about their own experiences in the course, and how they came to be doing the university course that they are. At the end the floor was opened for questions which the students responded really well to, many asking about what is involved in specialising in the various health fields, such as midwifery, emergency nursing, surgical specialties. Morning tea was provided for the students.

On Tuesday 28th of August, Rustica members and 5th year medical students at the LGH; Wendy Henderson, Thomas Volkman and Tristan Johnson, in partnership with UDRH representative Leonie Coskun visited Year 11 & 12 students at Newstead College in Launceston. The session consisted of a slide presentation about career opportunities in rural health offered at the University of Tasmania including courses in; medicine, nursing, pharmacy, allied health, health administration and environmental health. The 2nd half of the visit consisted of informal testimony! es by Wendy, Thomas & Tristan about their experiences on choosing and embarking upon studying medicine, their experience of the course so far and industry exposure to rural health including participating in Rustica activities and rural health scholarship schemes. Students were encouraged to hang around afterwards to ask question and take pamphlets. Students reported the visit to be interesting and informative and a follow up taster-day visit is planned for the end of the year.

**Number of New Sign Ups**

0

**Demographics**

High School Students

**Number Attended**

74 confirmed, likely 100+

**Kayaking****Event**

Kayaking at Kettering

**Date**

13/10/2007

**Location**

Statewide

**Cost**

\$ 871.9

**Event Details**

Provided by Bassem once he returns

**Number of New Sign Ups**

5

**Demographics**

All disciplines

**Number Attended**

20

**AGM****Event**

Annual General Meeting

**Date**

20/09/2007

**Location**

Hobart Clinical School

**Cost**

\$238.15

**Event Details**

AGM 2007

The Rustica Annual General meeting for 2007 was held on Thursday, 20<sup>th</sup> September. The AGM is a time when general members have an opportunity to learn more about the inner-workings of Rustica, and have an input to its running. It also allows us to look back on the events of the year, make appropriate changes to the constitution, as well as nominate members to the 2008 committee.

The members of the 2008 committee are:

**The Executive Committee**

The President - Matt Cane (Pharm 3)

The Vice-President - Alan Richardson (MBBS 1)

The Secretary - Jackie Bellette (MBBS 3)

The Treasurer - Henry Nowlan (MBBS 3)

National Rural Health Network (NRHN) Senior Representative - Matt Van Zetten (MBBS 4)

**The General Committee**

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) Representative – Telena Eastley

(MBBS 3)

The Pharmacy Representative - Sam Fouad (Pharmacy 2)

The Rural High Schools Visits (RHSV) Representative - Amanda Felmingham (MBBS 1) & Fadi Rizk (Pharm 3)

The Tasmania University Union Societies Representative - Janice Yeh (MBBS 1)

The Publications and Media Representative - Diane Lim (Med Sci 3)

The NRHN Junior Representative - Andrew Tierney (MBBS 4)

The Scholarships Representative - Maz Davies (MBBS 5) & Julz Ahmad (MBBS 3)

The Launceston Representative - TBA

The Rural Clinical School (Burnie) Representative - Emma Mitchell (MBBS 4)

We still require members to nominate themselves for the positions of:

- The Paramedic Representative
- The Nursing/Newnham Representative

All in all, it looks to be an exciting year ahead. We wish the new committee the best of luck for 2008.

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We are pleased to announce the new committee for 2008:

<b><u>Position</u></b>	<b><u>Name</u></b>
<b>President</b>	Matt Cane
<b>Vice-President</b>	Alan Richardson
<b>Secretary</b>	Jackie Bellette
<b>Treasurer</b>	Henry Nowlan
<b>NRHN senior</b>	Matt Van Zetten
<b>NRHN Junior</b>	Andrew Tierney
<b>TUU rep</b>	Janice Yeh
<b>Media/pubs</b>	Dianne Lim
<b>ATSI rep</b>	Telena Eastley
<b>RHSV reps</b>	Amanda Flemingham Fadi Rizk
<b>Pharmacy rep</b>	Bassem Fouad
<b>Newnham rep</b>	Robert Withington
<b>Scholarship reps</b>	Marion Davies Julz Ahmad
<b>Launceston Rep</b>	TBA
<b>NW rep</b>	Emma Mitchell

All in all, it looks to be an exciting year ahead. We wish the new committee the best of luck for 2008.

#### **Number of New Sign Ups**

5

#### **Demographics**

Medicine, Pharmacy.

#### **Number Attended**

35