Five Tasmanian councils have emerged as category winners at the 2007 National Awards for Local Government, the Federal Government’s annual awards program, recognising Local Government best practice and innovation.

Award winners included Flinders Council for its strategic Whitemark Airport redevelopment, Circular Head Council for its innovative project to market North-West Tasmania to potential investors, and the Huon Valley Council for the provision of quality childcare services to meet community needs.

A total of 26 council projects were announced winners under the awards’ 15 categories. Another 27 projects received commendations, including the West Coast Council for the conversion of Council’s fleet to LP Gas to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and the Cradle Coast Authority for its Stronger Learning Pathways project. The overall national winners of the awards will be announced in Canberra on 23 October.

Asset Management Award
Small Council (under 15,000 ratepayers)
Whitemark Airport Redevelopment
FLINDERS COUNCIL

The resurfacing of the long runway at Whitemark Airport on Flinders Island demonstrates an innovative approach to the delivery of a critical infrastructure project in a remote location and outcomes that have resulted in significant cost and time savings for Flinders Council. The ambitious project, which optimised the use of local resources, has enabled Flinders Island to better position itself to take advantage of potentially lucrative export and tourism related opportunities.

Community Participation and Partnership Award
Tree of Hope: Our Children’s View of the Future
LAUNCESTON CITY COUNCIL

The Tree of Hope project gave children in the Launceston community the opportunity to convey their hopes for the future and enabled their views to be heard by policy and decision-makers at a local, state and federal level. Participating Primary School children were encouraged to write about their hopes for the future and the findings were presented in the form of leaves pasted on to a ‘tree of hope’. The trees were displayed publicly and the children’s work was published in a book that was tabled at a council meeting and at a sitting of the Tasmanian Parliament. The book is available for $12 from Mhvari Voight at the Launceston City Council, phone 6323 3219.

Innovation in Regional Development Award
Joint Category Winner – small council (under 15,000 ratepayers)
Marketing Far North-West Tasmania to Potential Investors
CIRCULAR HEAD COUNCIL

Following extensive research, Circular Head Council published its first ever Regional and Economic Profile, targeted at intending agriculturalists and investors in the area’s natural, resource-based industries. The profile features high quality mapping and in-depth information on land capability, water catchment areas, land tenure and use, and dominant soil types. The profile also provides information on sea, air and road infrastructure, real estate and housing, telecommunications, emergency services, educational institutions, sport and recreation, and regional tourism.
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*Full details of our stain resistance list can be found on our website www.australbricks.com.au
news and reviews

Universal Design for Public Amenities Award
Innovative Community Friendly Design for Public Amenities
HOBART CITY COUNCIL

Community consultation played a significant role in developing a contemporary concept for the construction of a modern toilet facility at a highly visible location at Cornelian Bay. The design was intended to make a statement, yet also fit in with the coastal nature of the site. The environmentally friendly design has a clean open layout and takes maximum advantage of natural light. The new public amenities provide optimum accessibility for all users and are designed to reduce anti-social behaviour.

Valuing and Promoting Quality Child Care
Small council (under 15,000 ratepayers)
Huon Valley Children’s Services: Your Child – Our Future
HUON VALLEY COUNCIL

The establishment of the Huon Valley Children’s Services Unit in 1996, has enabled the provision of a full range of childcare programs, including before school care, centre based care, after school care and vacation care. The service currently has an annual turnover in excess of $1 million and is a significant contributor to the economy of the Huon Valley. It not only provides employment in its own right but it enables families to take advantage of employment opportunities by providing a range of flexible childcare options throughout the municipal area.


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LOOK UP AND LOOK OUT
TO STAY SAFE NEAR POWERLINES

Tasmania’s electricity supply companies, Transend and Aurora Energy, are urging council machinery operators and workers to stay well clear of powerlines.

The warning follows the continuing high incidence of heavy equipment, such as cranes, bulldozers and tip trucks, coming into contact with overhead powerlines.

The two companies have worked together over a number of years in a public awareness campaign – Look Up Look Out – to highlight the need for machinery operators, farmers, forestry workers, anglers, hunters and four wheel drive enthusiasts to take greater care when working or undertaking leisure activities near powerlines.

The companies warn that just a moment of inattention can have tragic consequences. Machinery, tools and leisure equipment do not actually have to touch powerlines for fatal results – powerlines are dangerous if you or your equipment move too close to them.

