



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Michael Young

By now you would have read the National President's e-mail regarding my resignation as a Director of AIPM and as ACT Chapter president, along with the Chapter Presidents of NSW, VIC and SA. The AIPM CEO (Peter Shears) and Operations Manager (Cathy Wagner) have also resigned. The National Office is currently being run by Rob Tucker.

AIPM is at a cross-road and has the opportunity to go forward and be strong. This requires strong leadership from the National President and Vice-President who must drive forward key strategies and strategic outcomes.

Through the close engagement with industry and government, the critical project management issues facing all organisations can be identified. By taking an active role promoting project management as a profession and solving such problems it is easy to demonstrate the value that AIPM offers to both members and their employers alike.

I plan to continue to lead the chapter until a new President is voted in by the AIPM Board and will continue to play an active role in the project management community in Australia.

### AIPM Student Award

Last month, I attended the CIT Awards night and presented the inaugural AIPM prize to Rachael Patton who was the most meritorious student in the Diploma of Project Management graduating class. Rachael completed the Diploma part-time over many months between work and a busy family life. Congratulations, Rachael, on your achievement.

### Is your project the best in Australia?

Planning is continuing for the 2008 ACT Project Management Achievement Awards (PMAA) which will be held in late August, as is planning for the National PMAA awards which will be held here in Canberra in October. The ACT has a tradition of winning category awards at the national awards night and it would be great to see an ACT project take out the top gong this year. Once again, I encourage you to get your submissions in.

Details regarding PMAA are available on the AIPM web site, but please contact the ACT Chapter office if you have any questions or would like advice regarding your submission.

### Calling all Volunteers

As mentioned last month, the AIPM recently launched a Community Network Program which aims to bring together project managers who wish to volunteer some of their time to assist not-for-profit organisations who have a need for project management. This initiative, which I highly commend, is being spearheaded in the ACT by Derek Stevens. Further information is also available on this initiative at the ACT Chapter office.

### Setting the Standard

A roadshow will be taking place around Australia during June and July to provide details on the new standards which will apply within AIPM. The launch here in the ACT will be on July 2. More information will be provided in next month's newsletter.

### Are project managers emotionally intelligent?

April's regular forum was a joint activity with PMI and so was held earlier in the month than normal, but in the next month, we still have the monthly WIPM forum and also the PMO SIG meetings happening and will be returning to our regular time and venue for the next general Forum at the end of May.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or would like to know more about anything in this newsletter.

Yours in project management

Michael Young  
Immediate Past President, ACT Chapter

**Upcoming Events and Activities**

The following events are scheduled for the coming month. Each of these events earns CPD points for the attendees.

**May AIPM Forum – 28 May**  
Rakesh Malik**Workplace Flexibility in a Fixed Price World**

Presented by David Mathews of Crystal Approach.

Today there is increasing pressure on Project Managers to deliver on-time, on-budget and to a defined set of outcomes. Yet, employers are offering more flexibility in the workplace to help achieve a work/life balance, and to attract and retain staff.

How do you achieve balance and flexibility in a fixed price project, yet still deliver on the clients' expectations? David Mathews will discuss some of the key approaches benefits and pitfalls of delivering fixed price projects in a flexible working environment.

David Mathews is a Director of Crystal Approach, a Canberra-based ICT Services and Consulting company. He has 20 years experience delivering consultancy, project management and managed services to government and commercial clients.

His technical and senior management experience with government enterprises, local SMEs and multinational organisations mean he builds superior relationships with clients, partners and vendors, with an emphasis on generating quality client outcomes and high value for money.

Crystal Approach specialises in providing practical, intelligent IT solutions to business problems. Combining extensive commercial and public sector expertise with outstanding technical knowledge, Crystal Approach works in partnership with clients to deliver solutions based on business needs rather than supplying isolated services or products.

When: Wed **28 May 2008**

5.30 – 6.10 pm Drinks & Cocktail food

6.10 – 6.15pm Chapter Administration

6.15 – 7.30pm Presentation & Questions

Where: Canberra Club, 45 West Row, Civic

Cost: Free to members

RSVP by Monday 26 May to

[ACT\\_Chapter@aipm.com.au](mailto:ACT_Chapter@aipm.com.au)

**May WIPM Forum – 8 May**  
Debbie Mazlin

Guest speaker for May is Josephine Cornell – HR Business Partner for the Government & Defence industry, EDS – Australia and New Zealand.

Josephine is a chartered member of AHRI and in 2006, received the Telstra Business Woman of the year Award (ACT) for the Commercial and Private Sector. Josephine's topic is one which is

a constant challenge for many women – 'How to juggle a full-time career with motherhood'.

When: Thursday, 8 May, 8am – 10am

Where: University House, Acton

Cost: Cost \$25.00

RSVP by Monday 26 May to

[ACT\\_Chapter@aipm.com.au](mailto:ACT_Chapter@aipm.com.au)

**April PMO Special Interest Group**  
Mike Kennedy

At the time of writing, the topic for the next SIG is still to be announced. However, date and venue are:

When: Thurs **22 May 2008**, 6.00 – 7.30 pm  
Where: Microsoft  
RSVP by Tuesday 20 May to Mike.KENNEDY@deewr.gov.au

**Last Month's Forum reports**

For those who were unable to attend the past month's functions, the following are brief reports on what happened.

**March AIPM Forum**  
Presented by Brian Depree – Raytheon Australia

The speaker at the March forum was Brian Depree – Enterprise Risk Manager for Raytheon Australia. Brian's focus was on 'Beyond the Risk Register' acknowledging that there is a



requirement for a project risk process and register.

