The art of presenting schedule data effectively



Seeing The Road Ahead

(The art of presenting schedule data effectively)

Patrick Weaver PMP, PMI-SP

Managing Director

Mosaic Project Service Pty Ltd

Seeing The Road Ahead



Agenda

- · The Problem
- Pre 1957 (before CPM)
 - Barcharts, Flowline & Milestones
- Post 1957 (after CPM)
 - Mainframe and Mini Computers
 - Manual Alternatives
 - The use of Graphics
- Summary and Conclusions / Recommendations





The Problem

- Project data is complex
 - What section of the work = Each activity?
 - When should it be done?
 - What are the dependencies?
 - · Before and after?
 - In parallel (allowed / not allowed)?
 - Who is going to do the work (and how do they know what's expected)?
 - What are the constraints?

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The Problem

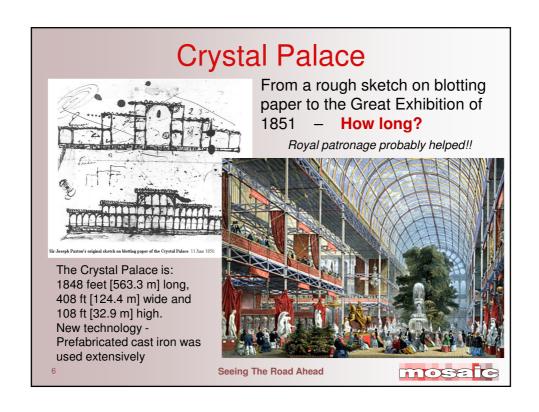
- Option 1 sort it out as work proceeds
 - Use intuition and experience
 - Works for non-complex projects
- Option 2 plan the work in advance
 - Needs a mechanism for doing the planning
 - Needs a process for communicating the managers intentions
 - To allow people to add value to the process
 - To inform the workers what needs to be done

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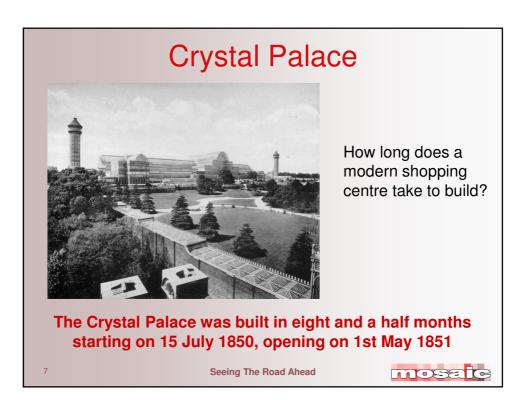


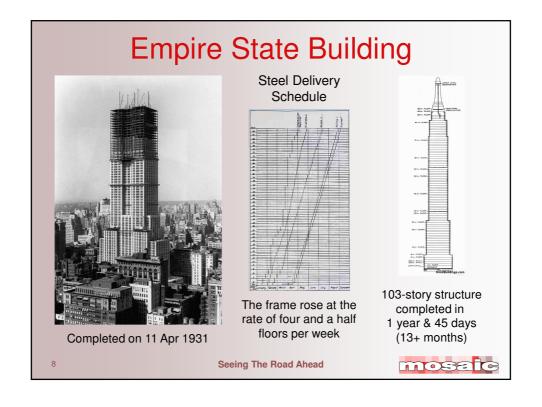


The Problem • Effective planning has been done for 1000s years - China: Great Wall, Grand Canal, Beijing - Pyramids - Military campaigns • Records are limited • Amazing outcomes See: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grand Canal (China) The total length of the Grand Canal is 1,776 km











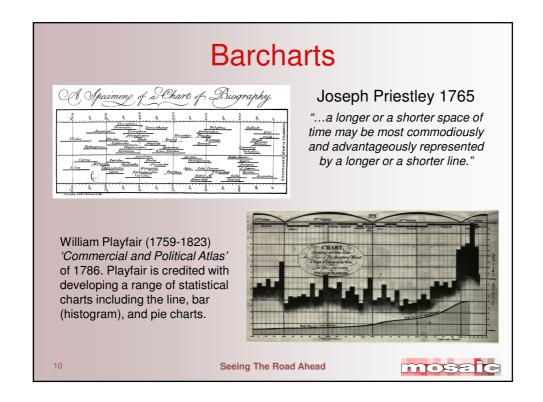
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Pre 1957

