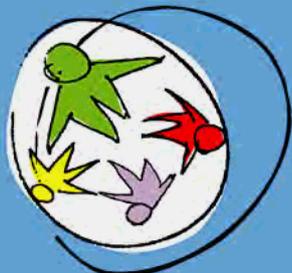


Our Community **MATTERS**

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

www.ourcommunity.com.au

April 2007 - Issued April 17, 2007

Welcome to the latest edition of **Our Community Matters**, your regular free community sector update. It is yet another benefit of membership of www.ourcommunity.com.au – the premier destination for Australia's 700,000 community, education and not-for-profit groups. Our Community provides community groups with the latest funding and fundraising news as well as practical management, board, marketing and community business partnership information. Our Community also operates the [Australian Giving Centre](#), the free online donations service that has so far raised \$5 million for Australian community appeals. A summary of our services is listed at the end of this newsletter. If you have trouble reading this newsletter or have any comments please let us know by emailing kathyr@ourcommunity.com.au.

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1. Community View ... By Rhonda Galbally AO, CEO of www.ourcommunity.com.au

What makes a community group excellent?

In an old Indian tale six blind men were once sent out to evaluate an elephant.

One, feeling at the flank, said, "The elephant is like a wall. We should evaluate it on such measures as support strength and insulation properties."

Another felt the tail, and said, "As the elephant is very like a rope, we should be looking at tensile strength and length/weight ratio."

The man at the ear said, "The elephant is very much like a fan so the appropriate measures are air speed and power use."

Well, you can fill the rest of it in yourself, making the point that it's difficult to agree on measures without a clear picture of the nature and purpose of the thing you're trying to evaluate.

Community groups are like the elephant in the Indian tale – it's hard to define what makes a good one unless you first define the context.

You can't use the usual measures because community groups are removed from the one universally agreed measure of success in our society – profit. Making more money than last year may be a good sign for a community group, or it may not – the point is, it's not the main game.

So how about judging the worth of a community group by how well it's achieving its own goals? Even this can be difficult, because there's so much good a community group can do anyway even when it's totally ineffectual at what it's actually been set up to do.

Is the value of a community sports group to be judged on where it finishes on the ladder at the end of the season, or is it more to do with how included and healthy and happy the group members feel? Should a community theatre group be judged on the quality of its performances, or on how much fun the members have in staging the show?

Community groups can make people feel happy, accepted, involved, included, valued, supported, and healthier, even if they're not actually achieving the things they were set up to do.

In fact, it's these other things, these things many people consider to be secondary – the building of social cohesion, the development of resilience – that are actually the things that are of greatest value to individuals and to the community.

That's why we've put in place the Australian Community Idol competition, a program designed to seek out those great groups that are quietly (or noisily) going about the job of building a better world, not by what they do so much as how they do it.

The program, which is held each year with the support of Westpac and in conjunction with the annual Communities in Control conference, honours those groups that star in the areas that really count:

1. **Promoting accessibility and equal participation** by opening their arms to all people in the community – for example, people with disabilities, people from disadvantaged areas, people from Indigenous or multicultural backgrounds, or other under-represented members of the public;
2. **Building a dynamic, forward thinking Board or Committee of Management**, one that's representative of all stakeholders, including service users and local business, and that has undertaken to promote the group's financial health, to manage risk, and to promote innovation;
3. **Pursuing excellence in fundraising** by sharing the fundraising burden within the group, broadening the fundraising base, and developing and implementing innovative fundraising ideas; and
4. **Showing leadership and advocacy**, by being prepared to stand up for the cause.

I'd love every community organisation in Australia to strive for excellence in all of those five areas, and I'd encourage any group that has already done so to tell us about it by putting in a Community Idol nomination, which you can do by going to www.ourcommunity.com.au/idol.

Nominations close on Friday, May 4.

And if you want to see the short-listed organisations make their case for the mantle of 2007 Australian Community Idol, you'll have to come along to the [Communities in Control conference](#) – Australia's biggest and most beloved community conference – in June.

I look forward to seeing you there. (BYO elephants!)

Rhonda Galbally
Chief Executive Officer

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2. Have your say on the images, songs, movements that changed the way we live

A few weeks ago, we asked you for suggestions of some of the iconic images that you believe have helped to mobilise movements and change the way we think and the way we live in Australia over the past two decades.

