**2013 – An Amazing Year for PMI Sydney Professional Development Portfolio!**

*By Ha Nguyen, PMI Sydney Professional Development Director*

This year we’ve made great strides in the Professional Development Portfolio. With just a few weeks left until Christmas it’s timely to look back on what we’ve achieved in 2013 especially new ideas for member services we were able to provide.

We have delivered this year a record for short courses with 17 short courses and development workshops to 293 participants (47% increase compared to 2012). This includes 14 short courses with new ones such as Leading Virtual Teams, Complex Project Management, Negotiation, Brain-based Leadership, a Risk Management Masterclass with internationally renowned speaker David Hillson (aka The Risk Doctor), and 2 Agile 1-day courses at Sydney Trains. All of our short courses have been well received and attended. Here is just a sample of the great feedback comments we received:

“This is the 3rd course I have done with PMI Sydney-the quality & delivery gets better and better; very enjoyable course”

“Loved it, informative, clear, concise, fun, good balance, relevant”

“Excellent course that was presented very well. I gained a lot of knowledge from the course which I can apply in my day-day work”

We have continued to build strong relationships with other professional organisations and this year we partnered with the Change Management Institute to bring their Change Management Myth-Busting event to our Chapter members at a 50% discount.

We also introduced this year a monthly selection of pre-recorded webinars for members to watch at their own convenience. Carefully selected from 30 PMI Communities of Practice, these webinars allow you to learn about what is happening in the PM world, acquire new skills and earn PDUs at the same time – at no additional cost!!

The Certification preparation team has been busy with updating the material from PMBOK 4th to 5th edition. The new slide pack has been well received. 8 certification preparation classes were delivered this year with a total of 127 participants, a 55% increase from last year.

What is new this year is the launch of a unique career building course underpinning a comprehensive career development program under construction. Developed in partnership with our sponsor PAXUS, the course provides guidance on career advancement, resume development and interviewing techniques. Two courses were held and both were over-subscribed and received great reviews:

*"It was a really good course at this time when the market is slow and (I) learnt very useful tips and techniques".*

Overall it was an amazing year for Professional Development and we are looking to finish 2013 strongly with a pipeline of new ideas such as Lunch and Learn sessions, Online Learning, Agile Certification preparation that we can implement next year.

Thank you for your support this year and special thanks to my Associate Directors Tracy Griffith, Alison Pickering, Alastair Bor and Puneet Grover and their teams for their tireless dedication and effort in making this happen.

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