



Project
Management
Institute.
Sydney, Australia

The Critical Path

August 2024



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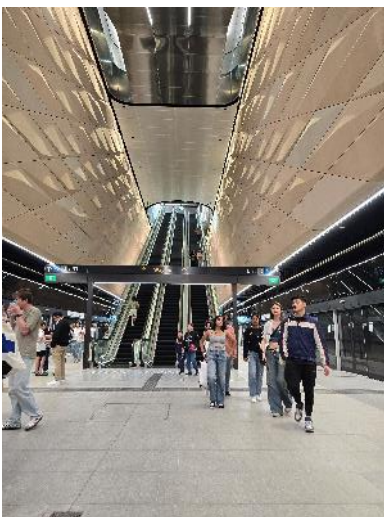
Editor's Note

Himadri Sekhar Chowdhury

Spring has come early, yet again. From the lanes of North Rocks to the sands of Coogee, the air is awash with the soft heat of expectation of a warm summer. Cherry blossoms have taken over the sidewalks and dry branches are suddenly showing promise. High winds and bushfires are back as well, with the danger rating high and several areas around the state seeing raging fires. However, with the longer evenings, parks have started running near capacity and you can hear children enjoying their moment in the sun.



Father's Day on 1st September promises to be a bright sunny affair as well. A bit shout-out to all the dads out there. Enjoy the day with your family and loved ones.



The Sydney Metro M1 extension to Sydenham service opened this month after multiple delays and immediately proved why it was so eagerly awaited. With record crowds travelling every day to the city and Eastern suburbs, it has taken quite a bit of load off of the Sydney Trains and reduced travel time by a lot. The next stages – Bankstown and Parramatta lines – have been trudging along, with the tunnel boring machines entering Sydney Olympic Park and the train replacement bus drivers getting trained to take over transferring people from Bankstown to Sydenham.

We do need to remember that another transport project, the Carlingford-Parramatta Light Rail, has been delayed again, with no clear deadlines provided.

The Paris Summer Olympics ended with a record haul for the Australian team. It was the most successful Aussie campaign with 53 medals, 18 of them gold. The swim team were at their absolute best, and the other sports did incredibly well. With the Paralympics starting now, next month would be another reason for celebration. All our wishes are with them.

August was an interesting month for us at PMI Sydney Chapter. We had two very interesting sessions in participation with the University of Technology Sydney (UTS) and University of Sydney (USyd) and PMI. The sessions focused on providing real-life career advice to students, with industry experts joining in to guide project management students on the best routes to take after graduation. We had a big group of keyed-in students engaging with the panels and networking with the PMI officials and Sydney Chapter Directors attending the event. Our president Sydney Mudau talks about it in his article this month, along with other updates from the Chapter.

The Sydney Chapter Election is coming soon, read more about it in the newsletter. Another good news to share is our Volunteering Director [My Tran Le](#) receiving the Chapter Leadership Impact Award from PMI in 2024. My's incredible work for the community won her this award and we are extremely proud of her achievement.

In this month's The Critical Path, we have Quinn Dodsworth from PM Partners talking about how project managers are using generative AI, Ibrahim Dani reviewing if the great resignation is still a reality or has been overshadowed by recent changes, and Amireh Amirmazaheri looking at essential role of PMOs in community engagement. We have member anniversaries, event photos and announcements about the other events in the works.

If you have any bright ideas on how to make the newsletter better, we are all ears. Please reach out to the marketing team at newsletter@pmisydney.org or marketing@pmisydney.org.

I am looking for **enthusiastic Volunteers** to run digital marketing campaigns and work on the newsletter. The work is rewarding and would be a great learning experience for a project manager or a project controller. If you think you have what we need, reach out to me at marketing@pmisydney.org or our Associate Director Malong Dong at marcom_ad@pmisydney.org.

Best,

[Himadri Sekhar Chowdhury](#)

Editor, The Critical Path

A Message from our President

Sydney Mudau

As the President of the PMI Sydney Chapter, I am proud to reflect on a year marked by resilience, growth, and innovation. We have successfully hosted a series of engaging events, both virtual and in-person, that have enriched our members' knowledge and skills.

