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A Message from the President



Greetings, PMI Melbourne Chapter members and community!

It is my honour and privilege to lead as the president of this extraordinary chapter in 2024, a truly remarkable year. This year, we have witnessed the power of collaboration and leadership from our members, volunteers, partners, sponsors, and the board. Together, we've delivered outstanding outcomes across our signature programmes while embarking on innovative new initiatives that continue to inspire and set an example of leadership in action.

We were humbled and honoured to receive the prestigious PMI Chapter of the Year Award, a testament to the dedication and contributions of generations of volunteers and leaders. This recognition is not just an achievement—it's an inspiration for all of us to continue striving for greatness, as we honour the legacy of those who came before us while paving the way for those who will follow.

Our PM4L programme reached a major milestone, celebrating its 10th anniversary in style by winning the Project of the Year Award (Sustainability Category) at the Project Controls Expo 2024. This accolade beautifully recognises a decade of impactful contributions, driven by an exceptional team of volunteers led by Vikki Kapoor and Guinevere Gilbert.

The PMDoS programme had its most successful year to date, with over 60 volunteer consultants collaborating with 16 charities and not-for-profits. This immense achievement is a credit to the dedication and meticulous planning of our Volunteering Director, Daniel Simpson, and his team.

Our mentoring programme, a cornerstone of the chapter, kicked off with a record-breaking mentor speed-dating session, bringing together 62 participants, and went on to connect 80 mentors and mentees throughout the year. This success was made possible under the sponsorship of Ariel Achtman and the leadership of one of our Associate Directors, Anna Bakhmoutski.

Another highlight was the Agile Symposium 2024, co-hosted in collaboration with RMIT University and another six PMI chapters. This marquee event attracted 150 in-person attendees and reached a combined global audience of over 2,000 session participants. With eight hosts—one university and seven PMI chapters—and 19 partners spanning all continents, this symposium exemplified the power of partnership and collaboration on a global scale.

These signature programmes set a high benchmark for excellence, embodying the innovative spirit of our chapter.

This newsletter also highlights some of our newest initiatives: the Built Environment SIG, Rising Leaders, Women in Project Management, and the innovative Lunch and Learn series. These programmes reflect our unwavering commitment to improving and innovating, ensuring we remain a pioneering chapter.



All these accomplishments represent the culmination of a new strategic direction we embarked upon this year—one that focuses on strengthening our core services while laying a solid foundation for future growth. A key pillar of this strategy has been future-proofing our governance and operations, including expanding the roles of Associate Directors and project managers to lead volunteer teams across all portfolios.

As we build on this exceptional foundation, the future promises to be even more exciting. I encourage every one of you to get involved—whether as an active member, a volunteer team member, a project manager, an associate director, or even a board member. There are countless opportunities to grow, make an impact, and be part of something truly meaningful.

On behalf of our chapter's members, volunteers, and leaders, I want to thank you all for your continued support and for helping make this chapter the incredible community it is today. I am both proud of and grateful for our exceptional team of capable and dedicated board members; it's a privilege to lead alongside them. While it's impossible to mention all their achievements this year, I'd like to highlight a few:

- Divya Pasupuleti, Vice President – for sharing expert-level knowledge and experience in governance and strategy, and for leading the WIPM initiative.
- Joseph Pineda, Treasurer – for steering financial reforms with outstanding results and playing a pivotal role in supporting other portfolio directors, particularly those new to their roles.
- Heera Arvind, Secretary – for going above and beyond to secure Coles as a Gold Sponsor for our PMDoS initiative.
- Skye Bennett, Events Director – for leading the events team with professionalism and style in delivering monthly events and the Lunch & Learn series.
- Ariel Achtman, Professional Development Director – for sponsoring the mentoring programme, one of our signature initiatives, and for successfully initiating and leading the BE SIG in its inaugural year.
- Daniel Sampson, Volunteering Director – for leading the PMDoS to historic success and empowering a team of 94 volunteers, a record-breaking number in our chapter's history.
- Helen Snitkovsky, Membership Director – for elevating the Rising Leaders programme to new heights and for co-leading the Digital portfolio.
- Jeferson Souza, Immediate Past President – for being one of the most active IPPs we've had, securing numerous partnerships for the chapter and the Agile SIG, while also co-leading the BE SIG.

Once again, it's my pride and honour to lead our amazing chapter this year. The chapter is in excellent shape and is well-positioned to reach even greater heights in the years to come. I hope you enjoy this newsletter as a celebration of all that we have achieved together.

Wishing you and your families a healthy and joyful festive season. I look forward to seeing you in 2025 at our exciting events and activities!

Warm regards,
Dr. Tiendung (TJ) Le
President



PMI Melbourne Chapter: Chapter of the Year Award

BY BOARD OF DIRECTORS, PMI MELBOURNE CHAPTER

At the PMI Global Summit 2024 in Los Angeles, held from 18 to 21 September, the PMI Melbourne Chapter was announced as the winner of the prestigious PMI Chapter of the Year Award. This award represents a seal of excellence in serving the community and advancing the project management profession.

PMI has over 300 chapters worldwide, of which 95 applied for the award. Following a rigorous process, 17 chapters were shortlisted, and the Melbourne Chapter proudly took home the honour in the 300-1,500-member category.

Our chapter was well-represented at the awards ceremony by Tiendung (TJ) Le (President), Heera Arvind (Secretary), Ariel Achtman (Professional Development Director), and Annie Sheehan (Past President). In his remarks at the reception, TJ expressed heartfelt gratitude to PMI for this meaningful recognition and for creating opportunities for volunteers to make a difference in their communities and society. TJ also congratulated the other chapter finalists for their outstanding contributions to the profession and to society.

