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Chapter Meeting

20 November 2014

The Power of Positive Psychology for Individual and Team Outcomes

Keynote Speaker: Sandra Surace

Venue: Telstra Conference Theatrette

Date: Tuesday 25th November 2014

Time: 5:30pm – 8:00pm

5:30pm refreshments, 7:00pm start

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Message from the Immediate Past President

Paul Osman



**“Never forget we
are part of a
global profession”**

Last month I was lucky enough to be able to attend the PMI Leadership Institute Meeting in Phoenix where nearly a thousand chapter volunteers from all over the world can to share and learn about the experiences they are having building and developing a project management professional association in their location.

The meeting was opened by Ricardo Triana PMP, PMI Chair of Board (for those that had the privilege of hearing Ricardo at our conference would know how engaging and motivational Ricardo is), Mark Langley, PMI President and CEO, and Brian Weiss, Vice President, PMI Practitioners Market. The three of them painted a great picture of the state of PMI, the growth and initiatives that is underway. One of the most significant changes is that with the acquisition of ProjectManagement.com this site will be the centre of knowledge management and resource to support and develop project artefacts. The Communities of Practice will move to be part of the knowledge management of projectmanagement.com to support and develop the material required by project managers.

The meeting then breaks into Educational Sessions, where attendees can either follow a stream or just attend the sessions they believe would benefit them and their chapter. The categories of the educational sessions were:

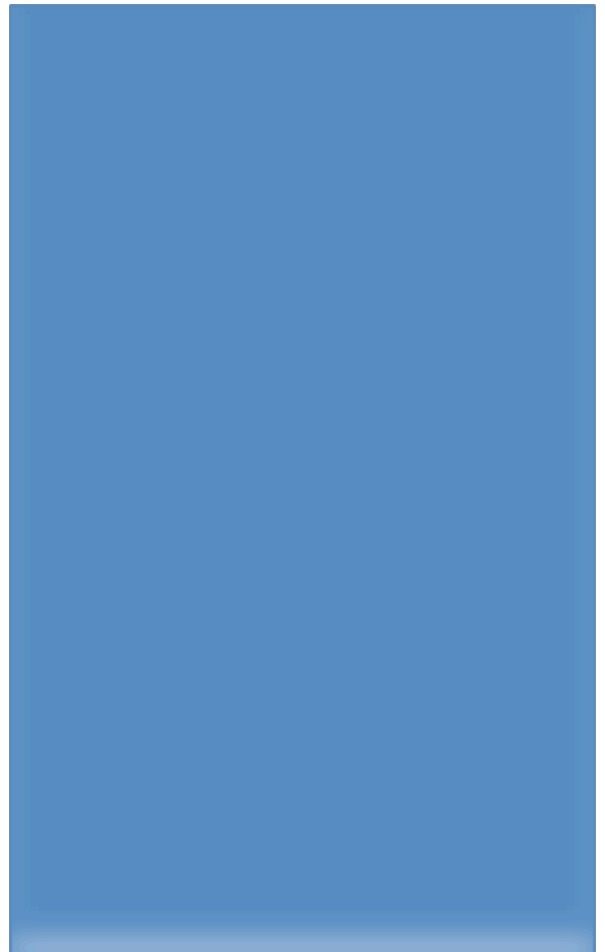
- Academic
- Association Governance
- Leadership Development
- Marketing
- Membership
- PMI Updates, tools and resources
- Professional Development
- Volunteer engagement.

There was also a theme running across the categories to support first time attendees of the meeting and how to get the most out of the meeting.

The meeting is also had some keynote speakers that are aimed at helping the chapter volunteers develop their own skills. This year two of the keynote speakers were Tom Peters and Kevin Carroll. For those of the same era as myself you might remember Tom Peters as the author of In Search of Excellence, a book that had a significant impact on business focus in the 80's. Tom as very animated and vivid with his delivery and language, with a focus on keeping things simple and concentrating on the real benefits that can be delivered by the chapters and project managers. Kevin Carroll had a simple but powerful message that it does not matter where a person has come from, its where you are going that' important. Both of these speakers emphasised the importance of focusing on the end game, which is critical for the success of a project and project managers.

The other and probably the most important aspect of the meeting is the opportunity to meet and network with likeminded people from all over the world. These people are dealing with similar if not the same issues we experience in our world, so it is always interesting to share these war stories and see what can be learned from these discussions. The surprising this is that sometimes the most appropriate solution can come from a colleague who is relatively close, like someone in the same region, so this meeting is an opportunity to connect with neighbours.

For me the takeaway from this meeting is not to forget that we are part of a global association of project managers who want to achieve the same as we do and are more than willing to help.



