Project Management Institute
Management Institute
Institute
Sydney, Australia

The Critical Path
May 2024

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Editor's Note
Himadri Sekhar Chowdhury

The days have been steadily getting shorter and the mercury drops ever so-slightly every morning, all the indications of a chilly winter around the corner. It's a struggle removing myself from the comfortable warmth of the blanket in the morning and starting for the day. Ironically as the days get shorter, I get this feeling every day that the world around us is getting smaller and somehow even more complex. Along with Generative AI, we are making strides in Predictive AI, projects have started employing both and we are seeing some initial struggles in getting to the desired results.

On the topic of AI, the hottest debate of the month is whether OpenAI lifted the voice of Scarlett Johansson for Sky, the AI voice used by the new GPT-40. ScarJo was "shocked, angered and in disbelief" that Sky had a voice "eerily similar" to hers, even when she had said no to OpenAI's overtures of getting her voice for ChatGPT. This, among everything, raises the legal debate of how much are we in control of our data, including our persona, and what the boundaries are for tech giants to use our data. We would be curiously waiting to see where this leads.

In a recent Harvard Business Review article, the author argues that most, almost 80%, of "AI" projects fail. Of course, this is not a broad-brush generalisation, but some nuanced arguments on why selection, development, evaluation, adoption, and management are critical to ensure AI project success. It would be also important for us, as project managers, to look at what PMI is spearheading in the AI space, especially with PMIxAI, which will have increasing impact on project governance and performance. For seasoned project professionals, it's going to be an interesting change balancing the operational ambiguities with the strategic shifts in direction that are needed now.

The generational change in project management is also being seen in people. It's apparent when we look around at the people joining the profession. Generation Z and their impact on project management is what Ibrahim Dani talks about in his column this month.

Another related area of discussion is the relative success of digital transformation projects that we have started using liberally now across our organisations. However, unless the objectives are clearly defined, digital transformation projects are bound to run into turbulence. It's what Amireh Amirmazaheri tells us in her article this month. This is a two-part article, with the second part, coming in June, would talk about how a PMO support a business in this journey:

May has been an interesting month. We completed our Annual General Meeting, which was an absolute success, attended by 49 members both in the room and online. There were some very interesting points raised by members and the Board announced the

strategy for 2024, followed by an fascinating keynote session by Jürgen Oschadleus. More details on the AGM are in the Chapter News.

The other two events for the Chapter were the first purely online event for the year, which aptly focused on mental health, and National Volunteers Day, which we celebrated by hosting a Volunteers only session with our partners Talent International.

Steve Tompkins from Talent talks about a very interesting topic this month, how to handle rejections and move on. It is important to remind ourselves that rejection is not the end of the path, but almost always a new beginning. From PM Partners, we learn this month how to look for and even stimulate the 10 key behaviours of an effective sponsor.

June is going to be a busy month for us at the Chapter, what with the first week starting with three events. Look at the Chapter News and our website for more details and register. This week (27 May to 3 June) is also the National Reconciliation Week, a moment to stop and consider the impact of the shared histories, cultures, and achievements, of the indigenous peoples.

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*.

We are also looking for volunteers for the newsletter and the Marketing portfolio. Check the Volunteer Engagement Platform (VEP) or register your interest *here*.

Best,

Himadri Sekhar Chowdhury

Editor, The Critical Path

Message from the President
Sydney Mudau

We are thrilled to announce the addition of two exceptional professionals to our Board of Directors this May 2024. Please join us in welcoming Naivasha Safaya and Laetitia Callegari.

Naivasha Safaya will be taking the helm as the Director of Special Projects for the PMI Sydney Australia Chapter. With her extensive experience and innovative approach, we are confident that Naivasha will bring fresh perspectives and drive impactful initiatives that will benefit our community.


Laetitia Callegari will lead our Academic Relationship portfolio as the new Director. Her expertise in building strong academic partnerships and fostering educational growth will be instrumental in enhancing our engagement with educational institutions and supporting the professional development of our members.

We extend our best wishes to Naivasha and Laetitia as they embark on their new roles. We are optimistic that their leadership will significantly contribute to achieving our strategic objectives for 2024-25 and beyond. Together, we look forward to a future of growth, collaboration, and success for the PMI Sydney Australia Chapter.

Strategic Objectives for 2024-25 and Beyond Updates

Women in Project Management Initiative

Our commitment to promoting gender diversity and inclusion in the field of project management is already underway with the Women in Project Management initiative. This program aims to provide support, mentorship, and professional development opportunities for women at all stages of their careers. Through targeted workshops, networking events, and leadership training, we strive to create an environment where women can thrive and lead in the project management space.
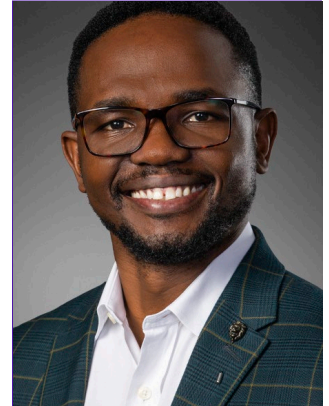
Sydney Mudau is the President of the Sydney Chapter Board and a self-driven and motivated individual with a passion for learning and growth. He is a firm advocate for continuous improvement and passionate about sharing project management best practices with the wider Project Management network.