This award is a testament to the dedication, passion, and contributions of generations of members, volunteers, partners, and chapter leaders. It is not just an achievement—it's an inspiration. It honours the legacy of those who have built this chapter and motivates us to pave the way for those who will continue this journey of excellence.

We extend a special thanks to our chapter leaders, volunteers, and members whose tireless efforts made this achievement possible. We are grateful for our collaboration with PMI APAC and for the support of more than 30 PMI chapters worldwide. We also deeply appreciate our incredible partners and sponsors, including MetaPM, Millpond, PMX Solutions, vCare Project Management, RMIT University, Torrens University, The University of Melbourne, PMO Solutions, and Coles. Collaboration strengthens us and enables us to maximise our reach and impact.

The Melbourne Chapter is on an exciting trajectory with numerous opportunities to make a difference and elevate our world. We invite you to join us in this incredible journey—whether for professional growth, creating an impact, or being part of something deeply meaningful.



Events

BY SKYE BENNETT, EVENTS DIRECTOR

PMI Melbourne Chapter Events: A Look Back at the Last Six Months

As we move forward into the latter half of the year, it's a perfect time to reflect on the achievements and events that have shaped the Melbourne Chapter over the past six months. From insightful workshops to vibrant networking events, our chapter has continued to foster a thriving community of project professionals in Melbourne.

March: From Vision to Execution, The Role of PMOs in Strategic Alignment

At our March Monthly Event, we had the pleasure of hosting **Vikki Kapoor** as our keynote speaker. Vikki provided invaluable insights into the evolving role of Project Management Offices (PMOs) within today's business landscape. The session underscored the importance of PMOs as transformative agents that enable businesses to turn visionary objectives into reality, ensuring that every initiative stays in sync with the organisation's strategic direction.



April: AGM and Introducing a New Framework for Elevating Project Certainty

April was marked by our Chapter Annual General Meeting (AGM) along with keynote speakers **Yannick Arekion** and **Neeraj Challana** who introduced a groundbreaking framework designed to boost project delivery certainty. They shared practical insights into how this approach leverages best practices and innovative techniques to overcome common project challenges and drive successful outcomes.

May: Leveraging Coaching Skills in Project Management

May focused on power skills with a session on leveraging coaching skills for project success. Leadership Expert and Organisational psychologist **Clifford Morgan** explored how project managers can use coaching skills to build and manage high-performing teams, addressing common challenges like scope creep, risk management, and stakeholder engagement.



June: Promoting and Nurturing Inclusive Project Teams

In June, we were joined by an expert panel consisting of [Bich Thuy Thieu Quang](#), [Elisa De Losa](#), [Michael Walmsley](#), and [Zoe Itzstein-Davey](#), who discussed the importance of fostering inclusive project teams, highlighting how diversity drives innovation and improves project outcomes. The panellists shared practical strategies to ensure every project team member feels valued and empowered.



July: The Future of Agile: What does the next 20 years look like?

At our July event, in collaboration with the PMI Agile SIG for Asia Pacific, [Dipesh Pala](#) hosted a panel discussion on the future of Agile, exploring the trends, technologies, and data that will shape Agile over the next 20 years.

August: Future of Teams: Empowering Gen Z+ with Next Gen Project Management

In August, we were joined by a Future of Work expert, who discussed the evolving workforce and its critical impact on project management. He provided actionable strategies for engaging this digitally native generation, turning their unique traits into strengths to build high-performing teams and drive organisational success.



Our most popular event of 2024 explored the future of projects: harnessing generative AI in project management. Our expert panel [Keerthana Gowri Shankar](#) (Microsoft) [Matt Mullins](#) (CGI Australia) [Kelly Benson](#) (CTO Labs) and [Ryan Chaffey](#) (Yarra Valley Water) explored the practical applications, ethical considerations and the future potential of AI

October: AI Governance for Projects and PMOs

In October, we launched a new Lunch and Learn series offering members bite-sized opportunities to learn, network, and engage with PMI thought leadership. The October session, in collaboration with the [Optus Centre](#), focused on proactively managing psychosocial risks in project management. In November, following our successful Chapter event on Generative AI, [Louise Gardner](#) from [Pledge Consulting](#) continued the conversation with a session on AI governance for projects and PMOs.



Our monthly Chapter event series concluded with an interactive workshop by Creative Master Facilitator **Jacinta Cubis**, focusing on the four Ws of workshop design. We thank our collaborators for helping to co-create a diverse range of event offerings throughout 2024.

The highly anticipated annual Chapter event, held on 21 November at the Queen Victoria Women's Centre, provided an opportunity to celebrate an incredible year of achievements, milestones, and connections. It was an inspiring evening highlighting the strength and dedication of our project management community. A special thanks to event hosts, Lizbet Zamora and Sohan Gunasekera.



Volunteers are the beating heart of the PMI Melbourne Chapter, and I would like to take the opportunity to acknowledge our Events Team, who have supported the delivery of Chapter events this year.

Looking ahead, we are planning for another dynamic year of events in 2025, featuring themes including cybersecurity, the evolving role and impact of AI on the project profession, inclusion and engagement, forensic planning, as well as the continuation of our new monthly Lunch & Learn series.

If you would like to suggest an event, speaker, or facilitator, we would love to hear from you.

We look forward to seeing you at our 2025 events as we continue to learn, grow, and connect as a community.

