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A Message from the President



“The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members.” – Coretta Scott King

Greetings, PMI Melbourne Chapter Members!

As a for-purpose organisation, PMI is dedicated to enabling our community to elevate its positive impact on society. Driven by a clear mission and an underlying set of Culture Values that drive how we volunteer, work and collaborate together, PMI's Culture Values are guiding principles that leverage our diversity to form one united, vibrant and successful organisation.

Co-created by our community, our Culture Values are **BY PMI FOR PMI**, and the language chosen represents our commitment to each other and to the project management community.

Today I would like to explore the rebranded PMI Culture Values, and invite you to take part in this journey and exercise the true volunteering spirit based on PMI Culture Values:

- **MAKE IT EASY:** We are easy to deal with. When things slow us down, we find a better way. We prioritise the impact that matters most and take the most direct route to it.
- **AIM HIGHER:** We set the standard in top quality work to create the greatest impact for the PMI community. We lead the way by thinking long-term and acting in the short-term. We fearlessly take ownership of what we do, knowing every action counts.
- **BE WELCOMING:** We create genuine belonging for all, because our differences make us stronger. We act with humanity, showing care, empathy and respect for others' needs. We assume good intent and seek to understand, not judge.
- **EMBRACE CURIOSITY:** We are always seeking ways to better serve the PMI community. We see challenges as opportunities to innovate, and take them. We feel able to fail fast in order to get it right.
- **TOGETHER WE CAN:** We build deep, trusting relationships that help us work towards our mission together. We use our shared purpose to unite us as a community and drive us forward to create impact. We act in alignment with our global goals, while being empowered to deliver locally.



Together, we can achieve great things. I'm proud of our Chapter's successes this year, particularly in providing more opportunities for meaningful engagement with our members and sponsors, introducing innovative programming formats and topics, and providing professional development and outreach opportunities.

- We elevated the pitch across our academic community with the **Rising Leaders series of events**. The Rising Leaders program exemplifies our mission of making a difference around the world through projects, and we are proud to tell our stories for their impact on society. Roadshows hosted at Torrens University, RMIT and Melbourne Business School, supported by experienced professionals who shared their journey, gave these young professional leaders guidance to nurture their ambitions to build a better tomorrow!
- Our PMI Disciplined Agile Special Interest Group was reborn as the **PMI Agile Special Interest Group**, and brought together thought leaders, industry professionals, and enthusiasts within the Agile community to explore the multi-dimensional aspects of agility. The event has been held online and also the latter part hybrid with an in-person event in Melbourne. It connected high-caliber professionals with inspirational keynote speakers, including Mark Lines and Scott Amber (Disciplined Agile founders), Dr. Jen Frahm and Lena Ross (Agile Change Leadership Institute Founders), SoHyun Kang (Managing Director - PMI APAC) and Galen Townson (PMI Global Board of Directors) to Navigate the Future for Agility at Every Level in interactive and successful sessions.
- Every year we give back to our vibrant community through what we know best – project management. This year we signed on 14 Projects and Not-for-Profits for this year's **PMDoS (Project Management Day of Service)**, the Chapter's biggest event of this type to date. A committed and enthusiastic group of star volunteers and consultants, supported by our proud PMDoS sponsors - RMIT, MetaPM, Coles, CSL Seqirus and PMO Solutions, collaborated to make a tangible impact on the challenges these organisations are facing, in a true expression of giving back to the community!
- We completed a series of 6 **Project Management for Life (PM4L)** workshops conducted for 100+ Year 9 students at Gisborne Secondary School in Regional Victoria. This aligns with the PMI priorities Youth and Social Impact, making an impact on our actual and future society, while also providing mentoring and networking opportunities for chapter members, and contributing to their own professional development. This program continues to create a sense of belonging for our volunteers, contributing to a noble cause and a rewarding experience to giving back to the community.
- We are proud of launching a new online platform for our **Mentoring Program**, which give the users of our Mentoring Program better support and guidance on their mentoring journeys, enabling the Mentoring Program Manager to support mentees and mentors in a much more structured and personalised fashion.



- We have delivered 9 **Monthly events** (6 Hybrids and 3 Virtual), with inspirational keynote speakers and networking opportunities, granting our community an opportunity to navigate topics of leadership, decision making and agile mindset.. And we look forward to closing out the year with our fantastic End of Year Celebration.
- Finally ... WOW! The new **PMI Melbourne website** Is Alive and Kicking! Hope you enjoy the new style and interactive portal and can get all benefits from our local and global community!

Let's continue to grow and shine in the coming year. Let's face all challenges with courage and see even better results. Wish you take some time to spend with your loved ones and come back refreshed after the summer break. I will take this opportunity to wish you all a joyful Festive Season and a very Happy New Year.

Thank you and best regards,
Jeferson Souza
President



A Message from the Vice President



Season's greetings!

Over the past 11 months, PMI Melbourne Chapter has been a beacon of brilliance in fostering professional growth and development in the field of project management. Through its diverse range of activities, the chapter has consistently upheld its mission of providing a platform for knowledge sharing, networking, and skill enhancement. We have a strong team of volunteers that make things happen and with the board's leadership, we are making sure that we are consistent in providing value to our members and broader PM community.

The chapter's calendar was brimming with engaging events, from insightful monthly sessions featuring industry experts to interactive PMI Agile Specialist Interest Group addressing contemporary project management challenges. These activities catered to both seasoned professionals and aspiring project managers, ensuring a holistic learning experience for all. Additionally, the chapter's emphasis on fostering connections allowed members to build valuable networks, facilitating the exchange of ideas and best practices.

The PMI Melbourne Chapter's commitment to community outreach was also evident through its volunteer initiatives, partnering with universities and other organisations to contribute to educational and the UN's Sustainability Development Goals. By seamlessly blending education, collaboration, and community engagement, the chapter undoubtedly played a pivotal role in advancing the project management profession over the past months and is determined to continue doing so in the upcoming months.