Online and Hybrid Events

In response to the evolving needs of our members and the broader professional community, we have launched a series of online and hybrid events. These events offer flexible and accessible learning opportunities, enabling participants to engage from anywhere in the world.

Our aim is to continue expanding our virtual offerings, including webinars, online workshops, and hybrid conferences, to ensure that members can benefit from high-quality content and networking opportunities regardless of their location.

Academic Outreach and Engagement

Strengthening our relationships with academic institutions is a key strategic objective. Through our Academic Outreach and Engagement program, we aim to build robust partnerships with universities and colleges, promoting the value of project management education and research. This initiative will include guest lectures, collaborative research projects, internships, and scholarship programs designed to support the next generation of project management professionals. By fostering a strong connection between academia and industry, we hope to bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical application, benefiting both students and practitioners.

These strategic objectives are designed to enhance our chapter's impact and provide meaningful value to our members and the wider project management community. We are excited about the opportunities ahead and confident that our initiatives will drive positive change and growth for the PMI Sydney Australia Chapter.

10 Key Behaviors of an Effective Sponsor
PM Partners

*A strong sponsor can be a deciding factor in the success or failure of a project. Here **PM-Partners** shares the key behaviors of an effective sponsor so you can see how you measure up against each one and pinpoint any areas for improvement.*

pm–partners

Research shows that complexity can lead to 'challenged' projects: those defined as late, over budget and/or lacking specified features and benefits. But a strong sponsor can make a big difference. Their leadership, strategic insight and ability to navigate complex organisational dynamics are essential to delivering projects that meet their objectives and create value for an organisation.

So, what are the key behaviours that set a great sponsor apart from a mediocre one? We've outlined the top ten below and posed two questions for each one so you can see how well you demonstrate this behaviour. Have a think about your answers and then download and complete our handy checklist to identify how you can become an even more effective sponsor.

1. Assumes single point of accountability

Do you take full accountability for project outcomes and realizing expected benefits?

Do you provide sign off for all plans, key deliverables, and the overall project?
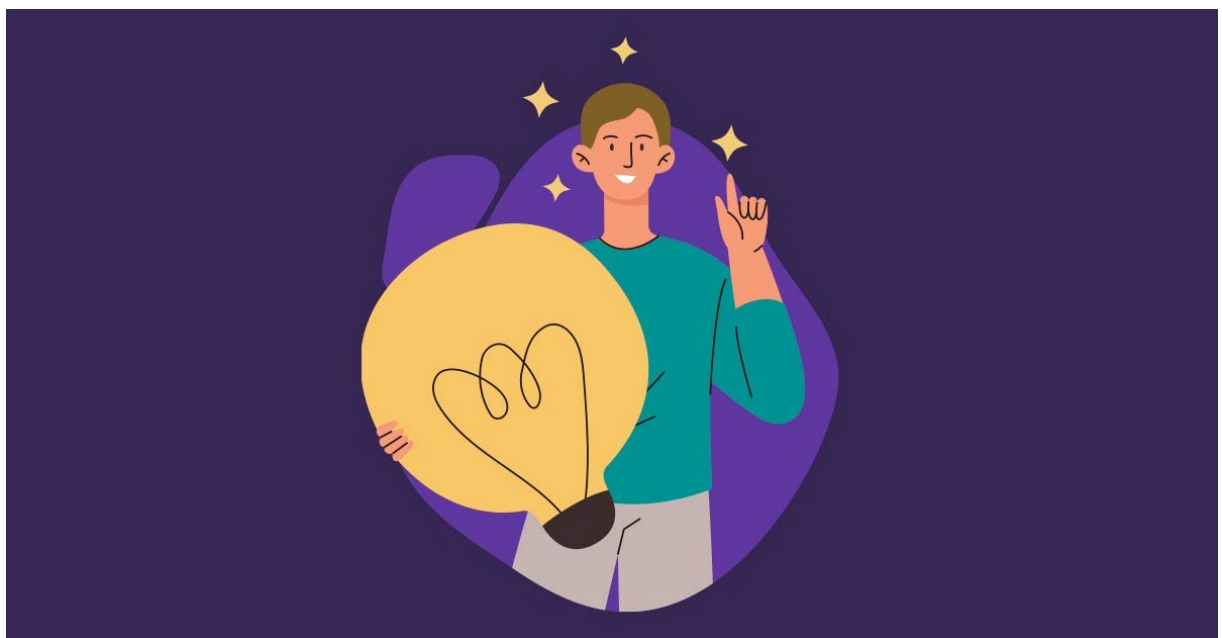
2. Champions the project

Do you act as a strong advocate for the project?