Skye Bennett
Director, Events 2024



Professional Development

BY DR ARIEL ACHTMAN, PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

CERTIFICATION ACHIEVERS

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

Abir Kezraj
Ajjanthan Kathirgamana-
than
Akash Morubagal
Shivananda
Alex W Gray
Alex Kim Loy Wong Tien
Hing
Alyson McKay
Amit Katoch
Amit Kumar Sinha
Anastasios Kazis
Andrew Vyas
Arjun Hari
Belinda Kaye Ainslie
Bhagwan Das
Callum Jayakody
Clare Cathcart
Craig Gericke
David Stirling
Fahad Ansar Butt
Gurubhaskar Reddy
Syamakuri
Halnetti Shamel Dilan
Perera
Irina Milenko
Jingyi Tang
Jo-Anne Peti
Jonathan Malcolm de
Souza
Joyce Jeanine de Kruiif
Judi Natalia Rudiyanto
Julius Yarcia
Kai Bedford
Mr. Kashif Haidery

Khadijah Khair
Kingshuk Paul
Kunavathy Rajandran
Lincoln Birch
Madhu Sudhan Reddy
Yellareddy Sangareddy
Mehreen Badar
Melanie Thachankary
Michael Canavan
Mitchell Ikponmwosa
Omoigui
Morgan Savy
Muneeb Azhar
Nathan Bakes, CAPM
Nishant Prabhakar
Oluwaseun Omolewa
Pascal Dieujuste
Prakash Mudgal
Rachael Bacon
Ridhima Young
Ryan Keane
Sachindra Prasad
Sam Teeling
Samrita Sharma
Shanil Ram
Shapur Momandwall
Shubham A Mahajan
Simba Mutisi
Steve Bignell
Tejasvita Harsh Bains
Tristan Mercer
Varghese James Zacharia
Varun Kumar
Wendy Anderson
Yun Wang





Aashish Walia
Andrew Ireland
Brett Hall
Carmen Duncan
David Herrity
David Lee
Joseph Ace Durano

Mark Bodley
Mohammad Yeakub Ali
Ryan David Panozzo
Shanil Ram
Shijo Valsan
Yosha Parikh



Aditya Dhawan
Alex W Gray
Antony Dylan
Tsun-Mao Hsu
Gloria Gonzalez
Lindsay Kamalageethan
Krishnapillai
Mary Ballener
Matthias Schleinitz

Ngoc Mai Low
Nicholas Gibbs
Prabhakaran Arakonam Gopal
Santhosh Bajanemane
Shanmuga Velayutham
Shankaralingam



David M. Guerineau
Sohan Gunasekera
Vikki Kapoor



George Stanisis



Aiman Elissa Binti Ashaari
Marcos Eduardo Tolmos Nehme
Vivianne Naguib Erian Tadros



Vimal Vijayakumaran Nair



Behrooz Salarvand
Nisha Khurana





Andy Keller
Mridu Pathak
Paul Joseph Altis-Downie
Prabhakaran Arakonam Gopal
Russell Taylor

We would also like to recognise the members who have achieved microcredentials in 2024:



Karim Soliman



Karim Soliman



Aiman Elissa Binti Ashaari
Karim Soliman
Marcelle Bonacin Granier
Marcos Eduardo Tolmos Nehme
Nick Williams

Tapiwa Makuvisе
Vivianne Naguib Erian Tadros



Peter Andrews



Michael D. Evans



Angela Haddow



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**. Ask them about their current discount for Melbourne Chapter members.

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

	<p>https://www.metapm.com.au/</p> <p>More Information: 1800 800 436 or enquiries@metapm.com.au</p>
	<p>https://www.thepmxcompany.com/</p> <p>More information: +61 2 8346 6750 or hello@thepmxcompany.com</p>
	<p>https://millpond.co.nz</p> <p>More information: +64 (03) 366 4383 or info@millpond.co.nz</p>
	<p>https://vcareprojectmanagement.com</p> <p>More information: 1800 822 731 or info@vcareprojectmanagement.com</p>

Built Environment Special Interest Group (BE-SIG)

This year, Melbourne Chapter launched its first industry-focused program, the Built Environment Special Interest Group. Its purpose is to provide knowledge exchange and networking opportunities for project professionals in the local built environment sector.

The BE-SIG is led by our three **Construction Ambassadors**

(standing with our Global Director for Construction, Ben Breen):

Tapiwa Makuise
Marcelle Granier
Marcos Tolmos



Their role is to connect our local activities with PMI's global efforts to support the construction and affiliated industries with the new PMI-CPTM certification and other resources.

If you are interested in taking the **PMI-CPTM training**, check out the PMI-CP exam prep course read the blog post or check out the course dates offered our authorised training partner, Millpond. There is a 10% discount for chapter members.

A purple rectangular graphic. On the left is a white silhouette of a human head in profile, facing right, with a lightbulb inside. To the right of the silhouette, the text reads "Millpond's latest PMI-CP [Blog Article](#)" in white. On the far right is a white QR code.

<https://millpond.co.nz/course-catalogue/27-construction-professional-in-built-environment-projects-pmi-cp/region-AU/>

The BE-SIG kicked off with two great **events** this year, involving thought-provoking panel discussions and buzzing networking sessions. Topics ranged from industry challenges to stakeholder management across the value chain and highlighted the many intersections between project and construction management.



Built Environment x Project Management Bridging the Gap in Construction Management



I would like to thank our event sponsor, Jardon Group Inc., the panellists, my program co-sponsor Jeferson Souza and the volunteers who made the magic happen:

Marcos Tolmos
Tapiwa Makuvishe
Marcelle Granier
Alireza Azadbaftari
Guinevere Gilbert

Tasseen Rouf Kamal
Liz Zamora
Charissa Ong
Virna Rodriguez



We want to grow the community next year. Join the discussion in the BE-SIG WhatsApp group or reach out to development@pmimelbourne.org if you have an idea for an event topic, partnership or want to volunteer.