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Project Success using PMBOK methodology

Seema Abdullah

1. What was the project? Could you please provide a short scope?

From 2006 the Rural Health Academic Centre (RHAC-University of Melbourne), located in Country Victoria Shepparton, had been engaged in research to develop a software tool for the systematic collection and record-linkage of General Practice(GP) and community data for research. By 2009 this tool, namely, GRHANITE (GeneRic HeAlth Network Information Technology for the Enterprise) had been developed; the opportunities were there to transition from a proof-of-concept research tool to a commercial-ready product backed up by a commercial-ready implementation team.

2. What was your role in the project?

I joined HIU in 2010 as a Project Manager for GRHANITE.

Seema is currently engaged in a community project and participating in community engagement & leadership programs run by Shepparton City Council.

3. What was the expected outcome of the project and what was the outcome achieved?

The vision was to become a leading technology enabling Health Data Analytics utilizing Primary Care and community data in Australia. Evolving research into an industry-ready business is a challenge. The GRHANITE Team had intense sincerity and drive to achieve this vision but a methodical and structured framework for GRHANITE project delivery was required; this led to the foundation of GRHANITE Health Informatics Unit (HIU) that was formally established in Y2010 with an aim to provide a platform for marketing, development and implementation of GRHANITE software technology on a larger scale.

The expected outcome of GRHANITE HIU was to transform the GRHANITE development group into a fully-fledged service delivery unit. The transition was unlikely to happen with an informal, soft approach to project delivery. The need to introduce Project Management standards & best practices was recognised due to the variety of challenges faced by the GRHANITE team during this growth period. There were issues with stakeholder relationship, expectation management, schedule delays, low team morale and a need to gain tight control over project deliverables. Hence, the foundation for Professional and Industry Standard Project Delivery Model was laid in Y2010, within the bounds of the academic research World.

By 2014, the following outcomes had been achieved:

- The transformation of a small software development group into a service delivery organisation with a clear business model
- The HIU Customer base expanded fivefold
- GRHANITE tool installation base increased from 100 GP sites to 500 GP sites
- Threefold increase in GRHANITE team size
- GRHANITE won a major bid for National Prescribing Services Medicine Insight Program valued at \$1.4 million, in Y2012
- HIU collaboration and formal integration with University of Melbourne's Health and Bio Medical Information Centre (HABIC) based in Parkville Melbourne.

4. What factors do you believe made the project successful?

- Introduction and implementation of the rigour of principles of Integrated Project Management for the delivery of GRHANITE services on multiple-concurrent health research projects
- Team work and management support for the implementation of PM methodology within the Academic research environment
- Recognition of the value of PM framework by the Research organisations/Clients who previously had little experience of utilising the industry standard PM practices on their research projects. Examples include, project management plan development, change control management, project governance mechanisms, etc.
- Trust based relationship with the Clients where the expectations were managed in a truthful and transparent way by following PM best practices.

5. What benefits did your customers receive?

Increased visibility and transparency on project status that became the foundation for improved client relationships; the Clients were happy to recommend GRHANITE to the research world due to confidence in the project delivery model.

An interesting outcome of the projects (as revealed by one of the Client) was that they as they learned about PM principles as well as the positive outcomes. During GRHANITE implementation projects, they started applying these principles to their other projects.

6. What challenges did you experience throughout project implementation?

- An initial informal approach to project management in the Academic research environment, both from the Service Provider as well as the Client end.
- Shyness / reluctance of management in academia, to implement some tough project commercial decisions with the project clients.
- Organisational Change Management (example: to run GRHANITE business unit on commercial basis while still being a part of an academic environment; it was challenging to convince internal management as well as external Clients that 'gold plating' is not the way to go or to introduce the concept of CR to address variations to the baseline project scope).

7. Did you learn any innovative project management techniques that could be utilised for future projects?

- The need to constantly educate the stakeholder group in academia, about PM principles (that is to give gentle reminders on 'Why we do What we do in the professional PM world')
- Start with light weight PM and scale up along the way.

Seema Abdullah



Welcome our new Melbourne Chapter Members

(12 October 2014 – 11 November 2014)

Syed Muhammad Ali Al Qadri

Thomas Araujo

Santhosh Bajanemane

Serren Callister

Atif Chishti

Melissa Coltzau

Penny Connolly

Calvin D'Couto

Prasad De Alwis

Michael Faustmann

Nenad Galic

Chitra Gnanamuthu

Jenny Hong

Gina Kanesoulis

Ramachandran Karthikeyan

Trinadh Koya

Christopher Latcham

Sylwiusz Litewka

Anthony Main

Kylie Randell

Daniel McLean

Trinadh Koya

Sharyn Green

Antje Daehler

Camillo Coladonato

Congratulations to our new certificate holders

(17 October 2014 – 30 October 2014)

UPCOMING TRAINING EVENTS

Date	Event Details	Booking	Enquiry	PDU
27 Nov 14 - 28 Nov 14	Project Management Essentials (QB5160)	Book	Enquiry	14

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