

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

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Rhonda Galbally AO
CEO

A cascade of financial disasters is swirling around the world at the moment, to the tune of the deafening snap, crackle and pop of a million bubbles bursting, the flutter of several hundred billion dollars being poured on to smother the flames, and the roar of trillions of words of blame being passed rapidly from hand to hand.

In the community sector, people may be nervous and disinclined to donate, while philanthropic foundations will have diminished endowments and may throttle back grants. At the same time, demand for your services may rise – Wesley Mission has had its busiest year yet.

All the signs are that the community sector is going to be hit hard by the slowdown. You may not have been up there nibbling Beluga caviar at the top table during the boom, but in the bust you're still going to have to spread your butter more thinly. Your group might not have got much from the trickle-down in the good times, but it's certainly going to share in the flood damage now.

There are things that we should all be doing to batten down the hatches for the tough times. Take the time to do a health check on your group's finances now, before the effects really start being felt.

- **Check your investments.** Can you really understand what all those pieces of paper do? If you don't, start asking questions. The Age recently reported that ambulance services, the St Vincent de Paul Society, the Starlight Children's Foundation, the Boystown charity for underprivileged children, and the Anglican, Baptist, Uniting and Catholic churches had all lost money investing in Lehman Brothers investment products. Ouch.
- **Check your budget.** Is next year's income as solid as you'd been anticipating? Are there any large donors who are looking at large paper losses and may not be feeling as expansive as they were when they made that almost-promise? In the UK, the Guardian has written about the stresses caused when firms engaged in sponsorship and corporate responsibility initiatives go under. Many Australian corporate donors and philanthropic trusts are feeling the pinch, and some local governments too appear to have been caught up in the crash. Watch out.
- **Check your commitments.** Are all your expenses locked in? If you had to cut back at short notice, what would you postpone? If your group employs staff, do you have a policy on retrenchments and how the redundancies are chosen?
- **Check your strategy.** Do your past planning assumptions still hold up? Are there new threats or now opportunities? The Australian Conservation Foundation is working with Australian Chartered Accountants on a competition "to develop strategies to minimise the potential impact of any economic downturn". Nice timing.
- **Check your mission.** The work still needs to be done – just as much, if not more. Now may be the time to go back to the core.

There's no call to panic. Australia will probably come off better than most countries. Easy come, easy go. Even if the average Australian income drops by an improbable 33%, we'd still be no worse off than we were in 1998, and we weren't all eating out of dumpsters then.

Remember, too, that it's only money – when the hysteria dies down, our real problems (social inclusion, global warming, the search for meaning) will still be waiting for us.

Now, when we're reaping the consequences of a decade of recklessness, might be a good time for community groups to take stock of what makes them different from the idols of the marketplace, and to put a proper value on it.

- Community groups don't pay out huge bonuses to people who've managed to place a dollar between two mirrors and make a million.
- Community groups don't pay CEOs a million dollars a month for being figureheads – and figureheads who don't even go down with the ship.
- Community groups don't play complicated now-you-see-it-now-you-don't tricks with people's savings. They plug along doing the same work they've always done through boom and bust, good times and bad.

About the only good thing about the collapse, the only thing that might bring a small smile in the middle of chaos is that now, perhaps, we might hear a little less of the self-satisfied mantra, "You know, the trouble with the community sector is that it needs to be run more like a business."

What are your experiences with the credit crunch? Is it affecting your community group's operations? Let us know how it's affecting you by emailing to kathyr@ourcommunity.com.au.

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2. Treasurer Wayne Swan confirmed as speaker for Board Builder Conference 2009

One of the lessons of the recent financial collapse is that no organisation is too big – or too small – to fail.

Another is that failure often comes from the top – it's not the people at the desks who bring organisations to their knees, it's the decisions taken in the boardroom.

And that goes for community organisations too – your board needs to be on top of its job **now**.

Community group boards and committees don't often get proper care and maintenance; people tend to think that good decisions just happen.

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

The upcoming Board Builder conference features a stellar list of speakers that can help you embark on or continue your board improvement journey.

Among the key sessions are:

- **Westpac Community Treasurers' Awards:** This session will bring together Federal Treasurer WAYNE SWAN and Westpac CEO GAIL KELLY to pay tribute to the work of some of our great community treasurers, and present the awards to the winners. It will be followed by a "Treasurers' Tales" panel session featuring Westpac's PETER HANLON alongside the winners.
- **Good Governance:** Leader of Health and Social Policy at KPMG and Chair of the Australian Social Inclusion Board PATRICIA FAULKNER looks at why governance matters to community organisations, and paints a picture of what good governance might look like in your organisation.
- **Board-Staff Relations:** When board-staff relations go completely sour, you can be assured that there are difficult times ahead. In this panel session facilitated by Hootville's BRETT DE HOEDT, panelists KAT LETCH (RRR), BERNADETTE O'CONNOR (Education Centre Gippsland), LYN WANNAN (Department of Planning and Community Development) and JAN MCGUINNESS (Melbourne Writers Festival) provide strategies for creating a healthier, more productive board-staff dynamic.

