Dear Colleagues

Another busy, productive and SUCCESSFUL period for FaCH!!

We are all delighted with the outstanding successes we have had in the recent ARC and NHMRC rounds. We were successful with three ARC Linkage grants, which is a wonderful affirmation of our effective engagement with industry. The very next day, we found that group members were successful with two NHMRC grants! I know we wish all our colleagues all the best for the conduct of these projects, as well as our warm congratulations on their successes. More details about all of these projects can be found in later pages of this newsletter.

I know that several members already have their applications for the next round well underway, with at least two ARC Discovery applications, and a number of ARC Linkage applications in various stages of development. If anyone wants to take advantage of our Peer Feedback Program, and get some constructive critique before submission of these highly competitive grants, please let Michel or I know. Members are only too happy to provide this feedback for colleagues.

A number of our newer innovations are now well established. These include the Research Traineeships, and the Publication Syndicate. More information appears about both of these new initiatives later in this newsletter. These latest two initiatives compliment the existing developmental strategies we have in place. The Publication Syndicate is aimed at members who seek more intensive on-going writing support than is available through the Writing Retreats, and the Research Traineeships are designed to offer research assistant training to undergraduate students. This will hopefully help in building a group of people with skills that we can draw on as needed. In addition, we will benefit from having these energetic and enthusiastic undergraduates in our group. Hopefully, as they continue to develop, they will begin to participate in Research Circle and Student Research Club, as well as other activities. We will follow the progress of both these new initiatives and report back on how they are progressing.

Congratulations to the six new PhD graduates who had their degrees conferred at the last ceremony. It is always wonderful to see students successfully pass through the program. Congratulations too to the supervisors, who work so hard with students to achieve this goal. Special mention must be made of Professor Patricia Davidson, who was involved in the supervision of five of these six graduates. Well done Trish. That is a fantastic effort! There is more information about these graduates in this issue.

Our Web pages are continuing to develop, and are looking really good now. It is a great relief to finally have useful current pages up and easily accessible to potential students, collaborators etc. The student pages are also very important as they demonstrate the high level of achievement of our students (in terms of publication output etc). It is important that these pages remain current, so please send information about new publications in regularly, so we can keep them up to date. Thanks to Ros and Michel who have worked very hard getting these up and running.
Welcome to FaCH

Associate Professor Hannah Dahlen was appointed to the UWS School of Nursing and Midwifery, in August 2008 to develop a program of research in midwifery focusing on families in Greater Western Sydney and providing leadership in related postgraduate programs.

Hannah has a 24 year clinical career, as a registered nurse and midwife, clinical midwifery specialist, clinical midwifery educator and clinical midwifery consultant. Hannah has taught midwifery for many years at Graduate Diploma, Bachelor and Masters level and is currently supervising several higher degree students.

Hannah’s research interests centre on childbearing; in particular, ensuring women start motherhood in the healthiest state. Hannah’s research portfolio includes, perineal and pelvic floor care, women’s experiences of birth, media representations in health and maternity service policy and practise. She is currently working on a study examining the relationship between maternal birth position and perineal trauma in a birth centre over ten years. Hannah has also published on first time mothers birth experiences.

Hannah has a strong profile in midwifery through her work as the Secretary of the NSW Midwives Association. She is also a Fellow of the Australian College of Midwives. Hannah is the Spokesperson for the Australian College of Midwives and comments regularly in the media on issues to do with midwives and childbirth. Hannah also sits on several peak committees, such as the NSW Maternal and Perinatal Committee, the NSW Maternal and Perinatal Health Priority Taskforce and the Midwife Practice Committee (NSW Nurses &Midwives Board). Hannah speaks at many midwifery conferences and has given over 20 invited conference presentations and five keynote addresses. Welcome to FaCH Hannah! We look forward to working with you.

