

News from the School of Public Health and Community Medicine
Newsletter #26; May 2005
Edited by Kevin Forde (feedback to k.forde@unsw.edu.au)
June edition deadline is 3 June, all items to k.forde@unsw.edu.au

1. Another baby bonus
2. Recent Achievements
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1. Another baby bonus

Michelle Davies gave birth to a boy, Thomas William, who was born at 6.04pm 28th April, weight 7lbs 11. Thomas expects to make his first grade debut with Souths – who by then will be known as the Hobart Hares – in 2025. Watch the school website for photos. Congratulations to both Michelle and her husband Anthony.





2. Recent achievements

- Dr. Kate Dolan from the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre has been awarded a visiting professorship from the British Academy to visit the UK to pursue her research in HIV prevention in prison.
- Elizabeth Harris led a group of researchers who recently received a grant of \$30,000 from the NSW Dept of Health.
- Mark Harris has been invited to become a member of the Chronic Aged and Community Health Priority Taskforce which reports to the Health Care Advisory Council which in turn will provide advice to the Director-General and Minister for Health in NSW.

3. New Online Bookings System

Karsten Sommer is pleased to announce that we now have a new Online Bookings System available to all School Staff (password protected). Its purpose is to allow you to make a BOOKING REQUEST for a room or resource (non CATS) and replaces the old paper based system. All requests involve an automated approval process via room/resource owners.

You can access the system by clicking on:

<http://sphcm.med.unsw.edu.au/sphcm.nsf/website/forstaff.staffmatters.bookings>

SPHCM Room Owners are:

R221: Jacqueline Miller

R227: Jacqueline Miller

R241: Susannah Waters

L3, Kitchen: Debra Miller

R315: Vanessa Anderson

SPHCM Resource Owners are:

Data Projector 1: Debra Miller

Data Projector 2: Debra Miller

Notebook 1: Debra Miller

Notebook 2: Debra Miller

Karsten would also like to thank all members of the SPHCM Booking System Key Users Group for their help in testing and implementing this system.

4. 2005 Research Student Conference

The School of Public Health and Community Medicine 2005 Research Student Conference is on Friday, 9th September 2005 at Australian Jockey Club (AJC) Royal Randwick Racecourse.

If you have a PhD student who would like to present a paper ask them to contact Niamh Stephenson on N.Stephenson@unsw.edu.au.

3 Postcard from Scotland

I would have sent a postcard sooner but I have only now thawed out enough to think and type at the same time. Remembering my own pleas to contributors to the newsletter to keep it brief, I thought I'd share with you succinct, yet what I hope to be useful, tips should you be considering taking study leave in another country for 4 months or more, oh yes, and that's with two children.

Before departure:

1. When you are asked if you want to borrow thermal undergarments do not decline as you picture, somewhat reluctantly, your older relatives' washing lines, but rather give effusive and affirmative thanks, requesting additional beanies, gloves and anything warm that covers a body part.
2. When thinking through how much time you need to prepare, double it then times it by five and you should be about right.

On way:

3. Do not expect your children to eat the healthy food you have thoughtfully packed for them on the plane - they never ate it at school, so why would they start now? Ditto re their behaviour and the graciousness of Qantas staff who turn out the lights and leave you for 12 hours – snack pack indeed...
4. Never underestimate the power of a miniature screen on the back of a plane seat - oh and my two boys quite liked them too.

On arrival:

5. Don't be disheartened when you realise that the descriptors of the flat you organised to rent, site unseen, "small and in need of care" were on the generous side.
6. Try not to fall in love with every man who speaks to you just because he has an irresistible accent and disarmingly perfect manners – actually perhaps in that case it is really alright?
7. Be content to sacrifice your fashion sense as you notice you are the only person wearing puffy coat with wind and rain protection, as heavily mascara-ed lassies with huge loop earrings, showing their not-so-wee bellies above decidedly wee denim skirts stretched to breaking point across fulsome thighs, pass by.

Once settled (2 weeks in anyway) :

8. Try not to imitate everyone who speaks to you, however tempting. This is especially so when talking to your children's school teachers.
 9. Accept the fact it will rain and be cold, as in numbingly, every single day despite the fact it is spring.
 10. Delight in the generosity shown by your new colleagues, both personally and professionally.
- And lastly, relish every day - easy in a city as intoxicating as Edinburgh.

Sophie di Corpo