Summit Outcomes Pave the Way for Constitutional Reform

Local councils throughout Australia have reached an historic agreement about how to reform and modernise the Australian Constitution.

At the Constitutional Summit, held from 8-11 December 2008, in Melbourne and attended by almost 600 mayors and councillors from across Australia, a model was developed for constitutional change which:

- Proposes a new power be added to the constitution to expressly empower the Australian Government to fund local councils; and
- Proposes that the existence of Local Government be reflected in the Constitution and provides for the right of people to democratically elect their local council.

The summit featured some of Australia’s most eminent constitutional scholars and delegates were addressed by the Attorney General, Hon Robert McClelland, Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government, the Hon Anthony Albanese, Opposition Leader, Malcolm Turnbull, and Leader of the National Party, Warren Truss.

President of the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA), Clr Geoff Lake, said Local Government has developed a plan for the Australian Government and the Australian people to drag Australian federalism into the 21st century. “This is fundamentally about modernising Australian federalism so government functions better and unnecessary bureaucracy is removed so services are delivered more efficiently and effectively to people. The model proposed will not radically alter government in this country, but it will provide sensible, sober and logical improvement,” he said.

“Inserting a financial power for the Australian Government to directly fund local councils reflects the growing links between the two levels of government and will strengthen the opportunity to provide local infrastructure and services which meet the expectations of local communities,” Clr Lake said. “This is all about strengthening accountability between local communities and their councils. These reforms will improve the accountability of local councils and councillors to their communities and entrench the principles of democratic decision-making and control at the local level,” he added.

A delegation from the ALGA will formally present the preferred model to Federal Local Government Minister, Anthony Albanese in March.

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The Australian Council of Local Government (ACLG) Steering Committee met for the first time on 4 February to advance the partnership between the Rudd Government and Local Government, and to tackle the challenges facing local and regional communities.

The steering committee is the smaller body established to continue cooperation, engagement and policy coordination between annual meetings of the ACLG, to which all mayors and shire presidents are invited. Current global financial circumstances have underlined the need for all levels of government to work together to deliver better services and infrastructure to local communities.

The Steering Committee, which met at Parliament House in Canberra, will focus on three key priorities including:

- The development of a stronger relationship between the two spheres of government;
- The reform of infrastructure and services provided by Local Government; and
- Making progress towards the constitutional recognition of Local Government.

The Steering Committee brings together key Local Government leaders, stakeholders and experts from across Australia including Australian Local Government Association President - Cr Geoff Lake, and Mayor Mike Gaffney - President, Local Government Association of Tasmania.

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Southern Region a Step Closer to Consistent Planning Schemes

On 11 December 2008, the Southern Tasmania Councils Authority and its member Councils signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Minister for Planning, David Llewellyn, which marks the first step towards achieving regionally based and consistent planning schemes for the southern region.

Currently, there is little consistency in the 19 planning schemes administered by the 12 southern councils and some date back prior to the introduction of the planning system in 1994. These factors cause some confusion for builders and developers.

The initiative will see a regional land use strategy developed over the next twelve months, based on analysis of economic, social and environmental trends, as well as consideration of relevant policy and legislative imperatives.

The strategy will identify future growth areas so that industrial development, local infrastructure and essential services can be better coordinated from a regional perspective. The Regional Planning Project will be managed by the Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority and the State Government has committed over $736,000 to the project. It is anticipated that all councils in the region will have new planning schemes based on the regional strategy within the next two years.

The Chairman of the Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority, Lord Mayor of Hobart, Ald Rob Valentine, said we see the development of a regional land use strategy and regional infrastructure plan as an important step forward in making the south of the state a more liveable place. “We aim to develop a strategy that reflects the social values and aspirations of the people of our region. There are significant challenges that confront us, such as the growth of our region and the provision of infrastructure to support that growth, the ageing of our population, the threat of climate change and the protection of our environmentally and culturally important landscapes,” said Ald Valentine. “This project will give us the opportunity to work closely with the State Government to ensure the alignment of Local and State Governments’ aspirations for the region,” he said.

Burnie City Council Steps up to National Workplace Safety Stage

Burnie City Council is set to shine on the national workplace safety stage, vying for recognition at the upcoming Safe Work Australia Awards to be announced in April.

Burnie City Council won the Public Sector Leadership Award for Injury Prevention and Management’ category in the 2008 WorkCover Safety Awards, placing it in the running for the national awards. The WorkCover Awards recognised Council’s proactive role in enhancing safety and education both within its workplace and the community.