Do you drive interest and support for the project through regular engagement and communication activities?

3. Aligns the project with business strategy

Do you ensure the real business need is addressed and the project is aligned with strategy?

Do you ensure the project priority is understood by all stakeholders and the wider business community?

4. Provides a vision

Do you set a clear and compelling vision for the project?

Do you support the project team in defining project success measures?

5. Sets the project up for success

Do you ensure the project has the funding, the technology and the right people to get the job done (training/upskilling resources where required)?

Do you act in line with the principles of the agreed project delivery approach? E.g. not demanding a full, detailed plan at the beginning of an agile initiative.

6. Actively governs the project

Do you ensure appropriate (fit for purpose) governance is in place?

Do you steer the project, review progress, remove obstacles and remediate project or benefit-realisation shortfalls?

7. Sets tolerance levels

Do you set tolerance levels to enable delegated decision-making and effective escalation (exception reporting)?

Do you allow the project team to make adjustments within agreed tolerance levels without interference?

8. Drives decisions and resolves escalations

Do you act on decisions and escalations raised by the project team in a timely manner?

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Do you allocate time to resolve cross-functional issues that are out of the project team's control (e.g. conflicting priorities and resourcing)?

9. Verifies the continued viability and achievabilty of the project

Do you own and regularly review the business case to ensure the project remains viable, particularly when changes occur (to time/cost/scope)?

Do you monitor the project to ensure it remains achievable within technical and resource constraints?

10. Ensures project assurance takes place

Do you engage an independent party (e.g. risk team or 3rd party) to monitor the health of the project?

Do you ensure the effectiveness of the project team and their working practices are reviewed - either internally by the team or using an external resource?

[DOWNLOAD PDF CHECKLIST](#)

Enhance your organisation's sponsorship and overall delivery capabilities with PM-Partners half day [Effective Sponsorship Masterclass](#). Contact our professional development team on 1300 13 14 or via our website to learn more.

Gen Z as Project Managers: Shaping the Future of Work

Ibrahim Dani

In one of my early articles for The Critical Path (April 2022), I discussed the dynamic entry of Gen Z workers into a multigenerational workforce, where they interact with Millennials, Generation X, and the remaining Baby Boomers who are on the offramp for retirement. This generational diversity, I concluded, is a blessing. Leaders can harness the rich tapestry of wisdom, expertise, enthusiasm, creativity, and curiosity that each generation brings to advance work practices.

As more Gen Z workers join the workforce, I'm intrigued by how these digitally born and bred future project managers, with their unique values, aspirations, and work styles, will influence and blend with other generations in the evolving landscape of project management. Today, let's explore this interplay and provide insights into maximising the potential of future Gen Z leaders.

The Gen Z Workforce: Digital Natives with Distinct Values

Gen Z, the newest entrants into the workforce, grew up with online platforms and social media, giving them unprecedented power to share their opinions, influence distant people and institutions, and question authority in new ways. This generation also faced the global pandemic during their early working years. Studies indicate that one-third of Gen Z took time off work due to stress and anxiety caused by COVID-19, a higher percentage than any other generation. Notably, 40% of Gen Z felt that their employers did not adequately support their mental well-being during the pandemic.

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.

Flexibility and adaptability are paramount to Gen Z, who see these traits as critical for successful businesses. They value training to enhance their skills and knowledge, seeking organisations that adopt employee-centred human resource practices, support work-life balance, promote diversity and inclusion, and offer attractive compensation and career advancement opportunities. To support and retain Gen Z, organisations must understand what matters to and motivates this youngest generation.

The Growing Demand for Project Management Talent

The demand for capable project management resources continues to rise, prompting universities to offer more degrees in project management and graduating increasing numbers of project management-aware Gen Z cohorts. However, it's crucial to ensure that this talent pool is equipped with the real-life experience and attributes necessary for successful project-based work. Early career project managers face challenges such as managing adversarial stakeholder relationships, adopting different project leadership styles, and responding to fast-paced industry changes.

Strategies to Attract and Retain Gen Z Project Professionals

With the impending retirement of Baby Boomers and the resulting loss of their valuable organisational knowledge and expertise, it's essential to devise strategies to attract and retain Gen Z project professionals. Here's how:

1. **Understand and Value Gen Z:** Organisations must understand what matters to this generation and appreciate them as valuable, inimitable resources capable of contributing to organisational success..

2. **Address Skill Gaps:** While universities are producing more project management graduates, organisations should recognise that Gen Z, despite their degrees, are still relatively inexperienced early in their careers.

