

# Our Community **MATTERS**

Your community knowledge bank helping groups survive, improve, grow and innovate



## Resources, News, Innovations and Tips on:

- ✓ Funding, Finance & Membership Management
- ✓ Leadership & Advocacy
- ✓ Management & Training
- ✓ Marketing & Media
- ✓ Boards, Committees & Governance
- ✓ Community & Business Partnerships
- ✓ Insurance & Risk Management

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August 2008 – Issued August 26, 2008

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By Rhonda Galbally AO  
CEO

Our Community has been serving the community not-for-profit sector since 2001, and over that time we've got a fairly good handle on the sector's strengths, and weaknesses, and concerns (summing it up, we believe that the sector's strong in commitment, weaker when it comes to management expertise, and worried about where to from here).

Along the way we found that workers in the sector badly needed an opportunity to get together and reinforce each others' commitment, and we set up the first Communities in Control conference. That one was so popular we've held one every year since.

The debates at the first conference – the local and international speakers, the panel discussions, the questions from the floor, and the intense exchanges over coffee at break – led us to put together the Communities in Control Manifesto.

*This Manifesto encapsulates the agenda that emerged from the Communities in Control conference. The Manifesto attempts to identify the key drivers of change for the sector and to mobilise Australia behind valuing not-for-profit groups as the life-force of local communities.*

At that time we saw the issues falling into three main areas. The sector lacked intellectual support – its research base was inadequate and its assessment practices inappropriate.

Community groups also faced the necessity for some fairly basic structural changes of their own, changes that would encourage broader-based participation, make governance more effective and more transparent, and build management capacity.

And the other sectors of our society – government, business, and technology – needed to find ways to work with the community sector that didn't compromise its ideals.

And underlining all of that, the sector, as a sector, needed leadership.

The Communities in Control Manifesto worked through these challenges in detail, suggesting remedies.

### **Challenge 1: Research**

Australia needs a well-funded socio-epidemiological capacity to generate good-quality large-cohort data at the local level (and this research must involve research subjects in decisions about its use).

### **Challenge 2: Assessment and Evaluation**

Community groups should be assessed on their own and their aggregated contribution to participants, consumers, the sector, and society rather than on narrow input-output criteria.

### **Challenge 3: Participation**

Community groups should be supported to reach out to new populations to expand, revive and refresh and diversify their membership.

### **Challenge 4: Governance and Learning**

Community group boards need to regularly overhaul themselves to balance safety with dynamism. To maintain their relevance and legitimacy and learning, boards should reflect the diversity of their communities, consumers, and society.

### **Challenge 5: Infrastructure and organisational capacity building**

More concrete support is needed for community groups to make the most effective use of limited staff numbers and physical resources and to build their infrastructure capacity – skills, management, systems, equipment, training and shared resources.

### **Challenge 6: Funding**

Tax law, Australian giving culture, and government priorities and systems must change to encourage us as individuals, as a government, and as a society to fund community groups adequately.

### **Challenge 7: Technology**

Community groups need to be supported to adopt new technologies in administration, advocacy, networking, learning strategy transfer and social support.

### **Challenge 8: Cooperation & Collaboration**

Greater sharing of policies, procedures and strategies between community groups should be facilitated. Larger organisations should respect, value and support small groups in delivering programs within a locally designed and locally relevant framework.

### **Challenge 9: Community-Business Partnerships**

Partnerships between businesses and community groups should be facilitated to provide improved access to finances, knowledge and skills and a commitment to work together towards a commitment to social responsibility and a healthy and viable society.

### **Challenge 10: Leadership and Advocacy**

Leaders should be supported and celebrated to advocate for social change, take risks, defend unpopular positions, and pioneer new approaches. More people from a wider range of backgrounds must be included in courses and mentored for leadership roles.

It's fair to say that these proposals didn't arouse any enthusiasm from the then Federal Government. The necessary change of approach was not forthcoming and the issues remain on the table.

Some improvements are evident. The academic resource base of the sector has expanded, and is making real attempts to link into sector practice. There are more resources available for governance and management, many of them coming from the work of Our Community – in particular, the Code of Governance adopted at the 2008 Communities in Control Conference may help to crystallise many of the principles and practices that are gradually being adopted across the sector.

This is a sector, however, where genuine progress comes only when all stakeholders are able to work together without suspicion, and it is only now that government has been prepared to acknowledge the existence of any systemic issues.

In expressing its willingness to consider the issues raised by the late lamented *Definition of Charity Enquiry* the Rudd Government has taken the first necessary step to re-establishing the sector on a firmer footing.

We now have the first opportunity for a generation – the first chance, perhaps, since Australia has been a nation – to consider the goals and needs and structures of the community sector from the ground up, across the full range of our society.

I hope that the Senate – and the government – seize the chance and make the changes that the sector needs and wants.



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## 2. Reporting for Duty: Making your annual report into a marketing feature

The Victorian State Librarian comes on screen. "It has been a lively and successful year for the library," she tells us.

The line's not unforgettable, but it's still startling to see an annual report introduced in person on line. And if it flags, there are cuts to Eureka stockade diaries and the library dome and prints of cockatoos and antique footballers to break the monotony pretty successfully.

Your group has to compile and release an annual report each year, spending a lot of time, effort and money to do so. Why not make sure that your report gives something back?

Use it to communicate your achievements and plans, as well as simply giving the relevant financial details from the previous year. View it as a component of your group's wider marketing strategy.

### Process

Plan a timetable and budget for the necessary resources. Pick someone meticulous to act as co-ordinator, and have them go around the organisation and pick up the good stories.

They'll have to make sure that there's a consistent message, and they'll have to make sure that there's enough variety in content and images to ensure it remains engaging from start to finish.

### Layout

Unfortunately, the standard expected of reports has gone up enormously. The typed and photocopied reports of previous decades now look sloppy and unprofessional.

Some, like the Victorian Library example above, have got to a whole new level entirely.

Luckily, computer power and colour printers mean that even small groups are able to catch up. Practice till you get it right.

### Content

Remember a few key points:

- You've got to include the basics - chairperson's report, audited financial reports and balance sheets, contact details, etc.
  - Think about including
    - Your mission statement
    - Your achievements
    - Your media profile
    - Your contact details
    - Your ambitions for the coming year
- and – most importantly, top of the list –
- A story or two that give a human face to those achievements, showing what the problem was and how you fixed it.
  - List and thank donors, sponsors, supporters, and board and committee members. Get more donors – tell people how to volunteer and donate (include a form) and bequeath and otherwise assist. (See [Part 14](#) for another idea of how you can do this.)
  - The report is an extension of your organisation, and those who read it are going to draw conclusions about you.
    - If it's competently done, well presented, clear, accurate, clearly focused, and contains vision and passion, people will see that as representative of your group generally.

- If people can see their support and money at work and what you have been able to achieve, it's easier to convince them to continue that backing.
- If your report lists and thanks the people who have helped your group throughout the year (donors, sponsors, volunteers, supporters, members, etc.) it shows the importance your group places on their contributions.

### Using your report

Once you've got a good marketing-focussed report you'll want to send it to everybody involved – members, stakeholders, sponsors, donors, supporters, volunteers, fundraisers, any business or community partners, local councils, politicians (State and Federal) and Ministers, and the media – local and state. (Of course, this means that you absolutely have to keep your mailing and email lists up to date.)

Use it when you're sending applications to grantmakers, chasing funds from major donors, seeking sponsors, looking for coverage in the media, and approaching local councillors or politicians. Once you've made these contacts, send them your report every year.

