



President's Report

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Greetings fellow members,

After a very pleasant break, I was delighted to return in time for last month's joint AIPM/ACS forum where John Sheridan gave a very interesting presentation to a large, appreciative group. For those who did not attend and who may have missed the news, AIPM has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Australian Computer Society (ACS) signifying a combined committed focus on profession project management in ICT. As stated on the AIPM web site, "This MOU represents a collaborative approach to both organisations working relationships in areas of professional development, event and member services, media activities, industry activities and government relations."



Here in the ACT, we have been working closely with the ACS for some time as evidenced by the joint forums we have previously held with them, and the success of that relationship was highlighted at this latest forum. As noted elsewhere in this newsletter, an ACS golf day is being opened up to AIPM members and it is anticipated that members of each organisation will be able to attend all future ACS or AIPM events at member rates.

The concept of joint cooperation is also being pursued in the ACT in the WIPM forum. Last month the WIPM Special Interest Group held its second joint workshop with the Women In Engineers (WIE) group. This also was a great success with over 50 people registering for the event. A further joint WIPM/WIE event is planned for later this year.

On 17 June, AIPM also signed an MOU with the International Project Management Association (IPMA) which as AIPM National President, Dr Bill Young noted, "will enhance opportunities for our colleagues in the Asia-Pacific region to participate in a large and growing global project management community." He added, "Ultimately, we expect this initiative to raise project management standards and open doors for Australian project managers internationally." A formal application for IPMA membership will be submitted by AIPM in time for the IPMA Council of Delegates meeting in late September. In addition, AIPM will be making a submission to host an IPMA World Congress in Australia no later than 2012.

All of these moves are very positive and will provide members with far greater opportunities in the future.

It is worth noting that project management skills can be applied in many ways, and this month's forum is an example of how we as project management professionals can not only 'spread the word' about AIPM and project management in general but also look at ways of assisting other organisations who might not otherwise be able to afford professional assistance. The Community Network Program is a great initiative which the ACT Chapter fully supports and I encourage you to come to listen to this presentation even if you are not currently able to get involved yourself.

Yours in project management

Peter Dechaineux

President, ACT Chapter

UPCOMING EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

July Forum – Wednesday 29 July
Community Network Program
Presented by Derek Stevens and Chris Huet
Sponsored by Airservices Australia

Derek Stevens, MAIPM, CPPD, is a project management professional, with over 10yrs experience in the delivery of technical projects in the Defence and Security industries. He has worked for German and British multi-nationals, with extensive experience delivering projects across the Asia Pacific region. Now Canberra based, Derek is currently working with Defence to deliver a range of security projects.

Derek commenced volunteering whilst on a sabbatical in 2007, with a British youth development charity in Borneo. Upon returning to his profession, Derek continued to seek volunteering opportunities. He completed a facilities planning project with Outward Bound Australia in early 2008, and concurrently, established the Community Network Program (CNP) with the ACT Chapter of the AIPM. He is currently seeking to expand and grow this professional volunteering program in 2009, and establish a firm baseline for future growth.

Chris Huet, MAIPM, CPPD, leads the ACT Program and Project Services Practice for SMS Management & Technology. He has over fifteen years experience in the management of complex technical programs, developed first within Defence and then as a consultant with clients in the finance, infrastructure and public sectors. He has particular experience in

program establishment, project start-up, transition planning and stakeholder engagement.

Chris is currently working with the Air Force on its program of acquisition and integration of new fighter aircraft. He is looking forward to the opportunity to further expand his project management experience and contribute to the ACT's not-for-profit sector.

The Community Network Program

The presentation will cover three main areas: What the CNP is, what it isn't plus the benefits of being involved; Previously completed projects, the lessons learned and current projects; and the future of CNP—where to from here.

PLEASE NOTE

The forum will be at **Airservices Australia** who are both hosting and sponsoring this particular event.