In addition, delegates will be able to choose from five concurrent sessions on:

1. **Board Basics** – facilitated by Patrick Moriarty (Our Community) & Andrew Wright (BSI Learning)
2. **Good Chairing** – facilitated by Denis Moriarty (McAuley Community Services for Women) & Russell Barnier (Flexpertise Consulting)
3. **Managing Obligations** – facilitated by Sue Woodward & Kate Fisher (PILCHConnect – specialist community legal service for not-for-profit organisations)
4. **Burning Legal Questions** – facilitated by Murray Baird (Moores Legal)
5. **Financial Survival** – facilitated by Westpac

If your organisation is like many out there, it's operated by well-trained staff or volunteers who are recruited, housed, equipped, and supported to carry out the direction of a part-time board or committee that's untrained, inexperienced, and unevaluated.

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

Give your board some of the supports you give to the workers. Invest in some skills development.

Bookings are now being taken for the Board Builder Conference, which will be held at Telstra Dome in Melbourne on Friday, 27 February, 2009.

For information visit www.ourcommunity.com.au/boardbuilderconference2009 or call (03) 9320 6800.

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3. Inclusiveness, collaboration and training the keys to sustaining volunteerism: report

Increasing pressures on volunteers' time are challenging their commitment to the groups they support, according to a new report from Victoria's Sustaining Volunteerism Initiative.

The report – *Strong and Sustainable: Future Directions for Volunteering and Participation in Victoria's South-West* – is the result of almost two years of study looking at issues facing volunteers and volunteer groups.

And while the study focussed on organisations in Victoria's south-west, its findings and recommendations are relevant to groups right across Australia.

The report, compiled through meetings with hundreds of people in volunteer-based organisations throughout south-west Victoria, found that:

- Many volunteer-involving organisations struggled to be truly inclusive in their work and activities. This has contributed to a perceived "crisis" in overall volunteer numbers and a reduction in the pool of future community leaders.
- Historical competition between voluntary groups has contributed strongly to deep suspicion about the ideas of partnership and collaboration. The study also found that relationships with government and business were aspirational but inconsistent.
- Lack of renewal in voluntary groups and inadequate training and development for volunteers has left many groups ill-equipped to meet the sector's future challenges such as compliance, governance and financial security.
- Training and skills development services in the sector have been "limited and opportunistic", have failed to impart an appropriate regional perspective and have added to volunteers' reluctance to engage in new training opportunities.

Researchers said the study had not only provided information about factors influencing the volunteer sector, but had also revealed a “profound lack of research about the implications of key issues for the volunteer sector in rural and regional areas”.

The report makes 29 recommendations, divided into four categories and applicable to many volunteer-based groups around Australia, as well as to the communities in which they operate.

These recommendations include:

Partnerships and ongoing sustainability

- That stakeholders, including individual organisations, think about solutions to deal with the rising cost of volunteering to individuals.
- That regional structures be established to encourage efficiencies and reduce bureaucracy for volunteers.
- That governments build their commitment to the volunteer sector by providing ongoing support to community organisations, clubs and groups.
- That feedback from volunteer-involving groups about their difficulties in meeting increased legislative compliance be considered by the government in future decision making.

Leadership development

- That stakeholders, including local government and peak bodies, work to foster opportunities to support people wishing to take up leadership positions, including developing the diverse range of skills needed for good leadership.

Skills and knowledge development

- That stakeholders, peak bodies and local government provide help to the sector so it can better understand the impacts of volunteers’ changing needs and how they can adapt to them.
- That co-ordinated, locally provided formal and informal training be designed to meet the needs of volunteer groups.
- That skills and knowledge development in grantseeking be considered a priority for the volunteer sector.

Social inclusion

- That local governments work with communities to broaden volunteering participation.
- That community groups have increased access to recruitment and retention information, information that emphasises broad inclusion.
- That community leaders work with community service providers to strengthen the relationship between “excluded” groups and the communities in which they live.

More information on the Sustaining Volunteerism Initiative is available here: www.swvolunteerinitiative.org.au.

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4. 2008 Giving Cards campaign under way – how your group can benefit

Christmas cards will never be the same again!

Following the tremendous success of Australia's first Giving Card campaign in 2007, Australia Post and Our Community have again teamed up to launch the 2008 Christmas Giving Cards campaign.

Through this initiative, we're encouraging politicians, local government councillors, businesses and individuals to purchase Giving Cards to send to their contacts.

For each card purchased, \$1 will be donated to a community group or school of the sender's choice, providing people with a tangible and powerful way to express their commitment to community this Christmas.

The cards cost \$3 each – including the card, envelope, stamp and \$1 donation. The cards are delivered flat to allow easy overprinting. Purchasers may also opt to have their logo and message printed onto the cards for no extra charge!

There are five great designs to choose from:

STYLE A



STYLE B



STYLE C



STYLE D



STYLE E



The Giving Cards initiative has been developed as part of Australian Giving Week (www.givingweek.com.au), which is being held from December 1 to 7 and is designed to focus attention on the many ways that people can make a difference to the community in the lead-up to Christmas.

More details about how your group can make the most of Australian Giving Week will appear in the next edition, but in the meantime, we'd like to urge you to **take action today** to make the most of the Giving Cards initiative.

Contact your supporters – staff, volunteers, members, donors, business contacts, anyone in your contact book – to encourage them to order Giving Cards and name your group as the recipient of their \$1 per card gift. Some suggested text for your notice is provided below:

This year if you want to send more meaningful Christmas cards, send a Giving Card!