WorkCover Tasmania Board Member, Simon Cocker, said the Council has a dynamic, modern OHS management system which it regularly reviews and improves. “The Council is a leader both internally and externally in OHS and risk management initiatives. This commitment and leadership has led to a 60% reduction in workers compensation premiums over the past three years,” he said.

The Council’s comprehensive occupational health and safety management system manages OHS within the organisation through many facets. These include making safety an integral part of every managerial position, promoting and supporting a consultative safety process including an OHS committee, team and toolbox meetings, and employee newsletters. Other elements of the safety management system include undertaking workplace audits on a scheduled basis, monitoring incidents and responding through rectification programs, providing effective injury management and rehabilitation for all employees, as well as providing a continuous program of education to ensure everyone works in the safest possible manner.

The winners of the 2008 Safe Work Australia Awards will be announced on 28 April at an official ceremony to be held at Parliament House in Canberra.

(L-R) Burnie City Council employees Sallyann Fisher, Peter Porch and Randolph Wylie accept the Public Sector Leadership Award for Injury Prevention and Management Award at the 2008 WorkCover Safety Awards in Hobart
Investing In Swansea Community Projects

State Government funding of $340,000 for two significant projects that will bolster Swansea’s strong visitor appeal was announced on 13 February.

Premier David Bartlett committed the Government to providing $90,000 to extend the Swansea Great Short Walk and a further $250,000 to redevelop the town’s Heritage Museum. Both projects were raised by Glamorgan Spring Bay Council at last year’s Bicheno community forum and will deliver strong social and economic benefits to Swansea and the wider Glamorgan Spring Bay region.

The Great Short Walk extension will link the existing walking track from the bowls club to the foreshore walkway at the eastern end of Jubilee Beach, including a low-profile boardwalk and hand rail. A 2007 review found the Swansea Great Short Walk was in need of a major upgrade to maintain its status.

The redevelopment of the Swansea Heritage Museum is expected to involve a visitor information centre, refurbished toilet facilities, an upgrade of parking facilities, disability access, new meeting rooms for the community, storage space, a display museum, an electronic filing system, a security system and a climate control system. The museum, known as the Old Schoolhouse and War Memorial, is permanently entered on the Heritage Register and is considered architecturally significant as an example of Victorian Rustic Gothic Style.

New Partnership Agreement with Meander Valley Council

The Meander Valley community will see better outcomes on areas such as safety, environmental health and recreation under a new partnership agreement, signed between the State Government and Meander Valley Council on 29 January, outlining key priorities for the Meander Valley region over the next three years.

Premier David Bartlett said that the agreement is a great opportunity to make progress on some important priorities for the local community and address some emerging challenges. A project to quantify the scale and risk of ground water pollution from historic point sources in the karst area and to identify priorities and strategies for remediation if appropriate, will involve the Department of Primary Industries and Water working with the Council. The two parties will also continue to address the salinity risk in the area.

A recreation strategy for Lake Trevallyn will be developed by the Parks and Wildlife Service in partnership with the Council and issues and strategies to address high-risk road user behaviours in the region will be identified by the Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources with the assistance of the Meander Valley Community Safety Group. In addition, the Departments of Health and Human Services, Police and Emergency Management and Education will work with the Council on a range of community safety and health issues including Community Safety Forums, Community Respect Orders program and the Inter-Agency Support Panel.
Waste Water Plant Now Operating in Cambridge

The largest Waste Water Treatment Plant of its kind in Tasmania is now operating in Cambridge.

The new Cambridge Waste Water Treatment Plant, officially opened in January, is designed to produce safe, recycled water and will service the sewered township of Cambridge, the industrial area along Kennedy Drive and the Hobart International Airport, including businesses along Holyman Avenue.

Clarence City Council Mayor, Ald Jock Campbell, said that the $7.7 million dollar project was not only an outstanding infrastructure support for current development in the area but that the plant’s modular design enabled it to support increased capacity in the future and protect sensitive local habitat by enabling the reuse of wastewater resources.

The plant will produce Class A+ treated wastewater for use in the Seven Mile Beach branch of the Coal River Water Recycling Scheme. It is estimated that it will provide a potential 120 megalitres per annum of recycled water to the Tasmania Golf Course, Royal Hobart Golf Course, Llanherne Golf Course and Westland Nurseries.

Ald Campbell said that the new infrastructure illustrated a best practice partnership between Local Government and business, citing Clarence Council’s successful partnership with the Hobart International Airport which has made a major capital contribution to the plant, and signed a cost-sharing agreement for maintenance and operational costs,” he said. ♦

Social Inclusion Commissioner Appointed

Professor David Adams was appointed as Tasmania’s Social Inclusion Commissioner in January 2009 and will work with all spheres of government, the community and business sectors to support the development of a socially inclusive Tasmania.