The address is:

Ground Floor,

Sir Charles Kingsford Smith Room

When: Wed 29 July 09

5.30-6.10 Drinks & Nibbles

6.10-6.20 Chapter Admin

6.20– 7.15 Presentation & questions

Cost: Free to members

RSVP by Tues 28 July 09 to

Act_Chapter@aipm.com.au

August WIPM – Thursday 6 August

Do You Have to be an ICT Expert? –Presented by Helen Bennett

**Introducing Helen Bennett, award winning Programme Manager/
Senior Project Manager:
ICT Project Management: Do you have to be an ICT expert?**

You can deliver ICT projects without being an ICT expert

There are great career challenges and rewards associated with ICT projects. You may have not explored this career opportunity because you believe you need extensive ICT knowledge. This is a myth that our non-IT expert, Helen Bennett will expose and explain how her experience has led to a range of successful ICT projects.

Your Ticket

WIPM: 6 Aug 09

Venue: University House

Booking Essential Contact:

Roger Birch - 6285 2191

ACT_chapter@aipm.com.au

Members: \$25

Non-Members: \$35

Helen Bennett is a Programme Manager/Senior Project Manager who has a wide variety of ICT Project Management experience from introduction and management of new equipment into military service through to delivering both software applications and network infrastructure projects.

Helen has been managing projects both informally and formally for the past 12 years in both the public and private sectors. Her experiences, within the public sector include Operations Officer of the then newly established Project Management Coaching and Review Directorate within the Defence Materiel Organisation, Project Manager on Geospatial Imagery Projects and Project Director responsible for an evolutionary acquisition/procurement and sustainment programme of projects delivering hardware infrastructure, core software and advance intelligence based software applications and tools.

In 2006, Helen moved into the private sector where she was responsible for the delivery of Secure Gateways and mobile communications capability to Defence.

Other project management related experiences include the development of a Project Management Framework to enable future business growth, the Office of Status of Women where she developed the first 'Women in Trade' booklet and managed the 'Window on Women' data warehouse, and the Directorate of Process Improvement.

Helen is currently with Connexion Business Solutions and works within the Defence Chief Information Officer Group. She is responsible for the management of a small team delivering a number of minor projects and undertaking Sustainment/3rd Level (development) tasks. Concurrently she has developed a Ministerial Submission to deliver a highly adaptive network performance management capability onto Australia's third largest ICT network.

Helen is an AIPM Certified Practising Project Director, has a Bachelor of Business and an Advanced Diploma in Project Management and is currently working on her Masters in Management/Project Management.

LAST MONTH'S FORUM REPORTS

June Joint AIPM/ACS Forum: "Walking the walk - the governance and progress of the Government's ICT Reform Program" by John Sheridan.

John Sheridan gave a very informative talk on AGIMO's role as a catalyst for change in implementing the Gershon recommendations bringing about the most significant change in the use & management of ICT in the Commonwealth Government.

There were 7 major recommendations:

- Improve ICT governance
- Improve agency capability
- More effective & efficient management of BAU spend
- Improve ICT skills development & management
- More effective interaction with industry
- Develop a whole-of-government data centre approach
- Develop a whole-of-government sustainability plan

ICT Governance: the goal was to strengthen pan-government governance with the major elements in place by March 2009. Among the items being examined were: a strategic portfolio management of ICT across FMA agencies; determining priorities for standardization, consolidation and common approaches; and determining the response to emerging ICT trends and issues.

Improve agency capability: the goals in this area are to have capability and methodology and pilots by Sept 2009; methodology implemented in large agencies by Sept 2010; and Target capability and improvement plans by Dec 2010. Some of the areas being targeted here included: an agency capability assessment in 2 pass process for better risk assessment; and guidelines requiring formal assessment of availability of ICT resources outside Canberra to reduce cost initiatives. A COTS tool chosen (P3M3) with no customization and 4 agencies have volunteered for a pilot.

The Global Financial Crisis has created problems worldwide and an OECD statement states there is "greater need for a coordinated, horizontal government approach ... one-third of OECD attempting to centralise ICT-related policies ... Efforts to improve coordination and reduce duplication are likely to intensify with the economic decline, greater strains on government budgets, and pressures on long-term investments." A graph was also displayed showing that the recession has hit when Western Corporate IT investment has been mediocre for six to 7 years.