One dollar from every card purchased will be passed on to a community group of your choice – if you buy Giving Cards for distribution this year, please consider nominating our group, <add group name>, as the recipient.

Giving Cards are high quality, environmentally friendly, allow plenty of room for overprinting or personal messages, and cost only \$3 each. There are five different styles to choose from and you can customise your card with logos and messages for free!

Find out more about the Giving Cards initiative by going to www.ourcommunity.com.au/givingcards.

(The Giving Cards initiative is being run as part of Australian Giving Week 2008: December 1-7 – www.givingweek.com.au)

This year, any excess funds (where the sender has not specified a recipient group or school) will be distributed between the Australian Conservation Foundation, Conservation Volunteers, Keep Australia Beautiful, Landcare Australia and Rainforest Rescue.

To read more about the Giving Cards initiative, or to download the order form, go to www.ourcommunity.com.au/givingcards, email service@ourcommunity.com.au or telephone Our Community on (03) 9320 6800.

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5. The question of profits

One thing that a small number of entries for the Westpac Community Treasurers' Awards have turned up is a state of confusion in some quarters around what profits mean in a not-for-profit context.

Being a not-for-profit community group does not mean that your group can't make a profit. It means what it says – you're not doing this for the profit. The profit is just incidental to carrying out your goals.

Part of the problem is that in the world of business the word 'profit' has a number of different but linked meanings.

There's gross profit, net profit, operating profit, after-tax profit, and profit after tax and depreciation – the Tax Office goes to a lot of trouble to get things straight.

Every accountant would agree, though, that just subtracting your operating expenses from your operating income isn't anything like the full story, and any business that only looked at that would rapidly go bankrupt.

You have to make allowance for depreciation – for things that are going to wear out at some stage and have to be replaced. That's not profit.

You'll want money to improve your services. That's not profit.

You'll want to build up a reserve for a rainy day. That's not profit.

You'll want to reinvest to grow the business – and that's not profit.

And then there are the dividends you pay the shareholders – and yes, those are profits, and no, not-for-profits don't have them. Everything has to be ploughed back into the work. That's what "not-for-profit" means – no dividends. And that's pretty well all it means.

What it absolutely doesn't mean is that a community group can't run an operating surplus. You want to run an operating surplus. You **need** to run an operating surplus.

If you do it very well you may have to work out what to spend it on, but what's wrong with that? You're sure to find a very good use for it.

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6. OUR COMMUNITY HERO: Sue Smith

Sue Smith is October's Community Hero. Sue is a youth worker at Pathways Mount Isa Residential Service and is an enthusiastic and committed member of the team.

Pathways is a service of Churches of Christ Care, a large not-for-profit organisation active in the areas of child protection, affordable housing, aged care and early childhood services.

Sue's nominator Michelle Byrnes writes:

"Sue has been employed as a Youth Worker at Pathways Mount Isa Residential for the past 15 months.

"In this role Sue has worked tirelessly to provide a safe, caring home environment for young people with a variety of individual needs, from different backgrounds and home situations, who are unable to live with their own families.

"Sue has been faced with the challenge of managing the complex nature of the young people's behaviour, including aggression, substance abuse and disengagement; and has met this challenge with enthusiasm and dedication.

"Sue is one of the longest serving youth workers at the service and during her time has provided the young people with consistency, unconditional regard and a positive role model – things they have lacked for most of their lives.

"Sue has helped the young people to develop trust and enjoy and value life and the people around them. Recently, Sue coordinated a holiday to Townsville for the young people to enhance their social skills and provide an opportunity for education and recreation.

"While Sue describes herself as your 'everyday person', to the young people she cares for she is much more and her dedication is an inspiration to those around her."

Sue will receive a Community Heroes certificate, a selection of Our Community books and a 12-month subscription to a range of Our Community newsletters.



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

Board Builder Conference 2009

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

BETTER BOARDS : BETTER OUTCOMES

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9.30am – 4.30pm
Telstra Dome, Melbourne

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www.ourcommunity.com.au/boardbuilder2009



ourcommunity.com.au

A stellar list of
speakers, including
Australian Treasurer
WAYNE SWAN
BOOK NOW!
Conference sells
out every year!

7. Vote for your favourite community photo – voting extended to December 1

In response to a huge last minute surge in entries for the Australia Post-Our Community Photo Bank Awards, we have extended the voting deadline to December 1.

This is your chance to have an input into choosing Australia's favourite community photo.

More than 1600 photographic entries have been received for the competition, unique images illustrating the diversity of Australia's communities.

Entries have come from community garden groups, nursing homes, sporting clubs, environmental groups, arts and events councils, volunteer groups and schools – practically all corners of the community sector.

Take a stroll through the gallery at www.ourcommunity.com.au/photobank/ and vote for your favourite shot.

Remember, the Photo Bank is for you: Whether you are a volunteer, fundraiser, advocate or community member, you can draw on these great pictures for use in your own community group.

You might be interested in animal welfare, environmental conservation, multicultural affairs or community communications and advocacy. Whatever your interest, the Photo Bank will have an image suitable for your needs.

