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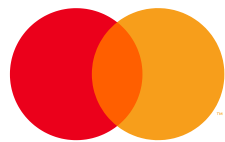
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The Blockies

KEY THEMES

Blockchain Week 2023 saw innovators, industry leaders, and blockchain enthusiasts converge to navigate the ever-evolving landscape of digital currency and blockchain technologies.

Day 1 of Blockchain Week 2023 highlighted key themes in banking, regulation, and payments. Sessions emphasised blockchain's potential to revolutionise finance, focusing on streamlined workflows, compliance, and risk mitigation. Challenges included regulatory clarity, implementation costs, and balancing transaction friction with security. The future of payments was a central focus, emphasising trust, compliance, and security in blockchain and digital assets.

Stablecoins were seen as bridges between traditional finance and crypto, while discussions on CBDCs and stablecoin settlements were prominent. Future-proofing strategies included updating regulatory frameworks and exploring CBDCs. Overall, Blockchain Week showcased blockchain's transformative impact on finance in a digital economy.

On **day 2** Australia turned into a hive of blockchain and crypto activity for the Web3 Fringe Festival. The day comprised of legal discourse on blockchain regulation and finance convergence, workshops on asset tokenisation and smart contracts, and an examination of blockchain's profound influence on digital sectors like NFTs, the Metaverse, DAOs, and DeFi. An interactive NFT treasure hunt event was also hosted. Experts convened to discuss emerging blockchain technologies at a meetup, while a seminar addressed the complexity of crypto taxation. Through a blend of networking events, educational seminars, and interactive activities, attendees gained a holistic, immersive experience in the blockchain landscape.

Day 3 revolved around blockchain education, career exploration, and entrepreneurial innovation in Web3. Tailored to newcomers, the event featured entry-level workshops on blockchain and digital currencies. The programme shed light on career paths in decentralised tech, with discovery sessions revealing required skills and roles.

Business and startup discussions illustrated how to leverage Web3 for innovation, showcasing successful case studies. A dedicated focus on youth ensured younger participants learned about Web3 technologies, career opportunities, and the past and future of money, cultivating a new generation of digital pioneers.

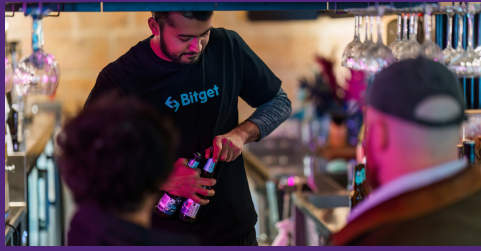
Day 4 underscored the need for international regulatory harmonisation across the APAC, EU, US, and the Middle East. Key topics included the removal of entry barriers for sectors like Web3 to foster mass adoption. The potential of stablecoins, CBDCs, and cryptocurrencies like Bitcoin was acknowledged, emphasising their role in transaction enhancement.

Conversations with SEC and ASIC explored nurturing innovation amid regulatory challenges. Notably, detailed discussions were held on the taxation of digital assets, highlighting the complexities and future pathways. The day concluded stressing the importance of stakeholder collaboration, education, global standards, and consumer protection in advancing blockchain adoption.

Day 5 delved into themes of innovation, social impact, and industry transformation. The sessions stressed the necessity of collaboration, regulation, and education for successful blockchain integration. Challenges for Australia in nurturing innovation were discussed, emphasising the bridge between technological prowess, financial capital, and the role of emerging technologies like blockchain, AI, and IoT.

The potential of blockchain to drive social change was explored, including its use in environmental initiatives and social empowerment. Panellists addressed security, compliance, regulation, data insights, and trust building. The transformative role of blockchain in areas like art and finance, including the use of NFTs, was highlighted, with a focus on verification, transparency, and IP rights protection. The synergy of AI and Web3 was explored, presenting opportunities for enhanced user experiences and efficient processes.

OPENING NIGHT - SUNDAY



The Blockchain Week 2023 launch party marked an impressive start, raising a commendable \$2,000 for charity. The event was a collaborative effort between Bitget, Women in Blockchain Australia, and Culture Vault, who curated the event. The event, held at the crypto NFT Bar Lulu in Sydney, was a vibrant celebration of Australian artists pioneering the use of web3 technology.

Bitget, a platform serving over 8 million users globally and striving to make Web3 accessible to all, was a proud sponsor of the event.

Bitget's involvement was spearheaded by Debbie Yuen, who made significant contributions to ensure the event's success. Culture Vault, a web3 art gallery and creative agency, was instrumental in curating the event, providing a platform for Australian artists to showcase their NFT artworks.

The event showcased a range of NFT artworks, from painting to animation, sculpture and dance. High-profile artists like Serwah Attafuah and Stephen Ormandy were among the featured artists, displaying their unique approaches to NFT art creation.

Culture Vault went a step further by launching their Bid to Earn auction platform during the event. They hosted a live auction, featuring an art piece by Mia Forrest, further contributing to the fundraising efforts.

Women in Blockchain Australia, an organisation known for their dedication to fostering inclusivity within the blockchain ecosystem, provided superb hosting services. Their efforts ensured a well-organised event, and their dedication to rallying support from the community, were integral to the evening's success.

The charity raffle was another notable success, raising half of the total funds that were subsequently donated to Good Return.

The event's resounding success was a testament to the strength of collaboration and community spirit within the blockchain and art worlds.

The Blockchain Week Launch Party has undoubtedly set a high bar for subsequent events, reflecting the dynamic nature of the blockchain community and its commitment to artistic innovation.

OVERVIEW

Day 1 of Blockchain Week 2023 at the ASX highlighted key themes in the blockchain industry:

- **Blockchain Potential:** Several sessions emphasised the transformative potential of blockchain technology in various sectors, including finance, payments, and asset tokenisation. The speakers highlighted its ability to streamline workflows, enhance compliance, mitigate risks, and foster innovation.
- **Digital Assets and Stablecoins:** The discussions revolved around the growing importance of digital assets, with a particular focus on stablecoins. Speakers recognised stablecoins as a bridge between traditional finance and the crypto space, facilitating efficient cross-border transactions and promoting financial inclusion.
- **Regulatory Challenges:** The need for regulatory clarity and the challenges associated with it were recurring themes. Participants emphasised the importance of collaboration between industry players, regulators, and banks to combat fraud, ensure consumer protection, and drive responsible innovation.
- **Central Bank Digital Currencies (CBDCs):** The potential implementation of CBDCs was a key topic, with discussions centring on their impact on the financial ecosystem, tokenisation, and the integration of stablecoins. The panels highlighted the benefits of CBDCs in terms of transparency, stability, and backing private stablecoins.
- **Institutional Adoption:** The increasing participation of institutional investors in the crypto market was a noteworthy trend. Speakers discussed the need for institutional-grade products and services to cater to this demand, while also addressing regulatory concerns and ensuring consumer trust.

KEY THEMES

- Simon Callaghan was announced as the new CEO of Blockchain Australia.
- **Institutionalisation of blockchain:** Growing demand from institutions, bridging traditional finance and crypto, and navigating regulatory uncertainties.
- **CBDC exploration:** Pilot projects, regulatory compliance, transformative impact on payments, tokenised marketplaces, and stablecoin ecosystems.
- **Regulatory landscape:** Collaboration, combating fraud, striking a balance between innovation and risk mitigation, establishing regulatory frameworks.
- **Asset tokenisation:** Benefits of tokenisation, including NFTs, for increased liquidity, fractional ownership, and transparency in finance and banking.
- **Future of payments:** Role of blockchain, stablecoins, and digital wallets, secure and inclusive payment systems, regulatory challenges, and integration into traditional finance.



ASX Opening Remarks

Dan Chesterman, Group Executive, Technology and Data, Chief Information Officer – ASX

In the inaugural session of Blockchain Week 2023 hosted at the ASX, Dan Chesterman, the Group Executive for Technology and Data, fervently discussed the ever-evolving landscape of blockchain technology. Recognising the traditional owners of the land, the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation, Chesterman shed light on the blistering pace of technological change, likening the pace to "dog years."



Chesterman endorsed the belief that blockchain carries significant potential to create real value, if deployed thoughtfully and with suitable control and risk awareness. He echoed the optimistic forecasts of Citi and BlackRock, which anticipate the tokenisation of real-world assets, potentially amassing \$4 trillion in value by 2030.

Confronting rumours of the CHeSS replacement programme's pause as a rejection of the technology, Chesterman reiterated ASX's belief in blockchain's capacity for streamlining workflows, enhancing compliance, and risk mitigation. He further announced that ASX's Distributed Ledger Technology (DLT) as a service platform, Synfini, will remain a primary area of focus and investment.

Chesterman stressed the versatility and robustness of Synfini, emphasising its potential for seamless integration with various platforms and technologies. The platform aims to enable real-world asset tokenisation and workflow automation in collaboration with partner banks, asset managers, and technology providers.

Assuring ASX's commitment to customer collaboration, Chesterman highlighted the importance of Synfini's scalability and flexibility. He envisaged the platform to evolve as a tech-enabled ecosystem, integrating into multiple offerings and prioritising customer-led opportunities.

In conclusion, Chesterman expressed gratitude to the ASX team and Blockchain Australia for their logistic support, inviting everyone to enjoy the week's sessions and networking opportunities.

SESSION WRAP

Opening Blockchain Week 2023, leaders from ASX, Investment NSW, and Mastercard underlined the vast potential of blockchain and digital assets. They advocated for robust adoption, agile regulation, and secure infrastructure, highlighting the transformative role of this technology in reshaping financial services, promoting economic growth, and powering an inclusive digital economy.

1 Blockchain & Accelerating NSW Emerging Tech Adoption and Industry Growth

Katie Knight – Investment NSW

Investment NSW CEO, Katie Knight, opened Blockchain Week 2023 with a strong outlook on blockchain's potential in boosting Australia's economy and asserting the country's global competitiveness in this arena.

This included forecasts for blockchain technologies to contribute over \$3.5 billion in revenue and \$1.6 billion in gross value added to NSW's economy by 2030. She proudly acknowledged NSW's rich pool of IT graduates and globally recognised universities, underscoring the state's position as a blockchain powerhouse.

Investment NSW, according to Knight, functions as a strategic matchmaker, aiding collaborations throughout the product lifecycle and building vibrant communities to attract top talent – including through the Sydney startup and scaleup hubs, Western Sydney Startup Hub, and Sydney's Tech Central – which are critical in supporting the agglomeration of emerging digital technologies.

Her speech culminated in an open invitation to delegates to connect with her team, amplifying the NSW government's commitment to harnessing tech advancements and providing a positive kickoff for Blockchain Week 2023.

2 The Future of Payments: Building Trust, Compliance, and Security in Blockchain and Digital Assets

Ashok Venkateswaran – Mastercard

Ashok Venkateswaran, Vice President and Head of Digital Assets and Blockchain, Asia Pacific at Mastercard, outlined the firm's strides towards secure, reliable digital asset transactions for their 3 billion cardholders and 100 million global merchants in his keynote at the 'Future of Payments' session.

