At the June meeting of the Australian Council of Local Government, the Australian Government announced an additional $220 million nation-building investment in community infrastructure, such as libraries, community centres, sports grounds and environmental infrastructure, bringing the Government’s record investment in community infrastructure to more than $1 billion since last November.

The Rudd Government is partnering with Local Government to invest in nation-building infrastructure to support jobs during the global economic recession. The Government will also establish a $25 million Local Government Reform Fund to fast-track improvements to the sector’s infrastructure asset and financial management systems, and encourage cooperation between councils in the delivery of their services.

The $220 million injection into the Community Infrastructure Program will be delivered through two streams:

- $100 million shared between all of the nation’s councils and shires; and
- $120 million for larger strategic projects, provided on a competitive basis.

This investment builds on the $800 million currently being delivered through the Community Infrastructure Program. The Government will commence the next round of Community Infrastructure Program funding at the end of 2009, to enable councils to complete existing smaller scale projects. The Government will also work with councils to improve long-term financial sustainability and resilience.

The Australasian Environmental Law Enforcement and Regulators Network (AELERT) is a network of environmental regulatory agencies that are responsible for the management of natural resources or the protection of the environment. The 6th Annual AELERT Conference will include material of interest to organisations with environmental, planning, cultural heritage, or natural resource related responsibilities.

The Tasmanian Government will host the 6th Annual AELERT Conference in Hobart on the 15th, 16th and 17th of September 2009 at the Wrest Point Conference Centre in Hobart.

The Conference theme is “Regulation in a Dynamic Future - Driving Changing Attitudes.” Confirmed speakers include Professor Tim Flannery, Professor Malcolm Sparrow, author of “The Regulatory Craft”, M C Mehta from the M C Mehta Environmental Foundation in India, Professor Rob White of the University of Tasmania, and Mr Joe Woodward from the Department of Environment and Climate Change (NSW).

Workshops and Breakout Sessions relating to regulatory practice, heritage, water, wildlife and other related fields will include material of interest at the practitioner, management and strategic levels.

For further information contact the AELERT Secretariat on (02) 6275 9051 or Phil Shelverton on (03) 6233 2788.

Local Government to Play a Part in COAG Reforms

An agreement was reached at a meeting held on 30 April of the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) for Local Government to play a key role in reviewing Australia’s emergency management arrangements and in future planning for Australia’s major cities.

Leaders unanimously supported the inclusion of Local Government as a member of the COAG working group to improve Australia’s coordination arrangements for natural disasters. This decision recognises the vital role that councils have played in dealing with the recent Victorian bushfires and Queensland floods, and in pandemic planning in response to the global swine flu outbreak.

In welcoming the decision, President of the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA), Clr Geoff Lake, said councils all over Australia are at the forefront of disaster mitigation, preparedness and response. “We think that councils can bring a valuable perspective to how an early warning system might be rolled out effectively at the local level,” he said.

Clr Lake also welcomed Local Government’s inclusion on the COAG Taskforce to examine future planning for Australia’s cities and in developing a best practice approach to shaping city development. “Our cities are vital to the economic, social and environmental future of our nation and we look forward to developing a smarter partnership between the three levels of government in building a brighter future for Australian cities,” he said.

National Survey Assesses Gender Equity in Local Government

A study has been released by the Australian Local Government Women’s Association (ALGWA) as part of a decade long program to advance greater representation of women as elected members and senior managers so that councils more accurately reflect their communities.

Across Australia, 120 councils have responded positively to the recommendations of the National Framework for Women in Local Government - the Way Forward, including six Tasmanian councils.

The national framework was first developed by ALGWA in 2001. It received broad recognition as a key statement of the need to achieve greater representation of women in Local Government. Many councils, state and federal government agencies adopted the framework as a basis for action. The 2006 review attracted 602 completed responses but the 2009 review attracted more than 3,300 responses. The 2009 survey confirms that overall, there appears to be a modest improvement in the status and treatment of women in Local Government.

A detailed account of the study and survey results, The National Framework for Women in Local Government - The Way Forward, can be found on the ALGWA website at www.algwa.net.au.
Brighton Council Enters into Second Partnership Agreement

Brighton Council has entered into a second partnership agreement with the State Government, which will focus on a master plan for the Brighton central area, the Brighton Industrial Estate/Transport Hub and the implementation of the Safe at Home, community, respect, order and crime prevention programs.