Our initiatives, such as mentoring and academic outreach, have seen substantial participation, underscoring our commitment to advancing the profession. We are also eagerly anticipating the upcoming PMDOs and PMDOK events.

Collaboration with industry partners has been strengthened, resulting in valuable sponsorships and collaborative projects that benefit our community. Furthermore, our emphasis on sustainable practices and innovative solutions has positioned us as a leader in the project management field. I am grateful for the dedication and hard work of our volunteers, members, and sponsors, and I am excited about the opportunities that lie ahead for the PMI Sydney Chapter.

Updates

PMI-CP Ambassador Program:

As part of the broader PMI program, the Sydney Chapter is actively participating in the PMI-CP (Construction Professional in Built Environment Projects) Initiative by the Project Management Institute. This initiative is designed to address the unique challenges and complexities faced in construction projects. It aims to equip professionals with advanced skills and knowledge to effectively manage built environment projects, focusing on enhancing competencies in project planning, execution, and delivery while emphasizing sustainable practices and innovative solutions. Look out for events around this topic coming soon.

Sponsorship and Collaboration Opportunities:

The PMI Sydney Chapter offers numerous sponsorship and collaboration opportunities for organizations looking to engage with the project management community. By partnering with the PMI Sydney Chapter, sponsors gain access to a network of skilled professionals, industry leaders, and decision-makers, providing a platform for brand visibility and business growth.



Sydney is a self-driven and motivated individual with a passion for learning and growth. Sydney enjoys steering the membership portfolio to serve PMI Sydney Chapter members.

He is a firm advocate for continuous improvement and passionate about sharing project management best practices with the wider Project Management network.

Collaboration opportunities include sponsoring events, workshops, and seminars, services to a targeted audience. Additionally, sponsors can participate in thought leadership activities, such as webinars and panel discussions, further establishing their presence and expertise in the field. These partnerships not only support the ongoing professional development of Chapter members but also foster strong industry relationships and drive innovation within the project management community.

PMI and PMISC Careers Day at University of Sydney and UTS

We were privileged to co-host the Careers Days at the University of Sydney and the University of Technology Sydney early August. At both events, we had two fantastic panels providing insights into project management as a career and their personal journeys in the corporate world. We had some great representation from PMI Global and South Asia, and the post-session interactions with the students and the faculty opened the floor to some very interesting discussions.

We thank both universities and the amazing students and faculty members for hosting us, and the panelists and MC for making the events a success.



The Great Resignation: Predictions, Reality, and Ongoing Challenges

Ibrahim Dani

The Great Resignation, a term coined in 2021 by Anthony Klotz, predicted a mass exodus of employees from their jobs, driven by pandemic-induced burnout, a re-evaluation of career goals, and a desire for better work-life balance. Experts anticipated this trend would last for several years, significantly impacting employers and shifting power dynamics in favour of employees. Businesses were expected to face challenges in retaining and attracting talent, leading to increased automation and a greater emphasis on employee well-being and flexible working conditions.



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-NC-ND](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/)

Fast forward to mid-2024, and the Great Resignation has largely subsided, with resignation rates returning to pre-pandemic levels. However, the underlying issues that fuelled this phenomenon persist, and employee dissatisfaction remains a significant problem. Despite the normalisation of resignation rates, many workers continue to grapple with stress, inadequate compensation, poor workplace culture, and limited career growth opportunities. This ongoing dissatisfaction has great implications for various professions, particularly project management.

The Impact on Project Managers and Projects

Project managers have felt the brunt of the Great Resignation and the continuing wave of employee dissatisfaction. The challenges they face are multifaceted and deeply intertwined with the broader issues affecting the workforce.

- **Increased Workload and Stress:** Talent shortages and high turnover rates have made it difficult for project managers to assemble and maintain effective teams. This often results in



Ibrahim Dani is an accomplished business leader with extensive experience in managing programs and leading people. Ibrahim had a colourful career journey including speaking at PMI EMEA Congress and training aspiring Project Managers. He is an advocate for excellence, a trusted adviser, and a thought leader in project delivery and related human capital management.



