# UPdate

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# The Prime Minister's Awards
## WorkVentures and Microsoft Australia Win Award



*The Prime Minister with Beth Worrall of Microsoft, Steve Lawrence of WorkVentures, and Sarah Hatcher of Microsoft*

The 2005 Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence in Community Business partnerships were announced at a gala dinner in Melbourne on October 11. Microsoft and WorkVentures were extremely proud to receive an Award in the Longevity Category.

The partnership between Microsoft and WorkVentures dates from the 1980's when WorkVentures began. Through the partnership Microsoft has actively supported the organisation in providing unemployed and disadvantaged people with IT training aimed at helping them enter the workforce and secure long-term employment.

Our enduring community business partnership spans more than 18 years! We wish to thank all of those who have played a role in this wonderful relationship.

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# The Game's On!
## Think sport...think digital



Earlier this year Microsoft proudly announced that it will be the Official Technology Partner of the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games.

One of our key motivations was the opportunity to share a national sporting celebration with our community partners; to give the clients of every Unlimited Potential centre across Australia a chance to share in the magic of the Games.

Microsoft has offered a place in the Queen's Baton Relay to eleven lucky members of UP centres, who will have the honour of participating in this once-in-a-lifetime event.

We're also delighted to announce a very cool national UP multimedia competition to **win a fully paid trip to the Games** themselves. The Grand Prize includes airfare and Games tickets for two, accommodation, meals, and even some spending money! There will be a total of 10 Grand Prizes and every state will win at least one. Every UP centre client has a chance to use their movie making skills to create a presentation with the theme "Realising potential through teamwork" and win a trip to the Games.

Here's how it works:

1. Entrants must be a client of a UP centre (a list is on the back of this Newsletter) and must use the materials provided at the Centre.

2. The multimedia presentations must reflect the theme "Realising potential through teamwork". It can be a narrative or abstract piece; serious or amusing – limited only by creativity and imagination!

3. There is a 3 minute length or 6MB limitation.

4. Entrants must also create the presentation using Microsoft® Photo Story 3, Microsoft® Movie Maker, Microsoft® Acrylic or Microsoft® PowerPoint – or any combination of these programs.

5. Submissions must be original and cannot contain any footage from the Olympic Games or any copyright protected footage.

6. Any music used must have purchased through legitimate means.

The competition opens on 16 November and closes (absolutely) on 27 January 2006. Entries must be submitted *through the UP centre* to: www.microsoft.com/australia/up/competition

The presentations will be judged on creativity and imagination, originality, link to theme, use of technology, and the inclusion of sports.

Oh, there are consolation prizes as well, including Xbox consoles!

So good luck, and we look forward to seeing our talented UP members at the Games!

# Spotlight on
## Collingwood UP Centre



*Microsoft volunteer Carl Lowenborg helps out at Collingwood.*

Thanks to a dedicated team of volunteers under the direction of Meryl Andrews and Matthew Wong, the Collingwood UP Centre in Melbourne has recently expanded its weekly programs and services to a second afternoon. Now students from the local high-rise housing commission estate can learn HTML, create games, develop blogs and create short animation films.

**Katy Porter, youth worker at the Collingwood Estate high rise flats, approached the Centre hoping to find a place for Estate kids to go on Tuesdays when its drop-in centre is closed. Since then, every Tuesday, Collingwood Estate kids arrive at the UP Centre well before the official starting time. When asked what their favourite activities are, the first and most consistent response was "computers, computers, computers". Going a little deeper, in addition to appreciating the Centre's tasty snacks and its fast internet connection for online role playing games (shown to benefit learning outcomes), it became clear that the UP Centre provides a welcoming and safe environment for kids whose lives revolve around the high rise flats.**

Another important activity has been to host "Operation Newstart," an innovative program for year ten students struggling to remain engaged in mainstream schooling. The program allows a range of Northern Metropolitan Region public school students to spend a term away from school, participating in skill-based adventure and community activities. Operation Newstart students use the UP Centre computers to put together a digital diary of the things they have done and their reflections on what they have learned. The students' schools use the digital diaries to assess learning outcomes against Department of Education curriculum standards, enabling them to continue with their education.

Collingwood also ran a digital story-telling course for young adults completing the Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL), which allows young people experiencing difficulty remaining in mainstream an opportunity to complete year 12. The course used Microsoft Moviemaker and enabled students to learn new technology skills while exploring topics and issues of importance to them. One student with little computer experience put together a moviemaker movie focusing on his fascination with graffiti. The final product was incredibly impressive, including still images, music, video, titles, production credits and interviews he conducted with adults about their attitudes to graffiti.