3. **Implement Mentoring Programs:** Mentoring is a proven tool for attracting, developing, and retaining talent. Gen Z can greatly benefit from mentorship by senior professionals who can guide them through challenges, enhancing their confidence, satisfaction, performance, and retention.

By 2025, Gen Z will comprise approximately one-third of the labor market. To benefit from the talents and skills of this generational cohort, organisations cannot afford to overlook their needs, values, and beliefs. Embracing and integrating Gen Z into the workforce is not just beneficial, it is essential for future organisational success.

How to Handle Rejections?
Steve Tompkins

The market is as bad as I have seen it in my time in Australia (since 2001). That includes the GFC. I am speaking to good people everyday who are getting rejected from job applications. Maybe by phone, maybe by email – personal or generic, maybe by proxy and just ghosted. There's probably more than one person reading this and dealing with this rejection on a daily basis. I wanted to write something to acknowledge this and that you are not alone, especially at the moment. I wanted to write something that reminds you that rejection is okay. Here is my journey of handling rejection.

Rejection Happens

It was 1986 and I was at a school disco in middle school. I was 12 years old, in my finest acid washed jeans and I had been in love with Clair for 4 days. We hadn't talked much, but that didn't matter. I had a plan, we would dance to this next song, (it would most likely become "our song", possibly kiss, date throughout schooling years and then get married. Wham "Careless whisper" came on and this was my moment.

I must have bumbled something about "would you like to dance" but I don't really remember. I do remember her saying "no thanks". I of course delivered a clever and witty rebuttal;

"I didn't want to anyway" and off I went. And that was the earliest experience I can remember being "rejected".
Fast forward 4 years – I'm second from last being picked for the football (soccer) team in sports class.

I'm ignoring the comments around "just put Tompkins in goal at the back" and the arguments / groans of who gets the last 2 players out of the whole class. Again one can't help but feel a little rejected.

Steve Tompkins has over 20 years' experience in the Recruitment Industry in Sydney and the UK, nearly a decade of which was spent in leadership positions. He is the NSW Government Client Relationship Manager for Talent International in Sydney and has enjoyed working closely with the PMI for the last decade, specialising in sourcing, delivery and support of Project resources.

JOB MARKET OVERVIEW

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I'd like to say my feelings matured over time, but fast forward another decade and now I'm opening letter after letter of job applications after graduating from university. That I didn't mind as much – but the one that really hurt was the one from Saatchi & Saatchi.

At the time I wanted to get into advertising and (being too clever perhaps) spent 2 hours literally making my resume in the form of an Easter Egg box just for them. With a real egg. It was Easter at the time and I wanted my resume & application to stand out. You see it was normal to send physical paper resumes in the post back then. The rejection letter didn't even acknowledge my effort (not to mention the money to post it). It was a blanket generic and tepid response. A bitter rejection.

Learning from Rejections

A lot of Project Management opportunities in Australia are contract opportunities as the government continues to try to cut costs and budgets through contingent labour. Until more projects fail and we see a turning point in business confidence next fin year it's going to remain a tough market.

So keep going, collect your "rejections" and wear them like badges of honour. Every rejection is a step closer to your goal. There are 2 quotes that have always resonated with me – the first is from Jiu Jitsu;

"There is no losing (in Jiu Jitsu). You either win or you learn"

Keep a record of your applications and your rejections – and look for patterns. If you are getting "rejected" at the application stage and not getting a phone call – maybe have a look at your resume. If you are not getting an interview after that initial call maybe assess the questions and responses. If it's after the interview , practice your answers.

The second and final quote is a Japanese proverb; "Nanakorobi, Yaoki".
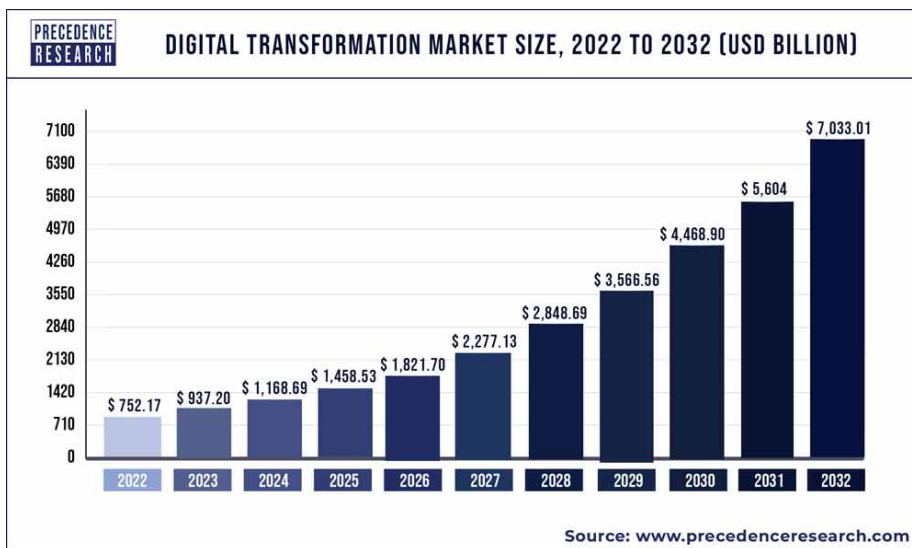
It means "fall down seven times, stand up eight".

