Five Minutes with Mayor Alvwyn Boyd

Burnie City Council

Birth date?
A long time ago now ... 16 September 1943.

How long have you lived in Burnie and what do you enjoy most about the area?
I have lived in Burnie for 42 years. I grew up in a small country town called Ledgerwood, which is just past Scottsdale. My wife, Gwenda, and I love Burnie. I love the great weather and rich soil; we’re near the sea and not far from the wilderness. It’s the perfect package.

What motivates you in life?
My family motivates me and setting a benchmark for them.

How do you like to spend your free time?
When I do have some free time I love tending to my veggie garden or exploring the country roads. Gwenda and I enjoy spending time with our two grand-daughters (aged 7 and 1).

Name three qualities that you appreciate most in people.
1) Honesty
2) People who are family orientated
3) Hard workers

When you were a child, you wanted to be...
As a child in the small country town I grew up in there was a butter factory, sawmill, railway station and one shop. They were all within about five cricket pitches of each other. I chose to be a shopkeeper from the age of 15 to 21 and then my wife and I moved to Burnie in 1965.

Name three previous occupations you have held in the past.
1) Shopkeeper
2) Milk vendor
3) Real estate agent

What motivated you to become involved in Local Government?
It was the right time in my life really. I wanted to be able to offer something back to the community and also make sure my rates money was being spent wisely.

How many years have you served as:
Councillor - 1 year.
Mayor - 9 years.

What has been the most memorable moment of your Local Government career?
There have been many memorable moments but I’d have to say being elected as Mayor in 2000 was the most memorable.

What aspects of your role as Mayor do you enjoy most?
I really enjoy meeting people and, as Mayor, you meet so many people from all walks of life. I like to try and help sort out their issues and of course, I enjoy being able to represent our city. My wife and I, along with a team of dedicated volunteers, greet all the cruise ships that dock at Burnie Port. Last season we greeted 21 cruise ships and, this year, there will be 17. It’s a real buzz welcoming visitors to our city.

Your most embarrassing moment was...
When I forgot the most important part of my speech. We’ll just leave it at that.

What’s the best advice anyone has ever given you?
Someone told me to always be a good listener. I believe that’s really important.

What word best describes you?
This is a tough question, but I’ve been called a “friendly” bloke once or twice, so we’ll go with that.
faces of local government

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Jul 2009 LGAT News 9
Winny Enniss
REGULATORY SERVICES
GLAMORGAN SPRING BAY COUNCIL

Winny Enniss has worked at Glamorgan Spring Bay Council for almost seven years, starting out as Planning Coordinator and eventually working her way up to her current role as Regulatory Services Coordinator. Prior to joining Council, Winny spent 16 years with the State Government of Victoria. She holds a Certificate IV in Local Government Planning and is currently studying for a Diploma in Town Planning with the University of New England.

In her current position, Winny coordinates planning and building, and oversees the role of the Municipal Inspector. She is therefore able to assist people on a broad range of issues and has become something of a one-stop-shop for those with enquiries. “Being in the Planning Department, we deal constantly with people who are thinking of purchasing land, a dwelling, or building,” she said. “It’s a big commitment for them so giving the correct advice to help them achieve their dream is not only important but also rewarding, particularly when the development gains approval.”

“I’m also very fortunate to be part of a loyal and dedicated team that works together to provide advice and support to both staff and the community at large,” Winny added. “My recognition as a ‘Star Performer’ is due to their combined and valued support which ultimately makes my job easier.”

Winny’s proudest achievements include being nominated as a ‘Star Performer’, receiving thanks from satisfied customers, remaining composed when dealing with difficult customers, and she looks forward to receiving her Diploma.

General Manager, David Metcalf, said before Winny took on the position as Regulatory Services Coordinator, there was little liaison between the planning, building, environmental health, technical services and administration departments. “Since Winny assumed the new role, she has done a wonderful job of coordinating these work areas,” he said. “These departments are now exceeding earlier expectations and offer a professional, cost effective and timely service to our customers.”

Robert Fee
TECHNICAL SERVICES
WEST COAST COUNCIL

For over 32 years Robert has worked for the West Coast Council and the last 20 years as Manager Civil Works and Town Maintenance. He started out his working life as a carpenter and joiner and has since gained an Advanced Work Supervisor Certificate.

Robert is responsible for all aspects of council infrastructure over the five West Coast towns and several smaller communities. He has the support of two foremen and a consulting engineer who aid him in improving public facilities such as parks, camping grounds, reserves, roads, buildings, swimming pools, paths and waste dump points.

By supporting, guiding and helping the on ground workforce, Robert has been able to provide safer and improved conditions for the public and is able to remain informed of community expectations. Where possible, Robert prefers to take a proactive stance in meeting community needs.

He gains great satisfaction in being able to complete the Works Program each year which aids the ongoing improvement to council infrastructure, whilst meeting community expectations.

The construction of the Miners Siting in Queenstown, now a major tourist attraction for the town, and the formation of the curb, gutter and footpath construction team are among Robert’s proudest achievements at Council.

General Manager, Peter Harder, said Robert has put in countless extra hours working for the benefit of the West Coast community during his time with Council. Robert recently established a kerbing and footpath crew in addition to his normal workload so the benefits of his efforts are now literally in concrete all over the West Coast.
LGAT President Resigns

On 10 June, Mayor Mike Gaffney resigned from his position as President of the Local Government Association of Tasmania to take up his new role as the member for Mersey in the Legislative Council.

As President for three years, Mike was a popular figure within Local Government who believed in the strength of the community and in getting a fair deal for councils. Mike could often be seen with that cheeky grin on his face looking for mischief and enjoyed the opportunity for a humorous remark, but he took the job very seriously and strived hard to make a difference during his period as President.

