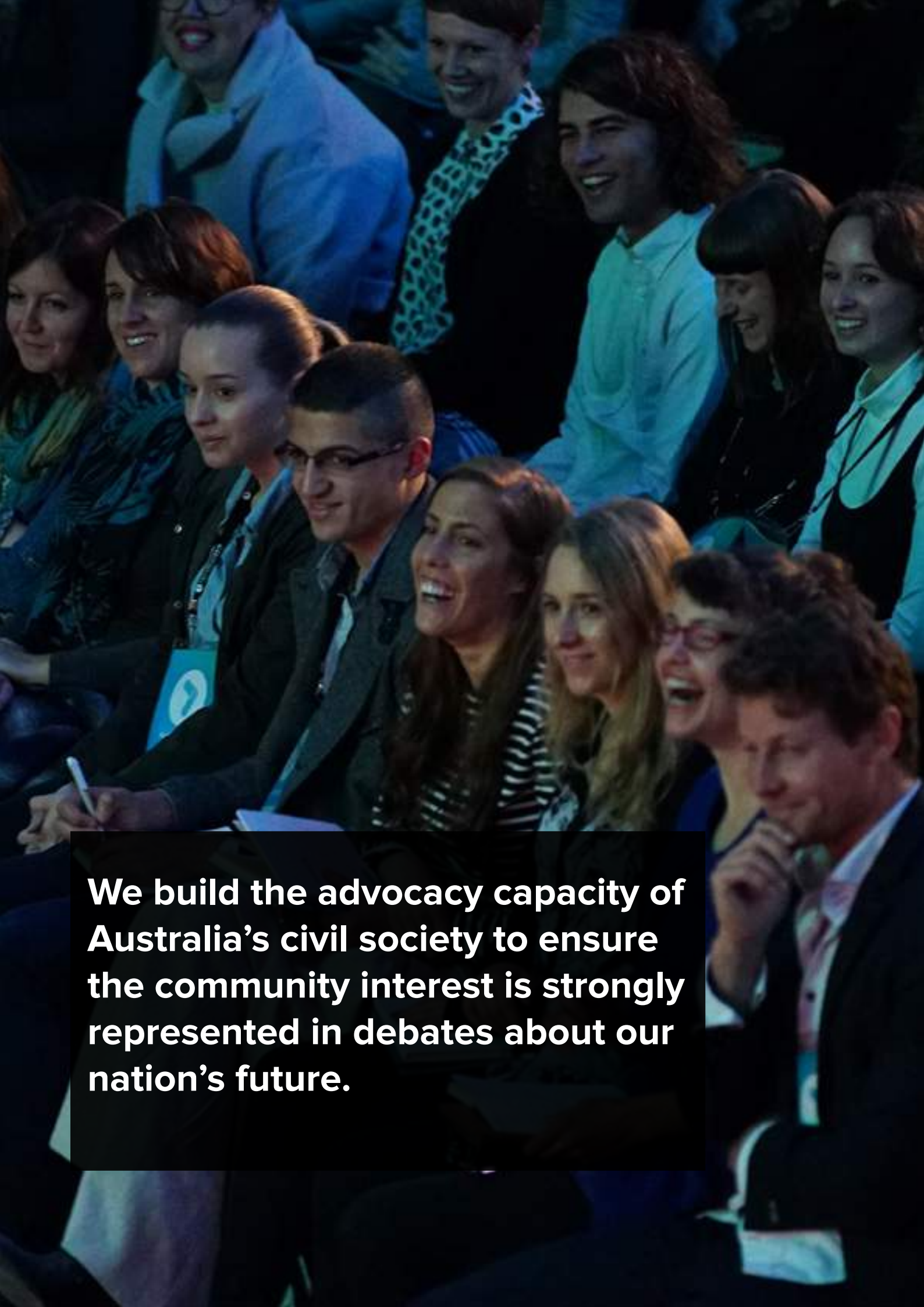


ANNUAL REPORT

FY 2014-15



PROGRESS 2015



We build the advocacy capacity of Australia's civil society to ensure the community interest is strongly represented in debates about our nation's future.

INTRODUCTION

Dear friends,

The third year of any new organisation is a delicate one. Does the excitement and drive from a 'startup' phase begin to wear off? Do events continue to attract the same kind of interest the second time they are held? Can the organisation begin to demonstrate a viable business model for the long term?