Mastercard's focus on digital assets and a 'multi-rail' approach to connect varied payment networks has resulted in the acquisition of 150 blockchain patents, with their dedicated team expanding tenfold. Key initiatives include enabling digital currency flows, facilitating digital wallet usage across their global network with automatic conversion to fiat currencies. Immersve, Stables, Coinspot, and Coinjar are set to launch Mastercard cards.

New product launches include CipherTrace, CryptoSecure and CryptoSource. These additions enhance transparency, assist banks in offering cryptocurrency services and enrich blockchain transactions with additional data. Mastercard also engages with public and private entities such as the Reserve Bank of Australia and the Hong Kong Monetary Authority in exploring the feasibility of Central Bank Digital Currencies (CBDCs) and Stablecoin settlements.

The company's exploratory forays into non-fungible tokens (NFTs), metaverse commerce, and collateralised NFTs, signal Mastercard's commitment to an inclusive digital economy, boosting blockchain adoption across the globe.



3

Banking on the Future: A Conversation on the Evolution of Financial Services

[MOD] Michael Bacina – Blockchain Australia

Sophie Gilder – Commonwealth Bank

Howard Silby – NAB

Nigel Dobson – ANZ

The banking sector grapples with the future at the recent 'Banking on the Future' panel discussion, featuring thought leaders from the Commonwealth Bank, NAB, and ANZ. The focus was squarely on blockchain's revolutionary potential, with Sophie Gilder from the Commonwealth Bank proclaiming, "We've moved from irrational exuberance...to a focus on add-on utility." This positive sentiment was echoed by Howard Silby of NAB, pointing to the benefits blockchain could bring to smaller, yet significant areas like unlisted funds and carbon credits.

Tokenisation of assets, smart payments, and the atomic settlement of digital assets were identified as promising use cases, with Nigel Dobson from ANZ discussing a successful tokenised carbon credit pilot. The panel agreed that while adoption is gaining momentum, major hurdles include regulatory clarity, incumbency, and implementation costs.

In response to rising scam rates involving cryptocurrency, banks have imposed payment restrictions, aiming to safeguard customers. As Dobson stated, finding a balance between frictionless transactions and security is essential, underlining that "scams are a whole-of-ecosystem problem." As financial institutions negotiate these new frontiers, the road ahead promises to be challenging yet invigorating, shaping a future where the trust inherent in blockchain can be banked upon.

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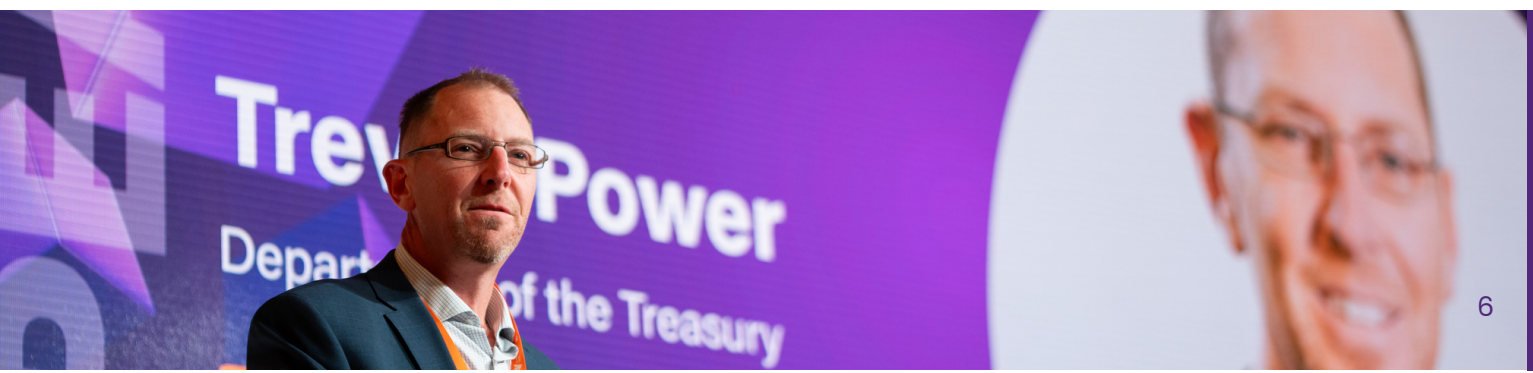
Paying it Forward: Future-Proofing Australia's financial system

Trevor Power, First Assistant Secretary of the Financial Systems Division – Commonwealth Treasury

In his keynote 'Paying it Forward', Trevor Power, First Assistant Secretary of the Financial Systems Division, laid out the Australian government's strategy to future-proof its financial system amidst rapid digital transformations. The primary focus is on updating regulatory frameworks, particularly in payments and crypto sectors.

The government is prioritising five key areas. First, acknowledging the ongoing digital transformation in the financial system, they're seeking to balance innovation and safety while regulating emerging technologies. This includes managing cyber threats, scams, and privacy issues to ensure that digital transformation benefits are widely accessible. Second, Power detailed plans for major payment system reforms. The government aims to create a strategic payment plan for the next five years, focused on creating a safe, trusted, and efficient payment system promoting competition and innovation.

Third, Power highlighted plans to regulate stablecoins under a new Stored Value Facility Framework, stressing their functional similarities to traditional deposits and their importance in balancing innovation and safety. Fourth, the potential implementation of a Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) is under exploration, in collaboration with the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) and the Digital Finance CRC. Finally, given the regulatory challenges posed by cryptocurrencies, the government is developing a framework that supports crypto innovation within established parameters.



5

Future-Proofing Traditional Financial Infrastructure Using Blockchain

[MOD] Aaron Patrick - The Australian Financial Review

Michael Shaulov – Fireblocks

In an engaging fireside chat moderated by Aaron Patrick from The Australian Financial Review, Michael Shaulov, CEO and co-founder of Fireblocks, highlighted the burgeoning fusion of blockchain and digital assets within the banking sector. He particularly emphasised the transformative potential of stablecoins.



Fireblocks, working with about 1,800 global financial institutions (including 100 in Australia), specialises in secure key management infrastructure. It tailors to each bank's IT risk compliance policies and is currently aiding major banks and New York's Museum of Modern Art in adopting Web3 wallets, capable of handling diverse digital assets. "If you visit a MoMA exhibition, you can actually buy NFTs of the artwork," Shaulov illustrated.

Identifying stablecoins as the 'killer app' of blockchain, Shaulov underscored their capacity to expedite cross-border transactions. He also noted the growing interest in Central Bank Digital Currencies (CBDCs) as a strategic approach to support the stablecoin ecosystem.

However, Shaulov voiced his apprehensions about the regulatory obstacles in the US, regarding the ongoing litigation between the SEC and crypto exchanges as substantial hindrances for the blockchain and crypto industry.

By tackling security and regulatory challenges, Fireblocks is strategically positioned to spearhead the digital transformation within banking, underlining the escalating influence of blockchain and digital assets in the future of finance.

“

“The simplest killer app is really stablecoins. Once you [do a transaction with stablecoins] you realise how powerful they are in terms of money movement [through cross-border corridors].

Michael Shaulov – Fireblocks

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6 Setting the Stage: Charting the Trends & Evolution of Blockchain in Australia - A Retrospective and Visionary Panel Discussion

[MOD] David Elliot – Agile Digital
Mike Meisels – Chainalysis
Margaret Rosenfeld – Cube Group, Inc.
Shane Verner – Fireblocks
Adriana Belotti – Algorand Foundation

In a panel discussion moderated by Agile Digital's David Elliot, a group of industry heavyweights convened to discuss the growth trajectory of blockchain in Australia. Panellists offered their expertise, outlining the critical role community plays in fostering ethical practices and promoting digital asset education.

The panellists unanimously called for the blockchain community to take a proactive role in mitigating scams through education. Despite public perceptions, they clarified that crypto-related scams in Australia are relatively low, due in large part to the self-regulation and protective measures undertaken by Australian cryptocurrency organisations.

Australia's potential leadership in the blockchain technology space was also highlighted, thanks to a unique, collaborative dialogue between regulators, government officials, and the crypto community. On the topic of tokenisation, the panellists identified stablecoins as a central component of future financial ecosystems, particularly for efficient asset settlement. This, they suggested, may well be the 'killer app' for blockchain or DLT.

The panel concluded that with collective responsibility, education, and strategic foresight, Australia is well-positioned to lead the blockchain and DLT revolution, nurturing a safe and prosperous digital asset ecosystem.

7 Across the Pacific: A Dialogue on the Evolution and Future Trajectory of Binance

[MOD] Liya Dashkina – Reinventure Group
Ben Rose – Binance

In a 'Fireside Chat', moderated by Reinventure's Liya Dashkina, Ben Rose, Regional General Manager for Binance in Australia, New Zealand, and Pacific Islands gave a captivating talk on the evolution and future trajectory of the crypto giant.

Rose's commitment to the Australian market was evident, despite debanking hurdles and regulatory obstacles. He demonstrated Binance's tenacity in seeking a new fiat partner and focusing on consumer growth through working closely with regulators and the banking sector.

A critical thread was the need for enhanced crypto education for both businesses and consumers, aiding in navigating cryptocurrency complexities and promoting broader understanding and adoption. Rose acknowledged the increasing importance of consumer trust in the face of growing crypto popularity, and highlighted the necessity for industry leadership in this aspect.

The future, Rose suggested, demands closer cooperation between traditional finance and the crypto industry. This collaboration is inevitable, given the anticipated deeper integration of crypto into consumers' financial interactions. Rose confidently proclaimed, "Crypto is not a dirty word anymore. It's a thing that people do," reflecting the paradigm shift in public perception of digital currencies.



SHANE VERNER
FIREBLOCKS

"I've seen Web3 builders come in at pace with extraordinary tokenisation programs of work, which I think is really encouraging."

In a captivating keynote, Dilip Rao of the Digital Finance Cooperative Research Centre (DFCRC) brought to light the intricate complexities and potential of Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC). At the core of the DFCRC, Rao spearheads the exploration of CBDCs, overseeing a program with initial interest from over 90 entities, ranging from major banks to nimble fintechs. He is actively addressing the practical applications of CBDCs and the regulatory challenges they pose.

Exploring the potential of CBDCs necessitates a careful balancing act between traditional banking systems and emerging digital technology. For the Australian CBDC pilot, a private implementation of Ethereum was paired with Fireblocks. The system maintained a clear 'separation of powers', allowing users to manage their holdings without insight into the underlying technology. However, the pilot wasn't just a technology experiment; it strived to address practical considerations.

One of the key challenges in implementing CBDCs is regulatory compliance. To address this, the pilot ring-fenced the CBDC environment, allowing issuance only to Australians and Australian entities who had undergone Know Your Customer (KYC) procedures. In an interesting twist, Rao and his team offloaded the responsibility of individual KYC checks to ANZ, a move designed to simplify central bank operations.

Regulatory issues aside, CBDCs have the potential to revolutionise a range of financial systems, from tokenised marketplaces and smart-contract-enabled payments in supply chains, to backing private stablecoins. With these use cases, CBDCs could complement, rather than disrupt, the current financial ecosystem.

Central bank money has the unique advantage of guaranteed value and eliminated counterparty risk. But CBDCs present an opportunity to extend this stability to private stablecoins, providing a transparent way to verify their backing by the central bank. This could bring a new level of integrity to the digital currency space.

