

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

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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](http://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 \$6 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](mailto:kathyr@ourcommunity.com.au).

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## 1. Community View ... By Rhonda Galbally AO, CEO of [www.ourcommunity.com.au](http://www.ourcommunity.com.au)

### Showcasing community excellence: Community Idol finalists unveiled

Last month I wrote about what it is that makes a community group excellent – about how great groups make people feel happy, accepted, involved, included, valued, supported and healthier, whatever it is they were set up to do.

This month it's my very great pleasure to show you exactly what I mean, as we unveil the **2007 Westpac Community Idol** finalists.

This is the competition where we set out to find the community group that stands out from the pack and exemplifies community leadership and participation.

Hundreds of entries from across the country have now been reduced to just three short-listed finalists, each of which will present their case for the title of 2007 Community Idol at day one of the Communities in Control conference on June 4.

Audience members will vote on their favourite, with the winning group to be announced by Australia's favourite singer-songwriter **Paul Kelly** (who will also perform) on day two of the conference – June 5. (More about that in **Part 2** of the newsletter.)

This year's finalists provide a terrific example of some of the amazing work that is being carried out by Australian community groups – ordinary groups doing some extraordinary things.

The finalists are:

- **Two Eight Two Eight** – many small communities are struggling with economic downturn and drought but few are tackling their challenges in such a positive way. Two Eight Two Eight has led the reinvigoration of the small community of Gulargambone in the central west of NSW (postcode 2828), with activities extending beyond the economic (although the group has had significant achievements in that field) to include important community-building initiatives.
- **United Cricket Club** – this is an ordinary cricket club that is making an extraordinary contribution to understanding and inclusion in the sports-mad central Victorian regional city of Bendigo. Among its on and off-field achievements, the club is working to integrate people with an intellectual disability into the very fabric of the club, a move that stands as a shining example to all groups, not just those involved with sport.
- **Yirra Yaakin Aboriginal Corporation** – Yirra Yaakin is an Indigenous theatre company based in Perth but servicing all of WA. Regarded as one of Australia's leading Indigenous theatre companies, the group is also notable for its work in promoting understanding of Aboriginal culture, traditions and stories, and its commitment to fostering reconciliation, empowerment and pride.

These three amazing groups will strut their stuff at Communities in Control in June, with the winning group – as voted by the audience – to receive the title of Westpac Community Idol 2007, plus \$3000 cash. All three finalists will receive all current books produced by Our Community and a 12-month subscription to all our Community newsletters – valued at more than \$1000.

If you want to hear their stories and have your say on the winner, make sure you get your ticket to Communities in Control 2007 – find out more or book your space at [www.ourcommunity.com.au/cic2007](http://www.ourcommunity.com.au/cic2007).

A further 11 community groups have also been selected to receive "Australian Community Idol Special Commendation" awards during the conference. They are:

- **Access for All Alliance** – a Queensland-based group that is working to bring about equitable and dignified access to all premises, facilities and services to all members of the community. Recent campaigns have included a national survey to highlight the difficulties experienced by people with disabilities trying to book holidays.
- **Bendigo Youth Choir** – a terrifically inclusive choir operating in central Victoria that accepts all young people who wish to sing, and the only youth choir in Australia in which all members have mastered the art of harmonic overtone (throat) singing.
- **ChIPS** (Chronic Illness Peer Support) – a group working to improve the lives of young people living with a chronic illness. A key feature of ChIPS is that it is not illness-specific so it provides an important opportunity for support for young people with rare illnesses who may not fit into other groups.

- **KIDS Foundation** – a hard-working group that promotes awareness of children’s safety through a range of initiatives, including the establishment of School Safety Clubs in primary schools. The foundation also provides invaluable support for young people recovering from injury and burns.
- **Little River Landcare Group** – this group is remarkable in its willingness to go beyond the usual environmental issues that form the core concern of most landcare groups. As well as its important work on natural resource management, the group has run seminars on succession planning, depression and suicide, as well as a rural women’s forum.
- **Millennium Kids** – a group that delivers inclusive and sustainable projects that reflect the opinions and concerns of young people. The group’s unique structure sees a Youth Board comprising 15 young people aged 10 to 25 provide oversight and direction, with the support of a secondary Advisory Council made up of 10 adults.
- **Public Interest Law Clearing House** – PILCH provides pro bono legal services and undertakes law reform, policy work and legal education. The group has built a strong reputation in the community for its willingness to tackle difficult or unpopular issues, and for its work to address disadvantage and marginalisation in the community.
- **Retro Youth Café** – the Youth Café was started up by Albury City Council but is shaped by two dynamic and active youth committees. The café is providing important entertainment and educational opportunities for young people living in the rural city of Albury and surrounds.
- **Toowoomba Community Justice Group** – a group working to reduce the number of Indigenous people in the criminal justice system. Its achievements have included establishment of the ‘Whaddup’ youth diversionary program, and the culturally appropriate Murri Court.
- **Yaamanhaa Aboriginal Men’s Group** – a group that is working to re-establish a positive role for men in the Aboriginal community of New England in NSW. Among its successes is the ‘Feeling Deadly Not Shame’ program, which has been put in place to address issues of mental illness and violence.
- **Yarra Ranges Children’s Choir** – a choir open to all children who love singing. Remarkable initiatives the group has put in place include an Aboriginal Children’s Choir that is helping to preserve the local Indigenous language, and a program for boys with changing voices.

Congratulations to all of the finalists and a huge thank you to all the groups who nominated – groups that are doing an amazing job of keeping our local communities vital and healthy.