- increased workloads and stress as they strive to fill gaps and keep projects on track.
- **Shift in Management Practices:** The demand for flexible working arrangements has led project managers to adopt more adaptable project management practices. This includes accommodating remote work and adjusting project timelines to better suit team members' needs.
 - **Focus on Employee Well-being:** Recognising the importance of mental health and well-being, project managers are prioritising the creation of supportive environments and promoting work-life balance. This shift is essential for maintaining team morale and productivity.
 - **Enhanced Communication Skills:** Effective communication has become even more critical in managing remote and hybrid teams. Project managers must ensure clear, transparent, and frequent communication to keep their teams aligned and motivated.
 - **Leadership Development:** There is a growing emphasis on developing leadership skills among project managers. Training in empathy, conflict resolution, and team-building is crucial for supporting and retaining project managers and team members.
 - **Observation of Changes in Performance and Behaviour:** Look for decreased productivity, increased absenteeism, and emotional signs such as irritability and frustration.
 - **Anonymous Surveys and Feedback Mechanisms:** Regular anonymous surveys about job satisfaction, work environment, and personal well-being can identify burnout symptoms without putting individual team members on the spot.
 - **Workload Assessments:** Regularly review workloads and deadlines to ensure they are realistic.

The Persistent Challenge of Employee Dissatisfaction

Despite advancements in project management techniques and frameworks, employee dissatisfaction remains a significant hurdle. Technical skills alone are insufficient to guarantee project success. The human element—how team members feel about their work, their environment, and their leaders—plays a crucial role in determining project outcomes.

Employee dissatisfaction can lead to disengagement, reduced productivity, and higher turnover rates, all of which can derail projects. Project managers must navigate these challenges by fostering a positive and supportive work environment, even if the broader organisational practices are lacking.

Practical Tips for Project Managers

To improve team satisfaction and enhance project outcomes, project managers can implement the following strategies:

- **Prioritise Mental Health:** Provide access to mental health resources and create a supportive environment where team members feel comfortable discussing their challenges. Encourage regular breaks and promote a healthy work-life balance.
- **Offer Flexibility:** Accommodate flexible working arrangements, such as remote work and flexible hours. This can help team members manage their personal and professional responsibilities more effectively.
- **Recognise and Reward:** Regularly acknowledge and reward team members' efforts and achievements. This can boost morale and job satisfaction. Recognition can be in the form of verbal praise, bonuses, or other incentives.

- **Foster Open Communication:** Maintain clear and transparent communication channels. Encourage team members to voice their concerns and provide regular feedback. This helps build trust and ensures everyone is on the same page.
- **Invest in Professional Development:** Provide opportunities for training and career advancement. This shows a commitment to team members' growth and can increase their engagement and satisfaction.
- **Create a Positive Work Environment:** Promote a culture of respect, inclusion, and collaboration. Address conflicts promptly and fairly; and ensure that all team members feel valued and supported.

By focusing on these areas, project managers can create a more engaged, motivated, and satisfied workforce, ultimately leading to better project outcomes. While the broader organisational practices may take time to evolve, these practical steps can make a significant difference in the day-to-day experiences of team members.

Conclusion

The Great Resignation may have subsided, but the challenges it highlighted remain. Project managers must navigate these ongoing issues with empathy, flexibility, and a focus on well-being to ensure their teams thrive and projects succeed.

Generative AI for Project Managers

Quinn Dodsworth

Harnessing the potential of generative AI is critical for project professionals keen to remain competitive in an evolving world. So, how can you start using generative AI in project management work and what real-world benefits can you expect? Quinn Dodsworth has the answers.

According to a [recent study from Microsoft and LinkedIn](#), the use of gen AI nearly doubled in the last few months of 2023, with 75% of knowledge workers using it. Project managers are no exception. As the technology becomes more accessible, affordable and user-friendly, a growing number of project professionals are integrating gen AI tools into their practice, transforming the way projects are run. Research shows that with the right application gen AI can enhance efficiency and effectiveness, drive project success and give users a significant edge over their peers.

