Birth date?
Forgotten! I remember, as a child, air raid sirens and going into the concrete shelter in our garden in London to avoid V bombs so it must have been shortly before World War II started.

How long have you lived in Kingborough and what do you enjoy most about the area?
I have lived in Kingborough for 29 years. I love the variety of our magnificent natural environment and the easy access to a busy commercial centre.

What motivates you in life?
Making a contribution to the lives of others and staying healthy.

How do you like to spend your free time?
Cycling, walking, watching children and grandchildren play sport. Time with my wife and family and trying to grow the perfect tomato.

Favourite food and wine?
Fish caught at sea with a line and hook and eaten as immediately as possible, and French champagne as a treat.

Three qualities that you appreciate most in people?
1) Those who have an interest in what is going on in lives other than their own.
2) Those who do what they say they are going to do.
3) A sense of humour.

When you were a child, you wanted to be...
We did not have much ‘stuff’ at home. I remember thinking that it would be good to be wealthy (I never made it).

Name three previous occupations you have held in the past.
1) Paediatrician
2) Postman (whilst a student)
3) Film extra (whilst a student)

What motivated you to become involved in Local Government?
To give something back to the local community and to keep me off the streets in my retirement.

How many years have you served as:
Councillor - 8 years
Mayor - 3 years

Most memorable moment of your Local Government career?
Surviving my first full Council meeting as Mayor.

What do you enjoy most about your role as Mayor?
I love working with the local community, both with groups and individuals. As Mayor, you meet people making extraordinary contributions to their local communities.

Most embarrassing moment?
Arriving at a formal dinner with a male friend, only to find everyone else was there with their wives.

What’s the best advice anyone has ever given you?
You should not have an accountant who is either too smart, or too stupid.

What word best describes you?
I’ll leave that to others.
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Tracey Bradley
COMMUNITY SERVICES
WARATAH WYNYARD COUNCIL

At Waratah Wynyard Council, Tracey Bradley has served as the Director of Community Services for almost two years. Her role encompasses the areas of tourism, community development, the Exhibition Centre, childcare and emergency services. As part of a community focused council, she works directly with many community members and leads a dynamic team of staff.

Tracey began with an Early Years Degree and started life in Local Government 23 years ago at the Burnie City Council as a child care worker. She describes the experience of working with toddlers as being not a lot different to managing a department at times.

Working in the area of Community Services, Tracy is motivated by the opportunity to make a difference within the community. “To be honest, I could not do my job with the motivation and commitment I have, if it didn’t make this a better place, both this Council and this community,” Tracey said. “I measure my success by the outcomes we can achieve for others.” Developing programs for children and families are Tracey’s primary passion, as she believes that making their lives a little richer will change the world.

The direct contact with community members and the cause and effect of the programs, services and events she is involved in is what Tracey finds most rewarding about her job. “Starting work as a 17 year-old child carer, I never really thought about a career in Local Government - it was a consequential benefit that I now appreciate.” she said.

Council’s General Manager, Greg Winton, said since joining Council, Tracey has proven to be a valuable asset, and a great motivator amongst her peers and the staff generally. “Tracey proactively seizes opportunities that are beneficial to the community and Council alike and, given her passion for Community Services, has been invited to join the national LGMA board and a number of state-based organisations,” he said.

Freddy Bagger
WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE
DORSET COUNCIL

With qualifications including a Certificate IV in Local Government Operational Works and a Certificate IV in Business Frontline Management and, as a qualified Water and Sewerage Plant Operator, Freddy Bagger has clocked up nine years as a Foreman with the Dorset Council.

In this role, Freddy is responsible for Council’s Bridport operations, which includes the operation of the water and sewerage plants, street and garden maintenance, sporting facility maintenance and the maintenance of Bridport’s foreshore and caravan park. He also provides advice to Council Management on foreshore regeneration and plans for future infrastructure development.

Freddy treats Bridport as though it was his own front yard and strives for excellent public relations through prompt customer service. The comradeship between the divisions is what he enjoys most during his working day. His proudest achievement is the transition from being a panel beater and spray painter, to being responsible for town maintenance at Bridport.

Dorset Council’s Corporate Services Manager, Guy Jetson, who was quick to recognise Freddy’s contribution to Council, said as the foreman for a very small Bridport crew, Freddy can often be seen on duty after hours and on weekends attending to something that can’t wait until the next working day. “Freddie is invariably polite, cheerful and receptive to the concerns of ratepayers and Council staff alike, even when he’s literally up to his waist in waste,” he said. “Freddie is also likely to be the first one to put up his hand to be at the pointy end of efforts to improve Council’s service provision or infrastructure management.”
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New President for ALGA

The Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) has elected a new President, Clr Geoff Lake. ALGA also has two new Vice-Presidents, namely Bruce Miller, the President of the New South Wales Shires Association, and John Rich, former President of the Local Government Association of South Australia and a Walkerville councillor.

Clr Lake has been a councillor at the City of Monash in Melbourne since March 2000 and, at the age of 22, became Victoria’s youngest ever Mayor. He is a Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) board member and was MAV President and ALGA Vice President from 2004 to 2006. He works as a lawyer with a national law firm.

Former ALGA President, Cr Paul Bell, served for two two-year terms and, under ALGA’s Constitution, was ineligible to stand again. ALGA’s Chief Executive Officer, Adrian Beresford-Wylie, said the election of 28 year-old Clr Lake was a generational hand-over and would ensure that ALGA continued to forge ahead with energy and enthusiasm.

Clr Lake said, I have a fresh vision and plan for Local Government to: play a bigger part in the Government response to the global economic crisis by getting infrastructure investment happening locally; reducing unnecessary red tape; and raising the standard in council performance. “There is an unprecedented opportunity for Local Government to be at the forefront of the Prime Minister’s COAG reform agenda and I will ensure the sector is an active and intelligent contributor,” he said.

“The community has a right to expect the highest levels of service from their council and I will work hard to promote and deliver reforms that strengthen confidence in Local Government.”

Hobart City Under New Leadership

On 29 November 2008, Nick Heath took up the challenging role as the Hobart City Council’s new General Manager following the retirement of Brent Armstrong.

Mr Heath has been employed with the Council since 1984, having served as a Legal Officer, Manager, Deputy General Manager and as Director Executive Management, where he proved himself as a capable and valued member of the Executive team.

In making the announcement, the Lord Mayor of Hobart, Ald Rob Valentine, said Mr Heath brings to the job a vision for the organisation, understanding of the future challenges for Local Government, and the respect of the organisation and the Aldermen for his skills and abilities. “Mr Heath has vast experience in the Council and across a wide range of Local Government and community activities,” Ald Valentine said. “This includes being a member of the Australian National Council on Drugs and recent past Chairman of the Hutchins School Board.”

Mr Heath has a legal background, with a Bachelor of Law from the University of Tasmania and is married with two children.
Young Achiever Serves as Inspiration to Others

Kingborough Council’s Senior Environmental Health Officer, Abyilene McGuire, aged 26, was recently selected as a finalist in the 2009 Young Australian of the Year Award.

The Young Australian of the Year Award recognises outstanding and exceptional young Australians who have excelled in serving their community and the nation in their chosen field and celebrates the hard work and commitment of Australians who inspire others to reach greater heights in their lives.

Abyilene is the youngest Senior Environmental Health Officer in Tasmania. Her role is to ensure a healthy and safe environment through the implementation of public and environmental health programs and the enforcement of relevant legislation. In 2008, she was the recipient of the Southern Cross Young Achiever Award (Environment).

LEFT: 2009 Young Australian of the Year Award finalist, Abyilene McGuire of Kingborough Council