For anyone feeling "rejected" at the moment – keep getting up.

Challenges in Digital Transformation: The Power of PMO – Part I
Amireh Amirmazaheri

Digital Transformation

Advising to invest in a project that only has a 30% chance of success can be strange and unimaginable. Despite Mckinsey's warning that 70% of digital transformations fail, digital transformation international market size will raise to more than $1,000 billion by end of 2024.

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION MARKET SIZE, 2022 TO 2032 (USD BILLION)

PRECEDENCE RESEARCH

Year	Value
2022	$ 752.17
2023	$ 937.20
2024	$ 1,168.69
2025	$ 1,458.53
2026	$ 1,821.70
2027	$ 2,277.13
2028	$ 2,848.69
2029	$ 3,566.56
2030	$ 4,468.90
2031	$ 5,604
2032	$ 7,033.01

Source: www.precedenceresearch.com

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

Why? Because the potential rewards of digital transformation are enormous, as are the costs of inaction.

According to Gartner, the majority of businesses (91%) are involved in digital initiatives, with senior leaders prioritizing digitalization (87%). Despite 89% of companies adopting a digital-first strategy or planning to do so, they have achieved only 31% of the anticipated revenue increase and 25% of the projected cost savings.

That track record begs some tough questions:
- Is all this digital effort worth it?
- Can I create digital and AI capabilities that give me a lasting competitive advantage?
- Is this just the price of doing business in the modern age?

The answer is: An effectively established digital transformation plan can bring a whole range of benefits to an organisation, including:

- Improved operational efficiency
- Higher product quality
- Increased customer satisfaction
- Reduced development costs

It also can bring a dramatic change in business strategy, governance and management activities.

According to McKinsey definition of transformation:
"It is an intense, organization-wide program to enhance performance and boost organisational health." It is also a way to: "Deliver value, but also accelerate the metabolic rate of decision-making and execution within the company, as the start of a never-ending journey to continued excellence." Then we can say Digital transformation is a change in nature and ownership of business strategy, governance and management, which aims to enhance performance and organizational health, leading to accelerating decision-making and execution. It is the start of a never-ending journey to excellence and value delivery.

The enormous impact of Digital Transformation is undeniable, that is why almost every leading business is joining the movement. This fruitful journey may not be easy, there is a list of barriers in this plan identified by IMB:
- Too much data complexity,
- Projects too difficult to integrate and scale
- Limited AI skills and expertise
To address the barriers, it is essential to understand the in-depth reason for the challenge.

Too much data complexity

Root Cause	Consequences	The Responsible Entity in Business
Data generation lacks consistency as each business function defines its own artifacts, lacking a common standard, definition, or path for information and storytelling.	Data complexity poses a challenge for businesses, shifting the focus from owning data to effectively using it. However, managing complex data can incur high costs and impact reliable decision-making. Relying on personal interpretation rather than data-driven decisions can lead to business setbacks and regulatory issues, potentially eroding trust among stakeholders and shareholders.	Data quality and reliability are crucial, requiring careful consideration from business decision-makers who consult with function experts. Leaders must be data-savvy and tech-minded.

Projects too difficult to integrate and scale

Root Cause	Consequences	The Responsible Entity in Business
Businesses encounter challenges in scaling and integrating projects due to isolated designs and structures. Differentiating between projects and regular operations, standardizing them, and aligning them with overall business goals can be complex. The absence of centralization, standardization, and a shared language, along with the need for specific skills and trust, can result in varied project structures, necessitating multiple restructuring efforts.	It could result in project withdrawal and partial abandonment of the work. This not only prevents achieving the fruitful benefits of the project's purpose but also wastes an enormous amount of resources. Even worse, it can lead to further resistance against the project and similar projects in the future.	Though the organization leadership team is the main owner of the business initiatives, each department, mid-level manager, and team player has a role to play, which ultimately will increase the complexity.

Limited AI skills and expertise

| Root Cause	Consequences	The Responsible Entity in Business
In today's business landscape, many companies cling to outdated practices due to the perceived high cost of change and aversion to risk. Consequently, there is a lack of data and technology literacy, coupled with reluctance to embrace new perspectives and encourage creative thinking among employees. This resistance to change and innovation hampers the development of AI skills within organizations, primarily stemming from a conservative business culture.	Some of very high-level issues are: - Slowing the growth of the company to cope with market dynamics. - Losing market opportunities - Slow response time to the customer - Loss in engaging expert employees	Like any other necessary change, top leaders are the main responsible body. Still, each department and mid-level manager has considerable responsibility in this regard, and the ugly truth is this matter is not easy to accept.