Mentoring

BY DR ARIEL ACHTMAN, PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

This year, we had a record mentor speed dating session with 62 participants. The program has connected 80 mentors and mentees since then, including a few mentors and mentees from PMI Tasmania Chapter. We used a mentoring platform shared with PMI Adelaide Chapter to provide content suggestions for mentoring sessions and make it easy to meet and track goals.

We will be launching a new round of the mentoring program in February. **We already have a mentee waiting list mentees for the 2025 mentoring program and we're looking for mentors who are:**

- Passionate about helping others grow.
- Keen to engage with new perspectives and challenges.
- Committed to fostering a supportive, inspiring mentorship experience.

We need both senior mentors with broad knowledge of our sector and **mentors who have entered the project management job market in recent years** and can share their experience with aspiring project professionals or project professionals new to Australia. Mentoring is a great way to

- Have an impact on the next generation of project leaders Impact
- Refine your leadership skills
- Expand your network
- Give back to your profession or the chapter
- Learn as you teach

... and you can claim PDUs for your participation as a mentor or mentee or volunteer.

To start planning for next year's event, could you please register your interest as a – mentor, mentee or program volunteer:

https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/pmi-melbourne-chapter-mentor-ing-2025-kickoff-tickets-1115157348649?aff=ebdsoporgprofile&keep_tld=1

The mentoring program looks back on over a decade of supporting our chapter members and was an important factor in our 2024 Chapter of the Year Award. This is due to the unflinching efforts and skill of our program manager, Anna Bakhmoutski and the dedication of our mentors.

In addition, the program has been supported this year by Lyn Windsor with financial planning and our volunteers at the speed dating: Lovely Zaide, Clyde Pereria, Steve Bungay, Sumil Hakhu and Jeferson Souza.

If you have further questions, check out the information on <https://www.melbourne.pmi.org.au/mentoring/> or reach out to

mentoring@melbourne.pmi.org.au or development@pmimelbourne.org



New Opportunity: Project Management Job Readiness Program



On Cue is offering an exclusive pilot program for PMI Melbourne Chapter members: the [Project Management Job Readiness Online Course](#), available **free of charge** from December 2024 to March 2025. This program is tailored to equip you with the skills, confidence, and resources needed to excel in project management roles.

Who is this course for?

This program is ideal for:

1. **Recent graduates** in project management eager to enter the workforce.
2. **New arrivals** to Australia with a project management background, looking to transition into the local job market.
3. **Career changers** seeking to shift into project management as a profession.
4. **Accidental project managers** ready to become intentional professionals.

What does the program include?

The course consists of over **20 independent modules**, covering essential areas to improve your chances of landing your next project management role, including:

- Leveraging core project management skills.
- Elevating your power skills.
- Finding hidden job opportunities.
- Fine-tuning your LinkedIn profile and résumé.

In addition to the modules, the program features **generative AI** support and **tailored coaching** sessions, as well as access to a **community space** filled with additional resources.

Why participate?

As a pilot participant, you'll:

- Gain early, exclusive access to the course content.
- Develop job-ready skills to stand out in the competitive project management job market.
- Provide valuable feedback during a one-on-one discussion with **Mark Lowy**, Founder of On Cue, to shape the final program.



Is there a catch?

There's no financial cost to join—just your commitment to completing the course and providing feedback on its content and value. Your insights will help us ensure the program meets the highest standards and serves PMI Melbourne Chapter members effectively.

How to get involved

Spaces for the pilot are limited, so act quickly [here](#) to register your interest. You will need to provide your PMI ID as part of the registration process.

Global Summit report

Two of our chapter members, Annie Sheehan and Ariel Achtman, presented at the 2024 PMI Global Summit in Los Angeles. On December 10th, Australian and New Zealand attendees shared their key takeaways and experiences at the event.

Don't miss the recording if you want to:

- Explore global trends in for-purpose project management, AI, and leadership.
- Get inspired to attend the 2025 PMI Global Summits in the Philippines or the USA.
- Access practical resources shared by New Zealand attendees.

Grab another PDU while you tune into insights on the future of project management!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7AeBodBTUEk>



Membership

BY HELEN SNITKOVSKY, MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR

PMI Melbourne Chapter Rising Leaders Program: Cultivating the Next Generation of Project Management Professionals

The Project Management Institute (PMI) Melbourne Chapter has long been a cornerstone for fostering the growth of project management (PM) professionals in Australia. One of its standout initiatives, the Rising Leaders Programme, is designed to nurture and empower young, aspiring leaders within the field of project management. The programme aims to identify and support emerging leaders by providing them with the tools, skills, and networks necessary to thrive in an increasingly complex and competitive industry.

Purpose and Vision of the Rising Leaders Program

The primary objective of the Rising Leaders Programme is to develop and support early-career professionals who are passionate about making a positive impact in the field of project management. The programme identifies talented individuals and helps them build leadership capabilities while also providing them with exposure to a variety of real-world PM challenges. In doing so, it prepares participants for higher responsibilities and leadership roles within their organisations or within the project management community.

PMI Melbourne Chapter aims to provide these rising stars with more than just technical expertise. The programme focuses on developing soft skills, such as communication, strategic thinking, and emotional intelligence—skills that are essential for anyone looking to take on leadership roles in today's rapidly changing project landscapes.

Key Components of the Rising Leaders Program

The Rising Leaders Programme is structured around several core components that help participants maximise their learning and growth:

1. Mentorship and Coaching

Participants are paired with experienced professionals and seasoned project managers who offer valuable guidance and mentorship. These mentor-mentee relationships foster mutual growth and provide a safe space for rising leaders to ask questions, discuss challenges, and receive advice from seasoned industry veterans.