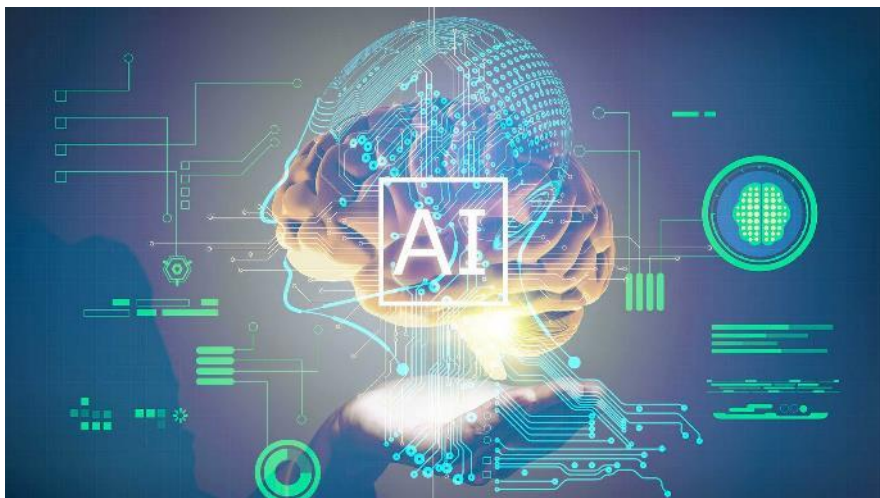


*Quinn Dodsworth
is an Agile Learning
Consultant and
Facilitator at
PM-Partners*

Generative AI vs AI

Generative AI is a subset of artificial intelligence that can generate new content, including text, images and music, by learning from existing data. Unlike traditional AI, which follows predefined rules, gen AI creates new outputs based on data patterns. Tools like ChatGPT have democratised access to this technology and, as it evolves, concerns around areas such as the accuracy of outputs and IP infringement are gradually being addressed. Against this backdrop, gaining expertise in gen AI has become a priority for project managers to navigate the future of their profession.

pm-partners



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Application of Generative AI for Project Managers

Gen AI offers numerous applications in project management, particularly when it comes to tackling complex and time-consuming tasks. Common use cases include:

- **Automating routine tasks:** From summarising meetings to generating reports and sending follow-up emails, gen AI can ease the burden of mundane work.
- **Establishing baseline models:** Gen AI helps project managers (PMs) create data-driven models to assist with project planning, risk assessment, and resource allocation.
- **Brainstorming and idea generation:** Gen AI tools can be used to generate innovative ideas and alternative solutions to complex challenges.
- **Analysing historical data:** By analysing past project data, gen AI can help PMs optimise timelines, allocate resources effectively and anticipate potential delays.
- **Learning and development:** GPT models can provide quick responses to project management queries and curate personalised learning content for team growth.

Benefits of Generative AI in Project Management

While there are plenty of anecdotal reports of gen AI's usefulness, a recent study from PMI confirms that project professionals using gen AI experience significant advantages. This is particularly marked amongst high adopters, with benefits including:

- **Improved project performance:** Through automation and data-driven insights, broad use of gen AI tools is helping PMs enhance the management of scope, schedules, costs, and quality, boosting overall effectiveness.
- **Increased efficiency and productivity:** By reducing workload and helping PMs overcome challenges, AI tools allow them to focus on more strategic activities.
- **Enhanced creativity and collaboration:** Gen AI helps to foster creative problem-solving and coordinate tasks, improving teamwork and communication.
- **Smarter decision-making:** Gen AI processes large amounts of information quickly, enabling informed decisions in dynamic project environments.

