

Board Builder Conference 2009

The leading national conference for community
boards, committees and governing councils

BETTER BOARDS : BETTER OUTCOMES

Friday, 27 February, 2009
9.30am – 4.30pm
Telstra Dome, Melbourne



ourcommunity.com.au

Featuring
a stellar list of
speakers, including
Australian Treasurer

**The Hon
WAYNE SWAN**

BOOK NOW!

Conference sells
out every year!

About the Conference

Strong organisations are driven by strong boards – boards that are organised, efficient and knowledgeable. Good boards get your group moving on the right road. Bad boards can make your group lose its way.

One of the lessons of the recent financial collapse is that no organisation is too big (or too small) to fail. Another is that failure often comes from the top – it's not the people at the desks who bring organisations to their knees, it's the decisions taken in the boardroom. And that goes for community organisations too – your board needs to be on top of its job now.

Boards don't often get their proper care and maintenance. Australian community groups put an immense amount of effort into getting the administration right, but they tend to think that good decisions just happen.

You may need to redress the balance. There are ways to make a board operate smoothly, efficiently, and above all, productively. They can be learned.

Our Community has been active in the community sector for years, identifying the people who actually know what works and how good boards can make things go right. Strengthen your board, management committee or council for the hard times. Get it ready to reap the rewards of the good times. Come along and hear what the experts have to say.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Gain a sound understanding of the principles and practices associated with successful governance in the community sector
- Learn about your individual roles and responsibilities, and those of the governance group as a whole
- Improve the entire operations of your board or committee – the dynamic, the meetings, the outcomes
- Learn strategies for overseeing and managing boards and committees
- Improve board-staff relations
- Strengthen financial oversight
- Gain renewed energy for contributing to and building your organisation

WHO WILL BENEFIT

- Prospective and current members of community group boards, committees and governing councils of all sizes and from all areas of the community sector
- Community sector staff with responsibility for managing a board/committee
- Local government staff and councillors with responsibility for overseeing or interacting with community organisations
- School principals and other staff with responsibility for overseeing, managing or interacting with governing councils

Our Community Alliance Partners:



Board Builder Program

Friday, 27 February, 2009

9.00 - 9.30

Coffee/Tea & Registration

9.30 - 9.40

Introduction

Dr Rhonda Galbally AO, Our Community

9.40 - 10.30

**KEYNOTE
PRESENTATION**

Good Governance: Why governance matters to community organisations

Patricia Faulkner, Leader, Health & Social Policy, KPMG & Chair,
Australian Social Inclusion Board

Making decisions is difficult. Making good decisions is very difficult, and it's even more difficult when your systems aren't working at their best. Your governance structure is supposed to give your group direction and stability – and wisdom. How many of us come away from a board meeting thinking those bases are all covered? How many think that the process slows us down and muffles our enthusiasm? In this keynote presentation PATRICIA FAULKNER will look at why governance matters to community organisations, and paints a picture of what good governance might look like in your organisation.

10.30 - 11.00

**SPECIAL
PRESENTATION**

WESTPAC COMMUNITY TREASURERS' AWARDS

The Honourable Wayne Swan, Treasurer of Australia
Gail Kelly, CEO of Westpac (TBC)

Treasurers are responsible for the financial wellbeing of their organisations, often going above and beyond the call of duty to make sure ends meet. Recognising this, a search took place throughout Australia in the latter part of 2008 to unearth some of the best honorary treasurers the country has to offer. In this session, the Treasurer of Australia, the Honourable WAYNE SWAN, and Westpac CEO GAIL KELLY will pay tribute to the work of our great community treasurers, and present the Community Treasurers' Awards to the winners.

11.00 - 11.30

Morning Tea

11.30 - 12.30

PANEL SESSION

Treasurers' Tales

Peter Hanlon, Group Executive, Retail & Business Banking, Westpac
2009 Community Treasurers' Awards Finalists

Hear stories of financial trouble and triumph as finalists from the Westpac Community Treasurers' Awards join with Westpac's PETER HANLON to reveal what it's really like to be an honorary community treasurer. This is a session that's not just for treasurers – if you're on a board or work with a board, this is essential knowledge you can't afford to miss.

12.30 - 1.30

Lunch

1.30 - 3.00

**CONCURRENT
SESSIONS**

(YOU CHOOSE ONE
OF FIVE)

1. Back to Basics

Patrick Moriarty, Director of Training & Development, Our Community
Andrew Wright, General Manager, BSI Learning

Are you thinking of joining a board for the first time? Been on a board for a while but not quite sure what your role is? Want some clarity on what a board should do and how it should run? If you answered 'yes' to any of these questions, this is the session for you, as board education specialists PATRICK MORIARTY & ANDREW WRIGHT bring it back to basics.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS AND PROGRAM CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE...

Board Builder Program

1.30 - 3.00

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

(YOU CHOOSE ONE OF FIVE)

2. Good Chairing

Denis Moriarty, Chair, McAuley Community Services for Women
Russell Barnier, Principal, Flexpertise Consulting

With all the good will in the world, you just cannot make a community group really hum if you have a poor performer sitting in the chair. In this session, board experts DENIS MORIARTY & RUSSELL BARNIER will outline the key leadership qualities demanded of chairs working in a community setting, and the principles of good chairship.

3. Managing Obligations without Forgoing Innovation

Sue Woodward, Manager, PilchConnect
Kate Fischer, Senior Lawyer, PilchConnect

How do you mesh your legal obligations with running a dynamic and effective community organisation? In this session, a panel of experts led by SUE WOODWARD and KATE FISCHER will debate common problem scenarios and provide practical suggestions of how to balance the risks of innovation with issues such as: your obligations to volunteers; making sure your 'workplace' is safe; and the legal duties of committee members.