While voting continues, entry into the competition has now closed; you may still upload photos but they won't be eligible either for the public choice prize, nor the judge's prize, which will be announced in late December.



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8. Green printing for community groups

Here at Our Community we've just had a new postcard printed by Melbourne-based business PrintTogether. It's bright and colourful, it looks good and we like the texture. But the best thing is that it's sustainable.

It's printed on 100% post-consumer recycled paper. That means it's created from sources like discarded office paper, or paper you've put in the recycling bin at home.

PrintTogether uses vegetable based inks, which are less toxic than petroleum-based inks, and whereas petroleum is a finite resource, the plants used for vegetable-based inks – like the soya bean – are renewable.

PrintTogether uses "clean" printing processes – they work to keep the use of plates, paper, ink, energy and water to a minimum.

Our postcards – which encourage community groups to get listed on our free community directory – will be distributed to cafés and ethical outlets and to community groups throughout Australia.

(Do you want some to distribute to groups under your umbrella? If so, let us know by emailing louisemt@ourcommunity.com.au

PrintTogether is proud of its “collective green printing” service, which saves resources and saves you money.

They say the most costly part of the printing process for small orders is setting up the printing press. Their “collective green printing” service identifies customers with similar print requirements, and sets their jobs up side by side to print at the same time on the one press.

By using the press and resources more responsibly, high-quality 100% recycled printed items can be produced economically.

If you require printing or graphic design services and would like to reduce your ecological footprint, visit www.printtogether.com.au or phone (03) 8060 7412 for more information.

If you would like to know more about how you can promote your own business or group on a Sustainable Postcard, email mail@printtogether.com.au for an information pack and samples.

And if you want more information on the Join In, Join Up project, it’s all online at www.ourcommunity.com.au/joinin.



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9. Update from Vanessa Nolan-Woods, Head of Community Markets at Westpac

Since the onset of the tumultuous global financial events, Westpac recognises that achieving financial outcomes has become a much greater challenge for many organisations in the not-for-profit sector.

While we can't say with certainty when the current financial crisis will end, the Australian banking system remains strong and we are focused on how we can help support our customers through these challenging times.

Although the Australian economy has slowed in recent months, it remains robust and will benefit from changes such as the reduction in interest rates, which we hope will assist organisations, particularly those that rely on donations from the public. Regular updates about the global financial events can be found on Westpac's website at www.westpac.com.au.

While we are all clearly impacted by these global events and the uncertainty prevailing in markets across the world, it's not all doom and gloom.

Earlier this month, I had the pleasure of welcoming a number of community groups to a new show – *Lectern Rock* – that was originally developed for our business customers but we were keen to trial with a community sector audience.

The show is designed to help people take a fresh look at their goals, their work and its impacts, and we were pleased to receive some good feedback from many of the community group invitees.

Another key activity this month has been the beginning of work to start short-listing entries for the Westpac Community Treasurers' Awards.

Entries closed on September 10 and we were delighted to receive an enthusiastic response of 280 nominations from across the country.

One thing that has already come through very clearly from the entries is that community treasurers really are the backbone of their community organisation, often going above and beyond what's expected of them in their roles.

We look forward to sharing their stories with you when the winners are announced early in the new year.

As part of the Treasurers' Awards program we have been delighted to invite around 100 community groups from across Australia to attend one of our Beyond Survival financial training course.

These one-day workshops, which have been specially designed for the community group context, take participants through the core concepts of financial management.

The first of these workshops were held in Melbourne and Brisbane this week, with others to follow in Sydney and Perth over coming weeks.

I'm really delighted to have received some great feedback from these workshops. One Victorian group member commented afterwards that although she had always kept good accounts, she now felt much more able to understand the balance sheets and profit and loss statements and to use them to much greater effect in her group.

I look forward to welcoming more community organisations to Beyond Survival courses in the near future.

V N-W

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10. Marketing Guru



Q. Is it important to have a variety of ways to market your group or communicate its work, or should we be concentrating on one thing at a time?

It's not a good idea to rely on only one path through which to get your message across. Different messages might suit different media, and different audiences will gather their information from different sources.

Limiting your group to just one or two communications outlets – for example, the internet and advertising – means people who don't get their information from these sources are out of reach.

Having a communications strategy can help you work out which marketing modes you should be tapping into. Three key steps to a solid strategy are to:

1. Decide what message you want to communicate;
2. Work out the audiences you want to reach with your message; and then
3. Work out which methods will allow you to reach each target audience.

More information on developing a strategy can be found in [this help sheet](#).



Q. How can I minimise the costs of our group's mail-outs?

The first thing you should do is to ensure you have a really good mailing list. A "dirty list" – one that hasn't been properly inputted or has been allowed to become out of date – will result in a lot of wastage.

There are also ways you can minimise postage costs. Australia Post's Charity Mail program, for example, provides a special bulk price category for income tax exempt charities.

The Charity Mail pricing is only available for mailings of bar-coded PreSort small letters, and a minimum of 300 small letters per lodgement applies.

But there are no content-based restrictions.

More information on Charity Mail, including a registration form and eligibility criteria, is available from this page on the Australia Post website: <http://tinyurl.com/6qobg2>.