If these are the key tests, we think Australian Progress has completed Year 3 of our long-term mission to strengthen the voice of the community on the big issues facing our future, with flying colours.

It's been a busy year. During the year, our fellowship closed in on 100 alumni - an incredibly powerful, skilful and bonded network of emerging leaders from every facet of our civil society.

FWD 2014 and our Study Trip to the United States grew in numbers by roughly 100% over the year before. Progress 2015 exceeded 2013's event with 50% more tickets sold, 170 remarkable national and international speakers (including my personal highlight, Edward Snowden) and so many collaborations being formed in the corridors.

Increased activities drove an increase in our overall budget to \$1.1 million. Our small core staff (Bec, Paige and I) were joined by half a dozen colleagues on key projects - a real pleasure to work with such a dedicated, competent and delightful team. We moved office to a lovely open plan space in Surry Hills, where we also have space to run our Sydney Fellowship and other workshops, and host staff and volunteers of our incubated projects. We welcomed a number of new faces onto our board, who provided critical advice and support.

Our work this past year has propelled us forward with a clear sense of purpose, and niche. We've built a dynamic community -- the real source of our strength.

In closing, I want to particularly thank our Inner Circle organisations during the financial year - WWF, Cancer Council NSW/ Victoria, GetUp, United Voice, CPSU, and ActionAid.

Australian Progress may be an independent organisation, but as a movement-institution, we are the sum of the hopes, needs and shared resources of hundreds of Australia's most forward thinking advocacy organisations, and thousands of passionate people driving change in our community.

Yours Sincerely,



Nick Moraitis
Executive Director



FELLOWSHIP

48 new emerging and fast track social leaders joined our Fellowship during the year, taking part in separate cohorts in Melbourne and Sydney. This took the fellowship alumni to 90.

Over five months, the fellows enhanced their understanding and skills in campaign strategy, decision-maker engagement, messaging, mainstream media, digital campaigning, community organising and leading change in their organisations as 'intrepreneurs'.

This year the program benefited from special guest speakers such as Bruce Hawker, Nick Allardice and Anat Shenker, as well as several former Fellows including Reece Proudfoot and Caterina Giorgi.

Over the course of the program, participants also collaboratively developed and in several cases won their own mini campaigns, putting their learning into action.



Melbourne 2014

- Adam Pulford, Office of Adam Bandt MP
- Bethony Koch, TEAR Australia
- Cassandra Devine, ACTU
- Catherine Coote, Environmental Justice Australia
- David Mejia-Canales, Australians Detained Abroad
- Deborah Fewster, Melbourne City Mission
- Dinah Arndt, Cancer Council Victoria
- Elise Dalley, The Parenthood
- Emily Haren, Oaktree Foundation
- Gillian Strong, Victorian Trades Hall Council
- Jaqueline Tomlins, Australian Equality Party
- Jesse Marks, Animals Australia
- Jo Knight, Brotherhood of St Laurence
- Karen Gardham, Australian Greens Victoria
- Krista Seddon, Victorian Student Representative Council
- Lachlan Batchelor, Media Entertainment and Arts Alliance
- Lucy Manne, Australian Youth Climate Coalition
- Lucy Adams, Homeless Person's Legal Service
- Lucy Larkns, Federation of Community Legal Centres
- Nick Haines, United Voice Victoria
- Pasanna Mutha-Merrennege, Women's Legal Service Victoria
- Renee Carr, Fair Agenda
- Richard Williams, Change.org
- Samantha Blake, Alzheimers Australia
- Serina McDuff, Asylum Seeker Resource Centre
- Susie Allison, National Union of Workers
- Victoria Fysh, 350.org
- Sonia Sofat, Amnesty International Australia

Sydney 2015

- Alix Pearce, Climate Council
- Antania Monkley, Climate Council
- Barry Dunning, Transport Workers union
- Cassie Bremner, Climate Council
- Daisy Darham, Nature Conservation Council NSW
- Emma Hurst, Animal Liberation NSW
- Emma Bull, Office of Senator Christine Milne
- Erin Turner, Choice
- Jessica Hensman, Surfrider Foundation Australia
- Jessie Mawson, Amnesty International Australia
- Kylie Beach, Common Grace
- Maeva Freeman, ActionAid Australia
- Michael Robson, United Voice
- Owen Wareham, WWF
- Rachael Vincent, The Benevolent Society
- Samantha Webb, WWF
- Sarina Foulstone, Cancer Council NSW
- Shannon Longhurst, National Justice Coalition
- Su Morley, Climate Action Newcastle
- Wendy Watson, Cancer Council NSW





#PROGRESS



PROGRESS 2015

1200 of Australia's community leaders convened once again at Melbourne Town hall for an extraordinary three days exploring the big issues facing our country – and how we can better position our movements to tackle them.