4. Burning Questions

Murray Baird, Principal, Moores Legal

Does our organisation have the right legal structure for our purpose? How can we negotiate conflicts of interest in our group, given that we want to have our communities of interest represented on the board? How can we get that white-ant on the board without a nasty scene? Are we acting within the law when we make decisions via email? Can I attend a meeting by calling in over the phone? What are our powers of delegation? What do the recent developments in not-for-profit tax law mean for our group? The law never stands still. In this annual legal update, not-for-profit legal expert MURRAY BAIRD answers all your burning questions.

5. Beyond Survival

Financial Training for Community Organisations

The most successful community groups are governed by people who make a point of always knowing the financial position of the group, rather than just leaving it to the treasurer or bookkeeper. How well do you understand your group's finances? Can you say with confidence that there are no storm clouds on the horizon? This session will introduce you to the tools you need to gain a deeper understanding of the core financial drivers that affect your group's financial health.

3.00 - 4.30

PANEL SESSION

Board-Staff Relations

Kath Letch, Station Manager, RRR
Bernadette O'Connor, CEO, Education Centre Gippsland
Lyn Wannan, Director of the Office for the Community Sector,
Department of Planning and Community Development
Jan McGuinness, Chair, Melbourne Writers Festival
FACILITATED by **Brett de Hoedt**, Mayor, Hootville Communications

A little bit of friction can be good for a board, but when board-staff relations go completely sour, you can be assured that there are difficult times ahead. What's the key to maintaining harmony amid differing perspectives, competing expectations and the push and pull of shared power? How can you ensure that all parties are acting as they should be – in the best interests of the group as a whole? In this session you will hear war stories and strategies for creating a healthier, more productive board-staff dynamic.

Keynote Speakers

The 2009 Board Builder conference will bring together a stellar list of speakers from a broad cross-section of community organisations, as well as those that advise them and work with them.

- **Patricia Faulkner**, Leader, Health & Social Policy, KPMG & Chair, Australian Social Inclusion Board
- **The Honourable Wayne Swan**, Treasurer of Australia
- **Gail Kelly**, CEO of Westpac (TBC)
- **Peter Hanlon**, Group Executive, Retail & Business Banking, Westpac
- **Patrick Moriarty**, Director of Training & Development, Our Community
- **Andrew Wright**, General Manager, BSI Learning
- **Denis Moriarty**, Chair, McAuley Community Services for Women
- **Russell Barnier**, Principal, Flexportise Consulting
- **Sue Woodward**, Manager, PilchConnect
- **Kate Fischer**, Senior Lawyer, PilchConnect
- **Murray Baird**, Principal, Moores Legal
- **Kath Letch**, Station Manager, RRR
- **Bernadette O'Connor**, CEO, Education Centre Gippsland
- **Lyn Wannan**, Director of the Office for the Community Sector, Department of Planning and Community Development
- **Jan McGuiness**, Chair, Melbourne Writers Festival
- **Brett de Hoedt**, Mayor, Hootville Communications



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Conference Information

Date & Time

Friday, February 27, 2009, 9.30am-4.30pm

Venue

Victory Room, Telstra Dome, Melbourne

Parking

Enter the Telstra Dome car park via the Bourke St Car Park A (left ramp). Follow the green line to Gate 9. Take the lift to Level 1 and follow the signs to the Victory Room. Car parking at the Telstra Dome costs \$10 for early birds (enter before 9.30am and exit after 12.30pm); maximum fee \$20 for four or more hours. These details are correct at time of printing but delegates should check with Telstra Dome for updates.

Public Transport

By Foot/Taxi: Direct the taxi to stop on Bourke Street near the steps to Telstra Dome. Proceed up the steps towards Gate 2 and turn to your left and enter at Gate 9. Proceed through the glass doors and follow the signs to the Victory Room.

By Train: Cross the Bourke Street Pedestrian Bridge from Southern Cross Station. Walk to Gate 9 past Gate 1 – refer to map.

By Tram: Take the tram to Latrobe St or Spencer St. If exiting at Latrobe St follow the "By Taxi" instructions. If exiting at Spencer St, follow the "By Train" instructions.

Price

\$265 (or \$455 for a group of two)

Accommodation

We recommend www.lastminute.com.au or www.wotif.com

Takeaway Reference Material

In line with our sustainability objectives, conference presentations will not be printed and distributed during the conference but will instead be available via the Our Community website – a direct weblink will be advised via email following the conference.

Bookings, Cancellation & Refund Policy


All bookings must be paid for in full 5 working days before the event or by arrangement with Our Community. A cancellation fee of \$65 per delegate will apply. Cancellations must be advised in writing at least 10 business days prior to the event in order to receive the refund (less the cancellation fee). If the registered delegate is unable to attend, we are able to accept a replacement delegate with 24 hours prior notice.

Commitment to Access & Equity

We are committed to access and equity and everything will be done to meet the needs of all people. Alan Matic will be delighted to assist any individual or organisation that requires any assistance. Contact Alan on (03) 9320 6805 or by email to alanm@ourcommunity.com.au

About the Conference Organisers

This conference is an initiative of the Australian Institute for Community Practice and Governance (AICPG), the training arm of Australia's leading community sector support organisation, Our Community. The AICPG provides accredited training, half-day workshops and conferences designed specifically for the staff, volunteers, board/committee members and supporters of community organisations throughout Australia.



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