I look forward to meeting representatives of the groups in person at the conference in June.

**Rhonda Galbally**  
Chief Executive Officer

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## 2. Paul Kelly confirmed to perform at Communities in Control – Last Chance to Register

We’re excited to announce the late addition to the Communities in Control program of Australia’s favourite singer-songwriter, **Paul Kelly**.

Our Community approached Kelly to perform at the conference after his song, *From Little Things Big Things Grow*, topped a pre-conference survey asking people to nominate the most stirring Australian advocacy song from the past 20 years.

Kelly will perform during day two of the conference, and will also present the award for the Westpac Community Idol.

This is just one of the things fuelling excitement for the upcoming conference, which is being held in Melbourne on June 4 and 5.

Two of our speakers have been in the news over the past few weeks – **Jack Munday**, whose name has now officially been connected with Sydney’s Rocks area, and High Court judge, **Justice Michael Kirby**, who made an unexpected beat-box debut earlier this month.

Jack Munday’s place in history was sealed when the Geographical Names Board of NSW announced it was naming a small section of The Rocks area of Sydney “Jack Munday Place” in recognition of his contribution to saving the area from demolition during the historic Green Bans campaign in the 1970s.

This extraordinary conservation movement saw building workers, led by Jack and his union, refuse to work on construction projects that were threatening the environment and heritage of local communities.

Jack will speak on day one of Communities in Control on Monday, June 4.

Meanwhile, Justice Kirby – a man who is often in the news, but not usually for his musical prowess – reportedly wowed audiences at the launch of Victorian Arts Law Week earlier this month when he performed alongside rapper and beatboxer Elf Transzporter.

According to Fairfax newspapers, Justice Kirby – who will deliver the 2007 Community Leadership Oration on day two of the conference on Tuesday, June 5 – “threw off his sober blue suit to reveal and electric yellow jacket” before reciting the Yeats poem, *He Wishes for the Cloths of Heaven*, accompanied by the beat-boxing of Transzporter.

Justice Kirby also reportedly recited a poetic adaptation of the seminal speech he delivered at the opening of the 2002 Gay Games:

“We believe that the days of exclusion are numbered/ The days of fusion are come/In our work, everything can find its place.

“By our lives, let us all be an example of respect for human rights/ Fusion, not exclusion.”

Tickets are still available for Communities in Control 2007.

Visit [www.ourcommunity.com.au/cic2007](http://www.ourcommunity.com.au/cic2007) to find out more or to book your spot.



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### 3. Real Stories: How Community Advocacy has Changed Lives and Changed Australia

This year's Communities in Control conference is all about advocacy and how the voices of the community can and must be listened to in the development of public policy.

This has had us turning our mind to some of the movements that have resulted in change in the past – and had us imagining how the world would be if some of these movements hadn't been born.

#### *Imagine if women had no right to equal pay for work of equal value.*

Up until the late 1960s it was commonplace to believe that a woman's place was in the home. Women's work was correspondingly poorly paid and poorly valued. With the revival of the women's movement in the early '70s came the campaign to break down the traditional view of a woman's role and achieve equal pay for women. A test case mounted by the Australian Council of Trade Unions eventually resulted in an overturning of the 25% discrepancy in pay rates between men and women in favour of equal pay for work of equal value.

#### *Imagine if guns were allowed to proliferate in Australia.*

Following the devastating Port Arthur massacre in Tasmania in 1996, which cost the lives of 35 people, the Howard Government led the states to unite to remove semi-automatic and pump-action shotguns and rifles from civilian possession. In the years before the reforms, there were 13 mass shootings in Australia. In the decade since, Australia has been free of fatal mass shootings, and has experienced accelerated declines in firearm deaths, including suicides and homicides.

#### *Imagine if HIV infection rates were allowed to soar in Australia.*

In 1986 the Australian gay community successfully advocated for a revolutionary approach to the prevention of HIV/AIDS: funds for gay groups to run innovative and preventative community education programs to promote safe sex. The result is an Australia with one of the lowest rates of HIV/AIDS in the world.

***Imagine an Australia where Aboriginal Australians have no land rights at all.***

For 200 years, the Indigenous people of Australia suffered under the legal reality of *terra nullius* – an assumption that before white settlement, Australia belonged to no-one. That was until Eddie Mabo, David Passi and James Rice brought a test case to determine the legal rights of Indigenous Australians to use and occupy land on islands in the Torres Strait that had been annexed to the state of Queensland in 1879. After a decade of litigation, the *Mabo* case resulted in a High Court ruling that rejected *terra nullius* and finally recognised native title for Indigenous Australians.

***Imagine an Australia where smoking is associated with the glamour of sports.***

In 1988 the Victorian Health Promotion Foundation (VicHealth) began to replace tobacco sponsorship of sports and arts using a dedicated tobacco tax as replacement funds – this was a world first. By 1991 most sports and all arts were tobacco free. In 1992 VicHealth, with the Cancer Council of Victoria, the National Heart Foundation, and most importantly thousands of sports and arts groups around Australia, successfully lobbied the Federal Government to ban tobacco sponsorship from sports and arts completely (Formula One Grand Prix excepted).