However many see that having these and their continual monitoring and

management is the risk process.

Brian suggested that there is more than this to Project Risk Management. When data is collected and analysed this can provide Project Managers with key management information to assist in the success of their projects.

Brian then focused on cost and schedule impacts and through simple models explained the benefits of quantifying these impacts using three point estimates. He explained that once these estimates are available, data can be analysed using Monte Carlo models to turn it into useful information. The outcomes of this analysis are levels of confidence for delivering projects on time and budget and identification

of specific tasks which are both critical and crucial to delivery of the project.

Some of the main points emphasised by Brian were that:

- without quantified data the potential benefits he demonstrated will be difficult to achieve
- this information becomes the basis for informed management judgements on such as pricing, management reserve and schedule targets
- the audience needs to be considered when presenting modelled information so the information is understood and not misinterpreted

This presentation was thought provoking and was focused on the potential benefits that Project Manager's can obtain from analysis of risk and estimating data.



**April joint AIPM/PMI Forum**  
Presented by Ian Hirst

The joint AIPM/PMI forum held on 2 April was a great success – despite the venue having to be changed at the very last minute to accommodate the numbers. Over 90 people attended the forum at the Reid TAFE at which Ian Hirst gave a talk on Emotional Intelligence.

Ian talked about the importance of project managers needing to develop skills so that they could understand individual (especially their own) and group behaviour. He defined Emotional Intelligence as the “ability to monitor one’s own and other’s feelings and emotions, to discriminate among them and to use this information to guide one’s own thinking and actions.”

The bottom line of this approach for project

managers is to be able to improve the overall effectiveness of their teams.

The talk generated considerable discussion and was very well received by those who attended.

**April WIPM Forum**  
Presented by Lindsay Patterson

The April WIPM forum was held on 2<sup>nd</sup> April at a breakfast function at University House and the guest speaker was Lindsay Patterson who spoke on the role the media can play in managing projects.

Lindsay has worked in Defence in a public relations role but more recently was seconded to FaCSIA as part of the PANTER (Public Affairs NT Emergency Response) initiative. Not only was this an extremely high-profile and sensitive project, it also involved coordinating media and information flow across several organisations including DOHA, DEST, Centrelink, DEEWR, the Australian Crime Commission, Defence, the NT Police and others.

Lindsay gave a fascinating talk on a side of project management that is not often covered in traditional project management training - namely how to make the most of media coverage of high-profile projects. Of prime importance, Lindsay highlighted the necessity to

develop a communications and media plan – in advance - to manage the flow of information and principles for talking to the media.

The development and importance of ‘key messages’ was addressed and when working together on a single project, the need for each organisation or agency to ensure that their key messages or responses to the media on any arising issues was not in conflict with the overall objectives of the project. Furthermore, all comment to the media was only to be made from their own agencies perspective. Lindsay also stressed the importance of keeping to the facts and not to apply ‘spin’ to information provided to the media.

In short, the ‘key messages’ from Lindsay’s presentation were planning and the familiar concept of ‘managing the relationship’ and of course, all successful relationships are built on trust.

**April PMO Special Interest Group Workshop  
Mike Kennedy**

The April PMO SIG was hosted as a lunchtime meeting by DEEWR in Civic. The presentation entitled 'Recovering Troubled Projects' by Denise DeCarlo of Mindavation proved to be very popular and stimulated vigorous discussion from the attendees.

A survey has been conducted to ensure that session themes continue to meet the needs of members.

**Other Chapter Information****Contact Details – Roger Birch**

Every month, the newsletter, together with other Chapter information, is forwarded via email to each AIPM member. It is sent to the most recent email address on file. Clearly, if you move and do not advise us of any change of email, then you will not receive the newsletter and so the only way you can stay abreast of the events in the Chapter is via the AIPM web site. For each of the past two months, there have been in excess of 60 emails to members which have failed to be delivered because the email address is incorrect. In some cases, the error is fairly obvious, e.g. the address ends in 'co.au' rather than 'com.au'. However, for the most part, it appears people have moved on and not updated their information on the AIPM Web Site.

If you are reading this message, then you probably will not be one of those 60! However, if you wish to be kept informed of AIPM's activities, it is essential you keep your contact details current. At the moment, a series of letters are being sent to those people whose emails are incorrect with the objective of 'cleaning up' the data base. Hopefully, their mailing address is correct! However, this takes time and, in the interim, those members are not being informed of the chapter's activities.

**Uncollected CPD Documents – Roger Birch**

With all AIPM events in the ACT where registration is done through the ACT Chapter, CPD documents are prepared in advance for the members to pick up at the end of the event. When I took over this job, I inherited quite a number of CPD documents from 2007 which had not been picked up, and I also started to accumulate some from this year.

I have now mailed out all uncollected CPD documents – including those from the joint AIPM/PMI April forum where CPD documents could not be prepared in advance. So, if you are still missing any CPD documents that you believe you should have received, please send me an email including your name and the function in question to [ACT\\_chapter@aipm.com.au](mailto:ACT_chapter@aipm.com.au) and I will endeavour to track it down and send you a copy.

## Project Management Achievement Awards (PMAA) - Roger Birch

Another reminder about the 2008 ACT Project Management Achievement Awards (PMAA), submissions for which are due to close in June. If you have a project which you feel is worthy of recognition, then please consider nominating it for an award in one of the several categories available. It may even get the ACT Project of the Year award!

Please refer to the AIPM web site ([www.aipm.com.au](http://www.aipm.com.au)) for further details on the categories, closing dates for submission and other general information.

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