Use it internally – when you're sending out an information pack to prospective members, trying to attract new members onto your committees, or persuading people to take up board positions.

And put it up on your website as a PDF. If you have more time to spare and more people to help, follow the example of the Victorian State Library and back up your annual report with pictures, as audio, and even as video clips. Get out ahead of the herd.

Annual reports; they're not just a good idea – it's the law. So make them pay their way.

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## 3. Treasurers' Reports: Finding the right balance

This is also the time of year when budgets are being prepared, audits done and new treasurers appointed and broken in.

So it's a good time for boards and committees of community organisations to be thinking about the how their financial reports are prepared and presented.

One of the main tasks of the treasurer is to ensure not only that the finances are in good shape, but that the rest of the board is satisfied that they're in good shape.

Every member of the board has a legal responsibility to be satisfied that the organisation's finances are being properly managed and that the group has enough money to meet its financial obligations.

That means they need to be getting good information.

A good treasurer's report should include a number of components, beginning with a summary that provides a brief overview of the organisation's current financial position and highlighting any areas of concern.

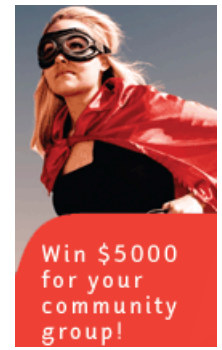
The report should also include a statement to show how the budget is tracking in relation to predictions, as well as a cash report to make sure there are no cash flow problems lurking. Enclosing an up-to-date copy of the bank statements is a good way of providing board members with some peace of mind that all is as it should be.

The statement of financial performance (otherwise known as the profit and loss statement) is another important part of the treasurer's report, providing a financial measure of your organisation's performance. The statement should detail the organisation's expenses and income for the period, along with the level of profit and loss. This should be provided at least annually and compared to previous periods.

Treasurers' reports should be both comprehensive and concise – too much information and the board will feel confused and over-burdened, too little and they will not have enough information on which to base their judgements.

All of this does make for some work for your treasurer – so if you're not the treasurer, do remember to say thanks every now and then.

Oh, and you might also want to consider putting them forward for a Community Treasurers' Award – find out more at [www.ourcommunity.com.au/treasurersawards](http://www.ourcommunity.com.au/treasurersawards) or click the image (right).



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## 4. Encouraging Volunteering: It's harder than we thought

We all want more volunteering; the UK government has actually put significant resources into supporting it. In recent years, for example, the UK government has spent £4m (around A\$8.5m) on volunteer training, and £2m (A\$4.3m) in the Access to Volunteering Fund for people with disabilities.

In the next three years it plans to spend an impressive £117m (A\$237m) for youth volunteering, building on the work of youth volunteering charity v.

However, to date its money doesn't seem to have had much effect. There's been little increase in the number of people volunteering since 2001, according to figures from the government's Citizenship Survey.

The Citizenship Survey, used to officially gauge the levels of volunteering in England and Wales since 2001, shows that the number of people who volunteer at least once a month increased by just 1%, from 47% in 2001 to 48% in 2008.

Joe Saxton, ideas man from ginger group nfpSynergy, called the figures "disappointing, given the significant public funding" for volunteering.

"Notably, there is singularly no evidence that the targeting of young, old and other priority groups – such as ethnic minorities, or those out of work or with no qualification – has been successful," he said.

The survey showed that only 39% of people from these groups volunteered at least once a month in 2008, compared with 47% of the adult population.

It's possible that the figures are out, but they're the best evidence we have. Does this show there's no point to trying to boost volunteer numbers? Not yet.

It's possible, too, that without the funding the situation would have got worse, and that current social values are hostile to working for no pay. It's just not possible to get that out of the data without doing much more work – and more precise breakdowns.

Saxton, for example, urges the government to conduct better research into exactly what has and hasn't worked when it comes to getting more people to volunteer. Micro-level studies may be able to give us better guidance.

It's also true that the UK volunteering figures are higher than Australia's, which come in at about 41% (though these are 2002 figures – see [Part 5](#) for more on this) and the government effort may be responsible for some part of this difference.

In the last analysis, though, these figures should remind us that most of the work of encouraging volunteering must be done by community groups themselves.

If we give volunteers rewarding work, personal recognition, and simple procedures they'll come, and stay.

If we don't, the government can't do much to help us.

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## 5. ABS releases new social trends and sector stats

A new set of figures released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) provides an invaluable reference point for community organisations preparing funding submissions and grant applications.

The report *Australian Social Trends, 2008* (<http://tinyurl.com/vcdjl>) is the 15<sup>th</sup> edition of what has become one of the bureau's major reports.

The report is divided into nine sections, each containing statistics in distinct subject areas:

- Population;
- Family and community;
- Health;
- Education and training;
- Work;
- Economic resources;
- Housing;
- Other areas (including internet access and public transport use figures);
- International comparisons.

Among the findings contained in the new report are:

- Internet connections have jumped four-fold in Australia in the eight years to 2006-07 – to 64%. Broadband connections became more common than dial-up ones for the first time during 2006-07, but very remote areas still lagged behind their metropolitan counterparts in internet connection numbers.
- The average amount of money owing on mortgages for first-time homebuyers in Australia doubled in the 10 years to 2005-06, consistent with the significant jump in these properties' values.
- There were more than 3.1 million regular volunteers in Australia in 2006. Women are more likely to volunteer than men (22% compared to 19%), while the highest volunteer rates are among those younger than 15 or over 55. More than 25% of women in Queensland and the Northern Territory were regular volunteers – the highest figures in Australia. Men from the ACT and NSW were most likely to volunteer; and those from Victoria least likely.
- 19% of adults in Australian capital cities (bar Darwin) used public transport to get to work or education, up from 16% in 1996. Sydney had the highest level of public transport use, Canberra the lowest.

Many of the statistical sets in the report are divided up into state-by-state figures, providing useful points of reference and comparison.

### **New not-for-profit sector stats**

The work and impact of groups in Australia's not-for-profit sector is examined in another new report from the ABS: *Not-for-profit Organisations, Australia, 2006-07*.

The report is divided into different five areas – culture and recreation; health; education and research; social services; environment; and religion – and includes information on the scope and strength of the sector in each area detailed.

The report found that:

- There were 40,976 registered not-for-profit organisations in Australia in 2006-07, including hospitals, schools and other groups.

- In total, they received \$74.5 billion in income, with 34% of that from government grants, 29% income from services and 9% through donations, fundraising and sponsorship. This means that these groups generated \$6.7 billion in income through donations, fundraising and sponsorship in 2006-07.
- Not-for-profits employed more than 880,000 people, more than half of them in social services (27%) and education and research (24%) organisations. In addition to paid employees there were more than 2.4 million volunteers in the not-for-profit sector during 2006-07.
- 68% of total government funding to not-for-profit organisations was received on a volume basis (for example, on a per-student or a per-client basis).

The full report can be viewed and downloaded here: <http://tinyurl.com/5vsyto>.

### Lies, Damned Lies, and Statistics

It must be noted that some of the stats cited above are questionable – 20-odd-percent seems like a rather low rate of volunteerism (that may be because it includes all people from age 0 onwards); and there are definitely way more than 41,000 not-for-profit organisations in Australia (just in Victoria, for example, there were 32,552 incorporated associations as at June 30, 2006).

As with all stats, use the ones that will bolster your own case, and discard the rest.

► Links to these pages will be added to the Our Community website at [www.ourcommunity.com.au/stats](http://www.ourcommunity.com.au/stats).