2. Leadership Development Workshops

Tailored workshops on leadership, communication, stakeholder management, and strategic project management are integral to the programme. These workshops provide the practical skills and frameworks needed to lead successful projects and teams. By learning from industry leaders and experts, participants gain a deeper understanding of the complex dynamics involved in project management leadership.

3. Networking Opportunities

Building a professional network is one of the greatest advantages of the Rising Leaders Programme. Participants are given access to exclusive PMI Melbourne events, industry meetups, and collaboration opportunities, which allow them to connect with like-minded professionals, senior leaders, and thought leaders. Networking is crucial in the world of project management, where relationships and partnerships can have a direct impact on career progression.



4. Hands-On Experience

Rising leaders are often provided with the opportunity to participate in real-world project management tasks, either within their organisations or in collaboration with other programme participants. This experiential learning allows them to apply the skills they are developing in a controlled, supportive environment, ensuring they are fully prepared for leadership responsibilities.

5. Personal and Professional Growth

The programme is focused not just on skills acquisition, but also on personal growth. Participants are encouraged to explore their leadership style, learn how to manage diverse teams, and develop resilience in the face of challenges. By pushing participants to reflect on their strengths and areas for improvement, the programme ensures they are well-rounded leaders ready for the future.

Why the Rising Leaders Program Matters

In a rapidly evolving world, the need for skilled, adaptable, and visionary project managers is greater than ever. The Rising Leaders Programme addresses this need by ensuring that emerging leaders have access to the resources, networks, and skills necessary to navigate complex challenges in project management. Whether it's managing large-scale projects, handling diverse stakeholder groups, or adapting to new technologies, the programme equips participants with a strong foundation for success.

The programme is particularly beneficial for those early in their careers, as it accelerates their professional growth, enabling them to take on greater responsibilities and make significant contributions within their organisations. For PMI Melbourne, the programme is an investment in the future of the profession and a testament to its commitment to advancing the field of project management in Australia.

Success Stories: Program Alumni Making an Impact

Over the years, many individuals who have participated in the Rising Leaders Programme have gone on to achieve great things in the field of project management. From taking on leadership roles within global organisations to initiating impactful projects that drive innovation, the programme has consistently produced leaders who are not only skilled but also passionate about advancing the PM profession. These success stories are a testament to the programme's ability to mould confident, capable, and visionary leaders.

The Future of the Rising Leaders Program

As project management evolves, the Rising Leaders Programme will adapt to meet the industry's changing needs. Whether through new technologies, shifts in the workforce, or changes in project delivery, PMI Melbourne is committed to keeping the programme relevant, accessible, and impactful. With a focus on leadership development, mentorship, and networking, the programme will continue to shape the next generation of project management professionals, providing the tools and community needed for success in a fast-paced industry.

Conclusion

The PMI Melbourne Chapter Rising Leaders Programme is crucial for developing future project management leaders. Through mentorship, hands-on experience, workshops, and networking, the programme is shaping the next generation of industry experts. For young professionals eager to advance their careers, the programme offers lasting personal and professional benefits. Interested? Contact membership@pmimelbourne.org today.



Volunteering

BY DANIEL SIMPSON, VOLUNTEERING DIRECTOR

Being a Part of Something Bigger: Volunteering by the Numbers

If you had to guess how many of you contributed to the chapter's success this year as volunteers, not counting the Board or Project Management Day of Services consultants, what would be your best guess?

- a) 70-79
- b) 80-89
- c) 90-99

If you guessed c) you're absolutely correct, 94. That is an amazing number and a tribute to the time, effort and leadership that you put in to make 2024 such a successful year for the chapter. Multiply that by the 25 hours per volunteer claimable for your PDUs and that is 2350 hours, factor in our Project Management Day of Consultants and the Board and our total rises to 150 chapter volunteers and over 3000 hours, truly an amazing collective achievement that enabled our 2024 PMI Global Chapter of the Year Award.

The data from ThoughtSpot and the Volunteer portal tells some fascinating tales; the ever-present and effervescent Vikki Kapoor had 7 unique roles in our system, Mun Teng Wong 5 roles, Vish Awate has 4 roles, while Ningxin Yan, Sathish Balachandran and Vijaykumar have 3 roles each. Honourable mentions to Lizbet Zamora, Naveen Mandava and Marcos Tolmos who seemed to play every position on the field at some point this year.

A call to action for 2025: this data would be even bigger and better if all of our hours were registered in the portal <https://volunteer.pmi.org>, watch this space for new opportunities and opportunities to re-register in 2025.

Volunteering: Your Feedback

Being part of this initiative allowed me to collaborate with passionate professionals, contribute to impactful projects, and further develop my skills in project management. It was inspiring to witness the power of teamwork and innovation in action!

Volunteering is not just about giving back; it's also about growing, learning, and building connections within the professional community.'

Sandra Paola Orozco, PMDoS volunteer

'Heartfelt thanks to the PMI Melbourne Chapter for the incredible opportunity to learn, grow, and connect with such an inspiring community of professionals'

Bilal Ahmad, Chapter Volunteer

Thank you PMI Melbourne Chapter.. for having me join PMI Agile SIG AP as a marketer for an amazing event .. the Agile Symposium 2024 - a truly first of its kind event that took place across multiple time zones over 24+ hours.'

Omar Saleem, Marketing Volunteer



Volunteering: Celebrating our Volunteers of the Month

We kicked off the year in February by celebrating the contributions of two of our PMDoS 2023 leaders, Kervin Chung and Mun Teng Wong.

Then in March the Board recognised the awesome ambassadorial skills of Tapiwa Makuvise from the Built Environment Special Interest Group.

