



WARATAH COMMUNITY BOARD

To capitalise on the unique cultural identity and tourism potential of the town of Waratah, the Waratah Wynyard Council and local community have embraced a new approach; establishing a Community Board.

Waratah Wynyard Council stretches from Wynyard on the North West Coast, deep into the wilderness of Cradle Mountain and reaches to the West Coast at Corinna. The area contains many unique urban and natural environments as well as diversity in community and cultural identity. Waratah, located between Savage River and Cradle Mountain, has a strong association with the mining and hydroelectric industries, both playing a big role in the towns history, fortunes and character.

In the past, the community of Waratah had little formal engagement with Council. Recognising the need to capitalise on the tourism potential of Waratah's unique sense of identity, in late 2017 Council engaged David Hammond, from consultants Hammond Robertson to support Council to engage with the Waratah community in a planned way, and to develop Waratah's sense of identity into a strategic planning force.

A Community Board structure for the people of Waratah was recommended; an approach successfully employed in similar communities in New Zealand. The Waratah community embraced the opportunity, with commitment from Council to make agreed actions work. Council continues to work closely with the Board on critical issues such as risk management and budgets expectations, and together, Council and the Community Board are ticking off priorities from the Community Plan.

In collaboration with Council the aims of the Waratah Community Board are:

- achievement of Waratah Community Plan 2018-21;
- developing and delivering on community priorities;
- local and representative leadership for the Waratah community;
- effective engagement with the local community and organisations; and
- liaison with and advice to Council and other relevant authorities.

Through the Community Board, the Waratah community are engaged in marketing, planning and implementing potential developments for Waratah.

The process requires cultural change, compromise and cooperation to achieve common goals from all involved. To support the process, the training in engagement skills for council staff and the Waratah community is being provided. Despite the steep learning curve, the combination of goodwill and a renewed focus on the shared goal of encouraging developments for the Waratah community looks sure to deliver great results. The Waratah Community Board is a great example of local democracy empowering community action.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In this issue of LGTas we are showcasing Local Government collaboration and partnerships.



More so than any other level of government, councils embrace collaboration and partnerships, as they not only deliver efficiency and reach but often enhance the outcomes experienced by communities.

Councils have a long history of informally working in partnership. More recently, structured mechanisms for sharing resources have emerged and these are delivering impressive results. An independent review of the resource sharing arrangement between Kentish Council and Latrobe Council by the UTS Centre for Local Government found that resource sharing can deliver not only savings, but also enhanced strategic capacity and service delivery. The UTS Centre identified key elements for success in resource sharing as: partners having a high degree of trust, a shared strategic approach, incremental change, transparency and complementary systems.

At the last meeting of the Premier's Local Government Council it was noted that several common barriers and opportunities for resource sharing had emerged, following a review of the recent regional resource sharing feasibility studies. Aligning with the UTS Centre findings, the need for Elected Members to have a clear understanding of the bigger picture, sustained commitment and clear governance arrangements were found to be vital in order to harness the opportunities of formal resource sharing. The diversity of councils' IT systems and capability, however, presents a significant barrier that will need to be worked through.

What is clear is that councils recognise that future successes lie in the willingness to formally share resources and partner. Local Government is building on current collaborative success stories while building new pathways and models for the future.

Mayor Doug Chipman
LGAT President



KINGBOROUGH COUNCIL'S AWARD WINNING LANDCARE PARTNERSHIP

Over 30 Landcare groups, working in partnership with Kingborough Council, are realising enormous benefits to the community through not only caring for landscapes and the environment but also providing social connections for local people.

Every year, Landcare volunteer groups undertake around 1,400 hours of 'on ground' work, which equates to about \$42,000 in labour. Located from Taroom, to Woodbridge and across on Bruny Island, volunteer groups work in bushland and recreational reserves, on beaches and rivers, road reserves and around sports facilities. They control weeds, carry out community planting events, monitor and maintain sites and tracks, install infrastructure, seek grants to fund works, promote reserves, develop history and information as well as hold Council accountable.

To support this significant contribution to the municipality, Kingborough Council provides technical advice and tools, organises training opportunities, pays insurance costs and assists the groups to apply for grants. Council supported training also helps build the participants' capacity, including sessions on first aid, safety circle, chemical and brush cutter use and learning how to identify Tasmanian Aboriginal Heritage.

Kingborough Council has been presented with the Partnerships for Landcare Award at the 2017 Tasmanian Landcare Awards in recognition of these ongoing relationships and will be a finalist in the National Awards this year. The Award builds on the success of a new partnership between Kingborough Council and Landcare Tasmania.

The partnership acknowledges that each organisation makes a strong but distinct contribution to supporting Landcare in Kingborough, which has the greatest number of Landcare groups of any Tasmanian council. It includes a range of mutual aims, shared objectives and joint activities and will be used to further grow the culture of community Landcare in Kingborough.