Staying engaged through PMI Melbourne Chapter events offers valuable networking opportunities, access to industry experts for knowledge enrichment, and participation in skill-enhancing workshops. These events foster professional growth, facilitate idea exchange, and provide a platform to stay updated with the latest trends in project management. I strongly encourage you to continue to attend our events and reach out to myself or other board members to join us as volunteers. Finally, do remember to check out the Professional Development section of the newsletter section for PMI offers addressing trending topics in project management.

Kind regards,
Irfan Shehzad
Vice President



Professional Development

BY DR ARIEL ACHTMAN, PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

CERTIFICATION ACHIEVERS

Please join us in congratulating our members who have achieved certifications since the August newsletter and wish them even more success in their careers.



- Ajendra Nair
- Alison Bok
- Bishanthi Kalansuriya
- Lovely Era Zaide



- Akwa Nkonda
- Vernon Smith
- Amanda Sathiaraj
- Behrooz Salarvand
- Davy Eldaief
- Denny Liew
- Esther Marton
- Hakim Sadraoui
- Jane Halyburton
- Jennifer Walker
- Khaled Magableh
- Michelle Treasa Varghese
- Philip Baiden
- Prason Sinha
- Simon Blick
- Sonia Mateus



- Chaithali Shetty
- George Stasinis
- Srivatsa Narasimhan



- Pragnya Sarathy
- Bhadri Vijaya Sarathy
- Sameer Ul Hassan Burney
- Weibin Gu



- Nadia Gottschalk



- Alan Kwon



- Jeferson De Almeida Souza



- Tiendung (TJ) Le





- Claire Orrill
- Dana Lustig
- Kate Gamble
- Narelle Batson
- Neha Shah
- Neha Zakhmi
- Shijo Valsan



- Sarah Swyer



- Alan Kwon



- Chan Keen Soon



- David Lill



- Marcos Tolmos

PARTNERSHIPS PMI CREDENTIALS TRAINING COURSES

One of the benefits of PMI Melbourne Chapter membership is discounted access to courses provided by our **Authorised Training Partners (who have been assessed by PMI for alignment of training materials and financial viability)**.

Melbourne Chapter partners with **MetaPM, The PMX Company (formerly known as PM-COE), Millpond and vCare.**

Check out their websites for in-person or virtual training for the following certifications:

- **Generalised: PMP, CAPM, PgMP, PfMP**
- **Agile: PMI-ACP, DASM, DASSM**
- **Specialised: PMI-CP**

20% discount on PMI certification courses for chapter members.



metapm

For more information, contact:

1800 800 436

enquiries@metapm.com.au

10% discount on PMI certification courses for chapter members



For more information, contact:

+61 2 8346 6750

hello@thepmxcompany.com



10% discount on PMI certification courses for chapter members



For more information, contact:
+64 (03) 366 4383 or
info@millpond.co.nz



10% discount on PMI certification courses for chapter members

For more information, contact:
1800 822 731 or
info@vcareprojectmanagement.com

PMI-CP



PMI's newest certification is the Construction Professional in Built Environment Projects. It covers the domains of contracts management, stakeholder management, strategy and scope management, and project governance, certifies professionals in the construction and built environment industry. PMI has created a specialised learning suite on the topic including:

- 3 Micro-Credentials
- 4 E-Learning Courses
- 1 Capstone Project

Melbourne Chapter is offering two Chapter Members free access to the PMI-CP suite of courses, a value of USD 993.

Please send expressions of interest by November 20th in an email with the subject PMI-CP EOI development@melbourne.pmi.org.au

If there are multiple applications, the recipients will be chosen based on your answers to these questions:

- Why is this relevant to your career?
- How would you be willing to report back on your course experience? The intent is to share information with other chapter members.



FREE COURSE: GENERATIVE AI OVERVIEW FOR PROJECT MANAGERS

PMI is offering a free course to all members – you can deepen your understanding of a hot topic and gain 5 PDUs. Generative AI Overview for Project Managers is a hands-on learning experience for project professionals that will empower you with practical knowledge of AI in project management that you can apply right away to your project management approaches.

Every project is unique—and brings with it a set of hurdles and challenges. And it takes a human touch to navigate it all. With the right skill set and embrace of AI, you can do more than ever before to meet every challenge that comes your way.

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN:

- Definitions of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Generative AI
- Understand Generative AI applications in project management
- Discover the AI project manager tools that can use to maximize efficiency
- Learn best practices for project management in AI as a way of working

<https://www.pmi.org/shop/p/-elearning/generative-ai-overview-for-project-managers/e1083>

CERTIFICATION RESOURCES

Queensland Chapter regularly runs a free [webinar on PMP and CAPM certifications](#). They cover the pathways to prepare for certification, eligibility requirements, the application process, experience documentation, the audit process, exam information, fees, and the standards involved. As a Melbourne Chapter member, you can access events offered by other chapters, so if you have questions on these topics, check out the timing of the next webinar here: <https://pmiqld.org/events?eventId=34208>

If you have embarked on the PMP study journey and need some extra support beyond your 35-hour training, you might want to look into a paid membership with [PMI Study Hall](#) which is designed to fit your daily schedule and ride along with you to help take the stress out of PMP prep:

- **PRACTICE:** Test your skills with full-length practice exams (175 questions each) and “mini” exams (15 questions each), complete with rationales and solutions. Practice high-yield concepts with over 200 flashcards. Try out a sample exam on the official PearsonVue site — you can’t do this anywhere else!
- **DIRECTION:** Understand your strengths and weaknesses. Know where to focus your studies.
- **INSIGHT:** Know what to expect on exam day, both online and in-person.
- **FUN:** Add games to your study plan and track your performance as your exam date approaches

<https://www.pmi.org/certifications/certification-resources/pmi-study-hall>



Mentoring

BY DR ARIEL ACHTMAN, PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

As we come to the close of our Chapter mentoring year, the program has connected 25 mentors and 26 mentees with 6 of those mentors supporting multiple mentees.