April coincided with our National Volunteer Week campaign on LinkedIn where we celebrated our volunteers and asked you to share your volunteering journey. We recognised our wonderful Women in Project Management leaders Katherine Cummings, Sumedha Arora and Zahraa Boelajan, as well as PMDoS Marketing and Digital lead, Ivan Mau.

May saw us recognise Ningxin Yang for her PMDoS 2023/2024 role as consultant leads, with Lizbet also gaining recognition in June for speaking at our first WIPM event in 2024, along with her role as PMDoS 2024 Charity lead. Then in July, we gave the nod to Marcos Tolmos for his BE SIG ambassador and PMDoS Fitted For Work consultant roles.

August was a huge month for volunteer recognition with our Events team of Sathish Balachandran, Naveen Mandava, Juan Bui, Bilal Ahmad, Lizbet Zamora, Maria Belen Encalada and Louse Lai receiving acknowledgement for the awesome amount of effort that goes into every chapter event. Katherine Cummings was also recognised as project manager for 2nd WIPM event, Careers and Coffee Networking.

In September the Board was proud to recognise the achievements of our Digital Associate Director, Edison Tsui, who led our long-awaited email migration. The Outreach leadership team of Martin Sanchez, Mun Teng Wong, Michael Evans and Guinevere Gilbert. In October, the busiest month in the PMI Melbourne calendar, the Board nominated the Project Manager of our biggest ever PMDoS, Remya Pillai.

Finally, in November, we celebrated the efforts of every single member of the chapter who has volunteered their valuable time to your PMI Melbourne Chapter, enabling it to once again be recognised as one of the World's leading PMI chapters.

Volunteering: Final Thoughts and a Call to Action for 2025

Let's rewind a bit. At the start of the year, your Associate Director for Volunteering, Achal Barla and I set out to make sure we were aligned to the PMI Next strategy alongside the key themes for our region, Region 10: Chapter and Community, Social Impact and Thought Leadership. We also set out to make your volunteer journey through the chapter more intentional, we wanted to help as many people as we could to become leaders in the chapter, at work and in their community. We also ensured there was always an open opportunity in the portal. <https://volunteer.pmi.org>. A key driver for next year is 'Hours For Impact.' Watch this space: <https://volunteer.pmi.org>



PMI Melbourne Chapter

PMI Agile SIG for Asia Pacific

BY DR. TIENDUNG (TJ) LE, Chair, PMI Agile SIG APAC

Incubated within the PMI Melbourne Chapter, the **PMI Agile SIG APAC** has grown from strength to strength, evolving into a thriving, community-led organization with a truly global reach and impact.

The **PMI Agile SIG** had a remarkable year in **2024**, thanks to the leadership of incredible volunteers and the collaboration of the PMI Melbourne Chapter, RMIT University, and 25 other PMI Chapters worldwide.

Key Achievements in 2024

This year, the SIG delivered:

- Three workshops for PMI members,
- Three global seminars for the public, and
- The Agile Symposium 2024, a landmark event showcasing collaboration and innovation on a global scale.

Two of these events were proudly co-hosted by the PMI Melbourne Chapter and facilitated by highly qualified professionals. We extend our heartfelt thanks to:

1. Pete Omotosho, Pete Lauren Consulting
2. Sandip Ranavavare, Agility Academy
3. Joshua Barnes, Process Mentors
4. Alan Kwon, The PMX Company
5. Scott Ambler, AmbySoft Inc.

Agile Symposium 2024: A Global Milestone

The Agile Symposium 2024 was the culmination of the SIG's efforts—a truly global event that connected participants across all time zones. With the theme "Agile in the Future of Work: Adapting to a Changing Landscape", the symposium delivered:

- 8 engaging sessions
- 8 host organizations (RMIT University and seven PMI Chapters)
- 32 world-class speakers
- 19 partners spanning all continents

This marquee event drew **150 in-person attendees in Melbourne** and reached a combined global audience of over **2,000 session participants**, exemplifying the power of partnership and collaboration on a global scale. The symposium was co-led by **Dheeraj (DJ) Dua, Naveen Mandava, Tiendung (TJ) Le, and Varun Puri**.

Gratitude and Looking Ahead

We are grateful for the leadership and support of the PMI APAC team, especially Xing Ying Lee and YeYoon Kim, the collaboration of all partner organizations, and the dedication of volunteers, professionals, and chapter leaders who made these achievements possible. We are also grateful for the sponsorship of our gold sponsor Mindflight7 and silver sponsor PM-Partners.



The leadership team of the SIG throughout the year includes:

1. Tiendung (TJ) Le, chair
2. Frances Kirby, operations lead
3. Dheeraj (DJ) Dua, workshops co-lead
4. Varun Puri, workshops co-lead
5. Jeferson Souza, outreach co-lead
6. Natalya Townson, outreach co-lead

Our talented Agile SIG volunteer team continues to drive this initiative forward with passion and vision:

Our Proud PMI Agile SIG Volunteers

Adil Ghazanfar Ali
Anushree Mathur
Avichal Budhiraja
Chamil Mendis
Dheeraj Dua (DJ)
Frances Kirby
Irfan Shehzad
Jeferson Souza

Juhi Jain
Kashif Haidery
Liz Zamora
Mehdi Boshrouyeh
Natalya Townson
Naveen Mandava
Pallav Rohatgi
Pranav Goyal

Omar Saleem
Omid Haass
Rhythm Mody
Saman Kandanearachchi
Tiendung (TJ) Le
Viraj Godapola
Varun Puri
Vish Awate

As we look to 2025, the Agile SIG is planning an even bigger and better year, with the Agile Symposium as our signature event. The PMI Melbourne Chapter is proud to continue as a key partner in this exciting journey.