Progress brought together a who's who of Australia's community sector, faith leaders, union leaders and politicians forging new collaborations.

Highlights:

- Timely calls to action, the week before the budget, from St Vincent de Paul CEO John Falzon on inequality, and Australian of the Year Rosie Batty on family violence.



- Provocative and historic international speeches on digital rights from Edward Snowden, and climate change from and Naomi Klein.
- Four incredible emcees – Lee Lin Chin, Adam Spencer, Tracey Spicer and Corinne Grant.
- Moving performances, including from leading artist Katie Noonan.
- A huge party in a Melbourne laneway, closed especially for Progress 2015.



COMMUNITY

US Study Trip

Our 2014 US study trip saw a dozen Australian social change leaders from diverse health, environmental and social sector charities and the union movement visit nearly seventy campaigning/advocacy non-profits and consultants in San Francisco, Washington DC, Detroit and New York City.

Participants were exposed to the latest thinking in digital campaigning, fundraising, community mobilisation, voter engagement, message research, and more.

We want to particularly thank the Reichstein Foundation for supporting the travel of Jonathan Lanauze through the Jill Reichstein Prize for Social Change Leadership.



Study trip participants in 2014

- Andrew Beswick, Director of Community Engagement and Media, Amnesty International Australia
- Jonathan Lanauze, Healthy Ecosystems Program Manager, Australian Conservation Foundation
- Denis Ginnivan, co-founder, Voices for Indi
- Matthew Lawrence, United Voice Queensland
- Tim Petterson, United Voice Victoria
- Mark Reed, United Voice Western Australia
- Tessa Boyd-Cain, Deputy CEO (on leave), ACOSS
- Rohan Porteous, Creative Director, Agency.sc
- Erin Mccallum, Campaign Chief of Staff, GetUp!
- Matthew Levinson, Communications Director, GetUp!
- Kelly Williams, Advocacy Manager, Cancer Council NSW



FWD 2014

With social media increasingly central to social change campaigning, nearly 280 digital activists flocked to the FWD 2014 Digital Campaigning Conference, making it our largest FWD yet! The National Centre for Indigenous Excellence played host to two days of workshops, corridor conversations, tech tool demonstrations, and partnership building on everything from the latest CRMs to the most viral Facebook videos.

We were thrilled to have four international guest speakers - Jenna Lowenstein of US-based Emily's List (now Deputy Digital Director for Hillary Clinton's Presidential campaign), Jen Perone of the New Organising Institute, Nick Gaw of the Democratic National Committee, and Usman Hamid from Change.org Indonesia.



Digital Bootcamp

In the leadup to FWD, we reinvigorated our Digital Bootcamp, expanding it from one, to an intense four days. Participants from nearly twenty organisations honed their skills at email writing, campaign graphics, Wordpress and social media strategy, with expert presentations. Across the program, participants put their new skills to work in an interactive simulation, with evaluation and virtual feedback from many of the world's leading digital campaigners.

Progress Network

This year, we launched the Progress Network, an online knowledge sharing up built on the experience of hundreds of organisations and individuals in our community.



INCUBATION PROJECTS

By the end of 2014, all of our initial incubation projects launched (with diverse approaches and levels of support by Australian Progress) in 2013 were fully independent.

Solar Citizens has grown to nearly 100,000 Solar Panel owners, and the main voice on renewable energy issues in the country. With several victories against feed-in-tariff-cutting State governments under their belt, Solar Citizens mobilised tirelessly to protect the federal Renewable Energy Target.

Members of **The Parenthood** have been key voices in the national debate about paid parental leave and the Productivity Commission's review into early learning. Jo Briskey took over as Executive Director from Fiona Sugden, with Patrick Flynn the incoming chair.