Mentees were seeking help in interviewing techniques to assist in job search, help in PMP study, transition into project or program management, help with finding project management job in a new country.

We are also very excited that the program has been shortlisted for the Sustainability Award at the Project Controls Expo.

Thanks to the generosity of the Adelaide Chapter, we were able to run a pilot study of Mentorink to give users of our Mentoring Program better support and guidance in their mentoring journeys. The platform supports goal tracking, communication, feedback on sessions and keeping track of the meetings held. We have agreed to share a licence – and the costs – with the Adelaide Chapter and look forward to the increased benefits for our Mentoring Program participants.

We have celebrated the end of our mentoring year on the 16th of November with networking and talks on human-centred leadership and tips from a talent recruiter. Then we start gearing up for the next mentoring year with our virtual mentor/mentee speed dating on the 15th of February, 2024. Start thinking about whether you want to join the program as a mentor or mentee or both. We need both senior mentors with broad knowledge of our sector and mentors who have recent lived experience with the problems the mentees are wrestling with. Could you...

- Help someone new to the country understand the Australian work environment?
- Support somebody studying for a certification by sharing your own experiences?
- Give a project management student or fresh graduate insights into the post-study world?
- Share experiences and challenges of being a woman in project management?
- Pay forward the benefits you have experienced as a mentee by acting as a sounding board and accountability partner?

Check out our Mentoring page for more information or to sign up as a mentor or mentee: <https://www.melbourne.pmi.org.au/mentoring/>

If you have further questions, reach out to mentoring@melbourne.pmi.org.au or development@melbourne.pmi.org.au



Volunteering

BY HEERA ARVIND, VOLUNTEERING DIRECTOR

IGNITE CHANGE, EMPOWER COMMUNITIES, ELEVATE SKILLS: ENGAGE AS A VOLUNTEER WITH THE PROJECT MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE, MELBOURNE CHAPTER!

Volunteering with the PMI Melbourne Chapter presents a unique opportunity for both seasoned project management professionals and enthusiasts alike. As a valued volunteer, you become an integral part of a dynamic community committed to advancing the project management field and empowering individuals to excel in their careers.

One of the standout benefits of volunteering with the PMI Melbourne Chapter is the exceptional networking opportunities it offers. Collaborating with fellow professionals, industry experts, and project management leaders, opens avenues to fresh ideas, best practices, and diverse perspectives. These connections may pave the way for potential career advancements, partnerships, and lasting friendships, creating a supportive network that extends well beyond your volunteering commitments.

Additionally, volunteering with the PMI Melbourne Chapter allows you to make meaningful contributions to the project management community. Active involvement in event planning, marketing, membership management, committee service, and participation in community projects like Outreach, Project Management 4 Life (PM4L), and Project Management Day of Service (PMDoS) positions you as a key player in disseminating knowledge and promoting excellence within the field.

The satisfaction derived from knowing your efforts directly contribute to the professional growth of others is immeasurable, fostering a sense of fulfillment and purpose in your volunteer role.

Moreover, volunteering with the Melbourne Chapter provides an opportunity to earn Professional Development Units (PDUs) toward maintaining your PMI certification. You can accrue up to **25 PDUs** annually by volunteering with the Chapter, which can be applied to your Continuing Certification Requirements.

In conclusion, volunteering with the PMI Melbourne Chapter is a mutually beneficial endeavour. It offers unparalleled chances for networking, skill development, and personal growth, all while making a positive impact on the project management community. Whether you are a seasoned project manager or an aspiring enthusiast, embracing this opportunity will undoubtedly enrich your life and career in ways that extend well beyond your volunteer tenure.



SHINING STARS OF SERVICE: CELEBRATING PMI MELBOURNE CHAPTER'S VOLUNTEERS OF THE MONTH

At PMI Melbourne Chapter, we take great pride in acknowledging our outstanding volunteers, the "Volunteers of the Month." These individuals consistently surpass expectations, demonstrating a level of dedication that is both impressive and heartening. Their proactive approach and boundless enthusiasm have played a pivotal role in the successful implementation of various projects and initiatives. Whether organising captivating events that promote knowledge sharing and networking or providing invaluable support in handling administrative tasks, their contributions have been crucial to the growth and success of our chapter.

Beyond their professional expertise, these remarkable volunteers have exemplified exceptional teamwork and leadership, fostering a welcoming and inclusive environment that inspires others to participate.

As we continue to advance project management practices, it is the passion, commitment, and innovation of these individuals that keep our chapter at the forefront of excellence.

OUR SERVICE CHAMPIONS:



Rodolfo del Carpio

Rodolfo has been pivotal to the success of membership engagement and growth for the Melbourne Chapter. You will often find him entertaining queries with his Peruvian charm in the Chapter membership booth for the monthly events including the last Project Expo in 2022. He was also instrumental to the development of the Rising Leaders program, creating engagements with over 200 students and professors across 7 universities.

He truly has been an outstanding volunteer and leader of the Membership Portfolio. Torrens University has a gold standard MBIS student with Rodolfo!



Vish Awate

Vish is an exceptional volunteer who has showcased an unwavering commitment and dedication to PMDoS team's mission. Vish has gone above and beyond by successfully engaging with and onboarding three different charities and actively contributing to a couple of projects within the volunteering portfolio. Vish is consistently poised to offer assistance and is exceptionally approachable, ensuring a welcoming and accessible environment.

Vish's dedication and impactful contributions has truly set him apart as an outstanding and valuable member of our volunteer community.