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

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II. COMMUNITY CLASSIFIEDS – Notices, Offers, Awards, Giveaways & Tips

TO GIVE AWAY: School Text Books (Darwin)

A Darwin school shop has a supply of near-new textbooks that it would like to donate to a community group.

The Kormilda College school has a selection of science, languages and maths books for students from years 7 to 12.

There are around 30 books per subject, and most are only one year old and in good condition.

More books are likely to become available every year or two.

If you think your group could use the books, please contact school shop manager Lyn Tilbrook at Kormilda College on (08) 8922 1625 or email to Lyn.Tilbrook@kormilda.nt.edu.au.

WANTED: Community Group Partner (Pilbara Western Desert, WA)

BHP Billiton Iron Ore is seeking to enter into a five-year partnership with a community development organisation to implement on-the-ground programs in the Pilbara Western Desert that will assist in improving the health and wellbeing of indigenous mothers and children.

The move is part of the company's recently launched Indigenous Relationships Strategy 2007-12.

The company says it acknowledges it has a critical role to play in the social, economic and environmental growth of the communities in which it operates.

The process is being managed by the Western Australian Community Foundation. To find out more, contact Natalie Jenkins on (08) 9224 6000 or email to projectmanager@wacf.org.au. Requests for Expressions of Interest close 4pm on November 21. EOI

WANTED: Office Space (Western Suburbs, Melbourne)

Western Edge Youth Arts is seeking some temporary office space while building works at the new Footscray Youth Centre in Footscray are completed.

The organisation – which provides positive arts and performance experiences to young people from different cultural and social backgrounds living in the western suburbs of Melbourne – is seeking office space from mid December until the scheduled completion date around the end of March.

The organisation is seeking enough space for two filing cabinets, three desks and three part-time staff members, along with bathroom and tea/coffee facilities. Business hours access will be needed, and car parking facilities are desired.

Western Edge Youth Arts is hoping to find space with low or pro bono rent during this period and would prefer a spot in Melbourne's west if possible. For more information please contact Christine Healey on (03) 9362 0046 or email to christine@westernedge.org.au.

TO GIVE AWAY: Daily Supply of Bread (Camberwell, VIC)

Brumby's bakery in Camberwell would like to donate to a local community group any bread left over at the end of each day.

If your group could make use of this offer, it would need to be able to pick up the bread from the store at 793 Burke Rd Camberwell at the end of each day.

Closing times are 6pm on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 7.30pm on Thursdays and Fridays and 5.30pm on Saturdays and Sundays.

If your group could use this offer, please contact Whitney on 0421 063 349, email to brumbyscj@tpg.com.au or drop in to the shop.

WANTED: Local Heroes (Sydney & Surrounds)

Channel Nine is seeking suggestions of extraordinary individuals or families to surprise as part of their program *Domestic Blitz*.

Program researchers are looking for people living in Sydney or within a couple of hours of the CBD who have made a difference to the community, have changed people's lives for the better, have saved someone's life or deserves to be recognised and rewarded on national television.

Nominate a hero and tell their story by emailing domesticblitz@nine.com.au.

SHARE THE KNOWLEDGE: Fundraising with Stamps

An Our Community member is seeking information on which community groups might be able to use used stamps in their fundraising.

The member has collected a large number of stamped envelopes in the belief that groups could use them to generate funds, but has been unable to find an outlet.

If your group would like to receive the stamps, or if you know what sort of groups (if any) can use them, please email kathyr@ourcommunity.com.au.

FOR RENT: Multicultural Hub Space (Melbourne, VIC)

The Melbourne Multicultural Hub is designed to provide opportunities for communities from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds to access information and resources, and to come together and work in a safe and supportive environment.

The facility, which is owned by the City of Melbourne and managed by the Adult Multicultural Education Services (AMES), is designed to provide opportunities for groups to use a range of different sized spaces for different purposes.

Rooms are available for hire on a regular or casual basis for community gatherings, meetings, training programs, art and craft activities, music and dance, or internet access.

The Hub is available on a fee basis to community groups using a booking system. All bookings must be made in writing. Staff are available during business hours to help with applications. For more information visit www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/info.cfm?top=100&pg=4247.

FOR RENT: Office Space (Brunswick, VIC)

The Brunswick Business Incubator (BBI) can provide a range of office space for not-for-profit or community based organisations.

The BBI offers economical rental charges, a wide variety of rooms that can accommodate from 1 to 8 staff, an excellent location, good public transport services, 24-hour, seven-day-a-week access, off-street parking, professional reception services, and access to kitchen and meeting rooms.

For more information please contact the BBI at 420 Victoria Street, Brunswick, telephone (03) 9940 1444, email to reception@brunswickincubator.com.au or visit www.brunswickincubator.com.au.

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12. Community Briefs

Vale Frank Purcell: lawyer, family man, advocate

Noted community and land rights advocate and lawyer Frank Purcell OAM passed away earlier this month. He was 76 years old.

Mr Purcell's community advocacy dated back to the 1960s, when he played a major role in what became known as the Gove Land Rights Case – a forerunner to later land rights campaigns and the key reason for the establishment of the famous Aboriginal Tent Embassy, as well as the Aboriginal Land Rights Commission.