Prof. Adams brings a wide range of experience and knowledge to the role. He was a key architect of A Fairer Victoria - the Victorian Government’s Social Inclusion Strategy, and is currently a Professor of Management in Innovation at the University of Tasmania, Professor with the Australian Innovation Research Centre in Hobart, a Director of Northern Tasmania Development and a board member of the Launceston Chamber of Commerce.

Prof. Adams has extensive practical experience in leading responses to complex social issues and has a particular interest in rural and regional communities experiencing rapid demographic and industrial change. As Social Inclusion Commissioner, Prof. Adams will work with the Social Inclusion Unit in the Department of Premier and Cabinet to develop partnerships across all sectors to generate innovative solutions to disadvantage and social exclusion in Tasmania. Local Government, through its provision of community services and links to local community networks, has a key role to play in this process.

The Social Inclusion Unit has already conducted preliminary consultations with nominated council contacts around the state as part of the development of a Tasmanian social inclusion strategy. The strategy will aim to provide opportunities for all Tasmanians to participate in the social, economic and civic life of the state. ♦

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97th Local Government Conference
10-12 June 2009

The Local Government Association of Tasmania, in association with the Institute of Public Works and Engineering Australia and Local Government Managers Australia, is pleased to present the 97th Local Government Conference, from 10-12 June, at Wrest Point, in Hobart.

The conference theme, Community Conversations: Striving for More, promises an inspirational line-up of plenary and workshop presenters from around Australia who will engage us in a series of conversations about a range of topical issues. These include effective community consultation, staff recruitment and retention, developing aged friendly communities, sustainable tourism, urban design, effective team building and much more. Read on for a preview of this year’s line-up.

Allan Tranter
A New Conversation

The beginning of this century has seen the emergence of a whole new dialogue that has captured the world’s imagination. The rise of Obama was accompanied by a changed rhetoric that was both inspirational and aspirational. It was accompanied by a call to action - action that is different to what has occurred in the past yet, was based on the philosophy and fundamental principles that were the foundation stones of what had made the USA the leading economy, as well as the leading power in the world.

The rhetoric that has been predominant in the vocabulary of government in Australia for many years has been about accountability, planning, transparency, regulations, checklists, structure, performance indicators and measurement. Where has this taken our country, our state our local town, or community? The current economic catastrophe is only one symptom of a society in crisis. The reality is that all spheres of government need a new dialogue to create a future that is different to the past, yet based on the philosophy and principles that truly underlie the spirit of Australia. Keynote speaker, Allan Tranter, will outline the potentials of a new conversation that can transform communities, with government playing a leading role.

The Dialogue Café...Methods of Conversing with the Community

Generally people are “consulted out”. They are sceptical of any process that attempts to engage them in the name of democracy. And rightly so! Too many lies, too many tricky questionnaires, too many baby politicians and pressure groups manipulating and bullying, too much bureaucracy and not enough action. No wonder people opt out! Allan Tranter’s workshop will provide a living example of one method of engaging people in an entertaining and positive manner.

Allan Tranter is the Director of Creating Communities Australia. As the former Director of Recreation for the Department of Sport and Recreation in WA, Allan has developed diverse expertise in social planning and social marketing, focusing on competitive advantage and mutual benefit to provide solutions that deliver considerable benefits for clients and significant improvements in quality of life for communities. Since establishing Creating Communities Australia in 1992, Allan has provided advice that has resulted in significant bottom-line improvements for some of Australia’s leading businesses. He has also assisted Local and State Government in strategically aligning their projects within the community realm.
Jude Munro

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

Jude Munro’s plenary address will focus on one of the most serious issues facing Local Government over the next four decades - the skills shortage. Jude will draw on decades of Local and State Government experience to examine the drivers of this key issue and will outline what Brisbane City Council is doing to ensure it has the staff to deliver high quality service to its customers throughout the twenty-first century.

Getting your Emerging Leaders to Work on Key Organisational Issues

Jude Munro’s plenary address will be followed by a workshop presentation where she will demonstrate the techniques she has used to engage Brisbane City Council’s emerging leaders to develop staff attraction and retention strategies.