Despite the potential benefits, CBDCs must navigate a complex landscape. According to Rao, "There's no point going through a long exercise to make CBDC a legal tender if no one's going to use it". The true test of the CBDC pilot lies in its ability to integrate into existing financial systems and its acceptance by the Australian public.



The Australian CBDC pilot has provided valuable insights into the regulatory treatment of CBDCs, potential distribution methods, and key concerns such as security, privacy, and identity. However, much work still lies ahead. While the pilot may not yet provide a definitive road map for CBDC implementation, it's a promising exploration into the future of digital currency, highlighting the intricate dance between technology, regulation, and practical application in the brave new world of finance.

“There's no point going through a long exercise to make CBDC a legal tender if no one's going to use it”
Dilip Rao - DFCRC

9

Revolutionising Payment Systems: Innovations and Advancements with NAB, Mastercard, Canvas & Circle

[MOD] Candace Sjogren – Zero Hash
Kate Cooper – National Australia Bank
Aaron Boyd – Mastercard
Ben Morris – Circle
David Lavecky – Canvas

Representatives from National Australia Bank (NAB), Mastercard, Circle, and Canvas came together at Blockchain Week for a panel session discussing the future of payment systems. The session, moderated by Candace Sjogren, Senior Vice President of Zero Hash, focused on the transformative impact of blockchain technology and stablecoins.

Kate Cooper from NAB highlighted the significance of stablecoins in bridging the gap between traditional finance institutions and the crypto space. Aaron Boyd of Mastercard expressed his belief in Web3 as the future and the need to address regulatory issues, education, and scams during the transition from Web 2. Ben Morris of Circle stressed the importance of managing funds and fostering trust in stablecoins. David Lavecky, CEO of Canvas, emphasised the role of banks and regulated financial institutions in the blockchain ecosystem.

Four key takeaways emerged: addressing critical gaps for Web 2 to Web 3 transition; strengthening collaboration between banks and crypto exchanges; blockchain for financial inclusion; and integrating stablecoins into Web 2 payment systems. The panel also discussed recent industry failures, the responsible role of banks, and the benefits of stablecoins in enhancing consumer trust. Canvas' involvement in the EAUD "future of finance" project and the role of AI in the payment space were also highlighted. In conclusion, the panel showcased the transformative potential of blockchain technology and stablecoins, emphasising collaboration and regulation for a promising future of payment systems.

10

The Future of Digital Currency Exchanges: Trends and Predictions for the Next Decade

[MOD] Paul Derham – Holley Nethercote
Adrian Przelozny – Independent Reserve
Jonathan Miller – Kraken Australia
Caroline Bowler – BTC Markets
Karl Mohan – Crypto.com

In a DCE centered panel moderated by Paul Derham, Managing Partner at Holley Nethercote, industry experts Adrian Przelozny, Jonathan Miller, Caroline Bowler, and Karl Mohan shared insights.

They discussed the impact of institutional adoption on exchanges, the inevitability of regulatory changes, the role of AI technologies like Crypto.com's AMY, and the future user experience on digital currency exchange platforms. The panellists predicted consolidation in the Australian cryptocurrency market, collaborations with traditional financial institutions, and increased accessibility through AI advancements. They also highlighted the importance of regulation in balancing innovation and risk mitigation.

Anticipated trends included automation, high-frequency trading, decentralised technologies, and programmatic crypto assets. The session emphasised the transformative potential of decentralised finance and the importance of crypto education. Overall, the panel provided valuable perspectives on the future of digital currency exchanges and the evolving landscape of the industry.





11

The Power of Blockchain in Payment Systems: Leveraging Monoova, Block Earner, Ripple and Novatti for Secure and Transparent Transactions

[Mod] Hannah Glass – King & Wood Mallesons
Effie Dimitropoulos – Novatti
Christian Westerlind Wigstrom – Monoova
Ross Edwards – Ripple
Charlie Karaboga – BlockEarner

The discussion focused on the intersection of blockchain and payment systems. Effie Dimitropoulos shared Novatti's experience in developing alternative payment rails using blockchain technology to solve specific payment problems, such as cross-border payments, mobile money systems, and digital wallets.

Christian Wigstrom emphasised the versatility of payments in the blockchain and crypto space, discussing the transition from fiat to crypto and the potential for using blockchain technology itself as a means of payment. Charlie Karaboga highlighted the role of stablecoins in global finance and the convergence of traditional finance with blockchain finance.

The panel also touched on the regulation of stablecoins and the need for a regulatory framework that ensures stability, transparency, and asset-backing. They discussed the coexistence of central bank digital currencies (CBDCs) and stablecoins, with Ross Edwards noting that different policies and design decisions would differentiate the two. The panelists expressed optimism about the future of blockchain-based payments, envisioning a shift towards seamless, efficient, and globally integrated payment systems within the next five to ten years.

Overall, the panel discussion shed light on the potential of blockchain technology to revolutionise payment systems, facilitate cross-border transactions, and create new opportunities for financial inclusion and innovation.

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“Ultimately, if we need it, it's decided by the uptake. Currencies are famously prone to network effects. If you have something that you deem to be of value and no one else believes it's of value, then it has no value. So you need at least two people and very quickly they need to surface each other with everything. So you need at least one more person and you carry on.”

Christian Westerlind Wigstrom – Monoova

”

[MOD] Angela Clark – Wallet Nation

Paul Stonham – ASX

Ryan McCall – Zerocap

Blake Cassidy – Bamboo

In the panel session "Investment for Tomorrow: A Look at the Future of Digital Trading Platforms," leading industry figures delved into the future of digital trading in Australia. Speakers included Paul Stonham from ASX, Ryan McCall from Zerocap, and Blake Cassidy from Bamboo, moderated by Angela Clark from Wallet Nation.

The crux of the conversation revolved around Australia's necessity to diversify its investment base through asset digitisation. Paul Stonham suggested that a healthy digital asset ecosystem necessitates a blend of institutions, high-frequency traders providing liquidity, and retail users.

Ryan McCall addressed Australia's current position on the global stage, acknowledging that it lags behind regions like Hong Kong and UAE in grasping the significance of digital asset trading. He stated, "We really need the ecosystem to support the development of these digital trading platforms and a big part of that is regulation, capital, and then the products."

Blake Cassidy highlighted the demographic trends in crypto investments. He observed that younger participants are often more enthusiastic about the asset class during bull markets. However, in bear markets, participation is predominantly from the more affluent sections of society.

The panel acknowledged that increased institutional participation is attributable to decreased counterparty risk and enhanced liquidity. However, they expressed concern that the slower pace of regulation might stymie growth in the traditional finance sector, thereby creating opportunities for DeFi innovation to impact its evolution.

The conversation underscored the challenges in the digital asset landscape but also recognised the immense opportunities. As Australia stands at the threshold of significant development in this sector, there are abundant possibilities for both emerging startups and established financial institutions to drive this digital revolution.

“

"A healthy ecosystem is a combination of all those, it's the institutions, it's High Frequency Traders (HFTs) providing liquidity, and it's the retail users."

Paul Stonham – ASX

”

Game-Changing Innovation: Immutable as the Backbone of Decentralised Web3 Economies

Robbie Ferguson, Founder – Immutable

In his keynote speech titled "Game-Changing Innovation: Immutable as the Backbone of Decentralised Web3 Economies," Robbie Ferguson, Founder of Immutable, unveiled the revolutionary potential of Web3 gaming. Ferguson highlighted the staggering size and economic significance of the gaming industry, while underscoring the lack of ownership and rights for players.

He introduced Immutable's platform, empowering game developers to establish economies with genuine digital ownership. Ferguson emphasised the transformative power of NFTs in enabling tradability and liquidity for unique assets, extending their impact beyond the realm of gaming.

Acknowledging the challenges faced by the industry, he emphasised the need for high-quality games and seamless integration of smart contracts.

Ferguson expressed profound optimism about the future of Web3 gaming, predicting a burgeoning demand for ownership rights among players and the consequential disruption of virtual interactions and the broader crypto landscape.

Through Immutable's vision, Ferguson sees a paradigm shift that democratises ownership and redefines the gaming experience for players worldwide.



The Institutionalisation of Crypto: How Digital Currency Exchanges are Adapting to New Market Demands

[MOD] Lisa Wade – DigitalX

Ben Rose – Binance

Jessica Renden – Cointree

Alex Harper – Swyftx

Digital Currency Exchange leaders came together to discuss the future of crypto markets. Speakers included Ben Rose from Binance, Jessica Renden from Cointree, and Alex Harper from Swyftx, with Lisa Wade from DigitalX moderating.

Key points included the growing demand from institutional investors and the necessity to develop institutional-grade products and services. However, the lack of regulatory clarity presents a significant challenge. Ben Rose emphasised that the crypto industry is continuously evolving, and businesses must adapt. Jessica Renden stressed the importance of exchanges working with regulators and banks to combat fraud.

The panel considered the role of Decentralised Exchanges (DEXs), noting they can foster adoption by offering user-friendly interfaces while leveraging decentralised technology. The session ended by discussing the impact of tokenisation and AI on exchanges, recognising their future importance without definitive predictions. It was clear that as the crypto sector institutionalises, adaptation and evolution will be paramount.

“Now is a really important time for exchanges to work with regulators, to work with banks, to be able to all try and combat things like fraud and scams ... because nobody wants these transacting through our platform.”

Jessica Renden – Cointree

15

Building the Future: From Web2 to Web3 - Contributing to the betterment of the planet

[MOD] Zunilka C. Whitnall – UNICEF
Brad Bond – Mantel Group
Vincent Gramoli – Redbelly Network
Prashant Gami – x-enabler
Andrew Zhou – Accenture

The discussion highlighted the transformative power of Web3 in driving positive change and fostering sustainability. Andrew Zhou emphasised the value of direct communication and transparency in the customer realm, unlocking significant opportunities for enhanced engagement and efficiency.

Vincent Gramoli underscored the need for algorithmic transparency, enabling users to trust and verify the information they consume. Prashant Gami highlighted the benefits of collaboration, transparency, and security in Web3, empowering communities and reducing transaction costs.

The panel also addressed the challenges and risks associated with Web3, with a focus on accountability and education. Vincent Gramoli emphasized the importance of establishing mechanisms for recourse in cases of fraud or identity theft. Prashant Gami stressed the need for education and best practices to mitigate human errors in programming and system implementation.

Overall, the panel session emphasized the transformative potential of Web3 technology across sectors such as finance, identity management, and AI alignment. With a collaborative and inclusive approach, the experts expressed optimism about Web3's ability to shape a more sustainable and equitable future.

16

Surviving Disruption and Regulatory Uncertainty: Strategies for Navigating Industry Turbulence with Digital Surge and Korda Mentha

[MOD] Alice Dillon – Immutable
Josh Lehman – Digital Surge
Paul Hewson – Korda Mentha

In a compelling tale of resilience and commitment, the founders of Digital Surge, Josh Lehman, and their dedicated team overcame significant challenges to navigate the disruption and regulatory uncertainty in the digital exchange industry.