Machinery operators, farmers and forestry and council workers are advised to check the location of overhead wires and underground cables before they start work. They should also know the exact height of their vehicle, equipment or machinery, especially when the tray, boom or aerial is fully raised or extended. Carrying long poles, such as irrigation pipes or fishing poles, upright while under powerlines can also have fatal results.

Aurora and Transend strongly recommend that all operators of heavy equipment should work with observers to warn them when they are approaching overhead powerlines. The companies are urging council workers, farmers and the general public to be aware of the terrain they are on when approaching powerlines. They warn that appearances can be deceptive, especially on steeper slopes when lines may be closer to the ground than they appear. The lines can also flex and sag depending on the amount of electrical current flowing through them and the air temperature at the time, as well as swinging sideways in high winds.

Powerlines are very much a part of the landscape – so much so that it’s easy to forget they’re there. Our message to farmers, machinery operators and the general community is stay safe and always Look Up and Look Out before you start work or any recreational pursuit. It could save your life.

An information leaflet, ‘When You’re Near Powerlines Look Up and Look Out: A guide to working and playing safely near powerlines’ has been sent to all councils across Tasmania to raise awareness of the issue. If you would like to consult one of Aurora’s safety experts or organise a training session, contact the Aurora Training Centre and ask to speak to Kathy Browne on 6244 8325 or Daimon Casey on 6244 8320 or 0438 869 856.
Building Design: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly

MICHAEL SMALL, SENIOR POLICY OFFICER
Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission

The Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission has developed a new resource aimed at designers, builders, building certifiers and access consultants that will be of particular interest to Local Government organisations in their planning, certification and community development roles.

The Good the Bad and the Ugly looks at thirteen examples of common mistakes made in applying today’s Building Code of Australia (BCA) in areas such as handrails on stairs, use of Tactile Ground Surface Indicators, signage, visual indicators on glazing, and kerb rails on ramps. The resource explains why precise application of the BCA and its referenced Australian Standards is necessary by describing how people with disability benefit from good design and construction.

Over the past decade, the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission (HREOC) has dealt with thousands of enquiries from people with disabilities, designers, builders, Local Government workers and certifiers about how to make sure buildings are accessible at a level consistent with responsibilities under the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA).

While the HREOC has issued advisory notes and guidelines on good practice, the DDA does not include technical specifications that can be referred to when someone wants to know if they are complying with the law. This creates a problem for people with disability wanting to exercise their rights, for designers and builders wanting to do the right thing, and for Local Government and private certifiers who are often caught between a rock and a hard place when it comes to approvals and certification.

In order to give greater clarity to what is required, the HREOC and many industry, community and government bodies have been working with the Australian Building Codes Board (ABCB) to develop a DDA Disability Standard on Access to Premises (Premises Standard). When completed, this Premises Standard, and corresponding changes to the Building Code of Australia (BCA), will provide designers, builders and certifiers with design specifications deemed to meet both DDA and BCA requirements.

In the meantime, new buildings are being built and existing buildings renovated. Unfortunately, the experience of the HREOC would suggest that in far too many cases, the requirements for access of even the current BCA and its referenced Australian Standards are not being met. This is simply not acceptable. Failure to put in fire control systems to specification, or failure to ensure footings are appropriate for buildings are not tolerated. Yet we seem to tolerate handrails in accessible toilets being put in upside down, missing signage that is required by the BCA, and ineffectively located Tactile Ground Surface Indicators.

In many instances, these mistakes result in buildings being inaccessible to people with disabilities and, in some cases, they can result in additional expenditure for retrofitting at a later date when certification is refused or DDA complaints are made. Sometimes it also leads to complaints against the certifier for failing to ensure BCA compliance has been achieved.

The Good, the Bad and the Ugly is available online or on CD, and may be used as a self learning tool or as an in-house continuing education program for building certifiers, designers, builders, building managers, fit-out specialists, access consultants, or advocates interested in access issues. The CD also contains photographs which can be used to develop your own presentations.

▲

An example of where the handrails are not compliant with the Building Code of Australia and where there are no tactile ground surface indicators or kerb rails on the ramp.

Apart from being used as a storeroom, the handrails in this accessible toilet have been put in upside down!

This retail outlet has failed to provide a threshold ramp or level entry to the doorsill entry.
CRSP Update

New Communities

Welcome to Meander Valley, Sorell and Northern Midlands Councils, which have all joined the CRSP network this year. Waratah Wynyrd Council has also linked with DIER to introduce the Roadside Crash Marker program. Negotiations are also occurring with King Island and Flinders Island Councils and presentations will be made in September and October.

