

ourcommunity.com.au

Where not-for-profits go for help

Certified



Corporation

FIFTEEN YEARS OF IDEAS & INNOVATION

Our Community Group of Enterprises

Our Community is Australia's Centre for Excellence for the nation's 600,000 not-for-profits and schools, providing advice, tools, resources and training.

A multi-award-winning social enterprise, Our Community's offerings include:

OurCommunity.com.au

Plain-language help sheets, tools and books on everything you need to know about running a not-for-profit organisation



ourcommunity.com.au

Institute of Community Directors Australia

Practical and accessible governance training and resources for not-for-profit board members, and those who support them



INSTITUTE OF
COMMUNITY DIRECTORS
AUSTRALIA

GiveNow.com.au

Commission-free donations for Australian not-for-profits; simple, tracked, safe donations for members of the public



GiveNow

Funding Centre

Australia's best grants and fundraising hub



Funding Centre
fundingcentre.com.au

Australian Institute for Corporate Responsibility

Cutting edge community engagement help for businesses

AICR

AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE FOR
CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY

Australian Institute of Grants Management

The best practice network for government, philanthropic and corporate grantmakers



aigm | Australian Institute
of Grants Management

SmartyGrants

Australia's most-used, most-loved and most-useful grantmaking solution – now revolutionising grants across the Asia-Pacific



SmartyGrants

Fifteen Years of Ideas & Innovation

At the dawn of a new century, Australia saw the birth of one of the most exciting and rewarding ventures I have been involved in. Our Community was not just an Australian-first 15 years ago, but a world first.

Its aim was to establish the first hub to cater to every not-for-profit in the nation: big, small, rural, metro, rich, poor – the whole sector in all its technicolour glory.

Most importantly, it would be like no organisation that had gone before it – a for-purpose business, with fundamentally different operating principles and culture, a social justice ethos at its core, and a vision to democratise access to resources for every single community group in Australia, regardless of type or size or mission.

A fundamentally different work culture emerged, a culture that respects its staff's desires for an authentic life balance, and that provides the opportunity to shape the world, and help others to do the same. Our Community's Manifesto speaks more of how the organisation works, and what it believes.

I am proud to have been one of Australia's first social investors (well, the first of the new breed, at least). I was in very good company when I decided to back this very novel and risky venture 15 years ago – I pay special tribute here to my fellow social investors who also saw the vision. Of course, all of this is far more common now; so much so that it's hard to believe that we were breaking virgin ground just 15 years ago.

My fellow board member from day one has been Dr Simon Longstaff, a philosopher and ethicist who has helped us to stay true to our values. I pay tribute to him too.

As the world moves faster and becomes more complex, I continue to be as inspired and energised as I ever was by the mission and vision of Our Community. I have no doubt it is – and will continue to be – one of the nation's great social contributors.



Carol Schwartz AM
Founding Chair

Our Manifesto says it best: "Ready, Fire, Aim". We know we are never going to be perfect – we revel in it, in fact. We have never been seduced by the tranquillising drug of gradualism. We just get on with it.

We are reformers, fighters, catalysers, innovators. We have held tight to our values of justice and we have kept our faith in the worth of contributing to a more equitable world.

It's not hard to come across as totally up yourself when preparing a snapshot of history like this. In truth, skiting does not come naturally to us. In many ways, even after 15 years, it feels as if we are still partly in startup mode – we're still a bit uncomfortable; we can't believe we're still here! But we are. It's real. We're a success.

We've taken risks, we've fought many fights, we've argued for principles, and we've told quite a few people go to buggery. But it's all been worth it – we are now at the top of the mountain, ready to contemplate tackling the next one. And from this high up, it looks even more exciting.

I pay tribute to every person who has worked with us on our journey. There are many. I pay special tribute to my mentor, John B Fairfax, who, with his family and their Foundation, gave 15 Australians each year the chance of a lifetime by supporting The Vincent Fairfax Ethics in Leadership Awards (the authentic ones). Those 18 months gave me space to embrace my passions and dream up the idea of Our Community.

To Simon Longstaff, my friend and the man who gives out gentle wisdom in spades, thanks heaps. And the biggest thanks of all goes to our pioneering social investors and the lead conductor and visionary, Carol Schwartz, a co-conspirator and the nation's greatest Chairperson.

