Entry type: Person
Entry ID: AWE2183

Webster, Marion

Occupation Businesswoman, Philanthropic administrator

Summary

Director of WWW Communications Pty Ltd, a social policy and philanthropic consulting company, Marion Webster joined the board of the Melbourne Community Foundation in 1997.

Details

Marion Webster was the founding Executive Director of the Australian Association of Philanthropy (now Philanthropy Australia) from 1988 to 1991. She led ANZ Charitable Trusts for over 5 years, first as National Manager, then Manager Corporate Relations.

In 1997, Marion was a founding director of the Melbourne Community Foundation (MCF), Australia's first independent community foundation. Funds from MCF are directed to meeting areas of community need identified through research, community consultation and discussion. After five years of operation the Foundation could boast a capital of $12 million. By 2006 it had 83 named sub-funds, one of which – EastWeb – is co-managed by Marion's son, Alistair.

Marion has worked in the areas of child, family, and migrant welfare and advocacy. She serves on the boards of a number of community organisations in welfare, the arts, medical research, international relations and philanthropy. She was a founding director of Community Foundations of Australasia, and now chairs the Disability Employment Action Centre (DEAC).

Marion spent nine months as Locum Director for Community Foundation Network in the United Kingdom and completed a Senior Fellowship with the City University of New York, studying community foundation sustainability. In August 2006 she spoke at the Victorian Council of Social Service (VCOSS) Congress about opportunities for community sector collaboration.

Marion Webster was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in 2004 and then appointed a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in 2023 for significant service to the community, to the philanthropic sector, and to women.

Published resources

Resource
EastWeb,
http://www.eastweb.org.au/library/

Changemakers Australia,
http://www.changemakers.org.au/

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Newspaper Article
Small steps, big differences, Halliday, Claire, 2006

Thesis
In Her Gift: Activism and Altruism in Australian Women's Philanthropy, 1880-2005, Lemon, Barbara, 2008

Site Exhibition
In Her Gift: Women Philanthropists in Australian History, Australian Women's Archives Project, 2009,
http://www.womenaustralia.info/exhib/wiph/home.html

Author Details
Barbara Lemon

Created 19 October 2006
Last modified 12 April 2025