

OUR COMMUNITY matters



ourcommunity.com.au
Where not-for-profits go for help

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Our Community Matters is your free community sector update, brought to you by **Our Community** – Australia's centre for excellence for the nation's 600,000 not-for-profits and schools, providing advice, tools, resources and training.

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Inside:

- What will your legacy be?
Vale Joan Kirner ...3
- Great grant 4
- Taxonomy project kicks off:
we need you! 5
- Behold the public speaking pyramid 6
- Not-for-Profit Assist hotline
revolutionises the legal sector 7
- Need to know: Your two-minute NFP
news digest 8
- WA council seeks to ease the admin
burden 9
- Volunteering round-up 9
- Women, boost your super-powers10
- Good reads: Exclusive subscription
offer 11
- Tools you can use: graphic generator... 11
- Blogs we love: The Brookfield Group ...12
- Readership survey: Tell us what you
really think 12
- Good reads: Playing in the Puddles13
- Social enterprises, step up and be
counted 13
- Upskill: Upcoming training and events
... 14
- Community calendar: What's on in the
NFP sector 15
- Board matching service 16
- Good moves: Not-for-profit jobs 16



How to get more out of your annual report

It's annual reporting season again. But if all your organisation's report does is to tick off your obligations in the most economical way you can, then you're missing a great opportunity. Your annual report is another chance to show appreciation to your supporters, promote your mission, and share what you've already done to make a difference. [Disruptive Media](#) offers these tips for getting maximum value out of it.





1. Make your annual report an all-rounder

Your annual report can be a multi-purpose publication that works as a marketing tool across the entire year, so you get maximum mileage from the time and money you've invested in it. This type of report can help you strengthen your brand, raise your profile, improve fundraising opportunities and connect with the people you want to reach.

2. Go digital

Many organisations publish their annual reports online. Not only does this save on printing and distribution costs, it also seriously extends the value of what you're producing. Creating a digital report opens up opportunities to reuse content across social media, allowing you to extend your reach and share your story with a wider audience.

3. Find a theme

Giving your annual report a theme is a great way to make it more memorable. The theme will guide the style of writing, photo selection and overall design. Using a theme keeps your message consistent and binds the report together. It also makes for much more interesting reading.

4. Create a story

People love stories. There's something incredibly powerful about a personal account that just can't be matched by

cold facts and figures. So look for ways to thread stories throughout your report. Quotes, interviews and short stories are great ways to show how you've made a difference. Remember, too, that stories don't have to be confined to print – videos make compelling, highly shareable content.

5. Use quality photos

Just as a good yarn is irresistible, so too do photos have spectacular pulling power. Well-placed photos break up large chunks of text and can breathe life into an otherwise dull report. Photos also connect with people on an emotional level, which can help them to better relate to what your organisation is about. The visual story of your annual report is just as important as the words, so it's worth investing in good-quality photos throughout the year. As a bonus, of course, you can get extra mileage out of great photos in your other communications too.

Design Studio Disruptive Media specialises in cost-effective, strategic, integrated communications for community-focused organisations. Visit www.disruptivemedia.com.au.

Our Community offers more tips on getting maximum value from your annual report at www.ourcommunity.com.au/marketing/marketing_article.jsp?articleId=1610.

What will your legacy be? Vale Joan Kirner

By Denis Moriarty, Group Managing Director, Our Community



Joan Kirner died last month.

Nobody under the age of 30 will remember the time when she was premier of Victoria, doing her damndest to keep the Labor Party competitive in the teeth of its customary death wish and the continual vilification of the Murdoch press. Many of you, however, will know of the legacy she built after she lost the 1992 election – her work in getting women into federal and state parliaments through Emily's List, and her work for social justice (commemorated in the [Joan Kirner Social Justice Oration](#) delivered every year at the Communities in Control conference).

Human beings rely on imposing meaning on the world, and then living in a way that's consistent with that meaning. If we see life as simply a chance to get fat and happy, we really don't flourish. We can manage the fat bit, but the happiness eludes us.

Making payroll is important (vital, indeed). Being on good terms with people is important (and being loved by some is vital). To be complete, though, you must believe that you make a difference – that you're moving the world around you in the right direction.

Joan Kirner achieved great things as premier of Victoria, as a feminist, as an educationalist, and as a parent and partner.

Walking out of Joan's memorial service I heard one old geezer say to another, "Well, we certainly wasted our lives, didn't we?"

You can see what he meant, but I don't think Joan would have seen that as the way to go from here. If you want to leave that kind of legacy, or any kind of legacy at all, you've got to take a number of bad habits out of your pocket and drop them in the nearest recycling bin, and the first to go has to be "If only I'd started 10/20/50 years ago, I could have.... But now..."

Joan knew that the time to start doing what needs doing is precisely now. And the things that really, really need doing are the things that will make up your legacy.

What exactly those things are is different for every one of us, of course. What do you feel passionately about? What needs to change? Which injustices, specifically, do you find impossible to tolerate? Which wrongs have fallen into your path?

Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, the Old Testament tells us, do it with all thy might. There's a task set for you that's been waiting for you to come along. If you pay attention to your own life, you can learn what it is.