Here are just a few of the ones you came up with:



Indigenous Australian runner Cathy Freeman completed her 1994 Commonwealth Gold victory lap draped in an Indigenous Flag (later coupled with an Australian flag), a move that led to both acclaim and criticism for Freeman.



2004 *Big Brother* contestant Merlin Luck threw his "eviction show" into turmoil by taping his mouth shut to make a statement about mandatory detention of refugees. The silent protest was designed to symbolise Luck's belief that refugees in Australia did not have a voice.



Indigenous St Kilda footballer Nicky Winmar brandished his bare chest to a hostile section of crowd in a statement of Aboriginal pride during a game against Collingwood in 1993. The act led to far-reaching reform relating to racism in Australia's national game, and beyond.



Tens of thousands of Sydney residents walked across Sydney Harbour Bridge in May 2000 in a symbolic gesture of bridging the divide between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.



Australian band Midnight Oil shocked Sydney 2000 Olympics organisers and delighted crowds around the world by performing one of their trademark tunes, *Beds Are Burning*, wearing black clothes emblazoned with the word 'Sorry'.



TV and radio personality Kate Langbroek was the centre of controversy across the country after breastfeeding her child, Lewis, live on *The Panel* in 2003. Her actions followed the ejection from the Victorian Parliament of MP Kirstie Marshall about six months earlier for breastfeeding her 11-day-old daughter in the chamber.



Thousands of women painted the MCG pink in May 2005 to symbolise the number of people diagnosed with breast cancer every year. The 'Field of Women' helped attract a huge amount of attention for the issue of breast cancer.



One of the defining moments in the gay rights movement occurred in Hobart's Salamanca Market in 1988, when the Tasmanian Police detained 130 people over seven consecutive Saturday mornings who were staffing a law reform stall Hobart City Council had banned. The movement eventually led to the discrimination of gay sex in Tasmania.



In March 2003, anti-war protesters climbed to the top of the highest sail of the Sydney Opera House and painted 'No War' in huge letters in bright red paving paint. The incident – decried by some as a shameless attack on a national icon – occurred as Australia stood poised to join the coalition of the willing in Iraq.

Other suggestions of iconic images from the past 20 years included:

- Asylum seekers in Woomera detention centre pictured in 2002 with their mouths sewn shut
- The ubiquitous orange 'Free David Hicks' signs that popped up around Australia in 2006 and 2007
- Inner-city streets being closed down by bikes en masse as part of "Critical Mass" efforts to raise awareness about alternative modes of transport
- Piles of dead ducks left on the steps of Parliament in protest over duck hunting
- Victorian Police Commissioner Christine Nixon marching as part of the Gay Rights parade in Melbourne in 2001
- International actor Rachel Griffiths' topless protest over the opening of Melbourne's Crown Casino in 1997.

Have your say: Vote Now!

We want to find out what you believe is THE most iconic advocacy image of our time.

You can have your say on this – as well as the most stirring songs and the most pressing issues of our time – by taking part in this year's State of the Community Survey.

The survey, which is conducted by Our Community every year in the lead-up to the annual Communities in Control conference, includes questions on a range of issues affecting the community sector, including governance, fundraising and advocacy.

You can complete the advocacy questions only, or the entire survey, by going to www.ourcommunity.com.au/survey2007.

Survey results will be released in the lead-up to **Communities in Control**, which is being held in Melbourne on June 4 and 5. For more information about the conference, visit www.ourcommunity.com.au/cic.

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3. New media resources available for community organisations

A book, a range of free online tools and a weekly e-newsletter are among the tools now on offer to help community organisations more effectively carry their stories to the media.

Media on a Shoestring has been written by Media Team Australia executive director Annie O'Rourke and funded by the Alcoa Foundation.

"I wrote 'Media on a Shoestring' to guide people of all levels through tried and tested techniques for achieving media coverage," Ms O'Rourke says.

"I want community organisations to feel confident in undertaking media work and to realise that successful strategies and campaigns do not have to cost the earth."

The guide includes sections on putting in place the foundations you need for a strong, effective media strategy, plus media tactics, tips on understanding the media and advice on how to get your message to cut through to those who matter.

Media Team has also produced a series of free online tools which are designed to help groups perfect their communications, including:

- A communications audit for organisations
- A personal media effectiveness audit
- A strategic communications plan generator
- A 'Promoting Positive Partnerships' tool
- A 'Staging Successful Events' tool
- A media release checklist
- Tips for preparing for a media interview.