Speaking at Mr Purcell's funeral in Werribee last Tuesday, former ALP president and ex-Federal MP for the Werribee-based seat of Lalor Barry Jones said Mr Purcell's passion for Aboriginal justice and land rights made him some powerful enemies.

These included former Queensland premier Joh Bjelke-Petersen and police minister Russ Hinze, who, Mr Jones said, threatened Mr Purcell with arrest if he didn't leave the state because of his involvement in the land rights fight.

"Frank's example (was) a commitment to his family, to society and to opposing injustice and intolerance," Mr Jones said.

Mr Purcell represented his home town of Werribee on local council for some 20 years, including three stints as mayor. It was during this time that he also played a key role in the fight against a proposal to establish a toxic waste dump in a quarry near Werribee.

What resulted was a remarkable three-year community campaign to oppose the proposal, led by the Werribee Residents Against Toxic Dump (WRATD) group and Wyndham Council.

The community attacked the plans on a number of fronts, though protest, education and advocacy.

The campaign remains a prime example of how a well-run grassroots effort can succeed against big business and government, particularly when it's underpinned by a man like Frank Purcell.

GREAT GRANT: Funding for administrative costs

Just opened this week and to be featured in an upcoming edition of Our Community's EasyGrants newsletter is the Federal Government's **Grants to Voluntary Environment and Heritage Organisations** program.

Unlike most other grants programs, eligible environment and heritage organisations can apply for funding that will contribute to their administrative costs – salaries, office costs, insurance, training, travel, and in some cases even capital items such as computers, video cameras and trailers.

Grants are open to national, state/territory, regional and local not-for-profit organisations that are geared towards the protection and/or enhancement of the natural environment; or the protection and /or conservation of Australia's historic heritage.

If you think your community group can benefit from this grant, be sure to apply before Friday November 28, 2008. More information is at www.environment.gov.au/about/programs/gveho/.

Please feel free to forward this great opportunity from the EasyGrants newsletter and grants education service on to your networks, so that everybody can benefit.

To receive regular updates of all of the thousands of grants that may be available to your organisation, please go to www.ourcommunity.com.au/easygrants.

One \$1000 prize awarded. Another \$1000 up for grabs!

Congratulations to Claire Paddison from Lifeline Gold Coast who has won for her group this quarter's \$1000 Media, Marketing & Post Centre prize.

Lifeline Gold Coast won the prize after Claire completed the Media, Marketing & Post Survey, which is designed to help us learn more about how Australian community groups use the mail to market their services.

Another \$1000 prize is up for grabs this quarter thanks to Australia Post.

To go in the running log on to www.ourcommunity.com.au/mmp and follow the links, or click the graphic to the right.

Next quarter's \$1000 prize could be yours!



Fundraising, FBT information now available from the ATO

The Australian Tax Office has released a new version of its fundraising guide for not-for-profit organisations, as well as updating its list of work-related items and vehicles exempt from Fringe Benefits Tax (FBT).

The fundraising guide, available [here](#), updates the version the ATO released in 2005, providing newer information on the way the Tax Office treats various fundraising activities, as well as detailing the concessions available to those running fundraisers.

It also includes an invaluable list of State, Territory and local government contact points for more information on various fundraising legislation, as well as details on tax law changes since the last guide was published.

These changes include:

- New tax deductions for gifts and contributions of shares.
- New deductible gift recipient (DGR) categories for the relief of victims of disasters.
- Changes to the gift fund requirements for DGRs.
- Changes to the limits for tax deductible contributions.
- Changes to the goods and services tax (GST) registration turnover and cash accounting thresholds, and.
- Changes to the fringe benefits tax minor benefits threshold.

The first FBT update (available [here](#)) lists a number of new items which are now exempt from Fringe Benefits Tax, including selected portable electronic devices, brief cases, tools of trade, plus items of computer software and protective clothing. The guide also provides details on the limits to these exemptions.

The second FBT update (see [here](#)) provides information on the types of work vehicles exempt from Fringe Benefits Tax, as well as the circumstances under which they are exempt.

Financial literacy DVD released

Maribyrnong City Council has released an interactive DVD aimed at helping the area's Sudanese community improve its financial literacy.

Making Sense of Money is aimed at newly arrived Sudanese people, but can also be used by other new immigrants to Australia.

It features short films on consumer awareness; basic banking; budgeting and managing bills; and credit facilities and loans; as well as four interactive games aimed at helping financial awareness and numeracy skills among culturally and linguistically diverse communities.

The DVD features audio in English, as well as Dinka and Sudanese Arabic, and is an initiative of Maribyrnong Council, the Victorian Multicultural Commission, the State Government, NAB and Western English Language School.

For more information on the DVD, or to obtain a copy, contact the council on (03) 9688 0200 or email: joanne.blunt@maribyrnong.vic.gov.au.

All the latest news from Our Consumer Place

Congratulations to Our Consumer Place, which has recently released its first newsletter to great acclaim.

Our Consumer Place is a resource centre for mental health consumer developed initiatives. It's funded by the Victorian Department of Human Services and works in partnership with Our Community.

The Our Consumer Place website features help sheets, tools, advice and information for consumers, as well as a members-only message/chat board.

The first edition of the 'Our Place' newsletter includes an Our Consumer Place 12-month progress report, a discussion of mental health legislation, an interview with consumer advocate Shery Mead, an article on 'defensive reasoning' by Isabell Collins, the latest consumer research, and accounts of a range of personal experiences.