GREAT GRANT: Holden Home Ground Advantage

Provider: Holden

Purpose: The Holden Home Ground Advantage project aims to help grass roots sport by giving local clubs the chance to upgrade their facilities.

Overview: Home Ground Advantage provides local sporting clubs with the chance to invest in clubrooms, sporting grounds, equipment or general facilities so they can continue to be a part of the Australian way of life.

Twice a year for 10 years, Holden will provide \$250,000 worth of grants to sporting clubs who need assistance – that's \$500,000 every year for 10 years, and a total of \$5 million.

Eligible clubs can apply for money through Home Ground Advantage for projects or equipment that will make life

easier for members and supporters. For example, you might want to make improvements to your clubrooms, install new hot showers or a new scoreboard, or purchase new sporting equipment that will help your team perform at its best on the field.

A club can apply for a grant of up to \$10,000 (multiple grants of up to this amount will be awarded). In addition, Holden will offer one grant of up to \$100,000 in each round. Clubs are welcome to submit separate applications for both grants.

Applications for the current round close on Monday August 31.

→ [Find out more](#) [Funding Centre member-only access]



Grant Guru says

Sorry, but Stalin had it right: a single death is a tragedy; a million deaths is a statistic.

When you're making your case with personal stories, zero in on one case, one person, one face. Or add another one and watch your impact disappear.

Lights, camera, funding

Holden urges grant applicants to support their application with video. Raw footage of young Ruby or Ahmed shivering on the field in winter might be what it takes to score your under-12s a brand new indoor stadium.

Watch national netball champ Kim Green make her case here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gFyF2VYL8-c>.

Taxonomy project kicks off: we need you!

Subject matter experts and data geeks are being sought for a groundbreaking project to get everyone working on social change in Australia and New Zealand to adopt a shared language.

We're looking for not-for-profit organisations, grantmakers and others working towards social change to contribute to the implementation of a taxonomy project being led by Our Community.

Our Community is working with the Foundation Center in the United States to adapt its taxonomy, which has been developed over decades, to the Australian context. Once implemented, the taxonomy will be available to users of Our Community's grantmaking software, SmartyGrants.

The Foundation Center's Philanthropy Classification System (PCS) seeks to apply a shared language in answer to the following questions about the flow of money to social change projects:

Who?

- Who will benefit from the support? What is the population served (e.g. children and youth, families, LGBTQI people, immigrants)?

What?

- What is the subject of the support? (e.g. arts and culture, education, environment)

- What type of organisation is receiving the support? (e.g. charity, local government, business, school, religious institution)

How?

- What is the support strategy? (e.g. capacity building, capital and infrastructure, advocacy and reform, research and evaluation)
- What is the transaction type? (e.g. cash grant, matched grant, loan, contract, in-kind gift, pro bono services)

Where?

- What is the geographic area served? (e.g. Balwyn, Vic; Balmain, NSW; Busselton, WA)

We're seeking volunteers to cast an eye over aspects of the taxonomy (e.g. arts organisations to check out the list of 67 arts and culture subcategories). The aim is to apply a logic and context test to ensure the taxonomy will work in Australia and New Zealand.

To find out more about the Foundation Center project, go to <http://taxonomy.foundationcenter.org/>.

If you're interested in helping to bring this to Australia and New Zealand, please contact Kathy Richardson by emailing kathyr@ourcommunity.com.au.

Behold the public speaking pyramid

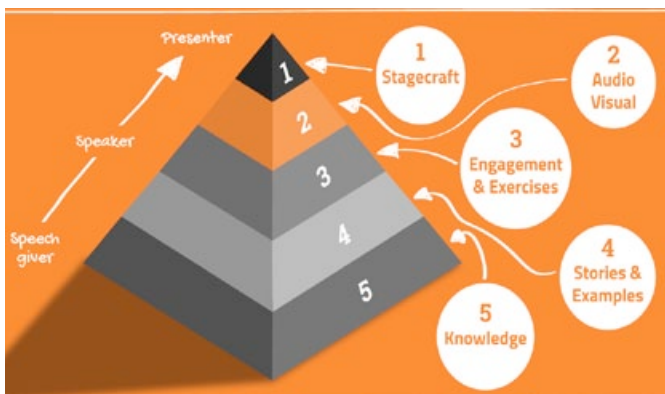
A new guide to public speaking just released by Hootville Communications says *scripts are for actors, unicycling has its place on stage, and everyone loves a tart*. Hootville head honcho Brett de Hoedt offers a taste of his free e-book *Speak Savvy*.

There's a lot of public speaking advice out there (our new free e-book *Speak Savvy*, for instance) and no wonder – many people loathe the thought of a quick presentation to workmates. A keynote presentation to 1000 peers is enough to render many mute and let's not even mention speaking to media.

That's a shame because presenters who are engaging, confident and knowledgeable are seen as smarter, better leaders and are more likely to get their way compared to people of equal experience and IQ who cannot command attention. That's showbiz.

Knowledge

So what makes a "good speaker" "good"? Well we took a cue from nutritionists who – like the Egyptians – created a pyramid long ago that still gets referred to today. Say hello to the public speaking pyramid.



It all starts with knowledge. Note the lack of whole grains, dairy or legumes in this pyramid.