May the revolution continue!



Denis Moriarty
Founder/Group Managing Director

The Highlights



Australia's
first
social
investment

7 pioneering social
investors;
\$1.5m invested

(laying the path which
many have followed)



\$26
million

generated &
reinvested
into building
resources for
not-for-profits



The **first**
Australian
business solely
devoted to
resourcing
not-for-profits

(16 online Centres of
Excellence)



80,000
Members

(November 2014)



Manifesto-
driven

with an eye
on the
bottom line



123,400

not-for-profit
staff & volunteers
educated through
Our Community
training courses



2600

not-for-profit
board
connections
made

(1600 vacancies listed;
2600 applications
facilitated)



90%

of all resources
provided
free of charge

The Highlights



6000
pages
of **capacity-
building
web content**
created



80,000
pages
of **capacity-
building
newsletters**
created and
distributed
(40 million words)



Co-convenor
of **Communities
in Control** with
our partner
CatholicCare:
Australia's largest
community
conference – and
movement



Creator
of the
**Joan Kirner
Social Justice
Oration** and the
**Trawalla Social
Justice Awards**



Catalyst
for a revolution
in **not-for-profit
banking** and
financial literacy

(Partnership with
Australia's leading bank,
Commonwealth Bank)



Initiator
of Australia's first
**no-fee bank
accounts** for
not-for-profits

(now common among
the Big Four banks, and
beyond)



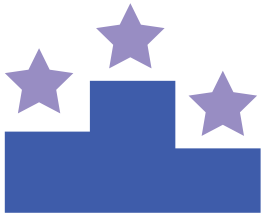
Creator
of the **Treasurers
and Community
Leadership
Awards**



Australia's
only
free Policy Bank

(50+ template policies;
25,500 hours and
\$916,000 saved
for not-for-profits)

The Highlights



Multi-award-
winner
including
Cool Company
Social Capitalist
Award



50
game-changing
books
published



3.9
million
kilometres
travelled training
not-for-profits



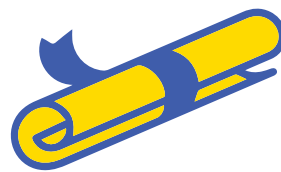
Partner
in a **revolution**
in **not-for-profit**
legal services for
not-for-profits
(Partnership with
convention-busting law
firm, Moores)



Australia's
first
news & capacity
building
newsletter
exclusively for
not-for-profits
12+ years & 100+
editions, & counting



Australia's
only
membership &
training body for
not-for-profit
directors
(Institute of Community
Directors Australia)



Australia's
first
Diploma-level
course
for not-for-profit
directors



Winner
of the first **Prime**
Minister's
Community
Business
Partnership
tender for
not-for-profits and
small to medium
businesses

The Highlights



\$1.3 million

provided to Australia's only commission-free fundraising & giving platform
(GiveNow.com.au)

GiveNow



400,000
donations

\$45 million
collected for **3000**
not-for-profits



\$2.6 million

saved for not-for-profits through foregone donation processing fees
(Our Community Foundation)



Convenor
of **44**
conferences:
spearheading community sector thought leadership



35

incredible, mission-driven, innovative, kind, funny and committed staff



Australia's **first** best practice **membership body** for Australian grantmakers



Inventor of **SmartyGrants**, Australia's most used grantmaking software (now world-wide)
230,913 grant applications processed

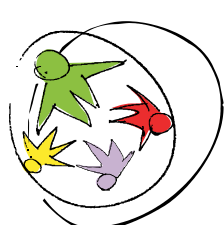


7

enterprises built, sustained and flourishing with impact

OurCommunity.com.au

Where not-for-profits go for help.



ourcommunity.com.au

Australia's Centre for Excellence for the nation's 600,000 not-for-profit groups and schools

OurCommunity.com.au

Where not-for-profits go for help

OurCommunity.com.au is where it all began. The first Our Community enterprise, OurCommunity.com.au was established in 1999 as a **world-first**: a web-based hub of information, resources and tools for Australia's 600,000 not-for-profits and schools.

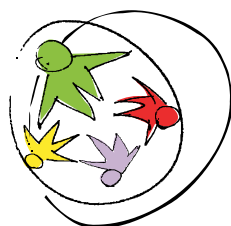
Our Community's founding aim was to build stronger communities through stronger community organisations. It has done this by delivering useful products and services at a price even the smallest community groups can afford.