***Imagine if people with disabilities still lived behind the walls of institutions.***

Up until the 1980s most people with disabilities lived in institutions for the disabled. These institutions were similar to prisons – there was no right to privacy, no right to eat and sleep when you wanted to, no right to go out and come back; inmates were locked behind institutional walls for life. In the late 1970s the disability rights movement began in Australia – a movement by and for people with disabilities themselves. The first goal was to break down the walls of institutions and secure for people with disabilities the right to live in the community and take part in community life – to be educated in mainstream schools, to work alongside the rest of the community, to play sport and take part in recreation and community life, to have the same opportunities as other Australians. Eventually the worst of the institutional walls came down (though there is still some way to go in achieving full integration and rights for people with disabilities).

***Imagine if car-related injuries and fatalities were considered an unavoidable part of life.***

Advocacy for seat belt legislation was initiated in the late 1960s by Australian emergency doctors, who noted that seatbelt wearers were less likely to be seriously injured in collisions. Compulsory seatbelt laws, accompanied by a community education campaign, were introduced in Victoria in 1970, followed by the rest of Australia and then other countries during the 1970s and 1980s – a move that has resulted in dramatic reductions in death and injuries caused by car accidents. Campaigns against speeding and drink-driving have had similar results in recent years.

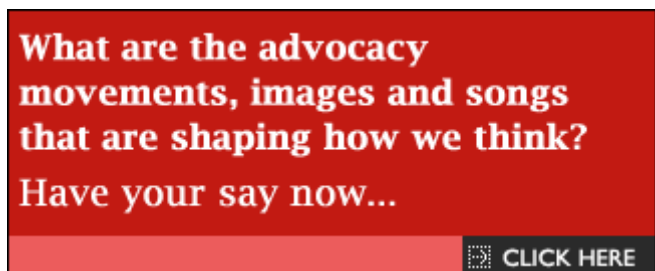
***Imagine if mining were allowed to take precedence over health and world heritage.***

In 1998 the Mirrar people called on activists to come from around Australia and the world to block the construction of the proposed Jabiluka uranium mine, which was to have been built on land belonging to the Mirrar Aboriginal people – land that was surrounded by the World Heritage listed Kakadu National Park. Over the next eight months, more than 400 people were arrested as the campaign raged. Continual lobbying, in conjunction with falling uranium prices, brought the project to an eventual halt. In 2003, rehabilitation works began at the site, while in 2005, the traditional owners were finally granted veto rights over future development of Jabiluka.

**These are just a few examples of the movements that have changed the way Australians think and act.**

Have your say on the most pressing issues of our time, as well as the songs and pictures that are shaping our world, by taking part in the 2007 State of the Community survey.

The survey is online at [www.ourcommunity.com.au/survey2007](http://www.ourcommunity.com.au/survey2007) or click the link on the right to go straight through to the survey.



**What are the advocacy movements, images and songs that are shaping how we think? Have your say now...**

**CLICK HERE**

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## 4. Rivers of Gold: Donations Study Reveals Good News for Community

Each year Queensland University of Technology's Centre of Philanthropy and Nonprofit Studies (CPNS) analyses statistics on tax-deductible donations made by Australians in their individual income tax returns. Tax Office statistics are now up to the 2004-2005 year, and when the CPNS looks at deductions in that period the news is all good.

Australians claimed \$1.47 billion in charitable deductions, up from \$1.16 billion for the previous year – an increase of \$307 million, or 26.4%.

A 26% increase means a doubling time of three years. The giving rate is rising exponentially above the inflation rate, or even the national growth rate, or even the average rise in donations over the past five years (11.3%). The increase is almost off the scale.

There are some caveats to these otherwise wonderful figures.

The first is that in absolute terms they're not all that much. The national average deductible gift is only \$341, which as a percentage of average income is only 0.346% (which is, to be sure, up from 2% a decade ago).

The second is that they include the bump in national concern caused by the tsunami. The CPNS statisticians calculate that if you take out the tsunami money the rate of increase goes down to between 18.6% and 21.7% – still way above the average, but lower, doubling in about four years, not three.

It's not necessarily true, of course, that we should take the tsunami gifts out of the total entirely. At the time there were fears that individual donors would suffer "compassion fatigue" and that non-tsunami causes would suffer a drop, but that didn't really happen on any large scale – it would appear that giving expanded to meet the challenge of the tsunami, and that other donations in fact increased owing to the public focus on giving.

The fact that people gave more in 2004-2005 may lead them to enlarge their views on how much they can afford to give, tsunami or no tsunami. It will be fascinating to see the '05-'06 statistics.

The main drawback with the figures, though, is that tax-deductible donations don't in fact make up an enormous proportion of Australian giving. The Giving Australia report – a separate report on giving that took into account other forms of giving alongside giving to DGRs – estimated that in 2005 individual Australians gave away \$5.7 billion, implying that only about a quarter of the total goes to DGRs (and that's without counting in the enormous contribution made by volunteers, or even the \$2 billion we hand over for raffle tickets, chocolate drives, or special events). And this is probably just as well – given Australia's confused and unbalanced tax law in this area, the bulk of community groups don't qualify for deductible status.

Still, the Giving Australia statistics, while more complete, aren't produced every year. The ATO figures are, which makes them an essential reference point, and the CPNS should be congratulated for its efforts every year in making them available.

The rise in donations is very good news, of course, but it also tends to induce a sense of lingering guilt for community group fundraisers. The question that we should all be asking ourselves is "Did our fundraising go up by 26% last year?" And if the answer is "No," as we suspect it probably is, the next question is, "What are we doing wrong?"

There's more and more money out there. We can't be content with standing still. Get out your fundraising plan and pencil in new higher targets.

### Tax time – a good time to start

With the end of the financial year almost upon us, now is a great time to think about snaring a share of the millions of dollars in donations that start floating around at this time of year.