The tools, and information on how to order the book (which costs \$45), are available on the Media Team website at www.mediateam.com.au. Media Team is also running a series of workshops for not-for-profit organisations – details also available on the website.

Another must-have media tool for community organisations is the new-look Hootville Lowdown e-newsletter.

The Lowdown is produced by not-for-profit communications specialist Brett de Hoedt, who most Our Community members will remember as the very quirky, always entertaining presenter of the annual Community Idol quest, among his many other activities.

The newsletter provides media advice and information on PR opportunities for community organisations of all sorts, but especially those who want to raise funds, raise awareness, or find more members.

Plus it's a good read! To sign up for the Lowdown, visit www.hootville.com and follow the links.

And while we're on the topic of media, don't forget the Media, Marketing and Post Centre – a joint initiative of Our Community and Australia Post.

The Centre includes a list of media contacts, a range of images and layouts, dozens of free help sheets and much more. Visit www.ourcommunity.com.au/mmp to find out more.

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4. Good news for sausage sizzles (and community groups) in draft food safety report



Thumbs Up to the Victorian Government for taking a significant step towards reduction of red tape for community groups involved in staging community events.

As part of a wider campaign to reduce regulation and red tape in Victoria, the Government has launched an inquiry into food regulation, with draft recommendations now released for comment.

Some very good news is emerging from this process for community groups, with the draft report recommending that the Government focus its regulatory efforts on higher-risk activities, such as serving food to vulnerable groups, while lightening the administrative burden for lower-risk activities such as cake stalls, sausage sizzles, school fetes and school canteens.

If the recommendation is adopted, community groups will not be subject to separate food regulations, but will benefit from a new three-tiered system that reduces the regulatory burden for lower-risk activities.

"The more risk-based proposed regulatory framework would assign most low-risk activities by community groups (such as school fetes, sausage sizzles and catering by community sporting clubs) to class 3, so those groups would face minimal regulatory requirements," the report says.

"Higher risk food activities undertaken by community groups (such as catering to vulnerable populations) would continue as class 1." Food premises falling under the class 1 category would include those operated out of hospitals, aged care facilities and child care centres.

"Medium risk activities (such as food festivals drawing large crowds) would be assigned, at least initially, to class 2," the report says.

"The Commission considers that the Victorian Government should also develop an education and information strategy for the community sector drawing on areas of local government expertise, and outline arrangements for funding educational activities."

The Commission anticipates its recommended changes could save the community sector between \$2.8 million and \$6.5 million a year.

"There would be an additional advantage resulting from greater certainty about the intended application of the regulations," the Commission's report says.

Other recommendations put forward by the Commission include:

- Strengthening 'rewards' for good performers with less paperwork and fewer council inspections;
- Providing more 'sticks' such as on-the-spot fines, and also requiring training for businesses that fail to comply;
- Improving monitoring and analysis to identify and target problem areas; and
- Implementing a statewide education and training program to promote community awareness of basic food safety, given that potentially one quarter of all cases of food-borne illness are caused in the home.

The Commission has also recommended that Victoria pursue food regulation changes nationally.

The Commission has called for submissions on the draft report, which must be received by June 15, 2007.

For more information visit

<http://www.vcec.vic.gov.au/CA256EAF001C7B21/0/4A73A68080F80AFBCA2571E9001D0A44?OpenDocument>

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5. Fundraising workshops strike a chord

The first of a series of annual community fundraising workshops being held throughout Australia over coming months has been held in Victoria.

The April 11 Melbourne workshop, which sold out within days, helped participants learn practical strategies to help their groups reach their full fundraising potential – strategies that could be tailored to each group's particular needs and implemented immediately.

Presented by Our Community's Director of Training and Development, Patrick Moriarty, the workshop also showcased Our Community's Six Pillars of Raising Funds:

- Donations
- Grants
- Community-Business Partnerships
- Membership/Alumni/Friends
- Special Events
- Earned Income.

Patrick told workshop participants that no group should be so dependent on one single funding source as to be unable to function without it.

He said every group should put in place a diverse fundraising strategy that includes aspects of each of the six Pillars (in large or small doses, depending on the group's needs and capacities).

That way, the group could be assured of greater security, independence, and insulation from calamity when any one funding source dried up.