New Appointments

Welcome to two new consultants who have joined the Road Safety Operations Branch. They are Louise Maynard and Zoe Ambrose. Louise will operate out of the Burnie office (phone 64 345418) and Zoe (phone 63 362118) is based in Launceston.

Ready Set Go – Clarence

In August the Clarence CRSP introduced Ready Set Go (RSG), a new 50 hours learner driver mentor program, which is operating out of Rokeby High School. Supported by the Clarence Council, DIER and several community organisations the program aims to assist community members who have difficulty gaining support for the required on road practical driving experience to get a driver’s licence.

The first participant in the program is 47-year-old Kathy Hutton who needed to get a driver licence to get a job. Kathy aims to work in the disability services area and a licence is essential. Unfortunately Kathy’s husband is now unable to drive and without a job Kathy cannot afford driving lessons.

“T’m 47 years old, my husband has osteoarthritis and is unable to teach me to drive and without a job I can’t afford professional driving lessons.”

Kathy sees the program as a great opportunity to build confidence and self esteem and to interact with the mentor driver and other people involved in the program. It will also provide comfort to her family knowing that eventually there will be someone with a licence to transport her husband to appointments.

Kathy believes RSG is very important to the people of Rokeby. She stated that many people are disadvantaged in many ways, often don’t have access to cars or someone to help them learn to drive and need community support programs to assist them.

Kathy also commented that the RSG program has the potential to address not only the problem of not having a licence and not being able to get a job, but also many of the other social issues that are a problem in the area.

Road Safety Posters – Everyone contributing

The CRSP groups in West Tamar and Kentish have been busy promoting poster displays in key locations and shop windows of community businesses. Posters are now up in places like Post Offices, newsagents, service stations, fast food shops, chemist and hardware stores.

The posters focus on a road safety message such as bike safety (July) and driving to conditions (August/September).

Thanks to all involved – remember if everyone contributes a small part the combined effort will make our roads safer.

More Information

Anyone interested in obtaining more information regarding the CRSP Program can contact Project Manager, Geoff Frier (DIER) by phone 62 334861 or email geoff.frier@dier.tas.gov.au
On the Spot Fines for Workplace Safety Breaches

Workplace Standards Tasmania will soon commence the use of infringement notices for breaches of some offences under the Workplace Health and Safety Act 1995 and the Workplace Health and Safety Regulations 1998.

The use of infringement notices as an enforcement tool is an outcome of amendments to the regulations in 2006. Infringement notices may be used for 10 offences under the Act and 89 offences under the regulations. The identified breaches already exist as offences under the legislation but, until now, could only be enforced through bringing more complex and costly court action against an offender.

The infringement notice approach will lead to more efficient enforcement through application to only clear cut offences. Infringement notices allow Workplace Standard inspectors to act promptly, to bring about an immediate change in dangerous or unacceptable behaviour in a workplace.

Offence types range from breaches of administrative requirements such as failing to maintain records or to notify dangerous incidents, to breaches for failing to undertake specific duties such as wearing adequate protective clothing, or ensuring that workers have a certificate of competency to operate heavy machinery. Fines range from $50 to $2,500 depending on the seriousness of each offence and apply to individuals, as well as corporations.

An integral part of the implementation process has been training inspectors in the use of the notices and approaches to be adopted by the inspectors when issuing a notice for a breach. A key purpose of this training is to help ensure consistent application by inspectors. Workplace Standards Tasmania engaged the services of the Tasmanian Police to provide part of the training and this has been complemented by in-house instructions and guidance.

For further information about infringement notices or the enforcement or the prosecution policies of Workplace Standards Tasmania, contact the Workplace Standards Tasmania Helpline on 1300 366 322.
Recreation Planning Course – the First in Australia

Recreation planning is essential to providing the right blend of sport and recreation opportunities to meet the current and future needs of our communities. In July 2006, Australia’s first ever training course in recreation planning commenced in Tasmania.

Designed and delivered by Dr Ken Marriott of HM Leisure Planning Pty Ltd, the course took a group of 16 officers, working in sport and recreation for State and Local Government from across Australia, through all aspects of contemporary recreation planning. The program’s inaugural participants included representatives from the Launceston City Council, Burnie City Council, Hobart City Council and Sport and Recreation Tasmania.

An initiative of the State Government through Sport and Recreation Tasmania, the course is accredited as an Advanced Diploma in Business Management – Recreation Planning, through the National Business Institute of Australia.

Course participants completed assignments specific to their existing work, which means that a number of planning projects throughout Tasmania will directly benefit from the course. Several participants also had the opportunity to attend a two-day study tour of leisure and recreation venues and projects in Victoria.

