**PMI Sydney Chapter has the X Factor.**

The X Factor is an [Australian television](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Television_in_Australia) reality music competition, based on the [original UK series](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_X_Factor_%28UK%29), to find new singing talent; the winner of which receives a management contract and a [Sony Music Australia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sony_Music_Australia) recording contract. [[1]](#footnote-1)

The PMI Sydney Chapter is part of an amazing Australian collaboration initiative, modelled on global support for Project Management best practices, to promote the art, science and benefit of project management to organisations, communities and individuals; the winners of which receive professional development, participation in a network of likeminded talented professionals, workshops/courses, presentations and committed sponsors. Isn’t it great to always be a winner?

The X Factor consists of four phases: auditions, super boot camp, home visits and live shows. Each judge is assigned one of four categories. [[2]](#footnote-2)

The PMI Sydney Chapter consists of nearly 1800 members, five great sponsors, many partners such as registered education providers, universities, colleges, HR consulting firms and many other organisations and it is orchestrated by thirteen very talented directors of the board, eight unbelievably committed Associate Directors (AD) and many collaborative volunteers.

During 2012, these very same talented directors, committed ADs and collaborative volunteers delivered amazing initiatives such as the non-exhaustive list below:

* Eleven workshops and nine CAPM & PMP exam preparation courses
* Seven corporate visits including (AMP, HP and Dell) collaboration for the delivery of the PMI Canberra Chapter development day
* HR and REP information day
* One executive breakfast
* HR, REP and PMI collaborative event
* Two mentor programs and two volunteer events
* Six meet ups
* Six newsletters and over 40 e-blasts
* Ten events including one off metro (Northwest)
* One WiPM event
* One special event in collaboration with the Canberra Chapter
* Two new sponsors and three renewed sponsors
* Collaborative events with CMI and IIBA
* Changes to the governance processes and procedures
* Establishment of PMI Sydney Chapter Toastmasters Club
* Establishment of the Membership Recognition Program
* Offering the Guest Pass for PMI Members
* Over 20 not-for-profit organisations approached and worked with 6 NFPs

In addition to the above initiatives, the PMI Sydney Chapter received a Recognition of Excellence for Member Services awarded by the Global Project Management Institute. This award was presented to the chapter during the last PMI Leadership Meeting held in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

During the opening session, PMI Chair Peter Monkhouse, BSc(Eng), MBA, PEng, PMP, shared stories of his years of volunteer service with PMI, and spoke about the many good friends he has made over the years. Mr Monkhouse encouraged everyone “to continue learning from each other to develop and deliver strong and lively programs that provide value to PMI members throughout the world.” During the opening session, the PMI President and CEO Mark A. Langley offered insights into PMI, the project management profession and the world at large and encouraged the record-setting 887 PMI leaders from 47 countries to develop and build new relationships during their time in Vancouver. Mr Langley shared an inspiring message that was equal part forward-looking, partnership-oriented, and an appreciation of the volunteers for their considerable and ongoing efforts to provide leadership to PMI and advance the profession.
It is certainly rewarding and gratifying to know that the PMI Sydney Chapter is such a high calibre chapter with outstanding characteristics that can be taken as a benchmark for professional organisations around the world and this is all due to the calibre of our members, volunteers and likeminded sponsors and partners. Thank you!

Furthermore, during 2012, the PMI Sydney Chapter was elected as the first chapter to lead the delivery of the PMI National Conference to be held on May 1-3 2013 at the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre. There have been other PMI conferences in Australia but what makes this conference special is that it is organised entirely by the collaborative approach of the 6 chapters around Australia, with little global sponsorship. It is the PMI Australian community standing for excellence, learning, growth and improvement!

This conference promises to be unique, exciting, innovative and promises to bring high calibre presenters and participants. For the first time Mr Mark Langley will honour Australia with his presence to open the conference and address the audience, government and executives. The conference promises a program with great leaders talking about real challenges and opportunities for portfolio, program and project management and leadership in the 21st century. I would like to take the opportunity to thank the hard work that Joanne Murray, the organising committee and MCI, the event convenor selected to facilitate the conference delivery, for their commitment and determination to deliver an amazing conference. Check out [www.pmi.org.au](http://www.pmi.org.au) for further details.

I am hoping by now you would agree that the PMI Sydney Chapter does have the X Factor and in 2013 it seems that we will be able to repeat it all again with the new board of directors.

Thanks to all those directors, ADs and volunteers who will be leaving the 2012 journey. Your work has been very much appreciated and has made a difference for a great year of achievements. Congratulations and welcome to the new board:

Xxxxxxx, xxxx, xxxxx,

The new board will be meeting on 2nd Feb, 2013 to finalise its composition and announce the new roles.

I thank you for your support, participation and determination to pursue professional excellence by being part of a professional organisation. I will continue on the board as the Immediate Past President and have accepted a position as Director at Large with the New Zealand board of directors in addition to the Public Relations role for the 2013 Conference.

I look forward to seeing you all in the 2013 PMI National Conference at the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre on May 1-3.

1. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\_X\_Factor\_(Australia) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\_X\_Factor\_(Australia) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)