The Mayor of Kingborough, Steve Wass, is proud of the achievements Council has made and said "We value the relationship we have with Landcare Tasmania and volunteer care groups within Kingborough and this award is proof of the importance that is placed in those relationships."

"We recognise and support the incredible efforts of our Landcare groups, who bring people together to help protect our natural areas. They organise projects such as community planting events, which provide vital links and habitats for our animals and birds, as well as encourage our community to make a meaningful difference at a local level."



PARTNERING WITH COMMUNITY TO CELEBRATE DIVERSITY

True community partnership is embodied by the Glenorchy City Council's Moonah Taste of the World Festival.

From humble beginnings in the Moonah car park in 2011, the annual celebration is now a major community event; celebrating cultural diversity in the Glenorchy municipality through sharing stories and celebrating with food, dance, music and cultural activities from across the globe.

This year's festival held in March was no exception. Over 30 nationalities were represented through either food or entertainment, with many unique and flavoursome dishes, performances, family activities and workshops on offer. Liberatore Allocca was a crowd pleaser with his demonstration of the art of grape crushing. Some of the mouth-watering dishes included cuisine from food stalls such as Lucky Sri Lankan Kitchen, Hazara Community, Hobart Malayali Association, Cantina Latina, Migrant Resource Centre, the Taste of Salvadorian Food, Tibet Kitchen and Ukrainian Cuisine.

Glenorchy City Council supports the Festival through event organising and staff volunteers. In total, the Festival brings together about 50 volunteers from council, local schools and colleges, businesses, community groups and Community Corrections. Funding for the event is provided by Council as well as through sponsorships. This year's major sponsors were the Tasmanian Government and Nyrstar - and supporters included Allocca Electrical, Two-Way Taxi Trucks, Moreton Group Medical Services and the Glenorchy Gazette.

Glenorchy City Council's Coordinator Community Planning and Development, Andrea Marquardt, said 12 months go into planning this event.

"So much goes on behind the scenes leading up to this event, which includes liaising with performers, stall holders, contractors, our wonderful sponsors and valuable volunteers. We held four volunteer briefings, two food safety presentations for food stall holders plus many individual meetings with our food safety officer".

The Mayor of Glenorchy, Kristie Johnston, explained the Festival demonstrated Council's commitment to membership of the international Welcoming Cities Network; part of an international movement of more than 120 Cities in Australia, USA, Germany, the United Kingdom and New Zealand.

"Glenorchy is the first Tasmanian city to become a member and one of only 15 cities and councils in Australia that has formally made the choice to create communities where everyone can belong and participate in social, cultural, economic and civic life."

"This also aligns with Council's Community Plan to welcome new arrivals from all countries and work with them to build on the multicultural traditions in our community through arts, food, music, entertainment and shared experiences."

"Each and every person involved can feel an enormous sense of pride when this event happens so successfully. We were a very tired bunch at the end but also proud of what we had achieved and proud of watching a multicultural community come together in such an explosion of colour and fun."

LIVE WELL, LIVE LONG IN CITY OF CLARENCE

Live Well, Live Long is a free 12-week program to help people enjoy a great quality of life and become more resilient and active.

The program is a partnership between Clarence City Council, the Clarence Integrated Care Centre, and Tasmanian Health Service. In 2017, this partnership received the Tasmanian Allied Health Practitioners Award for partnerships.

Commencing in 2014, Live Well, Live Long is delivered by health care specialists who present on a variety of topics such as how to keep active, eat well, care for your eyesight and relaxation techniques. Supporting resources and community contacts are made available directly from Council.

The program is held at the Clarence Integrated Care Centre. To introduce each round of the program, a free healthy lunch is provided to encourage involvement and give participants a chance to meet new people in a friendly and relaxed environment.

A participant of the program, Brian Parker, said the Live Well, Live Long program was a great experience. "It was a great opportunity for seniors, pensioners or otherwise, to be able to see and experience what the government, other organisations and what we can do to help us live well and live long. Information on health was valuable, particularly diet, exercise, mental health. The program is a must ..."



THE POWER OF A NATIONAL VOICE

Councils don't only collaborate at a local level. Over 500 councils are represented by the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) at the national level, by virtue of membership of their State Association.

LGAT along with other State Associations contribute to the national Local Government policy agenda and advocacy through ALGA in several ways. We have two Members on the Board, currently the LGAT President and Vice President, Mayor Doug Chipman and Mayor Daryl Quilliam respectively. We also engage through a range of policy groups including meetings of CEOs and Policy Directors and specially focussed policy group meetings such as Roads and Transport, Planning, Environment and Human Resources.

As one of Australia's three spheres of government, Local Government is represented by ALGA's President on the Council of Australian Governments (COAG). This peak government body brings together the Prime Minister, state premiers, territory chief ministers and the ALGA President to develop responses to issues of concern to all three spheres of government.