A particularly outstanding presentation on the Victorian tour was from the City of Melbourne. Through the Playgrounds and Recreation Association of Victoria, the Council has developed the Good Play Space Guide, an innovative guide to help local councils improve the quality and accessibility of play spaces through planning, design, construction, maintenance and management.

The Good Play Space Guide is the result of extensive research providing the best recommendations for play spaces. Instead of focusing on standards for play equipment, the guide establishes modern principles for play space based on social participation and inclusion, safety, the developmental needs of children, access to nature and diversity of challenge.

For further details regarding the Recreation Planning Course, please contact Sport and Recreation Tasmania on 1800 252 476 or at sportrec@development.tas.gov.au. To obtain a copy of the Good Play Space Guide, visit Sport and Recreation Victoria’s website at www.sport.vic.gov.au.

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Outstanding Tasmanian Women Honoured

On 20 July, a further 27 women were inducted to the Tasmanian Honour Roll of Women. The Honour Roll now recognises 143 inspiring Tasmanian women from all walks of life and backgrounds who have made an impact at local, state, national or international level.

Minister for Community Development, Michelle O’Byrne said whatever their field of endeavour, whether community workers and leaders, educationalists, sportswomen, artists or scientists, they are examples of the difference an individual’s contribution can make to a community. “The inductees’ life stories and achievements serve as excellent examples for all Tasmanians,” Ms O’Byrne said.

Two women from the Local Government sector who have been recognised this year are Jan Blizzard, former Burnie City Council Alderman, awarded for Service to the Community and Local Government and Jennifer (Jen) Barron, Youth Health Officer at Dorset Council, who received the Service to the Community Award.

Jan Blizzard
Described as “a great friend of the people of Burnie”, Jan Blizzard decided to stand for election as a result of a proposed funding cut for Burnie Park. Jan was elected as the top polling candidate in 2000 and subsequently became involved in numerous initiatives such as the Burnie City Youth Council, Positive Ageing Committee, and the 20-year management plan for Burnie Park. Jan was passionate about Burnie and saw a strong future for the City.

Previously, Jan played a key role in the organisation and running of the state-wide Multicap Quest, a major contributor to raising awareness of and funds to help people with disabilities. In 2001, she was awarded the Centenary Medal in recognition of her service to the community and public.

Jen Barron
As a qualified teacher, Jen Barron, who taught in the North-East for eight years, became frustrated at the lack of services in the region for young people. The high unemployment rate and disturbing rate of youth suicide in country areas, were issues of particular concern. Jen returned to university to complete a social work degree and was promptly offered the position of Dorset Council’s first Youth Health Officer, where she began counselling young people on health issues and working with the Dorset’s Youth Advisory Group, which she established in 2001. Through her work, she encourages young people to be involved in their community, assists them in speaking up, and advocates on their behalf.

Jen has also been an active member of Guides Tasmania for many years and, in 2007, received the Wattle Award for ‘Unusually good service to the State’ from Guides Australia. Through Guides Australia, the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, and Youth With A Mission, Jen also assists young people at an international level, having volunteered on various projects that provide basic hygiene, food and education to under-privileged and homeless children.

Further information can be found on the Women Tasmania website at www.women.tas.gov.au.
The Tasman community came together on 19 August to celebrate the centenary of the proclamation of the Tasman municipality in 1907. To mark this significant occasion, the centenary celebrations were officially launched by the Governor of Tasmania, His Excellency, The Honourable William Cox.

With perfect weather on the day, approximately 140 people attended the event. Highlights of the centenary celebrations included:

- The burial of a time capsule which will be opened on 22 September 2030, to coincide with the bicentenary of the establishment of Port Arthur Historic Site;
- An historical display which included the original handwritten minutes of the first council meeting;
- The launching of a book called *Centenary of Tasman Council 1907-2007*;
- The cutting of the centenary cake by the Governor and the Mayor of Tasman, Councillor Roger Self; and
- The reading of a letter of congratulations from Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

Tasman Mayor, Roger Self, said the anniversary provided a unique opportunity for Tasman Council and the community to celebrate 100 years of Local Government on the Peninsula. “The Tasman community has been enthusiastic to get involved in this significant historical occasion, contributing articles to be enclosed in a time capsule,” he said.

For further information, contact Tasman Council Community Development Manager, Kerry Sakariassen on 0429 422 478.