BAU reduction targets: the first of these have already been achieved. The top 7 categories (about 75% of the reductions) are:

- Renegotiation of outsourced service contracts
- Rationalisation of application maintenance expenditure
- Consolidation of servers &/or server virtualization
- Rationalisation of desktops &/or laptops
- Improved mainframe capacity utilization
- Changes to ICT BAU contractor numbers

Attention was also being placed on the number of FTEs per printer. The current government average is 6.1 whereas the industry average ranges from a low of 5.0 to a high of 15.0. It was noted that the more modern buildings are far better in this regard as they are designed with printer sharing in mind.

ICT skills: the main areas of focus are: contractor adjustments; smaller agency mentoring programs; women in technology executive mentoring; APS ICT cadetship program; and APS ICT apprenticeship program.

The overall goal is to enhance the management of the APS ICT skills base. A draft ICT career and occupational capability framework is being developed; workshops have been held to identify the capabilities required for 13 occupational groups; and a tool set is planned to be on-line to all APS ICT staff by 1Q10.

More effective interaction with industry: In terms of the 'what', this includes: Optimising panels; e-auctions for ICT commodities; and strategic management of key ICT suppliers. The 'how' includes: the formation of a cross-agency consultancy group; and working with AIIA, Ai Group and the ACS.

Whole-of-government data centre approach: The target for a whole-of-government data centre strategy is Sept 2009. AGIMO have established a cross-agency team in Dec 08 to analyse demands for data centre space and to define the strategy including specifications for market testing data centre solutions. No options have been ruled out and an EOI was issued in May 09.

Whole-of-government sustainability plan: The target for this is Dec 09 and will include items such as Green ICT 'Quick Wins' (e.g. Auto

power-off), a Green ICT procurement kit and energy efficiency plans.

The AGIMO Management Committee (AMC): provides strategic oversight for the implementation of the ICT Reform Program and other selected AGIMO programs and projects. It also reviews and approves program and project progress; acts as the Change Control Board for major changes; resolves strategic and directional issues; and provides a clearing mechanism for ICT Reform Program level status reports and major deliverables.

The AMC meets fortnightly and reviews project change requests, project exception reports and other program level issues. Each month, it reviews monthly project performance reports (progress and financial) and monthly program level performance reports (dashboard style).

July WIPM—Project Management Research in Australia and its Implication for Practice—Presented by Jill Owen

Jill is currently doing a PhD in the history of Project Management, especially information management, and talked on the general directions of PM research in Australia (which she suggested is the same as in the US, UK and Canada). There was a recent gathering of about 75% of the academics in the PM area (most researchers in this area are female) who were brought together to look at where research is at.

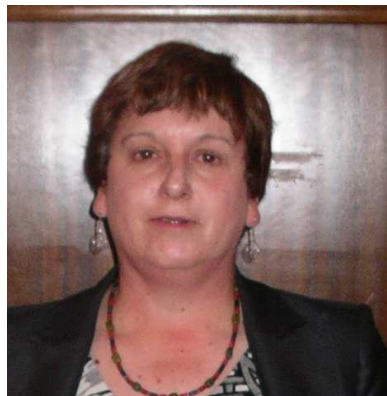
Perhaps the main theme of what Jill was finding in her research is that it is not so much the formality of what is happening as the informality that matters, i.e. when something goes wrong, pick up the phone! The crucial areas relate to change management and informal networks.

Much of project management is 'innate' - "you only need to know what you need to know when you need to know it!" An example was given of building an oil pipeline in the Middle East where it was the soft skills—the people

management, especially across cultures—that were most essential. The cross-cultural issue may not be quite as important in Australia, but even Melbourne and Canberra are different, and Jill found a substantial change just moving from Monash to ADFA (e.g. being called "Ma'am" not "Jill"!)