The story of their journey, shared in an interview with Alice Dillon, Deputy General Counsel of Immutable, and Paul Hewson, Director & Digital Asset Lead at Korda Mentha, sheds light on the unprecedented hurdles they faced and the strategies employed to emerge successfully on the other side.

The discussion revolved around the unfortunate timing of Digital Surge's collision with FTX, a significant digital exchange, and the subsequent challenges they encountered. Despite these setbacks, the interview highlighted the remarkable determination of Digital Surge's founders to fulfil their obligations to creditors and chart a path to recovery.

Josh Lehman, Co-Founder of Digital Surge, recounted the origins of their venture, which began in 2017. Initially focused on facilitating the buying and selling of Bitcoin, Digital Surge realised the need to evolve their business model to meet the growing demands of their customers.

PAUL HEWSON
KORDA MENTHA

**"Our goal is to maximise
 creditor returns and
 enable the business's
 survival."**

Cont...

Transitioning to a broker model, they expanded their cryptocurrency offerings and partnered with third-party exchanges to provide liquidity. This shift proved immensely successful, leading to rapid growth and an expanding user base, including SMSF customers and high-net-worth individuals.

However, the unforeseen collapse of FTX brought their flourishing business to a standstill. Depositing \$33 million into FTX just days before its Chapter 11 filing, Digital Surge found themselves in a precarious situation. While initial reassurances from FTX's representatives left them cautiously optimistic, subsequent events unfolded rapidly, leading to a suspension of deposits and withdrawals. Recognising the magnitude of the challenge, Digital Surge sought external expertise and engaged Korda Mentha, a renowned administrator firm.

Paul Hewson, representing Korda Mentha, elucidated the significance of voluntary administration and its impact on the company. With the primary objective of maximising creditor returns, Korda Mentha conducted a thorough evaluation of potential solutions. In a remarkable display of commitment, Josh Lehman and his co-founder offered their personal funds and future profits as part of a proposed restructuring plan.

This plan, approved by Korda Mentha, allowed for the return of 57% of creditors' balances in specie, the remainder to be repaid over the next five years through profits generated by Digital Surge.

Throughout the interview, the challenges of handling cryptocurrency assets within the insolvency process were also discussed. Ensuring the secure storage of these assets, Korda Mentha collaborated with Zerocap, underpinned by Fireblocks, to safeguard the crypto holdings and provide insurance coverage. Clear communication with the numerous creditors proved essential, as many were unfamiliar with the intricacies of the voluntary administration process.

The outcome of this tumultuous journey is a testament to the resilience and commitment exhibited by Digital Surge's founders and their partnership with Korda Mentha. While acknowledging areas for improvement in terms of transparency prior to the collapse, Josh Lehman and his team have taken significant steps to enhance risk management and governance.

Their dedication to rebuilding trust and exploring measures to safeguard customer funds demonstrates a valuable learning experience for the entire industry. As the interview drew to a close, the audience expressed their appreciation for the candidness displayed by Josh Lehman and commended the team's unwavering dedication to their customers.

The story of Digital Surge's survival in the face of disruption and regulatory uncertainty serves as an inspiration to the blockchain community, illustrating the importance of resilience, transparency, and proactive measures in navigating industry turbulence.



DAY TWO

National Fringe Festival

Sydney - Brisbane - Melbourne - Perth - Online

On Day 2 of Blockchain Week at the national Web3 Fringe Festival, various events took place, catering to the interests and needs of the Australian blockchain, crypto, and Web3 community.

Here's a summary of the events that unfolded:

Blockchain Lawyers Forum Event & Breakfast



The Blockchain Lawyers Forum Event was organised by The Blockchain Lawyers Forum and Piper Alderman. The event offered legal professionals a valuable platform to convene and delve into conversations around regulation, debanking challenges, and the convergence of traditional finance (TradFi) and decentralised finance (DeFi).



BUIDL YOURSELF LIVE WORKSHOP

SettleMint hosted an immersive online session where attendees explored the full asset tokenisation workflow. They learned to create, mint, burn, and transfer tokenised assets, and build and deploy ERC-1155 smart contracts. Participants also gained access to the SettleMint platform and received an exclusive POAP showcasing their new asset tokenisation skills.



Blockchain Technology at Digitally Remastered: The Age OF Blockchain

Layer One X brought together innovators and trailblazers to delve into the profound implications of blockchain, NFTs, Metaverse, Crypto, DAOs, GameFi, and DeFi. Attendees in Perth explored the digital future and engaged in networking and conversations.

Cont...



NFT Treasure Hunt at Upside DAO

Chainalysis invited participants to become crypto investigators for a day. Attendees analysed a digital trail to uncover the culprit behind the theft of a valuable NFT. The workshop combined interactive gameplay with the opportunity to win prizes, engage with blockchain analytics tools, and network with peers.



Aus DeFi Association

The Sydney Aus Defi Meetup brought together experts in blockchain infrastructure, metaverse, NFTs, and zero-knowledge proofs. Attendees engaged in thought-provoking discussions, exploring the latest trends and insights in blockchain technology across industries. The event featured speakers including Michael Shaulov (CEO, Fireblocks), Galit Ariel (TechnoFuturist), Peter Xing (Transhuman Coin) and Tracey Plowman (Bamboo).



A Practical Guide to Crypto Tax in 2023

Cryptocate, a leader in crypto tax services, presented a systematic approach to solving the challenges of crypto tax. Participants, including accountants, students, and crypto users, unpacked the complexities of crypto tax and gained valuable skills and insights in collaboration with Swinburne University Blockchain Club.

DAY THREE – BRISBANE WEB3 CLASSROOM

Day 3 of Blockchain Week was dedicated to exploring the future of education, careers, and entrepreneurship in the Blockchain and Web3 industry.

Designed for the general population, the event in Brisbane was titled 'The world's largest Web3 classroom'. The experience provided attendees with a unique opportunity to immerse themselves in entry-level content, catering to those who were new to the space and eager to dive into the world of digital currency and blockchain.

Overall, the event provided a valuable platform for individuals to gain knowledge, explore career prospects, and understand the potential of Web3 for entrepreneurial and business ventures.

During the event, participants had the opportunity to attend various workshops including:

- **XDC Network Workshop:** Participants explored blockchain, demystified buzzwords, had hands-on Bitcoin PoW experiences, learned about XDC Network, created XDC wallets, and became Web3 wizards. The session was presented by XDC Network.
- **Blockchain Applications Workshop:** Attendees delved into the end-to-end lifecycle of a blockchain app, examined a case study on an NFT project. The session was presented by Tokens for Humanity.
- **Crypto Fundamentals Workshop:** Participants gained understanding of cryptocurrency transactions, exchanges, wallets, security practices, and practical steps for engaging in the digital currency landscape. The session was presented by Binance Labs.

WEB3 WORKSHOP FOR TEENS

Gordon Christian – Digital Playhouse and Stacks Australia
Kieran Nolan – The School Of Bitcoin
Mentis – Atman Academy
Debbie Yuen – Bitget



In a Blockchain Week first, youth aged 12-17 participated in a groundbreaking event where they minted NFTs, displayed art in the metaverse and Minecraft, and explored the future of money.

They engaged in hands-on activities, learned from real-life innovators, and enjoyed exclusive giveaways. This event provided a unique opportunity for teens to connect with peers and mentors who share their interests. Taking place during Blockchain Week added significance, allowing the youth to actively engage with emerging technologies and gain practical knowledge about blockchain and Web3.

Overall, this event during Blockchain Week offered a transformative experience, shaping their understanding of technology and its impact on the future and potential career paths into the industry.

DAY THREE - BRISBANE WEB3 CLASSROOM



DAY FOUR GLOBAL

A day of international perspectives, featuring keynote addresses and panel discussions exploring the regulatory landscapes of APAC, EU, US & the Middle East.

1 Global Outlook – Looking Back to Look Forward

Gracy Chen, Managing Director – Bitget

Gracy Chen, the Managing Director of Bitget, discussed three key themes for the crypto industry in 2023.

Firstly, she emphasised the importance of removing barriers to entry through sectors like Web3, layer two, and TIPIN, which facilitate mass adoption and bridge the gap between digital and physical spaces. Secondly, she highlighted the potential of stablecoins and central bank digital currencies (CBDCs) to enhance transactions, financial inclusion, and cross-border payments, acknowledging their complex relationship as competitors and collaborators.

Gracy shared how Bitget is innovating and adapting to the evolving crypto landscape, leveraging partnerships, investments, and incubation programs to support blockchain projects. The second half of 2023 is expected to bring surprises and opportunities, with significant growth in Bitcoin, a talent influx, and increased innovation and adoption.

Gracy closed on emphasising that Bitget is committed to empowering individuals to take control of their data, identities, and online interactions, and looks forward to building the future of the industry together.

2 Caitlin Long: Pioneering the New Frontier of Finance in the United States

Caitlin Long, Founder and CEO – Custodia Bank

Caitlin Long, the Founder and CEO of Custodia Bank, delivered a keynote highlighting the transformative power of cryptocurrencies, with Bitcoin leading the way. She noted that regulators in the US were becoming more open to this innovation instead of resisting it. While the industry did face challenges and risks such as fraud and failures, there were also significant opportunities and rewards for those who embraced cryptocurrencies.

Long mentioned the increasing institutional investment in Bitcoin and the involvement of NASDAQ in monitoring the market. The potential approval of ETFs in the near future was expected to enhance liquidity and demand. Bitcoin's fixed supply made it scarce and valuable, but it also posed risks in terms of leverage. Long emphasised that Bitcoin served not only as a store of value but also as a fast and cost-effective method for money transfers, particularly through the Lightning Network.

With the halving event approaching, the supply of Bitcoin will become even tighter. Long expressed optimism about Bitcoin's future and suggested that the US could participate in its growth if regulators heeded the industry's voices and the Federal Reserve's perspective.

GRACY CHEN
BITGET

"In the long run, it's clear that the crypto industry is poised to keep on thriving, whether it's Bitcoin price, more talents moving into the space from finance or tech industry, and more innovative projects being built, increasing level of mass adoption. These are all going to happen. It's truly an exciting time to be part of this industry and let's keep on building."

3 United States in Focus: A Conversation with the SEC on Blockchain Compliance and Innovation in the US.

[Mod] Simon Callaghan - CEO, Blockchain Australia CEO
Commissioner Hester M. Peirce – U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission

During the conversation with Simon Callaghan, CEO of Blockchain Australia and US Commissioner Hester Peirce, Peirce expressed a positive view on Australia's measured approach to crypto regulation. Peirce believes that capital markets can transform lives, allowing investors to build wealth and businesses to impact communities. While she respects the SEC, she believes there's room for improvement, especially regarding innovation. Crypto presents an opportunity to rethink how the SEC approaches innovation and allows individuals outside the typical interactions with the agency to engage with it.