Through the website's 16 Centres of Excellence, and its related newsletters, membership opportunities, books, conferences, training and tech tools, Our Community works with hundreds of thousands of not-for-profits every year.

We also partner with major businesses and government entities to show them how they can use their power to effect real, long-lasting change for the organisations building the communities in which they operate.

Key offerings

- 16 Centres of Excellence
- 6000 web pages of capacity-building content, three regular newsletters, a stable of books & Australia's most practical training in the areas of:
 - Funding
 - Financial management
 - Marketing & media
 - Governance
 - Insurance & risk management
 - Leadership
 - Advocacy
 - Technology
- Three annual conferences, including Communities in Control – Australia's pre-eminent community sector conference on thought leadership
- Australia's most comprehensive publicly available directory of community organisations
- Not-for-profit sector jobs service
- Australia's most comprehensive publicly available directory of media outlets
- Four major partnerships, spearheading revolutions in banking (Commonwealth Bank), superannuation (HESTA), crowdsourcing (Pozible) & legal services (Moores)
- Advocacy: not-for-profit sector reforms; women's leadership



ourcommunity.com.au

Where not-for-profits go for help



INSTITUTE OF COMMUNITY DIRECTORS AUSTRALIA

[Knowledge](#) [Connections](#) [Credentials](#)

[Courses](#) | [Tools & Resources](#) | [Policy Bank](#) | [Board Positions](#) | [Insurance & Risk Management](#) | [Auditors](#) | [Legal Help](#)

The Institute of Community Directors Australia is the best practice network for the members of Australian not-for-profit boards, committees and councils, and the senior staff who support them.

An [Our Community](#) enterprise, the institute is Australia's leading provider of information, tools, training and qualifications for Australian not-for-profit boards.

LOGIN

JOIN

Find the perfect fit

Using the Board
Matching Service

[Find out more](#)



FROM

\$65/year

- [BOARD BUILDER NEWSLETTERS](#)
- [ALL-AREAS ACCESS & MEMBER OFFERS](#)
- [FREE NETWORKING EVENTS](#)
- [POST NOMINALS AFTER YOUR NAME](#)

JOIN NOW

Board Vacancies

Upcoming Training

News

The Institute of Community Directors Australia (ICDA):

Where not-for-profit board members & CEOs go for help

The Institute of Community Directors Australia (ICDA) is the best practice governance network for the members of Australian not-for-profit boards, committees and councils, and the senior staff who work alongside them.

Formed in February 2013, ICDA spun out of OurCommunity.com.au's Boards, Committees & Governance Centre, providing a dedicated membership service, along with a backbone of tech tools, educational and peer-exchange opportunities, free template policies, a Board Matching Service, help sheets and other resources.

At the centre of ICDA's educational offering is a Diploma in Business (Governance) – the only diploma-level governance qualification in Australia, contextualised for the not-for-profit sector. For too long, not-for-profit board members and their supporters put up with a second-rate reputation and second-rate education. The Diploma has changed all that.

The development of ICDA reflects the maturity in not-for-profit sector governance that Our Community has helped to foster since its inception.

Australian community directors are better educated, more professional, more sophisticated than ever before. Through ICDA, they're now better informed, acknowledged and supported than ever before.

Key offerings

- Governance capacity-building resources:
 - Online news service
 - Hundreds of pages of free help sheets
 - Stable of governance & financial management books
 - Board Builder newsletter
- Free Board Matching Service
- Free Policy Bank - another Our Community first
- Legal, insurance & risk management help
- Annual Board Builder Conference
- Governance short courses
- Australia's only tailored diploma-level course for not-for-profit board members – the Diploma in Business (Governance)





Funding Centre

An OurCommunity.com.au enterprise

OC Home

Login

Join

Basics | Grants | Donations | Crowdfunding | Memberships | Events | Sales | Sponsorship

Search

The Funding Centre is Australia's best grants & fundraising hub.

A Funding Centre membership provides everything you need to become a champion fundraiser.

> [Download the Brochure](#)

LOGIN

JOIN

Fundraising training all over Australia

Grant Writing Seminars, Strategies for Sustainable Funding and more...