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## 6. Marketing Guru

If you're still unconvinced of the need for community groups to engage in marketing – hear this: members of the public are probably unaware of the importance you play in their lives.

A recent UK study has found that 91% of UK adults claim they have not benefited from the work of a not-for-profit group (or 'charity') in the past year. But when shown a list of services run by such groups, it was discovered that 58% had in fact used one of their services in the previous month alone!

Charity shops, churches and heritage houses/gardens topped the list of places members of the public had visited but not realised they were run by a charity.

So get marketing!



**Q: How do you get the best cut through as a charity in such a saturated market?**

**The Marketing Guru says:**

Emphasise your group's uniqueness.

Work out what it is about your organisation which makes it different, better, or more attractive than other groups – particularly those which do similar work to you?

Being able to firstly identify your group's best selling points, and secondly, communicating them effectively, is the best way you can stand out from the crowd.

If you want to promote your group, look at what makes it unique:

- Do your members have a number of special qualities?
- Have you received recognition and awards for your work?

- Do you have special relationships with certain well-known people, or influential funders/supporters?
- Is your group the biggest/most active/oldest/newest in your area?

If you wish to promote a specific project or program:

- Have you received funding from an influential or well-known source?
- Have you achieved great results, brought about great change or lobbied with great success?
- Have you impacted on the community in a special or meaningful way?
- Does it help people who normally miss out on support, advice or funding?

Before you begin to promote your group and its work, figure out the “angle” which is most likely to set your group apart from the rest and portray it as unique. Then use it as the centrepiece to your marketing effort.



**Q: Can you succinctly explain (A) what marketing is and (B) how it benefits community groups?**

**The Marketing Guru says:**

Marketing involves the positive promotion of your organisation's name, work, goals, aims, achievements, successes and qualities.

The importance of marketing was touched on in the question above – without it, the general public will not know who you are, what you do, your unique qualities and the efforts you make to help, support and involve people.

It is a crowded market out there for community groups, and it can be a battle to set yourself apart from the rest, to make yourself stand out as a unique and successful organisation in your area of operation, and to attract donations, support and members.

Marketing – through the media and through other avenues – is an important weapon in this battle.

**The Marketing Guru is an initiative of the Marketing, Media and Post Centre, the online resource for community organisations provided by Our Community and Australia Post. Send your questions to [guru@ourcommunity.com.au](mailto:guru@ourcommunity.com.au).**

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## 7. TRENDS: Getting to grips with ethics

Community groups are usually, by their very nature, considered to be ethical entities; after all, much of the work that they do is designed to make the world a better place.

For that reason, many community groups don't ever really sit down and think about their ethics, instead picking their way through right and wrong day by day (and, it has to be acknowledged, usually getting it right).

Still, it's a good idea to take stock every now and then just to ensure your group is still on track, especially if you've grown from a little group where everyone has been guided by the same founding principles into a larger organisation where new people are joining and becoming involved.

And if news from the UK is anything to go by, now might be an opportune time to get started.

A new poll has highlighted the growing interest members of the public have in what not-for-profit organisations do with their money.

The Ethical Investment Research Service (EIRS) poll of more than 2000 adults has found that the vast majority of people – 91% – believe that charities should be investing ethically, with 83% saying they would be less likely or unwilling to give to a group if they found out it was not doing so.

EIRS says the survey highlights a mismatch between public expectations and the number of groups actually investing ethically, with a 2006 study finding that just 55% of large UK charities have an ethical investment policy.

The survey also illustrates the growing public interest in the finances of charities, “and the risks to both reputation and income that charities face by not investing in line with their mission,” EIRS says.

Not surprisingly, the EIRS survey also reveals that the public wants to know what charities do with their money, with 41% of adults rating this as ‘very important’ to them.

Our Community has a number of resources that can help your group get started on a more ethical pathway, including:

- **A sample Code of Ethics** you can use as a prompter in developing your own code. (See [www.ourcommunity.com.au/policybank](http://www.ourcommunity.com.au/policybank))
- **A set of help sheets** on ethics in the context of a community-business partnership. (See [here](#).)
- **A how-to booklet** on thinking through and implementing an ethics program in your community group. (See [www.ourcommunity.com.au/books/ethicalsolutions](http://www.ourcommunity.com.au/books/ethicalsolutions))
- **A community sector code of governance**, including sections on ethical fundraising, environmental and community responsibility, transparency and accountability. (See [www.ourcommunity.com.au/governancecode](http://www.ourcommunity.com.au/governancecode).)

## Ethical leadership opportunity

If you aspire to lead and help make Australia a better place, the Vincent Fairfax Fellowship may be for you.

The Fellowship is Australia’s premiere national leadership program, promising to challenge participants intellectually, emotionally, physically and spiritually.

It is open to people with leadership potential in a broad spectrum of fields in either public or private life, in the city or country. Applications are welcome from the community sector, business, government, the arts and professions; there are no restrictions.

Up to 15 fellowships are awarded each year and recipients are usually in their late twenties to late thirties.

The St James Ethics Centre, which administers the course, says ethical leaders give meaning and a clear sense of direction to the community. They have an understanding of what makes a good society, can deal with complexity and face challenges with moral courage. The Fellowship aims to find and develop such people.

The program runs over two years and involves nine weeks away. Fellows travel to remote parts of Australia and countries within South East Asia. Costs are met by the Vincent Fairfax Ethics in Leadership Foundation.

Applications close 30 September 2008. Apply at [www.ethics.org.au](http://www.ethics.org.au), or for more information telephone (02) 9299 9566 or email to [leadership@ethics.org.au](mailto:leadership@ethics.org.au).

## Going Green

Environmental responsibility is another key ethical consideration for community groups – and one that’s sure to gain even greater prominence as time goes on.

In the US, it's now possible to achieve certification as a "GreenNonprofit," a process designed to allow not-for-profit groups to become greener while publicly declaring their commitment to environmental principles. Organisations can take weeks, months or even years to complete the process, earning points for each step they take to until they reach the ultimate goal of 100 points.

GreenNonprofits.org will be providing helpful advice to participating groups along the way through their e-newsletter (you can subscribe free at <http://greennonprofits.org>). The most recent newsletter, for example, includes articles on shopping for green office products and tips on how to save fuel.

"As people and corporations around the world become more 'green' they in turn expect the nonprofits they support to also take proactive steps to protect the environment," the organisation says.

If your group has already made some inroads into becoming more environmentally responsible, you may like to consider nominating yourself for this year's NEWS.com.au Green Awards.

The awards are designed to highlight Australian environmental innovation in the home, in the science lab, on the web and in the workplace.

For more information go to [www.news.com.au/greenawards](http://www.news.com.au/greenawards).

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## 8. Calling all community advocates: We want to hear from you!

Advocacy comes in many forms. From animal welfare to women's issues, to human rights and social justice, advocates are campaigning in support of issues important to their community.

Throughout history, advocacy has changed and shaped the Australia we live in today. Advocates have mobilised local residents in their neighbourhood, empowered women to demand equal pay, influenced policy-makers to recognise native title for indigenous Australians, and secured the right of people with disabilities to live and work alongside the rest of the community.

The Community Advocacy Centre at [www.ourcommunity.com.au/advocacy](http://www.ourcommunity.com.au/advocacy) is designed to help your group continue your vital work to influence the future agendas and policy of Australian society, to generate debate, to raise awareness, to ensure everyone has a voice, and to let people know that alternatives are achievable.