Younger students are served through digital animation. The four to five week workshops currently serve grade 5/6 students from a local primary school - mainly students from the nearby housing commission estate. Participants include a huge variety of nationalities, recently arrived migrants and refugees. A one-day version of this workshop for older students has proved intensely popular; after viewing some examples, participants produce short animated films, complete with sound effects, titles and credits.

The Centre also welcomes adults seeking to gain new skills, to access internet and email and to socialise. Meryl writes, "Thursday mornings the Centre hosts adults with a range of needs and interests. Some have explored the world of multi-media to scan, save and share old family photos; some have used the centre to access online job-seeking services and help with resumes; some have come to learn the basics; and one gentleman in his 80's is independently working through the UP Curriculum (when he's finished dealing with emails from friends and family around the world!!)."

The Centre has also hosted a return-to-work program through the Brotherhood of St. Laurence, which had been struggling to find appropriate facilities. The UP Centre has enabled them to offer their return-to-work program enabling people to gain the basic IT skills required in the workforce.

Matt and Meryl have used their experiences to develop resources and assist other UP Centres and are in the process of finalising a "how to" CD covering their popular animation workshops. Meryl has also provided 'Train the Trainer' training in the UP Curriculum in Victoria, Queensland and South Australia.

# National Unlimited Potential Conference

Microsoft and its five Community Partners (The Smith Family, WorkVentures, Yarnteen Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Association, Inspire Foundation, and Australian Seniors Computer Clubs) will be holding a National UP Conference in Sydney on December 12 and 13.

Representatives of the Partner centres across Australia will meet to discuss issues that all centres face. They'll share information on corporate and community volunteering, sustainability, evaluation methods, ways to use digital media, on-line resources, on-line security, training the trainer, and more. It will be the first time that a broad, national representation of UP centres will have a chance to meet face to face, create meaningful relationships, solve problems and share success stories.

The keynote address will be delivered by former journalist and author, Anne Deveson. Ms Deveson is probably best known for her work on mental illness – an area she became deeply involved in after her son developed schizophrenia, and which she told of in the book *Tell Me I'm Here* and in the film *Spinning Out*. Her most recent and highly acclaimed book is *Resilience*, a study of how people cope with adversity.

Also to be featured at the conference will be the launch of the Microsoft Community Portal (see page 3 of this UPdate) by Senator the Hon Helen Coonan, Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts. All session materials and outcomes will be shared with UP centres via the portal following the conference.

Through the conference we hope to bring the national UP network closer together and provide an information forum that will help them to continue to improve services to their communities.

# A PORTAL OF OUR OWN

## It's all about sharing: an interview with the portal master

Soon the Unlimited Potential program will have its own web portal: a way to share proud moments and good work, as well as find help and discuss problems. The portal is the brain-child of Microsoft's Community Affairs Manager Beth Worrall.

**UPdate: So Beth, what exactly is the portal?**
B: For Microsoft – it's a world first! The Australian Unlimited Potential Community Portal has two parts: a public site and a private site. The public site will contain information about the Unlimited Potential program and will essentially showcase the excellent work carried out by community centres. The private site will enable information publication, sharing and collaboration for community centre managers and trainers.

**UPdate: And what does that mean to UP Centres?**
B: Centres can share information with one another and share their best practices with the world! Publication of content in the private site can be done easily and quickly. Centres can share curricula, photos, videos and conduct discussion forums and create even surveys. Trainers and centre managers can utilise the content and the advice of others to solve problems and inspire ideas. What we really hope is that this portal will help centres and foster a greater sense of community.

**UPdate: What inspired you to develop the portal?**
B: One of the best parts of my job is actually visiting UP centres in action. I've seen so many fabulous centres and met many wonderful people. All of these centres are very different - targeting unique audiences of people, situated in a variety of different environments. But there are many similarities too. All our UP centres are delivering technology training to disadvantaged people. They are all facing similar issues of sustainability, community development, resource and volunteer management. And through our program, all centres have access to the latest Microsoft technology and the UP community learning curriculum. There are so many wonderful ideas to be shared and contributed. Expertise to be shared, and built upon. We have been inspired by this huge capacity for knowledge sharing.

**UPdate: Is the portal available only to the UP Centres themselves, or can clients of the centres use the portal too?**
B: We will provide all our UP centres with password access to the private site – the private site will be designed primarily for centre trainers and managers. The public site is open to everyone.

**UPdate: What are you hoping to see happen through the portal in, say, a year's time?**
B: That the Australian Unlimited Potential Community Portal will be a locally driven, connected support system that will provide UP CTLCs with access to the practical and relevant information they need!