Conner Schuller

Conner has made a significant contribution towards PMI Melbourne Chapter as the Social Media Manager by supporting and leading the expansion of the Chapter's social media presence on Instagram while continuously growing our existing network on LinkedIn and Facebook.

The Chapter's initiative to start an Instagram page has been discussed for years but it has finally come to fruition in 2023 with Conner's support.



Sathish Balachandran

Sathish is a PMP certified Project and Portfolio Manager who is actively engaged with PMI Melbourne Chapter's Events team. We thank him for his contribution in supporting us with all our Monthly events in 2023, and ensuring the Onsite events are executed as smoothly as possible.



Charissa Ong

Charissa became an Associate Director for Professional Development this year and has been providing thoughtful guidance to members and externals on our certification and career development opportunities. She is also a key contributor to the Chapter's Rising Leaders program which connects students and young professionals with industry leaders who share their advice for successful project management courses.

Over the past 9 months, Charissa has made continuous improvements over three Rising Leaders events held at RMIT, Torrens University and Melbourne Business School. Her work has established remarkable standards for quality and collaboration, significantly boosting the reputation of our chapter.



Martin Sanchez

Martin has been continuously contributing on different aspects of our events from planning and managing the logistics, conducting the quiz and to coordinating the stage experience and he is truly commendable. He has been, for the past 4 months, actively engaging with the Torrens University student members to attend our monthly events in large numbers. He has actively volunteered to manage the logistics of the recent PMI Region 10 event hosted by the chapter.

Martin holds a Master of Project Management and MBA and a Bachelor of Electronic Engineering with experience working in IT, projects, education and training, he is actually a learning facilitator / program coordinator at Torrens University. His commitment and leadership towards the chapter's Membership and Events portfolios is commendable.



Vik Kapoor

Vik has donned several hats within the Project Management Institute. He is an invaluable asset with an extensive skill set and has consistently demonstrated exceptional knowledge and dedication across various portfolios. His wealth of experience makes him an indispensable contributor to our chapter. Beyond his expertise, Vik has also been a guiding force and mentor to many, offering invaluable support and insights.

We greatly appreciate Vik's unwavering commitment and the tremendous impact he has had on our team.

To our Volunteers of the Month, we offer heartfelt thanks for your exceptional service and unwavering dedication. We eagerly anticipate ongoing collaboration with you and are enthusiastic about the positive impact we can achieve together. Your contributions are priceless, and we take pride in considering you as the indispensable members of the PMI Melbourne Chapter family. Congratulations once again on this well-deserved recognition, and we extend our sincere appreciation for being the true champions of our mission and vision.

Engaging as a volunteer with the Project Management Institute Melbourne Chapter offers a valuable experience, allowing you to contribute to the community, enhance your project management skills, connect with peers in the field, and accrue PDUs for maintaining your PMI certification.

Explore the rewarding experience of volunteering with the Melbourne Chapter today, becoming a valued member of a community actively shaping a positive impact in the project management profession.

Keep an eye out on vep.pmi.org for upcoming opportunities, or email: volunteering@melbourne.pmi.org.au

Sincerely,

Heera Arvind

Volunteering Director, PMI Melbourne Chapter

<https://www.melbourne.pmi.com.au>

Email: volunteering@melbourne.pmi.org.au



Project Management Day of Service (PMDOS) 2023

BY HEERA ARVIND, VOLUNTEERING DIRECTOR

“TRANSFORMING PROJECTS, EMPOWERING CHANGE: PROJECT MANAGEMENT DAY OF SERVICE”

Project Management Day of Service (PMDoS) is a powerful convergence of professionals and volunteers committed to transformative change. Through strategic planning and efficient execution, PMDoS exemplifies social responsibility, showcasing the true potential of project management to drive positive impacts in communities.

PMDoS 2023 achieved resounding success with 70 professional project management consultants from diverse industries supporting 15 projects for 14 Charity/NFP partners. The initiatives ranged from uplifting Windows 2012 servers to cybersecurity and strategies for member attraction. The achievement was made possible by the collaborative efforts of over 20 volunteers including Project Managers, PMO professionals, Portfolio Managers, and Project Management students from RMIT and Torrens University.

With the utmost gratitude, we extend our heartfelt appreciation to our sponsors, consultants, charity partners, and dedicated volunteers for their unwavering support and exceptional contributions to the success of our recent Project Management Day of Service 2023 event held on Friday, 20th October 2023 at RMIT University.

Your unwavering commitment to our cause and your collaborative spirit played a pivotal role in achieving our goals. We are excited about celebrating this shared success and eagerly look forward to future collaborations. From the depths of our hearts, thank you for your valuable participation.

VALUED SPONSORS OF PMDOS 2023:



PARTNER ORGANISATIONS FOR PMDOs 2023:



SHARING A FEW MEMORABLE MOMENTS:



AND NOW SOME FEEDBACK FROM BOTH OUR SEASONED AND NEW PMDOS VOLUNTEERS, SHARING THEIR INSIGHTS AND EXPERIENCES:



“In the tale of the Project Management Day of Service (PMDoS), every beat is a testament to a year’s worth of planning and a day’s worth of soulful service. PMDoS is not just an event; it’s a heartfelt gathering where project professionals, driven by a shared purpose, generously lend their skills to non-profits (NFPs) and charities. PMDoS-23 marked a chapter in our history, breaking records in consultations with NFPs and charities and becoming the crowning jewel in PMI-Australia—all thanks to the passion of our volunteers.

Picture this: our annual PMI board planning meeting. The challenge was monumental—organise an event for 10-12 NFPs, bring in 50 consultants, and secure two sponsors. Four times more than the previous year, some deemed it impossible. But armed with PMI project standards, our team not only met but surpassed the challenge.”

- Achal Barla



“This year 70 volunteer consultants worked with 14 charities and not-for-profit organisations including Sacred Heart Mission, Big Group Hug, Cultural Infusion and Friends of the Children Foundation on a wide range of projects ranging from IT and Cyber Security, Diversity Data Analytics to Events, Marketing and Membership campaigns.