Our help sheets provide a range of tactics and methods on how to run a successful campaign. Whether you are a new, developing or experienced campaigner, our advocacy tools can be very handy for you.

We are currently developing a collection of case studies illustrating the issues, challenges and lessons learned from a variety of campaigns throughout Australia. All issues are unique, all campaigns have distinct qualities, and certain tools work differently for individual groups. Nevertheless, a lot can be learned from the strategies and actions of our peers.

### **We want to hear from you! Tell us the story of your campaign.**

How did you mobilise your group? What was involved in the planning stages? How did you make use of the media? What challenges and opposition did you face? Have you developed a solid network? What are some key lessons you have learned?

The history of your campaign can significantly aid others in achieving their own aspirations.

Share your story by completing our survey at [www.ourcommunity.com.au/advocacycasestudies](http://www.ourcommunity.com.au/advocacycasestudies).

You can complete as many or as few of the questions as you like.

For more information contact Jess or Nadia on (03) 9320 6800 or [service@ourcommunity.com.au](mailto:service@ourcommunity.com.au).

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## 9. There's no bus for hours, and then three come at once ...

There's a whole mess of inquiries going down right now. The Federal Government is holding a review of tax policy, and as part of that it's running a review of pensions policy while the Senate is of course proceeding with its own inquiry into not-for-profits.

We're all going to get writer's cramp from churning out submissions.

### Terms of Reference

Terms of reference for these bodies are broad.

For tax -

The review will consider:

- 3.1. The appropriate balance between taxation of the returns from work, investment and savings, consumption (excluding the GST) and the role to be played by environmental taxes;
- 3.2. Improvements to the tax and transfer payment system for individuals and working families, including those for retirees;
- 3.3. Enhancing the taxation of savings, assets and investments, including the role and structure of company taxation;
- 3.4. Enhancing the taxation arrangements on consumption (including excise taxes), property (including housing), and other forms of taxation collected primarily by the states;
- 3.5. Simplifying the tax system, including consideration of appropriate administrative arrangements across the Australian Federation; and
- 3.6. The interrelationships between these systems as well as the proposed emissions trading system (ETS).

For pensions –

- The appropriate levels of income support and allowances, including the base rate of the pension....
- The frequency of payments, including the efficacy of lump sums versus ongoing support.
- The structure and payment of concessions or other entitlements that would improve the financial circumstances and security of seniors, carers and people with disability.

And for not-for-profits -

1. the relevance and appropriateness of current disclosure regimes for charities and all other not-for-profit organisations;
2. models of regulation and legal forms that would improve governance and management of charities and not-for-profit organisations and cater for emerging social enterprises; and
3. other measures that can be taken by government and the not-for-profit sector to assist the sector to improve governance, standards, accountability and transparency in its use of public and government funds.

### Not-for-Profits and Taxation

For not-for-profits in general, the sensible thing would probably be to begin by writing your Senate submission first, which would mean that you could peel off any part of that with tax implications and send it to the tax inquiry.

The Senate inquiry is much wider than tax, of course. Some commentators also look forward to a national charities commission, as in the UK.

World Vision head Tim Costello, for example, has described the sector as in dire need of reform.

“We don't have a single regulatory system or uniform accounting standards and so it makes it confusing for the public to know who to trust, or who is efficient,” he says.

(Mind you, more active supervision might turn up some unwelcome outcomes. Canada has a population one and a half times that of Australia, four times as many registered charities – 80,000 as opposed to our 20,000 – and a system that checks up on their accounts. Last year the Canadians suspended one charity, annulled nine, and revoked the registration of a whopping 1814. They take this seriously.)

If this is an issue of interest to your group, you should consider your arguments carefully. How close would you want the potential new agency's scrutiny to be? Here at Our Community we are continually being contacted by people concerned that their group's board is acting improperly or unethically or in breach of its constitution. We have to tell them that unless it's a police matter nobody official is going to be interested; they rely entirely on the members sorting it out for themselves.

Many complainants find this unsatisfactory, but how far do we really want a government agency having powers to direct community boards to act in a particular way? Now is the time for you to voice an opinion.

If your organisation deals with people caught up in the pensions system, you will probably want to put in a submission to the pensions inquiry, too. What can the government do to reduce the number of people coming to you for help?

A submission to the inquiry on this point is the kind of advocacy that won't have the Tax Office on your tail (and do you want to suggest that the law be changed to permit charities to conduct advocacy? The English have done it).

## Resources

There are many other issues that you may want to raise, and you may have questions about how it's going to work.

The good news is that the Australian Centre for Philanthropy and Nonprofit Studies at QUT has set up a [help site](#) for people who want to become involved. It's well worth a visit.

The closing date for submissions for the tax review is September 28, for the Pensions review it's September 26, and for the Parliamentary inquiry it's August 29 (yep, this Friday)– so get your fingers tapping.

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## 10. A National Compact: a new era for government-community relations

*While you're on a roll with submission-making ...*

Community groups have until September 17 to tell the Federal Government what they would like to see in an Australian Compact, an agreement that is expected to outline how the government and not-for-profit sector would work together on an ongoing basis.

The compact has been proposed as part of the government's social inclusion agenda, and was introduced by Parliamentary Secretary for Social Inclusion and the Voluntary Sector, Ursula Stephens, at the “First Consultation on a National Compact” on July 22 in Melbourne.

Senator Stephens said a compact would provide a framework to articulate values shared between the government and the not-for-profit sector as they work together to “create opportunities for all Australians to realise their full potential across all areas of social and economic life.”

The Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs has invited comment on:

- the value of developing a compact
- the shared values of the sector and government
- how a compact could improve the lives of Australians
- what a partnership between the government and the sector could look like
- who should be party to an Australian Compact, including how the diversity of the not-for-profit sector could be reflected in the compact
- the priority areas of government sector relations that a compact might focus on
- what forms of community engagement would add most value to a sector reform and capacity building agenda
- overseas and state experiences of similar agreements that could help to develop an Australian compact.

Speaking at the National Consultation, Senator Stephens said the government believed a compact could help address power imbalances between it and the sector.

“It will provide a set of standards to which we are all held accountable,” she said.

“This isn’t just about how Government relates to the sector, but about how we all work in partnership to respond to the needs of citizens.

“It must also be a living, breathing and developing relationship that provides an overarching vision for what we can achieve.”

Comments can be submitted by email to [AustralianCompact@fahcsia.gov.au](mailto:AustralianCompact@fahcsia.gov.au) (and they prefer that it be sent as a Word attachment) or by post to: Australian Compact, Community Support Program, Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, PO Box 7576, Canberra Business Centre ACT 2610.

The Australian Council of Social Service is hosting consultations around the country to provide not-for-profits with an opportunity to comment on the idea of a national compact. See below for details.

## Signs of dissent

Meanwhile, in the first sign of dissent, the Australia Institute has warned that community groups should be “very careful” about signing a compact.

In a report released last week, *Agreeing to Disagree: Maintaining dissent in the NGO sector* by Gemma Edgar, the institute says that while compacts may offer important benefits, they do not supply long-term solutions to problems in relationships between NGOs and the government.

“While the Rudd Government’s desire to build bridges with the community sector should be applauded, any decision to enter into a formal compact needs to be carefully considered by both sides,” the institute says.

“The idea that the Government and the community sector can agree on how they will work together constructively sounds good in theory, but experience shows it’s the sincerity of both parties, not the words of a formal agreement, that is the key to a positive relationship.”