Fair Agenda grew to a community of more than 30,000 members fighting for women's rights and equality. In one of several notable campaigns, Fair Agenda played a prominent role in securing \$4m in support for family violence hotline 1800 Respect.

Common Grace launched in December 2014, as a new platform for Christians passionate about issues such as climate change, poverty and rights for people seeking asylum. Already, Common Grace has built strong support within diverse Churches and a community almost 20,000 strong.

During the year we also commissioned **Grassroots & Co** to complete an independent evaluation of The Parenthood, as our largest incubation, which is helping inform our future work in this space to launch in FY2017





I'M STANDING UP FOR SOLAR

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I'M STANDING UP FOR SOLAR

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I'M STANDING UP FOR SOLAR

SolarCitizens

SOLARCITIZENS.ORG.AU

JOIN TODAY

SOLAR POWER FOR THE PEOPLE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Amanda McKenzie - *Chairperson*

Amanda McKenzie is chief executive of the Climate Council, and was previously senior communications adviser at the Climate Commission. Between 2006 and 2010, Amanda was National Director of the Australian Youth Climate Coalition. For this work, she received the 2009 Environment Minister's Young Environmentalist of the Year. She was acknowledged as a 2014 AFR Woman of Influence.

Anita Tang - *Member of the Board*

Anita Tang is one of Australia's most respected public health campaigners. Currently, Anita is an independent advocacy advisor and campaign coach. She was previously the Manager Policy and Advocacy for Cancer Council NSW. She has played a leading role in securing federal and state government support around tobacco control, cancer screening, and support for cancer survivors. Previously she worked with the Community Services Commission of NSW.

Jeremy Hobbs - *Member of the Board*

Jeremy Hobbs is an international consultant, with more than 20 years experience leading major international NGOs. Most recently, he spent a decade as Executive Director of Oxfam International, a confederation of 17 development agencies, with a global income of US\$1 billion, and programs in 90 countries. From 1992-2001, he served Executive Director of Community Aid Abroad/Oxfam Australia. He is a founding director and former chair of the International NGO Accountability Charter.

Miriam Lyons - *Member of the Board*

Miriam Lyons is an Australian policy analyst, writer and commentator. She is a co-author of *Governomics*. Miriam is a Fellow of the Centre for Policy Development, a public-interest think tank which she co-founded. Miriam has been a regular guest on the ABC shows Q&A and The Drum, has contributed to several media outlets and co-edited the books *Pushing Our Luck* and *More Than Luck*.

Sheena Watt - *Member of the Board*

Sheena Watt is the Fight Stroke Campaign Coordinator, National Stroke Foundation. Her previous roles include Policy and Advocacy Coordinator for the Federation of Ethnic Community Councils Australia, and Political Adviser for the national Aboriginal health organisation, NACCHO. She has also worked at the National Congress of Australia's First Peoples, and at the ACTU where she was the Indigenous Officer. Sheena is graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Director's course and the Centre for Sustainability Leadership's fellowship program.



Simon Every - Treasurer

Simon Every is a Corporate Affairs professional who advises Commonwealth bodies on matters such as corporate governance, strategy development, public reporting, government and stakeholder relations. Simon was Chief of Staff to an Australian Government Cabinet Minister from 2007-2011 and has extensive prior experience as an adviser, developing policy reforms in areas such as service delivery, agency rationalisation, freedom of information and privacy protection, cabinet processes, Government 2.0, national security legislation, entitlements reform and whole-of-government fraud control.

Victoria Keesing - Member of the Board

Victoria Keesing is currently establishing her own consulting business. Victoria has been a partner at PwC Australia for 11 years where she advised clients on culture, organisation design and the people aspects of major strategy and transformation program implementations. Prior to joining PwC Victoria held a range of senior and executive roles for NSW Department of Housing, Ansett/Air New Zealand and National Australia Bank. Victoria is passionate about social justice issues and also currently serves on the board of the Women in Prisons Advocacy Network.

Malinda Wink - Member of the Board

Malinda Wink is Executive Director of Good Pitch² Australia and Director Policy and Impact at Shark Island Productions. Malinda's professional experience spans the corporate, political and development sectors, including at Macquarie Bank Financial Services, the United Nations



Development Program, the St James Ethics Centre, and the Caledonia Foundation (where she currently serves on the board). Melinda has a Masters in International Development and Public Policy completed through the European Commission's Erasmus Mundus program.