In the coming weeks, mailboxes and inboxes will be filled with appeal letters, donation forms and requests for support from a multitude of organisations, and donations will spike as people look to maximise their tax deductions (and give to a good cause at the same time).

If you can't offer a tax deduction, that's no reason to rest on your laurels – there are plenty of worthy groups that don't have DGR status but who will still grab their share of the cash in the coming weeks by standing out from the crowd and riding the wave of tax-time altruism.

There are four things that your appeal will need to have if it is to be successful:

1. A brief description of the problem, and why it matters;
2. A brief account of what your organisation wants to do about it;
3. An explanation of how the desired donations will make it possible; and
4. A celebration of the difference this will make to people's lives.

Use the points above as a checklist before finalising your appeal, and make sure you're listed to receive online donations through the Australian Giving Centre, a free service provided by Our Community with the support of Westpac. [Click here](#) to find out more.

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## 5. Our Community Hero: Sue Freeman

**Each month we honour and celebrate a Community Hero – someone who is working to make a real difference to the health and vibrancy of their local community.**

This month's Community Hero falls into a category of people that are really integral to the health and success of community groups and the communities they support – the treasurers.

SUE FREEMAN is the long-serving treasurer of the Langwarrin Netball Club – and much else besides. Club president Fay Blommestein writes:



"Sue has been Treasurer with Langwarrin Netball Club for almost 20 years (since 1988) and has done an impeccable job for the club.

"Sue has kept a tight reign on our finances over the years and invested our fundraising money wisely, enabling us to apply for funding for our court resurfacing and lighting. Sue was involved heavily in the submission, providing accurate figures to ensure we could meet our obligations within our means and without increasing our fees. She worked closely with local council through all stages of the works and ensured all work was carried out correctly.

"Sue liaises on a regular basis with all major stakeholders involved with running our club – i.e. the local council, the local association, contractors, parents and committee – and ensures all monies are paid and collected in a timely fashion. Sue always provides accurate, up-to-date figures for the committee to ensure that our club runs at an optimum level.

"Apart from the enormous workload involved with being treasurer, Sue has always contributed immensely in other aspects.

"As an umpire and umpire coach: As one of our senior experienced umpires, Sue is always seeking to improve herself as an umpire and willingly passes on her valuable experience to our younger umpires and assistant umpires.

"As a coach: Sue has coached many different age groups over the years. Her patience and dedication to the girls she coaches was always to the fore.

"As a player: Sue has played with the club since 1965, and is still known to take to the court now and then when needed.

"You could not ask for a more dedicated club person than Sue Freeman. When you want something done or organised, Sue is always there first, is last to leave and works tirelessly throughout our netball season.

"The local association's 40-year anniversary was held in 2006 and Sue was the worthy recipient of the Administrator of the Year Award.

"In my humble opinion Sue Freeman is the heart and soul of our local netball community and worthy nomination as a Community Hero."

Sue 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. 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](http://www.ourcommunity.com.au/heroes).

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## 6. Changes to our Home Page – [www.ourcommunity.com.au](http://www.ourcommunity.com.au)

Long-term Our Community members would know that we never let the grass grow under our feet, and this month has been no exception, with a range of improvements taking place on our website.

In the first of a series of changes that will be unveiled over coming months, our home page has been simplified to make it easier to find the information you want. Key changes are explained below.

The screenshot shows the homepage of ourcommunity.com.au with several annotations pointing to specific features:

- Website section names simplified (e.g. "Find Money" replaces "Funding Centre")**: Points to the "Find Money" button in the top navigation bar.
- Current Events posted on the home page**: Points to the "Current Events" section in the main content area.
- Existing members sign-in remains in the same spot**: Points to the "Member Login" form in the left sidebar.
- Quick Links added to allow visitors to visit our most popular pages with just one click**: Points to the "Quick Links" list in the main content area.
- Go here for current Our Community and community sector news, updated daily**: Points to the "News" section in the main content area.

### Important website security message

When sending any type of personal or confidential information over the internet, particularly credit card details, users should take care to ensure that the information is encrypted.

In the past, a small 'closed' padlock has appeared at the bottom right hand side of internet browser windows to signify a secure (encrypted) webpage (such as Our Community's encrypted sign-in page at [www.ourcommunity.com.au/signup](http://www.ourcommunity.com.au/signup)).

However in newer browsers, such as the newly released Internet Explorer 7, the position of the padlock has shifted. People using Internet Explorer 7 will see the padlock at the top of the browser near the address bar, rather than the bottom right-hand corner.

Please be assured that the change in position of the padlock has not effected the security of the site. At Our Community, we take great care to ensure that all of our systems, processes and procedures follow industry best practice with regard to the privacy and security of all users and member organisations. All sections of ourcommunity.com.au where personal and confidential information may be entered have appropriate security measures in place.

For more information about Our Community security measures, visit [www.ourcommunity.com.au/security](http://www.ourcommunity.com.au/security).

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## 7. Surfing the Changes: Eight Trends that are Changing the World (Part 1)

This isn't the same world our parents lived and worked in. Matter of fact, it often looks a bit odd to us. But if we don't keep on top of the wave we'll be dumped into the undertow. You have to be able to pick the direction of the wave and get in synch.

In the first of a four-part series, we take a look at some of the trends affecting the Australian community sector, and what groups will need to do to keep up.