The good news is that being a strong speaker is all based on knowledge. Many speakers and speaker trainers tacitly believe that it's possible to compensate for a lack of real knowledge and specific experience with some YouTube videos, a loud voice and a silly ice-breaking activity. It isn't.

Knowledge is more than facts – it's what you and you alone can explain. It's your experiences and perspectives. If your content is compelling, robust and valuable nobody regrets the missing videos, dramatic pauses or audience participation. Nobody misses the entrance and exit music when the speaker is smart and helpful. So be smart and helpful.

Consider this range of responses to this question:

So how was the speaker today, dear?

Option A:

"Super confident and he had all these cool graphics but I don't know what makes him an expert in waste water treatment. We all knew as much as he did."

Option B:

"Yeah – pretty good. Not exactly a bundle of laughs but there was nothing about waste water the guy didn't know. I learnt some stuff for sure."

Stories & examples

Your knowledge needs to be brought to life. It must be transferred; given colour and be made comprehensible. Great public speakers liberally pepper their stagetime with examples and stories which are selected to be representative, memorable and moving.

Of all the content you deliver on stage, your stories and examples are most likely to stay with audiences after the show. Good speakers take time to find examples that hit home with audiences. Note – the stories don't have to be about you. They needn't be long – they might be more a personal reflection or reminiscence.

Do you use examples or stories? Do they illuminate? Have you practised how you tell them? We guarantee every speaker we train that we can improve their stories and examples.

Why stories? Empathy is in short supply. Humans presume their own lives to be complex but others peoples' situation to be simple. The right story or example will reveal nuance. It might drill down and highlight the moment something changed. Stories and examples, like [this one](#) from leading introvert Susan Cain, might inject some humour or humanity. It should offer you a way to explain something beyond just straight talking. Stories help your messages sink in.

Consider this range of responses:

How was that speaker at work today dear?

Option A:

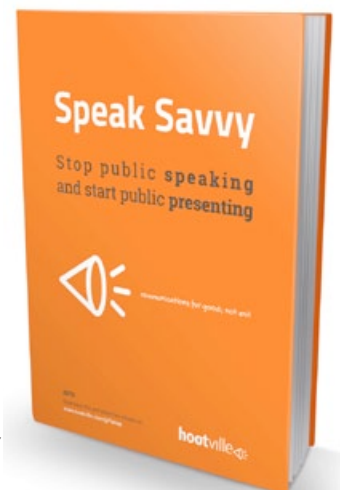
"Not bad. Total expert in her field – nothing she didn't know about recruiting staff but I don't know exactly how any of it was particularly relevant to me."

Option B:

"Not bad. Total expert in her field – nothing she didn't know about recruiting staff. She gave us this case study of a business that is a lot like us.

The company went from employer of last resort to an employer of choice. There was definitely stuff I can use."

Read on: To find out Brett's take on audience engagement, exercises, audio and visual props, and stagecraft, check out [his whole blog post](#). To download your free copy of *Speak Savvy*, [click here](#).



Not-for-Profit Assist hotline revolutionises the legal sector

Not-for-Profit Assist (NFP Assist), a new membership service just launched by Our Community and Moores, is revolutionising not-for-profit organisations' access to affordable legal advice.

NFP Assist members get direct access to the expertise of lawyers who have extensive and specialised knowledge in the not-for-profit sector, and who are committed to providing relevant, targeted and practical information and guidance.

Moores partner Catherine Brooks, one of the program's founders, said NFP Assist came about in response to needs experienced by many not-for-profits.

"The legal sector is entrenched in stern tradition, which, frankly, just wasn't working for us and our clients," she said. "We recognised a real gap in the sector and knew we could help. We're making legal services easier and more affordable and that's really exciting."

Our Community group managing director Denis Moriarty described the service as a truly groundbreaking initiative.

"It's good for not-for-profit organisations, it's good for the people they serve, it's good for society and it's good for Moores," he said. "Lots of people talk about 'shared value', but this is actually it. It signals the beginning of disruption in the legal field – a long-overdue disruption – and it's Australian not-for-profit organisations that are going to reap the benefits."

Peak body Alzheimer's Australia Vic was one of the first organisations to sign up for NFP Assist. Human resources advisor Robyn Turner said the charity, which represents Victorians affected by dementia, has already benefited.

"Working with the team at Moores over the past two years has proven to be highly valuable for Alzheimer's Australia Vic," she said. "The addition of Not-for-Profit

Assist has allowed us to further expand that relationship in a way that works within our budget, which is crucial in an NFP setting. The most valuable aspect of our relationship with Moores is their personalised approach. Catherine in particular has gone the extra mile to get to know our organisation and its culture and has tailored her approach to fit our individual style. This has helped us deliver great outcomes for staff and management in what can be quite tricky and delicate situations. I highly recommend Not-for-Profit Assist and Moores to any organisation looking to add an invaluable resource to their employee/industrial relations toolkit."

The executive minister at CityLife Church, Peter Leigh, said the subscription-style service had made it easier than ever for the Melbourne-based religious organisation to access legal advice.

"Moores have been our legal advisers for over 25 years and their counsel and advice has always been valuable," he said. "The introduction of NFP Assist lowers the threshold for us to seek advice and to be clear on our legal position. We don't have to think first about how much it will cost to get expert and timely advice, we just call Moores at any time, on any matter, and it's all included in the annual subscription. The NFP Assist service has been brilliant for us and we would highly recommend it."