LEARN FROM THE GURUS

Introduction to Writing Winning Grant Applications

Advanced Grants Writing Seminar



Commonwealth Bank Funding Centre Voucher Recipients
Activate your subscription here

ACTIVATE

Help

Government, philanthropic and corporate grants: three different paths to grant application success
All levels of government give out grants, as do many philanthropic foundations and some corporations. > [Read more](#)

Getting a Grant: Negotiating the Contract
Obtaining a grant is the start of a whole process of accountability. The accountability process is based on a contract that spells out everything that needs to be done to ensure the success of the project or program for

Training

Strategies for Sustainable Funding Seminar
Build sustainability beyond grant funding
[Click for details and to register](#)

Introduction to Writing Winning Grant Applications
How to win the MOST GRANTS EVER
[Click for details and to register](#)

Advanced Grants Writing Seminar
It's time to become a GRANTS MASTER
[Click for details and to register](#)

Latest News

Getting the most from social media
Hint: It's about quality not quantity. Not-for-profits should use social media to build good rel...
> [Read more](#)

Unlocking charitable bequests
Very few Australians provide for charities in their wills, despite being generous givers in life, a...
> [Read more](#)

Funding Centre:

Where grantseekers & fundraisers go for help

Prior to the formation of Our Community, information about Australia's multi-billion dollar grants industry (who gave what to whom and why) was non-existent at best. Those "in the know" did well at getting grants; those outside the tent – smaller and medium sized groups, often those who could best use a grant – muddled through with what they stumbled upon, or just missed out.

Our Community was the first organisation in Australia to aggregate information about grants from all sources (local, state and federal government, and philanthropy, corporate and community foundations) and disseminate it at a price affordable to the groups that needed it most.

Fifteen years on, the Funding Centre is the best place to go to get information on grants and fundraising in Australia.

The Funding Centre's searchable grants database lists more than 2500 live grants, updated daily, while the customised daily, weekly and monthly emails alert users to grants that fit their needs and interests.

Other fundraising help comes in the form of help sheets, audio and video instructions, templates, checklists and other tools organised around our six areas of fundraising: grants; donations, crowdsourcing and bequests; memberships and alumni; events; sales; and sponsorships/partnerships.

Key offerings

- Funding/fundraising capacity-building helpsheets:
 - Grants
 - Donations
 - Crowdfunding
 - Memberships
 - Events
 - Sales
 - Sponsorships/partnerships
- Australia's most comprehensive grants database
- Customisable grants newsletter
- Funding and grantseeking books & training
- Online fundraising news service



Funding Centre

Where grantseekers & fundraisers go for help



GiveNow.com.au

Give more, give smarter, give better, give now!

[About Us](#)
[Frequent Questions](#)
[Manifesto](#)

Proudly supported by
Westpac

GIVE MONEY TO A CAUSE OTHER WAYS TO GIVE GIVING STATS WHAT'S ON GIVENOW WEEK LIST YOUR CAUSE

FIND A CAUSE	INTEREST AREA	GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION
Keywords <input type="text"/>	All Interests <input type="button" value="v"/>	All Locations <input type="button" value="v"/>
<input type="button" value="GO"/>		

GiveNow.com.au is designed to inspire and transform giving in Australia, providing a range of free resources and innovative giving tools – a commission-free website listing thousands of good causes and creative ways to give, a personalised donations tracking service, and a free giving newsletter. With GiveNow, you have the power to make a difference. [READ the GiveNow Manifesto...](#)

BROWSE CAUSES

- [Browse by A-Z of Causes](#)
- [Browse Causes Just Listed](#)
- [Browse Causes Missing Out](#)



The kids are alright, so why not include a charity?
You don't need to be a billionaire to leave a charitable bequest, or to make a difference after you're gone.
[Read More...](#)



GIVING DOCTOR: Ice Bucket Challenge - good or bad?
The Ice Bucket Challenge has saturated celebrities and social media feeds over the past few weeks and raised more than \$79 million for the ALS Association, an American not-for-profit dedicated to fighting amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS).
[Read More...](#)

GiveNow Tube

Who's getting what today?