### (1) GLOBALISATION

#### **The change**

The butterfly effect – where a butterfly flapping its wings in Brazil leads a year later through a complicated and inexorable chain of consequences to a hurricane in Darwin – is tying the world economy together. Traditionally, Australians have felt distressed by famines in China, but not involved; now a fall in the Shanghai stock market brings the problem right back into our superannuation fund. Jobs are exported, and imported.

#### **The upshot**

Nations, companies, and individuals feel that they have less and less control over their lives, and look for opportunities to exercise in small things the autonomy they feel slipping away overall. Civil society and the community sector will increasingly be looked upon as a refuge from the harsh winds of economic logic, somewhere where values and meaning can be asserted.

#### **Changing to fit**

Values can't be treated like fine china, protected from contamination or breakage. Both the community sector as a whole and community groups one by one need to find ways to leverage their values back into the field of public policy.

#### **To do today**

How does your organisation want to change the world? Better health in victims of torture, more support for rural sports? Tell the world what it needs to do about this, and that changing the world is part of your job.

### (2) CLIMATE

#### **The change**

It's now becoming increasingly evident that the economic development that has driven globalisation is imposing intolerable strains on the planet's life support systems. The progressive deterioration of climate conditions has become a barbecue-stopper – quite literally, there's a total fire ban – and may become a water cooler topic if the water holds out. Australians are now prepared to make the sacrifices that might have been enough if we'd done them in 1970; by 2015 we may be prepared to make the sacrifices that are necessary today.

#### **The upshot**

Dealing with climate change is going to involve as much effort as a mid-sized war. As with any war, it's going to be hard to get people's attention for groups that aren't directly involved. On the other hand, hard everyday proof that businesses and governments don't have a monopoly of wisdom may lead to a rise in people's willingness to listen to the voices crying from the wilderness.

#### **Changing to fit**

All enterprises, including community groups, are going to have to make deep changes to their operating methods to reduce energy use, water use, and ecological footprint. More widely, we have to be prepared for a different ideological background and a different concept of the public good, and must be able to show that each of our projects can meet new standards.

#### **To do today**

Go to your next year's budget and cut your estimate for power and water by 20%. Then include a line explaining why your groups' work contributes to the survival of the human species.

**NEXT MONTH: How changes in income & time are affecting the community sector.**

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## 8. Young People Finding a Third Way to Connect

Young Victorians display healthy levels of civic and political engagement, but use newer and less conventional means of joining up, according to new research from Melbourne and Monash Universities.

The new Australian Research Council-backed work, *Youth, Citizenship and Identity*, draws on the survey responses of 815 people aged between 15 and 17 years.

The survey, the findings of which were presented in May, sought young people's attitudes to practices of citizenship in Victoria.

It found that there might be a "third way" that young people are engaged that finds a middle path between the two more common perspectives on youth citizenship:

1. That young people are disengaged from politics and apathetic, and;
2. That young people are more involved in new kinds of engagement outside formal politics – for example, online or internet-based groups.

That "third way" sees young people remain socially engaged and politically aware, but taking part in citizenship and politics in an unconventional way.

The report's four main findings are:

### **(1) That "ordinary" young people's civic engagement sees them well-connected and comfortable with friends, family and community.**

While few respondents were part of unions (7%) or political party members (3%), they were still "joiners", being part of sporting groups (55%), online groups (27%), and youth/student groups (21%).

Many took part in community-orientated activities that interested them and that connected them to others.

### **(2) Political engagement was about young people having a say in institutions and relationships that had an immediate impact on them.**

The survey found young people felt they could have a say with friends (94%), their family (90%), in class (84%) or at school (78%).

On the other hand, they felt they didn't have a say in local councils, electorates or the media. Importantly, many didn't want to have a say in these forums.

### **(3) Young people are not apathetic.**

While the vast majority of young people surveyed had never contacted a politician or gone to a rally, many were engaged in political activities, or acts of meaningful social change, such as recycling (73%) and donating money (65%).

In addition, the survey found little evidence young people were engaged in new kinds of consumer politics – 85% said they had seldom or never boycotted a brand, 84% said they had seldom or never made a political statement online.

### **(4) Young people express socially and politically engaged concerns.**

The survey found that while young people had significant pressures on them to create futures for themselves, they were not apathetic, and did have interests beyond their own lives.

Two key social and political concerns – war/terrorism and the environment – reflected "their engagement with the key global issues of our times".

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## 9. Setting the Standards: Defining the values and beliefs of the community sector

The next edition of our *Board Builder* newsletter – the quarterly newsletter for the members of Australia's community group boards, committees and councils – includes an interesting discussion on some of the values, beliefs and standards that make community groups different.

The article, by veteran community sector worker Ann-Marie O'Brien, puts forward 10 quality standards for community organisations. It makes for an interesting checklist, or a prompt for further discussions within your group:

### **(1) The community organisation has a strong identity and clear direction that is quite distinct and independent from legislative and funding directions.**

The organisation understands clearly its reason for existing and alters its direction in line with the goals and dreams of the people it supports, not because of government policy.

The community organisation accounts firstly to the people it supports and then to other stakeholders, including government.

### **(2) The community organisation has a set of values that guide its development.**

These values are known and held by everyone in the organisation, and are referred to in all decision making. These values have been tested by time and collective community wisdom and do not alter.

Although the organisation may accept government funding to assist in the delivery of its services, it is prepared to reject government funding if required to stay true to its vision and values.

### **(3) The community organisation delivers a quality service through its commitment to people rather than policy or procedure.**

It actively seeks out quality staff and members who share the vision and values of the organisation and who wish to make a difference in this world and then nurtures them in a climate of support and creativity.