To be continued...

Celebrating National Volunteer Week
My Tran Le

As someone who has dedicated over two decades to giving back and volunteering in various roles, I am thrilled about this year's National Volunteer Week's theme: "Something for Everyone." It beautifully encapsulates the diverse passions and talents that each volunteer brings to their work, aligning perfectly with the PMI's values.

At PMI Sydney Chapter, our volunteers are the heart and soul of our organisation. They selflessly contribute their time, energy, and expertise to drive initiatives that benefit our members, guests, and the community. Whether they are organising industry events, mentoring project professionals and enthusiasts, engaging in academic outreach, championing social good initiatives, promoting women in projects, managing volunteer engagement, or providing essential services like membership administration, marketing, and technology support, our PMI Sydney Chapter volunteer community creates positive change every single day.
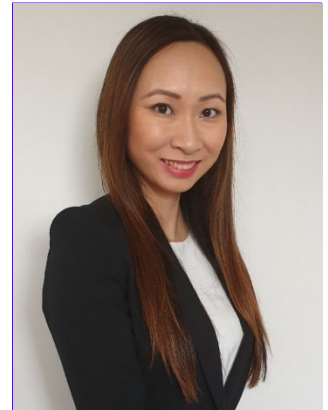
My Tran Le is PMI Sydney Chapter's Volunteering Director and a passionate advocate for Women in Project Management.

The National Volunteer Week is our opportunity to express our heartfelt gratitude to all our volunteers. Your dedication and commitment deserve more than mere appreciation; they deserve celebrations!

On Tuesday, 21st May, at PMI Sydney Chapter, we honoured our volunteers' achievements during an evening filled with laughter, camaraderie, and the irresistible aroma of oven baked pizzas. Our PMI Sydney Chapter family (volunteers, members and guests) gathered together for this celebration.

We also recognised our latest Super Volunteer Award recipients (and welcomed them as new Associate Directors), Andrew Lindgren and Svetlana Nevskaya. Their exceptional support for the mentoring and volunteer communities respectively exemplifies our core PMI value: 'Together We Can'. Congratulations again for being catalysts for positive change.

What better way to wrap up the festivities than with a lively PMI team trivia night? Kudos to the Winning Team 'Ray' (Raymark Sinchongco, David Barros, Nicholas Ridis) for clinching victory, and hats off to the runner-up teams (Owais Nasser, Ravindra Palavalli Nettimi, Ivan Ramirez, Luc Legeret). And as the PMI Team trivia buzzed through, we laughed, shared stories, and celebrated the magic of collaboration.

A special shout-out to our sponsor **Steve Tompkins** and **Talent International** for making this remarkable event possible for the project management community.

To all our volunteers: Thank you for everything you do! Your impact echoes far beyond the hours you give selflessly; it shapes our community and inspires positive change and continues to be the ripple!
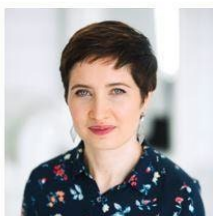

**Volunteer Awards : May 2024 Mid-Year Awards**

Professional Development: Andrew Lindgren
Driving the Mentoring Program in 2024; driving continuous improvements in the process and mentor volunteer engagement.

Together We Can

Volunteering : Svetlana Nevskaya
Lana has been key contributor to the success of the Volunteering initiatives in 2023. She has taken a lead this year to organise this special Volunteering May-2024 event, showcasing strong project management skills and fostering collaboration by connecting with directors, ADs and volunteers across the portfolio. She demonstrated teamwork and collective achievement in line with PMI value "Together we can."

Together We Can
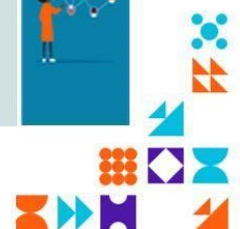
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Event Alert: Whiteboard Ninja with Simon Bank

• Do you want to turbo charge the way you communicate, and problem solve with ease?
• Are you keen to truly engage your stakeholders?
• Would you like a highly productive way to strategise and explore ideas?

Join us on 4th of June 2024 for a fun and interactive program with international keynote speaker, Author & Podcaster on creativity, innovation & design - Simon Bank. Deep dive into some brilliant shortcuts that can transform the way you engage with and communicate with others.

In this highly interactive 75 minute visual communication workshop, you will deep dive into some brilliant shortcuts that can transform the way you engage with and communicate with your clients and importantly, put information in a way that neuroscience tells us our brain loves.