Patrick urged workshop participants to work their way through a fundraising planning process, beginning by asking what problems, issues or challenges the group was trying to solve through its fundraising.

"A critical component of any fundraising is being able to demonstrate need and by working through this up front you are much better equipped to then target strategies to meet these fundraising priorities," he said.

The Intensive Community Fundraising Workshop now moves on to:

- **Brisbane**
May 21, 2007 (9am – 12.30pm)
The Marque Hotel – Micheners Room
103 George St, Brisbane
- **Sydney**
June 15 (9am – 12.30pm)
NSW Leagues Club – Premiers Room
165 Phillip St, Sydney
- **Adelaide**
July 2, 2007 (9am – 12.30pm)
Adelaide Oval – Bradman Room
War Memorial Drive, North Adelaide
- **Perth**
August 14, 2007 (9am – 12.30pm)
Mercure Hotel Perth – Anglesea 2
10 Irwin St, Perth

Due to the clear demand for the Victorian workshop, and the excellent feedback following it, a further Melbourne workshop has also been added to the program:

What participants said about the April 11 Intensive Community Fundraising Workshop:

"It was a FANTASTIC workshop. Collectively, and individually, we walked away with new information and many new ideas. We're very confident that we'll be able to immediately apply much of what was covered. Thank you!"

- Jim Culbertson, Management Committee Chair, Daylesford ChillOut Festival

"Thanks to Patrick and the team for a great conference yesterday. It was very valuable."

- Jenny McWilliam, Enrolment Officer, LMPA, Bendigo

"I want to say thank you to you all – that was the best by far workshop on grants I have been to so far. I came back to Adelaide more enthused and am already looking up grants."

- Janet Nadler, DisAbility Expo, SA

- **Melbourne**
September 14, 2007 (9am – 12.30pm)
William Angliss Conference Centre – Auditorium
Building A, Level 5, 555 La Trobe St, Melbourne

To find out more or register for any of the workshops, visit www.ourcommunity.com.au/fundraisingworkshop.

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6. Windows Vista: to upgrade or not ... Is that the question?

Most community organisations (like most for-profits, and like most home users) run their computers on Microsoft Windows operating systems – WIN95, WIN98, WIN2000, WINXP and now the all new Windows Vista.

As community organisations have less money and tend to update their IT more slowly than the commercial sector, a substantial number are still running old versions of Windows on even older computers.

The question that we all now face is whether to upgrade to the latest version – Windows Vista.

Any upgrade, of any kind, has costs – not simply the obvious purchase cost, but also new training requirements and hassles with software that has suddenly become incompatible.

It's fair to say that nobody looks forward to upgrading their office, and will be moved to do it only if there are clear advantages in the new system or clear problems staying with the old. Vista promises both – but with reservations.

It's fair to say that PC users haven't greeted Vista with dancing in the streets. It has new features, and is said to be more secure against hackers, but it's not revolutionary or a true breakthrough.

There's a thorough and detailed survey of the changes and their significance as applied to not-for-profits on the always useful website of TechSoup (<http://www.techsoup.org/learningcenter/software/page6173.cfm>).

It's also true that the new system continues the trend towards requiring more powerful computers to run each successive operating system.

That means if your computer is older than about 2002 you're going to have to consider new hardware, at greater expense (and Vista has four different variants, from Basic to Business; the larger versions are even more demanding).

If you leave your computer un-upgraded too long, however, you'll find that you're having difficulties interfacing with other people's computers, and Vista has several elements that play on this.

It can save files, for example, in a new format that WIN98 can't open without new software. At the moment there are still only a few offices that produce output that will give you trouble, but as Vista becomes the effective standard their number will obviously grow.

One important factor, of course, is whether you have to pay full price for it or not. An upgrade costs between \$180 and \$450 (straight purchase, between \$340 and \$690).

If you're qualified for Microsoft's basically free distribution scheme, now run by DonorTech (www.donortec.com.au), then you should check to see if your hardware will run it, and run with it if you can.

Otherwise, wait and integrate it into your new computer purchases – because the correct answer to the question 'Should I upgrade?' is 'What does your IT development plan say?'

You should be rolling your hardware over as it becomes obsolete, and you should know what capacities you require for particular projects. Buy Vista with the new and more powerful computers that are needed to run it.

Alternatively, you might take a bold step and move to Apple, whose computers have a superior and less bug-ridden operating system and are about to offer the ability to run Windows as part of the Mac operating system.