It rejects the notion that policy and procedure can guide the wrong people to do the right thing.

### **(4) The community organisation has a servant leadership model where leadership is based on a conscious choice to serve others.**

Leaders in the organisation are there, first and foremost, to provide service to people who use the organisation's services, and those who work for it.

Leaders accept and recognise others for their unique gift and seek to draw out, inspire and develop the best within others. The organisation values leadership qualities over management skill.

### **(5) The community organisation balances leadership with good management practices.**

The organisation never loses sight of its core service nor allows red tape to distract it from that core service.

It seeks to develop organisational capacity to be flexible and responsive to the changing goals and circumstances of the people it serves while staying financially viable.

### **(6) The community organisation is committed to the right relationships with all people.**

The community organisation is first and foremost a community of people who share their lives with each other and as such seek to treat each other kindly, fairly and justly.

### **(7) The community organisation encourages voluntary action from within itself, and from the wider community.**

Unlike business and government, community organisations foster an atmosphere of freely given time and energy to reach beyond and achieve more than funding will pay for.

The agenda of a community organisation is far beyond a particular service or program. It extends out to creating a better community and a better world.

**(8) The community organisation works for the common good of the society where citizens participate and are connected.**

The community organisation seeks to build social capital – trust, reciprocity and networks between individuals and/or groups in the community.

**(9) The community organisation values personal integrity amongst its members.**

Living within the community that is serviced by the community organisation, members and staff walk the talk of community connectedness and right relationships in their own lives.

Living according to these values becomes more than a 9 to 5 job, as those who are served by the organisation share a common community life with those who serve.

**(10) The community organisation works collaboratively with other organisations in the community sector, as well as with others in the business and government sectors.**

Unlike a business, a community organisation rejects concepts of “healthy competition” or “marketplace driven agenda” and works collaboratively with others community organisations towards a higher agenda of inclusive and responsive communities.

The community organisation is committed to supporting and sharing resources with other members of the community who are working to address need.

**The next edition of the *Board Builder* is due out next week. For more information or subscriptions go to [www.ourcommunity.com.au/boardbuilder](http://www.ourcommunity.com.au/boardbuilder) or telephone (03) 9320 6800.**

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## 10. Community Classifieds

### Shoes to give away

A popular Australian surfwear brand has an ongoing source of hundreds of shoes per year to give away to a not-for-profit organisation that might be able to use them – the only catch is they come as singles, rather than pairs.

Quiksilver Australia receives up to 100 women's right-foot shoe samples three to four times a year, which they are willing to pass on to a good cause. Sizes vary, however they are mainly come in sizes 7 or 8 and are suitable for young women. (There may also be scope to have the samples produced in other sizes and as a mixture of right and left shoes if that would be more useful.)

Amputee support organisations, hospitals or even art projects are among the groups that might be able to take advantage of the Quiksilver offer.

Groups that may have a use for the shoes can contact Quiksilver Australia's Eloise Gannon by emailing [Eloise.Gannon@qsilver.com.au](mailto:Eloise.Gannon@qsilver.com.au) or telephoning 5261 0246.

### Free medical journals

Medical centres, libraries, medical students or hospitals may be able to benefit from an offer to give away a number of medical journals.

The journals are between two and five years old, and do not always form a complete set, but they may still be very useful to those working or studying in the fields of general medicine, nephrology and transplantation.

Journals from other fields may also be available if there is demand.

If your group is interested in the journals, please contact Shelley by email to [cshel@optusnet.com.au](mailto:cshel@optusnet.com.au) or telephone (03) 95272444.

## Workstations to lease in Sydney CBD

Nonprofit Australia is located in the Sydney CBD with close proximity to excellent public transport in the form of Wynyard, Martin Place and Circular Quay Railway Stations and major bus routes nearby.

The organisation currently has four workstations available for immediate lease in its open plan office. The office area is spacious with a natural light source and includes the shared use of a board room with telephone conferencing facilities, shared kitchen facilities and a tenant-subsidised canteen and gym classes.

The lease is \$5,000 PA for each workstation and includes daily cleaning, lighting and power charges. For further information contact Margaret Esdaile (02) 9085 7252.

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

Our Community's online [Community Calendar](#) features all of the nationally significant events focussed around major community or advocacy/awareness issues in Australia.

Some of the events taking place over the next month include:



**Our Community Intensive Community Fundraising Workshop** – Brisbane (SOLD OUT)  
May 21 ([Click here](#) for more info & future dates)

- **International Biodiversity Day** (Convention on Biological Diversity)  
May 22



**Board Builder newsletter issued**  
May 22 ([Click here](#) for more info)

- **Australia's Biggest Morning Tea** (The Cancer Council)  
May 24



**BusiGrants newsletter issued**  
May 25 ([Click here](#) for more info)

- **65 Roses Day** (Cystic Fibrosis Victoria)  
May 25
- **Wee Week** (Kidney Health Australia)  
May 27-June 2
- **Reconciliation Week** (Reconciliation Australia)  
May 27-June 6
- **White Wreath Day – In Remembrance of all Victims of Suicide** (White Wreath Association)  
May 29
- **World No-Tobacco Day** (Quit)  
May 31



**Raising Funds newsletter issued**  
June 1 ([Click here](#) for more info)

- **Healthy Harold Day** (Life Education Australia)  
June 1
- **Medical Research Week** (The Australian Society for Medical Research)  
June 2-9



**Communities in Control 2007**

June 4 & 5, plus pre-conference skills day June 3 & Youth in Control forum June 4 ([Click here](#) for more info & bookings)

- **World Environment Day** (United Nations)  
June 5
- **World Oceans Day** (The Ocean Project)  
June 8

### FEATURED EVENT:

#### National Volunteer Week (May 14-20)

National Volunteer Week provides a national focus for organisations wanting to recruit volunteers and promote the value of volunteering to the community.

