



Nulsen Haven Foundation

## Roberta Mead



In 2006, our dear friend and colleague died in an accident on her way to work. As part of the living memory of her dedication to her field of work in facilitation, a group of us has established a foundational scholarship. We want her legacy remembered by others in the field of facilitation.

Roberta worked with many organizations from industry, government, community and the non-for-profit sector. She was at the forefront of her profession as a facilitator and was instrumental in training and mentoring many others.

In addition, Roberta conducted public courses in facilitation through University of WA's Extension program and was one of the key committee members in designing and delivering the 2005 Australasian Facilitators Conference in Perth. She was a respected member of international, national and local facilitator networks.

She also facilitated on a voluntary basis for a number of significant projects. Roberta was the only Australian who voluntarily facilitated for Ground Zero, New York after 9/11. Again as a volunteer, she then extended the learnings from this unique experience to assist with the design and facilitation of the 'Dialogue with the City' deliberative democracy engagement on 'Perth to Peel future planning' (Fremantle, 2003).

Roberta was passionate and dedicated, researching business facilitation well grounded in academic practice. For years, she was fortunate in being mentored and trained in facilitation. Every year, Roberta would attend an international or national conference with the intention of furthering her professional development. You may not be aware that she kept abreast of her profession at her own expense.

In our changing world and changing work and community structures, **facilitators** are the people who can help bring disparate groups together to consult, discuss and achieve outcomes. They can help manage the necessary processes for these achievements.

Facilitation is now recognised as a primary skill within all industries.

From beginnings in 1954 the not-for-profit **Nulsen Haven Association** now provide a range of services to people with profound and severe intellectual and multiple disabilities. Nulsen Haven was a client of Roberta's who are now working collaboratively with the **Roberta Mead Scholarship Advisory Committee** to support the aims of the Roberta Mead Scholarship.

The **Roberta Mead Scholarship** aims to support the development of practicing facilitators in Western Australia by providing Annual Scholarship funds to encourage and enable international or national participation in a learning event that will further develop facilitation knowledge and skills both for the recipient and the Western Australian facilitation community.

Today we need even more passionate and skilled facilitators of the calibre of Roberta and we wish to contribute to this development through the Roberta Mead Scholarship.

### *Contact*

If you require further information please don't hesitate to contact Dianna Vitasovic, one of the advisory committee members who would be happy to discuss the scholarship further.

Dianna Vitasovic

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