



Welcome to **KnowledgeWavz** - a blog environment specifically designed for Committee members and invited participants to discuss and advance knowledge management (KM) & the KM Standard, as well as collaboratively working on identified areas of future work.

In October 2005, the world's first Knowledge Management Standard (AS5037) was released. The hard work of putting the Standard together led to the great achievement of releasing the Standard as well as the need for a well-deserved year of rest :-)

While you've been resting, both David Rymer (Deputy Chair) and I have been developing some new ideas and deciding how best to move forward. So what have we been doing?

Firstly, we put together a Strategic Business Plan for 2006-2008 - you can access this plan using the link in the right sidebar of the KnowledgeWavz blog.

We also undertook a Strategic Review - what were the lessons learnt from developing the Standard?; what might be the road map moving forward?; how might the model of Committee and community engagement change?; and what might be the expert domains that research and development should target to help advance the field of KM? You can read the Review document by accessing the 2005 Strategic Review link in the right sidebar of this blog.

The Strategic Business Plan and the Strategic Review were presented to Standards Australia's (SA) CEO in order to gain their endorsement in adopting, for the first time, a well-thought through business plan and strategy, which would identify opportunities for SA to lead international developments in KM and the closely related areas of Intellectual Property and Innovation. I'm pleased to say the Plan and Strategic Review met with great acceptance and led to our developing further ideas:

- **KnowledgeWavz:** the previous model of Committee engagement had its good and bad points. In the interests of embracing new media, we felt that a blog environment would bypass the need for regular, lengthy meetings and would provide a collaborative environment in which Committee members could discuss and share ideas, as well as develop content and supporting materials.

The Productivity Commission's report on Standards Australia carried a number of recommendations that we took on board when considering the KnowledgeWavz concept:

- **Recommendation 8.4** calls for promoting and providing better opportunities for public comment around Standards and guaranteeing minimum time periods for consultation; as well as
- making all significant documents and other information readily accessible via the internet.
- **Recommendations 8.5 & 8.6** call for reducing face-to-face meetings through the better use of technology, as well as making considered efforts to improve efficiency and timeliness of Committees.
- **Recommendation 7.1** notes that greater transparency is required around Standards development, particularly the decision-making process.

The KnowledgeWavz collaborative environment will address these recommendations by providing an open forum for comment and discussion through the use of new media and without the need for prolonged meetings and consultation.

We chose the name "KnowledgeWavz" carefully - just like waves in the ocean, KM has its high and low tides. With the release of the Standard, KM is now in a position to ride the high waves by penetrating the Boardroom and being placed firmly on the corporate agenda. We know of some Australian companies that have "caught the wave" and are following the KM Standard's recommended methodology of Map/Build/Operationalise.

Both David and I can spell :-)- we chose "Wavz" so that our New Zealand colleagues are included - the "Z" being for NZ. We couldn't quite figure out a name that had NZ in it!

I presented the Standard to a major gathering in Wellington during the year and am due again in NZ in March, when I hope to talk further about the Standard and seek synergies with our NZ colleagues.

After much angst, David and I chose not to torture you with some of the more "colourful" names we were thinking of for this blog.

- **Advisory Panel:** we are putting together an Advisory Panel to help us develop the Standard and associated programmes of work. The purpose of this Panel is to provide a sounding board and feedback mechanism as we drive the adoption of KM within organisations and provide thought leadership and direction.

The Panel will consist of internationally recognised and respected experts. Not all of them will come from the KM discipline since it is important to acknowledge that diverse domains of expertise are increasingly impacting on KM eg sustainability, complexity theory.

The formation of this Panel is also consistent with Recommendation 8.3 of the Productivity Commission's Report, which calls for improving the balance of interests represented on Committees by increasing representation from a wide range of industries and sectors.

Some thought leaders have already been approached and are keen to be on the Panel. We will announce the Panel as soon as we have formalised the process of getting them on board.

- **Expert Domains & Working Groups:** a great part of the work in further developing the Standard will be identifying content development areas and fast tracking content development.

