



The Mortar

No added VSU

The Sydney University Pharmacy Association Newsletter

March 2005 | Vol 2 No 2

Coming events

- 7 Mar 05 | Back to uni...
 - Mar 05 | Welcome back BBQ
 - Mar 05 | Pub crawl
 - May 05 | Harbour cruise
 - Week 8 | Careers forum
 - Week 10 | Trivia night
 - 3 Jun 05 | Elections+AGM
- Dates may be subject to change.
More details on the SUPA website*



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Kieren Po, Secretary

WORK BUYS FREEDOM

Students encouraged to volunteer their labour



Kieren Po/kpiou

Pharmers Society students from Charles Sturt University Wagga Wagga campus lending a hand for the cause CANBERRA: A new capital infrastructure policy was announced by the Federal Government today as part of the higher education reforms introduced in the "Our Universities: Backing Australia's Future" report, also known as the Nelson Review.

Owing to the decline in funding of tertiary education during the past 9 years of Liberal government, students have been encouraged to volunteer their labour in the maintenance and construction of university buildings in exchange for freedom from HECS debt.

The Vice-Chancellor of the University of Antarctica, Professor Georg Busch, commented, "We initially tried to use the work-for-the-dole scheme to maintain our infrastructure, but it did not meet our expectations. Then we realised that we our students have unique attributes making them suited for the task. These are highly educated and motivated people, with specific skills sets required for infrastructure maintenance."

The policy was first implemented at the former University of Sydney campus that has since been sold to Charles Sturt University (CSU). The facilities were found to be suboptimal for CSU's nascent pharmacy course at Orange campus, so students were recruited to help with the refurbishment.

Our sources indicate that a similar program might be introduced at the University of Sydney, owing to the late-running schedule of refurbishment work on the Bank Building. Students from the Faculty of Pharmacy with specific skills in stonemasonry, electrical or plumbing, may be encouraged to assist in the assimilation of the Bank Building for the Faculty.

As this article went to press, a faint collective voice could be heard emanating from the Bank Building, "We are the Faculty of Pharmacy. You will be assimilated. Resistance is futile!"

Disclaimer: This article is satire.

La Presidente

with SUPA President Claire McCormack



Welcome to SUPA. This year is going to be the best year yet! Following on from a successful 2004, where we won the University of Sydney Union Club/Society of the Year, SUPA plans to make 2005 even better.

SUPA is all about its members - without you we wouldn't be the great club that we are. Everyone should get involved and enjoy the great student life at Sydney Uni, and SUPA will be there to ensure that you have a balance between your studies and social life.

The Executive of your SUPA Committee have been working hard throughout the holidays getting everything organised [ed: "organised" perhaps =)] for a fun-filled semester

ahead. We hope that you make the most of all the activities and member benefits that we have planned for this year.

If ever you need advice on anything pharmacy-related, please come and see us at the SUPA Office (we're on level 2 directly underneath the Pharmacy Lecture Theatre and near the Faculty mail room) or send us an e-mail (supa@mail.usyd.edu.au) - we can help you out with whatever you want to know!

I look forward to meeting as many of you as I can at uni and SUPA events. And, in the SUPA spirit, have a SUPA year!!!



NAPSA

...better than Napster

As a SUPA member you are also a member of the National Australian Pharmacy Students' Association (NAPSA). And, as a NAPSA member, you are also a member of the International Pharmaceutical Students' Federation (IPSF). Impressive eh?

SUPA was one of the founding members of NAPSA, and is the largest constituent organisation. NAPSA is around 4000 members strong, from 9 pharmacy schools across the country.

So what does NAPSA do for you? Well, amongst other things we represent you at the professional and community levels. We foster links between students in the different pharmacy schools throughout Australia and provide support to the student organisation committees.

In terms of more tangible member benefits... NAPSA members receive our quarterly newsletter *Placebo*, which is closely linked with our website (www.napsa.org.au), to help you keep up-to-date with all things pharmacy. We hold an annual Congress (see the article that follows), so members from across the country can socialise, network, and learn about contemporary pharmacy issues. There is also a NAPSA American Express card which members can apply for, and much more!