Join Us in 2025

We invite you to join us in 2025 to grow professionally while making a difference on a global scale.

On behalf of the Agile SIG team,

Dr. Tiendung (TJ) Le
Chair, PMI Agile SIG APAC



Project Management Day of Service

BY DANIEL SIMPSON, VOLUNTEERING DIRECTOR

Our biggest ever Project Management Day of Service (again!)

Building on our momentum from our biggest ever PMDoS last year, over 60 volunteer consultants worked with 16 charities and not-for-profit (NFP) organisations, including Cultural Infusion / Diversity Atlas for the seventh year in a row, Fitted for Work who we partnered with for our very first PMDoS On Demand, as well as Toastmasters, Women 4 STEM, Melbourne Open Water Swimming Club, VicWise, Aruma Services, Cire Services, Dream Bridge Foundation

I Hope You are Smiling with Scott Carson's famous yellow socks and in the lead-up to Men's Health Month it was also great to have Basix 4 Blokes join us.

My new home region Gippsland was well represented with a return visit from EV 'Strengthening Communities' and an organisation who also all about putting smiles on dials, the all-abilities surfing team from DSA Bass Coast.



Special thanks this year to our volunteer consultants, it is great to see so many dedicated chapter members returning year after year to donate their time. We are blessed with a truly amazing group of professionals and our PMDoS event team are always amazed at the depth and breadth of your accomplishments when we match you up with the NFPs. Thank you as well to the first-time PMDoS consultants and those who signed on as chapter members, I hope you get as much fulfilment and value from your PMI Melbourne membership as I do.

The event was sponsor by Gold Sponsor Coles, who partnered with us for the second year in a row. Thank you to Yau Massacrier and Heera Arvind. RMIT, represented by Omid Haass provided us with in-kind sponsorship, with access to those wonderful facilities on Level 10, Building 80. We also partnered with Diversity Atlas to survey the attendees, thank you to Rezza and the team for an engaging showcase of the diversity of our PMDoS community.



This year, PMDoS succeeded in building leadership and piloting its operational management layer. Thanks to the Chapter Board, Emma for her support, Achal and Sonia for mentoring, Remya as Project Manager, and Liz, Ivan, Mun Teng, Ningxin, and Irfan as stream leads. Lyn led finance, and Svetlana was our most consistent volunteer. Thillai and Irfan doubled sponsorship leads, setting up the Agile Symposium and 2025. Thanks to Mun Teng, Pratibha, Pratha, Tina, Pranav, Saman, Kervin, Siddhant for event planning, Ningxin and Sohan for consultant recruitment, and Liz, Sonia, and Sandra for a record number of consultants. Ivan and Vik led marketing, and Dilshan and Geoff at Fitted For Work, supported by Marcos, Mihir, and Swarup, were key. Lastly, thanks to Connor Schuller from Xposure 28 for the photography.

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 2024 event was the seventh PMDoS event hosted by the Melbourne Chapter. The first PMDoS event was held on Martin Luther King Day in 2015.



Celebrating Growth, Sustainability, and Impact in Project Management Education



BY VIK KAPOOR AND GUINEVERE GILBERT

The PM4L team is thrilled to share updates from our journey of equipping young minds with project management skills while embedding values of sustainability and ethical governance. Together, we've made strides in shaping future project professionals who prioritize environmental and social responsibility. This year is very special for the PM4L team as we are celebrating our 10th anniversary. Looking back, it is remarkable how far we have come and what we have achieved so far. In 2014, we started with 5-6 project managers, passionate about giving back to the community, starting with youth as that is where we thought it best to lay the foundation for building the core principle of project management. Year on year we achieved small but significant successes which kept us motivated to continue this journey. This could not have been possible without the continuous support from the volunteers, schools, PMI Melbourne Chapter, PMI Asia Pacific, Ericsson and RMIT University.



Summary of achievements in last 10 years

Schools/Universities/Institutions

- Brunswick Secondary College
- Westbourne Grammar School
- Mount Saint Joseph Girls College
- Lauriston Girls College
- Gisborne Secondary College
- Sirius College
- RMIT University
- Formula SAE



100+

Classroom workshops



1000+

Students



4

On-line modules



50+

Volunteers



~1000 hrs.

Volunteering hours



UN sustainability development goals supported: #4 Quality Education, and #17 Partnerships for the goals



In 2024, the PM4L team proudly conducted five workshops at **Mount St. Joseph Girls' College** and **Sirius Girls' College**, equipping students with essential project management skills. There were over 180 students who attended these workshops in 2024, learning key concept project management, scope/WBS, risk management, stakeholder engagement, and communications

Through hands-on activities like **treasure hunts** and **tower building** with paper cups and paddle pop sticks, students explore the key project concepts of managing time, scope, and project constraints, along with risk and stakeholder management, leaving participants with practical knowledge and a sense of achievement.

PM4L Program Highlights

Growing Demand from Schools

The PM4L program continues to expand! Since 2014, our workshops have gained immense popularity, with many schools requesting repeat sessions. This reflects the growing recognition of the value we bring to students and teachers alike.

Flagship Success Stories

The PM4L team has delivered workshops at Mount Saint Joseph girls school in the Western suburbs for 6 years, led by Mark Bozovic and championed by MSJ Year 9 coordinator.

Our workshops are not limited to Year 9 school students; we have also delivered to university students attending RMIT, and we've mentored University students competing in the Formula SAE-A competition.

Every single volunteer on the PM4L team is a success story! Every volunteer is a project professional who has brought their own unique experience to the classroom personalising the examples they use whilst developing their own leadership, presentation, and education skills.