Even when methodologies are in place, they are often ignored (as a 'straw poll' of those present indicated to be true!) and MBWA (Management By Walking Around) - which was alive and well in the 80's, is being "rediscovered." As the projects increase in size, and cost, the tools are important, but it is still equally important to meet with board members, whenever possible, prior to the board meeting to discuss issues.

To summarise, Jill was saying that there are some very good tools now available, but that it was the soft skills that were potentially more important to successful project management.



Jill Owen

OTHER CHAPTER NEWS

ACS/AIPM Golf Day—23 October

Mention was made earlier of the MOU signed between the ACS and the AIPM. As part of that new cooperation, a joint ACS/AIPM Golf Day is being organised.

We are planning an Ambrose Golf event to be held from 7:30 at Capital Golf course, Narabundah.

Although registrations have not opened yet, you may wish to 'save the date' and start forming teams of four.

The cost including a BBQ lunch is expected to be \$30.

Mike Kennedy is looking for volunteers who may be able to assist with managing various aspects of the event.

Please contact him if you can help.

Mike Kennedy
ICT Infrastructure Services
Dept Families, Housing, Community Services & Indigenous Affairs
Tel: 6244 6446
Mob: 0421 598 330
mike.kennedy@fahcsia.gov.au

Project Management Achievement Awards 2009—26th August

All AIPM members should by now have received an invite for the PMAA function to be held on 26th August at the Realm. That invite provides all the details for the function including the time, address and cost. The PMAA function takes the place of the monthly general forum.

This function provides an opportunity to showcase excellence in project management and provides members with an opportunity to see what is happening here in the ACT in our professional field. The social time both before and after the formal ceremony also provide an opportunity to network with other PMs and discuss some of the issues faced by those who are submitting projects for awards. It is not possible to have all the different

submitters speak at forums and so this function provides an opportunity to talk in person to those who may not get to speak at future forums.

So, even if you haven't made a submission, why not consider coming to this year's PMAA which will be held at the Realm on 26th August?

Not only are you supporting your professional body, you are also supporting the concept of promoting excellence which can only be to the benefit of every single AIPM member.

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Other Sponsors



New Members

The following people have become members during the past month—welcome one and

Members

Mrs Debi Bannerman
Mr Scott Barras
WGCDR Warren Bishop
Mr Scott Brown
Mr Mark Bryant
Mr Patrick Chapman
Mr Peter Crabbe
Mr Pedr Davis
Mr Ty Domin
Mr Sean Feenan
Mr Mark Fielder
Mr Ashley Golding
Ms Cheryl Goodall
Mr Bill Gradden
Mr Anthony Grivell
Mr Trevor Hill
Mr Michael Hutchinson
Mr Jacob Jordans
Mr John Loughhead
Mr Lachlan McKenna
Mr Jock Murdoch

Members (contd)

Mr Tumpal Napitupulu
Mr Jonathan Newton
Mr Kelwyn O'Brien
Ms Sheena Lee Oldridge
Mr Timothy Orders
Mr Bruce Parker
Mr Luke Parnell
Ms Gemma Rainbow
Mr Anthony Rathmell
Mr Craig Robinson
Mr Chris Rosenthal
Mrs Tammy Scougall
Mr Gavin Simmons
Mr Stephen Simms
Mr Michael Tull
Mr Albert Tully
Mr David Wenzel
Mr Aaron Wilkins
Mr Paul Young
Ms Joan Young

Associate

Mr Mark Goninon

Affiliate

Mr Chris Bradley
Mr Charles Tyers

Student

Mr Robert Blake
Mr Mark Deasy

New CPPD, CPPM and CPPP

The following members have also been awarded CPPD, CPPM or CPPP status – so congratulations to each of those below

CPPD

Ms Susan Burton
Mr Grant Cavenagh
Mr Simon Dunstone
Mr Troy Kleppe
Mr Justin McGowan

CPPM

Ms Cathy Brierley
Mr Trevor Hill
Mr Grant Nay
CMDR Andrew Quinn
Mr Cliff Richards
Mr Aaron Sanders

CPPP

Ms Emma Leahy

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