The agreement will build on the success of the first partnership between Brighton Council and the State Government, which resulted in the creation of many important community initiatives. These include: the Brighton Better Services project; an inter-agency support panel which supports “at risk” children; Brighton Alive; a program to support young learner drivers in gaining their licence; a Move Well Eat Well program for schools; and a series of performing arts exhibitions and events initiated by Arts Tasmania.

It is expected that negotiation of the new agreement will be completed by end of the year.

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With Tasmanian councils facing issues such as climate change, water and sewerage reform, skills shortages and an ageing population, effectively engaging with the community has become more crucial than ever to providing effective service delivery. From the 10-12 of June, around 200 elected members, general managers and council officers from around Tasmania converged at Wrest Point in Hobart for LGAT’s 97th Local Government Conference.

The conference theme, Community Conversations, Striving for More, provided an inspirational and informative line-up of plenary speakers and workshop presenters from around Australia, who enthralled the audience with their ideas, expertise and suggestions. Former LGAT President, Mayor Mike Gaffney, said the conference theme embodied the importance of council’s role to provide opportunities for all members of the community to engage in meaningful dialogue.

“In difficult times like these, Local Government is constantly confronted with new questions and demands each day and our responses and actions must be efficient and effective,” Clr Gaffney said. This year’s conference addressed a range of issues relevant to Local Government today and gave participants from across Tasmania plenty of opportunity to socialise and share ideas over the three-day event.

Is Amalgamation Good for Communities?

This year’s conference wasted no time in tackling the big issues, with a panel discussion about council mergers and the kind of reform best suited for Tasmanian councils. This challenging topic was discussed by representatives from the business, economics, and Local Government sectors. Panel members included ALGA President Geoff Lake, Director of Nekon Pty Ltd Robert Rockefeller, Social Inclusion Commissioner David Adams, and Secretary for the Department of Premier and Cabinet Rhys Edwards. The group, chaired by LGAT CEO Allan Garcia, explored the issues of mergers resulting in “super councils” and resource sharing, as well as the benefits for the wider community.

While it was difficult to answer definitively whether council amalgamations were good for communities, the group discussed the idea that amalgamations make more sense in metropolitan areas which have multiple councils, than in rural areas which are sparsely populated.

A New Conversation to Transform Communities

According to a keynote speaker, Alan Tranter, Director of Creating Communities Australia, Local Government is in a prime position to transform its communities and economies, not only to cope with the future, but to create outcomes that are beyond normal. Mr Tranter addressed delegates about how the potential of a new conversation can transform communities - with Local Government playing a leading role.

“The reality is that all spheres of government need a new dialogue to create a future that is different to the past, based on the philosophy and principles that truly underlie the Australian spirit,” Mr Tranter said. “We are changing at a greater rate than we have ever done before. What’s more, the events that cause change are becoming more and more unpredictable and traditional strategic plans can quickly become redundant,” he said. “Local Government needs to move towards outcome rather than process and needs courageous people who will do things, rather than many people who talk about things.”

Love ‘em or Lose ‘em - Recruiting Young Blood and Retaining Wise Heads

With the assistance of delegates from the audience, Brisbane City Council General Manager Jude Munro employed an innovative way of demonstrating how all individuals are not equal in the workplace and how
they are not always able to progress their careers at the same rate.

Twenty individuals were called onto the stage and were each allocated a new name and set of life circumstances eg. sole mother, carer for a disabled family member, young person with heavy commitments outside of work etc. They were then asked, from the perspective of their assigned circumstances, to consider how they felt able to respond to different opportunities that may arise in the workplace and to advance a step forward if they felt able to accept an opportunity, or not. By the end of the exercise, some people advanced quite far, while others had not.

Councils were encouraged to consider introducing more flexible workplace practices to suit the individual needs of employees as a means of improving staff retention rates and in addressing one of the most serious issues facing the sector today - the skills shortage.

Women in Senior Positions at Risk of Inclusion on an Endangered Species List

Australian Financial Review columnist, Catherine Fox, addressed workshop delegates about the poor representation of women in senior jobs in the business sector, a trend also reflected in the Local Government sphere, which has fewer women in management than Australia’s other public sectors.