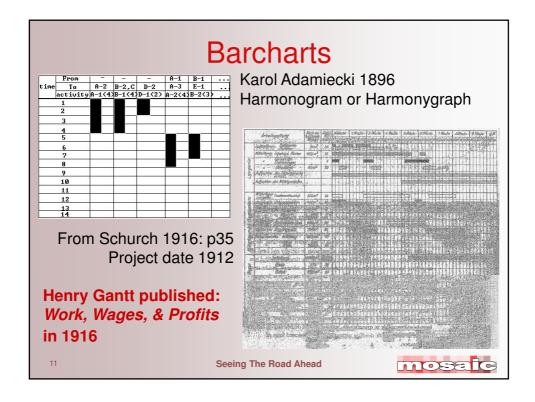
- Barcharts
- Flowline
- Milestones

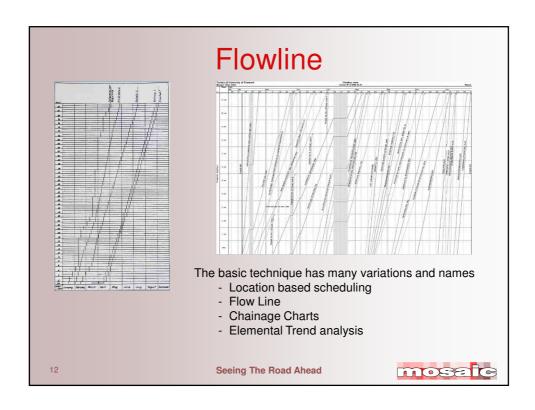
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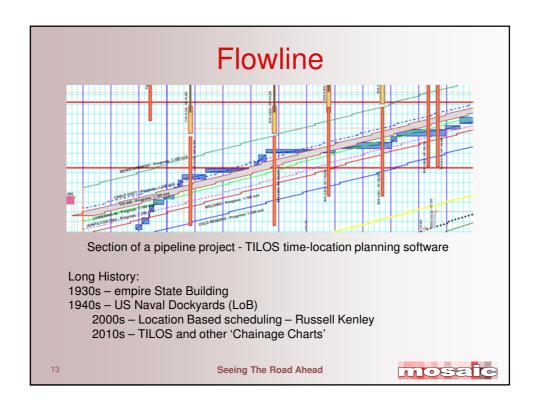


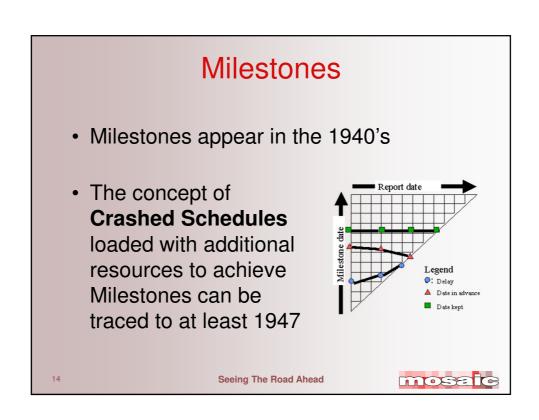














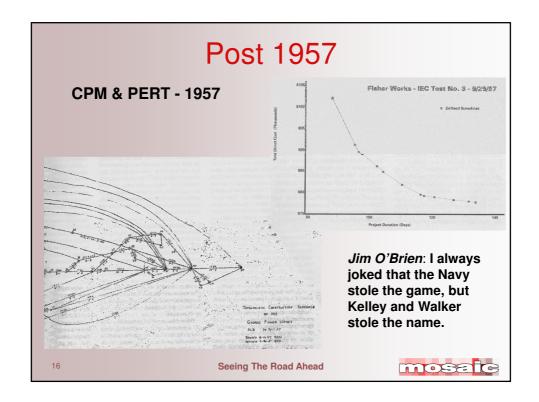
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Post 1957