Again, get your IT plan in order and work out what's best for your group.

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7. Our Community Hero: Bev Douglas, Springvale, Victoria

Each month we honour one of the often unsung people who make a real difference to the community through Our Community's **Community Heroes** initiative.

This month's Community Hero is **BEV DOUGLAS**, a person who exemplifies what long-term support dedication means to a community organisation.

Bev was nominated for the award by the Chair of the Management Committee of the Springvale Community Centre, Graham Don, who writes:

"Bev Douglas has been a volunteer at the Springvale Community Centre for 17 years.

"In that time she has been the vice president of the centre.

"Bev is the first to put her hand up for voluntary work – i.e. providing office assistance, making refreshments for meetings etc. She has helped out with elderly citizens and younger citizens (through the playgroup), and Bonnie Babes.

"Bev has been awarded life membership of the centre. A more willing, honest, diligent, hard-working volunteer could not be found.

"As chair of the management committee of the centre I have no hesitation in recommending Bev as a Community Hero."

Bev will receive a Community Heroes certificate, plus a selection of Our Community books and a 12-month subscription to a range of Our Community newsletters. She will also be featured on the Our Community website, along with other Community Heroes who will be featured over coming months.

If you would like to read about past Community Heroes, or find out how to nominate a Community Hero, visit www.ourcommunity.com.au/heroes.

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8. Like My Own Family: documentary showcases best practice in aged care

We're always looking for great community projects to showcase as a way of spreading the good news about what's being achieved in the community sector and to give other community groups ideas and inspiration for their own projects.

This project, which will soon be added to Centre for What Works at www.ourcommunity.com.au/whatworks, showcases a community project that has resulted in the creation of a powerful new advocacy tool.

(Words by Hutch Hussein.)

Whilst the Northern Migrant Resource Centre (NMRC) have been pioneers since 1998 in the provision of bilingual carers providing in-home support to elderly ethnic migrants and refugees across Melbourne, via their Multicultural Home Support Service, they wanted to showcase what this model of best practice meant to the people they worked with and have another advocacy tool.

The organisation decided to develop a documentary and from that was born *Like My Own Family* – taking its title from how one elderly Turkish woman described her respite carer.

The NMRC teamed up with John Cherry of IntaFusion films to storyboard how such a documentary could work. The eventual outcome was a very insightful, moving and at times humorous film that goes into the homes of five people from migrant backgrounds who are receiving in-home respite at a community aged care support service.

The individuals and their families in the film are from Turkish, Assyrian, Greek, Somali and Vietnamese backgrounds and the workers are matched to meet the language and cultural needs of each person. This means that the worker is able to converse in the same language, is able to prepare culturally specific meals and, is able to understand cultural needs when entering the family home.



Family members talk about their experiences in getting their parent or partner to accept services. They describe how receiving services was seen as shameful because it is the family's responsibility to care for its ageing members, but that being able to have a worker who understands the culture and can speak the same language has made it more acceptable. A number of professionals – a GP, case manager and NGO CEOs – also talk about the benefits of cultural and language matching.

In producing the documentary, the NMRC has created another advocacy tool which it can use to achieve its aim of ensuring service delivery of "whole of family" culturally sensitive model of home care for frail ageing migrants.

The film has allowed to the NMRC to showcase, promote and increase awareness of the service and the model of care by targetting numerous audiences:

- Aged and disability care service providers to increase access service responsiveness
- Ageing migrants and their families to increase knowledge of services and consumer rights
- Training institutions and relevant peak organisations to incorporate into training programs.

The NMRC would encourage community groups to consider a documentary as a way to showcase their projects – we have been invited to present to interstate and overseas conferences and raised considerable awareness about the importance of this issue and its service, which has progressively grown to meet the changing needs of ageing migrants in the northern region of Melbourne and is looking at expanding.

For more information about NMRC's services, visit www.mrcne.org.au or to access a copy of the film, please contact Jo Krizmanic-Wilson or Nikki Marshall on 9496 0200, nikkim@mrcne.org.au. IntaFusion films can be contacted via John Cherry, 0414 559 024 or email: jc@intafusion.com.

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9. New resource released to help community recycling ventures flourish

And while we're on the topic of great community projects, a new Australian resource has been released to help community organisations interested in starting a recycling venture in their communities.