Next steps for Project Managers

PMI's research shows that it's the ability of high adopters to use gen AI technology to augment complex project management tasks that is giving them an edge over others. With this in mind, those keen to leverage gen AI's potential should:

- **Experiment with gen AI tools:** Start with small projects to understand potential use cases and benefits, gradually exploring more complex applications like data analysis and risk management. Depending on your needs, tools to explore include ChatGPT, Microsoft 365 Copilot, Jasper AI and GitHub Copilot.
- **Develop AI skills:** It's vital to master higher level skills like advanced prompt engineering and understand the ethical and security implications of using this technology. Consider training that offers practical skills in these areas like PM-Partners' Generative AI for Project Managers and Project Teams course.
- **Advocate for adoption:** Showcase successful pilot projects and share insights with colleagues and stakeholders. Building a culture of innovation and experimentation will help to encourage broader adoption of gen AI across your organisation.

Future outlook on generative AI

A recent McKinsey report predicts that gen AI will lead to significant or disruptive change across industries, with organisations embracing the technology already seeing cost reductions and revenue increases. For project managers, integrating gen AI into your toolkit is therefore not just a trend but a necessity. By understanding and utilising this technology effectively, you can reduce risk, improve efficiency and enhance critical capabilities. This not only powers project outcomes but has the potential to boost your career prospects, ensuring you're well positioned to lead AI-driven transformations across your industry and your profession.



Conclusion

Keen to stay ahead in the evolving world of project management? Join PM-Partners' new hands-on course [Generative AI for Project Managers and Project Teams](#) and learn how to take your project management practice to new heights. Enrol today or contact our team for more information.

This article is an abridged version of the original – [read the complete text here](#).

Essential Role of PMOs in Community Engagement & Project Delivery

Amireh Amirmazaheri

To achieve a more sustainable business, it is essential that all components, including products and processes, align with sustainability goals.

Consequently, every business project must be planned, organized, executed, and governed with sustainability in mind. This brings the concept of “sustainable project management” to the forefront, where the Project Management Office (PMO) plays a critical role.

A Sustainable PMO, like other sustainable concepts, is grounded in the Triple Bottom Line of People, Planet, and Profit. This means that a truly sustainable PMO must balance economic viability with environmental stewardship and social responsibility.

Specifically, the "People" pillar focuses on enhancing societal well-being through the positive impacts of projects. This includes fostering stakeholder engagement, fair labour practices, employee development, and community engagement, all of which contribute to the overarching goal of sustainability.

PMO as the Catalyst for Strategic and Sustainable Community Engagement – External People

As a PMO professional focused on driving businesses’ strategic objectives, I’ve often reflected on how PMOs can enhance community engagement and stakeholder management, particularly with sustainability in mind. The role of the Enterprise Project Management Office (EPMO) and PMO in this area is multifaceted, encompassing the facilitation of strategic goals while ensuring that the community—the ultimate stakeholders—benefits meaningfully.

Integrating community engagement and sustainability practices within delivery frameworks or program designs is no longer optional; it’s a necessity. PMO services play a pivotal role in supporting project teams to execute stakeholder management plans effectively, ensuring that community engagement aligns with broader sustainability goals throughout the project lifecycle.



Amireh Amirmazaheri
Is the Member of Board - PMO Global Alliance, and the Founder and Director of PMO Solutions.

Sustainable PMO and People

Internal People

Promoting equitable and fair labor practices.
Investing in employee development and training



External People

Implementing initiatives to engage and support the community.
Hearing, understanding, and meeting their wants and needs.



PMO Services: Steering Stakeholder Management and Community Engagement

The importance of proper stakeholder management cannot be overstated, especially given the concerns over ad hoc responses to community feedback. Herein lies the golden opportunity for PMOs to provide indispensable services that support businesses in executing effective stakeholder management and community engagement strategies. Moreover, the influence of social media on public opinion introduces a risk variable that PMOs must account for in their risk assessment frameworks, ensuring all projects consider the impact of public sentiment.

From Opposition to Opportunity: Real-Life Lessons and Proactive Solutions

Real-life examples showcase how perceived community impacts could lead to firm opposition. To address this, solutions such as establishing an independent impact assessment body and advocating for transparent government decision-making is proposed. These initiatives are crucial in balancing community needs with project goals and aligning them with the overarching business strategy.

