

## REGIONAL REPORT – AUSTRALIA – JULY 2010



### Project Management Update from Sydney

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#### **Association News**

##### **New PPPM Journal Hits the Net**

The first edition of a new e-journal has hit the net. The *Journal of Project, Program & Portfolio Management* was set up to publish both peer reviewed papers (articles and research reports) and case studies to bridge theory and practice. Articles are peer-reviewed and case studies and research reports are reviewed by the editors.

Chief Editor Dr Shankar Sankaran of the School of the Built Environment at the University of Technology, Sydney (UTS) outlined the three objectives of the journal:

“First, we felt that as program and portfolio management are gaining more prominence we needed a journal that also gave importance to these aspects of implementing organizational strategies through projects. The second aim was to increase professional and public access to knowledge resources by being part of the open journal system, which was established by the Public Knowledge Project to improve the scholarly and public quality of research. Finally, we wanted to establish a journal that bridged theory and practice by including both journal articles as well as case studies so that academics and practitioners will find a single forum to publish their work.”

The first issue includes papers on sustainability in project and program management literature (Gilman Tam), a more holistic approach to risk management practices (Murray-Webster and Pellegrinelli), a research report on the link between entrepreneurial characteristics of project managers and organisational success

(Russo and Sbragia) and a real-life case study on implementing program management in a large-scale information technology project in India (Somanchi and Dwivedula). With authors drawn from Asia, South America, France and the UK, Sankaran believes the journal will have a global appeal.

The next issue will be published in late 2010, and a call for papers and case studies will remain open until the end of September 2010.

The first edition of the journal can be accessed at <http://epress.lib.uts.edu.au/journals/index.php/pppm>. Free registration is required.

## PM Events

### **Demystifying Generation Y in the Building and Construction Industry**

The number of younger people involved in Australia's building and construction industry will increase markedly in the years ahead as the Government initiatives and incentives strive to counter the aging population by offering incentives to employ more apprentices.

In this presentation, Francine Bishop will outline why 70% of the Australian workforce has a negative opinion of Generation Y, and what makes them different. She will provide tips on how to motivate, manage and communicate more effectively with them, in order to turn them into great assets.

The presentation is hosted by the NSW Chapter of AIPM, and takes place at the Sydney Mechanics School of Arts, level 1, at 280 Pitt St, Sydney, at 6pm on Wednesday, 21 July.

More information and registration details are available at <http://www.aipm.com.au/events/calendar/calendar.asp?action=viewevent&eventid=786>.

### **AIPM Early Bird Bookings Close 15 July**

Early Bird registrations for AIPM's annual conference close on 15 July. This year's event takes place at the .., in Darwin, Northern Territory, on 10-13 October 2010.

The Conference, themed "Project Management – Creating a Future", features international speakers such as **Dominic Thurbon** (Managing Director of the Centre for Skills Development), **Dr Derek Walker** (Professor of Project Management, Director of Research and Program Director of the Doctor of Project Management

(DPM) at the School of Property, Construction and Project Management, RMIT University), and **Greg Budworth** (CEO of Compass Housing Services Co Ltd and Chairman of PowerHousing Australia).

Full registration details are available at: <http://www.aipm2010.com.au/2010>.

### **Appreciative Inquiry - Focus on What's Working**

How often have you heard yourself or others ask: "what is the problem or issue?"

This problem-solving approach is applied to almost everything in our own life; and even more so in managing our projects. As project managers we are taught to solve problems. We look for a "need" or "gaps" or what is missing to help individuals, managers, teams and organizations solve their problem.



On 14 July Silvia de Ridder, Managing Director of Unconscious Potential, will challenge us to start asking "what is going on well around here?" or "what worked in the past that I/we can leverage off?" She will introduce an approach to change and improvement known as Appreciative Inquiry (AI). She will outline what it is, how and why it works, and how it applies to Project Management.

Silvia is passionate about working with individuals, teams and organizations to achieve higher levels of performance. Her extensive work experience includes design and delivery of leadership programs; facilitation and training; coaching individuals and teams in the corporate and public sector, as well as small and medium businesses environments. She holds qualifications in Coaching, Business, Project Management and Engineering.

The breakfast session is organised by the PMI Sydney Chapter, and will be held at The Bass/Macquarie Suite of the Bowlers Club of NSW, 95-99 York Street, Sydney. The breakfast runs from 7am to 9am, and is open to all. Members attend free. More information and registrations can be found at the Chapter website, <http://sydney.pmichapters-australia.org.au>.