A Guide to Starting a Recycling Venture in your Community has been published by Future Employment Opportunities Inc (FEO), an organisation that established its own community recycling venture (CRV) in the central Victorian town of Eaglehawk.

"The CRV in Eaglehawk has given FEO the opportunity to create new sustainable jobs and to establish a partnership with the City of Greater Bendigo to reduce waste to landfill," says FEO president Michael McKern in his introduction to the guide.

"FEO would now like to share its experiences with other communities and, where possible, assist you to set up similar projects."

Community recycling ventures are not-for-profit social enterprises designed to address two issues of significant concern to Australia:

1. Improving Australia's overall rate of waste recovery and recycling, so as to reduce waste to landfill; and
2. Providing sustainable employment and professional development opportunities, so as to reduce Australia's rate of unemployment.

The ventures aim to separate and divert recyclable materials from waste delivered to landfills. The recovered materials are sorted and sold to scrap dealers, second-hand dealers and to consumers.

"(CRVs) create strong financial and social benefits for local councils, government and taxpayers as a whole," the FEO says. "For not-for-profit organisations, Community Recycling Ventures deliver desired social benefits, while utilising capital efficiency."

The guide outlines the case for Community Recycling Ventures, explains how they work, showcases the Eaglehawk example and provides step-by-step information on how to start your own venture.

It can be downloaded on FEO's website at www.communityrecycling.com.au, or you can purchase a hard copy for \$20 via the site as well.

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10. Community Classifieds

Got an ethical dilemma? The answer could be down the phone line

An Australia-wide phone service is now available to help people to resolve ethical dilemmas.

The Ethi-Call counselling service, which is run by the St James Ethics Centre, provides a non-judgemental space for reflection and the exploration of dilemmas, challenges and issues faced by people in everyday life.

The service is free, confidential and as anonymous as you would like it to be. Appointments can be made for telephone counselling or face-to-face in Sydney.

"It's easy to decide that it's wrong to rob a bank," the Ethics Centre says. "The issues our counselling service deals with are more complex, where the choices may involve 'right' versus 'right', or 'wrong' versus 'wrong'. These are situations where there are no easy answers.

"Our ethics counsellors will help you explore the dilemmas you are facing so that you can reach a solution which best fits your own circumstances, principles and values."

The Ethi-Call service is available by calling 1800 672 303.

Seeking community groups for technology study

A PhD student from the University of Queensland is seeking to get in touch with community groups willing to take part in a study on the take-up of technology in their organisation.

Groups should have around 30-40 staff and be willing to take part in five surveys over six months to plot issues relating to the uptake of a new piece of technology, such as a new database or document retrieval system.

Queensland-based groups would be particularly useful.

Groups interested in taking part in the study should contact Jeff Greenfield by calling 0417 746 819 or email to j.greenfield@business.uq.edu.au.

Educational materials: free to a good home

A Newcastle-based teacher who is about to step out of the workforce is looking to give away a range of teacher resources, games and other educational material.

The teacher is looking for an organisation that will give the materials a good home – possibly a school in an under-privileged area in Australia or overseas.

For more information contact Kerry by emailing bacona@bigpond.com.

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11. What's on in the community sector – dates for your diary

What's on in the community sector – dates for your diary

Our Community's online [Calendar of Events](#) 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:

- **Earth Day**
April 18
- **Anzac Day**
April 25
- **World Day for Safety and Health at Work**
April 28

- **Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month**
May
- **Walk Safely to School Day**
May 4
- **International No Diet Day**
May 6
- **Education Week**
May 6-12
- **Australian Dance Week**
May 7
- **National Mothering Week**
May 7-12
- **National Neighbourhood House Day**
May 9
- **Law Week**
May 13-19

More events, plus the full listing for each event (including organisational contact details and websites) can be found in the online Calendar of Events on the Our Community website at www.ourcommunity.com.au/calendar.

