



President's Report

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Upcoming Events	2
Last Month's Report	3-4
CNP Update	5
Upcoming Seminar	6
Other Chapter Information	7
Councillor Details	7

Greetings fellow Members,

At last month's forum, we took a 'straw poll' of members and noted that several were not aware of the forum times. As a result, we've decided to reschedule slightly the information we provide to members to optimise the information flow. We're conscious that many of our members are busy and so will not always be able to read the newsletter when it first arrives. So rather than issuing it just before the general forum, we are now looking to issue the newsletter at the start of the month and keep its function to being purely informational. We will then issue email reminders closer to each event.

A Board Meeting will be held on Sunday 12th October at the start of the National Conference. When I attended my first meeting three months ago, I'd only just taken over as Interim President, so this time I'm looking forward to raising some issues associated with our strategic direction. I will report back to the chapter in next month's newsletter. I will also be able to report back on the Council of Fellows meeting which will also occur during the National Conference.



The National Conference is when the term of the current Council finishes and the new one starts. As has been reported in previous newsletters, we're fortunate to have the bulk of our existing Council standing for another term as this provides very valuable continuity, not to mention

expertise. However, to the two councillors who are stepping down – Paul Black after several years of very dedicated service including several years as President, and Irfan Majeed – I extend my thanks for their work for this chapter.

The AIPM AGM will be held at 5.15pm on Monday 13th October. I encourage members to attend that meeting because it is, after all, your professional body and the more you get involved, the more benefit you will get from it. Having the National Conference here in Canberra is an excellent opportunity to get involved.

The concept of being involved is in line with the goals I articulated in my first President's address back in May which was to create a truly professional body which helps both the individuals and the organisations for which they work. As we look forward to the two year term of the new Council, I am keen to see far more partnerships being created between AIPM and business and government. This is very much a two-way street and we are hoping to work closely with employers to help fill their needs and also the employees to ensure we are serving them to ensure their qualifications have the right fit for their employers.

I am looking forward to a productive and interesting two year term.

Yours in project management

Peter Dechaineux

President, ACT Chapter

UPCOMING EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

With the National Conference being held in Canberra this year, there will be no General forum or PMO SIG held by the ACT Chapter during October. Details of the next WIPM meeting are provided below but details of the November forum and PMO SIG will be provided in the November newsletter. As we approach the end of the year, the November activities will be the last formal functions organized by the ACT Chapter in 2008. The forums will have a 2 month break and commence again in February of 2009. There will be a December newsletter which will provide reports on the November forums, but the next one after that will be early February 2009.

National Conference – 12-15 October

This year's National Conference will be held at the National Convention Centre here in Canberra between 12 and 15th October.

In addition to keynote speakers, there are 4 separate streams of presentations on differing aspects of project management being held on the Monday and Tuesday mornings and afternoons and also Wednesday morning.

There are also social programs taking place including welcoming drinks on Sunday from 6-7.30 pm, a happy hour on Monday from 6-7 pm, and the PMAA National Awards dinner on Tuesday from 7-11pm.

The AIPM annual general meeting will also be held as part of the Conference from 5.15 pm on Monday, 13th October.

November WIPM Forum – 7 November

The final WIPM function for the year will be a cocktail party. The time and location are still to be finalized but it will provisionally be held late afternoon on Friday 7th November. An email will be sent to all WIPM members once the final arrangements have been made.

This function will be to celebrate the end of the year and also the 1st anniversary of WIPM, the first function having been held in November 2007.

The WIPM Committee are in the process of developing a long-term plan for WIPM, and without cutting too much into the social activities, some brief details will be provided as to some of the exciting initiatives for 2009.

LAST MONTH'S FORUM REPORTS

October General Forum Presented by Glenn Keys, Aspen Medical

Glenn Keys, co-founder of Aspen medical, gave the talk at the September forum. Aspen had won an award at last year's PMAA—and did so again this year.

Before talking about last year's project, Glenn gave a fascinating insight into how Aspen had been formed and how they operate. At a time when there is an election pending in the ACT when there is a lot of talk about health ser-



Glenn Keys, Co-founder
of Aspen Medical

vices and the problems associated with them, it was amazing to hear stories of how Aspen have been able to put together teams to move into some fairly remote, and even some not-so-remote areas in some incredibly short time-frames

and take over full operation of environments where traditional providers have failed.

With regard to the remote servicing, there has been an emphasis on tailored, leading edge web and telephone based medical services. This has led to remote tele-health services where second opinions and call-centre support can readily be provided via the use of things like tele-radiology.

Aspen's ability to provide services very quickly enabled them to work in East Timor, and they were the first to operate on Ramos Horta after the recent failed assassination attempt and they also evacuated him to Australia.