Debra Jackson
Group Leader

The FaCH vUWS site is also well developed now and is a great resource for us all. It is a repository for all sorts of useful documents such as our annual reports, information about up-coming events, such as conferences, Research Circle activities, Writing Retreats etc. We have held a couple of Writing Retreats recently, and have another lined up before the end of the year. These continue to be so successful that many other groups and departments in the University have started to run their own! We are planning to schedule in another four next year, and will let you know the 2009 dates ASAP.

I have formally requested the process of Review for Centre Status begin for FaCH, and will keep you updated as to developments. The process of becoming a UWS Research Centre is initiated through the Executive Dean making a request to the PVCR, that the process of review of the performance and potential of the group be assessed, with a view to changing status to a Centre. Not only has FaCH reached the point in development that this is necessary, the forthcoming major review of research that is imminent in CHS makes this an ideal time for our own review.

Finally, warm congratulations to Dr Roslyn Weaver, who has been appointed to a new role in the UWS Medical School. I know Ros will be a great success in that role, and she takes with her all our best wishes. I am pleased to say she will still be retaining her ties with FaCH as a group member, and will continue to be involved in some activities such as the Publication Syndicate and participate in some of the WERIN projects.

Debra Jackson
Group Leader
Dr Tanya Covic joined the FaCH Research Group earlier this year as a core member. Tanya is a senior lecturer and the course advisor for higher research degrees in the School of Psychology. Her principal research areas are pain, coping and depression in chronic illness, such as rheumatoid arthritis, and the nature of psychological pain in the deliberate self-harm behaviours in the sub-clinical youth population. Her teaching interests include clinical health psychology, health psychology and addictive behaviours. Tanya is a regular peer-reviewer for a number of international journals and is a registered psychologist and a member of the Australian Psychological Society. As the School of Psychology’s course advisor for higher research degrees, she is particularly interested in research supervision and is currently supervising three PhD students. She has supervised to completion 9 PhD, Clinical Masters and Honours students since 2006. Tanya is also involved in teaching and learning research with a particular interest in students’ learning styles, generic skills development, stress and coping. As well as being a member of FaCH, Tanya is a research fellow with the Faculty of Medicine, University of Sydney.

CONGRATULATIONS
Tanya, we are delighted you and your research team have been successful in gaining an ARC Linkage grant in the latest round (funding to commence in 2009)
Well done!
Dr T Covic; Dr A Sharpe; A/Prof J Pallant; A/Prof N Manolis; Mrs D Aspinall, for Motherhood choices: a decision aid for women with rheumatoid arthritis

Sungwon Chang is our newest associate member of FaCH. She is a Lecturer in the School of Biomedical and Health Sciences at UWS. Her main area of teaching is in research methods, biostatistics and epidemiology. She has taught students from a wide range of health-related disciplines from Naturopathy to Medicine at both undergraduate and postgraduate level. Sungwon has a background in statistics and has been involved in a number of projects including external consultancy across different health disciplines as a data analyst. Welcome to FaCH Sungwon.
NEW GRANTS

We are absolutely delighted in the recent grant successes of FaCH members regarding the recent round of ARC Linkage and NHMRC grants commencing funding in 2009. Congratulations to all!!

ARC Linkage grants to commence 2009

Motherhood choices: a decision aid for women with rheumatoid arthritis Dr T Covic; Dr A Sharpe; A/Prof J Pallant; A/Prof N Manolios; Mrs D Aspinall (Industry partner: Arthritis NSW)

Decisions about pregnancy in the context of debilitating rheumatoid arthritis impact directly on both the mother and the child as well as their family and wider social unit. Providing evidence-based information to support women in making informed decisions about motherhood is critical in maximizing the well-being of the mother and ensuring a healthy start to life for a baby. This project will contribute to the national research priority area of promoting and maintaining good health, addressing the goal of supporting a healthy start to life.

A model of integrated care for dependant older people living in the community Dr E Halcomb; Prof R Griffiths; and Dr S Sloggett. (Industry partners: Carrington Centennial Care, Schwartz Family Practice and Tunstall Australisia Pty Ltd).