PM4L winning the project of the year award, sustainability category at Project Control Expo 26-27 Nov, MCG

The PM4L team's commitment to expanding the program has ensured a lasting and positive impact on students' futures, aligning with core values of sustainability and community service. PM4L met the criteria: - Alignment with UN Sustainability Development Goal (Goal 4) - Innovative approach to education - Demonstrated impact and measurable success - Scalability and reach - Community and volunteer engagement - Commitment to continuous improvement - Core values and leadership References.



Get Involved!

Want to join us in making a difference? Sign up as a volunteer, partner with us, or request a workshop for your school by contacting us on pm4l@melbourne.pmi.org.au

PM4L Volunteers (2024)

Thank you to all our volunteers and supporters through out the journey. Without you, we would not have come this far.

Ai Ling Lee, Amit Merwar, Guinevere Gilbert, Jasdeep Singh, Jessica Borg, John Lam, Jyoti Dandona, Maanav Kapoor, Mark Bozovic, Misha Lotze, Mun Teng Wong, Nick Reynolds, Ridhima Young, Selin Isik, Shobhit Mathur, Sonia Mateus, Vanathy Shasitharan, Vanessa Ashokkumar, Vijay Sha, Vikki Kapoor



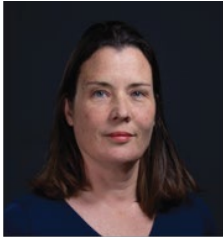
Closing Message:

Thank you for being part of the PM4L community! Together, we are shaping a sustainable future by instilling essential project management skills and values in the next generation.

Stay connected with us for updates, stories, and upcoming events.

Best regards,

Vik Kapoor and Guinevere Gilbert



Women In Project Management (WIPM) Volunteer Spotlight: Sumedha, Katherine, and Naomi Share Their Journeys of Impact

BY DIVYA PASUPULETI, WIPM SPONSOR AND PMC VICE PRESIDENT

In this edition, we celebrate three inspiring women in project management—Sumedha, Katherine, and Naomi—who have made significant contributions to the Women in Project Management (WIPM) community through volunteering. Each brings unique perspectives and valuable experience, enriching the community. They share their stories, challenges, and the personal rewards of giving back, reminding us of the power of community, compassion, and the lasting impact of collective effort.

Sumedha: Empowering Women in Project Management

Sumedha's journey into volunteering is rooted in her desire to support and uplift other women in project management. Recognizing the challenges women face in this field, she saw volunteering as an opportunity to contribute to a community focused on empowering women through meaningful initiatives.

Volunteering has provided Sumedha with personal growth and valuable connections. As a new migrant to Australia, it helped her improve project coordination and collaboration skills while offering a platform to network with industry professionals. Though managing event logistics as a newcomer was challenging, Sumedha received strong support from the WIPM team, building her confidence with each event.

A standout moment for Sumedha occurred at her first PMI Melbourne chapter event in 2023, where she was inspired by the volunteer appreciation. This recognition motivated her to get involved, and being appreciated in the same way has continued to inspire her.

Sumedha's advice to those considering volunteering: "Small efforts can lead to great outcomes. Every volunteer project offers new learning experiences and connects you to a community with a meaningful purpose."



Katherine: Finding Purpose and Confidence through Volunteering

Katherine volunteers to make a difference and help others overcome challenges similar to those she has faced as a member of several minority groups. She wanted to be part of something bigger, serving a purpose and supporting others in similar situations.

The most rewarding part of volunteering has been the sense of community and shared purpose. Balancing volunteering with work and personal time can be challenging, but Katherine appreciates the support from her colleagues. Volunteering has boosted her confidence, especially in areas like public speaking, where she never thought her story would interest others, but was encouraged to share her experiences on a panel.



A memorable moment for Katherine came when she attended a professional event with a friend from the group, brainstorming ways to bring about positive change. Katherine is motivated by the group, the purpose of the initiative, and the impact on event attendees.

Her advice to first-time volunteers: “Throw yourself into it, be open to new things, and use it as a learning experience. Volunteering offers real-world experience that can lead to unexpected places.”

Naomi McLean: Empowering Women Through Collaborative Leadership

Naomi was motivated to volunteer to make a tangible impact with her experience as a Project and PMO Leader. She joined PMI’s Women in Project Management to promote gender equality and empower women by providing tools and support to build their project management skills and confidence.

The most rewarding part of volunteering has been working with inspiring women who share her passion for empowering others. Naomi values the collaborative support of the WIPM team and the positive impact they’re making in Melbourne.



A memorable moment for Naomi was moderating a panel, where she overcame initial nerves by focusing on serving the attendees. Naomi is continually inspired by the mission and the feedback from volunteers and event attendees. Her advice: “Know your values, identify how you want to serve, and find an opportunity that aligns with your goals.”

My Closing Thoughts

Sumedha, Katherine, and Naomi exemplify the transformative power of volunteering—both for personal growth and for creating lasting change. Their stories highlight the importance of community, collaboration, and the meaningful impact of empowering women in the field of project management. If you’re considering volunteering, let their experiences inspire you to dive in and be part of something bigger than yourself. You never know where it might take you!



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.



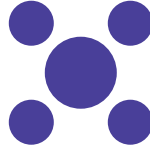
COLLABORATION

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.



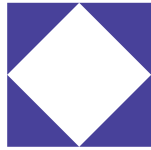
GROWTH

Change and transformation, while at times unfamiliar, spur progress. Whether it's skill development or organizational 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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Martin Sanchez
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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 Editorial Team

The December 2024 Newsletter has been prepared by the PMI Melbourne Chapter Editorial Team:

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