It was great to see Rezza Moieni and Cultural Infusion back for their sixth year running, with Shashi Kant Kochhar from Friends of the Children returning for the second year in a row.

The event was sponsored by our perennial Gold Sponsor MetaPM, who have a longstanding partnership with the Chapter and PMDoS as our flagship volunteering event. A big thanks from us to Simon Garlick and the team at Meta PM.

PMO Solutions also signed up as a Gold Sponsor, with Coles and CSL Seqirus providing valuable support as Silver sponsors and RMIT providing in-kind sponsorship by providing us with a wonderful venue.

PMDoS is an annual event that brings together volunteers from various industries to lend their expertise and knowledge to help not-for-profit organisations by providing a day of free consulting. The 2023 event was the sixth PMDoS event hosted by the Melbourne Chapter. The first PMDoS event was held on Martin Luther King Day in 2015.

I was lucky enough to be a co-MC of the event alongside my trusty co-pilots Sonia Mateus, Achal Barla, Vish Awate and our host, Volunteering Director, Heera Arvind. We were also joined by Dang Su, Vice President of PMI Vietnam, who wanted to see how we run Australia’s premier PMDoS event.”

- Daniel Simpson





“Being actively involved as a volunteer to engage with the Charity / Not-For-Profit representatives creates a fantastic opportunity to engage directly with the community. The onboarding process of Charities and Not-For-Profit organisations starts early in the year and onboarding of new organisations can take some time, particularly for those participating for the first time that are not familiar with the PMDoS initiative and how much they can benefit from participating in the PMDoS event. As a volunteer, there is a great sense of fulfillment knowing that we are helping the community and our efforts have a direct impact on the day to day work of these charitable and not for profit organisations. The PMDoS team put in a lot of effort and because we love what we do, it does not feel like work for us. The satisfaction of knowing that we are contributing meaningfully to the community is priceless.”

- **Sonia Mateus**



“PMDoS is one of our biggest annual project”, three years ago this statement meant so unrelated to me when I think why are we are calling an event as a project? However, within a few days of joining the volunteering team, I understood why this qualifies as a project.

In last three PMDoS events, I have seen how one size fit all(ways), is unsuitable for it. **First year**, we did an online event that ran over 4 days. Many of us were still new to Zoom and virtual meetings. So there were huge risks on technology failures and project team had to plan mitigation for them. **Second year**, was a pop-up event, planned and delivered within a month as an in-person event to keep up the legacy and not cancel it due to other PMC commitments. **This year**, team has bounced back to much higher heights with a confidence that gave us a huge event.

These variations were always exciting for me. As a volunteer I have learned so many skills about the commitment and hard work behind a seamless event. For an intention to give back to the society through these not-for-profits, gave me an opportunity to meet passionate for Project Management and problem solvers. I would recommend everyone to come and see behind the scenes of PMDoS to learn and meet fantastic volunteers.”

- **Damanjeet Maan**



“Volunteering for the Project Management Day of Service with the PMI Melbourne Chapter was a transformative experience. As a student, I had the opportunity to communicate with skilled project professionals from diverse industries, all dedicated to empowering not-for-profit organisations through effective project management. It was heartening to witness the commitment of these volunteers, not just as experts but as passionate community members, eager to make a positive impact. The community members and NFP representatives showcased genuine goodwill and dedication to community betterment, which was truly inspirational. It was a day where learning, collaboration, and the spirit of giving back converged seamlessly, and working with the energetic PMDoS team was an absolute pleasure, as they skilfully set the team up for success with their amazing project management skills.”

- **Janavi Omkar**





“At PMDoS 2023, volunteering became a profound journey. Sharing my project management expertise with non-profits was deeply rewarding. Collaborating with an exceptional team amplified my learning and networking. The event was not just about giving back - it became a space for personal growth.

The camaraderie within the PMDoS team was inspiring - their dedication and friendliness made this experience unforgettable. It was more than an event, it was a fusion of giving and project management artistry. The connections I made, the lessons I learned, and the joy of contributing continue to shape me, leaving an indelible mark on my journey as a project manager.”

- **Lizbet Zamora**



“This was my first time participating in PMDoS, and I had a wonderful experience. Before attending the first meeting, I did not know much about the event and joined the team out of curiosity. As time progressed, I gained a better understanding of the project initiatives and the benefits for local charities, NFPs and consultants. In the project, I assisted with the project schedule, training materials, and event technical support. As a project management graduate, it was a great experience for me to practise my skills and expand my network.

PMDoS has helped me prepare for my career and broaden my horizons. I highly recommend PMDoS to other volunteers because of its great initiatives and the benefits it offers for personal development.”

- **Chung Hin Mau (Ivan)**

Watch this space to dive into the magic of PMDoS 2023 with more snapshots, videos, and stories! Hear from our awesome sponsors, partners, consultants, and volunteers. It's all happening right here – stay tuned for the fun stuff!!

And guess what? We're already gearing up for **PMDoS 2024!** If you're interested in participating as a sponsor/consultant/volunteer, seize the chance to be part of this impactful event by reaching out to us at pmdos@melbourne.pmi.org.au or spare a glance over our PMDoS [website](#) – the excitement awaits right here!

PMDoS contributes to United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 17 - “Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.”

Sincerely,

Heera Arvind

Volunteering Director, PMI Melbourne Chapter

<https://www.melbourne.pmi.com.au>

Email: volunteering@melbourne.pmi.org.au



Agile Symposium 2023

BY TIENDUNG (TJ) LE, OUTREACH DIRECTOR

PMI APAC'S AGILE SYMPOSIUM 2023 WAS A HUGE SUCCESS! AND IT TOOK PLACE ON THE INTERNATIONAL PROJECT MANAGEMENT DAY.