Key Our Community dates coming up include:

- **Raising Funds newsletter issued**
April 18 ([Click here](#) for more info)
- **Certificate IV in Business (Governance) – Day 2 (Planning)**
April 20 ([Click here](#) for more info)
- **BusiGrants issued**
April 23 ([Click here](#) for more info)
- **Certificate IV in Business (Governance) – Day 3 (Communicating)**
April 27 ([Click here](#) for more info)
- **Community Idol applications close**
May 4 ([Click here](#) for more info)
- **Certificate IV in Business (Governance) – Days 1-4 (Consecutive)**
May 7-10 ([Click here](#) for more info)
- **Business Community Intelligence newsletter issued**
May 1 ([Click here](#) for more info)
- **Certificate IV in Business (Governance) – Day 4 (Sustaining)**
May 11 ([Click here](#) for more info)
- **Business Community Intelligence Masterclass 2007**
May 23 ([Click here](#) for more info)
- **Intensive Community Fundraising Workshop – Brisbane**
May 21 ([Click here](#) for more info)

Our Community's newsletter schedule is at www.ourcommunity.com.au/schedule.

**FEATURED EVENT:
Back to School Day**

Australians are being urged to head back to the classroom during May as public schools celebrate the 2007 Back to School Day.

Back to School Day is a national program celebrating schools as the core of our communities.

Schools that register for the event invite former students to return to the school to provide inspiration to current students.

The event is being held on May 8 in Victoria and Tasmania, May 17 in NSW, ACT, NT, WA and SA and May 29 in Queensland.

In 2006, more than 500 public schools invited back more than 1800 former students, including prominent Australians and people from all walks of life, to talk about their school days, share their stories of success since leaving school and celebrate their education with more than 150,00 students.

Find out more and register to take part at <http://backtoschoolday.com.au>

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12. Community Briefs

Youth in Control – spaces still available

Spaces are still available for the Youth in Control forum, which is being held as part of this year's Communities in Control conference.

The forum – to be held from 9.30am to noon on Wednesday, June 6, 2007 – is a special skills-based session designed for young people aged 17-27.

Young people who have attended the two-day Communities in Control conference will come together to consider the lessons of the past two days and plan a pathway for local action in their communities.

The Youth in Control forum has been specially formulated and priced to allow each local government area in Australia to send a youth delegate.

To register for the forum, visit www.ourcommunity.com.au/cic2007.

New governance program dates released

Four new dates have been released for the Certificate IV in Business (Governance) – a new qualification for community group board and committee members.

The program, which is delivered by Our Community and BSI Learning, is designed to help volunteer board and committee members navigate today's challenging governance terrain.

The training provides practical skills, knowledge and resources to ensure improved governance and direction.

The course is run in Melbourne over four days, held separately or consecutively, depending on your preference.

The four separate days are being held:

- Friday June 1 (Governing)
- Friday June 15 (Planning)
- Friday June 29 (Communicating)
- Friday July 6 (Sustaining)

The course is also available on consecutive days from June 25 to 28, or August 27 to 30.

For more information visit www.ourcommunity.com.au/certificateIV.

Climate Change

We're all becoming aware of the magnitude of the threat from climate change, and governments are looking for fixes.

This is a good thing, of course, but now we're rushing in to large programs at the last moment it's easy to overlook the interests of the groups that aren't at the table.

The Brotherhood of St Laurence wants to ensure social equity is built into the urgent responses to global warming, and has now formed a coalition with the Australian Conservation Foundation, the National Welfare Rights Network and The Climate Institute to encourage knowledge and advocacy on the impact of climate change on disadvantaged people.

In March they brought together experts from Australia and Britain for an Equity in Response to Climate Change Roundtable that thought through how Australia can ensure that climate change and measures to counter global warming don't worsen social inequality.

It's an important discussion, and it's available online [here](#).

The greatest speeches of all time

Earlier this month Australians delivered their verdict to an ABC Radio survey on what they believed to be the most inspirational speeches of all time.

The full text of those speeches has now been added to the Leadership Centre – the section of the Our Community website where we provide resources and inspiration to help current and potential community leaders reach their potential.

Along with the Top 10 Leadership Speeches, the Leadership Centre also includes a directory of leadership courses, a resource centre with a range of free help sheets, and a tribute to some of Our Community Heroes.

Speeches on the Top 10 list include Dr Martin Luther King's 'I Have a Dream' speech (1963), Jesus' 'Sermon on the Mount' (c27), Paul Keating's 'Redfern Address' (1992), and Winston Churchill's 'We Shall Fight on the Beaches' speech (1940).

The Leadership Centre is at www.ourcommunity.com.au/leadership.

Your chance to NAB a volunteer award

Nominations have opened for the 2007 NAB volunteer awards, with more than \$200,000 in prizes up for grabs.