The project which Glenn described was for Customs to process illegal fishermen caught of the north of Australia. The locations where they had to provide personnel were Weipa and Horne Island, both being very remote. Despite the state government being unable to provide services themselves, the timeframes imposed on Aspen were extremely tight—little over a month from the contract being signed.

In addition to the remote location and tight timeframes, the other project issues and challenges included the health risks to the individuals and also the country (most of these people caught, for example, had TB), the limited access to the sites themselves, the high standards of health required coupled with periods of inactivity for staff and the multi-jurisdictional aspects of the health services across states and territories.

A number of the project achievements and innovations included the high quality of service provision of features such as tele-radiology to remote sites; HR management and staff retention, communications management not only within Aspen but also Customs and the multi-jurisdictional health services and also accreditation of the sites.

During the implementation phase, project meetings would be held daily to fast-track any potential problems, and Aspen were able to develop strong relationships with suppliers which enabled them to get equipment in rapid time, often being able to jump a queue ahead of someone who could afford to wait another couple of weeks.

At the project end, there was a review of what worked and what could have been done better. Issues were tagged with sustain, fix or improve—an approach which enabled them to gain considerable benefit.

October WIPM Presented by Debbie Mazlin

The last of the general WIPM forums for the year (next month's will be a cocktail party) saw Debbie Mazlin step in at the last minute after the scheduled speaker was unable to attend.



Debbie Mazlin answering questions at her talk on standards

Deb gave a run-down on the new standards. She covered the aspects of **why** the standards had to be changed (which essentially has been through industry expectations), the consultation process that was followed to arrive at the new standards, **when** they will change

(the new postnominals can be used after 1/1/09), and **how** the transition will be accomplished.

Deb then went through the RegPM and MPD certification and compared them with the new Certified Practising PM (CPPM) and Certified Practising Project Director (CPPD) to show at a detailed level where the changes will impact members going through the transition process. As was indicated at the original launch, a lot of the changes, especially at the more senior levels, are in the so-called 'soft' skills—but skills that are increasingly recognised as being harder to obtain and those that delineate the abilities of people at that level.

Next month's WIPM will be the 1st anniversary and end of year celebration cocktail function.

September PMO SIG

The September Forum held on 15 September saw two presentations.

In the main part of the Forum, Stuart Garrett from DMO spoke on 'The journey from Coaching and Review to a PMO - lessons learned along the way'.

Stuart outlined the early days of the coaching and review function of the DMO PMO. It aimed to improve the success rate of projects.

The coaches were agents of change. Amongst other things, they conducted some 'mile wide, inch deep' reviews to identify the 'high spots' in DMO projects. The coaches were not compliance auditors, instead focusing more on whether a project was likely to be successful.

They used that information to advocate for projects and to establish networks amongst project staff to promote good practice. Putting project staff in contact with others who recently solved similar problems successfully worked as a means of change and of mentoring project staff.

The coaches also identified problems at an organisational level and worked to remove organisational road-

blocks for projects. They supported projects on issues that were difficult for the project to resolve because they were not in the project's immediate sphere of influence, and this has ongoing benefits for other projects.

Another important benefit included the coaches identifying risks that were unknown to projects, preventing significant delays.

As with much of project management, a major benefit has been sharing lessons between projects. Running DMO PM Forums to spread experiences and form networks helps this.

A point made at the end of the presentation, that 'schedule is king', ensured a lively discussion.

The end of the Forum was extended to allow presentation of the results of a survey undertaken earlier in the year about the PMO SIG and its future directions.

Members' backgrounds are varied and they want to see a lot of things discussed but most of all they appreciate the opportunity to share information.

Community Network Program (CNP) ACT Chapter Update By Derek Stevens

There have been a number of references to the CNP in recent newsletters as well as a report from last month's PMAA on the new Not For Profit category that has been introduced in the ACT. The following report provides more detail on what CNP involves.

CNP – What is it?

<http://www.aipm.com.au/html/cpn.cfm>

CNP is about PMs willing to volunteer their time to assist community organisations with a particular project(s), in a mutually beneficial manner. AIPM assists by providing the matchmaking service between interested organisations and AIPM members.

In the ACT, we access community organisations via Volunteering ACT – the peak local body for volunteering and our key relationship. They provide access to over 200 community organisations.

CNP – What it's not!

- Free consulting by AIPM. AIPM only acts as the 'recruiting' interface. The volunteer services are completed by each individual member. The member effectively becomes a volunteer of the organisation, and should complete the administration to be covered by all appropriate insurances etc.
- Another full-time job for the Volunteer PM! These are community organisations, with limited resources. A full-time commitment is not expected. Anything that can be done is generally better than what they currently have and they will be grateful of any support they can receive.