1:29PM	\$100.00	Public Education Foundation Ltd
1:28PM	\$25.00	Mirna Inc.
1:16PM	\$257.05	R.U.O.K.I. Limited
1:14PM	\$25.00	Little Hives Palliative Care
1:13PM	\$10.00	Presbyterian Social Services
1:09PM	\$30.00	Ryder-Chenire Foundation Vic

GiveNow Number Crunch

\$44,418,736
raised to date

149,640

GiveNow.com.au:

Commission-free donations for not-for-profits

GiveNow is operated by the Our Community Foundation, a not-for-profit enterprise that's funded not through fees but by the revenue-generation activities of other Our Community Group enterprises.

When it was set up as the Australian Giving Centre in 2000, it was Australia's only giving portal – and it remains the only one that's commission-free.

The development of GiveNow is another demonstration of Our Community's commitment to democratising giving. It ensures that even the tiniest of community groups have the same access to safe, secure online donations technology as the largest groups.

The GiveNow donation service is non-exclusive, non-binding and fee-free (only credit card fees are deducted from donations). This allows any community group with a bank account and the will to raise funds to take advantage of this important and rapidly growing mode of fundraising.

No money? No worries! GiveNow lists dozens of other ways people can support their communities, from giving blood, to adopting a pet, to fostering children, to donating bikes, land, cars and even corks and hair!

	Since 2000	FY 2013-14
Total donations	\$45 million	\$8.5 million
Number of donations	378,936	81,842
Causes listed	4084	510
Biggest donation	\$100,000 (2005)	\$30,000
Average donation	\$117.03	\$104.53
Dollars saved for Australian community causes	\$2,660,945	\$516,307



GiveNow.com.au

Give more, give smarter, give better, give now!



Australian Institute of Grants Management
An OurCommunity.com.au enterprise

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The Australian Institute of Grants Management (AIGM):

Best practice education, support, training, and service for government, philanthropic and corporate grantmakers, including Australia's most-used online grants management solution, SmartyGrants.

Find out more

[Login](#) [Join](#)

The status quo is not an option!
Join the Grantmaking Revolution.
www.smartygrants.com.au



TOOLKIT

Grantmaking Toolkit

An all-in-one decision-making framework, workbook (with templates), and check-up tool designed to walk you through the process of building, reviewing or refreshing a grants program.



REPORT

2014 Grantmaker of the Year Award Report

2014 marks the third year of the AIGM Grantmaker of the Year Award. The quality of this year's entries was the best in the award's history.



REPORT

Grants in Australia Survey 2013-14: The Results

2014 marks the third year of the AIGM Grantmaker of the Year Award. The quality of this year's entries was the best in the award's history.



UPCOMING TRAINING

SmartyClass: 'The Beginning' - Form Building, Opening a Grant Round & Receiving Applications

Various dates and locations.

SmartyClass: 'Round Closed! What's Next' - Assessments, Decisions, Reporting & Acquittals

Various dates and locations.

Grantmaking in Australia Conference

24 March, 2015, Melbourne



SmartyGrants:

286
grantmakers

7,034
grant programs

243,729
grant applications

From

\$280/year

> **Knowledge:** newsletters, alerts & access-all areas website privileges

> **Connections:** peer exchange & exclusive events

JOIN NOW

Australian Institute of Grants Management (AIGM):

Where grantmakers go for help

Through our work with grantseekers over the years, we got to hear a lot about what grantmakers were doing wrong (we called it 'Grants Rage').

The Australian Institute of Grants Management (AIGM) was launched in 2003 with a plan to wrangle the \$30 billion grant-giving business into some sort of order, and thereby help to alleviate some of the grants rage but also – importantly – ensure that the tens of billions of dollars given away in grants each year could deliver more impact for Australia.

The AIGM has become the best practice network for government, philanthropic, corporate and community grantmakers.

Key initiatives include benchmarking and survey initiatives, development and dissemination of grantmaking best practices, a regular membership newsletter and other communications activities, a Grantmaker of the Year Award, an annual conference, and a range of peer-exchange events.

The AIGM's agenda is supported and enhanced by SmartyGrants, the Institute's own cloud-based software solution that allows grantmakers to manage the grantmaking process from application to acquittal and beyond.

SmartyGrants is now Australia's most-used grantmaking system, and has been exported to both New Zealand and Indonesia - with the rest of the world beckoning to change their practices.