The Agile Symposium 2023 has wrapped up with fantastic results. We hit over 800 attendees, with a live crowd of more than 80 in Melbourne. For an inaugural event, we've set a high bar, with partnerships from PMI chapters globally. That's a significant achievement.

As an organising partner, the PMI Melbourne Chapter played a critical role in the promotion of the event to the local community in Victoria. Its chapter members and the wider community in the state enjoyed not only the virtual sessions but also the live get together at The Oxford Scholar Hotel of RMIT University.

The symposium was jointly organised by the PMI Agile SIG for APAC and RMIT University's School of Property, Construction and Project Management. Its theme was "Navigating the Future: Agility at Every Level." Its three sessions were packed with thought-provoking talks and panel discussions.

The symposium program can be summarised as follows:

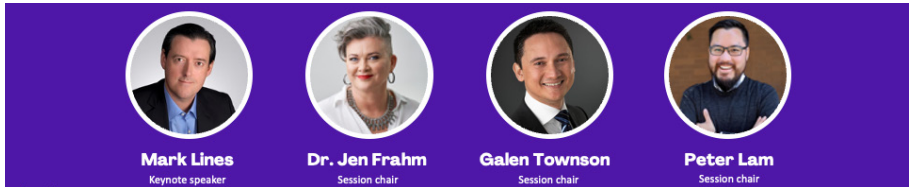
- Welcome remarks by Symposium Chair, Dr. Tiendung (TJ) Le
- Opening address by Galen Townson (Board of Directors) on behalf of PMI
- Keynote speech by Mark Lines, Co-creator of Disciplined Agile
- **Session 1:** Empowering the Self: Agile Mindsets and Individual Growth
 - Chair: Galen Townson
 - Talks by: Lena Ross, Joshua Barnes, Sanjiv Augustine, and Scott Ambler
 - Panel discussion facilitated by the chair.
- **Session 2:** Synergy in Action: Building Agile and Collaborative Teams
 - Chair: Dr. Jen Frahm
 - Talks by: SoHyun Kang, Dipesh Pala, Naveen Nanjundappa, and Horia Slușanschi
 - Panel discussion facilitated by the chair.
- **Session 3:** Leading the Change: Organizational Agility for a Dynamic World
 - Chair: Peter Lam
 - Talks by: Evan Leybourn, Wolfram Mueller, Aldo Rall, and Alicia Aitken
 - Panel discussion facilitated by the chair, joined by the speaker and panellist Niall McShane
- Remarks by Annie Sheehan on behalf of PMI Asia Pacific
- Remarks by Prof. Tayyab Maqsood on behalf of RMIT University.

Symposium Chair, Dr. Tiendung (TJ) Le, delivered the closing remarks with the laser focus on the gratitude he had for everyone who contributed to the organisation and running of the successful symposium.

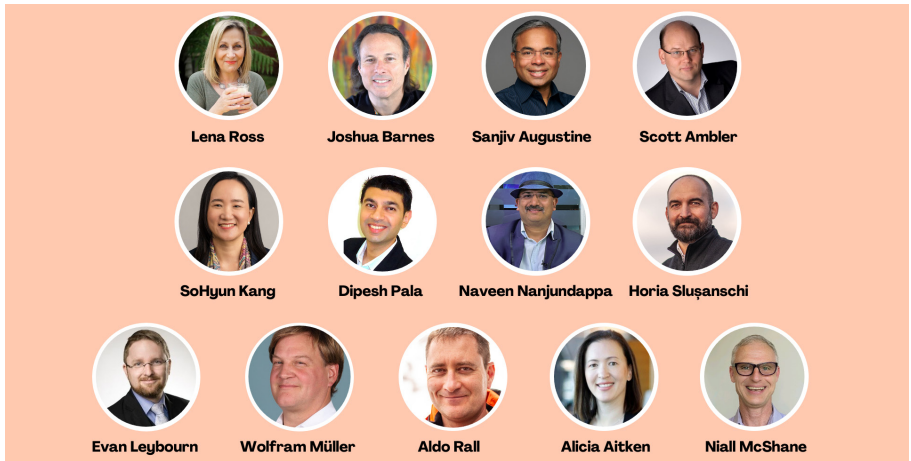


TJ thanked PMI Asia Pacific and RMIT University for the guidance and support extended to the organising team.

Thanks was extended to the **chairs** for the exemplary job facilitating the sessions:



Thanks was extended to the **speakers and panelists** for the generous sharing of knowledge and experience through thought-provoking talks:



Thanks was extended to 2 **Gold Sponsors** and 3 **Silver Sponsors**:

GOLD SPONSORS



SILVER SPONSORS



Thanks was extended to **organising partners** and **partners** of the symposium. They are the PMI Global Accreditation Center and 26 PMI chapters in Asia, Australia and New Zealand, Europe, North America, and South America. This is an incredible outcome as a result of the collaborative mindset these organisations and their leaders have.



ORGANISING PARTNERS



PARTNERS



Special thanks were extended to the 800+ online and live **attendees**:

YOU!

The symposium could not have been possible without the hard work and fantastic work ethics of the symposium team of 14 **volunteers**. They are: Frances Kirby, Natalie Ilott, Jeferson Souza, Varun Puri, Omid Haass, Anushree Mathur, Dheeraj (DJ) Dua, Namrata Ram Kadam, Martin Sanchez, Nidhi Arora, Janavi Omkar, Neha Shah, Naveen Mandava, and Tiendung (TJ) Le.



The live attendees in Melbourne enjoyed a special night with live talks, connecting, reconnecting, good food and drinks. In attendance was a wonderful mix of seasoned, mid-level, and aspiring professionals from a wide range of industries and sectors.

The huge success from both online and live formats provides a solid proof of concept for the PMI Agile SIG team to continue to work hard to deliver the 2024 edition. The planning is already underway.