### **Intelligent Disobedience: The Difference Between Good and Great Project Managers**

The ability to counter management directions or instructions and suggest improvements while defending the integrity of the organization – this is what Bob McGannon, PMP calls "intelligent disobedience". It requires courage, good

presentation skills and political awareness, but these are the skills that set great leaders apart from those who are merely good.

McGannon, the co-founder and Director of Mindavation, believes engaging in intelligent disobedience requires a dedication to your own truth, a dedication to what you personally believe is ethical, and a pursuit of personal growth in your own terms. He brings over 26 years of experience in the I/T and project management field to this presentation, which is hosted by the PMI Sydney Chapter.



The presentation takes place at the Crowne Plaza, Parramatta, at 6pm on 11 August. Registration is free to PMI members. Guests are welcome.

Bookings can be made at the Chapter website, <http://sydney.pmichapters-australia.org.au>.



## **News of Interest to Project Management**

### **Tasmania Cops Refresh 'legacy' Sun systems**

Tasmania's Department of Police and Emergency Management will modernise its "legacy" Sun Solaris-based infrastructure which has hosted its core command-and-control business applications for more than two decades.

The project, worth an estimated A\$200,000, is expected to last 4-6 months, and includes the replacement and upgrade of four Sun SPARC servers to the latest Oracle-Sun hardware, or conversion to an equivalent hardware platform.

Police IT manager, Murray Lawler, said the upgrade will convert the majority of its applications to a Web-based architecture with an Oracle MySQL or Microsoft SQL Server database backend. Tender responses are currently being evaluated.

### **ParraConnect Opens Door for Wireless CBD**

Parramatta City Council has launched the ParraConnect project. The project, which is part of the City's e-Parra project, seeks to connect the second biggest city in NSW through a free wireless network across its CBD.

Parramatta's Lord Mayor, Paul Gerrard, said the project focuses on improving communication throughout the city and will affect local businesses of all sizes. "Digital technologies will continue to impact the way our future communities communicate, interact and operate and it's important people of all ages embrace the opportunities ParraConnect can provide."

Gerrard believes that through continued community involvement, Parramatta can transform itself into a better connected, smarter city.

### **Sydney Water Launches SCADA Upgrade Project**

Three years after announcing it would upgrade Supervisory Control And Data Acquisition (SCADA) systems at its filtration plants, Sydney Water will start an 80-week project scheduled to begin this year at the Nepean catchment.

Five filtration facilities make up the Sydney Water's Nepean water filtration plant (WFP) cluster, located at Cascade, Orchard Hills, Warragamba, North Richmond and Bargo. The programmable logic controllers (PLCs) and SCADA network are nearing obsolescence and procuring spares is becoming a major problem. The Nepean WFP was commissioned in December 1993 and is located near Bargo in the Southern Highlands of NSW. The plant draws raw water from the Nepean Dam and supplies treated water to local towns.

In 2008 the company announced a \$5 million Business Intelligence project that would integrate with its SCADA systems.

at the Nepean WFP has insufficient redundancy or capacity to add new process sequences, according to Sydney Water.

"The existing PLCs are nearing obsolescence and the procurement of spares is a major problem."

The closing date for interested suppliers is July 29, 2010.

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**Jürgen Oschadleus**, MBA, PMP, is the Director of Act Knowledge Pty Ltd and the Managing Partner of Valense (Australia). Jürgen has over 15 years of experience across the globe in diverse industry and organizational settings. Formally qualified as an educator and trainer, he held a strategic consulting roles with Booz•Allen & Hamilton (South Africa), Concur UK, CPA International and the SAS Institute. He has helped deploy business solutions into blue chip companies across the UK, Europe and Asia Pacific. Jürgen is the author of *Heart of Influence*, and has written numerous articles and papers on leadership, influential communication and sustainable change. His training programs have been delivered on five continents, and he is a frequent speaker at international conferences and C-level Summits. He currently serves on the Project Management Institute's (PMI) Registered Education Provider Advisory Group, and is a co-author of the PMI's e-learning program on the *PMBOK® Guide to Project Management* (Third and Fourth editions). He is the Course Coordinator and Facilitator for Project Management at the University of New South Wales, and presents graduate level project management courses for the University of Sydney. Jürgen is a certified Project Management Professional (PMP), is DiSC- and SDI-accredited, and an Advanced Toastmaster (Gold). He holds an Education Diploma, a Masters degree in History and an MBA in International Project Management and Organisational Development, and a Certificate IV in Workplace Training & Assessment. Jürgen speaks Afrikaans, English and German, resides in Sydney and can be contacted at [juergeno@actknowledge.com](mailto:juergeno@actknowledge.com).