This project aims to develop an innovative model of care to support and maintain ageing individuals within the community setting.

Many existing programs aimed at supporting older people living in the community fail to bridge the gap between community and primary care. In fact, existing programs do not focus on early interventions in response to changes in the health status of elderly members of the community at all. The use of community carers to support self-management is a novel approach to address current limitations in health service provision and assist elderly people to remain in their homes for as long as possible. The project is embedded within National Research Priority areas: promoting & maintaining good health & ageing well, and ageing productively.

This research offers significant economic and social benefits through case management and telemedicine to identify strategies to support self management in chronic disease; early intervention to benefit morbidity and mortality; enhanced service delivery through an integrated model that includes general practitioners, practice nurses and community carers, leading to improved management of chronic and complex disease, reducing costs to the health system through emergency department presentations, hospital and residential care admissions; and developing a role for practice nurses to triage patients and provide a range of clinical care within agreed guidelines. Once developed, this model will reflect the policy of the Federal Government to establish practice nurses as effective providers of primary care.

Violence in the hospital setting: Testing the predictive validity of a violence assessment tool for nurses Prof D Jackson; Dr L Luck; Prof L Wilkes; Mrs M Clarke, (Industry partner: Sydney West Area Health Service)

Violence against nurses has significant negative consequences experienced by the individual and organisations in the national and international healthcare context. However, there are no valid violence assessment tools that can be used by nurses to predict early indicators of potential violence. Outcomes from the project will for the first time provide a validated violence assessment tool for use by nurses in the emergency department and general ward area that will be transferable to other workplace health settings.
**NHMRC Grants**

**Tap water versus normal saline for cleansing wounds**

Prof R Griffiths, Dr J Rowland, A/Prof ML McLaws, Dr R Fernandez, Mr G Sussman

The aim of this double blind randomised controlled trial is to investigate effectiveness of tap water compared to normal saline on clinical outcomes healing and infection rates, patient satisfaction acute and chronic wounds. Wound cleansing is fundamental to wound management; however there is little research to support the use of various solutions and no standard protocols to guide clinicians. Sterile normal saline (0.9%) is recommended increasingly by experts and the use of tap water has also been reported. Tap water has the advantages of being easily accessible, inexpensive, and can be used in large volumes to ensure a thorough irrigation which is an important factor in wound cleansing. This project will be undertaken in an area health service that includes metropolitan, urban and rural sites. Patients will be randomised to have their wounds cleansed with either unchlorinated tap water or normal saline. The outcome of most interest is the infection rate of wounds. Other outcomes assessed will include healing rates, quality of life, and cost effectiveness using validated tools. This study is unique as it will provide a Level 2 evidence for the effectiveness of tap water for cleansing various types of wounds. Given the extensive national and international interest in the topic, this trial is highly significant, with findings informing the development of evidence based guidelines for wound cleansing.

**Quit in General Practice: a cluster randomised trial of enhanced in-practice support for smoking cessation.**

Prof N Zwar, Prof R Richmond, Dr E Halcomb, Dr J Furler, Dr J Smith, Prof R Borland, Mr P Hull

Tobacco smoking remains the most common preventable cause of death and illness in Australia today. Smoking cessation programs are some of the most effective and cost effective strategies that can be undertaken in health care settings, including general practice. This project will test a new approach to supporting smoking cessation in general practice. This involves the practice nurse, GP and Quitline working in partnership to provide a flexible program of support to meet the needs of smokers.

The proposed project is a cluster randomised controlled trial testing two interventions to support smoking cessation in general practice against a control group who receive usual care.