Look out for Pharmacy Week in the next month or two - where we'll be running pharmacy awareness campaigns across Australia simultaneously!

There will be a lot of NAPSA stuff happening in the coming year and we're hoping that everyone joins in. If you have any enquiries about NAPSA you can get in touch with us through SUPA.

Catherine Bronger & Kieren Po
NAPSA National Councillors



Zeitgeist

editorial by Kieren Po, Secretary



I'm so in awe of Queensland that I don't know how to express it. The sunny weather, the wildlife (cane toads, geckos, bush turkeys... at uni!), public transport that works (you haven't seen buses until you've caught a bus from Queen St Mall underground bus station to the southern suburbs via the Brisbane Busway), the whole "wear thongs and shorts everywhere" culture, the overuse the word "smart" (Premier Peter Beattie: "you've made a smart choice coming to the smart state..."), weird appropriation of Sydney public transport names (CityTrain, CityCat), weird lingo (just what is a "plugger" supposed to be anyway?), etc.

So you might ask what relevance this has to pharmacy. Well, none really (besides NAPSA Congress - see the article that follows). I just thought that readers might appreciate a break from my usual leftie political rant.

Then again I can't resist taking a swipe at the Liberal government. They have stated their ambition to introduce Voluntary Student Unionism (VSU) when they gain a major-

ity in both houses later this year. This would spell disaster for the student life at Sydney Uni, as much clubs/societies funding comes from the University of Sydney Union, which would struggle under VSU. It would also greatly reduce the student political voice of the Sydney Uni SRC. The Liberals seem to think that people should have a choice about whether they can withhold their money from what they allege are "dubious causes" and "extravagant projects". But, as SRC Education Officer Michael Janda has asserted, I don't stop paying my taxes when the Liberals waste my taxes on dubious causes and extravagant projects like the war in Iraq. I'll close with a line from "Holiday" by Green Day from *American Idiot*.

"I beg to dream and differ from the hollow lies / This is the dawning of the rest of our lives..."

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If you have any feedback or comments about *The Mortar*; or are interested in writing an article, please contact us via e-mail.

Under the stars

2004 Alphapharm Pharmacy Ball



Cati Bronger

The 2004 Alphapharm Pharmacy Ball, entitled "A Night Under the Stars", was held on 20 November 2004 in the Holme Refectory at the University of Sydney. Around 300 pharmacy students and guests attended one of the biggest events in SUPA's social calendar. It was a memorable night,

especially as a farewell for the many fourth-year students who were there, though not many people will remember much from the after-party at the Cargo Bar.

Guests included Professor 'Charlie' Benrimoj, Dean of the Faculty of Pharmacy; Mr John Bronger, Pharmacy Guild National President; Mr Si Banks, Guild NSW Branch President; Ms Simone Diamandis and Ms Rebekah Moles, from PSA NSW branch; and representatives from Alphapharm (pictured above).

We wish to once again thank Alphapharm, the platinum sponsor for the Ball, as well as the gold sponsor Roche and the bronze sponsor Hexal.

NAPSA Congress 2005

Diversity in pharmacy, and hot summer nights in BrisVegas

Weather abstract: "Stinking hot and humid one day, pouring the next five days, then perfect..."

NAPSA Congress Brisbane was held from 24-30 January 2005 at the University of Queensland (UQ) St Lucia campus. We were accommodated at King's and Union Colleges at UQ. Those of us who were lucky enough to stay at King's College got to enjoy the lack of flyscreens and fans. One of the Brisbane taxi drivers, a former Kingsman, even called the place "The Ghetto".

Around 300 pharmacy students from across Australia attended this Congress - the biggest ever. It was also the first time there were delegates invited from the New Zealand Association of Pharmacists & Students (NZAPS; their equivalent of NAPSA) and Griffith University Association of Pharmacy Students (GUAPS).

