

NEWSLETTER

Students have their say at last SCAPS general meeting

Students' are keen to access some of SCAPS benefits

The Sunshine Coast has 179 APS members – of whom twenty five are students. Although we often hear from our well-established psychologists, who regularly update us on the immediate issues and concerns that face our daily practices, we have now also gained a better appreciation of the students' views.

There was a general consensus that one of the reasons students have joined the APS was to obtain a wider picture of being a psychologist. Some felt that in their undergraduate years, universities reveal very little about the reality of being one – little glimpses amongst predominant academic views. Joining the APS was seen as an opportunity to network and gain knowledge of current and local issues about being a psychologist. Furthermore, it was also seen as an opportunity to make professional friends and acquaintances, and to find mentors that one could consult with when faced with new or difficult situations, ethical dilemmas, or simply to ask questions. An opportunity for ongoing professional development was also identified as an important reason to be affiliated with the APS.

There were concerns raised with the costs of becoming an APS member. There was a perception that the APS catered more to private practitioners by offering indemnity insurance. Insurance not being available to honours students prevented some from accepting an opportunity to undertake voluntary work in the field – experience that might have secured future employment and opportunity to complete the Supervised Practice Program. Students reported they felt that they were in a "Catch 22" situation.

The current lack of accredited supervisors on the Sunshine Coast was also a significant concern. Students were

apprehensive about possible delays in their registration and ongoing costs associated with supervision towards full registration.

Keen to put the many years of study and acquired skills into practice, students were eager to know the available employment opportunities as new graduates and provisionally registered psychologists. It became evident that employment opportunities for new graduates were numerous and wide, although not all positions were necessarily associated with duties commensurate with the requirement for registration with the Psychologists Board of Queensland. Some of the predominant employing agencies identified were Child Protection, Job Search agencies with the government and non-government sector, Commonwealth Rehabilitation Services, Queensland Health, Correctional Services, Community Organisations (e.g., Life Line, Family Australia, Mission Australia).

The ambiguity of "eligible for registration" statement seen on many job applications was questioned. Applicants were encouraged to clarify the meaning with the advertising organization as it could mean eligibility for Full Registration or eligible for Provisional Registration.

Some reported to avoid meetings due to a feeling of intimidation or anxiety about not fitting in amongst highly experienced psychologists. I hope we have dispelled that myth with the friendly faces, warm atmosphere, good food and wine.

Suggestions for earlier and shorter meetings, and more attractive venues were made – though no consensus was reached.

As you can appreciate, your ongoing input is needed – so please do not hesitate to get in touch with us.

Thank you

On behalf of the SCAPS committee I would like to thank Deb Deberry and Jacqui Ball for instigating and facilitating the general meeting on 17 August. Thank you to all members and students who attended and participated in the important discussions.

Thanks too for all the positive feedback which we have received from you about the opportunity to share your views.

We regret that some of you were not able to attend because of residential study commitments. For your interest, this month's Newsletter summarises the key issues that current students and new graduates have raised at the meeting and emails.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you would like to share your views or contribute to the Newsletter. We would like to hear about your areas of interest and research.

We have some exciting things planned for the forthcoming months so hope to see you again before too long. Please review the Calendar of Events carefully.

Our next meeting is a social function at the University of Sunshine Coast on June 12. Professor Mary Katsikitis, the Head of the new School of Psychology at USC will share with us her views on what promises to be an exciting future of psychology on the Sunshine Coast.

Hope to see you all there.

Maggie

Notice Board

Air conditioned consulting rooms in established counselling practice at Caloundra for hire. Plenty of parking space. Contact Dr Gary Embelton (07) 54501120.

Offices available in Cooroy – two consulting rooms and a reception area – rent \$712.56 per month. Contact Jean McGruvie, the Division of General Practice (07) 5456 8888.

Looking to assist with Medicare administrative tasks for private practice. Psychologist with private practice experience, completed Certificate IV in Small Business and Administration. Contact Trish Hodges 0417 604 703 or (07) 5476 7640.

Psychology tests wanted. If you have any psych tests that you are no longer using, and wish to turn them into cash, please contact Colin on 0412 535 514.

Disclaimer: The information presented on this Notice Board does not reflect the views of SCAPS. Notices are placed on the board with the view of promoting services to SCAPS members. There are no costs incurred. Please note that notices advertising professional vacancies or profit-making activities will not be accepted.

Peer support groups

Tony Collins

25th June from 6 - 8pm
Eden Health Care Centre,
46 Maple Street
Cooroy
5447 7473

Robyn Nolan

1st Mondays of the month at 5.00pm
Coolum
RSVP to check location
5473 9547

APS Sunshine Coast Branch
PO BOX 724
MOOLOOLABA QLD 4557

Office Bearers for 2006 – 2007

As a committee we will also meet on the second Tuesday of each alternative months – so please contact us if there is anything you would like to raise with us. Your committee contacts are:

Please email newsletter contributions to
mb@maggiebailey.com.au

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Calendar of events

June 12	7.30pm	AGM and social event	University of the Sunshine Coast
<i>Presenter will be Prof. Mary Katsikitis, Head of School of Psychology, USC who will share her views on the future of psychology on the Sunshine Coast.</i>			
July 21	9.00pm	Dr John Barletta Full-Day Workshop	University of the Sunshine Coast
<i>Topic will be "Solutions Focused and Brief Therapeutic Interventions: When Less is More"</i>			
August 14	7.30pm	SCAPS General Meeting	Percy House Church St Maroochydore
<i>Presenter will be Ms Georgia Ash speaking about "Psychology and HIV/AIDS."</i>			
September 22		Dr Gene Moyle Full-Day Workshop	TBA
September 26-30		APS National Conference	Brisbane
October 9	7.30pm	SCAPS General Meeting	Percy House Church St Maroochydore
November		Christmas Function	TBA