Congress is highly interested in crypto and has introduced comprehensive bills for crypto markets. Regulatory frameworks can be developed through congressional efforts or actions by agencies like the Commodity Futures Trading Commission and banking agencies. The events of 2022 highlighted the need for regulatory frameworks to address bad actors in centralised entities across industries. A reserved regulatory approach combined with clarity is crucial to foster innovation and experimentation. The technology's power lies in its ability to connect people without intermediaries, not only in finance but also in areas like social media platforms. The regulatory framework should not solely focus on financial assets and should recognise the diverse applications of these technologies. It's important to highlight current usage and create an environment for positive narratives. The survival and success of companies and technologies should not be solely determined by regulatory bodies like the SEC.

4 US-Australia Dialogue: Navigating US Digital Asset Regulation

[MOD] John Bassilios – Hall & Wilcox
Simon Callaghan – Blockchain Australia
Marisa Coppel – US Blockchain Association
Sarah Milby – US Blockchain Association



Marisa Coppel – US Blockchain Association

On Day 4 of Blockchain Week, Blockchain Australia sat down with the US Blockchain Association. Currently, in the US, there is a sense of urgency and activity within the crypto space as two significant pieces of legislation related to market structure and stablecoins are progressing through Congress. These bills are receiving swift attention and support. Regulatory actions by agencies like the SEC and CFTC have also been prominent, with FTX's impact drawing attention and pressuring regulators.

The market structure bill aims to establish regulated avenues for trading crypto assets, address the securities versus commodities distinction, and provide clarity for fundraising while prioritising consumer protection. The collaboration between the House Financial Services Committee and the House Agriculture Committee highlights the importance of crypto in policymakers' minds. Despite skeptics using the FTX incident to criticise the industry, crypto supporters are doubling down on efforts to advance regulation and market structure.

The industry in the US is actively engaging with lawmakers and regulators, emphasising the need for smart regulation that considers the unique nature of crypto assets and global markets. Discussions around a fair banking bill are also addressing hesitancy among banks to serve crypto companies.

The resounding sentiment from the interview was the paramount importance of striking a delicate balance between fostering innovation, protecting consumers, and maintaining a favourable environment for trailblazers in the crypto industry.

5

Building for the future: a conversation between Zero Hash and tastytrade on rebuilding trust in crypto with international regulators and consumers.

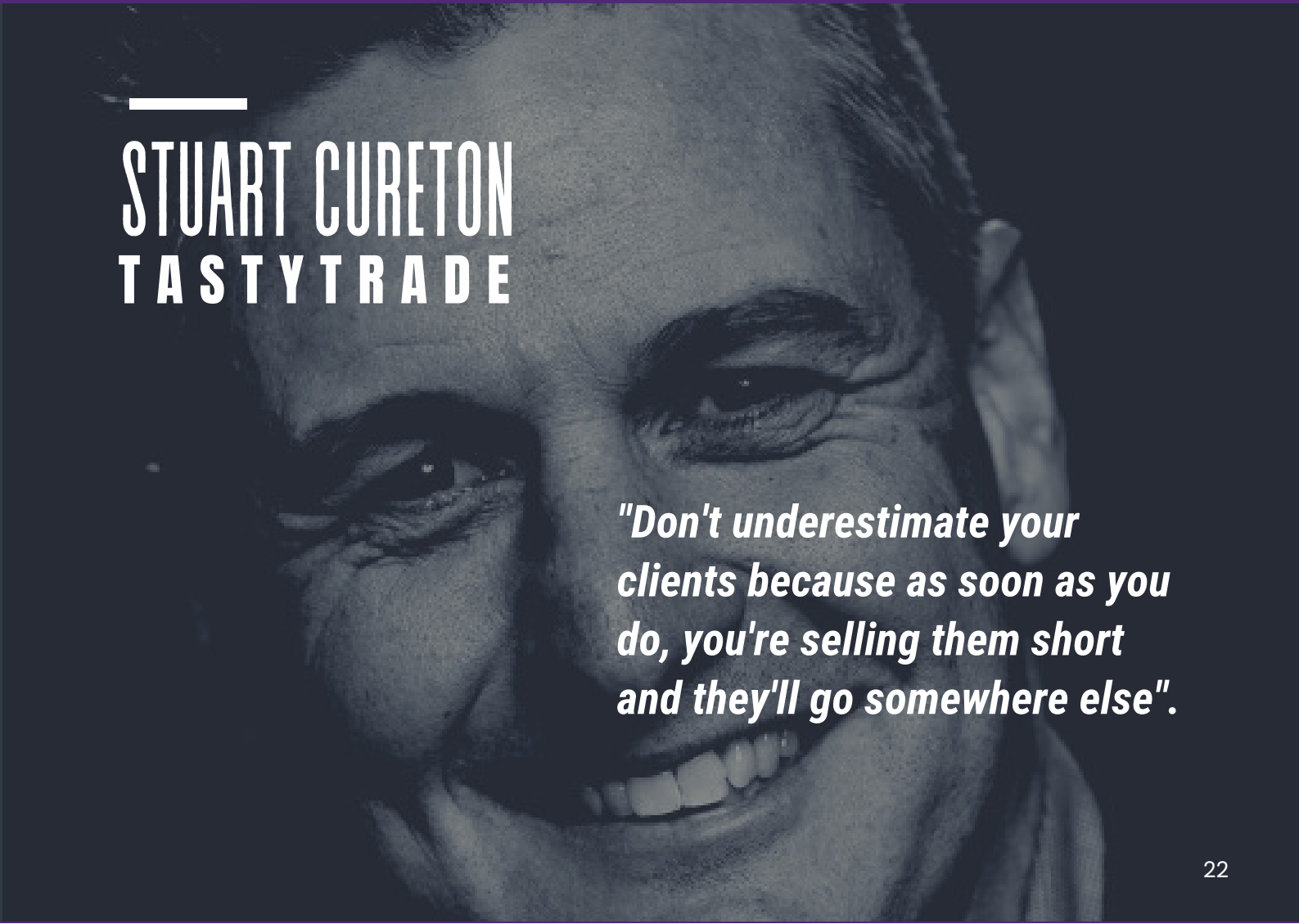
**[MOD] Edward Woodford – Zero Hash
Stuart Cureton – tastytrade**

Zero Hash is a global B2B2C crypto service provider, offering comprehensive technological and regulatory solutions. Their presence spans multiple geographies, including the US, Australia, Brazil, the UK, and Europe. Partnering with tastytrade, they have developed a sophisticated crypto offering.

Australia has shown early adoption of crypto, driven by an educated and sophisticated retail investment market. Zero Hash aims to cater to this market by providing a seamless one-stop shop experience. They recognise the importance of trust and reputation, as Australian customers prefer working with familiar brands. Trust is built through adequate regulation, settlement capabilities, custody services, and segregation of funds, ensuring clients' confidence in the company's reliability.

Zero Hash believes that crypto is not just an asset class but a transformative technology. They collaborate with regulated entities, complying with KYC and AML regulations. They see significant potential in the Australian market, with higher activity per capita than the US. Australian customers prioritise reputation and familiarity over price or product breadth when choosing a crypto service provider.

As the crypto industry evolves, Zero Hash remains committed to shaping the narrative with regulators and integrating with mature financial institutions. They anticipate a bright future for the industry, provided it is approached with maturity, thoughtfulness, and strategic vision.



STUART CURETON
TASTYTRADE

"Don't underestimate your clients because as soon as you do, you're selling them short and they'll go somewhere else".

6 Chasing Digital Shadows: Cryptocurrency, Forensics, and the Pursuit of Law Enforcement in the Hidden Depths of the Internet

Mark Bailey – Hall Chadwick
Graham Pease – Queensland Police & Chainalysis

In the discussion on digital shadows and tracking digital fingerprints on the blockchain, Chainalysis reported \$20 billion in illicit activity on the blockchain in 2022, which represented 0.24% of total transaction value. However, compared to the estimated 2 to 5% of global GDP tied to illicit activity, this figure offers a broader perspective.

The conversation covered topics such as scams, darknet activity, challenges in asset recovery, risks associated with blockchain development, and the potential of blockchain to counter illicit activities. Law enforcement agencies, including those in Australia, employ blockchain analytics tools to track and trace illicit funds, and international cooperation is crucial in addressing darknet markets and combating illicit activities.

Scammers employ sophisticated techniques, spending months grooming victims before accessing their wallets. Investment scams and romance scams are the major types affecting Australians.

Frustrations arise in chasing funds and recovering assets due to inconsistent legislation on seizures across jurisdictions. Exchanges and industry partners are willing to assist but require a robust regulatory framework and clear authority to seize assets.

7 Building a Compliant Blockchain Ecosystem in Asia Pacific: Strategies and Best Practices for Compliance, Regulation, and Risk Management

[MOD] Alison Mackie – NZTech
Rahul Advani – Ripple
Angela Ang – TRM Labs
Manan Vora – Liminal

During the panel moderated by Alison Mackie, Executive Director of NZTech, experts Rahul Advani from Ripple, Angela Ang from TRM Labs, and Manan Vora from Liminal shared valuable insights on strategies for building a compliant blockchain ecosystem in the Asia Pacific region.

The discussion emphasised the importance of establishing a culture of risk management and clear communication within blockchain organisations. Compliance was highlighted as a shared responsibility, with continuous education and training being essential for regulatory adherence. Effective cooperation and coordination among authorities domestically and internationally were deemed vital for regulatory clarity and consistency.

Financial hubs like Singapore and Hong Kong were commended for their positive engagement with the industry, implementing compliance measures while encouraging constructive discussions. Regulatory sandboxes, such as India's, were recognised as valuable platforms for collaboration and innovation.

Overall, enhancing risk management, governance, and compliance is crucial for the long-term success of blockchain organisations in the Asia Pacific region. Through proactive compliance strategies and regulatory cooperation, the region can establish itself as a leading compliant blockchain ecosystem.

GRAHAM PEASE
CHAINALYSIS

"The transparency of our blockchain technology is our greatest asset".

8

Unlocking the Potential of the APAC Blockchain Landscape: Insights into Trends, Building Strategies, and Investment and Funding Opportunities

The discussion centred around the obstacles hindering the growth and adoption of Web 3 technologies. One significant challenge was the diverse regulatory framework across the APEC region. Although countries actively worked on regulations for blockchain and digital assets, varying levels of regulations complicated the adoption process, making it complex and time-consuming for organisations. Keeping up with evolving technology and compliance requirements also posed challenges, emphasising the need for continuous dialogue and collaboration between regulators and industry stakeholders.

Raising awareness and educating stakeholders about the potential benefits of Web3 was another obstacle, as many lacked understanding of blockchain and decentralised technologies. Bridging the knowledge gap required investment in educational initiatives. Talent and skill development also presented a hurdle, necessitating investment in training programs and initiatives to attract and retain skilled professionals in the blockchain field.

In addition, the discussion highlighted the importance of cooperation with government agencies and active contributions to the sector. Collaboration with regulators and organisations in the development of anti-money laundering solutions for Web3 was emphasised, along with the need to provide expertise and technology for initiatives aimed at facilitating compliance. Notably, Singapore and Seoul were centred as crypto hubs in the APAC region, but the importance of Tokyo and Hong Kong as potential centres for blockchain innovation was emphasised. Overall, overcoming regulatory complexities, enhancing awareness, fostering talent development, and engaging with government agencies were identified as key factors in promoting the growth and adoption of Web 3 technologies.