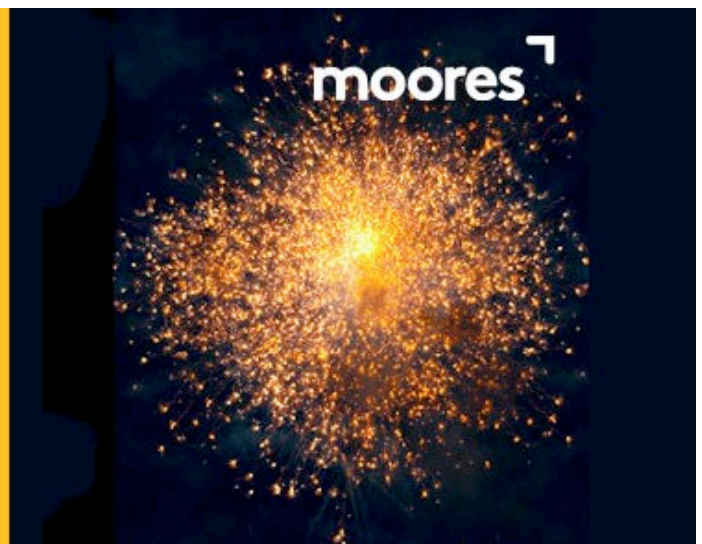
Moores offers silver, gold and platinum subscriptions of three, six or 12 months. Prices start at \$500 and range up to \$1900 for 12 months of platinum service, which includes 24/7 emergency legal support. There is no limit on the number of calls members can make to NFP Assist, and no limit to the number of people from an organisation who can access the service.

For full details of NFP Assist, visit www.communitydirectors.com.au/icda/nfpassist.

Not-for-Profit Assist

Legal Membership Service:
Direct access to the expertise of lawyers who have extensive knowledge of the not-for-profit sector

> FIND OUT MORE



NEED TO KNOW: Your Two-Minute NFP News Digest

A wealth of data

“Inequality should not be seen as inevitable. It is a question of choice by governments.”

– Dr Cassandra Goldie

The CEO of the Australian Council of Social Service releases the report *Inequality in Australia: A Nation Divided*, saying equality in Australia is trending in the wrong direction.

→ [Full Story](#)

Men of honour

“It is disappointing to see that again... there are twice as many men as women, especially since the honours are by and large appointed for unpaid work, or for work outside of paid employment. You would expect women to be shining.”

– Merle Thornton OM

The women’s rights campaigner recognised in the Queen’s Birthday honours list says one reason female nominations for the awards are still low is that Australians don’t know or understand the nomination process. Last month, seven of the eight most prestigious honours, the Companion of the Order of Australia (AC), were awarded to men. Our Community has long campaigned for women to be empowered to take their place on honours lists – see our booklet [Advancing Women: Women and the Order of Australia](#) for more information on the nomination process.

→ [Full story](#)

Brains trust

“The next generation of philanthropists want to be far more hands on and engaged than their predecessors. Non-profits should be ensuring that they are ready to tap into this desire, using supporters for their skills and intellect, as well as their dollars”

– Chris Wilson

The director of philanthropy and social capital at Koda Capital provides a snapshot of the changing not-for-profit landscape in the *2015 Koda Capital Non-Profit Sector Review*.

→ [Read the report](#)

Surveying poverty

“Individuals spent 59% of their total income per week on accommodation expenses. Therefore, individuals spent \$180 per week on accommodation and had less than \$125 a week left (\$17.86 per day) to live on.”

– *National Economic & Social Impact Survey 2015*

The Salvation Army’s latest report says the situation for too many disadvantaged Australians is reflected in one survey respondent’s comment: “I can’t continue to live like this”.

→ [Full story](#)

Doing it for the koalas

“The only political agenda we have is saving koalas and our commitment of time, energy and resources is free; however, we rely on the generosity of others to make a difference and your government’s help in this would be much appreciated. Please don’t penalise legitimate groups such as ours in this manner.”

– Vanda Grabowski

The president/secretary of Koala Action Inc is one of more than 670 groups and individuals who have made submissions to the House of Representatives inquiry into the Register of Environmental Organisations (REO). The overwhelming majority are opposed to changes that would see green groups lose their deductible grant recipient (DGR) status.

→ [Read all submissions](#)

Attorney-General’s Department under fire

“It was common for the department to complete its assessment of applications without fully addressing each criterion, and without having obtained sufficient information from the applicant.”

– Australian National Audit Office

An ANAO report on the awarding of funding under the Safer Streets program finds that the federal Attorney-General’s Department made some bloopers. The department has agreed to make changes to future grants rounds.

→ [Full story](#)

ACNC: the undead

“2018–19 forward estimate, ACNC special account: \$13,227,000.”

– Australian Taxation Office Budget Statements

The future of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission looks solid following the federal government’s about-face in its May budget. Having previously announced its intention to abolish the charity regulator, the government has now allocated funding through to June 2019.

→ [Full story](#)

Thank God for the Auditor-General

“The feeling of our organisation was that this placed enormous pressure and stress on our meagre resources for preparing submissions of such magnitude and with such serious implications for our future viability to continue to serve in a space where we have had a proven track record for such a long time.”