The awards, which are held in collaboration with Volunteering Australia, recognise the commitment of volunteers and reward organisations who demonstrate best practice in volunteer management.

Awards for community groups are available in two categories. Category One is for small to medium sized organisations (those with one to 15 full-time equivalent paid staff), and Category Two is for large organisations with 15 or more FTE staff.

State winners receive \$10,000 in award prizes, while national winners will take home \$20,000 worth of prizes.

A new award has been added this year for business and government workplaces that have shown excellence in corporate volunteering.

Find out more at www.nab.com.au/volunteering or call 1800 807 121.

Legally Speaking: Record-keeping requirements amended

(By Richard Thompson, Principal of Archer Thompson Lawyers)

The Federal Government has made further changes to the record-keeping requirements in the Workplace Relations Regulations which commenced on 27 March.

Key changes include that hours of work will only have to be recorded where a penalty rate or loading has to be paid for overtime (record either start and finish times or number of hours worked), and that employers must keep a record of hours worked for casuals and part-time workers with irregular hours who have a basic periodic rate of pay.

The leave provisions have also been simplified so that record requirements are included in the main leave provision.

For a free initial consultation on legal issues please call Richard Thompson at Archer Thompson lawyers on (03) 98278279 or email to richard@archerthompson.com.au.

Jargon busting with wiki

A UK organisation has launched a new web page that aims to decipher some of the jargon and acronyms used by the community sector.

Being a wiki, anyone can add or change the content of the page, which has been created by ladder4learning – an organisation that provides learning and training services for the community sector in the UK.

People who search for a word or acronym not yet up on the site can add it to the page for others to provide with a definition. The page is at <http://vcsjargonbuster.wikispaces.com/>.

13. Good Moves: Community Jobs & Board/Committee vacancies



Good Moves :: Jobs Bulletin

www.ourcommunity.com.au

JOB VACANCY LISTINGS (Paid Positions)

New South Wales

Job Title	Organisation	
Executive Officer	National Ethnic Disability Alliance	Details
Manager	Alcohol and Drug Foundation NSW	Details
Manager	Community Resource Network	Details

Queensland

Job Title	Organisation	
Outreach Support Worker	Redcliffe Neighbourhood Centre	Details
Advocacy Worker	Speaking Up For You Inc.	Details

Victoria

Job Title	Organisation	
Executive Officer	Down Syndrome Association of Victoria	Details
Family Violence Outreach Worker	Women's Health West	Details
JPET Youth Worker	SKYS	Details
Case Manager- Disability Services	Windermere Child and Family Services	Details
Kinship and Youth Support	The Mirabel Foundation	Details
Administration and Finance Officer	Blind Citizens Australia	Details
FUNDRAISING DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR	Jewish Care (Victoria) Inc	Details

BOARD/COMMITTEE VACANCY LISTINGS (Volunteer Positions)

New South Wales

Job Title	Organisation	
General Board Member	Community Links Wolondilly	Details
Various Positions Available	Western Housing For Youth LTD	Details

Queensland

Job Title	Organisation	
Treasurer, General Board Member	Chisholm Inc.	Details

Victoria

Job Title	Organisation	
Treasurer, General Board Member, seeking two members - treasurer and fundraising experience	Extended Families Australia Inc.	Details
General Board Member	Daylesford Neighbourhood Centre Inc	Details
Treasurer, Secretary, General Board Member	Dance Against Domestic Violence	Details
Treasurer	Surrey Hills Neighbourhood Centre	Details

Western Australia

Job Title	Organisation	
Secretary, General Board Member	Shelter WA	Details

www.ourcommunity.com.au/jobs - Your best choice to find and advertise a job

14. Fast Forward

If you found this newsletter helpful, please feel free to send it onto your friends and fellow community groups in your area. People can sign up to receive their own copy at 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" and a direct link to the www.ourcommunity.com.au site if on a web page.

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, please email service@ourcommunity.com.au and put "Unsubscribe-OCM" in the subject line.

15. About Our Community

Our Community is a world-leading social enterprise providing:

1. 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 business give in every way
3. **Australian Institute for Community Practice and Governance** - practical and accessible certificated training delivered locally through our training Institute
4. **Centre for Best Practice in Grantmaking** - the unique suite of grantmaking services for government
5. **Centre for Community-Business Partnerships** - cutting edge Corporate Social Responsibility resources for large, medium and small business and community organisations