The year 2012 has been a tremendously successful year for SHARP. We have recruited over 250 new SHARPies throughout the year, with our total membership currently well over 550. We have maintained consistent and substantial levels of involvement by our members at the university, in the community, and much wider. Our events offer members extensive opportunities for professional and personal development, interdisciplinary and interuniversity networking and a lot of fun whilst furthering the cause of rural health. Our events this year reflect our ambition to drive positive community change and a diverse array of experiences to our members:

**Welcome BBQ for new Medical Students (February 13)**
A welcome, meet and greet for new first year medical students. SHARP presented to the new students and ran the BBQ.

**Orientation for new Health Students (February 22)**
Over 500 commencing students viewed a presentation on events held in 2011 and the opportunities SHARP offers. All students were given a lanyard and USB thumb drive that contained information on SHARP and the wider NRHSN. SHARP members also acted as “O Hosts” and showed students across the campus, told them about university life, and ran the BBQ. Students were advised of Clubs and Societies Day.

**Clubs and Societies Day (February 22)**
SHARP ran a stall promoting the club, displaying a bicycle prize that would be awarded to a lucky new member. The stall contained ‘Gutsy Gus’ anatomy model, information booklets, membership forms and SHARP temporary tattoos.

**Goodwill Hunting (February 24 – 26)**
Staff and students donated household items ranging from tea towels to lounge suites. SHARPies volunteered over the three days of the event and in the four weeks prior sorting through donated items. Over 500 students across the university were able to collect items. The event continues to grow after it’s second year.

**Clubs Day on the Lawn (February 29)**
Students were encouraged to join SHARP, with the bicycle prize again on display. The stall included ‘Gutsy Gus’ anatomy model, SHARP temporary tattoos, membership forms and information booklets.
Wollongong Triathlon Event ‘TriTheGong’ (March 10 – 11)
A community event that raises money for the Disability Trust. 31 Enthusiastic SHARpies volunteered over the weekend to help with the 1500 registrations, marshals, and were among the St John Ambulance volunteers.

Annual General Meeting (March 16)
The presentation of 2012 Executive Committee, established by a previous online vote. Attendance was over 60 SHARpies day for lunch and information on upcoming events. The winner of the bicycle was also announced.

Close The Gap Day (March 22)
Annual event run by SHARP at the university. There were more stalls than previously in 2012, including AIME, Aboriginal Medical Service, Reconciliation Australia, Headspace, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Healing Foundation and Woolyungah Indigenous Centre. A BBQ was run to help Indigenous students attend the Australian University Indigenous Games later in the year. Over 50 students from various disciplines assisted with the day.

Rural High School Visits to Nowra Anglican College (March 27)
The RHSV was attended by over 80 year 10 students with specific interest in a health related degree. The six SHARP members were joined by members of CRANC – the University of Canberra rural health club and ran 3 separate workshops for the students – anatomy, plastering and blood pressure.
Health and Behavioural Sciences Reconnect BBQ (March 28)
A BBQ lunch was held for all new students in HBS aimed to keep them engaged and promote SHARP. SHARPies operated the BBQ and signed up new members. The certificates were also presented to those who volunteered for TriTheGong.

Weekend event for Close The Gap (April 28-29)
Event held in Canberra organised by ANU rural health club, which was attended by 12 SHARP members from each school of HBS. SHARPies interested in rural and remote health, particularly Indigenous health were treated to fantastic speakers, fun events and great interdisciplinary networking opportunities.

Hills Hoist Series – Royal Flying Doctors Service (May 1)
The evening offered two fantastic presenters. Dr. David Garne discussed his work managing medical students in Broken Hill, and serving the RFDS by providing GP services to remote clinics and emergency aeromedical retrievals. Leanne Heaton spoke about working as a paramedical in city and rural locations and her experience as a nurse covering rural and remote NSW, NT, QLD, SA and WA. 46 SHARPies attended, primarily those of the GSM, but nursing and health science students were in attendance.

Murrumbidgee Road Trip and Rural High School Visits (May 11-13)
5 SHARPies drove to three regional high schools: Gundagai High School, Temora High School and Yanco Agricultural High School. The trip promoted health services in regional areas, discussed moving to university, health degrees and UOW-specific information. As well as being informative members had fun plastering fingers and assembling an anatomy model with high school students. The teachers were appreciative of the trip we made, as this was a rare opportunity for many school students to interact with university students.
Schizophrenia Awareness Week (Special Guest Speaker Event) (May 16)
SHARP members attended and promoted the presentation by acclaimed poet/author Sandy Jeffs on her experiences of living with schizophrenia.

Information Session on SHARP Activities (May 23)
An event designed to engage with more members, particularly first year students. Information was given on upcoming events and students mingled and exchanged stories over a free pizza lunch. It was very informal, but students enjoyed meeting the committee members and learning about the club and its place in the wider NRHSN.