Current Projects

There are 3 projects currently underway:

- Outward Bound Australia. Assist with initial planning phase of National HQ redevelopment (Derek Stevens)
- Lifeline ACT. Manage a facility relocation project (Collin Howell)
- Arthritis ACT. Assist with the scoping and planning of an IT project (Phil Sealy)

We also currently have three members waiting for a project, namely Virginia Shaw, Gillian King and Chris Huet.

Benefits to the Community Organisations

CNP provides a professional PM resource that would otherwise not be available. This has the potential to improve the quality, and reduce the risk of some projects due to improved project management.

Benefits to AIPM Members

CNP provides a community service in an area related to your profession and also helps you learn to apply project management in a different environment/context. You can also continue to develop and improve your PM skills—and gain CPD points! (see CPD table of points - <http://www.aipm.com.au/resource/CPD%20Categories%20and%20Points%20Table.pdf>)

Work Yet to Do

The CNP concept still needs work doing in the following areas:

- Develop 'Branch SOPs' for the conduct of the CNP in the ACT
- Continue to build relationships with community organisations in the ACT
- Grow CNP's profile within the AIPM
- Build a database of volunteers
- Investigate methods to better tailor/target the match between organisations and volunteers to obtain the maximum benefits
- Further develop the CPD potential for members volunteering
- Further develop the Not-for-Profit category of the PMAA each year

Contact/Enquiries

Derek Stevens, MPD

E: derekjohnstevens@hotmail.com

M: 0413 764 246

Advert

Learning Network Solutions

presents

* Comprehensive and Practical One Day Master Class*

20th November in Sydney & 27th November in Melbourne*Nb. There is a 10% discount for this seminar to AIPM members*

Practical Methods For Managing Complex Projects With Earned Value Management

An excellent opportunity to hear and interact with:



Walt Lipke

"A Leader in EVM research & enhancement"

Deputy Chief, Software Division,
Tinker Air Force Base, USA (retired)

2007 PMI Metrics SIG Scholar
2007 PMI Eric Jenett Award Recipient

One of five EVM experts identified by
The Data & Analysis Center for Software

Who should attend?

This Master Class is highly recommended for all professionals who are involved and/or responsible for:

- * Project Management
- * Project Scheduling
- * IT Infrastructure
- * Quality Assurance
- * Risk Management
- * Performance Reporting

TO REGISTER CALL NOW!

TEL: (02) 95852304 FAX: (02) 95852094, Email: info@learningnetworks.com.au

Walt's Special Offer to first 25 registrants at each location – CDs containing ES and Forecasting spreadsheets, presentations of unpublished research, along with the PDF file of the course

Organised By: LEARNING NETWORK SOLUTIONS



New Members

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

Members

Mr Mark McAllister
Mrs Mahbuba Rahman
Mr Cliff Richards
Mr Marcus Rocha
Mr Jason Vella

Associate

Miss Catherine Pye
Miss Fiona Smyth
Mr Cammeron Tannock
Mr Steven Watson
Mrs Suzanne Wirken

Affiliate

Mr Greg Dickson

New RegPM and MPD

The following members have also been awarded MPD or RegPM status – so congratulations to each of those below



MPD

Mr Ian Bannerman
Mr Bruce Bell
Mr Paul Klose

RegPm or CPPM

Mr Arimand Asaris
Mr Colin Towns

AIPM ACT Councillors – Contact Details

Office/ Responsibility	Incumbent		
President	Peter Dechaineux	6281 5917	dechaineux@netspeed.com.au
Secretary	Pal Sadasivan	0430 000 999	pal77@tpg.com.au
Treasurer	Phil van der Moezel	0458 550 157	pvandermoezel@aavan.com.au
Marketing & PR	Sylvia Boyle	0401 048 335	sylvia.boyle@eds.com
Education	Neville Hassen	0412 953 751	nbhassen@hotmail.com
Assessor Liaison	John Jacobi	0402 097 457	jj@axsys.biz
Councillor/WIPM	Vikki James		Vikki.James@health.gov.au
Events	Rakesh Malhotra	0402 202 312	Rakesh.Malhotra@acma.gov.au
Councillor	Ramesh Malik	0420 978 451	Ramesh.Malik@defence.gov.au
WIPM	Debbie Mazlin	0408 268 467	debbie.mazlin@bigpond.com
Membership	Phil Sealy	0401 079 078	phil.sealy@sinetworks.com.au
Immediate Past-President	Michael Young	0411 243 568	michael.young@transformed.com.au