As they point out, the lemma government in NSW quietly ditched an agreement between the NSW government and the NSW community sector on the basis that it had been signed by the previous Premier. “If these agreements don’t hold when there is a change of Premier, even within the same party, what chance have they got of withstanding a change of government?” the Australia Institute asks.

“Compacts themselves do not guarantee the legitimacy of the community sector. Nor can they be relied upon to ensure an effective and respectful long-term relationship between government and NGOs. These things will only occur if NGO advocacy is recognised as a legitimate and valuable element of public debate.”

The institute has suggested that rather than entering into a compact, non-government organisations should promote the message that they are vital players in an active, participatory democracy.

To see The Australia Institute's report, go to [www.tai.org.au](http://www.tai.org.au).

### Australian Council of Social Service Consultations:

- **Alice Springs** September 5, 9am-1pm
- **Darwin** September 8, 9am-1pm
- **Brisbane** September 9, 9am-1pm
- **Townsville** September 10, 2pm-4.30pm
- **Adelaide** September 12, 9am-1pm
- **Hobart** September 19, 2pm-5.30pm
- **Perth** September 26, 9am-1pm

To register, for further information and to find out about dates for New South Wales, Victoria and Canberra, which are still to be advised, go to [www.acoss.org.au](http://www.acoss.org.au).

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## 11. Set your WATCH: ATO updates

The Australian Tax Office may be wondering if perhaps it should have just stayed in bed for the last few months.

It seems that it can't win a trick against the not-for-profit sector.

Last year the ATO ruled that the AID/WATCH organisation didn't count as a charity, because it attempted to procure changes to Australia's aid and development programs. In practice, this meant that almost any activity by a charity to pursue legislative or policy reforms would make it ineligible for Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status.

At the time, AID/WATCH chair James Goodman said that the ruling was effectively an attack on free speech and democracy.

"AID/WATCH cannot fulfill its role as a charity without raising issues publicly. We monitor the Government's aid programs and highlight its impacts," he said.

"It's primarily an educational role, but in order to do that we have to take a point of view and we have to seek to change Government policy. It's inevitable."

The Administrative Appeals Tribunal agreed, finding that where, as in the case of foreign aid, the state had actually already accepted that this was a good thing and a proper exercise of public money, then advocating for even more of this public good was also a public good. Without opening the floodgates, the judgment did say firmly that advocacy wasn't in itself inadmissible (for a more detailed analysis, see [this discussion](#) on the ABC's *Law Report* program).

It's certainly an important (and welcome) decision, but it's also the case that it may be rendered irrelevant fairly soon if the government takes seriously the outcome of the Senate inquiry into not-for-profits that we report on elsewhere in this issue.

It's not so much the decision itself that's important now, it's the influence that its well-argued reasoning will have on the recommendations of the inquiry.

### Three steps forward, no steps back

Last month we reported on the case of *Victorian Women Lawyers' Association Inc v Commissioner of Taxation [2008] FCA 983*, where the ATO failed to convince the court to take a narrow view of what was 'charitable'.

At the time we added, "It also has to be said that the siren hasn't gone yet. The ATO has yet to decide whether to appeal, and until they decide you'd be well advised to hang back from claiming any rights based on this judgement."

Well, the final siren's sounded, and the women lawyers are doubtless hugging each other and cheering all over the ground while the Tax Office trudges off to the dressing room grumbling about the umpiring.

The ATO has decided not to appeal – and after three straight losses in VWLA, Word, and now AID/WATCH it must be worried that there's a losing streak emerging.

Groups that don't have Deductible Gift Recipient status should look again at their chances. Some advocacy – even quite a lot of advocacy – doesn't necessarily rule you out any more.

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## 12. Australian-first community sustainable energy project takes flight

An Australian-first community wind farm project has been launched in Victoria amid hopes the concept will spread to other parts of the country.

The project, which will be located at Leonards Hill near Daylesford in Hepburn Shire, is seeking investors to bring the vision to reality.

Chair of Hepburn Wind, Simon Holmes à Court, told a public meeting in Daylesford late last month that the project was born of a desire to empower the community to respond to climate change.

Mr Holmes à Court said the council had received 320 letters in favour of the planning application to Hepburn Council, which indicated the strong support for the project.

"Climate change will impact not only on every person living on this planet now, but every person who will live on this planet from this point forward," he said.

Mr Holmes à Court identified three major benefits to the community that would result from the wind farm project:

- (1) Making a positive response to climate change that would foster a sense of community pride
- (2) The distribution of \$1 million to local causes through a planned community sustainability fund
- (3) Financial return to investors.

"We are on track to deliver to investors an attractive financial return," he said. "This is a truly sustainable project."



L-R: Hepburn Wind chair Simon Holmes à Court, Monash Sustainability Institute chair John Thwaites, landowner Ron Liversidge, Hepburn Renewable Energy Association founding director Per Barnard, and Future Energy (project partner) managing director David Shapero are pictured outside Daylesford Town Hall after the share offer launch on July 25

The project has received planning approval, land has been leased and business plans developed. "We have everything we need except two turbines," Mr Holmes à Court said.

Hepburn Wind hopes to raise \$9.5 million over the next few months through a public share offer. If all goes to plan, the wind farm could be generating around 4 megawatts of electricity – enough to power 2300 homes – by 2010.

In the few weeks since the launch of the share offer, more than 1200 people have downloaded the share offer document.

"We are seeing a strong response from local residents in Hepburn Shire who have supported the project from the outset, but we are delighted to be receiving applications from all over Australia and even from overseas," Mr Holmes à Court said.

Speaking at the public meeting and share offer launch, former Victorian Deputy Premier and Environment Minister John Thwaites said climate change was now a critical problem worldwide, but that it also presented opportunities for businesses and communities.

"Wind power is one of those (opportunities)," he said.

Prof. Thwaites, who is now Chair of the Monash Sustainability Institute, said the growth in wind farm energy generation around the world had not been mirrored in Australia, with only 1% of Australia's current energy needs coming from wind, as compared with a potential 20%.

"What we're seeing here is the first community-owned wind farm in the country," he said.

"I hope this is the first one of many – there's no reason why we couldn't have community-owned wind farms across Victoria and Australia, just as they do in Denmark and Germany."

Prof. Thwaites said the Hepburn wind farm would:

- (1) Help to create "wind power advocates," with community members encouraged to take a stake in the venture by becoming investors;
- (2) Minimise the loss of energy that occurs through the transfer of electricity across large distances that occurs in a traditional electricity generation and supply system;
- (3) Provide a source of local income;
- (4) Provide an example to other communities of a wind farm model that could achieve "community acceptability," in contrast to the disputes that have undermined business-driven projects in other areas;
- (5) Provide a "hedge" for local residents against the inevitability of rising energy costs.

More information about the project, including the share offer document, is at [www.hepburnwind.com.au](http://www.hepburnwind.com.au).

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### 13. Sharing the Load: Job-sharing tips for community groups

Job-share is becoming more popular as Australia's workplaces strive to find working arrangements which attract high-quality staff by offering them a degree of flexibility in their role so they can balance life's other responsibilities.

But it isn't just in the corporate world where concepts like job sharing are making an impact; community groups are also enjoying their benefits.

Down Syndrome Victoria is one such organisation, with its all-important executive officer (EO) position held jointly by Andrew Fleming and Catherine McAlpine, who work two and three days a week respectively.

Mr Fleming tells the August edition of Our Community's [Board Builder](#) newsletter that good communication is vital to making the arrangement work.

"Executive officer roles in any sized organisation are incredibly complex and incredibly broad. They cover the full gamut of accountability, responsibility, project implementation, strategic implementation issues ... you name it," he says.