**Information on accessing the portal will be distributed to all UP centres following the UP conference (see page 2).**

# Short Films Kick Arse!



*(back) Inspire Patron Cathy Freeman with Inspire crew baby Nicholas, Le Hoang, Lucia Barrera, Megan van der Lay, Justin Farrell; (front) Alexandra Lagelee and Sally Thompson*

Approximately 40 staff and guests attended the Inspire Foundation's preview of KickArse 05, a short film festival spotlighting submissions from its 20 Beanbag Centres. This year's KickArse theme was "Dreams." Serving an urban population of young people 16-25, the Beanbag network extends throughout Australia, providing technology, equipment and training to address the educational, employment and social needs of young people living in some of Australia's most underserved communities.

Seventeen Beanbag Centres submitted short films, and the producer and director of "Dream Reader," the entry from Cambridge Youth Centre in Perth, WA have been selected to showcase their film at the Youth Media Festival in Tokyo, Japan in November. The Cambridge entry was selected because of the tremendous amount of work that went into the film, and the fact that it was solely written, filmed and edited by Cambridge Youth Centre clients. Accompanied by a staff member, these two young people will meet other young filmmakers from Japan and Thailand. While in Japan, the young Beanbaggers will document their experiences – you guessed it – in a film.

The preview included eight of the 17 submissions, selected to show the range of subjects and approaches covered. Films ranged from the whimsical "Drop Bear Dreamin' – Cute but Deadly!" submitted by The SHAK in Darwin NT, to "There's Always Dreams," a frank look at heroin addiction created by young filmmakers from Open Family Australia in Footscray VIC. The festival went on to tour each of the 20 Beanbag Centres throughout Australia, with a program suited to the particular centre's clientele.

After the success of the inaugural KickArse Festival in 2004, Inspire staff launched the second year of the program with the objective of interacting directly with young people, providing hands-on training with video and software. The training sessions were spread over a total of five months, beginning last March. Each training took place over two days; day one dealt with writing, casting and general "how-to's", and day two dealt with production and editing.

Inspire staffers Megan van der Ley and Justin Farrell trained five to fifteen young Beanbag clients at each centre, along with one local youth worker to serve as a facilitator. "It was challenging and exhausting, but very rewarding," according to Megan. Justin added "The best part was meeting so many varied individuals, seeing them change and be able to tell their own stories."

The young people were not the only individuals learning. According to Megan "Going into a community and being accepted as an 'insider' gave me a unique perspective. It was incredible to see them in control of a small part of the media that is so pervasive in their lives."

# Microsoft® Unlimited Potential UP
*A Microsoft Australia Community Program*

# Our 194 UP Centres

## NSW

A R V Residents Computer Club
Adult Migrant English Service
Alloura Waters Computer Club
Arwrabukarl Cultural Resource Centre
Auburn youth centre
Australian Seniors Computer Clubs Association
Avalon Computer Pals For Seniors
Bankstown Senior Citizens Centre
Belmore Youth Centre
Belrose And Terrey Hills Computer Clubs For Seniors
Brisbane Seniors Online Association Inc
Broadwater Computer Group
Broken Hill Skill Centre Inc
Bulli Senior Citizens Computer Club
Burwood Seniors Computer Club
Byron Shire Seniors Computer Clubs
Campbelltown Senior Cyber Seekers
Canterbury City Computer Clubs For Seniors
Carrington Computer Club For Seniors
Clarence Valley Seniors Computer Clubs
Computer  Pals For Seniors Marrickville District Inc
Computer Clubs For Seniors Abermain Inc
Computer Pals Blacktown Inc
Computer Pals For Seniors (Ku-Ring-Gai) Inc
Computer Pals For Seniors Botany Bay
Computer Pals For Seniors Concord
Computer Pals For Seniors East Lake Macquarie
Computer Pals For SeNiors Eastern Suburbs
Computer Pals For Seniors Epping
Computer Pals For Seniors Galston And District Inc
Computer Pals For Seniors Holroyd
Computer Pals For Seniors Hornsby
Computer Pals For Seniors Kensington
Computer Pals For Seniors Kogarah
Computer Pals For Seniors Manly
Computer Pals For Seniors Newcastle
Computer Pals For Seniors Northern Beaches
Computer Pals For Seniors The Hills Inc
Computer Pals For Seniors West Ryde
Coolah District Development Group
COTA (NSW) Computing Club
Creative Leisure War Veterans Computer Group
Crows Nest Computer Club
CTC@Kyogle
Donald Robinson Village Computer Club
Endeavour Seniors Computer Club
Fairfield Community Resource Centre
Forest Computer PALS For Seniors
Glengarra computer group
Gorokan Seniors Computer Club
Greenwich/Lane Cove Computer Pals Inc
Grove Computer Club
Hannaford Computer Club
Hawkesbury Seniors Computer Group
Hurstville Seniors Computer Club Inc
Illawarra PC Users Group
JobFutures-Chatswood
JobFutures-Dee Why
JobFutures-Katoomba
JobFutures-Maroubra
JobFutures-Parramatta
JobFutures-Redfern
Liverpool cisco academy
Liverpool Seniors Computer Club
Liverpool U3A School For Seniors
Long Jetty Senior Citizens Computer Activity
Lower Mountains  Neighbourhood Centre
Macleay Valley Community College
Mangrove Mountain Seniors Computer Club
Marrickville Youth Resource Centre
Mission Australia Wagga Wagga
Moocooboola Computer Clubs For Seniors