In her presentation, Ms Fox said the slide in the number of women in senior positions - which began during the economic boom - must be arrested, or they are at risk of being placed on an endangered species list. She said the two decades since the introduction of anti-discrimination legislation to create greater gender equity in workplaces had not produced the changes many expected. Even a significant leap in the numbers of women graduating from university have done little to deliver greater parity, with women disproportionately clustered in the lower ranks of organisations, on lower pay and with fewer promotion prospects.

Many women are still wrongly perceived as supplementary income earners by their managers, Ms Fox said, and there’s no doubt that disrupted careers also play a part in holding women back. “It's time for a more pragmatic approach to breaking down these barriers, by ensuring that systemic discrimination is identified and addressed.”

Ageing Well - it can be Done!

It is a universal fear that an inevitable outcome of growing older is ending up in a nursing home. Today’s challenge for Local Government is to create age-friendly communities that can assist older people to live more independently for longer.

Aged care expert and founder of 4C Consulting, Roland Naufal, said research and international experience indicated a future which can delay, or avoid the nursing home altogether is possible, a key message in his presentation to delegates on the final day of the conference.

“There needs to be a strong compatibility between consumer and government goals in the area of supporting people to age well and to achieve outcomes, which support people to remain as independent as possible for as long as possible,” Mr Naufal said. “The best councils adapt their services and work with public and private sector partners to drive improvement in services for older people. These services should complement what older people want to continue to do and how they want to continue to live,” he said.

During his presentation, Mr Naufal demonstrated how councils and individuals could adopt a framework for developing age-friendly communities in both city and rural locations.

Moving Moments

Following the successful introduction of Moving Moments at last year’s conference, delegates were once again treated to the opportunity to stretch their legs and get moving between plenary presentations. Moving Moments, sponsored by the Premier’s Physical Activity Council, this year involved an on-the-spot Pilates session, where delegates were shown a range of stretching exercises, including “sexy hips”, aimed at improving flexibility and core strength. Moving Moments has become a popular addition to the conference program, providing an entertaining and healthy way to get moving.
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Civic Mutual Plus Conference Dinner

On the second day of the conference, delegates and partners enjoyed an evening of fine Tasmanian food, wine and entertainment at the Civic Mutual Plus Conference Dinner, held at the Derwent Entertainment Centre. Even a last minute venue change and the chilly temperatures outside didn’t dampen the festive spirit. Guests enjoyed the announcement of the winners of the 2009 Local Government Awards for Excellence, a moving performance by talented Australian singer-songwriter Dewayne Everett-Smith and golden songs of old, played by The Giant Hamsters.

Outstanding Commitment and Service Award

An Award for Outstanding Commitment and Service to Local Government was presented this year to Geoff Brayford of Launceston City Council. Geoff has worked in Local Government for 29 years, and 23 of those years were spent at Launceston City Council. Between April 1986 until departing Launceston City Council in April this year, Geoff held the positions of Senior Engineer Drainage and Water Supply, Engineering Manager Transportation and Development, Manager Planning, Manager Infrastructure Assets, Group Manager Infrastructure and Director Water and Sewer Services.

During his diverse career Geoff has also acted as Launceston City Council’s designated State Emergency Services Volunteer Deputy Coordinator for 13 years, was actively involved in Emergency Management within the Launceston municipality, as well as instigating and implementing a Survey Assistant Trainee Program and Civil Engineering Cadetship Program at Council.

Special Thanks to our Sponsors and Supporters

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Thanks also to our conference partners, IPWEA and LGMA and to the many trade exhibitors who supported this year’s conference.

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On 11 June, the winners of the 2009 Local Government Awards for Excellence were announced at the Civic Mutual Plus Conference Dinner, held at the Derwent Entertainment Centre as part of the 97th Local Government Conference. The awards were presented by the Hon Jim Cox MP.

The Local Government Awards for Excellence are coordinated by the Local Government Association of Tasmania and, this year, with the generous sponsorship support of Civic Mutual Plus. The awards aim to promote outstanding achievement and inspire leading management practice and continuous improvement among Tasmania’s 29 councils and to recognise initiatives that have, or are delivering, a positive result for communities and the Local Government workplace. This year, 22 entries were received from 13 councils across the state for three of the four award categories. LGAT congratulates the winners and finalists of this year’s awards and thanks all councils that submitted entries for an array of commendable initiatives.