**UWS Research Seed Grants**

**Preventing violence in the hospital setting: validating nursing skills that avert violence**

Dr L Luck. This research is significant because it will offer the first validated, evidence based set of nursing skills that could be used by nurses in Emergency Departments and General Wards to avert or de-escalate violence. There is a gap in the literature with respect to skills that have focused on aversion and de-escalation of violence towards nurses in settings outside of the mental health specialty. Violence towards nurses increases health care costs, and decreases retention and engagement of nursing personnel. Development and testing of a practical evidenced-based set of nursing skills will impact on these significant negative outcomes.
Research Assistant Traineeship Program

As some of you will know, we have recently appointed four trainees to our Research Assistant Traineeship Program. Jen, Niki, Dave and Ruth are all first year nursing students, with a very good record of achievement to date. They have initially been appointed for 15 weeks (3 hours per week), and funded through the WERIN funds. Our three trainees (pictured here) commenced on 17th September. Dave Russel (not pictured) started 1st October.

They are currently undergoing training under the supervision of Michel and Ros. During their training period they will go through a number of training procedures that will include, but not be limited to: literature searching and retrieval; filing; note taking; software training and input for e.g. Endnote; document auditing; data entry; maintaining and retrieving records; photocopying and scanning documents; webpage and vUWS maintenance and, providing assistance to group members and students.

We are envisaging that we will recruit new trainees every semester (or year, depending on availability of resources), and that as they develop skills, we will be able to extend their repertoire of skills so that they can eventually be employed to undertake lit searches, help with ethics applications, and collect and enter data etc by people needing short term research assistant support.

Conference report

The Annual Royal College of Nursing Australia (RCNA) was held in Perth on the 25-27 September with a strong representation of FaCH presenters including academic staff and research students. As you know the RCNA is a national professional member organisation for registered and enrolled nurses. Since its inception RCNA has provided leadership in formal education and, more recently, professional development for Australian nurses. The RCNA also plays an important part in working with state and federal governments to advise on health policy and to lobby for better outcomes within the health system.

The school had a well positioned booth (next to refreshment table) with materials promoting postgraduate course-work and research opportunities. Thankyou to those who transported UWS banners with their luggage.

Thankyou to Professor Debra Jackson for organisation of the required resources and Debbie Taylor-Robson for administering these resources to get them to Perth and ensuring that we had everything necessary for a successful booth. Judy Mannix has kindly supplied a photo of our booth. Thankyou to Lauretta Luck, Lynn Stewart, Judy Mannix, Lesley Wilkes, Olayide Ogunsiji, Glenda McDonald and Sharon Andrew for representing the school at the booth. The booth raised awareness of the postgraduate courses and research opportunities in our school, and our links with the Joanna Briggs Institute and Sigma Theta Tau. The tape-measures and pens with UWS logos were very popular give-aways!

Congratulations to FACH PhD student, Glenda McDonald won the first time presenter award. Well-done to the presenters – and for attracting a strong
audience presence at your presentations. The presenters (co-authors) and papers are listed below: Ms Diana Jefferies (Professor Rhonda Griffiths), An evidenced based approach to practice development.

Ms Marie Hutchinson (Associate Professor Margaret Vickers, Professor Debra Jackson and Professor Lesley Wilkes), Understanding workplace bullying as an organisationally mediated behaviour- findings from a study of Australian nurses. Dr Lauretta Luck (Professor Debra Jackson and Professor Kim Usher), Nursing fostering resilience resisting the negative sequelae of violence.

Ms Judy Mannix and Ms Lyn Stewart (Ms Ana Smith, Ms Mary Goldsmith, Dr Sharon Bourgeois & Ms Rosemary Thomson), Skilling clinical teachers to maximise undergraduate nursing student clinical experiences

Ms Glenda McDonald (Professor Debra Jackson, Associate Professor Margaret Vickers, Professor Lesley Wilkes and Dr Shantala Mohan), Continuing connections: fostering mentoring relationships between retired and working nurses and midwives.

Ms Olayide Ogunsiji (Professor Lesley Wilkes Professor Debra Jackson and Dr Kath Peters), Meaning of health and health behaviours for West African migrant women in Australia.