Key offerings

- Australia's only cross-sector grantmakers' membership service
- Capacity-building website
- Grantmaking newsletter
- Annual Grantmaking in Australia Conference
- Annual Grants in Australia survey – crowd-sourced field & sector-based assessments
- Grantmaking Policy Bank & template forms
- Grantmaker of the Year Awards
- Thought leadership: Grantmaking Manifesto; Grantmaking Codes of Practice; the Grantmaking Atlas
- The home of SmartyGrants – Australia's most used grants system (and exported to New Zealand & Indonesia)

Coming soon to AIGM

- **SmartyFile** – Australia's central repository of information related to not-for-profits and grantmakers, containing grantmaker profiles and granting information, as well as a bank of public and private information about and for not-for-profits (central location storage enables multi-use)
- **Grants Data Schema** – common grants classification and reporting schema
- **GrantSafe** – due diligence certificate to allow grantmakers to check not-for-profit organisation bona fides
- **Centre for What Works** – sharing grantmaker and not-for-profit lessons, and thereby enabling transparency of ideas, transference of knowledge and avoidance of duplication



Australian Institute of Grants Management
Where grantmakers go for help

[Try SmartyGrants](#) [Brochure](#)

[Help](#) [Login](#)



SmartyGrants

[Features](#) [Why](#) [Who](#) [Training](#) [Price](#)

More than 260 organisations already use SmartyGrants!

SmartyGrants is the only grants management software developed to meet the specific needs of Australian grantmakers, both big and small. More than 260 organisations are already using SmartyGrants to revolutionise their grant making.

[Signup for a trial now ->](#)



Who

SmartyGrants has been developed by the Australian Institute of Grants Management (AIGM), the grants management body established by Our Community to help drive and disseminate best practices in grantmaking in Australia.



What

SmartyGrants is Australia's most widely used online grants management system. It allows you – the grantmaker – to receive online applications and manage the entire grants cycle from application to evaluation.



Why

We know grantmakers. We know grantseekers. We care. We've done our homework. We've got the runs on the board (and we are here to stay).



LATEST SMARTYGRANTS NEWS

SmartyGrants makes major impact with new State Government user
A 70% reduction in call centre inquiries, and a 77% reduction in email help inquiries have been the results of using Sma...

OUR CLIENTS SAY IT BEST

The system is absolutely brilliant. Easy to use, comprehensive, tells you off when you do something wrong - congrats to the team!

SmartyGrants

Australia's most used grants management system

SmartyGrants is Australia's most used grants management system and is now exported to New Zealand and Indonesia.

Launched in November 2009, SmartyGrants is not just a tech solution – it's a grantmaking solution, shaped by grantmakers, and built just for grantmakers.

Best practice in grantmaking is embedded in the system, helping to drive the Our Community Group's reform agenda.

Five key facts about SmartyGrants

1. It's Australia's most-used grants management system.

SmartyGrants has been used to manage more 7000 grants programs across the country, from the smallest local government outfit to mid-sized philanthropic and corporate foundations, to the very biggest state and federal government funders. It's also now used in New Zealand and Indonesia.

2. It's much more than a tech solution.

It's been developed alongside (and by) grantmakers. We embed best practice in the system. SmartyGrants users join a community of grantmakers who share their methods, forms and solutions.

3. It's delivering numbers.

We have begun to use the masses of data generated by SmartyGrants to create benchmarks and drive other innovations.

4. It's delivering results.

Grantmakers are eliminating paper, improving their audit trail, and understanding more about their grants.

5. It will never go out of date.

We are constantly improving and upgrading SmartyGrants to take advantage of what's new and actually useful. By inviting users to resubscribe each year we're building in an incentive for us to keep innovating.



Our Impact

Building stronger communities through stronger community organisations

Inspiring

“Very inspirational. Very aspirational. You have stretched my thinking like nothing before.”

“You just saved me from pulling the pin on community volunteering. Congratulations on your written words. It is a splendid article, well done.”

“Many thanks for the great conference and all those wonderful speakers who have inspired and excited our Community House into moving with the times.”

“I am so pleased to receive this wonderful newsletter from you. I somehow feel that things will turn around for us, if we can stick together and help each other, and not work dividedly.”

“Thank you again for your community leadership and support with Our Community. The workshop was the best professional development event I have attended in 8 years. It left me re inspired and invigorated.”

Connecting

“I’m really looking forward to using the Smarty Grants system. It has given me a new lease on life!”