**Delivering Excellence for our Communities Award**

**Winner**

**Brighton Alive**

**BRIGHTON COUNCIL**

Brighton Alive has provided the community with more than 50 events including a range of social, educational and sporting programs over the past three years and has brought enormous benefits to the 15,000 residents living in the municipality. Brighton Alive works closely with the Red Cross, the Smith Family, White Lion, Steps and other non-profit organisations to implement programs that combat drug and alcohol problems, improve literacy and mental health. The program provides a platform of pride and confidence for the community and has won numerous awards.

**Runners up**

**Project Penghana & the Stitt River Rainforest Walk**

**WEST COAST COUNCIL**

Project Penghana and the Stitt River Rainforest Walk Project provide disengaged young people with the opportunity to give something back to their community by restoring dilapidated gardens and a bushwalk in the West Coast municipality.

Participants can obtain further qualifications and education as part of this hands-on project, giving them confidence to achieve their desired careers. Program participants have also gained increased acceptance among the broader community and a sense of community pride.

**Port Sorell Strategic Plan/Enquiry by Design**

**LATROBE COUNCIL**

Port Sorell Strategic Plan/Enquiry by Design
As one of the fastest growing councils in Tasmania, Latrobe Council has developed a best practice strategic plan which functions as a template for the future development of the Port Sorell area. The long-term advantage of the strategic plan is that Council now has a document from which it can create a sustainable community for the next 30-50 years, providing clear guidance to developers.

The Strategic Plan meets the current and anticipated needs of the growing community collectively, including infrastructure, employment opportunities, community facilities such as a school, sports facilities and places for community gathering whilst protecting the environmental integrity of the area. The plan has already resulted in the establishment of a child care centre, low care aged accommodation and a new medical facility.

**Delivering Excellence in Natural or Built Environments Award**

**Winner**

*Climate Change Impacts on Clarence Coastal Areas Report*

CLARENCE CITY COUNCIL

The Climate Change Impacts on Clarence Coastal Areas Report is the most detailed of its kind ever carried out by a Tasmanian council and one of only five of its kind in the nation. The report encourages innovative and flexible responses to setting new development planning guidelines in keeping with the highest range sea level rise estimates for 2100.

Now among the leading resources for climate change mitigation in Tasmania, the report is an important contributor to planning schemes at a local and state level. The communication plan included: a special newsletter on climate change for all Clarence residents; public meetings that were held in the municipality to further inform the community; and a media conference providing full access to the report and research.

**Runners up**

*Cambridge Sewerage Strategy*

CLARENCE CITY COUNCIL

With its Cambridge Sewerage Strategy, Clarence Council created an outstanding water recycling scheme for current development in the Cambridge area. At the heart of the strategy is a membrane bio-reactor waste water treatment plant, the largest of its kind in the state. Through a range of successful partnerships, an engineering solution with regional scope and long-term value was created.

The plant is achieving excellent water quality and assists in the protection of sensitive habitat. 120 megalitres of recycled water per annum is now available to three golf courses and a nursery in the area.

*Kingston Integrated Stormwater Strategy (KISS)*

KINGBOROUGH COUNCIL
Kingborough Council has addressed the ongoing issue of contaminated urban storm water in Browns River by developing the Kingston Integrated Storm Water Strategy (KISS). By trapping large quantities of litter and silt in gross pollution traps, KISS has led to an improvement in water quality as well as providing key water sensitive urban design such as the construction of the Kingston Storm Water Wetlands.

Managing urban storm water through KISS has enabled Council to restore native riparian vegetation communities and thus preserves habitat for threatened species like the Swift Parrot. The project has become an environmental educational asset of regional significance for numerous schools in the area who visit the site and would be transferable to any Local Government area, with detailed design, installation and performance data available.

**Demonstrating Operational Excellence Award**

**Winner**

**Paperless Building Application Processing**

**KINGBOROUGH COUNCIL**

Kingborough Council has proven that sometimes the simplest solutions can provide the best outcomes with its electronic processing, storage and retrieval of Building and Plumbing Permit documentation. The system is easy to implement and uses existing computer software, resulting in huge savings in both time and money, particularly in the processing of large applications.

The availability of drawings and complete files on each of Council’s desktops has been an additional bonus, as it allows for builders and other staff to discuss their plans without the technical officer having to retrieve the file. The system is also environmentally friendly.