📅 Date: 04 June 2024.
🕐 Time: 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM
📍 Where: Castlereagh Boutique Hotel, Sydney CBD
✨ Cost: Free for Members and Students, $35 for non-members
Register HERE

Event Alert: Agile Workshops for PMI Sydney Chapter Members

We are thrilled to announce the launch of our new series of agile workshops, designed to elevate your career and enhance your expertise in agile practices. This is a unique opportunity to learn from some of the most influential figures in the agile community and to position yourself as a champion of agile in Australia.

Workshop Highlights:

Stay Current with Agile Trends
• Stay Aligned: Keep up with major agile trends globally while accessing guidance from top-tier resources.
• Course Content: Practical insights and strategies to adapt agile methodologies to your specific needs.

Engage with Agile Experts
• Meet the Masters: Engage with pioneers and thought leaders in the agile community.
• Value: Learn directly from those who have shaped the agile landscape, making your learning experience more profound and meaningful
• Enhance Your Professional Growth
• Certification Growth: Address the current scarcity of certified agile practitioners in the country.
• Opportunity: Position yourself to achieve relevant agile certifications, enhancing your professional credibility.

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Monthly Series Details

Join our monthly online sessions, co-hosted with other PMI chapters, featuring esteemed speakers including:
- Alan Taylor: Scrum Coach and Agile Specialist
- Prof. Nanak Kakwani: World-renowned Economist
- Scott W. Ambler: VP and Chief Scientist of Disciplined Agile at PM
- Dr. Horia Slusanschi: Kaizen Artist & Founder at Novavi
- Laetitia Callegari: Director, Advisor, Project Management Adjunct Lecturer at the University of Sydney
- Sashi Sivam: Inventor of SusAgile, Scrum Master, ESG Expert
- Mr. Naveen Nanjundappa: Agile Coach, Scrum Thought Leader
- Peter Stevens: Mr. Agility, Creator of Personal Agility System
- Dr. Parisa Amouzgar: ESG Specialist
- Shashi Shekhar: Senior Technical Account Manager at AWS, LinkedIn Learning Author

Exciting Additions to Come:

As we progress, expect the list of speakers to grow. We are in discussions to bring in other notable names. Stay tuned for more updates!

Register now and be part of this transformative journey. Equip yourself with the knowledge and skills to make a significant impact in your professional life and contribute to the agile community.

Don't miss out on this incredible opportunity to learn from the best and advance your career in agile practices. Let's lead the way in agile transformation together!

First Session:

📅 Date: 14 June 2024.
🕐 Time: 8:30 PM - 9:30 PM
📍 Where: Online, via Zoom
✨ Cost: Free for Members, Students, non-members
Register HERE

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From Vision to Velocity: Women in Agile Excellence
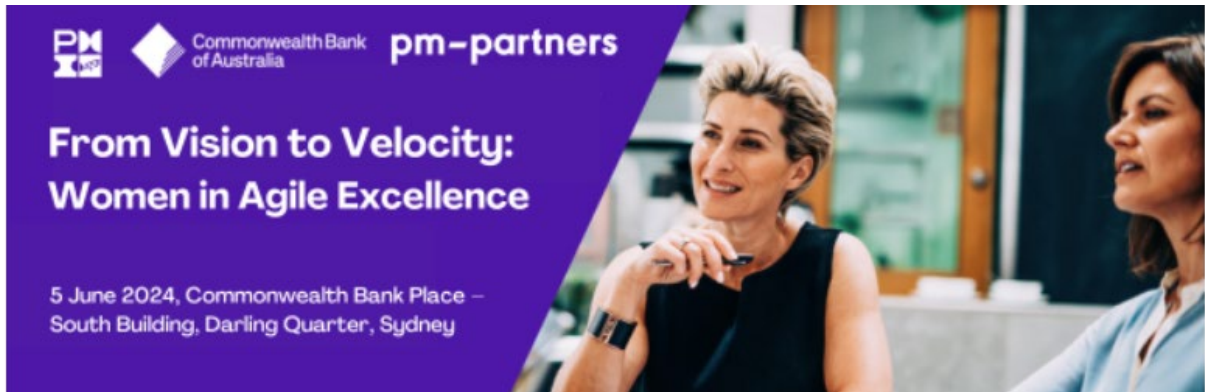
At PMI Sydney Chapter, we are committed to fostering an inclusive and empowering environment. We take pride in recognising the pivotal role that women play in driving agile methodologies forward. Join us for an interactive discussion over lunch sponsored by Commonwealth Bank and PM-Partners, where you'll have the opportunity to:

- Deepen your understanding and explore the challenges of implementing agile within organisations.
- Gain a better understanding of how the empowerment of women contributes to excellence in agile methodologies.
- Emphasise the empowerment of women as change-makers and innovators in the agile world.
- Learn from our experts and hear from our distinguished panelists as they discuss navigating multiple agile transformations within organisations.
- Discover support mechanisms and strategies for thriving during uncertain times using agile approaches.
- Connect and interact with fellow professionals to exchange personal experiences and stories.