"Introducing a job-share arrangement into the mix does make it complicated ... (and) it obviously creates difficulty in communicating with each other. One way we've addressed this is to overlap one day a week. We're both here one day a week and neither of us is here on Friday.

"Also, we make sure the technology works for us – we both have mobile phones and we both have the ability to get emails on our phones. So even when you're not at work you're watching work; you can see work and if there is something you need to respond to, you do."

Having the support of other people in the organisation, including the board or committee, president or chair, is a must, Mr Fleming says.

"EO roles are about risk management, and job-share introduces risk where there is no precedent about how the risk might play out. There's not a lot of good knowledge about what strategies you might use to mitigate risk in a job-share arrangement, so a lot of it is new ground," he says.

"I guess that requires a lot of confidence in your job-share partner and a lot of maturity and confidence from the committee of management, which has an attitude of 'if you make a mistake you turn it into organisational learning rather than being censured about it'.

"You have to have committee of management support for the arrangement to commence or it doesn't get off the ground. You have to have the committee of management willing to commit to long-term support or else it won't be sustainable."

Mr Fleming says that if there is high-level support for job-sharing, the benefits can be immense at both an individual and organisation level, including:

- Access to a broader and more diverse range of skills for the organisation;
- Happier workers, whose work-life balance helps them to better focus on their work when they are there;
- Great collegiate support for job-sharers;
- More opportunities to learn and gain experience, as well as use those lessons to benefit the organisation.

The full interview with Andrew Fleming appears in the August edition of the Board Builder newsletter. For more information go to [www.ourcommunity.com.au/boardbuilder](http://www.ourcommunity.com.au/boardbuilder).

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## 14. IDEAS YOU CAN STEAL: Show, don't tell

The educationalists tell us that some people are auditory learners (they learn through listening), some are tactile or kinaesthetic learners (they learn through moving, doing and touching), and some are visual – they need to see things to believe them.

When you're preparing this year's annual report think about how you might be able to draw more of your potential donors into the fold by providing a more eye-pleasing demonstration of what your group could do (or have done) with their money.

A nifty visual representation (below) demonstrating rates at work in the City of Moreland provides a great example of how this can be done.

The illustration was included as part of a rates notice brochure sent to residents this month.



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## 15. COMMUNITY CLASSIFIEDS – Notices, Offers, Awards, Giveaways & Tips

### WANTED: Pilot participants

Social Ventures Australia (SVA) is seeking participants to help test a pilot course in financial management for not-for-profit leaders.

SVA has worked with partners to develop the interactive online course, which aims to help in the understanding and prudent management of the financial operations of an organisation: financial statements, GST, audits, budgets, risk management and more.

The pilot online course offers the content of a one-day training course, condensed into two online sessions (including dynamic tables and illustrations, audio instructions, activities and exercises), as well as two real-time tutorial sessions with professional online trainers.

The pilot will be starting in early October and will require a commitment of around four hours over two weeks. Participants will take part free (the course normally costs more than \$300) and will be expected to provide suggestions for improvements.

Places are limited to 20 participants. For more information or to enrol, contact the SVA financial training team via email to [OFT@socialventures.com.au](mailto:OFT@socialventures.com.au).

### **WANTED: interviewees (community-business partnerships coordinators)**

Monash PhD student Kate Lefroy is seeking to interview corporate relations managers from not-for-profit organisations, and others who work in a role where they deal with corporate partnerships.

Kate's research involves looking at why and how not-for-profits form partnerships with corporates, in the hopes of better understanding and improving these relationships.

Interviews will take around 35-45 minutes and can be conducted over the phone or in person. All interviews are strictly confidential and no identifying information will be published.

For more information email [Kathryn.Lefroy@buseco.monash.edu.au](mailto:Kathryn.Lefroy@buseco.monash.edu.au).

### **WANTED: case studies**

Research Australia Philanthropy (RAP) is currently seeking interesting case studies that illustrate how philanthropic support benefits health and medical research.

RAP, which is a national not-for-profit alliance of organisations and companies that are committed to making health research a higher national priority, is particularly interested in corporate partnership case studies.

For further information about contributing your case study, please contact Jessica Gilbert **before July 29** by email to [jessica.gilbert@researchaustraliaphilanthropy.org](mailto:jessica.gilbert@researchaustraliaphilanthropy.org) or telephone (03) 9662 9420.

### **BOOKINGS AVAILABLE: Community comedy**

Comedian and community development worker Justine Sless will be performing around Melbourne during September and October.

Sless, whose shows provide insight into the not-for-profit sector, community capacity building and social inclusion, will be performing at the Diamond Valley Community Information AGM on September 10, and at Melbourne Fringe starting late September.

Her new Fringe show, *North by North East*, is described as "gutsy, raw and upfront". It follows previous shows *It's Not About the Prawns* and *Have a Slice*.

Justine can be booked to add levity and humour with a community sector sensibility to strategic planning days, conferences and AGMs. Visit [www.justinesless.com](http://www.justinesless.com).

### **TRAINING: Become a savvy spokesperson**

Media and communications specialists Hootville Communications will be holding media skills workshops in Cairns, Sydney and Melbourne over the next couple of months.

The Savvy Spokespeople and Media Savvy workshops are designed to give media spokespeople and cause ambassadors the knowledge and skills to become credible, informed, confident and persuasive communicators.

The half-day workshops, which are designed specifically for not-for-profits, are delivered by Mayor of Hootville, Brett de Hoedt.

For more information go to <http://www.hootville.com/events.shtml>.

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### Relive Communities in Control 2008

Melbourne community television channel C31 has aired a one-hour special on the 2008 Communities in Control conference.

The special, which is fronted by popular broadcaster Stella Young, includes all the highlights of the 2008 conference, including:

- Inspiration from Bill Shorten MP, Amnesty international's Kate Gilmore and Westpac's Noel Purcell
- Calls to action from Indigenous TV CEO Pat Turner and 2007 Australian of the Year Tim Flannery
- The wisdom of Roy Morgan Research's Michele Levine and Flinders University's Fran Baum
- Motivational case studies from the 2008 Community Idol competition
- Entertainment from the Great Debate and The Chaser's Julian Morrow
- And the great sounds of Renee Geyer and the Bipolar Bears.



The special can be viewed on the C31 website at [www.c31.org.au](http://www.c31.org.au), or the Our Community website at [www.ourcommunity.com.au/cic](http://www.ourcommunity.com.au/cic).

### Send in your community photos

Recently, we have been busy creating a brochure for our 'Join In, Join Up!' project – a brochure that will help showcase the community sector and encourage more members of the public to take part in a community group.

In compiling the brochure we've been searching for some colourful photos for each of our 21 community directory categories.

We didn't realise what a challenge it was going to be!

Our searches found plenty of photos of the corporate world and Americans in action but depictions of Australian community life were very thin on the ground.

This illustrates very starkly the huge value to the community sector that will be achieved through the new Community Photo Bank at [www.ourcommunity.com.au/photobank](http://www.ourcommunity.com.au/photobank).

The Photo Bank, an initiative of Our Community with the support of Australia Post, will bring together a gallery of photos from across the community sector, available free for use by any community organisation in Australia.

It's designed to show the full extent of Australia's communities and the people who work with them – a resource that can be drawn on by advocates, fundraisers, volunteers, newspapers, and writers.

We'd like to encourage you to submit photos for the Photo Bank as our own experience has emphasised the pressing need for a resource like this.