**Runner up**

**Plant Breakdown Unit**

**KINGBOROUGH COUNCIL**

To decrease lost hours related to injuries caused by flat batteries in vehicles, Kingborough Council’s mechanics identified a need to invent a device assisting staff with the handling of vehicle batteries.

The new device requires no manual handling and is more time efficient. It has also inbuilt safety features to protect staff and is predominantly made from recycled and existing workshop parts. The unit and its simple design requires no major on-going attention and can be swapped to any new vehicle. It is an innovative and practical solution leading to safer work practices and freeing of resources, and could be easily adopted by other councils to reduce staff injury.

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Hats off to Oatlands!

The historic town of Oatlands has won the Heritage and Culture, and Community Partnership categories at the 2009 Keep Australia Beautiful Australian Tidy Towns Awards.

Oatlands features the largest collection of pre 1837 buildings in Australia. The distinctive, heritage-listed town boasts more Georgian and early colonial buildings than any other town of comparative size. In Oatlands, heritage restoration is a major priority and the Oatlands District Historical Society is an extremely active community group whose aim is to showcase and preserve the district’s history.

One of Oatlands’ major attractions is the Callington Mill, built in 1836, the only remaining tower of its kind in Tasmania. The mill gardens are a great example of a community project which complements the town’s significant representation of cultural heritage, and the numerous Tidy Towns-related tasks evident throughout the town is testament to the successful partnership between the community and Southern Midlands Council.

For more information about the Keep Australia Beautiful Tidy Town Awards in Tasmania visit www.kabtas.com.

Clarence City Council Wins National Award

Clarence City Council’s Cambridge Sewerage Strategy has won a prestigious National Award for Local Government in the Innovation in Natural Resource Management category. Council’s submission was the only Tasmanian entry from among the winners.

The Cambridge Sewerage Strategy achieves the challenging balance between supporting economic development and the protection of sensitive habitat, through inventive infrastructure engineering and project planning. At the centre of the Cambridge Sewerage Strategy is the new $7.7 million waste water treatment plant, now operating in Cambridge.

The National Awards for Local Government have been held annually since 1986 and highlight innovation in delivering infrastructure and services to local communities.

For information about the awards, visit www.infrastructure.gov.au/local/awards.
Launceston Aquatic Centre Makes a Splash

Tasmania’s new $26.3 million aquatic facility, Launceston Aquatic, is now open after 18 months of construction. The facility was funded by the Launceston City Council, the Australian Government and the Tasmanian Government, with ongoing support provided by a corporate partnership between Council and Rio Tinto Alcan.

A new facility became a necessity for the Launceston community when the old Windmill Hill Swimming Pool deteriorated and was closed in September 2007. Launceston Aquatic was built on the same site and the design incorporates the heritage-listed entrance to the original facility.

It was designed and constructed in line with Launceston City Council’s Recreational Planning Principles that include sustainability, beneficial outcomes for the widest cross-section of the community, community health, multi-use efficiency and access for all. It will cater for a regional catchment population of more than 120,000 residents and is also likely to be a hit with the growing number of visitors to Launceston from interstate and beyond. It is anticipated that the centre will achieve more than 400,000 visits a year.

The centre has state-of-the-art facilities such as a 50 metre competition pool, beach entry leisure pools, a programs pool, a 65 metre water slide, interactive water play features, a spa and café/restaurant area. Launceston Aquatic is one of the centrepieces of Launceston City Council’s 10-Year Major Works Program.
2009 Census Results

During February 2009, LGAT conducted the third census of elected members in Tasmania. A total of 164 responses were received, representing a 58% participation rate, which is lower than in previous years (2004 = 69%, 2006 = 64%).

The data obtained from the census is important in assisting LGAT to develop policies and initiate programs that are suited to the profile of elected members in Tasmania. Sound research is critical to Local Government’s ability to gain public support and support from Members of Parliament when key issues are being discussed or considered.

Some additional questions were included in the 2009 census to identify knowledge, training and communication experiences, skills and needs of elected members. This data will be used to inform the Governance Working Group under the Premier’s Local Government Council’s Stronger Councils, Better Services Project. Another census is planned for early next year and, over time, it will be possible to monitor trends and undertake a more in-depth and extensive analysis.