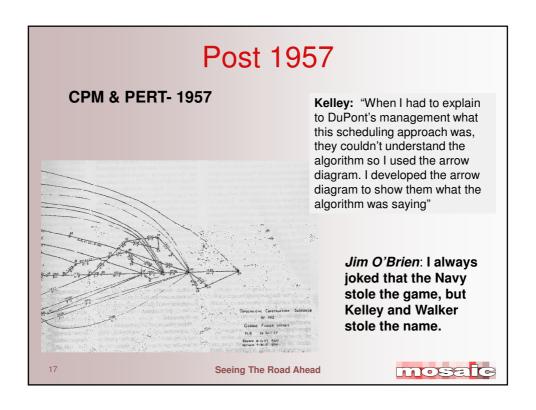
- Mainframe and Mini Systems
 - CPM / PERT
 - Precedence
- Manual Alternatives
 - Hand drawn networks
 - Planalog
- Text based PC Systems
- Modern graphical tools

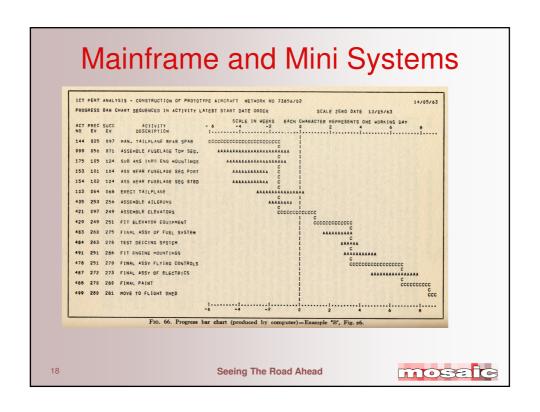
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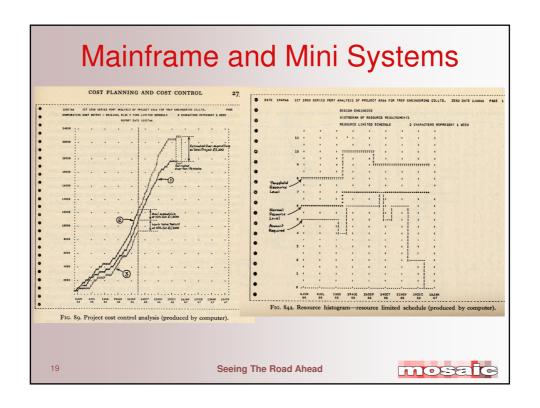