[MOD] Leah Callon-Butler – Emfarsis
Andrew Vranjes – Blockdaemon
Alex Sims – Blockchain New Zealand
Simon Keeling – PWC
Annie Ong – Chainup

9

Revolutionising Payment Systems: Innovations and Advancements with NAB, Mastercard, Canvas & Circle

[MOD] Steven Pettigrove – Piper Alderman
Paul Derham – Holley Nethercote
John Bassilios – Hall & Wilcox
Louisa Xu – Australian Payments Plus

This session focused on the importance of meeting global AML (Anti-Money Laundering) and CTF (Counter-Terrorist Financing) standards, particularly in relation to digital assets. The panellists discussed the proposed AML-CTF reforms in Australia, which aim to bring the country in line with FATF (Financial Action Task Force) standards. They highlighted the challenges of implementing the travel rule, which requires regulated entities to obtain and share payer and paying information, considering issues like interoperability and differing implementation timelines across jurisdictions.

The conversation also touched on data privacy and security concerns in the digital assets space. Panellists discussed the challenges of managing and securing personal data collected under AML-CTF laws, particularly in light of the increased cybersecurity threats. They highlighted the need for collaboration among AML compliance officers, lawyers, privacy experts, and data experts to address these challenges effectively. The panel concluded by mentioning upcoming regulatory reforms, including changes in privacy laws, and the potential need for clarifications on electronic verification and record-keeping requirements.

Overall, the session aimed to explore the compliance challenges and opportunities for digital assets in meeting global AML-CTF standards, while addressing the unique aspects of the technology and the importance of data privacy and security in the digital assets space.

10

Navigating Cross-border Trades with Blockchain: A Global Focus

Sunil Senapati, COO Trade & Payments – XDC Network

In the past, cross-border trades faced complexities in document movement due to the lack of global standards. Over 60 different documents were commonly used, resulting in manual handling and high costs, accounting for up to 20% of overall trade expenses. IBM and Maersk's survey highlighted the industry's struggle with these counterproductive documentation costs.

To address these challenges, trade finance saw the emergence of solutions like Bolero and Stox, enabling secure and paperless trading. Blockchain-based platforms like CargoX, WebBL, IQX, and Contour streamlined processes and improved document management.

A positive development came with the introduction of the Model Law for Electronic Transferable Records (MLETR). Singapore and other countries adopted MLETR as a framework, providing legal recognition to electronic trade documents. Blockchain technology played a crucial role in addressing challenges by ensuring interoperability, security, and cross-border payments. Industry players like XTC Trade Network aimed to integrate multiple MLETR-compliant solutions and collaborate with liquidity providers, custodians, and stablecoin providers to enhance digital trade and market liquidity.

XDC Network conducted selective pilots and plans to open up for public participation in additional pilots starting in August or September.





11

Fueling the Future: Exploring Investment, Startup, and Career Opportunities in the Australian Blockchain and Digital Asset Industry.

[MOD] Sophie Amat – Crypto Sense
Mitchell Travers – Soulbis
Gaurav Johri – AUSTRADE
Helen Ye – Qubit Underwriting
Henrik Andersson – Apollo Crypto

During a future focused panel moderated by Sophie Amat, Henrik Andersen, CIO of Apollo Capital, highlighted the impressive performance of Bitcoin over the past year and the emergence of new use cases like NFTs on its network. He also discussed significant developments on the Ethereum network, such as the transition to proof of stake and the rise of liquid staking derivatives.

Mitchell, co-founder of Soulbis, emphasised the importance of reputation-based systems in the blockchain ecosystem. Helen, CEO of Qubit Underwriting and Insurance, focused on the insurance sector's role in covering wallet security and corporate liabilities in the Web3 community.

Gaurav Johri, Senior Trade and Investment advisor at Austrade, discussed their efforts in supporting Australian companies and attracting global blockchain firms. The panel provided valuable insights into investment trends, use cases, insurance coverage, and government support within the blockchain industry.

12

Investment for Tomorrow: A Look at the Future of Striking the Balance: A Fireside Chat with ASIC on Nurturing Innovation While Upholding Regulatory Objectives

[MOD] Caroline Bowler – BTC Markets
Jonathan Hatch – ASIC Innovation Hub

Jonathan Hatch discussed ASIC's role as a conduct regulator, prioritising consumer protection and efficient markets. While ASIC does not create laws, they enforce them and offer guidance to businesses. Engagement with ASIC is encouraged through licence applications, the innovation hub, and discussions about fitting into the regulatory regime. Australia's rankings in entrepreneurship and economic diversity need improvement, and ASIC supports innovation in the economy.

International coordination in regulation is crucial, and organisations like IOSCO and FADF play a role. Licencing crypto asset businesses depends on ASIC's powers and the conduct of the businesses seeking licences. ASIC promotes responsible innovation and encourages consumers to stay informed. They support innovation through the innovation hub, regulatory sandbox, and engagement with industry forums and academic events.

13

Defining the Regulatory Perimeter for Digital Currency in Australia: Navigating Compliance and Innovation in a Rapidly Evolving Landscape

[MOD] Stephanie Bazley – AirTree
Chagri Poyraz – Binance
Simon Tsapepas – Madison Branson Lawyers
Michael Bacina – Blockchain Australia
Jaime Lumsden – Hamilton Locke
Michael Mavromatis – Holley Netercote
Adam Percy – Swyftx

The Roundtable discussed the challenges and uncertainties surrounding the lawful use of crypto and decentralised technology. They explored the need to redefine financial product definitions to accommodate decentralisation and address regulatory gaps.

The growing global blockchain market and the release of new guidance on debanking by AUSTRAC were highlighted as indicators of the industry's rapid growth and evolving regulatory landscape. The issue of debanking and its impact on businesses was discussed, emphasising the need for data and education to understand the extent of the problem. Collaboration and harmonisation of laws among jurisdictions were suggested as ways to enhance innovation and business opportunities.

The roundtable also mentioned Hong Kong's proactive approach to banking crypto businesses and emphasised the importance of defining crypto and establishing global standards for regulatory clarity. The lack of unified definitions and standards was identified as a hindrance to legislation and guidance development. Continued discussions among stakeholders were encouraged to address these challenges and foster a supportive regulatory environment.

14

Taxing the Future: Exploring the Implications of Web3 Blockchain, Metaverse, and Digital ID on Taxation

[MOD] Michele Leviner – Hamilton Locke
Greg Valles – Valles Accountants
Ray Wang – LUCA Plus
Shane Brunette – Crypto Tax Calculator
Maryna Kovalenko – Kova Tax & Sylva
Danny Talwar – Koinly
Joni Pirovich – BADASL
Callan Sarre – CryptoCate

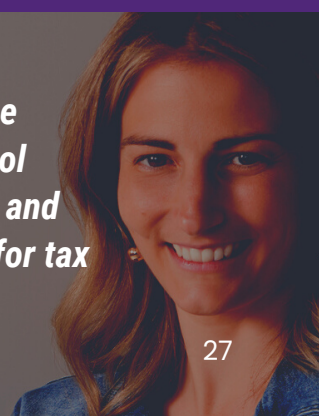
The roundtable discussed the tax issues related to DAOs, smart contracts, and decentralised technology. They highlighted the lack of clear tax laws and the challenges in characterising DAOs and smart contracts under current regulations. The complexity arises from the absence of trusted third-party middlemen for reporting, making it difficult to gather accurate tax information. The need for clarity and education among accountants and taxpayers was emphasised.

The roundtable also discussed the importance of data quality and standards for tax reporting, particularly in on-chain transactions. They explored the potential of blockchain technology and real-time data for improving tax compliance and automation. Collaboration between regulators, legislators, and stakeholders was highlighted as crucial for developing better tax rules and implementing efficient technology.

The need for international consistency in tax treatment was also mentioned to attract businesses and innovation. The challenges of classification and interpretation of transactions in the crypto space were acknowledged, and the need for specific guidance on profit-making schemes and crypto business was emphasised. The roundtable recognised the opportunity for regulators to leverage blockchain data for better understanding and regulation while addressing the qualitative differences in decentralised technology.

JONI PIROVICH
BADASL

"Even from the perspective of the DAO, we're getting into really cool concepts of auto tax calculation and remittance to escrow contracts for tax authorities around the world".



Building the Digital Asset Landscape in the Middle East: Regulatory Compliance and Opportunities in Dubai

[MOD] Nathan Catania – XReg
Chloe White – Genesis Block

Nathan and Chloe discussed the varying approaches of jurisdictions towards crypto regulation. Chloe noted that Dubai has become an attractive jurisdiction for many clients due to its agile approach, embracing blockchain innovation while maintaining a solid regulatory framework.

Dubai established a dedicated regulator, the Virtual Assets Regulatory Agency (VARA), to oversee the crypto industry. The VARA regime focuses on applying regulations that have the integrity of traditional financial markets but are tailored to the industry.

Dubai offers comprehensive licensing options for various activities, including financial advice, asset management, custody, token issuance, lending, borrowing, and investment.

The regime aims to strike a balance between innovation and regulation. Chloe highlighted Dubai's appeal, which lies in its combination of talent, capital, and supportive policy framework. She also mentioned that Dubai's regulatory framework addresses emerging areas like NFTs and emphasizes high standards of governance, transparency, and reporting.

The VARA regulator aspires to be a world-class regulator and holds the regulated community to a high standard.

16 Disrupting the Status Quo: How Europe's Evolving Regulations are Shaping the Future of Digital Assets

[MOD] Gordon Little – Blockchain Australia
Lawrence Wintermeyer – GBBC Digital Finance
Caroline Malcolm – Chainalysis
Anatole Baboukhian – Worldpay from FIS



Caroline Malcolm – Chainalysis

In a conversation on Europe's evolving digital assets regulations, Gordon Little moderated a session with Lawrence Wintermeyer, Caroline Malcolm, and Anatoly Baboukhian.

The trio discussed how EU's reforms aim for financial and digital sovereignty, reducing reliance on non-EU infrastructure and US companies. Caroline underscored the challenges in legislation implementation, stressing the need for consistent rules interpretation across the EU member states.

Lawrence shed light on the ongoing global de-dollarisation and the rise in Bitcoin ETFs by global financial institutions. He further emphasised Australia's significant Bitcoin adoption and opportunity in tokenising real-world assets.

Anatoly pointed out the UK's advantage in shaping its own crypto regulations, being able to include aspects like DeFi and lending regulations, not included in the EU's framework. The panel also discussed the significance of secure transaction venues and the role of tokenisation in the real-world economy.

DAY FIVE MELBOURNE

1 Partnerships for Innovation and Growth

Karti Mahendran – Deloitte

Karti Mahendran, Deloitte's Asia-Pacific Technology & Data Lead for Investment & Wealth Management, discussed the multifaceted nature of innovation and the challenges Australia faces in fostering entrepreneurial ventures.

Mahendran ignited the audience's enthusiasm by asking them to shout out their interpretations of innovation. From game-changer to positive change and from ideas to curiosity, the crowd acknowledged the multifaceted nature of innovation. Mahendran then presented the results of an online poll involving around three-quarters of a million individuals, which depicted a word cloud representing what innovation meant to them. The cloud encompassed ideas, curiosity, inventiveness, forward thinking, and the identification of market gaps.