Michael Tull - Member of the Board

Michael is the National Assistant Secretary of the Community and Public Sector Union. He was an economist when he landed 12 months work in 1990 as an organiser in the Sydney office of the Tax Division of the CPSU. Michael loved the work, the challenge and the people – and he has never looked back. He has led organising teams in a wide range of agencies including the Tax Office, Finance and Treasury, and was formerly CPSU's National President.

Board members as of October 2015. Many thanks to David O'Byrne and Madeleine McClelland for their valuable contributions during this financial year.



CORE TEAM

Nick Moraitis, Executive Director

Nick brings more than 15 years experience to his work at Australian Progress. Nick co-founded one of the world's first social networks, TakingITGlobal.org, played a leading role in the growth of campaigning organisation GetUp, worked in global strategy at Amnesty's International Secretariat and managed public engagement for Greenpeace. Nick was also co-founder of Sydney-based consultancy Make Believe. He is also a board member of the Centre for Policy Development.

Rebecca Wilson, Deputy Director

Rebecca leads Australian Progress' learning and community initiatives. Rebecca's previous roles include Chief of Staff at GetUp and Global Director of Learning and Development at Change.org. Previously, Rebecca spent seven years in senior roles with the independent Lord Mayor of Sydney, Clover Moore, broken by a stints with Obama for America

in South Carolina and Ohio in 2008. Rebecca serves on the board of Fair Agenda and The Parenthood.

Paige Burton, Events & Operations Manager

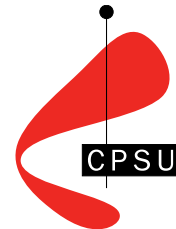
Prior to joining the Australian Progress team, Paige had volunteered for a range of organisations and projects. She is currently a board director of UN Youth Australia. Since 2010, she has been involved in the development of their national curriculum, founded the first national advocacy-oriented public speaking competition, and has facilitated educational tours of Timor L'este, and the Middle East for high school students.

Short-term contractors and collaborators

Claire Turner, Lisa Lewin, Michael Poland, Sam Millar, the team at Wildwon (Yvonne Lee, Sally Hill, Jayde Harding), Marky Rochford, Philippa Abbott, Jethro Lawrence, Tony Robertson, Tim Hollo, Jarrod Biffra and Jarra McGrath.

THANK YOU TO OUR FINANCIAL SUPPORTERS

FY2015 Inner Circle Members



act:onaid

Key Corporate Supporters

- Woody
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- City of Melbourne
- SelectAV
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Philanthropy and Community Partners

- National Tertiary Education Union NSW
- Foundation for Young Australians
- Australian Conservation Foundation
- The Wilderness Society
- Green Music Australia
- City of Melbourne
- The Reichstein Foundation

Thank you also to our generous individual donors.

A special thank you to Nina Blackwell for being an incredible champion of our work in the United States.



WHAT'S NEXT?

Growing our Fellowship

100 new Fellows will join our community, including new cohorts in Brisbane and Perth. We're also holding the first formal gathering of our Alumni over a weekend near Byron Bay in January 2016. This means our fellowship will double in number.

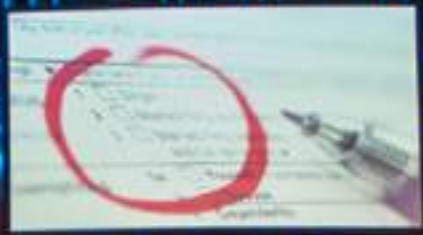
Winning messaging

Communications guru Anat Shenker-Osorio joins our team for a six month residency in Australia. She'll be researching and crafting new winning messaging around nine key issues (asylum seekers, climate and more), and running a 6 week training program for communications experts.

Expanding our conferences

FWD will enter its fourth year in 2015 with an extraordinary event at the Abbotsford Convent in Melbourne featuring Black Lives Matter co-founder Alicia Garza. And for the first time, we'll be pairing it with offline, field and grassroots organising focused conference - Organise 2015 - to be held in Sydney in September.

We're so excited about the year ahead and look forward to working with you!



#PROGRESS 2015

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