Prize Night for Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences (May 25)
At the HBS awards night, SHARP presented to over 200 students and invited guests on the club and awarded the SHARP Rookie of the Year and the SHARP Leadership Award to members who have made extensive contributions over the past twelve months. The recipients received $100 and a plaque.

Walking for Reconciliation (May 30)
Woolyungah Indigenous Centre (WIC) organised a walk for those supporting reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians, which was attended and supported by SHARPies.

Mental Health First Aid Course (June 23–24)
The 2-day accredited program held over a weekend at UOW had 36 SHARPies attend from both Wollongong and Bega campuses. Accommodation was provided for those who attended from Bega.
Alice Springs Camel Cup (July 14 – 15)
3 SHARPies attended the world famous Camel Cup, as well as met locals and learnt about opportunities available to health students/graduates in Alice Springs.

Bandage Bear Fundraiser (July 15)
20 SHARPies volunteered to run a raffle at the Western Suburbs Illawarra Leagues Club. The focus of this event is improved health services in the Illawarra area. SHARPies also did a collection among other RSL guests.

In2Uni Days (UOW) (July 23-26)
Monday-Thursday saw SHARPies run a small discussion with 25 students each day on rural health accompanied by information on health degrees available at university. The students also learnt how to take blood pressure with a stethoscope and plastered their fingers.
Clubs Day (July 25)
Enthusiastic SHARPies and ‘Gutsy Gus’ manned a stall to attract new members.

In2Uni Day (Batemans Bay Campus) (July 27)
2 SHARPies travelled with the In2Uni Crew to the Batemans Bay campus to present to visiting high school students. The activities of this trip were the same as those held at the main campus but were presented to a larger group.

Illawarra Police Charity Ball (July 27)
SHARPies helped wrap prizes and later run the raffle on the evening, with 9 SHARPies involved and many more attending the evening.

National University Rural Health Conference (August 9 – 12)
10 SHARPies travelled to Creswick (Victoria) to attend the 2-day health conference. The multidisciplinary conference marks the biggest event of the year for Australian health students with an interest in rural health. As well as learning about rural health from Australia’s health leaders, SHARP was successful in a number of competition fronts:

- Best Rural Health Club Event – ‘Check It’ held annually in Wollongong
- Outstanding Contribution to Rural Leadership – Teena Downton (Medicine)
- Janie Dade Smith Award for contribution to Indigenous health – Justin Cain-Bloxsome (Exercise Science)
- Golden Windmills Dance Competition Runner Up – All attending SHARP members for Bee Gees ‘Stayin’ Alive’ performance
- Best Student Presentation – Nicholas Corr (Medical and Health Sciences) and Kay Kent (Administrator)
- Photography Competition Runner Up – Erin Duff (2nd yr medical and health sciences)

General Meeting (August 29)
All SHARPies were invited to attend an information session about upcoming events and indulge in ice-cream and fruit platters, with over 20 SHARPies attending.

Deadly Days Indigenous Festival (Ballina) (September 6)
4 SHARPies attended the Deadly Days Indigenous Festival in Ballina to inspire Indigenous students in areas from Woolgoolga to Tweed Heads. The students ran a number of activities – including ‘Tools of the Trade’ and the kidney dish relay. Sean Choolburra, Casey Donovan, Justice Crew and Troy Cassar-Dayler also attended the event.

Red Week Fundraiser (September 14)
SHARPies ran a BBQ on the duckpond lawn to help fundraise for Wollongong University Medical Students Society (WUMSS) Red Week.
Bonded Medical Students Information Dinner (September 20)
The evening was organised for all UOW medical students with bonded places. SHARP Co-Presidents presented on the club, the wider network, and the need to reduce the present health inequities between metropolitan and rural Australians.

Rural Appreciation Weekend (Dunedoo) (September 28 – October 1)
6 SHARPies camped out on an operational farm in Dunedoo. As well as learning about the day-to-day lives of country-dwellers, they networked with 150+ medical, nursing and allied health students from universities across Australia. The event included workshops ranging from sheep handling to Indigenous cultural awareness, inspirational guest speakers, team building exercises and more!

Yet to come........

Hills Hoist Seminar (October 9)
There will be three guest speakers discussing global medicine – Dr Helen Rienits, John Cherry and Michael Russell. We hope to have similar numbers as our previous Hills Hoist seminars.

Check It! (October 27)
The annual event provides free health checks to men from the Illawarra at WIN Stadium. The event is made possible by SHARP volunteers.

SHARP Christmas Party (November/December)
This event is always a highlight on the SHARP calendar. Last year we had over 30 members in attendance. This is a celebration our annual achievements and the hope to better it in years to come. Attendees donated wrapped gifts for a local charity. Photos attached are from 2011 Christmas Party.