The foundation has been laid with the release of the Standard, but to provide sharper focus and direction in moving forward, we identified a number of expert domains that are either closely related to KM or are impacting on KM:

- Sustainability
- Innovation
- Commercialising IP
- KM in the Public Sector
- Knowledge capabilities
- Foresight & futures
- Personal Knowledge Management
- Social networks (including social network analysis)
- HB189 -2004 Vocabulary
- Taxonomy
- Communities of Practice
- Measurement
- Storytelling & narrative
- Social software: Blogs, wikis. Podcasts etc.
- Decision-support

This is by no means an exhaustive list and we will be seeking your input in either leading a working group that will develop content within an expert domain; or suggest other expert domains.

We are going to lead off with a Working Group in the expert domain of Sustainability. Obviously with issues around global climate change and corporate sustainability reporting, it is imperative that we research and develop content around how organisations can become more sustainable.

You will see a blog posting that calls for a Sustainability Working Group leader to develop an operating strategy and monitor content development activity.

- **Community engagement:** we need to engage the wider community better eg leaders & educators. Recommendation 8.3 of the Productivity Report calls for considering community interests when developing Standards.

Both David and I have presented at conferences throughout the year and held discussions with various organisations in order to build awareness around KM and the Standard.

To increase momentum, we will be developing training materials for the Higher Education sector and exploring how we can establish partnerships or alliances with "think tanks", BSI, ISO etc for promoting & marketing the Committee's materials. Increasing the use of partnering arrangements is included in Recommendation 8.6 of the Productivity Report.

We will also introduce Forums (or Cafes) to encourage policy debate and thought leadership. Currently, we are looking at introducing Café Sustainability, which will seek to co-develop with industry a position on KM & Sustainability.

David and I are also exploring the notion of a Leader's Summit and public conference - more about all this in future KnowledgeWavz blog postings.

- **Committee engagement:** Recommendation 8.3 of the Productivity Report calls for *inter alia* the composition of Committees to be regularly reviewed.

As part of our Strategic Review and to streamline committee engagement, we have split MB007 into two structures so that governance and content development are separated. When the two are entwined, you have the potential for content development delays; a plethora of lengthy meetings we all don't maybe have the time for; and - worst case scenario! - a loss of enthusiasm and passion for the work that's going on.

A new working model was presented to SA (ie the Business Plan) and includes the following:

- **Coordination Group-** Kim Sbarcea & David Rymer - who will oversee committee activity and ensure adequate Governance, transparency and direction are in place.

Both the Advisory Panel and Expert Domains concept form a part of this enhanced governance structure.

You can read more about the Coordination Group and its Deliverables in Appendix 1 of the Strategic Business Plan.

- **MB007 KM Committee** - who will facilitate the contribution of KM to organisations by developing materials, handbooks etc.

You can read more about MB007 and its Deliverables in Appendix 2 of the Strategic Business Plan.

Obviously, there will be two-way dialogue between the Coordination Group and MB007, which I will Chair. This new model will allow Committee members to actively participate in a Working Group that most interests them professionally or personally.

- **Funding & Sponsorship:** To support both content development and promotional and educational responsibilities, the Coordination Group has been exploring external options for funding such as development grants.

Hopefully, we will have more to say on this in 2007.

So...after a year of rest, it's now time to get going again! Take the time to explore this blog and give us your feedback. We've put the "rules of engagement" for participating in the blog under Dull Legal Stuff - take the time to read it so you know "the rules" :-)
Also, take the time to read the Blog Etiquette.

KnowledgeWavz is a work in progress as they say. David and I will be posting more content and announcements, so make sure you bookmark KnowledgeWavz or include it in an RSS feed.

On a personal note, I'd like to thank the Deputy Chair, David Rymer, for all his support and enthusiasm throughout 2006. I suspect that David sometimes has wilder ideas than I do, so it's been great to work with him on the various ideas I've updated you on in this posting and I'm looking forward to our continuing partnership in 2007.

Also, a great thanks to our Project Manager Extraordinaire, James Thomson. Not only has James had to endure some pretty bizarre meetings where David and I have talked about our various ideas and watched James's face go pale; more importantly, James has significantly helped us present our ideas to senior management at SA. His greatest achievement has been to get KnowledgeWavz up and running for us.

I hope you have a safe and relaxing Xmas and New Year and will enjoy working with you in 2007.

Best wishes