📅 Date: 05 June 2024.
🕐 Time: 11:30 AM - 13:30 PM
📍 Where: Commonwealth Bank Place - South Building, 11 Harbour Street,
     Sydney 2000

Chapter News – May 2024

Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2024 - Message from the President

I am truly grateful to everyone who attended last night's PMI Sydney Chapter Annual General Meeting 2024 (AGM). Your presence, insights, and enthusiasm made it a memorable and productive event.

To our members, your participation and engagement during the discussions were invaluable. It's your commitment and passion that drive our success and help us reach new heights.

To the volunteers who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure everything ran smoothly. From coordinating logistics to managing the technical aspects and ensuring every detail was fantastic, your dedication and hard work did not go unnoticed. Your commitment to excellence and the countless hours in which you invested is deeply appreciated, and the success of the event is a testament to your efforts. Thank you for making this AGM a seamless and memorable experience for all involved.

Special thanks to our keynote speaker, Jürgen Oschadleus for facilitating the "Growing Influence Equity" topic. We look forward to another year of growth and collaboration. Together, we can achieve great things!

Chapter News – May 2024

Bank of Sydney - PMI SC Joint Presentation: Project Management for Non Project Managers
Malong Dong

Becoming a project management professional involves a combination of education, experience, and ongoing learning.

In May 2024, a group of project management enthusiasts at Bank of Sydney had the opportunity to listen to inspiring stories from panel members at Project Management Institute, University of Technology Sydney and the bank's executives.

In this highly interactive session, the panel members articulated a structured way of capability development:

- Education and Training – PMI has a series of core and specialised training course and certification tailored for every stage of your career. UTS has comprehensive offers for graduate and postgraduate degrees in Project Management.

- Networking and Community Involvement - Join project management associations like PMI, attend local PMI Sydney Australia Chapter meetings, and participate in online forums. Networking helps you learn from others, share experiences, and stay updated on industry trends.

Academic Partnership Gains Momentum at PMI Sydney
Ray Sinchongco

Sydney Mudau, David Barros, Humera Shazin, and Ray Sinchongco, Directors and Associate Directors of PMI Sydney Chapter, took centre stage at an event hosted by the University of Sydney Project Management Society on 17th of May 2024.

Invited as panellists, they shared invaluable insights on harnessing networking opportunities to propel career growth in project management, underscoring its crucial role in professional success.

Each panellist captivated the audience by discussing a project they were particularly proud of, igniting a spark of inspiration among the students and aspiring young professionals.

PM Project Management Institute. Sydney, Australia

Chapter News – May 2024

The genuine enthusiasm and passion shared during these stories left a lasting impression motivating attendees to pursue excellence in their future endeavours.

The event's highlight was the dynamic networking sessions, where our panellists eagerly engaged with students. These interactions were not only enlightening but also provided a glimpse into the profession's intricacies and industry secrets, offering practical advice for those considering a career in project management.

The evening was further enriched by the presence of industry experts from TSA Management, Delta Tango Advisory, and RP Infrastructure. Their contributions during the industry night fostered an environment of learning, collaboration, and professional growth, greatly benefiting the student community.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the University of Sydney Project Management Society for orchestrating such a phenomenal event. This occasion not only showcased the power of networking but also strengthened our partnership with the Academic Outreach Portfolio, paving the way for future collaborations.

Membership Updates
Ibtihal Albashneh

Following is the list of members who celebrated their 5 years association with the PMI Sydney Chapter recently.

Richard John

Shane Pretty

George Awad

John Tassopoulos

Ahmedi Azra

Sujata Tiwary

Gemma Roberts

Robert Cowan

Lenin Suarez Castellanos

Mohannad Hussien

Yannis Karoumpas

Muhammad Rohail Iyaz

Rajat Krishna Shrestha

Francois Horion

Tomasz Safinski

Brian Edler

Jaco Bondesio

Mulalo Mudau

Daniel Ferreira

Leo Coco

Min Choo Gan

Kiran Annamdas

Kathrin Samad

Humera Shazin

Dean Mathison

Tian Li

Stephen Burke

Sreenivas Silari

TIna Bridson

Steven Hill

Andria Ratchford

Brett Simpson

Lauren Farmer

James Langstaff

Mohmad Imran Sheth

Victor de Oliveira

Rory Kelly

Tarek Zaman

Arman Carlos

Harvinderjit Singh

David Pearton

Yvonne Yu

Darrell Wood

Paul Roberts

Xing Ying Lee

Maria Biglands

Frederik Gouws

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

Project Management Institute®
Sydney, Australia

Photo of the Month
Himadri S. Chowdhury

About the images
The Sydney Harbour Bridge from the top deck of a double decker bus