Following are some photos from the symposium:



Reflections on the Rising Leaders Program

BY VIRNA RODRIGUEZ, MEMBERSHIP ENGAGEMENT COORDINATOR

The **Rising Leaders** Program launched by the Project Management Institute Melbourne Chapter (PMC) aims to create a better bridge between emerging and established project professionals.

As a mature professional who has tracked this career juncture of asserting my formal project management training, this feeling of emerging or perhaps, in my case, re-emerging in the project space resonated with me. I consider myself part of this league of **Rising Leaders**, attempting to gain recognition and confidence in navigating the project industry. Fortunately, my decision to join the Project Management Institute (PMI) and the PMI Melbourne Chapter (PMC) to act on this feeling fueled my involvement as an active volunteer in the membership engagement team, while being a mentee in the chapter's mentorship program led me to appreciate the impacts that the **Rising Leaders** Program had in engineering this bridge between emerging and established Project Management Professionals.

My most recent involvement in the early evolution of the **Rising Leaders** program through an exclusive event at the Melbourne Business School (MBS) on the 5th of October is a worthy story. This event resulted from a collaboration between the MBS Student Club, PMC and the PMI Asia Pacific (PMIAP) and proved successful on many levels. Firstly, that there was a high degree of motivation on the part of the MBS

Student Club to invite PMC and PMIAP to hold the event at MBS and promote it to the student body themselves is significant in paving the way for a long-standing relationship between PMC and PMIAP.



The event delivered impressively on its immediate objectives to have a meaningful engagement between the student cohort and the Melbourne-based speakers from PMIAP, Annie Sheehan, Peter Moutsatsos, Paula McCann and Eelco Lijding. In the question-and-answer panel, the speakers shared their experiences combining pre-prepared topics centred around what university doesn't prepare you for in a project management career, followed by questions raised by the student cohort regarding the benefits of a knowledge of project management in business administration. This engagement was extended during the more informal interactions in MBS's Hub café, where students, speakers and PMI volunteers were allowed more opportunity for introductions and further discussions about career paths and other burning questions from the MBS students. Secondly, it is evident that the event inspired the support of PMI's international community through PMIAP's involve-



-ment, who used PMC's **Rising Leaders** as proof of concept for a series of 'roadshows' in Australia. These activated local PMI chapters to support PMIAP in similar Rising Leaders events in several metropolitan universities to attract PMI memberships at the from the academic community. Thirdly, the Rising Leaders program successfully met the objective of increasing the youth PMC membership, an under-represented demographic in PMC.



I described the most recent **Rising Leaders** event as having evolved from the previous **Rising Leaders Meet 'n' Greet** event held at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT) Storey Hall on the 4th of August this year. Only a couple of months have passed since this event, but already we see PMC's Membership Director, Joseph Alfred Pineda, expanding on the original objectives. Pineda's development of the relationships with the academic community that arose from the August event was evident in the participation of students and lecturers from various tertiary education institutions including RMIT University, Torrens University and Deakin University. This was further exemplified by his ideas on involving student clubs in the **Rising Leaders** discussions in the future. There was a clear path of mutual benefits with this cohort of event participants contributing to PMC membership through a number of these new members enlisting as PMC volunteers in different capacities. From these initial seeds of collaboration, further

engagement of the **Rising Leaders** cohort had mobilised student clubs to develop the relationship between PMC and the student club members who might see themselves as future project management professionals.

On reflecting on what I have gained through my experiences with the **Rising Leaders** program, the best takeaways were the incredible connections I have made through the PMC membership team and the learning in practice that happens when volunteering on projects. This cannot be provided by the more usual route of professional development 'by the books'. Having direct access to the support and expertise of highly talented Project Leaders through the PMI community is a value that defies measurement. I am honoured to be a part of a community that 'walks the talk' and **Rising Leaders** is a testament to a community that cares about the personal and professional development of its people as they enter this profession that brings on the next global leaders for positive change.



Member Spotlight

BY VIRNA RODRIGUEZ, MEMBERSHIP ENGAGEMENT COORDINATOR

AT THE HELM: CHARISSA ONG AND RISING LEADERS, WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP, WOMEN IN PROJECT MANAGEMENT

There is a distinctive leader that champions a project to move from zero to success. The Rising Leaders event held at Melbourne Business School (MBS) on the 5th of October would not have been a success without the leadership of **Charissa Ong**. I was inspired to write this article after having witnessed Charissa's "tour de force" in its orchestration, likening her to the glue that drove the project to fruition. When asked about her motivations for the project, she described the excitement of bringing together the two areas of her professional life - those of MBS and Project Management Institute (PMI).

"My journey with PMC started with Project Management Day of Service (PMDoS) 2022 and then as a volunteer for the Membership Team, and now the Professional Development Team, where I get to support members' growth in their careers, which I'm super passionate about."



Charissa Ong, Project Manager (PMP)

Outside of PMI, Charissa studies a Master of Business Administration (MBA) part-time at MBS, while working full-time as a Project Manager in the Information Technology (IT) division at Linfox, a large logistics company where her team focuses on technology solutions. She is also a Founding member of the MBS Project Management Club, a volunteer at a local community kitchen, and enjoys a creative life in her down time, practicing art and ballet.



Charissa Ong receiving the Volunteer of the Month award from Jeferson Souza (PMC President)

Having recently been appointed as Associate Director of the Professional Development team with the Project Management Institute Melbourne Chapter (PMC) and recognised as Volunteer of the Month in October, Charissa has been an active member of PMC since last year.

It is only to be expected that Charissa's commitment to support professional development can be seen in her commitment towards her own. She fast-tracked her certification Project Management Professional (PMP) in a couple of months before the start of her MBA.



Having a strong role model, following her mother's 'footsteps' as a Project Manager has also influenced her career choice.