According to Mahendran, while Australia excels in social welfare, healthcare, and resource exportation, a disconnect exists between technological prowess and financial capital. He introduced the term "purple people," coined by Wayne Eggerson, to describe individuals who bridge this gap, understanding both the technological and business domains. Mahendran sees technologies such as blockchain, AI, IoT, quantum computing, and 5G as integral to fostering innovation. He emphasised their complementary nature, enabling each other's potentials and addressing challenges.

On the application front, he shared an example of using IoT and blockchain to monitor real-time temperatures during the transportation of mRNA vaccines, significantly reducing waste.

Mahendran's speech shed light on the transformative power of partnerships in driving innovation and propelling growth. His call to action resonates strongly, urging technologists and business leaders to join forces and create a prosperous future for Australia. As the purple people merge their expertise and visions, they have the potential to reshape the innovation landscape, secure Australia's place on the global stage, and propel the nation to new heights of prosperity and success.

“
"We park our badges at the door and come in with an integrated mindset. Whether it's a consulting advocate, a technologist, or a representative from the health or financial service industry, we need to work together to ensure Australia's innovation ecosystem thrives."
”
Karti Mahendran – Deloitte



Joni Pirovich – BADASL

Vanessa Lee-AhMat – Black Lorikeet Cultural Broker

During the fifth day of Blockchain Week in Melbourne, attendees were drawn into a fireside chat with Vanessa Lee-AhMat. The discussion, facilitated by Joni Pirovich, shed light on Vanessa's efforts to interconnect her Indigenous Australian heritage with modern digital technology.

Vanessa, hailing from an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander background, has carved a distinctive path for herself, addressing the challenges she encountered head-on, confronting racism, and advocating for Indigenous community empowerment. Armed with a PhD in Medicine from Griffith University, she exemplifies resilience and the desire to effect positive change.

Vanessa's influence is not limited to the Aboriginal community. Her work has impacted many spheres, including academia, policy-making, and most recently, blockchain technology. She detailed her work in submissions to Parliament on various critical issues including Aboriginal health, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health plan, and social and emotional wellbeing framework.

She offered a fascinating perspective on her journey in higher education, touching on her experiences with racism and the lack of support for Aboriginal students. However, Vanessa also emphasised her cultural roots' strength, which enabled her to overcome these adversities and emerge stronger.

The most recent endeavour she discussed was a submission on cryptocurrency regulation in Australia, with a unique focus on integrating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture into it. This ensures that no one is left behind in this digital revolution.

Pirovich brought the conversation back to Vanessa's formative years, touching on her early learning's about abundance and the importance of being perceptive. Vanessa painted a vivid picture of growing up in a culture where recognising patterns was a valuable skill, and explained how these teachings helped her not only in her academic journey but also in understanding the complexity of the blockchain.

The chat ended with a compelling discussion on the proposed alteration of the Australian constitution to recognise the First Peoples of Australia as having a voice. Vanessa shared her nuanced views, inviting the audience to engage in meaningful discourse about this significant issue.

In Vanessa's words, "When we talk about solutions, we need to consider how we can collaborate with communities. For example, tracking organic farming or seafood from source to consumer using blockchain technology. It's about how we work together to find these simple solutions."

This intimate conversation illuminated Vanessa's commitment to uplifting her community, utilising the transformative power of digital technologies like blockchain, and her dedication to making a tangible impact. It was indeed a remarkable highlight of Blockchain Week in Melbourne.



3 A Year of Industry Transformation

[MOD] Susan Brown – Deloitte
John Bassilios – Hall & Wilcox
Jackson Zeng – Caleb & Brown
Michael Bacina – Piper Alderman
Katrina Donaghy – Civic Ledger

During a candid session on day 5 of Blockchain Week, Susan Brown, Partner at Deloitte and the directors of Blockchain Australia shared their insights on the industry's transformation over the past year and their visions for the future.

The conversation began with reflections on the highlights of Blockchain Week 2023. John Bassilios, Partner at Hall & Wilcox, expressed his admiration for the workshop that engaged children in learning about blockchain technology and minting NFTs. The grassroots enthusiasm and involvement of the younger generation served as a source of inspiration for the entire panel.

Jackson Zeng, CEO of Caleb and Brown, highlighted the progress made in regulatory reforms and risk management upgrades within the industry. He emphasised the collaboration between the blockchain community and the government, particularly in shaping a regulatory roadmap that ensures safer and more competitive products for consumers.

Katrina Donaghy, CEO of Civic Ledger, spoke passionately about the need to shift the focus from technical jargon to problem-solving and tangible benefits for customers. She stressed the importance of educating and involving the next generation in the blockchain journey to ensure its continued success.

Michael Bacina, Partner at Piper Alderman emphasised the significance of inclusivity and the involvement of First Nations people in the blockchain industry. He commended the progress made in integrating blockchain solutions beyond urban areas and expressed optimism about the future impact of the technology.

Looking ahead, the directors shared their visions for the future of Blockchain Australia and the industry as a whole. They highlighted the importance of ongoing collaboration, regulatory clarity, and education initiatives. They emphasised the need to integrate blockchain seamlessly into everyday life, where users can trust and recognise platforms secured by blockchain technology.

The directors acknowledged that the journey ahead will be dynamic and evolving, with Blockchain Australia adapting to the changing needs and priorities of its members. Their overarching goal is to create an environment where blockchain technology becomes an integral part of the economy, benefiting individuals and businesses alike.

As the conversation drew to a close, Katrina Donaghy raised the importance of educating children about blockchain technology. The directors agreed on the need to expand education initiatives, starting with primary schools and working alongside organisations such as TAFE Queensland, to nurture the next generation of blockchain enthusiasts and professionals.

In conclusion, the insightful conversation with the directors of Blockchain Australia showcased the industry's progress, challenges, and aspirations. With their collective expertise and shared vision, Blockchain Australia is poised to continue driving the industry forward, fostering collaboration, and ensuring a transformative future for blockchain technology in Australia and beyond.



4 Pixelated Portals: Unleashing the Creative Power of NFTs – A Journey into the Artistic and Commercial Potential of NFT's

[MOD] Greg Oakford – NFT Fest & Cointelegraph
Katherine Boiciuc – The Web3 Effect
Stacey-Ann Pearson – AWS (APAC)
Steve Morlando – NFTeams



In an engaging panel, Greg Oakford, Katherine Boiciuc, Stacey-Ann Pearson, and Steve Morlando delved into the world of NFTs, Web3, and AI. With their expert insights and a touch of humor, they captivated the audience and shed light on the evolving landscape of digital assets and technologies.

On the intersection of AI and Web3, the panel addressed the misconception that one must choose between them. Steve Morlando highlighted how AI tools enhance storytelling in the NFT space, while Stacey-Ann Pearson emphasised the importance of AI in creating authenticity and ownership verification. They agreed that AI and Web3 can work together to make processes more efficient and transparent. Katherine Boiciuc added her perspective, emphasising how AI democratises technology. She expressed excitement about AI's ability to empower individuals from diverse backgrounds to participate in designing the future. This aligns with the principles of Web3, which aims for inclusivity and accessibility.

Towards the end of the session, the panellists shared their favorite NFTs from their personal collections. Steve Morlando proudly mentioned his first-ever mint, featuring a football theme, and another standout NFT. The discussion concluded on a light-hearted note as they exchanged stories of their cherished digital assets.

5 Building on Purpose: Exploring the Ripple Effect of Blockchain Innovators as They Forge Solutions Across Industry Verticals

[MOD] Ashi Bhat – Insider App
Nick Kumaran – Accubits
Bill Angelidis – ASTA
Kal Desai – Nodeify
Adam Rawlings – Meikai Group

Laders in blockchain development shared their innovative applications and visions for the future of technology on a panel. Moderated by Ashi Bhat, the session gathered insights from Bill Angelidis, Nick Kumaran, Kal Desai, and Adam Rawlings.

ASTA's Angelidis is laying foundations for a Web 3.0 insurance platform, leveraging blockchain smart contracts and NFTs. His strategy: democratise insurance globally and orchestrate a seamless integration of different platforms to house an array of NFT policies.

Accubits' Kumaran emphasised interoperability as the key to innovation. He believes blockchain can revolutionise identification, enabling verified credentials to reduce fraud and improve financial inclusion. However, he warned that inadequate incentives and education could hinder the adoption of such technologies.

Nodeify's Desai stressed the importance of a grassroots approach to familiarise younger generations with AI and blockchain. He highlighted the significant role that governmental support plays in the regional adoption of technology.

Meikai Group's Rawlings proposed user-friendly blockchain innovations that allow interactions without the necessity to understand the underlying tech. He revealed the gradual replacement of 'blockchain' with 'distributed ledger' in official documents, reflecting a shift towards functionality.



6 Fostering Trust in Digital Currency Exchanges: Best Practices for Security and Transparency

[MOD] Lisa Wade – DigitalX

Samira Tollo – Elbaite

Tim Wilks – Coinspot

James Elia – Coinjar

Brinda Paul – Banxa

In a panel discussion moderated by Lisa Wade, CEO of DigitalX, experts from leading Australian digital currency exchanges highlighted the importance of security as the cornerstone of customer trust. Samira Tollo, Co-Founder of Elbaite, praised blockchain technology's unique ability to empower users. Through decentralisation, customers have control over their assets, facilitating autonomy and trust.

Tim Wilks, Chief Business Development Officer at Coinspot, elaborated on the layers of security in digital currency exchanges. User controls, internal service side controls, and operational models all play a part in fortifying against threats. Wilks underlined the significance of user awareness and knowledge in countering scams.

James Elia, General Manager at Coinjar, agreed with his counterparts on the central role of security. However, he shifted the spotlight to operational controls that help businesses adapt swiftly to imminent threats. Banxa's Director of Compliance, Brinda Paul, brought up a crucial issue often overlooked—finite resources within companies. She emphasised that while businesses strive to balance innovation and risk management, regulations can guide them in ensuring security standards.



7 Connecting with Tomorrow's Humanity: The Intersection of Art and Marketing

[MOD] Madeleine Jones – Take3

Lambie – NFT Artist

Renee Francis – Take3

In an illuminating panel discussion hosted by Madeleine Jones from Take3, a conversation unfolded around the synergy of art, marketing, and blockchain technology. Artist Lambie, a convert from traditional art to the NFT space, emphasised the ability of blockchain to affirm authenticity, a paramount concern for creators. Lambie's strategy of minting from a single wallet ensures the uniqueness of her art, a testament to the power of this emerging technology.

Renee Francis, founder of Take3 and The Bubble Co, identified blockchain as a tool to combat content plagiarism, a rampant issue in the era of Web 2.0. Seeing blockchain as a solution for verifying ownership, she presented this as a breakthrough for protecting marketing content and artists alike.

The conversation turned towards the rising trend of user-generated content, with Renee forecasting how Web 3.0 would reshape this landscape. Highlighting the promise of Zero Knowledge Proofs in verifying content and thwarting deep fakes, she underscored the future intersection of AI and Web 3.0. The discussion affirmed the transformative role of blockchain in creating authentic relationships and enriching the digital human experience, interweaving art and marketing in the realm of Web 3.0.