PMO's Strategic Partnership: Understanding Customers and Communities

As PMOs evolve into strategic partners within businesses, their support becomes invaluable in understanding and analysing customer bases and the communities served. Public education and credible information sources should emerge as key elements in securing social licenses for a variety of industries. There is also social media's dual role in stakeholder engagement to consider, underscoring the necessity for authentic voices to navigate communication challenges.

Achieving Social License: Leadership, Vision, and Early Engagement is important and complex

The critical elements for securing social license encompassed:

- Refining operational processes,
- Demonstrating effective leadership,
- Establishing a clear vision,
- Initiating early community engagement,
- Enhancing measurement standards.

However, the central point of focus remained the maintenance of a delicate equilibrium between community participation and the advancement of projects, particularly within the confines of regulatory frameworks.

As business models and environmental benchmarks evolve, sustaining this balance between project progression and management, alongside social involvement, represents an ongoing challenge in leadership and facilitation. It is imperative to consistently integrate this consideration into all facets of program or project execution.

Collaborative Pathways to Responsible Infrastructure Development

The ongoing challenges of effective stakeholder relationship management across various industries should be recognised. This recognition fosters collaboration opportunities to drive responsible infrastructure development that aligns with societal progress. This collective effort underscores the significance of PMO's role in guiding and supporting these endeavours.

In conclusion, there is a complex interplay between community engagement, social licensing, and the successful delivery of sustainable projects. As PMOs continue to serve as strategic partners, their involvement in shaping community engagement and stakeholder management will prove to be a cornerstone of sustainable progress and business success.

Questions to Ponder:

- How can PMOs integrate community engagement more deeply into project delivery frameworks?
- What measures can be taken to mitigate the risks posed by social media on public opinion regarding projects?
- How can PMOs facilitate the establishment of independent bodies for impact assessments to ensure transparency and credibility?

Chapter News – August 2024

Event Alert: PMISC Careers with Talent International

PMI Sydney Chapter and Talent International are inviting you to a special event on 3rd September 2024. This event will give you insights into the project management job market, using LinkedIn in your job search, understanding the job market trends from SEEK, and learning what project leaders look for when they hire project managers.


In the recent times we have seen the job market softening with unemployment rate increasing to 4.2% in July, a decrease in recruitment activity of 8 percentage points in June compared to May 2024, and an increase in the number of applications per job role. In this climate, it would help new and seasoned project managers to understand how to make their job search activities focused towards specific goals, being armed with market knowhow.

Join Steve Tompkins from Talent, James Nutt from LinkedIn, James Bennett from SEEK, Mike Ducie from Legacy Club Services and Alastair Bor from the Reserve Bank of Australia as they take us through this journey at the Castlereagh Boutique Hotel at 6.30 PM on 3 September.

 Date: 03 September 2024.

 Time: 6:00 PM - 9:30 PM

 Where: Castlereagh Boutique Hotel, Sydney 2000

 Cost: Free for Members and Students, \$35 for non-members


Registrations are closed for the event

Event Alert: PMDoS 2024

Are you ready to make a meaningful impact? The Project Management Day of Service (PMDoS) 2024 is your opportunity to showcase the power of project management while making a real difference for charities. By participating, you'll highlight how project management can drive success and empower nonprofits to achieve their goals more effectively.

Dedicate just one day of your time and expertise to define solutions and support the missions of nonprofits in your community. Not only will you give back, but you'll also expand your professional network by working alongside like-minded experts. Plus, you'll earn up to 8 Professional Development Units (PDUs) to help maintain your professional standing.

 When: 07 November 2024

 Time: 9 am to 5 pm

 Where: Sydney CBD (TBC shortly)

 Cost: Free for attendees (Registrations are limited)

Ready to make an impact? Register [HERE](#).

For more information- Check the website-PMDoS | PMI Sydney, Australia

Chapter News – August 2024

Memories from PMDoS 2023.