The theme of this year's event – *See the Change ... Volunteering* – switches the focus from the 2006 theme, which focused on the personal benefits of volunteering, to highlight the benefits for the community and for groups that flow from volunteering.

In 2007, the key "recruitment message" for potential volunteers is that their work will be visible and tangible.

Community organisations taking part are encouraged to show how their group or program is creating change, or how the volunteers' input can help to make change visible.

For more information go to [www.volunteeringaustralia.org](http://www.volunteeringaustralia.org).



### EasyGrants newsletter issued

June 11 ([Click here](#) for more info)

- **National Amputee Awareness Day** (Limbs 4 Life Inc)  
June 11
- **International Men's Health Week** (Men's Health Information and Resource Centre)  
June 11-17
- **World Blood Donor Day** (United Nations)  
June 14
- **Childhood Hero Day** (Australian Childhood Foundation)  
June 14



### Our Community Intensive Community Fundraising Workshop – Sydney

June 15 ([Click here](#) for more info)



### Certificate IV in Business (Governance) – Sydney

June 18, 19, 20 & 21 ([Click here](#) for more info)

- **Drug Action Week** (Alcohol and other Drugs Council of Australia)  
June 18-22
- **Red Nose Day** (SIDS and Kids)  
June 29

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).

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## 12. Community Briefs

### Key opportunity for your board/committee

If you have space on your board or committee for a new member, there has never been a better time to list it on the Board Matching Service.

As more and more businesses realise the value of meaningful, ongoing corporate volunteering activities, some of the country's biggest companies are now using the Board Matching Service to find opportunities for their executives.

The Board Matching Service is a free service provided by Our Community, with the support of Hesta Super Fund, that is designed to link community groups with willing board/committee volunteers.



Groups list their vacancy by filling in a simple online form, and individuals interested in giving their time on a community board or committee can conduct a search in their geographic and/or interest area and apply directly to the listed organisation.

Visit [www.ourcommunity.com.au/board-match](http://www.ourcommunity.com.au/board-match) to search for or post a board or committee vacancy.

### Fundraising workshops move to Brisbane

The second in a new series of Our Community fundraising workshops will be held in Brisbane next week.

The May 21 Intensive Community Fundraising Workshop has sold out, but an extra Brisbane date will be added to the program soon in order to cater to those who have missed out.

Following the May 21 Brisbane event, the program will move to Sydney (June 15), Adelaide (July 2), Perth (August 14) and return to Melbourne for a second time on September 14.

The half-day program is designed to give participants practical strategies to help their groups reach their full fundraising potential – strategies that can be tailored to each group's particular needs and implemented immediately. Find out more at [www.ourcommunity.com.au/fundraisingworkshop](http://www.ourcommunity.com.au/fundraisingworkshop).

## Australian volunteers overwhelmingly positive: survey

Australian volunteers are overwhelmingly positive about the benefits their work brings to the community, according to a new Volunteering Australia study.

The National Survey of Volunteering Issues 2007, released as part of National Volunteer Week, found that 99% of volunteers felt their work made a difference to their organisation and what they were trying to achieve, and that 54% felt "empowered to influence decisions in their organisation and its broader objectives".

Other key findings included:

- 70% of respondents felt they had enough opportunities to participate in decision-making in their organisation;
- 27% of respondents said out-of-pocket expenses had had a direct impact on their volunteering in the past 12 months, with almost half saying they reduced their ability or desire to volunteer;
- 27% of the organisations said background check requirements (including police and the new working with children checks) had made the greatest direct impact on volunteering in their organisation in the past 12 months.
- 51% of organisations said they experienced some barriers involving volunteers. They included attracting and recruiting suitable volunteers, skills and training issues, lack of capacity to recruit and manage volunteers, and costs linked to complying with legislative and procedural requirements.

[Click here](#) to download a PDF copy of the survey.

## Legally Speaking: defining the status of your volunteers

While we're on the topic of volunteers ... You would think, given that Australia has millions of volunteers, that we would have worked out their rights and responsibilities by now. Not so.

Two people stand side by side. They're identical twins, doing the same job, carrying out exactly the same functions every day for the same organisation. There's only one difference between them; one is paid for the work, the other isn't. So what, in the eyes of the law, does this difference mean?

The situation came up most recently in a decision by the NSW Workers' Compensation Commission (*Riverwood Legion & Community Club Ltd v Morse* [2007] NSWCCPD 88), which was looking at a case where the director of a community club fell down the stairs and injured herself. If she'd been an employee, she'd have a claim for workers' compensation. So was she?

Directors were paid an annual \$1500 "honorarium" for their services to the board, they were required to attend monthly board meetings, and they had to wear a uniform at official functions – all things that suggested they might be workers.

In the end, the Commission decided that this wasn't enough. The honorarium was just for expenses (and any other decision would have opened up a whole new can of worms on tax), directors weren't entitled to such other legal employee requirements as sick leave, and the other obligations weren't legally enforceable. There was no contract of service, and therefore no employment, and therefore no compensation.