Following is a summary of the key findings:

- The majority (67%) of respondents were male (2006: 77%).
- The most common age range of respondents was 56-65, 39% (2006: 43%).
- 90% of respondents were married or lived in a de facto relationship (2006: 88%).
- 68% of respondents had no dependents (2006: 59%).
- 86% of respondents were born in Australia (2006: 81%).
- 3% of respondents identified as an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander (2006: 0.55%).
- English is the first language of 95% of respondents (2006: 97%).
- 10% of respondents reported having a disability (2006: 9%). Of those, 76% believe that Council adequately accommodates any disability-related support needs.
- For 29% of respondents, the highest level of education reached was secondary education (2006: 31%).
- 19% of respondents were in full-time paid employment; 31% were self-employed; 16% were engaged in part-time work and 24% were retired.
- 55% of respondents reported a gross annual income of less than $56,000, with 8% indicating incomes over $116,000.
- 86% of respondents belonged to an organisation other than Council. Of those, 44% belonged to a service club, 41% to a sporting club, and 38% to a special interest group. 19% belonged to a political organisation.
- 21% of respondents have served as an elected member for 7-9 years, 13% of respondents have served for a period of 4-6 years, 17% have served 10-15 years, 18% have served more than 16 years and 13% were elected for the first time in 2007.
- 39% of respondents reported spending over 15 hours on council activities per week.
- Respondents nominated 290 topics for training. Broadly, priorities could be grouped as follows: governance (24%), planning and development (20%), budget and finance (15%), communications (10%), the Local Government Act (10%) and meetings (9%). Asset management, personal development, climate change, legal issues and conflict resolution were amongst other topics nominated.
- Respondents felt that issues of most concern to the public were planning and development (13%), rates (12%), roads (12%), waste (8%), infrastructure (7%) and transparent government (7%).
- Preliminary analysis highlights the issues most important to Local Government were financial sustainability (8%), planning and development, rates determinations, roads, water and sewerage reform, asset management and waste management (7% each).

A full summary of the findings of the 2009 Census will soon be available on the LGAT website at www.lgat.tas.gov.au.

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LGAT News July 2009
North Hobart Revitalisation Project Pays off

Ten years ago, the Hobart City Council began a major project to revitalise the run down North Hobart Central Area. Since that time, North Hobart has transformed into a popular and vibrant destination in its own right, offering a range of up-market pubs, taverns, restaurants and cafes. Quality artworks are now featured in the footpaths, on light poles and exterior walls, which add to the quality of the pedestrian journey through the area. Strategically placed street furniture provides places for people to sit and chat, whilst tree plantings provide year-round colour and interest.

The Council and the North Hobart community worked together to develop a plan to improve the streetscape in Elizabeth Street, between Federal Street and Burnett Street. Construction commenced in 1999 and has been staged and wholly funded by Hobart City Council. Since the revitalisation project commenced, Hobart City Council has received an additional 28 requests for occupational licences for street dining.

A central paving strip has been installed along the footpaths that link colourful artwork pavers, community artworks and heritage pavers. The coloured pavers are all handmade with lively geometrical patterns. Community artworks, produced in the early 1990’s, were reinstalled into the central strip during the revitalisation project. The heritage pavers identify special events, buildings and sites that are of interest. The latest inclusion is the Errol Flynn star, designed by Carole Edwards of the Hobart City Council, which was installed outside the State Cinema on 20 June to commemorate the 100th birthday of Tasmania’s favourite movie star, Errol Flynn.

The signalised pedestrian crossover in the middle of the North Hobart Central Area is critical for safe pedestrian passage to either side of this popular strip. The installation of two pre-cast, decorated, concrete units across Elizabeth Street has provided a unique crossover which serves to calm traffic and to stand out strongly along this section of the street. The decoration ties back to the native Casuarina trees that would have existed in this area. Geometrically patterned Casuarina nuts have been laid over the concrete slabs for the pedestrian crossing, designed by Artist, Peter Battaglene.

Hobart City Council is to be commended on their vision and commitment to reinvigorating the North Hobart area which has not only greatly benefited the Hobart community and local traders, but has resulted in a significant increase in visitors to the area.

The special artwork installations and extra information on the artworks in the Central Area can be found on Council’s website at www.hobartcity.com.au, under ‘North Hobart Treasures’.
Tasmania’s Top Business Leaders Recognised

The Australian Wealth Management Tasmanian Business Leaders Awards were announced in Hobart on 27 May.