“This conference has been so important to me and other members of my organisation. It gives me renewal, inspiration, hope and a wonderful opportunity to hear speakers I would not have normally access to.”

“We’ve been thrilled to have received three very good expressions of interest for our Committee of Management. The advertisement on the Board Matching Service has been very successful for us. The vacant positions have now been filled.”

“We put an ad up on your website seeking a Treasurer and I am delighted to tell you that we had two excellent candidates and they have both joined our committee. Thank you very much for your wonderful service.”

Enabling

“Your system saved us 157 weeks over the three programs in efficiencies on reporting.”

“I have recently received a small but welcome grant after reading about it in your newsletter. We will be able to run some day programs for children with autism using this funding.”

“We are thrilled with the response to your online donation facility for our Foundation. Being able to accept donations online has given another dimension to our ability to raise funds for our research into finding a cure for multiple sclerosis.”

“Just wanted to let you know we received our first ever donation today, \$1500. We are very excited and thought we should let you and your team know it’s working in community towns. Thank you, thank you, thank you for the donation facility!”

“May I congratulate you on your online grants application system – it is the best I have ever used.”

“Just a quick but very big thank you for the service you provide. We had over three hours of meetings with various banks to try to set up a merchant facility and to go through the costs which would have run into the hundreds of dollars a year. Your service is brilliant and so simple to get going. Well done and thanks.”

“I want to congratulate you on the SmartyGrants product. We reviewed a range of products when we decided to move to an online system, and were disturbed by both the total commercial focus. We were impressed by the friendly and efficient support and the fact that SmartyGrants was not prohibitively expensive.”

Building

“We thank you very much for your excellent efforts on behalf of all communities. Our tiny rural community has benefited enormously through your work.”

“I remain gob-smacked. That’s not a ‘nice word’, but the best one to describe my opened-mouthed admiration of the effort that has gone into what is the most extensive resource site that I have ever seen.”

Our Impact

Building stronger communities through stronger community organisations

“Our Community really is a significant partner in our pursuit of our goals.”

“I must say that my opinion of ‘Our Community’ started high and keeps going up – your newsletters are fabulous and the support of staff is genuine and comprehensive. “

“My thanks to Our Community and their passionate and talented staff for their remarkable contribution, commitment and dedication to grantseekers and grantmakers, and for their generous support of the Network over the past 4 years. Such generosity of spirit is unique and is what sets Our Community apart as a successful social enterprise and a highly respected contributor to the social economy in Australia.”

Educating

“I am currently doing up a training manual on risk management for community organisations – your website is absolutely terrific and I refer to it often!!”

“Surfing the net for the past 3 years looking for websites to help me in my job of managing a community project has not been easy. Most have been overseas with little help to be found in Australia. I found your site today. What I have seen has encouraged me greatly with the wide range of relevant information and plenty of tips for finding grants and fundraising and plenty of advice and learning articles. Looking forward to being part of this greatourcommunity.”

“I would just like to thank you for your publication ‘Damn Good Advice for Treasurers’. It is BRILLIANT and just the kind of thing that small community NFPs need!”

“This letter is to pass on our huge thanks to you and your wonderful staff, firstly for the creation of SmartyGrants, and secondly for the amazing support that we have received in the process of its implementation for our grants programs.”

“This was the best fundraising seminar I’ve been to, so many thanks to the facilitator. All I have to do now is out all the thousands of ideas into action.”

“It was a FANTASTIC workshop. Collectively, and individually, we walked away with new information and many new ideas. We’re very confident that we’ll be able to immediately apply much of what was covered.”

Informing

“Thank you for all the information you have provided over the years with your online publication. We are a not for profit community art gallery/craft shop trying to stay alive in a severe drought. Your newsletter helps me inform our members on different things which may assist us here in Balranald.”

“I have just read your latest newsletter and wanted to write to congratulate you on your most outstanding contribution to the not-for-profit sector. In an environment often crowded with jargon and motherhood statements, it is so refreshing to receive your straightforward approach.”

“Just wanted to say thank you – this is one of the most useful resources I get in a fairly active inbox. I look forward to receiving it and always find much to act upon when I do.”

“Keep up the good work. I am part of the silent majority who appreciate the information received, but who possibly do not express that often enough!!”