Professor Lesley Wilkes (Dr Jane Cioffi, Ms Bronwyn Warne, Ms Kathleen Harrison), Clients with chronic and complex conditions: their experience of community nursing services.

FaCH vUWS site
We have been diligently developing our vUWS site over the last few months and this effort has delivered a valuable interactive resource for FaCH members. Here you can quickly locate useful, current information, tips, events as well as being a storehouse for our records, reports etc. If you haven’t done so already, please log in to Elearning and take a look, if you can’t find what you’re looking for let Michel or Debra know as we are continuously adding new material and removing obsolete and dated information.

See below a list of folders from the homepage, drilling down into any one of these folders will avail you of their particular resources.
Report on the September/October Writing Retreats

FaCH members have participated in two more writing retreats this year at the UWS Hawkesbury Conference Centre. In September the retreat catered for 12 participants who completed or were near completion of 15 journal papers as well as working on other academic writing activities over the three day intensive. At the October retreat we had 9 participants and three mentors who achieved outcomes of 14 journal articles either complete or near completion as well as several other writing tasks. Participants noted their deep appreciation in having three days dedicated to writing, especially having the mentors readily available for feedback. A big thank you to all the mentors who have participated in the writing retreats this year, the retreats would not be so successful without your generous commitment in time and energy. Further thanks to the UWS Hawkesbury Conference Centre for their infinite hospitality.

Our final retreat this year will be held 15-17 December.

Michel Edenborough
**Student News**

Our students have been very busy indeed. In addition to the six that graduated in the recent ceremony quite a number of current continuing students have recently presented at conferences, or had papers accepted for publication. Well done to all. Students have also been busy participating in various activities such as Writing Circle, Writing Retreats, Research Circle and Publication Syndicate. Special congratulations to...

- Glenda McDonald, who won the First Time Presenter Award for "Continuing connections: Fostering mentoring relationships between retired and working nurses and midwives", at the RCNA Conference in Perth. This paper arose from a FaCH ARC project conducted at Nepean Hospital.

- Leila Gholizadeh, for submitting her doctoral thesis. Leila is currently under examination.

- All honours students, for submitting their honours thesis.

- Elaine Burns, who successfully underwent Confirmation of Candidature procedures.

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**Congratulations RHD Graduands**

We recently had six RHD Students graduating this September.

Pictured here at right: Prof Davidson & Dr Salamonson with students’ (Dr Phillips, Dr Newton, Dr Hickman, Dr Fernandez, Ms Gholizadeh) celebrating their achievements.

Pictured here at left: Professor Davidson & Dr Berry, Right: Professor Griffiths & Dr Fernandez after graduation

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<td>Dr Ritin Fernandez PhD</td>
<td>&quot;Brief interventions following an acute coronary syndrome”</td>
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Dementia Conference 2009

The Aged Care, Palliative and Graduate Research stream has invited Dr Volicer and Ms Simard to be their keynote speakers and workshop facilitators for the UWS Dementia Conference and Workshops in July 2009. Here is a short Bio of their work.

Joyce Simard MSW has been involved in long-term care for over 30 years. Ms Simard received her master’s degree in social work from the University of Minnesota and has spent the majority of her career in the private sector. She has worked for many major healthcare corporations as dementia specialist for both skilled nursing facilities and assisted living communities. Ms Simard is now a private consultant dividing her time between the United States and the Czech Republic. Ms Simard has written numerous articles on issues related to dementia care and authored two books. One is a children’s book to help them understand issues related to aging and Alzheimer’s disease. “The Magic Tape Recorder” was published in 2007. She also wrote “The End of Life Namaste Care Program for People with Dementia” that describes a unique program she developed for people with advanced dementia. Ms Simard is a nationally and internationally recognised speaker on subjects related to quality of life for people with dementia.

