

## 2009 ICF President's Award

# Australian 'sustainability' coach honored for her work within ICF and coaching industry

Executive coach Josie McLean, PCC, of Australia, was honored with the International Coach Federation President's Award, December 4, during the 2009 ICF Annual International Conference.

Each year, the ICF President selects an individual or organization to receive the President's Award, honoring great contributions to the field of coaching and the ICF.

"After reflecting on this award and those coaches I have come to know throughout my career, one name kept coming to mind," said 2009 ICF President Karen Tweedie, PCC. "This person exemplifies the qualities coaches hold dear—integrity, passion, intelligence and commitment. She has been a significant contributor to the development of the professional coaching industry in Australasia through ICFA.

There, I've had the privilege of watching her grow and develop in her various leadership roles and witnessed how she gracefully and generously carried the weight of organizing a large regional ICF event, the ICFA Conference, not just once, but three times in the

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**2009 ICF President Karen Tweedie, PCC**

last six years. Each time, she stepped up to the task and infused the event with innovation, excitement and the utmost professionalism. Coaches throughout Australasia have witnessed her impact on coaching and her passion for sustainable leadership. Josie is the reason I stayed part of the ICFA leadership team."

Considered one of the founders of the coaching industry in Australia, McLean has served the ICF in numer-



**Josie McLean, PCC, of Australia, accepts the International Coach Federation President's Award, December 4, during the 2009 ICF Annual International Conference.**

ous capacities, most recently as Conference Chair for the 2009 ICF Australasia Conference, themed "A Sustaining Experience." She is also Past President of ICF Australasia.

With more than 25 years of business experience, she is founder of The Partnership ([www.tacticalpartnership.com.au](http://www.tacticalpartnership.com.au)), a leadership development group that offers a range of human development programs. McLean's areas of specialty are in coaching and facilitation. Her passion lies in leadership and she is committed to assisting people in exercising their leadership for a more sustainable future.

McLean has a great wealth of knowledge and experience that allows her to be the coach she is today. Her clients say that her visionary outlook and strong strategic thinking ability let her deliver fresh perspective and identify new opportunities to the changes they seek.



## From Josie McLean, PCC Recipient of the 2009 ICF President's Award



*It is of course a great honor to be recognised in this way – and one that really does come as a surprise to me! I notice that John Whitmore was recognised with the same award two years ago, and John has been both a friend and inspiration to me in my work—both paid and voluntary. I have also been on this path with so many other people and I recall them all at this time. No one does anything alone! It is impossible to list all the names here but within this context I would really like to acknowledge my long suffering and sometimes neglected husband, Duart, and children, Amanda, James and Rachel—and my own coach over the years, Gary Russell.*

*Why have I contributed so much to ICF over the last ten years? In hindsight, I can tell a logical story, but it has been an unfolding one. In hindsight, it seems that part of this answer resides in my personal purpose and part in what I see as coaching's purpose. Coaching has an important role to play in the future of humanity. I know this is a statement many would agree with, but perhaps some may find a 'big call', so let me elaborate just a little.*



*We are at a momentous time in human history, and I believe coaching is developing at this time to midwife the emergence of a new way of living and working and being—in fact to midwife the emergence of a new paradigm. The old paradigm no longer serves us well. This is evidenced by the problems we face. Problems relating to atmospheric composition, land cover, marine ecosystems, coastal zones, freshwater basins and global biological diversity. We face many crises, but the biggest we face is a crisis of imagination and creativity.*

*What we need, and what coaching provides, is a way of tapping our innate creativity combined with our passion and energy and individual strengths. From a systems perspective, coaching is a process to unleash emergent qualities of the system – and usher in a new, sustainable way of being on this planet.*

*Sustainability in its broadest sense is also about relationships, with ourselves (our sense of spiritual fulfillment), with others (to be socially just) and with the planet (our ability to live within the limits of our physical environment). Coaching assists to raise our awareness about the quality of our relationships and promotes the development of healthy relationships.*

*Given this bigger picture, my work within ICF has been about creating a viable professional body to sustain professional coaches doing their important work—and contributing to the professional development of these people. My contribution has given me a great deal of personal satisfaction (along with just a few headaches) but it has taught me about leadership, self belief, and risk taking. It has delivered me amazing and deep friendships...which brings to mind the closing slide in Margaret Wheatley's presentation to the ICFA 2009 conference last year. It said simply "We were together... I forget the rest."*

*With gratitude and appreciation,*

*Josie*

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