## Preventing 'spam' and phone calls

Thanks to the very entertaining, always informative [Hootville Lowdown](#), a communications e-newsletter for not-for-profits, for alerting us to a concerning situation in NSW regarding spam.

According to the *Lowdown*, a current campaign by the NSW National Parks Association urging people to email their MPs has been labelled spam by the NSW State Government.

The Association had created a form on its website to allow people to send emails to politicians and 1700 people did just that before the office of the Premier, Morris Iemma, blacklisted the organisation's email address, saying:

"The pattern and content of these email constitutes spam under the Commonwealth spam act of 2003. Please take action to prevent further spam from these addresses."

As the *Lowdown* puts it: "Spam? How about 'letters via email' or 'constituent feedback'? The association is fighting for its right to email. If it fails it will be bad news for campaigners."

[Click here](#) For more information about Australian anti-spam laws and how they might affect your group.

A reminder too that the Do Not Call Register – the new, national register set up in response to increasing community concern about the growth in unsolicited telemarketing calls – is now operational.

Initial fears by the community sector that the register would also prevent charitable groups from using the phone to raise money have proven unfounded, with organisations that provide services to the community exempted from the prohibition.

Exempt organisations include: charities or charitable institutions; educational institutions; religious organisations, government bodies; registered political parties; independent MPs; and political candidates.

[Click here](#) to find out more.

### **"Public benefit" means more than "public opinion", UK charities told**

UK charities have been assured that public opinion will not be used as the overriding factor in judging "public benefit" under guidelines which form part of the new Charities Act 2006.

The Act states that all charities "must have charitable purposes which are for the public benefit," prompting some concerns over how "public benefit" will be judged.

But in a recent speech to the Charity Law Association's For the Public Benefit conference, Commission Chair Dame Suzi Leather said that charitable status was "not decided on the basis of popularity".

She said public opinion did, however, have a role to play – both in helping the Commission understand what the public values about charities, and what genuine accountability to the public might mean.

"Decisions about public benefit should reflect ordinary life, and take into account widely held views on the importance and usefulness of an organisation's aims," Dame Suzi said.

"The concept of charity must move with the times and be relevant and meaningful in modern society. Public opinion can be a useful factor in considering modern social conditions, and can help us shape the legal understanding of what is charitable in a way that is relevant for modern society."

### **Tens of thousands raised for autism group through Gold Coast Gives**

More than \$73,000 has been raised for a Gold Coast-based autism group during April through the Gold Coast Gives initiative – a local giving project put in place by Gold Coast Council with the support of Our Community.

Gold Coast Mayor Ron Clarke's '70ks for \$70k' fundraising campaign was designed to raise funds for Little Souls Taking Big Steps, an organisation that helps children with autism.

Cr Clarke, a former Olympic running champion, initiated the event after celebrating his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday in February.

The money was raised through the Council's free online donations service for local community organisations, which is posted online at [www.ourcommunity.com.au/goldcoastgives](http://www.ourcommunity.com.au/goldcoastgives).

Other Local Giving Centres are operated by the City of Whitehorse, Banyule City Council, the City of Greater Dandenong, the City of Yarra, Bayside City Council, and the City of Port Phillip. To access these centres go to [www.ourcommunity.com.au/giving](http://www.ourcommunity.com.au/giving) and scroll down to the Local Giving Centre area of the page.

Organisations wanting to discuss the establishment of a Local Giving Centre in their own area can contact Kate Caldecott on (03) 9320 6804 or email [katec@ourcommunity.com.au](mailto:katec@ourcommunity.com.au).



*Gold Coast Mayor Ron Clarke presents a cheque to Little Souls Taking Big Steps*



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



# Good Moves :: Jobs Bulletin

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

### JOB VACANCY LISTINGS (Paid Positions)

#### New South Wales

Job Title	Organisation	
Assistant Coordinator	Manning Valley Neighbourhood Services Inc	<a href="#">Details</a>
Community Services Worker	Manning Valley Neighbourhood Services Inc	<a href="#">Details</a>
Senior Coordinator - Early Intervention Program Brighter Futures Blacktown/Baulkham Hills	Wesley Mission	<a href="#">Details</a>
Branch Manager (Disability Services)	Kirinari Community Services	<a href="#">Details</a>

#### Queensland

Job Title	Organisation	
Senior Worker - Mental Health	Redcliffe Neighbourhood Centre Assoc Inc	<a href="#">Details</a>
Fundraiser (part- time contract)	Cairns & Far North Environment Centre Inc.	<a href="#">Details</a>

#### Victoria

Job Title	Organisation	
Residential Services Care Worker	Orana Family Services	<a href="#">Details</a>
Executive Officer	ACE(Vic) - Adult & Community Education (Victoria) Inc	<a href="#">Details</a>
Kinship Family and Child Support	The Mirabel Foundation	<a href="#">Details</a>
Community & Social Planner - Coordinator	City of Greater Bendigo	<a href="#">Details</a>
Program Officer	Spina Bifida Foundation of Victoria	<a href="#">Details</a>
Educational programs co-ordinator	Australian Breastfeeding Association	<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)

#### Queensland

Job Title	Organisation	
General Board Member	Brisbane Multicultural Arts Centre	<a href="#">Details</a>

#### Tasmania

Job Title	Organisation	
Director - Communications & Marketing	Westbury Shamrocks	<a href="#">Details</a>

#### Western Australia

Job Title	Organisation	
Treasurer	Aust Huntington Disease Association WA	<a href="#">Details</a>

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

## 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](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 web page.

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

## 15. 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