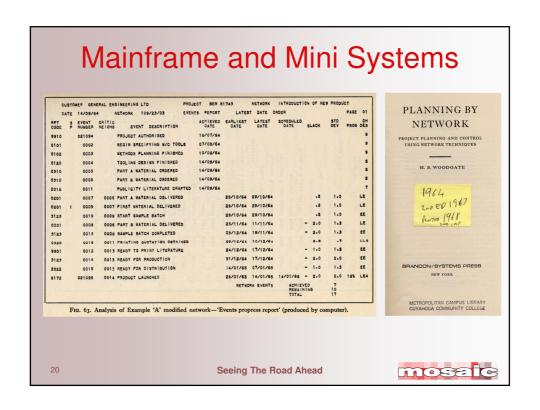




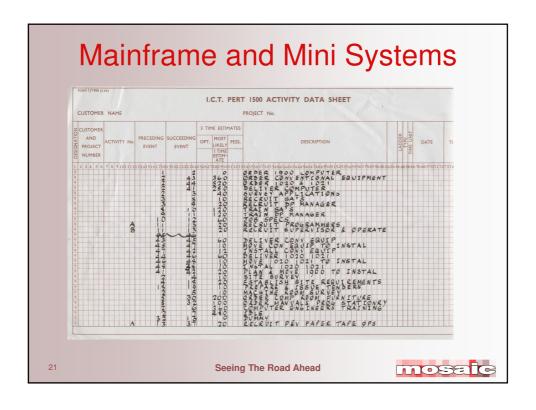


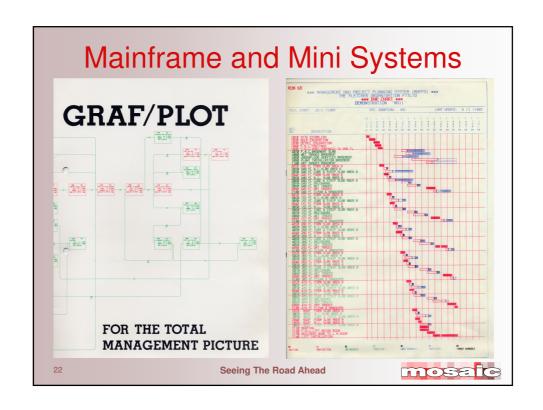




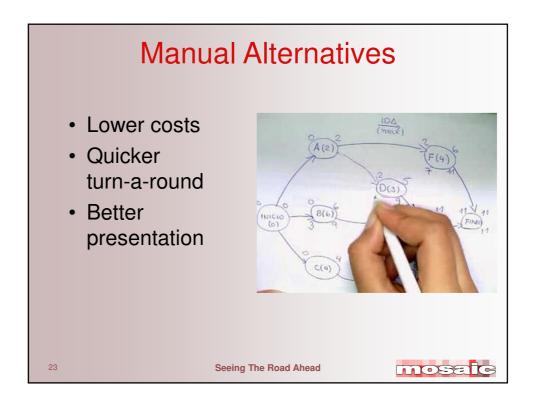


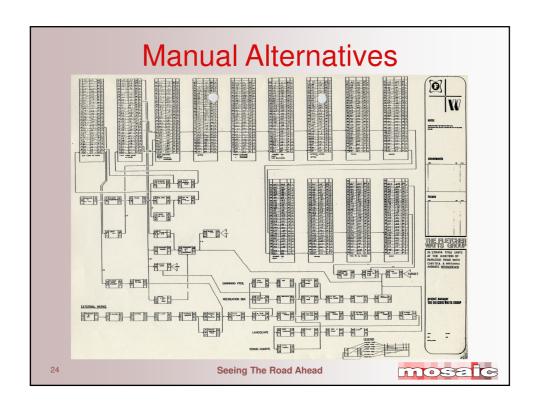




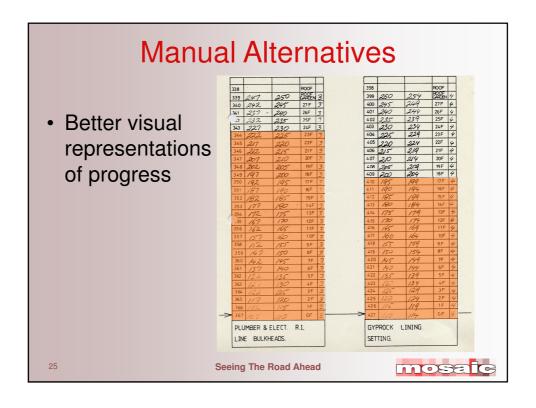


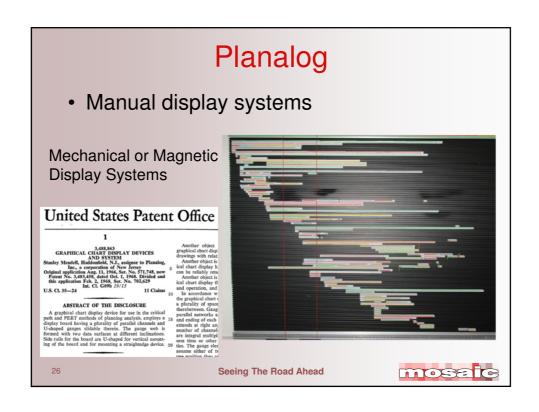










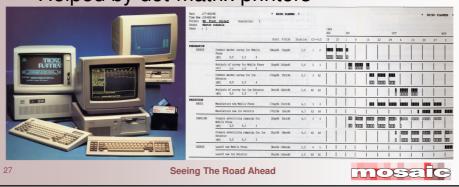




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Text based PC Systems

- Similar to Mainframes & Mini Computers
- A fraction of the cost
- Immediate analysis plus screen displays
- Helped by dot-matrix printers



