

Mosman Connects' Community Groups Forum Summary
Held 10th March 2015 6-9pm at Mosman Art Gallery

Our purpose

On 10 March over 80 Mosman community group members actively participated in a forum representing a broad cross-section of groups, including sporting and recreational clubs, schools, community services, and other community-based organisations.

In jointly organising the Forum, the Rotary Club of Mosman and Council sought to encourage communication and collaboration between local community organisations, providing an opportunity to generate ideas, build networks and share solutions to common challenges.

Opening the Forum the Mayor, Cr Peter Abelson highlighted the integral role community groups play in the social fabric of Mosman, linking residents and connecting them to the activities and services that provide a high quality of life and a sense of belonging.

Acclaimed social researcher and author Hugh Mackay set the scene for the ensuing group discussions, providing the group with insights from his latest book *The Art of Belonging*, and emphasizing the vital role individuals, community groups, and local government play in nurturing communities, especially where there is cooperation.

Our group discussions

Community group members enthusiastically contributed feedback and ideas. Our convenor, Rotary President Mark Alderson, identified that the main priorities emerging from the groups revolved around improved information; communication; promotion, matching of resources and support for community groups.

Proposals with more widespread support for further investigation included:

- an on-line hub/ Facebook page for communication and information
- an on-line community groups' register for self- updating
- an on-line listing of community groups needing/offering resources
- an on-line local volunteering network, including volunteering opportunities
- ongoing forums for groups to meet (electronic and physical)
- a 'community noticeboard' in Mosman Daily for news & events
- a Festival of Mosman showcase/ Mosman Markets stalls and promotion
- training and support for community group committee members

Our Next Steps

The Forum community working group led by Mark Alderson and community group members Di McKenzie, Jane Floyd, and Tina Jackson will establish a broader Community Groups Forum Steering Group to act on these proposals.

For enquiries, contact Dianne Page d.page@mosman.nsw.gov.au or 9978 4125