“Just a quick email to say Thanks So Much for another great issue. It never ceases to amaze me how much useful information you always manage to cram into each and every issue. So if ever you feel like no one cares and you are wasting your time, go get a cuppa and take a deep breath and know at least one person values and uses what you do.”

Our Community

The Leadership Team

Group Leadership Team

Denis Moriarty
Kathy Richardson
Steve Moriarty

Institute of Community Directors Australia

Patrick Moriarty

GiveNow.com.au

Kylie Cirak

Thinker in Residence

Chris Borthwick

Australian Institute of Grants Management

Kathy Richardson

Innovation Lab

Charles Gutjahr
Simon Herd

Technology Excellence

Sarah Barker

The Board

Carol Schwartz AM (Chairperson)
Dr Simon Longstaff AO
Denis Moriarty

The Pioneering Social Investors

Carol Schwartz AM
Justin Liberman
Dan Phillips
Dr Richard Reed
Denis Moriarty
Patrick Moriarty
Lou Panaccio

Contact Us

Our Community, 51 Stanley Street, West Melbourne, Victoria 3003, Australia
Phone: 03 9320 6800 Fax: 03 9326 6859
Email: service@ourcommunity.com.au
www.ourcommunity.com.au

Our Community Manifesto

What We Believe

- > We believe in the power of the community sector
- > We believe in human capital
- > We believe in equality
- > We believe women have equal rights to leadership roles
- > We believe technology is a key to accelerating our reform agenda
- > We believe laughter is good
- > We believe work can be a place to make friends for life
- > We believe business is good and can do good
- > We believe treating people with respect gains respect
- > We believe mayhem is not only healthy but critical

What We Do

- > We build stronger communities
- > We create, curate and share knowledge and experiences
- > We listen, then we act
- > We revolutionise markets
- > We ignite and accelerate
- > We convene and connect
- > We put back into the community that we work with

How We Work

- > We strive for fairness
- > We are failure tolerant
- > We take risks
- > We question authority
- > We use our balance sheet to create social change
- > We believe in a work environment that allows for an authentic life balance
- > We accept increments, but strive for revolution
- > Ethics, inspiration and innovation are at our core
- > We value our flat structure: we share the cleaning as well as the decision-making
- > We celebrate success and learn from our mistakes
- > We are dogmatic and passionate

Our Ideal Environment - The Edge of Chaos

“The estuary region where rigid order and random chaos meet and generate high levels of adaptation, complexity and creativity.”

READY, FIRE, AIM

Awards we've received

- SmartyGrants named in **Anthill Magazine's SMART 100** [2011]
- **Community Leadership Award** (with Westpac), Rotary Community Service Awards [2010]
- Our Community named in **Anthill Magazine's SMART 100** – Australia's most innovative companies [2009]
- Winner of the 2007 '**Cool Company' Social Capitalist Award** (described by the judges as “a deeply noble enterprise” and “uber cool social capitalist company” and “a wonderful example of the next frontier of the world wide web – using a profoundly borderless technology platform to enrich bonds at the hyper-local level”) Anthill and Price Waterhouse Coopers [2007]
- Winner of an Australian Marketing Institute **Award for Marketing Excellence** (with Australia Post) [2007]
- B2Bcafé **Black Box Innovation Award** (honouring change that adds value) [2004]
- Founder Denis Moriarty awarded **Australian Honour Centenary of Federation Medal** in recognition of his work in establishing Our Community and creating a remedy for the Australian not-for-profit public liability crisis [2001]

We're proud to be a Certified B Corporation

B Corporations are a new kind of company which uses the power of business to solve social and environmental problems.

There are over 1,000 Certified B Corporations from more than 60 industries in 34 countries with 1 unifying goal – to redefine success in business.

B Corps are important because they inspire all businesses to compete not only to be the best in the world, but to be the best for the world.

Certified B Corporations meet higher standards of social and environmental performance, transparency, and accountability.

It's like Fair Trade certification but for the whole business, not just a bag of coffee (or USDA Organic certification, but not just for a carton of milk; or LEED certification, but not just for a building).

The performance standards are comprehensive and transparent. They measure a company's impact on all its stakeholders (e.g. workers, suppliers, community, and the environment).

Unlike traditional corporations, Certified B Corporations are legally required to consider the impact of their decisions not only on their shareholders, but also on their stakeholders (e.g., workers, suppliers, community, consumers, and the environment).