Apart from her own personal connections, I asked Charissa how this event differed from the earlier ones – the first at Torrens University on the 20th of March, then at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT) on the 4th of August.

“With any event or project, you have to understand who your target audience is. Unlike the other universities that offer undergrad programs in project management, the students at MBS could be working professionals, some with years of experience... perhaps, wondering what's next for their career.”

She explained that some of the MBS students are enquiring into new directions and how a knowledge of project management would enhance their experience in business.

Careful consideration went into the selection of speakers, including host Annie Sheehan from PMC and guest speakers, Paula McCann, Eelco Lijding and Peter Moutsatsos from PMI, who are leaders within their corporate environments, which the MBS students could immediately relate to.

The panel was structured to maximise the questions and answers from the audience and the success of the event was owed largely to these strong points of engagement. One of the highlights for Charissa was the lead up to the event where she described the support she felt from both communities of PMI and MBS.

When asked about any challenges she faced with Rising Leaders, Charissa couldn't find much fault.

“In project management, there are always lessons to be learned, and most of it comes down to planning better, but what I've realised over time is not everything can or has to be planned. Sometimes, it's better to be a bit spontaneous so it doesn't become a chore.”



In discussing Charissa's personal journey to land her current roles, she identifies one constant personal power skill as the ability to connect with people.

“I'll admit I have a knack for connecting with people quite easily... and I think that stems from showing genuine empathy and trying to understand what makes people tick.”

Our conversation then moved to the topic of gender equity in the workplace and in the project management profession. Charissa spoke about her experiences of working in male-dominated areas including sales and logistics.

One of the things she observes in women is the tendency to downplay the value of their unique skills and contribution. To combat this, she is a Board Member of the Gender Equality Group in her workplace.

“I couldn't resist being involved, especially when I've experienced challenges as a professional woman myself. It started off as a Women in Tech group that celebrates women in STEM. And has now become a company-wide group that focuses on driving gender equality.”



Charissa described some of the ways such programs are implemented in her workplace.

“There’s a lot of comradery in our online group chat, where we’ll highlight women who are doing amazing things inside or outside of work. Celebrating those moments is a really good way to support each other.”

I asked Charissa about her thoughts on the Women in Project Management Program in PMC and whether she saw this as a platform for our discussions around gender equity and the issues we had just been speaking about. “I think it’s important to have these programs available where we can discuss gender equity and celebrate achievements in those areas.”

My next questions for Charissa revolved around leadership – what qualities she values in a leader and the most influential leaders in her life.

She listed setting goals, and taking disciplined steps to achieve them, remaining curious and open to new ideas, and being calm under pressure. She maintains that her mother is still the most influential leader in her life. “I was inspired to follow in her footsteps... joined PMI and became a project manager like her. But what

I saw in her as a leader is her fierce ambition and love for learning. If she had a goal, she would achieve it and I think how you do that is being really disciplined, and open to adopting new ways of working.”

She also reflected on some of the members within PMC who have supported her throughout her project management journey.



“PMC’s mentorship program was a great place for me to get connected with an experienced professional, who provided me with immense support. Outside of that I am also lucky to volunteer closely with some inspiring PMC leaders whom I also see as mentors.”

A born leader, following the footsteps of a leader and Rising Leader, thus we celebrate the personal achievements of Charissa Ong and the wonderful work of a woman in project management.



Our Visual Identity

CREATING A LANGUAGE FOR THE PROJECT ECONOMY

Our visual identity helps us define and lead The Project Economy. It begins with a design language. This is the language of The Project Economy and the qualities required to be a part of it: collaboration, determination, teamwork, outcomes, growth, vision and community. We represent each of these qualities with a unique symbol. These symbols will be embedded in our communications over time, reinforcing their meaning.



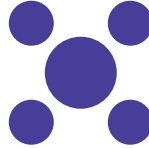
COLLABORATION

We can't do it alone. Whether it's partnering with a colleague, client, company or non-profit organisation, each of us brings something unique to the table. And we are made stronger when we work together.



DETERMINATION

Sometimes projects go according to plan. Most of the time, not. Perseverance is needed to complete any project and successfully deliver outcomes that make a difference in the world.



TEAMWORK

Projects are delivered by people, but winning projects are delivered by teams. Project delivery relies on team players and people who contribute added value to any project, making the team stronger.



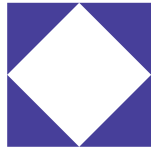
GROWTH

Change and transformation, while at times unfamiliar, spur progress. Whether it's skill development or organisational expansion, growth brings new opportunities into our economy - and contributes to the greater good.



INNOVATION

New ideas. New products. New methods. Constant transformation is what helps us tackle new problems and find fresh solutions. We know that the world isn't one-size-fits-all. We bring new takes on everyday things to constantly move forward and make life better across the world



OUTCOME

We celebrate not just the process, but the positive impact that projects around the world make on society. We're changing the world - for the better - one project at a time.



COMMUNITY

The people that are part of our world make it what it is today. Our community is one of our most valuable assets. We celebrate it and keep it going by welcoming all who wish to join us to make the world a better place.



VISION

This can mean being unconventional. It can mean coming up with new ideas to solve new challenges. It's about perspective, seeing the big picture, and the ability to create solutions for now that are sustainable for generations to come.



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About Us

The Melbourne Chapter of the Project Management Institute (PMI) is part of an international not-for-profit professional organisation dedicated to the advancement of project management excellence through professionalism.

With more than 500,000 members in over 170 countries, PMI is the leading membership association for the project management profession.

PMI is recognised for the advocacy programs conducted with governments, organisations and industries around the world as they recognise and embrace project management to achieve business results.

The PMI Melbourne Chapter has over 1300 members.

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The November 2023 Newsletter has been prepared by the PMI Melbourne Chapter Editorial Team:

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