Contribute your photos before October 22, 2008 and not only will you be showcasing your own group and helping other community groups, you could win cash prizes 2500 for you and your community group.

To view the great photos already on display, or to find out more about the competition, visit the Photo Bank at [www.ourcommunity.com.au/photobank](http://www.ourcommunity.com.au/photobank).



## Thumbs Up

Our Community's grants team sifts through thousands of webpages every year, searching for programs to profile in the monthly EasyGrants newsletter.

So they're in a pretty good position to know what's standard and what's special.

Thumbs up this month goes to Monash Council in Melbourne's south-east, which provides grants application forms in four community languages – English, Greek, Italian and Chinese.

The council also accepts applications in languages other than English, providing true access to its local community groups.

For more information visit [www.monash.vic.gov.au/cominfo/grants.htm](http://www.monash.vic.gov.au/cominfo/grants.htm).

## Google Grants hit Australia

Much of the recent coverage surrounding the seemingly omniscient search engine Google has come from the arrival of its Google Maps' [Streetview](#) in Australia.

So you may have missed the news that another exciting Google innovation has arrived on our shores with a lot less fanfare.

[Google Grants](#), which has existed in other countries for a number of years but has only recently begun in Australia, aims to support organisations sharing the company's philosophy of: "community service to help the world in areas such as science and technology, education, global public health, the environment, youth advocacy, and the arts".

The program offers eligible not-for-profit groups the chance to win three months of free advertising through Google AdWords, with a cap of \$10,000 per month.

Google AdWords is the system used by the search engine to generate relevant sponsored links, which sit on one side of the screen when people type in keywords for a search.

This means your organisation's name, a small amount of information and a link to its web address will appear when people do searches containing keywords most relevant to your organisation. Ultimately it amounts to a decent amount of free advertising to people who are more likely to fall within your target audience.

There are eligibility criteria limiting which groups can apply for a grant – the program is "designed for non-profit institutions or funds that have either been endorsed as such in Australia by the Commissioner of Taxation, or prescribed as charitable institutions in the Income Tax Assessment Regulations of 1997".

If your group is eligible, you can apply here – [www.google.com.au/grants/tour/1.html](http://www.google.com.au/grants/tour/1.html). The link also provides an explanation of the program, as well as an online application form to fill in.

## Perth community TV station first casualty in switch to digital

The strain of the costly switch to digital broadcasting has finally taken its toll on community media, with Perth TV station Access 31 switching off the air on August 6.

Station chair Hendy Cowan told the ABC that Access 31 had not been able to find sufficient funding to carry on until Federal Government funding – which is not expected for two to three years – came through.

Another media outlet reported that a minimum of \$1.3 million was needed for the station to continue broadcasting in analogue until Federal funding was provided to simulcast in digital.

Access 31 board member Phillip Skelton told WAtoday.com.au that with 40% of Australian households now watching digital televisions, Access 31 would continue to face financial trouble until it was able to simulcast.

The Community Broadcasting Association of Australia (CBA) said the station's closure "highlighted the critical need for community broadcasters to have greater certainty in a digital broadcasting environment".

The CBA said that to avoid "serious financial hardship" from the erosion of audiences as the take-up of digital TV increased, community broadcasters must be able to simulcast in analogue and digital.

Access 31's financial difficulties were exacerbated by the lack of digital spectrum, the CBA said.

It said audience reach was the key to obtaining sponsorships and the sale of air time, which were together responsible for about 80% of community television revenue.

## **NSW Local Government Week and Awards**

Unique and innovative New South Wales community projects have received a variety of awards in honour of Local Government Week, which ran from July 28 to August 3.

Manly Council, which has been campaigning since 2004 to reduce smoking in public spaces, won two Heart Foundation Awards, and an award from the Cancer Council NSW.

Baulkham Hills Shire Council received three awards, one for excellence in communication within local government, another for best local youth week program and the third for the best ongoing commitment to youth week programs.

Other winning councils were Fairfield, Lake Macquarie, Wollongong, Newcastle, Eurobodalla, Parramatta, Kogarah, Ryde, Deniliquin, Goulburn Mulwaree, Waverley, Lane Cove, Randwick, Griffith, and Holroyd.

Awards were made across five different categories – Heart Foundation awards, Youth Week awards, Local Government Multicultural Health Awards, the Cancer Council NSW Local Government Awards and the Morpheum RH Dougherty Awards.

The theme of this year's New South Wales local government week – *Over the Fence: Cultivating our own Backyard* – focused on the need to appreciate and understand multicultural difference.

## **Still keeping Australia beautiful after 40 years**

Upgrading to more energy efficient lighting, rounding up everyone's old mobile phones and passing the environmental message on to others in the community are just some of the actions you're being encouraged to take during Keep Australia Beautiful Week (this week – August 25 to 31).

Keep Australia Beautiful has also recommended running a local clean-up day, using tongs to pick up litter and having separate bags for rubbish and recycling.

The organisation, which has been around for 40 years, has always had a local focus. Over the last few years there has been a slight shift, positioning the local challenge within the global environmental movement.

It's a terrific example of how an organisation has managed to stay relevant over several decades, and ride the wave of environmental consciousness sweeping the world.

Keep Australia's Beautiful's 2004 campaign was '5 ways in 5 days,' with a very local focus on the workplace, school, home, outdoors and travel.

In 2006, when international environmental awareness seemed to reach its tipping point, the organisation introduced a theme of 'Save the World. Start at Home,' providing an ecological footprint calculator on its website.

Last year Keep Australia Beautiful said that Australia was one of the largest producers of waste and highest emitters of greenhouse gas in the world, and urged all Australians to help. For more information and ideas go to [www.kab.org.au](http://www.kab.org.au).

### While we're on the topic of weeks ...

The organisers of Anti-Poverty Week (12-18 October 2008) are encouraging community organisations concerned about poverty and hardship to get behind this year's event.



Organisations from all over Australia are planning activities to raise awareness of the causes and consequences of poverty at a local, national or global level and to promote action to combat it.

Groups are encouraged to plan their own activities during the week or to promote and participate in events organised by other people.

Events already organised include conferences, displays, lunches, walks and workshops, but the organisers are particularly keen for additional events at the local level. Any activity, large or small, that raises awareness of the issues of poverty and hardship will help to make the week a success.

More information, including a calendar of events, can be found at [www.antipovertyweek.org.au](http://www.antipovertyweek.org.au). The website also has lots of useful suggestions for events and resources to help promote activities and put you in touch with others planning activities in your area.

### Community Calendar: What's on in the community sector

Our Community's online [Community Calendar](#) features all of the nationally significant events focussed around a major community or advocacy/awareness issues in Australia. Some of the events taking place over the next month include:

- **Biodiversity Month:** September 1-31
- **Prostate Cancer Awareness Month:** September 1-31
- **Save the Koala Month:** September 1-31
- **National Literacy and Numeracy Week:** September 1-7
- **National Asthma Week:** September 1-7
- **Ovarian Cancer Research Week:** September 1-7
- **Eczema Awareness Week:** September 1-7
- **Adult Learners' Week:** September 1-7
- **Landcare Week:** September 3-9
- **National Threatened Species Day:** September 7
- **International Literacy Day:** September 8
- **World Suicide Prevention Day:** September 10
- **Sustainable House Day:** September 14
- **Foster Care Week:** September 14-20
- **National Gynaecological Awareness Day:** September 10
- **Herbal Medicine Week:** September 15-21
- **National Stroke Week:** September 15-21
- **Dementia Awareness Week:** September 19-26
- **Clean up the World Day:** September 20-21
- **World Alzheimer's Day:** September 21
- **World Heart Day:** September 28

#### [FEATURED EVENT] Parkinson's Awareness Week: September 1-7

National Parkinson's Awareness Week aims to enhance efforts to:

- Increase awareness and understanding of Parkinson's disease
- Reduce the stigma associated with the condition, and
- Educate those living with Parkinson's and the wider community about the support and services available that can enhance quality of life and independence.