Mosman Computer Pals
Neutral Bay Seniors Club INC (Computer Section)
Nowra Youth Services
Penrith Valley Seniors Computing Club
Police and Community Youth Club Tamworth
Port Macquarie Seniors Computer Club
Port Stephens Telecentre
Raymond Terrace Seniors Computer Club
Redfern Computer Centre
Rooty Hill & Districts Seniors Computing Club Inc
Salvation Army- Elizabeth Jenkins Place
Seniors Computer Club Central Coast Inc
Shellharbour City U3A
Southern Highlands Computer User Group
Southern Tablelands Education Centre
Sydney PCUG
Tamworth And District Seniors Computer Club Inc
Tamworth West Primary School
Taree Community College
Taree PCYC
The John Newton Memorial Legacy Computer Club
Tranby Aboriginal College
Traxside Youth Health Service
University Of The Third Age Armidale
Wesley School For Seniors (Wesley Mission)
Westlakes Seniors Computer Clubs
Woodlands Village Seniors Computer Club
WorkVentures Connect@Claymore
WorkVentures Connect@Macquarie Fields
Workventures Connect@Waterloo
Workventures Connect@Woolloomooloo
WorkVentures-Surry Hills

## VIC

AUSOM Incorporated
Bairnsdale West Primary School
Bayside Library Seniors Computer Club
Brayton Youth Services
clockwork young people's health service
Donald Learning Centre
Eaglehawk Focus Centre
Employment Focus
Essendon Network For Employment And Training
Future employment opportunities (ontrak)
Good Shepherd Youth & Family Services
Green Collect
Guthridge Primary School
Highlands Local Learning & Employment Network
Hume Global Learning Village
Mary Anderson Lodge
Meadow Heights Learning Shop
Moreland Adult Education
North Melbourne Language And Literacy
Open Door Neighbourhood House
Open Family Australia
Preston Reservoir Adult Community Education
Project 614 Salvation Army
Reservoir UP Centre
Rural Housing Network Ltd
Salvation Army Bridge Centre
Scope Victoria (Community Inclusion And Dev Unit)
Shop 16
The Centre
UP Centre Of Excellence-Collingwood
Urban Heart Salvation Army
Waminda Neighbourhood House
Wendouree West Community & Learning Centre
Yarraville Community Centres
Yarrunga Primary School

## ACT

Billabong Aboriginal Corporation
The PC Users Group ACT Inc
Woden Youth Centre
YWCA - MURA LANYON Youth Centre

## QLD

Carlyle Gardens Computer Group
Carlyle Gardens Townsville Computer Club
Carole Park Community Centre
Children Of The Dreaming
Edgewater Village Residents Community Inc
indigenous Youth Health Service
Kingston East Neighbourhood Group
KuRbingui Youth Development Association Inc
Leichhardt Community centre
One Tribe Inc
Pine Rivers Computer Club Inc
Recovery Education Service Training Inc
Seniornet Association Inc
Silver Bridle Action Group
Strongandsmart.com
Sunshine Coast Computer Club Inc
The Hornery Institute
Toowoomba Seniors Computer Club
Twin Rivers Care
U3A Brisbane
U3A Bundaberg Inc
victory Community Services
Vincent Computer Centre
Zillmere Community Centre

## SA

Aldinga Community Centre
Anglicare Whyalla Willochra Outreach Centre
Berri Senior Citizens Club Inc
Christie Downs Community Centre
City Of Salisbury
Eudunda Telecentre
Kumungka Aboriginal Youth Service
Robertstown War Memorial Community Centre
Youth Choices

## WA

Bunbury Seniors Computer Club
Busselton Seniors Computer Club
Cambridge Youth Centre
Council On The Ageing (WA) Inc Seniors Technology Centre
Darnell Avenue Computer Club
Gosnells Police & Citizens youth club
Kenwick Youth resource Centre
Mooditj noongar community college
YMCA Youth Headquarters Inc

## TAS

Launceston Open Computer Group
Linking Tasmanian Seniors
Oak Lifestyle Options/Oak Enterprises
Pulse Youth Health Centre
St Mary's Online Access Centre
Youth Arc

## NT

Darwin Seniors Computer Club
Palmerston YMCA
The SHAK