– Salvation Army

The Salvation Army’s submission to a Senate committee inquiry into Department of Social Services tendering processes was one of many critical of the scheme. In response, the committee’s interim report recommends the Auditor-General update official guidelines in a bid to prevent a repeat of the problems that plagued the scheme.

→ [Full story](#)

Charity delistings gather pace

“Deliberately or otherwise, these charities have not completed their reporting dating back more than two years, and we have a duty to the public to ensure that only charities that meet their obligations maintain charity status.”

– Susan Pascoe

The ACNC commissioner says the number of charities delisted for twice failing to meet their reporting obligations has reached close to 5500.

→ [Full story](#)

WA council seeks to ease the admin burden

One Perth council is looking towards making administration services available to not-for-profit organisations, helping to free them up to get on with their mission of servicing the community.

The City of Swan takes in north-eastern suburbs of Perth. Mayor Charlie Zannino said a recent council study showed that not-for-profits in the area were concerned about the burden of their administration costs.

“The study revealed that accommodation needs are a concern in terms of appropriate space, location and rental costs, but a big emphasis has been placed on administration costs that not-for-profits incur,” he said.

In response, the City is researching a model that would see the establishment of an independent not-for-profit organisation funded purely to undertake the administration responsibilities of other not-for-profits.

In the US, organisations such as [Goodcity](#) in Chicago provide back-office administrative services including financial management and IT help to not-for-profits.

The City of Swan is on a fact-finding mission and would love to hear from anyone who knows of any such organisation that already exists in Perth or elsewhere in Australia. The City is also keen to hear from anyone with a view on how such an organisation might be established in Perth, what form it might take, and how it might be funded.

If you can help, please email the council's manager of lifespan services, Trish McCourt, by Monday August 3: trish.mccourt@swan.wa.gov.au.

Volunteering round-up



National Volunteering Conference: call for abstracts

Volunteering Australia invites potential presenters to submit abstracts for the next National Volunteering Conference, to be held in Canberra next year, April 6–8. The conference enables not-for-profit leaders, volunteer managers, policy makers and corporate representatives to come together to advance volunteering. Presenters are invited to submit abstracts on the themes of knowledge, innovation, networks and leadership. To register for the conference or submit an abstract, go to www.2016nationalvolunteeringconference.com.au.

Victorian volunteer award nominations open

Nominations are now open for Victoria's first State Volunteering Awards. The winners will be announced at Parliament House in Melbourne on November 5. Award criteria, nomination forms and key dates are available here: <http://volunteeringvictoria.org.au/about-state-awards/>.

'Quality mark' system to be developed for volunteering sector

Volunteering Australia plans to develop a 'quality mark' system to accompany new national volunteering standards. The certification will be voluntary, flexible and tiered, and will enable organisations to measure their progress in implementing the new standards.

The new National Standards for Volunteer Involvement were launched in May, the first time the standards have changed since 2001.

“Since then the Australian work environment has changed considerably, including changes to the Work Health and Safety Act covering volunteers,” said the CEO of Volunteering SA & NT, Evelyn O’Loughlin, who led the development of the new standards.

“Volunteers’ expectations and attitudes have also changed over time. They have stronger views on how they expect to engage with an organisation, and how they expect to be treated by an organisation to which they commit their time and skills.

“Significantly, the volunteer sector has also changed in that time, having adopted a professional approach towards volunteer management.”

Women, boost your super-powers



Women haven't always enjoyed the same access to superannuation as men. In fact, as recently as the 1970s, some women were excluded from super schemes when they got married.

Super rights for women have improved since then, yet many of us continue to miss out on valuable super benefits.

On average, women are still paid less than their male counterparts. What's more, women are much more likely than men to take time out from the paid workforce to care for family, and much more likely to work part-time, meaning they accumulate less super than men.

Coupled with the late introduction of compulsory super in 1992, these factors have left many working women at a disadvantage when it comes to their super savings.

That's why it's so important for women to take a proactive approach to managing their super. If you're feeling your super could be in better shape, here are six nifty tips for boosting your balance. (Pssst: men can use them too.)

1. Find lost super

There are billions of super dollars in lost or forgotten accounts. So if you've ever changed jobs, there's

a chance some of this money could be yours. HESTA members can use HESTA's simple online super search tool to locate super accounts in their name. It's a quick four-step process – you'll need your tax file number. Go to hesta.com.au/superfinder.

2. Combine multiple accounts

If you have more than one super account, consider consolidating. Having just one account can help you save on unnecessary fees which can eat away at your balance over time. It's easy to roll your accounts into HESTA. Simply download a rollover form from hesta.com.au/rollover and send it to your old funds (they may ask you to provide proof of identity). Remember to consider the benefits of each of your funds (such as insurance) to work out which fund suits your needs best.

3. Get free money from the government

If you're eligible, the government will add 50 cents to every \$1 you contribute (after tax) to your super, up to a maximum of \$500. In the 2015–16 financial year, the maximum co-contribution reduces with every dollar you earn over \$35,454, and cuts out after \$50,454. Visit hesta.com.au/cocontribution to find out more.