Water and sewerage reform and financial sustainability of councils were key policy issues on Mike’s agenda and he dealt with these matters forcefully and professionally. Mike was respectful of the opinions of others and inclusive in the decision-making process. He worked closely with the General Management Committee of the Association and enjoyed his time on and contribution to the national policy agenda through his involvement with the Board of the ALGA. Not one to accept things for the sake of accepting them, Mike was willing to challenge those issues which he considered not quite right and was often responsible for commencing and influencing debate on issues of national significance at the ALGA Board table.

Mike Gaffney was a popular President of the Association, both within his peer group and among those stakeholders with which he had dealings. His contribution and good humour will be missed, although it is clear that he will continue to make his presence felt within Local Government in his ongoing role as Mayor of Latrobe. It is good for us to have another friend in the Legislative Council and we wish him a fond farewell and every success in his new career.

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Kentish Council Appoints New General Manager

Risden Knightley was recently appointed as General Manager at Kentish Council. A qualified engineer, Risden previously served as Council’s Manager of Technical Services and as Senior Engineer with Meander Valley Council.

Together with his Local Government experience, Risden brings management skills attained through his work with the Royal Australian Air Force and later, as a Reservist. Involvement in the forces has been paramount throughout Risden’s career, from Airfield Engineer with the RAAF, to Manager of Building Security and Services at the Australian War Memorial. Since relocating to Tasmania, Risden has continued as a Reservist, gaining a wealth of experience both locally and internationally.

As General Manager for Kentish Council, one of Risden’s goals is to actively seek greater economic growth for the Kentish community whilst maintaining the area’s rural values.

Fresh Face for Tasman Council

Tasman Council has appointed a new General Manager, the former General Manager of Flinders Council, Michael Boyd.

With a Bachelor of Business in Local Government, Michael brings over 20 years experience in Local Government in a range of senior management roles, mostly in South Australia. He has spent time working for the Northern Territory Government and with the Ramingining indigenous community. Prior to moving to Tasmania in 2007, he also operated a tourism business in Victoria for eight years including a motel, restaurant and function centre.

Michael is enjoying his new position as he has a preference for working with smaller rural communities and he looks forward to developing community capacity and to addressing specific community issues.

Alderman Haigh Reaches Major Milestone

Ald Darlene Haigh has achieved a major milestone with the Hobart City Council as the longest serving female Alderman in the Council’s history.

For more than 21 years Ald Haigh has embraced Local Government with a passion, to work for the community and make the city a better place in which to live.

When first elected in 1988, she served as Chairman of Parks, taking on Development Services, Chairman of City Services for eight years, and then moved back to Development and Environmental Services.

When the Local Government Act was changed in 1993, Ald Haigh promoted a more open process in Development and Environmental Services where meetings had to be carried out in public. Prior to that date, meetings were held behind closed doors. Ald Haigh also played an important role in turning the Council towards more community service provisions for young people by promoting the establishment of Youth ARC and the employment of youth workers to help the homeless.

She has been a great supporter of the Sandy Bay waterfront upgrading, even choosing the magnolia tree for the roundabout and, despite her disappointment with the demise of the tram project, Ald Haigh is proud to have been involved in the restoration of three historic trams.

The Council congratulates Ald Haigh on her achievements for the community and the historic milestone of becoming the longest serving female Alderman in the Council’s 163-year history.
New Team Member to Address Household Hazardous Waste

The Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT) welcomes Ben Mooney as Household Hazardous Waste Program Coordinator. His position is jointly funded by the LGAT and the Department of Environment, Parks, Heritage and the Arts through the Living Environment Program. The program aims to protect the environment through the efficient, effective and safe collection, recovery, treatment and disposal of household hazardous waste and the promotion of waste avoidance and minimalisation. His role also includes public education and the promotion of environmentally friendly alternatives to hazardous materials.

As a research scientist completing his PhD on Toxic Marine Algae with the University of Tasmania and University of Maryland, USA, Ben has worked with CSIRO Marine and Atmospheric Research, State and Local Governments on marine oil resource and waste recovery projects, and continues to partner a consultancy that supports Australian marine oil industries. Ben is a member of the Royal Australian Chemical Institute of Chartered Chemists (RACI CChem) and has a BSc (Hon) in Chemistry.

Ben is looking forward to the challenges of the position and leaving a legacy of safer homes throughout Tasmania. 🌧️

Ben Mooney may be contacted on (03) 6233 5963, 0417 540 936, or by email at ben.mooney@lgat.tas.gov.au.

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ALGWA Office Bearers Announced

At the February AGM of the Australian Local Government Women’s Association (ALGWA) Tasmania, Cllr Cheryl Fuller of Central Coast Council was elected as President for the next two years.

Cheryl brings vitality and a wealth of ideas to the association and is dedicated to addressing its goals with vigour. Among her priorities is the formulation of a business plan and she looks forward to encouraging, supporting and mentoring women in Local Government in the lead-up to the October Local Government Elections.

Cheryl is also keen to initiate a strong campaign to promote the value of women in 2010, which has been declared the Year of Women in Local Government.

At the AGM, Cllr Kaye McFarlane of Clarence City Council was elected Vice President, Cllr Alwyn Friedersdorff of Waratah-Wynyard Council was appointed as Secretary, Cllr Helen Scott of Southern Midlands Council has the dual role of Treasurer and Public Officer, and Nancy Donnelly of Georgetown was elected as Minutes Secretary. LGAT wishes the newly appointed team every success in their endeavours.

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