In addition to responding to and pursuing policy which can impact or support Local Government's functions and objectives, ALGA's highly collegial cross jurisdiction approach develops relationships which enable sharing of knowledge, ideas and resources. The significance and importance of the collective Local Government voice through ALGA was illustrated most recently when a sustained and national wide advocacy resulted in the restoration of the indexation of the Financial Assistance Grants to Local Government.

PEAK BODIES UNITE – DELIVERING THROUGH COLLABORATION

It is usual during an election period for organisations, particularly those with a representative role, to develop a 'wish list' of policy, projects and investment they want to see delivered by an incoming government.

The form of those wishes varies depending on the focus of the advocate as well as their community of interest. However, what is usually common to all, is a desire to see a vibrant, healthy, economically strong Tasmania underpinned by strong partnerships across the State and with the State Government. A key advantage of Tasmania's relatively smaller scale is the ability to forge effective relationships across sectors, geographical boundaries and levels of Government.

In the lead up to the March State elections, the Local Government Association of Tasmania united with other Tasmanian peak bodies to develop a shared aspirations statement for Tasmania and to deliver electorate based 'meet the candidate forums' and a leaders' forum for our combined Membership Base.

Collectively we hold the view that it is with a purposeful, agreed focus on what is important, an evidence-based approach to addressing identified issues and a range of strong and interconnected partnerships, that any future Government can best assist convincingly lead a Tasmania for all.

We all want a State Government that is transparent and accountable and so it made sense to unify, to work together and going forward to collectively hold the Government to account.

This coalition of peak bodies includes, in addition to the Local Government Association of Tasmania - Aged and Community Services Australia (ACSA), Council on the Ageing (COTA), the Housing Industry Association of Tas (HIA), Master Builders Tasmania (MBT), Regional Development Australia Tasmania, Shelter Tas, the Tasmanian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (TCCI), the Tasmanian Chronic Disease Prevention Alliance (TCDPA) and the Tasmanian Council of Social Service (TasCOSS).

As the CEO of TasCOSS, Kym Goodes explained, "there is more benefit in focussing on what unites us than being distracted by what divides us".

Municipalities are the geographic building blocks of our State. Local Government delivers services and infrastructure that shapes the daily experiences of every Tasmanian. The 'local' in Local Government means councils are well placed to ensure projects and services work for the communities they are targeting. This means Local Government is a crucial partner for delivering on Tasmania's future wellbeing and so we will continue to invest in strong relationships with key collaborators, in the best interest of all communities.

Dr Katrena Stephenson
CEO LGAT



COLLABORATION TO ACHIEVE UNIVERSAL ACCESS

Collaboration between Local and State Government is a key ingredient to deliver outcomes in areas of shared responsibility, such as enhancing universal access to buildings.

The Disability Access Working Group is one such example, where the Local Government Division of the Department of Premier and Cabinet, the Local Government Association of Tasmania and councils have partnered to raise awareness and build capacity around universal access.

The Disability Access Working Group identified several challenges in current building and planning legislation and standards, where minimum standards were not delivering desirable outcomes for those with challenges in accessing buildings. The group reached out further to other key stakeholders including the Consumer, Building and Occupational Services (CBOS) and the Department of Justice and agreed an approach of targeted forums on universal access.

The aim of the forums was to discuss universal access and the built environment 'going beyond the minimum'. Forums were designed to increase conversation about a new and necessary way of thinking for people of all ages and abilities. This means a universal design approach that considers purpose and function i.e. "who is going to use this park, building, environment?" and where standards and legislative requirements form part of this approach. The target audience for the forums was identified as building surveyors, designers, architects, council staff and the wider community.

The most recent universal access forum was held in Hobart on 8 March at the Blundstone arena, Bellerive, and supported by the Department of Justice, Clarence, Glenorchy, Hobart and Kingborough Councils and LGAT. The forum was facilitated by Robin Banks, former Equal Opportunity Commissioner and included a panel of community members from the Access and Positive Ageing Advisory Committees of each council, Lifetime Homes and Small Consulting.

The forums yielded valuable discussion and identification of barriers such as one participant noting that "development often tended to focus on standards and compliance rather than a creative approach to design". Other valuable feedback included "I especially liked the community members sharing their own stories and experiences to demonstrate how important the universal design is. This is quite often not recognised by the designer/architect who only ticks the minimum boxes from design standards."



EMERGENCY VOLUNTEERS – PLANNING FOR COMMUNITY RECOVERY

Every year many Tasmanians volunteer to help their fellow community members deal with the impacts of emergencies such as bushfires and floods.

Helping communities recover from emergencies would not be possible without the tireless help of many volunteers. You may not be aware however, that a significant amount of pre-planning occurs to help get volunteers in place when help is needed.