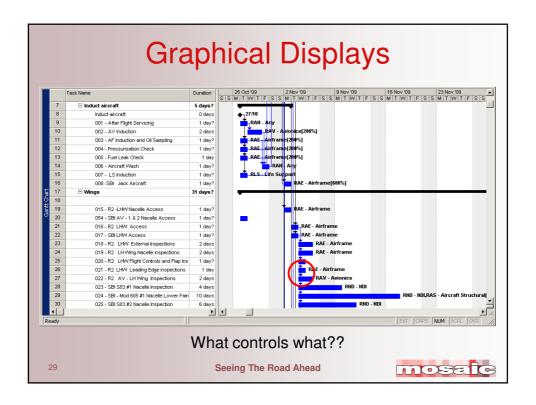
Graphical Displays

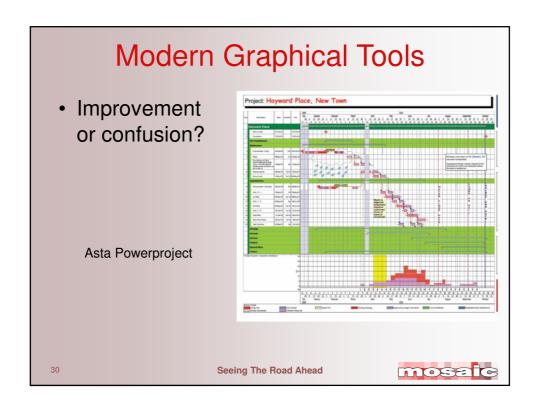
- GUIs
 - Apple Macintosh 1984
 - Microsoft Windows 1985
- Inkjet & laser printers
- But better tools do not equate to better communications

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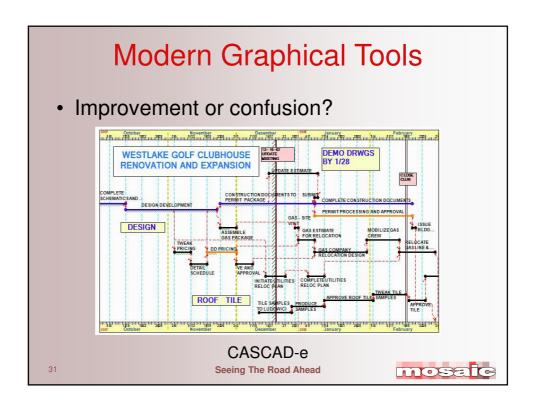