The awards recognise and reward Tasmanian business leaders and celebrate the leadership and management achievements of individuals. They are sponsored by the Australian Institute of Management and the Institute of Chartered Accountants Australia, and supported by the Tasmanian Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The 2009 winners are:

**Professional Leader of the Year, Corporate:** Ros Cornish of Lady Gowrie Tasmania.

**Professional Leader of the Year for Small to Medium Business:** Janis McKenna of the Carers Association of Tasmania Inc.

**Professional Manager of the Year:** Amanda Quealy from the Hobart Clinic.

**Owner Manager of the Year:** Dean Ewington of Oceana Health and Fitness.

**Young Manager of the Year:** Michael Larkin of Telecoms Aurora Energy.

Congratulations to Becky Shrimpton of the Launceston City Council, who received a special judge’s commendation in the Professional Manager of the Year category. Congratulations also to Abiilene McGuire of Kingborough Council who emerged as a finalist in the Young Manager of the Year category and to Russell Stevens of Oak Tasmania, a finalist in the Professional Manager of the Year category.


Dorset Council’s Priorities Gain Leverage with Partnership Agreement

Dorset Council has signed a two-year partnership agreement with the State Government to address issues such as the redevelopment of the Scottsdale Recreation Ground and transport planning.

Improved road infrastructure is the council’s number one priority and their major industries - agriculture, forestry and tourism depend on it. Collaboration with the State Government on transport and road infrastructure planning will ensure that local roads continue to support the economic growth of the Dorset community. The State Government will also work closely with the Dorset Council to establish the new regional LINC in Scottsdale. The $3 million LINC will integrate a range of State Government community services under one roof.
Mayors’ Battle of the Balls

Nine mayors from Southern Tasmania came together on 15 March, at the New Town Croquet Club, for the 2009 Mayoral Croquet Challenge, where our leaders put their intelligence, skill, and egos to the test as they battled for the winner’s trophy.

This inaugural event, initiated by Glenorchy Mayor, Ald Adriana Taylor, as part of the club’s centenary celebrations, provided the opportunity for the Mayors to indulge in a little light-hearted fun and was attended by Lord Mayor Rob Valentine, and Mayors Deirdre Flint, Tony Nicholson, Bertrand Cadart, Graham Bury, Carmel Torenius, Tony Bisdee, Jan Barwick, and Adriana Taylor herself.

The Mayors came well prepared for the event. Mayor Taylor brought her parasol, Lord Mayor Valentine donned a white version of his trademark wide-brimmed hat and Mayor Cadart came with his personal cheer squad.

With most having relatively limited experience playing this age-old game, each was assigned an experienced coach to prompt their every move. With mallets in hand the obedient ones, who did what they were told, fared pretty well but it was the silent players who proved the deadliest. After a round of four, 25-minute games, Mayor Dr Graham Bury emerged as the overall winner, with Mayor Tony Bisdee announced as the runner up. Following the game, members of the New Town Croquet Club treated the hungry players to a tasty barbecue lunch.

With the Mayors having had such a great time and the challengers eager to claim the winners title, it was decided that this would become an annual event. Perhaps the Mayors will also take a more active interest in the standard of croquet facilities provided in their respective municipalities, as they might want to get a little practice in readiness for the 2010 event.

Clarence Puts Safety First

Clarence City Council, in partnership with Metro Tasmania and Tasmania Police, recently installed a CCTV monitoring network in the Rosny Bus Mall. The system, which is now operational, sends real time images directly to the Tasmania Police CCTV monitoring area in Hobart where they are recorded.

The CCTV system, combined with improved lighting, is designed to act as a deterrent to antisocial behaviour, reduce fear of crime and encourage the safe use of public transport, and the initiative is central to the Safety First at Rosny Park project.

An awareness campaign was conducted during May to educate the public about the new CCTV system and the University of Tasmania’s Institute of Law Enforcement Studies will conduct a study to measure the effect of the new cameras in improving public safety. The Safety First at Rosny Park CCTV installation has been supported by the Australian Government’s National Crime Prevention Program.
Innovative New Cycle Lanes Launched in Hobart

In a first for Tasmania, new on-road cycle lanes have been launched on Argyle and Campbell Streets in Hobart.