Top: The Tasmania Police Pipe Band added some pomp and splendour to the day

Above Left: Councillors Gary Alexander and Peter Wilson lower the time capsule

Left: The Governor meets and greets
New Wood Smoke Regulations
Target Air Quality

Tougher wood smoke regulations have been introduced by the State Government to help address chronic air quality issues in parts of Tasmania. The new regulations will tighten controls on the operation of domestic wood heaters and restrict backyard burning to help combat health issues associated with excessive wood smoke, particularly in the Launceston area.

In announcing the initiative, the Minister for Tourism, Arts and the Environment, Paula Wriedt, commented that while Launceston’s air quality had improved considerably over the past 10 years, there had been four days during the autumn and winter period on which particle pollution exceeded the national PM10 standard.

Under the new regulations, smoke may be emitted any time day or night, as long as it is not visible in excess of 10 metres from the flue or chimney. Ms Wriedt said the test will be whether smoke can be seen coming from the flue continuously for at least 10 minutes and, if so, whether it can be seen to extend at least 10 metres from the top of the flue for more than 30 seconds at a time.”

Education and warnings will be the first step in implementing the new regulations but on-the-spot fines of $200 will be applied if people repeatedly operate their wood heaters in a way that causes excessive smoke. “If other approaches fail and a case goes to court, the maximum penalty for visible smoke emissions will be $1,000.

Other changes to the regulations include the banning of backyard burning on urban blocks of less than 2,000 square metres, except for fire hazard reduction purposes, and all heaters sold in Tasmania, including second-hand units, must comply with the current Australian Standard on heater emissions.

Further information is available at www.environment.tas.gov.au.

Car Theft Prevention
Driven by Young People

Car theft is an issue that affects most people at some stage in their lives. As part of the Operation Bounce Back initiative, Clarence City Council has developed a series of bumper stickers and street signs, designed to raise awareness about vehicle theft and prevention.

Between July 2004 and June 2005, 347 car thefts were recorded in Clarence, with 86% of these cars manufactured prior to 1992. Operation Bounce Back aims to educate the community on how to reduce the likelihood of becoming a victim of motor vehicle theft and is a partnership initiative between the National Motor Vehicle Theft Reduction Council, Tasmania Police and the Clarence City Council.

As part of the initiative, Council’s Youth Network Advisory Group organised a sticker and sign design competition to communicate the program’s clear and simple messages – ‘Don’t leave valuables on show in your car, and fit an immobiliser’. The winning design, by Clarence High School student – Taylor Favelle, will be distributed on bumper stickers through Neighbourhood Watch groups and other community organisations, and will appear on street signs in car parks throughout Rosny and at Clarence’s most popular beaches.

Taylor Favelle of Clarence High School – Operation Bounceback competition winner
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According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, the Taskforce on Care Costs (TOCC) and many Australian parents struggling to pay everyday expenses, childcare is becoming less affordable. A four-year investigation by TOCC acknowledges the negative impact that the cost of childcare has on carers’ ability to maintain employment outside the home and indicates the benefits to Australia’s economy to retain and increase the number of employees by making childcare affordable.

As an outcome of this research, the TOCC has launched the Australian Childcare Affordability Index, developed by ANZ Economics, which profiles the affordability of care, including childcare. The index will be updated, as new data becomes available.

A number of affordability indicators exist such as the housing affordability and home loan affordability indices. They show how easy or difficult it is becoming for the average Australian to afford their own home or pay the mortgage. The Australian Childcare Affordability Index demonstrates how easy or difficult it has become for the average family to pay for childcare.

The index profiles the childcare price index relative to the index of average household disposable incomes and shows that over the last five years, the average family’s ability to afford childcare has decreased substantially. Since December 2001, there has been a decrease in affordability of 52%. The TOCC has also found that 46% of parents think that the cost of childcare for young children is too high relative to their income, and 36% have considered leaving the workforce. If childcare costs continue to rise at a rate faster than incomes, childcare will become too expensive for the average family and many more parents will consider leaving the workforce.

The Childcare Care Affordability Index, which draws upon data supplied by the ABS, measures the affordability of childcare net of benefits available under the Child Care Benefit Scheme. Interestingly, over the last five years alone, childcare costs have increased by 65%, whilst average household disposable income has increased by only 17%. If the gap between childcare cost growth and family income growth is allowed to widen, then the affordability of childcare will continue to weaken.

The Index also shows that there have been periods when affordability of childcare has improved. These periods correspond to the introduction of childcare initiatives by the Federal Government, in 1991 and again in 2000-01, that enhanced support to consumers of childcare. These datapoints indicate that each policy intervention by the Federal Government has reversed the decline in childcare affordability during these periods.