Chapter News – August 2024

Chapter Leadership Impact Awards 2024



PMI Sydney Australia Chapter is proud to announce that our Volunteering Director My Tran Le is one of the 10 recipients of the prestigious Chapter Leadership Impact Awards 2024.

My has been instrumental in driving the volunteer strategy and numbers, engaging and sustaining volunteers, and making PMI Sydney a fun and interesting place to engage with. My's leadership skills, mentorship and innovation, championship of gender diversity and inclusion, impact on community, were all taken into consideration by the selection committee for the award. My absolutely deserves the award and the Chapter is proud to have her lead from the front.

My's award is the second one from Chapter in as many years. Our Marketing Director Himadri Sekhar Chowdhury won the inaugural Chapter Leadership Impact Award in 2023. Our President Sydney Mudau was another nominee for this year's award.



Chapter News – August 2024

Chapter Elections – Coming Soon

A reminder that the chapter is looking for our next tranche of chapter members who will join the PMI Sydney Chapter Board in 2025.

The process for elections is as follows:

- **Call for Nominations** – Interested chapter members nominate to be considered for the Board.
- **Nominee Review** – The nominations committee reviews all nominations and checks candidates for eligibility and suitability, and interviews the candidates, finalising in a short list of candidates for the “slate” for the election
- **Elections** – The slate for the election is announced and your candidates for nomination are presented to the Chapter membership. All Chapter members in good standing are provided with a link to vote in the election
- **Election Results** – The elections close and the results are provided to the Nominating Committee to inform all candidates. Then the Board and all Chapter members are informed of the 2025 incoming Board Members.

The Elections and Nominating Committee (hereafter referred to as the Nominating Committee - or NomCom) role is to ensure that they present candidates at the election that are ready to dedicate the time and effort to their role on the Board. These candidates need to demonstrate to us that they will work with the Board, for our current and future members and partners, and represent the interests of PMI Sydney Chapter, and PMI.

An important reminder to members: to be eligible to nominate, and to vote in the next election, you must be a member in good standing (a member who has paid both PMI® and Sydney Chapter dues for their current annual membership period) at the time the call to nominations occurs.

To assist all interested members, an Election Information Pack is now available for all candidates. 2024 Election Information Pack. The Nomination Application Form is now available on request from the Nominating Committee nc@pmisydney.org.

Please take the opportunity to read and understand the requirements of Nomination before requesting the Nomination Form. This includes completing the self-assessment provided in the Election Information Pack.

Ibtihal Alhabashneh, PMI Sydney Chapter Membership Director membership@pmisydney.org is the Single Point of Contact (SPOC) for the Board and will facilitate communications between the NomCom and Board on election matters. If, after reviewing the Election Information pack, you are more interested in volunteering with the PMI Sydney Chapter in another capacity, we encourage you to register to volunteer - learn how here - <https://pmisydney.org/volunteers/>

Any questions, please contact the Nominating Committee - nc@pmisydney.org

Chapter News – August 2024

The Nominating Committee will be accepting applications once the Call for Nominations is open. The members of the Nominating Committee are:



Cath Graham (Chair)

[linkedin.com/in/catherinegraham](https://www.linkedin.com/in/catherinegraham)



Tim Kinchington

[linkedin.com/in/tim-kinchington](https://www.linkedin.com/in/tim-kinchington)



Leo Coco

[linkedin.com/in/cocoleo](https://www.linkedin.com/in/cocoleo)

Chapter News – August 2024

The Self Made Myth

A heartfelt thank you to Arnab Dasgupta for an insightful session at the PMI Sydney Chapter event, "The Self-Made Myth," held in August. Your deep dive into leadership, decision-making, and the debunking of psychological illusions was truly enlightening.

We extend our sincere gratitude to Smartsheet Sydney for co-hosting this event at their fantastic venue, and to all the participants, including members, non-members, and university students who made this session engaging and thought-provoking.