Emergency Volunteering - Community Response to Extreme Weather (EV CREW) is a volunteer referral service managed by Volunteering Tasmania. EV CREW links everyday Tasmanians with organisations responding to emergencies to provide disaster recovery activities. This differs from disaster response, which requires significant training and is delivered by TasFire, SES, Surf Life Saving Tasmania, St Johns Ambulance, the Australian Red Cross or Ambulance Tasmania volunteers.

Councils play a key role in emergency management through the coordination of evacuation centres, communications and leading community recovery. Councils and LGAT work in collaboration with State Government Agencies to plan for and deliver appropriate support in an emergency. LGAT and Volunteering Tasmania also have a strong relationship that helps coordinate emergency response and recovery volunteers for impacted Local Government areas.

Volunteering Tasmania can identify volunteers by municipality and welcomes any opportunity to promote EV CREW in collaboration with individual councils. Tasmanians can register on EV CREW any time and provide their contact details, information on their skills what equipment they may have. Volunteering Tasmania encourages people to register before an emergency so that they can be referred quickly to an organisation when needed. There are currently 750+ Tasmanians registered on EVCREW and more are always welcome!

CITY OF HOBART GRANTS PROGRAM – PARTNERING FINANCIALLY WITH COMMUNITY

Partnering with community through the provision of grant funding is a key role of Local Government.

In 2017-18 the City of Hobart will invest \$1.1 million through its community grants program. In 2016 the Council determined to increase investment in the City's grants program to over \$1 million per annum, encouraging city growth and community participation through direct investment in a range of local initiatives. The Grants program includes 17 streams across the areas of Environment, Waste Management, Creative Hobart, Community, Events, Venue Support, Major City Events and Marketing.

The program provides a clear return on investment for the community. A recent analysis of the program found that for each dollar invested by the City in 2017, funded projects were able to secure on average another \$7.75 in funding.

Each funding application is assessed against publicly available guidelines through an assessment process, which draws on the experience of both City of Hobart staff and independent assessors to ensure quality and fairness.



For this financial year, the City has allocated 114 grants ranging from \$500 to over \$200,000 to a diverse range of groups and organisations. Some of the funded initiatives include Community Christmas carol events, musical performances in local hospitals, Chinese New Year celebrations, the Festival of Voices, community food gardens, aboriginal cultural knowledge sharing, kids yoga, cinema screenings for the over 50's, and grants to local businesses to improve the appearance of their shopfronts.

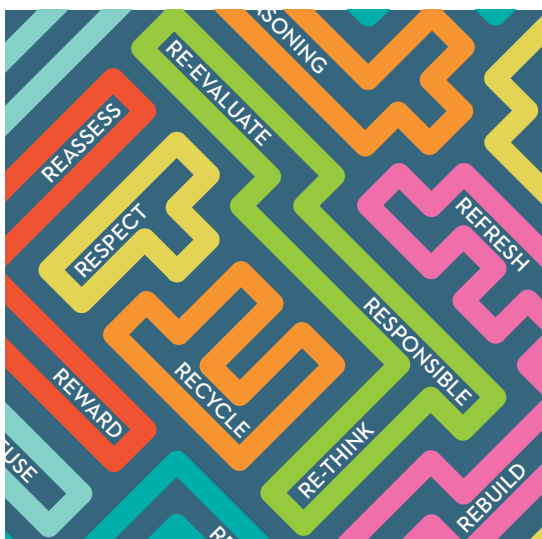
A recent success story, funded through the 2017/18 grants program, is the Pets in the Park (PITP) initiative, which was supported by the City through a Community Quick Response Grant.

PITP is a vet clinic run by veterinarians, veterinary nurses and administration staff. It provides preventative vet health care for the animals of people who are

experiencing or facing homelessness on the first Saturday of each month.

With the growing housing crisis in Tasmania contributing to increased homelessness, this program recognises the importance of pets in the lives of homeless and vulnerable people and provides health care for animals who would otherwise not have access to it. Clients are referred to PITP clinics by social service providers in Tasmania, including Anglicare, CatholicCare, Mission Australia and Hobart City Mission.

The latest community grants application round closed in early March, for projects to be delivered in the first half of the 2018/19 financial year. A record number of applications were received in this round, with assessors agreeing that the quality of applications was the highest it had been to date. The successful recipients will be announced in late May.



SAVE THE DATE

106TH LGAT CONFERENCE
25-27 JULY 2018

Special sneak peek...

Craig Reucassel: From the ABC's *War on Waste*, *Checkout* and *The Chaser*

Scott Rankin: Australian, Tasmanian of the Year

Laurie Patton: CEO ASCA

Genevieve Lilley: Architect, writer and history buff

Sally Curtain: Thought leader, strategist and reformer

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