The TOCC’s published Survey of Carers found that the high cost of childcare reduces parents’ level of workforce participation. 30% have already reduced their hours of work because of the cost of childcare and 75% of carers surveyed by the TOCC think that the cost of care should be shared equally by themselves and the Government. The TOCC found that 50% of parents would increase their hours of work if childcare was more affordable.

The TOCC are now establishing an index of Disability Care Affordability and Elder Care Affordability to support their recommendations of enhanced levels of support for all carers.

The Taskforce on Care Costs’ website can be found at www.tocc.org.au/who_cares.html.
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Fax: 03 6340 1881

Hudson Environmental
Get Involved in Workplace Safe Week 2007

What has your council got to lose?

Now in its twelfth year, Workplace Safe Week aims to get people talking about workplace health and safety. It’s also an opportunity for employers and workers to learn more about health and safety. A program of events for the week is now available which outlines events on a range of issues as diverse as the impact of drugs and alcohol in the workplace, the prevention and management of eye hazards, messages for new and young workers, and safety procedures surrounding armed hold-ups.

Councils may also be interested in seminars focusing on machinery guarding, working with overhead power lines, high risk licensing, and requirements for load restraint on trucks and cars using the Load Restraint Guide. Events will be held in Hobart, Launceston and Burnie and are open to everyone.

During Workplace Safe Week, Tasmanian employers and workers will be asked to consider what they have got to lose when safety in the workplace is not a priority. During the 2005-2006 financial year, 10,018 Tasmanian workers were injured in businesses state-wide demonstrating that while workplace safety has improved, there is still a great deal of room for improvement. By participating in the week and increasing your OHS knowledge, you could avoid becoming one of these safety statistics. No one wants a workplace injury and its potentially serious consequences, such as losing your job, your business, your workers or even your life.

Remember, Workplace Safe Week is not just a week for OHS professionals. Whether you’re an employer or a worker, an accountant, retail assistant, farmer, carpenter or machinery operator, Workplace Safe Week has something for you.

For the full range of events, get a program from the WorkCover website at www.workcover.tas.gov.au or call the Helpline on 1300 366 322.
Tell it like it is in *The Bugle*

Does your council only ever seem to get negative publicity from existing media? Does it seem like people focus too much on the things the council is not doing? Here’s your opportunity to square the ledger.

*The Bugle*, Tasmania’s new independent newspaper, is opening sections of its newspaper for Local Government, to let their ratepayers know about all the positive things the council is doing in their municipality. These sections are likely to be between one and four pages per council area. Within these pages, *The Bugle* will write a picture-story on a local person or event of interest, with a particular focus on local characters that have a great story to tell. Each section will also carry stories highlighting events and issues in that municipality. For each municipal area, *The Bugle* will also publish a column by the local council, which highlights current council activities and upcoming projects.

This is a great opportunity for councils to let ratepayers, and those outside the municipality, know about all the good things they are doing. The sections will be as big as local advertising can support.

For further information, contact Bugle General Manager, Chris Frankcombe on 6331 2121.

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**WORKPLACE SAFE WEEK**

**21–27 OCTOBER 2007**

**WHAT HAVE YOU GOT TO LOSE?**

**YOUR HAND, YOUR JOB, YOUR LIFE?**

WorkCover Tasmania is coordinating a series of free safety events around the State as part of Workplace Safe Week 2007. For a program of events or to register, visit the WorkCover website at [www.workcover.tas.gov.au](http://www.workcover.tas.gov.au) or call the Helpline on 1300 366 322.

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Supporting Safe Work Australia Week
ABS: Supporting the Work of Councils

Data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics supports many of the decisions made by Local Government; whether it’s to get a better understanding of local populations, observe changes over time, plan for the future or to apply for funding.

So it’s not surprising that many delegates at this year’s Local Government Conference were eagerly asking, “When will the Census data be out?” when they visited the ABS information stall.

The first release of Census 2006 data and Community Profiles can now be obtained from the ABS website free of charge. By the end of October, the second release will be available. This will include data on occupation, industry of employment and journey to work.

Peter Wilde of the University of Tasmania, is using data from Census 2006 to help answer the question “How is Kingborough’s population changing?” Using tables, graphs, maps and text, he presents a picture of Kingborough’s population growth between 1986 and 2006, as well as changes to its sex and age structures. The way Peter goes about his analysis could be used for any Local Government area. Two overview papers have been released and more detailed papers will follow. Free access to the information is available at the Kingborough Council website.