Plus there are also some great cartoons by Merinda Epstein, a fun (but serious) 'thumbs up/ thumbs down' column section, a 'great ideas' column, and more.

You can find out more and download the newsletter at www.ourconsumerplace.com.au.

Transparency awards closing soon

Community groups keen to showcase the emphasis they place on transparency and quality of reporting still have time to enter the 2008-09 PriceWaterhouseCoopers Transparency Awards before nominations close next month.

The awards are a joint initiative of PWC and the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Australia and aim to emphasise the growing importance of high quality reporting and transparency in the not-for-profit sector.

The Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation won last year's top award, with Australian Community Support Organisation coming in second.

This year's award winners will receive \$20,000 towards development and training, while the runner-up will receive \$10,000.

All entries are judged and given individual feedback on their reporting practices, along with details of the reporting trends within the sector.

Nominations for the awards close on November 7. Winners will be announced at a presentation evening on April 23 next year.

More information is available at www.pwc.com/au/transparencyawards.

Survey to gauge same-sex domestic violence

Western Australia's Same Sex Domestic Abuse Group (SSDAG) is trying to find out more about domestic violence in same-sex relationships – and it needs help from the public.

The group is asking people in same-sex relationships to complete a survey on the subject, which is available at www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=i14dbaRr8p0ZHVfddSSPAQ_3d_3d.

Responses to the five-minute survey are completely anonymous and confidential.

SSDAG plans to use the information in approaches to the police, refuges and the government with a view to improving provision of or access to services to help people who are, or have in the past, experienced this type of abuse within their relationships.

Parents Jury delivers verdict on junk food

Australian schools are caught between their desire to promote positive nutrition and a healthy lifestyle to their students, and the ease and success of junk food fundraisers, according to survey of Australian schools.

The online survey was conducted by the Parents Jury, an internet-based network of parents, grandparents and guardians which aims to improve children's health by encouraging better nutritional choices and more exercise.

The Parents Jury survey found that more than 90% of respondents felt schools had a responsibility to teach children about healthy food and lifestyles, but 70% had staged at least one confectionary-based fundraiser in the past year. Most of those fundraisers were successful.

The survey also asked if staff or parents had ever complained about the use of unhealthy fundraising methods at their school.

- 13% responded "Yes, and the school now has a healthy fundraising policy".
- 33% responded "No, but we would consider their concerns if they did".
- 22% responded "Yes, but we need to continue to fundraise this way", and
- 22% responded "No, this is not seen as a problem at our school".

The two biggest barriers to implementing a healthy fundraising policy were that "confectionary fundraisers are easy and profitable" and "using healthier alternatives alone cannot raise the money we need".

More information on the survey, including suggestions for school fundraisers not based around confectionary, is available from the Parents Jury website: www.parentsjury.org.au.

Rewarding ethical business

We are always urging any community groups that are involved in a community-business partnership to ensure they keep providing positive reinforcement for their partnership.

Nominating business partners for awards is one way you can do that.

If your business partner is doing great things in the area of sustainability, you might want to consider nominating them for the Australian Sustainability Awards.

There are four categories for the awards – environment, social/community, corporate governance and labour relationship – but companies can be nominated in more than one area (though they cannot self-nominate).

Only Australian Stock Exchange listed companies are eligible for nomination.

As an added bonus, if your group makes the grade, the nominator will be rewarded with a 12-month subscription to *Ethical Investor* magazine and a discount on the ticket price to the awards celebration in December.

Nominations close on Friday, November 7. To make a nomination, visit http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=eUld0WCIFVDu4pnm_2fpFKsA_3d_3d

Rewarding Treasurers & Community Workers

While we're on the topic of awards, as advised last month, the 2009 Westpac Community Treasurers' Awards have now closed.

The judging process has started and a formal announcement of the winners will be made at the annual Board Builder conference in Melbourne on February 27, 2009.

Every nominee will receive a Certificate of Nomination, recognising their significant contribution to the Australian community sector. These certificates will be sent around the second week of December.

In addition, more than 80 community groups have been awarded a full-day training program on financial management (each valued at \$495) thanks to Westpac.

The next awards program on the calendar will be the Alcoa Foundation's Community Worker Awards, which celebrate the contribution to the nation's life made by the men and women working in community groups.

The 2009 program will open in November, with entries open until late April.

Application forms will soon appear on the Awards webpage at www.ourcommunity.com.au/communityworkerawards.

Social inclusion conference speaking notes available

Presentations and papers from a recent Victorian conference on partnerships for social inclusion are now available online.

The conference, staged earlier this month, was hosted by the Collaborative Procurement Program, the Victorian Department of Planning and Community Development and the OECD's Local Economic and Employment Development Programme.

Among the presenters were Victorian Premier John Brumby, Geoff Allen from the Allen Consulting Group, the OECD's Sylvain Giguire, Smith Family CEO Elaine Henry, Brotherhood of St Laurence executive director Tony Nicholson, and Victorian Council of Social Service CEO Cath Smith.

To download the papers, go to www.public-policy.unimelb.edu.au/conference09/index.html.