The project is part of the Hobart Regional Arterial Bicycle Network and includes innovative design features to increase cyclist safety. This particular project is the first cycle-way in Tasmania to include highly visible coloured surface treatments at points along the route where there is an increased likelihood of interaction with motor vehicles. Additional safety features include ‘bicycle storage boxes’ at signalled intersections, to increase the visibility of cyclists, and a lane separation strip where feasible, which acts as a buffer zone between cyclists and motor vehicles.

The State Government contributed $160,000 towards the Argyle and Campbell Street cycle lanes with funding also coming from Hobart City Council and the Australian Government. Sport and Recreation Tasmania has also had discussions with councils and other key stakeholders regarding projects of a similar nature in the North and North-West of the state.

More information about the new cycle-way, including before and after photographs, is available at www.hobartcity.tas.gov.au.

Franklin Pathway – a Step in the Right Direction

Anyone who has driven or walked through Franklin recently may have noticed something different about the riverside village – a distinctive, new footpath! The footpath, which runs almost the entire length of the town’s main street, was constructed by the Huon Valley Council at a cost of $100,000.

The recently completed 160 metre stretch of footpath, from Kent Street to New Road, is stage three of a four-stage project that will eventually result in the construction of a footpath snaking its way along the entire length of Franklin’s one kilometre long main thoroughfare. The new section of footpath replaces the uneven concrete footpath that had been considered unsafe for elderly pedestrians who regularly walk into Franklin.

Council engineers took the opportunity during the construction phase to include significant improvements to local storm water drains which were prone to flooding. Sloping nature strips fronting some properties were levelled and instant turf was laid to prevent the area from becoming muddy during periods of heavy rain. Improvements were also made to Kent Street by sealing the intersection with the Huon Highway. This will assist in keeping gravel on the road to a minimum, which has been a problem in the past for regular users of the road.
Clean Water in the Pipeline for Township of Ross

A new pipeline, funded by the Northern Midlands Council, means drinking water warnings are a thing of the past in the township of Ross. Advice received in early March from the Department of Health and Human Services gave Council the green light to lift the drinking water warning and the public health advice for the Ross community. In December 2006, health restrictions were placed on the township’s water supply due to blue-green algal blooms in the Macquarie River. The Northern Midlands Council stepped in to supply clean drinking water by truck for the township. The new pipeline is the first stage in bringing fully treated water to the townships of Ross and Campbell Town. Council has now set its sights on developing a new treatment plant for the area.

Funding for New Coastal Cycle-way

The State Government will provide $375,000 in funding to support a major cycling project, connecting the business districts of Cooee and Burnie, providing a healthy and environmentally-friendly transport option. The project will provide long-term community infrastructure to encourage local residents to embrace active lifestyles and will also help support local jobs during construction. Through Sport and Recreation Tasmania’s Trails and Bikeway Project, the State Government has agreed to match $375,000 of council funding for the project and Council has applied for an additional $750,000 of federal funding. The Australian Government has set aside $40 million for cycling projects in priority areas of Australia, including North and North-West Tasmania.

Launceston Rewards Heritage Restoration

Launceston City Council has put a number of measures in place to protect the rich local heritage, including the establishment of the Heritage Awards, now in their second year. The awards recognise and reward people for sensitively restoring their heritage homes and businesses. Run by Council’s Heritage Advisory Committee, the awards saw $2,000 awarded in each of the categories, residential and non-residential. The 2009 winners in the residential category are John Millwood for Best Large Scale Residential Project, and Les Penzes for Best Cottage Restoration. In the non-residential category, the winners are the Pilgrim Uniting Church for the Best Conservation Project, Pierre’s Restaurant and Justin Paul Retail for Best Attention to Streetscape, and the Jackson Motor Company for Best Adaptive Reuse of a Building.

WomenCan Campaign Launched

More women are being encouraged to stand for this year’s Tasmanian Local Government Elections through a new, state-wide campaign, launched in July. The WomenCan campaign aims to support and encourage more women to represent Local Government through a series of forums held across the state as well as the provision of resources, information packs, support networks and mentoring opportunities for prospective candidates. Currently, just 23.7% of Tasmanian councillors are women. Increasing the number of women representing Local Government has been identified as an important factor in increasing diversity in councils and to ensuring good governance within the sector. The Australian Local Government Women’s Association (Tasmania) branch is driving the six-month campaign, in association with the Premier’s Local Government Council, the Local Government Division, Women Tasmania and the Local Government Association of Tasmania.