In the following graphs and table you can see how the age structures have changed in every Local Government Area between 1996 and 2006. The following bar graph shows the break-down of Tasmania’s population by three age-groups in 1996, 2001 and 2006. In 1996, the number of people over 50 years was 125,627, in 2001 it was 142,345, and in 2006 it was 163,553.

This table is based on Census data for 1996 and 2006. When Peter Wilde looked at changes to Kingborough’s age structures, he used the Estimated Resident Population (ERP) data, which is updated every year. In an easy-to-read commentary on concepts underlying the Census, ERP and other ABS population and housing data, Peter explains in his second paper why these measures differ and how they can be used in combination, which helps fill the ‘gap’ between Census cycles.

For new and infrequent users of ABS data and products, there’s a lot more help available this Census. If you click on the Help link, on the top right hand side of the Home page, you’ll find a special segment on the Census. Don’t forget to use the Information icon that links you to background information. Alternatively you can call 1300 135 070 and the ABS will spend up to five minutes helping you to navigate your way around, free of charge.

Census products already available are:

- **QuickStats** – a summary table about people, families and dwellings for a particular place
- **Census Tables** – more detailed tables in Excel format designed for the more advanced user
- **MapStats** – mapping basic Census statistics and making it simple to compare geographic areas

Whether you’re a new user or an old hand, we wish you ‘happy hunting’ in the fascinating fields of Census data! If the Census information you need is not available as a standard product or service, ABS Consultancy Services can help you with customised services to suit your needs at a reasonable cost.

The ABS website can be found at www.abs.gov.au/census. To access ABS Consultancy Services, call 1300 135 070. Copies of Peter Wilde’s overview papers can be obtained from the Kingborough Council website at www.kingborough.tas.gov.au.
The Tasmanian Emergency Risk Management Project (2003) found that storms were considered to be the third most costly natural disaster in Tasmania impacting on lifestyles, with an average annual cost of $1.1 million between 1967 and 1999.

Community representatives identified 175 storm risks across the state and one of the risk treatment strategies identified as appropriate, was a community education program.

The State Emergency Service recently ran a six-week radio and television advertising campaign throughout the state. To support the campaign, councils have been provided with brochures which should be made available to the general public whenever possible. Council representatives are also encouraged to lead by example.

Prepare your home before a storm:
- Trim branches clear of your house and power lines
- Check, clean and secure your roof, guttering and downpipes
- Store poisons above ground level in case of flash floods
- Secure loose objects on your property
- Prepare an emergency kit including emergency contacts

During a storm:
- Listen to storm updates
- Shelter and secure pets and animals
- Secure doors and windows
- Place valuables, medications, spare warm clothing and emergency kit in a water-tight bag
- If outside, find emergency shelter (not under a tree)
- If driving, stop clear of trees, powerlines or streams

Remember, be prepared yourself and encourage your neighbours to be prepared.

Interested in having your company listed in our directory?
If so, Ring Mike Roberts on (03) 6394 7383
Email: michael.ama@bigpond.com
News in Brief

National Project to Curb Loss of Council Staff

A national project is underway to help alleviate Local Governments’ skills shortage by preventing the loss of council staff to the booming resources sector. Through new training opportunities, the Regional Employers Alliance Project will seek to improve the ability for resource sector workers to move to employment within Local Government. The project is an initiative of the Federal Department of Education, Science and Training, and is being driven by Local Government Managers Australia (LGMA). In Tasmania, pilot projects are due to begin in January 2008, that will provide training and introduce new measures for attracting and retaining workers in the area around Launceston, Railton and Devonport. For more information, visit www.lgma.org.au/national/newsreel.php?display=123.

Brighton Introduces Unique Rating System

Brighton Council has introduced a unique rating system that is set to revolutionise the way rates are struck throughout Tasmania. In what is believed to be an Australian first, Brighton Council has developed a flat rate system for its residential properties. Each property owner is now charged a rate payment of $670 (except for properties in two of the council’s suburbs which pay $555 each) plus fixed costs for providing garbage, water and sewerage services. The new rating system, implemented on 1 July, has replaced Brighton’s previous system under which rate payments were scaled relative to property values. Brighton Council has also introduced a differential rating system for other types of landowners, such as commercial, farming, industrial and community land.