THUMBS UP: Woomelang Community

Thumbs up to the Victorian Mallee town of Woomelang which has rallied to save its supermarket.

The Age newspaper has reported that the town's 200 residents were facing a 30-kilometre trip to the nearest supermarket after the town's only grocery store closed in May.

Rather than accept this turn of events, townspeople chipped in and raised enough money to convert an old farm machinery shop into a grocery store. The shop celebrated its grand opening at the end of September.

The Age reported that donations totalling \$85,000 and ranging from \$10 to \$10,000 came from individuals, families and school students, as well as the local Lions Club.

"I think it's magnificent that we have kept the shop. We trust that everybody will support it," 90-year-old Bill Schack was reported as saying.

The story brings to mind the speech by American activist Angela Glover Blackwell to the 2007 Communities in Control conference.

"I don't know if this is true here, but in the United States you often know that you're in a low-income, disrespected community because there's no grocery store," she said. "The grocery stores have moved out."

Ms Glover Blackwell told the story of a San Diego community that had lost its store so opened their own, employing local people and spearheading a range of local economic activity.

"And so not only did the community get a grocery store, jobs, and entrepreneurial opportunities, but they're actually building their wealth as well," she said.

Our Community wishes Woomelang well with their new store.

Community Calendar: What's on in the community sector

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

- **International Volunteer Manager Appreciation Day:** November 1
- **National Psychology Week:** November 9-15
- **World Diabetes Day:** November 14
- **Walk Against Warming:** November 15 (Canberra December 6)
- **Universal Children's Day:** November 20
- **World AIDS Awareness Week :** November 24 - December 1
- **White Ribbon Day:** November 25
- **Thank You Day:** November 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.

Featured Event: National Recycling Week November 10-16

National Recycling Week is in its 13th year. With studies showing that Australia is one of the world's biggest per capita producers of waste – at an incredible rate of 2.25 kilograms per person per day – the Week has dual purposes:

- to raise awareness of how recycling helps to reduce our impact on the environment
- to encourage individuals and businesses to recycle more and recycle better.

More information about how to get involved can be found at:

<http://recyclingweek.planetark.org/>

New fund for not-for-profit businesses

The Victorian Government has launched an \$8 million program to help not-for-profit businesses get up and running in Victoria.

Premier John Brumby said an agency would be set up to support community enterprises, and a \$3 million grants program had also been launched to help kick-start new community enterprises and support existing enterprises.

Mr Brumby said community enterprises could provide the opportunity for people to break out of the poverty cycle by providing real work and training opportunities that translated to mainstream employment.

“They also provide goods and services that local people seek, and opportunities for people to connect with those around them,” he said.

“This agency offers a new and creative way to support enterprises by providing them with services and financial and management advice.

“It will provide emerging community enterprises with business support services to help them get started and succeed.”

For more information visit www.premier.vic.gov.au/newsroom/funding-for-enterprising-ways-to-fight-poverty.html

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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	
Public Engagement Manager	Greenpeace Australia Pacific	Details

Northern Territory

Job Title	Organisation	
Marketing Manager	Desert Knowledge Australia	Details

Queensland

Job Title	Organisation	
External Relations Manager	Lifeline Gold Coast	Details

Victoria

Job Title	Organisation	
Finance Manager	Volunteering Australia	Details
Cultural Outreach Worker	YMCA Victoria	Details
Finance and Administration Officer	EngageMedia	Details

BOARD/COMMITTEE VACANCY LISTINGS (Volunteer Positions)

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

New South Wales

Job Title	Organisation	
Treasurer, Vice Chairperson	Macleay Valley Hope Farm Inc.	Details
Chair, Secretary, General Board Member, Disciplinary & Appeals Committee's	Highlands Soccer Association Inc.	Details
Chair, Secretary, General Board Member, Deputy Chair	NSW Consumer Advisory Group - Mental Health Inc. (NSW CAG)	Details
General Board Member	L'Arche Sydney Inc	Details
Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, General Board Member	Jindera Preschool Association Incorporated	Details

Queensland

Job Title	Organisation	
General Board Member, executive roles may develop	Wild Mountains Trust	Details
Secretary	Karuna Hospice Services	Details
Secretary	Global Learning Centre	Details
Treasurer	The National Council of Women of Qld	Details

South Australia

Job Title	Organisation	
General Board Member	Loxton to Bookpurnong Local Action Planning Committee Inc	Details
volunteer auditor	SANDS SA INC	Details

Victoria

Job Title	Organisation	
General Board Member	Merinda Park Learning and Community Centre	Details
Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, General Board Member	Interchange Western Region Assoc. Inc.	Details
General Board Member	Western Edge Youth Arts Inc.	Details
Treasurer	International Coalition on the Detention of Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Migrants	Details
General Board Member	Daylesford Neighbourhood Centre	Details

Western Australia

Job Title	Organisation	
Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, General Board Member	Thriving Communities	Details

www.ourcommunity.com.au/jobs

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14. Fast Forward

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

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 webpage.

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

Read more about us at www.ourcommunity.com.au/aboutus.

Intensive Winning Grants Seminars

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

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

YOU WILL LEARN

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

BOOK IN YOUR STATE NOW:

visit: www.ourcommunity.com.au/winninggrants

email: service@ourcommunity.com.au

call: 03 93206800