[MOD] Michael Meisels – Chainalysis Caroline Bowler – BTC Markets

In a captivating interview, Michael Meisels, Chainalysis Senior Enterprise Account Manager, and Caroline Bowler, CEO of BTC Markets, delved into blockchain data use cases. Their expertise in cryptocurrency and blockchain technology shed light on the importance of data insights in ensuring compliance and driving business growth.

BTC Markets, an Australian cryptocurrency exchange, has been operating for over a decade with a focus on providing a safe and secure platform for Australians to trade cryptocurrencies. Their dedication earned them recognition, including the DCE of the Year award and Caroline Bowler's Blockchain Leader of the Year title.

One key to BTC Markets' success lies in their use of data and analytics. As the first Australian client for Chainalysis, they leverage data to strengthen compliance measures. Analysing blockchain data enables them to gain insights into client activities and trace the origins of cryptocurrencies, ensuring regulatory compliance and user trust.

Caroline Bowler emphasised the significance of data insights in understanding clients and their cryptocurrency transactions. By examining patterns and behaviours, BTC Markets can make informed decisions about product development and customer engagement. Data-driven strategies allow them to align their offerings with market demands.

Beyond compliance, BTC Markets recognises the value of data in broader business applications. They employ AI governance strategies and explore opportunities to leverage artificial intelligence for deeper insights. Understanding customer behaviours and preferences enables them to refine marketing strategies and develop customer-centric products.

BTC Markets actively engages with government agencies and regulatory bodies to shape the evolving regulatory landscape. Collaborating with Blockchain Australia and international organisations like FATF, FSB, and IOSCO, they contribute to industry regulations. BTC Markets' success exemplifies the transformative power of data-driven decision-making in the blockchain and cryptocurrency space.

Utilising data insights ensures compliance, understands client behaviour, and drives business growth. As regulations evolve, BTC Markets maintains their commitment to an Australian-focused approach while embracing global standards.

Newly appointed CEO of Blockchain Australia, Simon Callaghan, took the stage for a keynote speech on Australia's position in the global future. Reflecting on the week's discussions, Simon highlighted the rapidly changing regulatory environment and the uncertainty surrounding it, both globally and in Australia. He emphasised the importance of striking a balanced approach, learning from the experiences of other countries like Singapore, Hong Kong, the UK, and the US, to develop fit-for-purpose regulations that protect consumers without stifling innovation.

Looking ahead, Simon stressed the need for collaboration between the industry, government, and the banking sector to build legitimacy, self-regulate, and combat scams effectively. Blockchain Australia aims to develop a national standard and framework to achieve these goals, which will be taken seriously at the legislative level.

In conclusion, Simon's keynote shed light on the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead for Australia's blockchain industry. With a tempered approach to regulation, collaboration, and self-regulation, Australia can position itself as a global leader in blockchain technology and drive innovation while safeguarding consumer interests.

10

What Could Possibly Go Wrong? Security, Insurance and Building on Blockchain

[MOD] Peter Xing – Transhuman Australia
Jock Haslam – Hashlock
Simon Spencer – Frontier Global Underwriting
Fisher Yu – XDC Network
Angela Clark – Wallet Nation

The discussion delved into the convergence of traditional finance, blockchain, crypto, and AI, highlighting the transformative potential of this amalgamation. With traditional fund managers now venturing into cryptocurrencies and leveraging AI for assessing financial products, the boundaries between these domains are blurring. However, the panellists cautioned that such integration brings real-world challenges, including compliance, regulation, and security concerns.

Danielle Marie, a senior lecturer at TAFE Queensland, voiced a crucial question regarding the vulnerabilities associated with smart contracts and the need for technologies that can warn beginners about potential risks.

The panellists acknowledged the importance of making blockchain more approachable and accessible to new adopters, emphasising the role of education and user-friendly interfaces. They also discussed the potential of AI in enhancing the safety and user experience of blockchain applications.

Simon Spencer, representing Frontier Global Underwriting, shed light on the insurance industry's role in supporting the blockchain ecosystem.

He mentioned the growing interest of insurers in underwriting blockchain projects and the potential for cyber insurance coverage in areas like wallet theft. Spencer stressed the need for the industry to quantify risks and adapt as blockchain technology evolves.

The discussion also touched upon the significance of blockchain education and the role of institutions like TAFE Queensland in preparing students for the industry. The panellists highlighted the need for blockchain-focused degrees at prestigious universities to foster a skilled workforce that can drive blockchain innovation.

While the industry moves towards wider adoption, cautionary tales and war stories were shared to remind participants of the importance of security and the potential risks associated with smart contract vulnerabilities. The conversation acknowledged the ongoing dialogue between blockchain, AI, and traditional finance, while emphasising the need for collaboration, education, and continuous improvement to navigate the evolving landscape.

In conclusion, the panel discussion shed light on the challenges and opportunities within the blockchain space. As the merging of traditional finance, blockchain, crypto, and AI accelerates, it becomes imperative to address security concerns, promote education, and foster an inclusive ecosystem that benefits both industry experts and newcomers.

11 Blockchain for Environment & Social Good

[MOD] Simon Tsapepas – Madison Branson
Giulio D'Andrear – BetaCarbon
Alyse Sue – Transhuman Coin
Chris Manski – Charity Token
Mateen Soudagar – Metakey

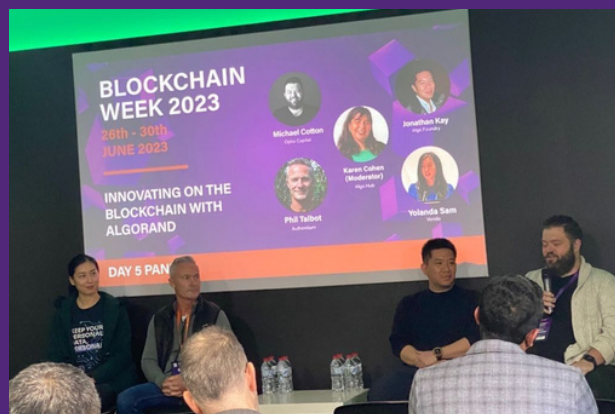
The panel discussion on blockchain for environment and social good brought together experts passionate about harnessing blockchain technology for positive change.

Simon Tsapepas set the stage by highlighting the importance of blockchain in the context of environmental and social initiatives. Mateen Soudagar, CEO of Metakey, shared insights on how blockchain technology can empower individuals and communities by enabling secure digital identities and enhancing data privacy.

Giulio D'Andrear introduced the tokenisation of Australian carbon credits on the blockchain, providing accessibility to exclusive financial instruments. Alyse Sue discussed Transhuman Coin's innovative use of tokenised crowdfunding to fund science and technology projects aimed at overcoming limitations of human biology.

Chris Manski highlighted the role of Charity Token in generating donation revenue for charities through incentive models, driving engagement and redirecting giving to the retail level. The panel collectively emphasised blockchain's potential to empower communities, redefine crowdfunding, and foster transparency and accountability in various sectors.

The discussion showcased the transformative potential of blockchain in promoting environmental and social good. By leveraging blockchain technology, individuals and organisations can actively contribute to positive change, fund crucial projects, and empower communities. As blockchain adoption continues to grow, we move closer to building a sustainable, equitable, and interconnected future for all.



12 Innovating on the Blockchain with Algorand

[MOD] Karen Cohen – AlgoHub
Yolanda Sam – Verida
Michael Cotton – Optio Capital
Phil Talbot – Authentium
Jonathan Kay – Algo Foundry

Moderated by Karen Cohen, Algorand Foundation Champion, the panel consisted of Phil Talbot from Authentium.io who described his experience working with farmers in Africa to make supply chain more transparent and having to make the process pretty simple for farmers who don't have access to digital technology. Yolanda Sam from Verida.io talked about the importance of self sovereign ID in a time of high cybercrime. Michael Cotton from Optio Capital focussed on the importance of understanding your competitor landscape before applying for funding and building out your product Jonathan Kay from AlgoFoundry talked about the challenging building landscape in the bear market.

All of the panel confirmed that Algorand's Blockchain Technology is superior to build on with zero downtime and the average wait time for a transaction to complete on Algorand is 3.3 seconds, it is an optimal Blockchain solution.



THE GREAT DAO DEBATE

[MOD] Shourov Bhattacharya – Polynize
Callan Sarre – Cryptocate
Daniel Montoya – ASTA
Joni Pirovich – BADASL
Dr Nataliya Ilyushina – RMIT
Jamie Nuich – Squarepegs
Hamish Jones – Algorand Foundation

If you were all talked out with panels and keynotes on banking and regulation at Blockchain Week 2023, and were craving a fun way to wrap-up the week, then 'The Great DAO Debate' was just the ticket, for a lively and light-hearted finish.

Set at the iconic Oshi Gallery, in Melbourne's famous Smith St Collingwood, surrounded by craft gin and traditional pubs, where both local and international NFT artists were carefully curated and displayed. The gallery was lit up green to celebrate the sponsorship from Algorand, the green and carbon neutral, blockchain.

Every detail was considered, down to our curated Spotify playlist by Marrs Coiro of Polynize.io, playing tunes that almost say DAO, including "Get Down On It" by Kool and the Gang and "Upside Down", by Diana Ross. The full list can be found [here](#).

The other half to the dynamic Polynize.io duo, Shuorov Bhattacharya, moderated the debate, drawing laughter from the audience. The 3 rounded debate on the topic of "DAOs (Decentralised Autonomous Organisations) will revolutionise the future of corporate governance" drew audience interaction & participation including the opportunity to ask the speakers questions. Shourov designed the great debate in to be an "unpanel".



Highlights included a very strong introduction to the fundamentals of a DAO's by Callan Sarre of Cryptocate on the for team, followed by a passionate smack down of DAOs by Hamish Jones. We even had expert legal perspective by Joni Pirovich, including how we can exclude bad actors from participating in a DAO and how the current status of corporate governance, will be shaken up in the future.

But in the end, it was none other than Dr Natalia's passionate outcry for the global DAO workers' lack of working rights and Jamie Nuich's disdain for all pro DAO questions that got the audience over the line. The outcome decided by Marss' very sophisticated applause meter, revealed that the opposing team took home the win!





BLOCKIES

2023 Blockchain Industry Awards



The most prestigious night in the Australian Blockchain calendar, the 'Blockies' will take place in **Melbourne** on **November 9th 2023**. The award ceremony will convene over 400 professionals from the Australian Blockchain, Digital Currency, and Web3 industry who will come together for an evening of networking, canapés, cocktails, and of course the presentation of the awards.

This year, we're taking it up a notch! We're doubling the award categories and globally live-streaming the event. We'll conclude the night for the official afterparty at Melbourne's premier party venue, Showtime, setting the stage for the ultimate celebration.

Interested in sponsorship? Sponsoring the Blockies provides a strategic opportunity to boost your brand visibility among industry stakeholders.

For more information on Blockchain Australia events, please contact Amy-Rose at members@blockchainaustralia.org.

www.blockies.com.au

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