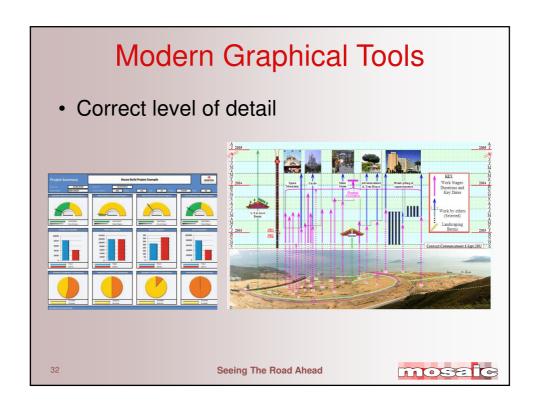




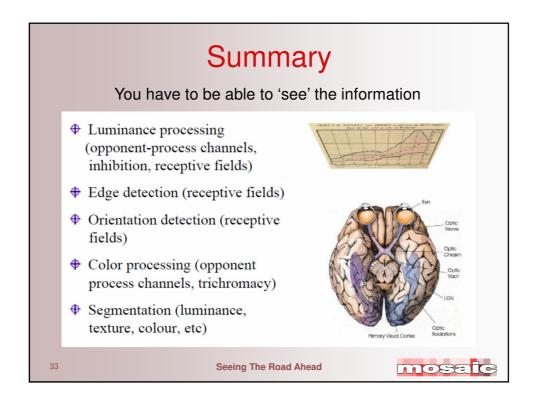


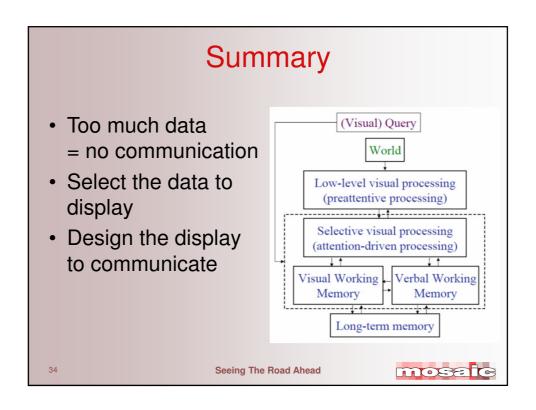




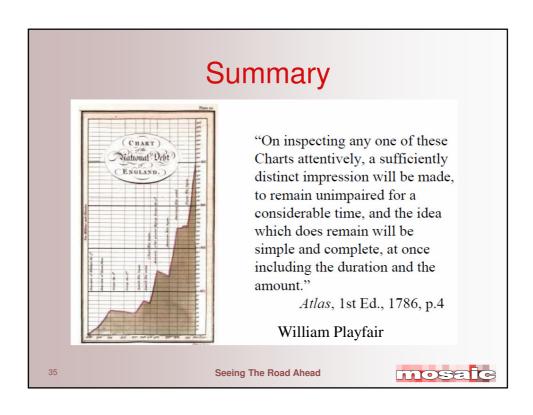


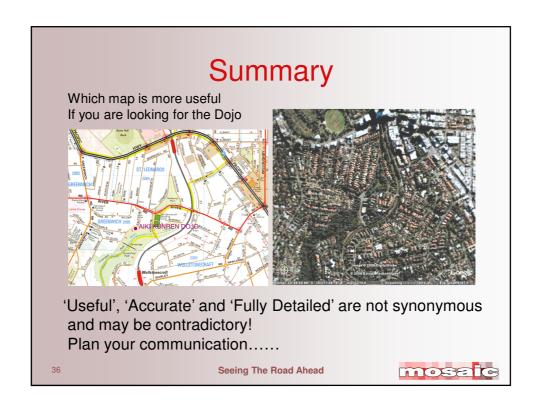














Recommendations & Conclusions

Data is not information, information is not knowledge, knowledge is not understanding, understanding is not wisdom.

Clifford Stoll

Effective reporting gets you to 'information' and helps with 'understanding'

See: Beyond Reporting - The Communication Strategy https://mosaicprojects.com.au/PDF Papers/P094 Beyond Reporting.pdf

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Recommendations & Conclusions

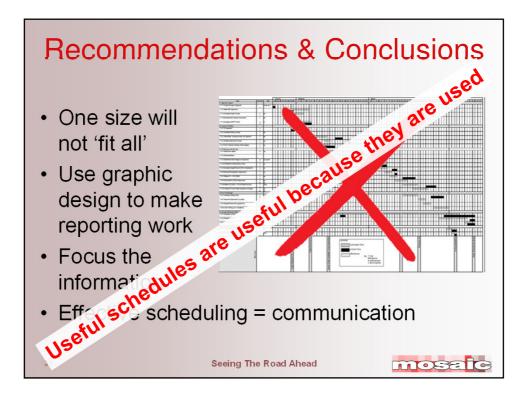
- One size will not 'fit all'
- Use graphic design to make reporting work
- Focus the information
- Effective scheduling = communication

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Recommendations & Conclusions

- Design the schedule to be effective
 - Schedule levels / Schedule Density
- Design the coding to support the reporting structure
- Design a few elegant reports
 - Standardise their use
- Focus on communication and engagement (Stakeholder management)

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Recommendations & Conclusions

- · Resources:
 - Guide to Good Practice in the Management of Time in Major Projects
 - Free Project Planning & Scheduling resources
 https://mosaicprojects.com.au/PMKI-SCH.php
 - Core papers
 - Published papers
 - White Papers
 - Useful links
 - · Training courses

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Questions Please



Email: patw@mosaicprojects.com.au Telephone: (03) 9696 8684

Mosaic's Scheduling home Page https://mosaicprojects.com.au/PMKI-SCH.php

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