4. Top up with a tax refund

Expecting a tax refund in the next couple of months? Investing it in super can be a tax-effective way to save. By topping up early, you can make the most of the benefits of compound interest (interest earned on interest). Even \$20 a week can make a big difference when you retire. And if you're eligible, a tax return paid into super may also attract a free top-up from the government in the form of the co-contribution we've already mentioned.

5. Pay rise? Use it to boost your balance

Consider contributing some of your higher salary into super. Or if you get a bonus, think about putting some of it straight into super to boost your savings.

6. Sacrifice some salary

Salary sacrifice means asking your employer to redirect some of your salary towards super. This way, depending on your salary, it's likely you'll receive a tax break on the amount you contribute (you'll pay only 15%), and you'll be giving your super a handy boost as well. Even small regular amounts add up over time.

Most of HESTA's 800,000 members are women, so the fund's superannuation advisers, member education managers and financial planners understand the challenges women face in building their super. Find out more at hesta.com.au/advice.

This article is brought to you by HESTA, an Our Community partner.





GOOD READS
★★★★

Exclusive subscription offer



Two of Australia’s quality news publications – *The Saturday Paper* and *The Monthly* – are offering a 20% discount exclusively for people who work in or volunteer with not-for-profit organisations.

The discount applies to any new subscription to *The Saturday Paper*, *The Monthly*, or both. You’ll get:

- Politics, society and culture – the stuff you really care about
- Australia’s best long-form reading and writing
- An independent voice, offering agenda-setting views, with frank and fearless debate
- Essential reading for anyone who thinks about and cares deeply about their community
- Articles you’ll return to again and again, and share with your friends

Here’s a taster of articles and essays. If you like what you read, subscribe!

- [The Hidden Shame of Domestic Violence and a Failing System](#) – Martin McKenzie-Murray

- [Two Cultures and a Baby: On Pregnancy and Birth, Tradition and Family](#) – Alice Pung
- [Inside Peter Dutton’s Asylum-Seeker Endgame](#) – Mike Secombe
- [Remote Control: Ten Years of Struggle and Success in Indigenous Australia](#) – Noel Pearson
- [Home Truths: The Costs and Causes of Domestic Violence](#) – Jess Hill

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Tools you can use: graphic generators

The huge number of free graphic tools now available online makes it easier than ever to add visual interest to your newsletters, marketing materials and web pages. We’ve just added a selection of the latest tools to our own website – [click here](#) to read our article on sign generators, newspaper clipping generators, custom tombstone makers and more.



The Brookfield Group ♥

London-based social investment consultant Jake Hayman is trying to save the world – but like all of us, he has the occasional bad day. Such as the day in April when he wrote this post:

“I’m done. I’ve spent 10 years working in the charity sector and my conclusion is that the organisations that finance it are so bad at their jobs, that they make the rest of us bad at ours.

“I’ve been working for too long with people trying to achieve great things for the world and watching them degrade themselves at the feet of foundations whose structures turn brilliant thinkers into fundraisers and who reduce a highly complex world into amateur box-ticking. I’m done.

“It’s soul destroying, wasteful, embarrassing and I’ve been a part of it for too long. I’m part of the problem.

“Imagine a world where service users, charities, foundations, researchers, academics, frontline workers, public sector experts, commissioners and regulators were aligned and working together effectively as partners. After 10 years I’ve realised how far we are from actually achieving this.

“We need a new model for funding charities that is better than Victorian style philanthropy excused by reductionist, unbenchmarked and often corrupted ‘impact assessments’. I know it’s possible because there are some brilliant grant-makers out there – people who have transformed society with funding because they were brave, educated, understood the communities they wished to serve and were prepared to take responsibility and risks. Because they cared enough not to let great potential fail.”

To read more – including Jake’s insights into 19 things foundations do but shouldn’t, and his own retraction of some of the above – go to <https://brookfieldgroup.wordpress.com/2015/04/>.

Readership survey: tell us what you *really* think

Last issue, we asked what you think of *Our Community Matters* – this newsletter you’re reading right now. And you told us:

- “Stop pushing left-wing views and agendas and get some political balance in your magazine.”
- “Generally it is too long and I don’t read because too much to review. To have a hard short and sharp copy posted to me may help me to snatch a few minutes to read up.”
- “Keep it Australian. I switch off when readings are international.”
- “More frequent, shorter, less self-advertising, more character.”
- “It’s almost purrfect. Have I won a kitten?”

Actually, so far, the majority of feedback indicates that we’re on the right track. Overwhelmingly, most readers like the PDF format and the frequency (every two months). Great Grant, What We Reckon, News Digest and Community Calendar lead the way as the most popular regular features. Relatively few readers are interested in overseas community sector news or profiles of people in the sector.

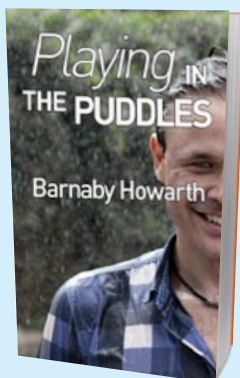
Have *your* say. Our readership survey is still open online [here](#), and we welcome all feedback – the good, the bad and the ugly*. It’ll take 5–10 minutes of your time and we’ll be forever grateful.

[Take the survey now](#). Thanks.