Addressing Hot Issues in HR

The 2007 National Human Resources Conference – “Hot Issues in HR”, will be held on the Gold Coast from 14-16 November for council officers with the responsibility of managing human resources. The conference will reinforce the need for sound human resource management practices in Local Government, particularly in view of the skill shortages faced by councils. The challenges will be addressed by nationally recognised experts, through case studies across Australia, and will focus on the role of HR in ensuring that councils can continue to meet their business agendas with a relevant, contemporary and sustainable workforce. For more information or to register, go to www.lgaq.asn.au.

Clarence Planning Scheme One Step Closer

Clarence City Council has reached another important step in the adoption of its draft Planning Scheme for the City. Following a recent two-month exhibition period, during which 65 representations were received, the draft scheme will now be re-submitted to the Resource Planning and Development Commission (RPDC) for approval. Council initiated the draft scheme, aiming to provide a comprehensive plan that is consistent with Council’s strategic direction for the City. The new scheme will replace the three planning schemes currently operating in Clarence, providing the community with one clear set of planning controls.

Tasmanian Convict Sites Achieve National Heritage Listing

In a welcome move for Tasmania’s heritage, the Australian Government has announced that three significant Tasmanian convict sites have achieved national heritage listing. The Tasman Peninsula’s Coal Mine site, the Cascades Female Factory in Hobart, and Darlington on Maria Island will join Port Arthur on the National Heritage List, with each site playing a unique role in Tasmania’s convict history. The three Tasmanian sites were among a group of five convict sites across Australia to be listed.

Movement on Historic Heritage Reform

A consultation paper on the review of Tasmania’s Historic Cultural Heritage Act 1995 will be released this month. The consultation process will include forums with Local Government to receive input on any amendments to the legislation. Consultation sessions will seek feedback on models that foster integration with the Land Use Planning and Approvals Act and set a clear direction for the protection and management of our heritage.

It is expected that draft legislation to amend the Act will be tabled in State Parliament in autumn 2008.
Part-time Study: the New Mainstream

The profile of a Tasmanian university student has evolved over recent years, with an increasing number of people electing to balance tertiary study with work commitments.

Currently, 37% of students enrolled at the University of Tasmania are undertaking a part-time study load. This figure is likely to increase over time, as more people return to the education system later in life for either personal or professional reasons. Indeed, almost 19% of people making course enquiries this year through the Uni Info Centre have identified themselves as seeking information with a view to improving their career prospects.

One course expected to generate interest throughout the Local Government sector is the new Bachelor of Health Science (Environmental Health), commencing in 2008. Offered on-campus at Launceston, with some of the later units available by distance education or with flexible delivery, the course was developed at the request of the Director of Public Health Tasmania in order to address critical shortages of qualified Environmental Health Officers locally and nationally. This course can be undertaken on a full-time or part-time basis, and from 2011, the degree will become the professionally recognised qualification for newly-trained EHOs.

Other new undergraduate courses offered at UTAS from 2008 include the two-year, six-semester Hobart Nursing program as well as a combined degree in Information Systems and Computing.

Postgraduate study at UTAS

Postgraduate coursework programs at UTAS have also experienced growth in recent years with the University now offering an extensive array of options across all disciplines. A postgraduate coursework program unites theory and practice, and with many employers now having an increased focus on further qualifications, this provides the means for employees to forge ahead on an enhanced career path.

Most coursework programs at UTAS follow a common structure, with graduate certificate, graduate diploma and masters qualifications. The three-step structure ensures that students can secure a qualification at any stage, while maintaining the option of continuing on to the full masters program if they choose.

A number of postgraduate UTAS courses are in strong demand with employees from Local Government organisations, with many people studying on a part-time basis while working in the sector.

UTAS offers a Graduate Diploma and Masters in Environmental Planning, studying urban, regional and rural environments with a focus on environmental, social and economic sustainability.

Corporate Governance is another key area for the sector, and the University offers a Graduate Certificate covering best practice from Australia and overseas. This certificate is delivered entirely online, making it an extremely flexible option right around Tasmania.

Designed with career advancement in mind for managers, senior advisors, executives and researchers, the Public Policy program includes a Graduate Certificate, Graduate Diploma and Masters qualification, and is a professional tool to enhance skills and knowledge in policy development, implementation and evaluation.

The University operates a contact centre to assist with course enquiries, as well as an online enquiry manager through the website, www.utas.edu.au. Telephone enquiries can be directed to:

Undergraduate courses - 1300 363 864
Postgraduate courses - 1300 366 575

At one uni, a better future is closer than you think.

Do you want to move up the corporate ladder? Or perhaps you’re just starting out on your career pathway. Take a closer look at the range of courses available at the University of Tasmania. For more information, contact the Uni Info Centre on 1300 363 864.
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