Perlon Leung



Perlon Leung

The theme was "Diversity in Pharmacy", with talks and forums centred on different facets of the profession including: hospital, rural, international, industrial, retail, defence, academic, legal, and the future.

Social events included the welcoming party at "The RE" pub, a pub crawl (that not many people remember), an Australia Day boat cruise on the Brisbane River, a trip to Dreamworld, a "beach" party held at the artificial beach at South Bank, a trivia night, and the NAPSA Ball.

The 63 SUPA members who went had a great time. We hope everyone in SUPA will consider going to the next Congress. NAPSA Congress 2006 will be held in Tassie and is provisionally titled "Welcome to the family."



Keren Po

How S*** works

PG-rated for pharmacy goodness



The SUPA committee for 2004/05 hard at work in a meeting...

So what's the deal with this SUPA thing anyway? What is this mysterious pharmacy student organisation whose acronym has one of the greatest potentials for sad jokes on campus?

Well, never fear, all (well, a lot...) will be explained in this issue of *The Mortar*, the official organ of SUPA. Okay, we call it a "newsletter" these days but back when SUPA was founded, in 1963 by the late Les Cashen, it was an "organ". The internet wasn't around in 1963, of course, so our award-winning website lacks an anachronistic quasi-phallic name. We have a long and illustrious history of providing our members with services, advice, and organising top-notch social events.

SUPA is a society of the students, for the students. The Executive, Organising Committee and Year Representatives are elected by the members for

one year terms. We meet every week to organise the hectic schedule of events, and the SUPA Office is open during lunch time on uni days.

There is a lot of consultation with members, everyone has the opportunity to provide input. If you have an issue or concern about anything pharmacy-related, speak with your year reps. This is important, as SUPA represents the pharmacy students of Sydney Uni to the Faculty of Pharmacy (staff-student liaison), to the University administration (Faculty academic review and NAPSAC accreditation), to the profession and the community.

Okay, so there's NO WAY we can cover all there is to know about SUPA in this short column. There's a bit more on our website, and you can always feel free to pop by the SUPA Office for a chat. See you soon!

Pharma lingo

useful pharmacy phrases in... Queenslandish*

English

- hello, how's it going
- i am the pharmacist
- looks like you need a middy of 'New'
- you need to take your medicines
- CityRail/RiverCat sucks!

Queenslandish

- Crikey! Look at this little beauty!
- i am Terry White
- looks like you need a pot of XXXX
- Thorpie says the drugs are fully sik!
- CityTrain/CityCat works!

*SUPA does not guarantee the relevance of these phrases to your clinical practice. With apologies to Mr S. Irwin of Beerwah QLD, Mr T. White, and our friends at the Queensland Pharmacy Students Association (QPSA) and the James Cook University Pharmacy Students' Association (JCUPSA).

Books

Book order 2005

Once again SUPA will be conducting a book order in the first few weeks of Semester. This is your opportunity to get pharmacy textbooks and equipment at lower than the advertised "student prices", and with the convenience of pickup at the SUPA Office in the Pharmacy Building.

Items available for order this time around include:

- AMH 2005
- APF19
- Therapeutic Guidelines (TGs)
- spatulae
- dispensing weights

We will also be organising a second hand book sale for 15-16 Feb (Week 2), where you can buy and sell old textbooks.

Listen out for announcements from your SUPA reps who will also be distributing order forms. You can also get the order form from the SUPA website. Orders are due in by Friday 18 Feb (Week 2).

Vote

SUPA elections

SUPA is run by a committee who are elected each year. Your current committee is:

President: Claire McCormack

Vice-President: Emma Bibby

Treasurer: Adrian Sobol

Secretary: Kieren Po

Sports Coordinator: Elias Wehbe

Events Coordinator: Susan Gao

Merchandising: Katherine Cheung

NAPSA National Councillors:

Catherine Bronger & Kieren Po

We also have two representatives from each year ("year reps") not already represented on the committee. Year reps represent the interests of their year in SUPA decisions and events.

An election for year reps will be held within the first few weeks of semester. Listen out for the announcements and, if you're up to it, seriously consider running for election.