**Ugly feedback will be re-directed to the Our Community compost heap for repurposing as valuable garden enrichment.*



GOOD READS



“Playing in the Puddles”



Barnaby Howarth (front) with current and former AFL players Troy Luff, Adam Goodes, Mark Livi and Jude Bolton, and Troy Luff's son Mitchell.

Barnaby Howarth shared the story of his journey from AFL footballer to stroke survivor to “normal life” with a hushed room full of delegates at Our Community’s annual conference Communities in Control earlier this year. Now he’s published his story as a book.

“When I was 14 I was diagnosed with diabetes; when I was 18 I was playing football professionally with the Sydney Swans and when I was 25 I had a stroke,” he says.

“The book describes what happened to lead me to that point and how I learned to cope with the transition from being a fit and healthy athlete to someone who couldn’t stand up unaided.

“It also tells the story of how I fought back from that situation to climb Mount Kilimanjaro, play my 100th AFL game with the Pennant Hills Demons and be inducted into the Sydney AFL Hall of Fame.

“Rain falls on the just and the unjust alike, but there comes a time when you just have to get over it and go and play in the puddles.”

To buy *Playing in the Puddles*, as an e-book or paperback, visit www.amazon.com/Playing-in-the-Puddles-Barnaby-Howarth/dp/192521981X.

Social enterprises, step up and be counted

It’s census time for social enterprises.

Social Traders and the Centre for Social Impact (CSI) Swinburne are undertaking a study that is expected to provide critical insights into the social enterprise movement and inform policy and planning in the government, philanthropic and not-for-profit sectors.

This is the second time such a study has been conducted. Researchers say the first census, held in 2009–10, had a significant impact on the sector.

If you’re involved in a social enterprise, you can help by participating in a 30-minute online survey. Visit <http://opinio.online.swin.edu.au/s?s=FASES>.

UPSKILL: Upcoming Training and Events

Introduction to Writing Winning Grant Applications

In this introductory course, you'll learn the secrets of easily winning more grants for your community organisation or school, and find out how to drastically increase the number of grants you can apply for without pushing yourself (and your group) into an early grave.

Brisbane	3 July
Sydney	31 July
Perth	31 July
Melbourne	3 August
Brisbane	3 August

Advanced Grant Writing Seminar

You've mastered the basics – now it's time to become a grants master. Previous grant training or a role that already involves grant writing is a prerequisite. This advanced seminar will leave you poised to become a sophisticated, successful grantseeker and generate income such as your organisation has never seen before.

Melbourne	5 August
Sydney	7 August
Perth	7 August
Brisbane	11 September

Strategies for Sustainable Funding Seminar

At this half-day seminar for volunteers, staff and fundraisers, learn how donations, community-business partnerships, alumni and membership sources and special events can build a sustainable future for your group. Go beyond grants and future-proof your organisation.

Sydney	31 July
Perth	31 July
Melbourne	3 August
Brisbane	4 September

Secrets of Successful Boards

A healthy committee of management or board is integral to the success of any community organisation. This full-day course will help you to understand your legal and practical responsibilities as a committee/board member, and how you can create a more harmonious, more productive and more effective working group.

Brisbane	2 July
Sydney	30 July
Perth	30 July
Melbourne	4 August
Brisbane	3 September

What .ngo can do for you

What's in a (domain) name? Find out more about the domain .ngo (dot-ngo), which is available only to non-government organisations, at a free event coming soon to Melbourne (Thursday July 16) and Sydney (Friday July 17). Hear firsthand how Australian not-for-profits are using .ngo, learn about the changing domain landscape, and find out how your organisation can benefit from the extra level of trust and credibility that come with the .ngo domain. Reserve your spot at www.enset.ngo/events.

PS – We've heard there'll be give-aways too.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR: What's on in the NFP Sector

GiveNow's online [What's On Calendar](#) features nationally significant events that centre on major community, advocacy and awareness issues in Australia. Events taking place in the next two months include:



JulEYE July 1-31

Get your eyes tested this JulEYE. 75% of vision loss is preventable or treatable if detected early enough, yet every 65 minutes an Australian loses part or all of their vision. The RANZCO Eye Foundation is behind JulEYE, national eye health awareness month.



Dry July July 1-31

Dry July aims to raise awareness of individual drinking habits, promote the value of a balanced healthy lifestyle, invite a personal challenge and encourage positive change.



NAIDOC Week July 5-12

NAIDOC stands for National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee. NAIDOC Week is a time to celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and an opportunity to recognise the contributions that Indigenous Australians make to our country and our society.



Alopecia Awareness Week July 6-12

Variety is championing Alopecia Awareness Week, raising awareness and raising funds to provide wigs to children affected by the condition. You can get involved by donating your hair to be made into a wig or by holding a fundraiser to purchase a wig for a child.



Eid al-Fitr July 18

Eid al-Fitr marks the end of Ramadan. It's a time of charitable giving, peace-making and spiritual renewal.



National Tree Day July 26

Planet Ark is calling for people to connect with nature by getting involved in National Tree Day, Australia's largest tree-planting and nature care event. You can participate by becoming a National Tree Day site coordinator or attending a planting in your local area.