Ladislav Volicer, MD, PhD, FAAN, FGSA received the Doctor of Medicine degree from Charles University School of Medicine and the Doctor of Philosophy degree in Pharmacology from the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences. Dr Volicer established twenty years ago one of the first Dementia Special Care Units at the Edith Nourse Rogers Veterans Administration Hospital, Bedford MA and introduced the concept of structured palliative care for patients with advanced dementia. Goals of care on this unit were quality of life, dignity and comfort instead of prolongation of life at all costs. Dr Volicer investigated various aspects of dementia care, including behavioural symptoms, medical complications and eating difficulties. He recently became Courtesy Full Professor at the School of Aging Studies, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL and is also a Visiting Professor at the 3rd Medical Faculty at Charles University in Prague, Czech Republic. Dr Volicer is recognized as an international expert on advanced dementia care and was an invited speaker in Southeast Asia and Australia. He published over 200 articles and chapters, and edited four books on clinical management of dementia.

Esther Chang

Advanced Notice

A friendly reminder we have two visiting scholars who will be joining us. Details below.

Professor Bob Anders

In February, we will be welcoming Professor Bob Anders, details will be posted on the vUWS site as soon as they become available. Professor Bob Anders is from the University of Texas at El Paso. Some of you will remember Bob from his previous visit. Prof Anders is a certified clinical nurse specialist in psychiatric mental health nursing and in nursing administration at the advance level by the American Nurses Credential Center. He is an expert on psychiatric mental health quality of care and is actively sought as a speaker and consultant both nationally and internationally.
NIPPER

Members of the NIPPER program have had a productive time over the past six months. All of the studies identified as part of the program have progressed, with numerous ethics applications prepared, submitted and approved, data collected and for some analysis commenced. The results of at least three of these studies will be used to inform the development of national competitive funding applications (e.g ARC Linkage Grants).

NIPPER has supported a number of seminars, most particularly a new seminar series under the umbrella title of Health Care for Women and Families in the West. This series aims to connect research and practice and provide an avenue to feedback research to practitioners.

We have also prepared and submitted funding applications to the: NHMRC, ARC and Australian Rotary Health Foundation. The collaborative requirements of these submissions have provided opportunities to strengthen our links with our academic and clinical colleagues, with their inclusion as co-investigators.

We were very pleased to welcome Associate Professor Hannah Dahlen to NIPPER. Hannah is actively involved in a number of research projects that will contribute to the development of this research stream.

Exploring Pregnancy Outcomes (ExPO)

The ExPO research node represents a collaborative partnership between researchers from within FaCH and the School of Nursing and Midwifery, the School of Medicine and the School of Biomedical and Health Sciences.

Following a series of meetings and discussions the team have developed a number of research studies these are discussed below.

Dr Margie Duff was employed to provide support and project development for ExPO, studies include: Exploring Obesity in...
Workforce Education Research in Nursing (WERiN)

WERiN continues to develop well with a lot of activity in two key areas – research and member development. In relation to research, the SATIN project is well underway, under the leadership of Dr Liz Halcomb. Liz and the team have done an excellent job of getting a very large and complex project off the ground in a very short time frame, to meet the requirements of the funding. Ethics approval was obtained in super-quick time, and data collection is now well underway.

The CENSUS project is also well underway, under the leadership of Dr Sharon Bourgeois. This project focuses on clinical education and will not only provide valuable information to assist us in understanding more about students clinical learning experiences, but will also help provide valuable information to inform the development of further projects. Sharon and Liz and their teams will keep us all updated on the progress of these exciting projects over the coming months.

In addition to these two projects, there are several other projects underway, and in development. More information about WERiN projects is available on our WERiN vUWS site (accessible via the FaCH vUWS site).

Member development is the other area of intensive WERiN activity. Most of our members have now participated in meetings to help develop a personalised plan for research productivity. I would like to thank Dr Yenna Salamonson most sincerely for the collegial generosity she has shown in participating in mentoring so many WERiN members. Nearly all our members are now actively engaged in at least one project, and most are also engaged in writing and other scholarly activities. Some of these activities will come to fruition over the coming months.