Find out more at  
[www.parkinsons.org.au/](http://www.parkinsons.org.au/)

More events, plus the full listing for each event (including organisational contact details and websites), can be found in the online Community Calendar at [www.ourcommunity.com.au/calendar](http://www.ourcommunity.com.au/calendar).



## Good Moves :: Jobs Bulletin

[www.ourcommunity.com.au](http://www.ourcommunity.com.au)

### JOB VACANCY LISTINGS (Paid Positions)

#### New South Wales

Job Title	Organisation	
Health Promotion Officer	Nutrition Australia	<a href="#">Details</a>
Executive Officer	Nutrition Australia	<a href="#">Details</a>
Project Officer - Solomon Islands	Australian Volunteers International	<a href="#">Details</a>

#### Northern Territory

Job Title	Organisation	
Riding Coach	Riding for the Disabled Alice Springs Inc.	<a href="#">Details</a>

#### Queensland

Job Title	Organisation	
Counsellor/Advocate- Children and Family	Queensland Program of Assistance to Survivors of Torture and Trauma Inc. (QPASTT)	<a href="#">Details</a>
Counsellor/Advocate- Early Intervention	Queensland Program of Assistance to Survivors of Torture and Trauma Inc. (QPASTT)	<a href="#">Details</a>

#### Victoria

Job Title	Organisation	
Policy Officer	Victorian Women with Disabilities Network & Women's Health Victoria	<a href="#">Details</a>
Project Coordinator	Post Placement Support Service	<a href="#">Details</a>
Policy & Membership Co-ordinator	Australian Association for Families of Children with a Disability (AAFCD)	<a href="#">Details</a>
Membership and Fundraising Coordinator	Friends of the Earth Melbourne	<a href="#">Details</a>
PR and Marketing Consultant	Hootville Communications	<a href="#">Details</a>
Project Manager, St Kilda Social Inclusion Project	Department of Human Services	<a href="#">Details</a>
Program Development Officer - PNG	Australian Volunteers International	<a href="#">Details</a>
Finance and Donor Officer - Lesotho	Australian Volunteers International	<a href="#">Details</a>
Co-ordinator Community Education & Bereaved Parent/Sibling Services	The Compassionate Friends Victoria Inc.	<a href="#">Details</a>
Executive Officer	Consumer Utilities Advocacy Centre Ltd (CUAC)	<a href="#">Details</a>
Finance Manager	International Women's Development Agency	<a href="#">Details</a>

#### Western Australia

Job Title	Organisation	
Caretaker	Yarloop Workshops Inc	<a href="#">Details</a>

## BOARD/COMMITTEE VACANCY LISTINGS (Volunteer Positions)

The following is a list of the most recent Board/Committee vacancies listed at Our Community. To view other board or Committee vacancies [please click here](#) (This matching service is free)

### New South Wales

Job Title	Organisation	
<a href="#">Secretary, General Board Member</a>	Wanderers Rugby Football Club Inc	<a href="#">Details</a>

### Queensland

Job Title	Organisation	
<a href="#">Treasurer, General Board Member</a>	Northey Street City Farm	<a href="#">Details</a>
<a href="#">Secretary</a>	Queensland Homicide Victims Support Group	<a href="#">Details</a>

### Victoria

Job Title	Organisation	
<a href="#">General Board Member</a>	Kidsafe VIC Inc (Child Accident Prevention Foundation of Australia)	<a href="#">Details</a>
<a href="#">Treasurer</a>	Family Access Network	<a href="#">Details</a>
<a href="#">General Board Member</a>	Caroline Chisholm Society	<a href="#">Details</a>
<a href="#">General Board Member</a>	UnitingCare Moreland Hall	<a href="#">Details</a>
<a href="#">General Board Member</a>	Mitcham Community House Inc	<a href="#">Details</a>
<a href="#">General Board Member</a>	EPIEL INC (Everyday People Improving Everyday Lives)	<a href="#">Details</a>
<a href="#">General Board Member</a>	Kalparrin Early Childhood Intervention Program	<a href="#">Details</a>

To advertise a job, go to [www.ourcommunity.com.au/jobs/advertise](http://www.ourcommunity.com.au/jobs/advertise) - (A low fee of \$30 applies)

To promote a board or Committee vacancy (it is free) go to [www.ourcommunity.com.au/boards/advertise](http://www.ourcommunity.com.au/boards/advertise) (This matching service is free)

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## 18. Fast Forward

If you found this newsletter helpful, please feel free to send it on to your friends and fellow community groups in your area. People can sign up to receive their own copy at [www.ourcommunity.com.au/signup](http://www.ourcommunity.com.au/signup).

If you would like to reproduce anything in this newsletter in your own newsletters or websites, you are free to do so. Please just add a small credit line, "courtesy of [www.ourcommunity.com.au](http://www.ourcommunity.com.au)" and a direct link to the [www.ourcommunity.com.au](http://www.ourcommunity.com.au) site if on a webpage.

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## 19. About Our Community

Our Community is a world-leading social enterprise that provides advice and tools for Australia's 700,000 community groups and schools, and practical linkages between the community sector and the general public, business and government.

Our major offerings include:

1. **[www.ourcommunity.com.au](http://www.ourcommunity.com.au)** – Australia's most useful website and publishing house, encompassing the nation's largest and most diverse membership base and 12 Knowledge Centres – accelerating the impact of Australia's 700,000 community organisations
2. **[Australia's Giving Centre](#)** – Helping individuals and businesses give in every way
3. **[Australian Institute for Community Practice and Governance](#)** – practical and accessible certificated training delivered locally through our training Institute
4. **[Institute for Best Practice in Grants Management](#)** – the unique suite of grants management services for government
5. **[Australian Institute for Corporate Responsibility](#)** – cutting edge corporate responsibility resources for large, medium and small business and community organisations

Read more about us at [www.ourcommunity.com.au/aboutus](http://www.ourcommunity.com.au/aboutus).

## Intensive Winning Grants Seminars

Are you frustrated at putting time and effort into grants submissions only to be rejected again and again?

Are you looking for grants to support your new projects or to extend tried and true programs?

### YOU WILL LEARN

- **The best ways to present your proposal** - tell the story of your project and your group to the greatest advantage
- **How to develop your statement of need** - choosing data to support your project proposal
- **How to develop an "organisation template"** - to save time in writing applications
- **How to humanise your story** - presenting a compelling picture
- **How to navigate the grants landscape** - sorting out which grants are best for your project
- **How to write a proposal** - every word matters; style, treatment and content
- **Making friends and long-term relationships with grantmakers** - managing relationships, acknowledging funders
- **Giving the grantmaker what they want** - how to tailor your proposal for multiple grantmakers
- **Creating winning project plans & realistic budgets** - ensure project plans and budgets get the proposal across the line
- **Meeting different requirements from different sources** - different levels of government, philanthropic and corporate

### BOOK IN YOUR STATE NOW:

visit: [www.ourcommunity.com.au/winninggrants](http://www.ourcommunity.com.au/winninggrants)

email: [service@ourcommunity.com.au](mailto:service@ourcommunity.com.au)

call: 03 93206800



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