Crazy Hair Day July 24

Crazy Hair Day is a fun way for schools to raise awareness and funds for those living with cystic fibrosis. Anything goes on Crazy Hair Day: teased, coloured, gelled or twisted; wigs and scarves, punk or just plain messy!



Jeans for Genes Day August 7

Jeans for Genes Day is the major fundraising event for the Children's Medical Research Institute, which is on a mission to reduce the number of children born with genetic illnesses.



Tradies National Health Month August 1-31

Tradies National Health Month focuses on educating and engaging tradies on the importance of full body health and safety, with handy tips and hints tailored to the needs of a tradie.

DonateLife Week August 2-9

DonateLife Week is held to promote organ and tissue donation.

Homelessness Prevention Week August 3-9

Homelessness Prevention Week highlights the needs of the 100,000-plus Australians who are homeless on any given night.

Cupcake Day August 17

Cupcake Day is the biggest bake-off in the Southern Hemisphere. Cupcake cooks around Australia bake cupcakes and host a cupcake party to raise funds for the RSPCA.

Book Week August 22-28

Each year, schools and public libraries all over Australia spend a week celebrating books and Australian authors and illustrators, highlighting the importance of reading.

Hearing Awareness Week August 23-29

One in six Australians is deaf, deafblind or hearing impaired, or has a chronic ear disorder. Hearing Awareness Week highlights that hearing health is an important issue for every Australian.

National Meals on Wheels Day August 26

Celebrate the 78,700 volunteers who contribute to their communities via Meals on Wheels.

Publicise Your Event

To add your national event to GiveNow's What's On Calendar, email your information to service@ourcommunity.com.au. We'll publish the details [online](#), and we'll also select a number of events to publicise in *Our Community Matters*.

BOARD MATCHING SERVICE

The board vacancies below are just a small sample of what's currently listed on the Institute of Community Directors Australia website: www.communitydirectors.com.au/icda/board/.

Looking for talented people to contribute to your board or committee? The Institute of Community Directors Australia can promote your vacancy for free to a targeted audience of skilled professionals. Learn more about listing your vacancy: www.communitydirectors.com.au/icda/board/.

National

[ADHD Australia Limited](#)

ADHD Australia Limited is a recently established national peak body. Its vision reflects a collective commitment to reducing stigma and isolation around ADHD and associated issues with an emphasis on improved social and emotional wellbeing of anyone affected by ADHD. It aims to conduct business electronically and allow technology to provide the business platform to increase support into towns, cities, rural and remote areas of Australia.

Multiple board positions are available.

New South Wales

[Mental Health Carers ARAFMI Hunter](#)

ARAFMI Hunter provides one-on-one support to carers and friends of people with mental illness; telephone support; mental health and carer resources, carer workshops and more. It seeks a secretary and a general board member.

Queensland

[Off The Record](#)

The Gold Coast based Off the Record is looking for passionate people interested in setting up a new board to launch a new community project aimed at bringing music artists together in their local communities and across communities. People with experience in music and/or the arts in general, marketing, fundraising, government grants, and secretariat roles are encouraged to apply. Applicants can be based anywhere in Australia.

Tasmania

[Tascare Society for Children](#)

TASCARE believes that families need support in raising their children who have disabilities. It works closely with families to understand their issues and seek solutions. TASCARE has a strong commitment to advocating the rights of young Tasmanians with disabilities and for services and supports which are helpful to families. The organisation seeks a general board member.

Victoria

[Common Equity Housing Ltd](#)

CEHL is a successful not-for-profit registered Victorian Housing Association with the largest asset base in Victoria at over 2,200 properties. CEHL provides affordable housing to over 100 housing co-operatives across Victoria. Co-operative housing is far more than traditional social housing and offers people the opportunity to participate in key decisions about their housing management and typically provides pathways to further education, skills, employment and community involvement. CEHL seeks two board members: one with legal expertise and one with property development expertise. The roles attract a small remuneration fee.

[View all board vacancies](#)

GOOD MOVES: Not-for-profit jobs

If you need to fill a community or non-profit sector role, you need to look at listing your job in Good Moves. For just \$30, your opportunity will be seen online and in print by tens of thousands of Our Community members and supporters – and, quite likely, by the right person for the job.

Post a vacancy here: www.ourcommunity.com.au/jobs/create_vacancy.form

Victoria

[Marketing & Communications Manager – Arts House](#)

City of Melbourne, Vic

[Organisation and Finance Administrator](#)

Visionary Images, Richmond, Vic

[Student Administration Officer](#)

Fitzroy Learning Network Inc, Vic

[Development Coordinator](#)

Hepatitis Victoria, Brunswick, Vic (part-time: 0.4 EFT)

You can browse all job vacancies here: www.ourcommunity.com.au/jobs/list_all_jobs.form



ourcommunity.com.au
Where not-for-profits go for help

- **Fast Forward:** Please feel free to send this newsletter on to other not-for-profit groups you think might benefit from it.
- **Sign up:** Sign up to receive your own copy of *Our Community Matters* at www.ourcommunity.com.au/signup. It's free!
- **Reproduce:** Please feel free to reproduce articles from this newsletter. Please just add a small credit line, "courtesy of www.ourcommunity.com.au" and a direct link to the www.ourcommunity.com.au site if on a webpage.
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Web: www.ourcommunity.com.au