Chapter News – August 2024

PMISC Volunteering Updates

My Tran Le

Stepping back onto the grounds in Sydney after my incredible volunteering experience at the Paris 2024 Olympics, I can't help but notice the similarities in our missions. Volunteering at the Olympics is a testament to dedication, teamwork, and the spirit of community—values that resonate deeply with us at the Project Management Institute (PMI) Sydney Chapter. Our volunteers at the PMI Sydney Chapter play a crucial role in driving our PMI mission forward.

At the PMI Sydney Chapter, we cherish the unique contributions each volunteer brings to our Chapter. Their enthusiasm, expertise, and commitment propel our mission forward. As we journey through the second half of 2024, we are excited to embrace new volunteers who have joined our dynamic community.

New Volunteers Orientations

John Yap and I had the honour of leading our new volunteers through the orientation on Wednesday, 26th June and Wednesday, 28th August. We were thrilled to welcome:

- Doris Wang, Maria Mainhardt, Prajakta Jetty, Yonda Surianto, Zil Upadhyay
- Alexander Merkouris, Jimmy Thai, Poornima Veeraguru, Rajat Shrestha, Sherif Gazar

A heartfelt thank you to our esteemed guests: Sydney Mudau (PMI Sydney Chapter President) and Xing Ying Lee (Chapter Engagement Specialist – Australia & New Zealand) for joining us and greeting our new volunteers into the PMI Sydney Chapter community.

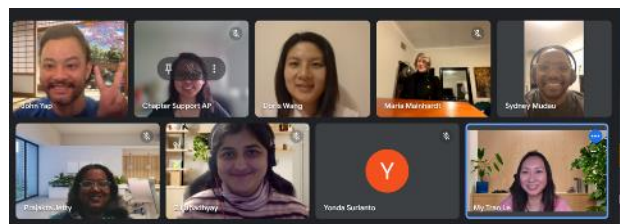
Upcoming New Volunteers Orientation Sessions

If you have recently joined as a volunteer and missed our earlier sessions this year, we have one more session scheduled on Wednesday, 30th October 2024, 18:00–19:00.

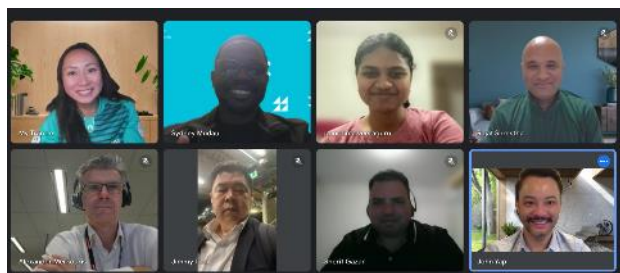
Please register on the PMI Sydney Chapter website [HERE](#). We look forward to welcoming you!

'Voice of Volunteers' Survey

We are eager to hear from all our volunteers about their experiences at the PMI Sydney Chapter. Our second 'Voice of Volunteers' survey for 2024 will launch in September. Keep an eye out for that announcement.



26th June 2024 New Volunteers orientation



28th August 2024 New Volunteers orientation

Membership Updates

Ibtihal Albashneh

Following is the list of members who celebrated their anniversaries with the PMI Sydney Chapter recently.

15 Years

Selina Wang
Paramjit Multani
Madeleine Pathe
Tze Au
Minh Hoang
James Cullen
Mark Curzon
Jayne Casterton
Keith Johnston
Erna Garcia
Renati Barel
Robert Devitt
Khai Dang
Stephen Chase
Vanessa Barton
Henrik Wandel
Jenny Evans
Julia Fung
Nigel Parker
Alexander Young
Catherine Graham
Odette Patrick
Adam Hosking

10 Years

John Madden
Homa Fathi
Syed Rizvi
Long Nguyen
Sylvain Mengin
Ian Kolotas
Andrew Piccione
Claudia Kassis
Vishwanath Rao
Nicole Machet
Jhonny Quintana
Towhid Khan
Clara Mendoza



Ibtihal Albashneh is PMI Sydney Chapter's Membership Director and a keen project champion.

Photo of the Month

Himadri S. Chowdhury



About the image

The Prospect Reservoir under the overcast skies.