Finally, we are continuing to explore opportunities to conduct epidemiological research using linked data, with a proposed project Breastfeeding in NSW: Multi-level modelling of factors influencing breastfeeding initiation investigating the suitability of data recorded on the NSW Midwives data collection set since 2006.

All projects are supported by teams of researchers from within the Family and Community Health Research Group and the School of Nursing and Midwifery, the School of Medicine and the School of Biomedical and Health Sciences.

More information on these projects and the ExPO research node can be found on the FaCH vUWS site. If anyone would like to talk more about the possibility of linking with this group please do not hesitate to contact Virginia on v.schmied@uws.edu.au (ext 9505) or Annie on ann.mills@uws.edu.au (ext 9022).
We are holding a writing retreat in December, and this is now fully subscribed.

We will be planning for 2009 in the next few weeks. At this stage, we intend to again hold (at least) quarterly member meetings at which members will present their project work and a range of issues will be discussed. We will also be continuing with our other innovations such as the Research Traineeships, Writing activities, and Mentoring Program. If you have any suggestions for additional activities, please get in touch and let us know.

Thanks for all your support and generous participation in 2008, and I hope that you will come back again in 2009!

Debra Jackson

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**Academic Resources**

**Publication Syndicate**

Recently WERiN commenced a Publication Syndicate with a small group of academics to meet monthly from September to December 2008 facilitated by Ros and Michel. The aims of the Publication Syndicate are to:

- increase the publication rate of its members. Research has shown that syndicates are an excellent opportunity to achieve an increased output for their members and also to develop strong collaborative activities within university departments
- support WERiN academic staff in developing a strong research and publication profile
- facilitate a supportive environment to provide constructive and scholarly feedback of each member’s works in progress. This process is an enormously helpful way to help plan, write, revise and publish quality scholarly work and it is of great benefit to all members in their professional life
- encourage each member to finalise or produce a paper ready for submission to a scholarly journal before the end of 2008.

We envisage this activity will continuously evolve as participating academics require less support and move on, allowing new members to join in. The current process is followed:

- One week before the meeting, each member submits to the facilitators a manuscript of a draft publication work in progress that will be circulated to all others in the group
- Each member reads the other manuscripts and comes prepared to the meeting with supportive and constructive feedback, allowing each person to receive valuable feedback from all other members

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**Research Circles**

So far this semester there have been three research circles meetings, all of which have been well supported by both staff and research students. Presentations have included a diverse range of topics and have created much scholarly discussion. Thus far, the following people have presented aspects of their research at the circles meetings: Elaine Burns, Rakime Elmir, Laura Hardaker, Glenda McDonald, Olayide Ogunsiji, Rebecca O’Reilly, Debra Raymond and Tamara Vallido. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for willingly sharing and discussing your work. We also extend our thanks to all staff and students who have attended meetings and provided valuable feedback to those presenting.

Kath Peters

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The final research circle for this year will take place at Campbelltown Campus check the vUWS site for details. We look forward to seeing you there.
Latest FaCH Conference Calendar
For all the latest information on upcoming conferences please go to our FaCH vuWSS site. If you know of any conferences, forums, seminars or workshops you would like to see included there please forward to Michel m.edenborough@uws.edu.au

In addition, if you have any recent articles, photos or information that you would like to share in future editions of the FaCH eNewsletter, you can also send them to Michel m.edenborough@uws.edu.au

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Recent FaCH Publications

**Books, Book Chapters and Journal Papers for 2008 to date**


Please see below a few more pictures from our recent writing retreats

*Featured below right Dr Athena Sheehan, left Dr Shantala Mohan & Ms Rebecca O'Reilly and at bottom right Ms Elaine Dunn & Ms Leah East, bottom left Prof Debra Jackson*