Jude Munro is the Chief Executive Officer of the Brisbane City Council. Her passion for Brisbane inspires her to shape the city’s future as a world-class metropolis. In the eight years that Jude has been with the Council, she has led the organisation through fundamental change to place the Council on the front foot to achieve its vision. This vision is one of delivering active, healthy and vibrant communities within a sustainable environment and supported by a strong economy. Previously, Jude has held Chief Executive positions with the City of Adelaide and the Cities of Moreland and St Kilda in Victoria. Jude’s experience is supported by post-graduate public policy and business administration qualifications.

Roland Naufal

Living Well: Best Practice in Developing Aged Friendly Communities

Increasing longevity means the middle-aged baby boomer has to chart new territory in leading a long-lived life. A holistic approach to ageing well requires a focus on wellbeing in its financial, physical, emotional, social and spiritual dimensions. Internationally, with the exception of people who have severe dementia, most people can now be supported at home until the end of their lives, and greater self-reliance and choice is being achieved through positive service culture and clever building design.

In 2007, the UK Audit Commission undertook a large-scale study of best practice in older peoples’ services in 10 local authorities. They found increased awareness, better engagement and innovation could help many older people without significant expenditure. The best councils adapt mainstream services and work with public and private sector partners to drive improvements.

Roland Naufal will discuss his experience developing aged friendly communities in both city and rural locations. He will explore international best practice for older people, including service interventions that are dynamic and responsive to their changing needs which engage stakeholders in development and implementation.

With degrees in Economics and Social Work, an MBA from the University of Melbourne and, after four and half years as CEO of one of Australia’s largest aged care organisations, Roland established 4C Consulting to provide best practice leadership in aged care and retirement living. He now works with State and Federal Governments and some of Australia’s leading organisations.

Mark Olsen

Growing Your Local Tourism - the Pathway to Successful and Sustainable Tourism Partnerships

What is sustainable tourism in the 21st Century?
Where is the natural fit between tourism and Local Government? Mark Olsen will introduce delegates to a new program designed to deliver innovation in tourism planning. The program has been developed by the Sustainable Tourism Cooperative Research Centre (STCRC) in conjunction with EC3 Global, to assist councils to better understand and plan for tourism development. It also provides a forum for councils to engage with local and regional tourism partners ahead of developing tourism strategies. The workshop will enable councils to identify and implement processes for sustainable tourism development.

Mark Olsen is the General Manager of Consulting Services at EC3 Global, an international tourism advisory and environmental management organisation. EC3 delivers world-leading, research-based outcomes influencing policy and practice in sustainability, destination management, business and strategic planning and facilitation in over 60 countries worldwide. Mark has almost 15 years experience in tourism and destination management including eight years at Tourism Queensland in marketing and destination management. Throughout his career, he has worked extensively at the grass roots of tourism, and with over 200 local governments across Australia.
Rob Moore
Transforming Australia’s Cities through Urban Design

How can urban design contribute to the challenges of transforming our cities? Find out how the City of Melbourne’s Urban Design Strategy has contributed to making the city more liveable and how Australian cities could be transformed from liveable cities into truly sustainable cities. A proposal to densify the transport corridors in our cities will be explored along with illustrations of how this can be done, using Melbourne as an example. The workshop will explore how the benefits of a denser city can include better access to public transport, provision of affordable housing, community service facilities and public open space all within walkable neighbourhoods.

As a qualified architect and urban designer, and as Manager of the Parks and Urban Design Branch for the City of Melbourne, Rob Moore and his team are responsible for the design and management of the city’s public realm. Melbourne’s 20-year strategic program of urban design initiatives and interventions has made a significant contribution to the transformation of the central business district to a thriving, world-class mixed-use city centre. The City of Melbourne’s Parks and Urban Design Branch has received numerous state, national and international awards that recognise this achievement.

Graeme Joy
The High Performance Team - Your Culture - Your Success
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Your organisation’s success is dependent on your people and great leadership. Empowered individuals can be the greatest strengths in a high performance team and this can be achieved with a common vision among team members. Defining a vision for success is an important ingredient but without the agreed core values and buy in by all team members, it has a high risk of being a stretched vision which team members perceive as being unachievable. During his presentation, Graeme Joy will explore the strategies necessary to make the links and ensure they work.

High performance teams may also find themselves in conflict, both externally and internally. If left unresolved, this can be damaging to team member relationships as well as achieving agreed outcomes. Graeme will share the strategies he has used over many years as a successful expedition leader to resolve these situations and remain on track for success. His presentation will analyse successful leadership styles, individual performance characteristics and the high performance team.

Graeme Joy is one of the most focused and motivational of all adventure and business speakers in Australasia. He has led expeditions across the North Pole, Alaska, Antarctica, Kenya, the Australian desert, and kayaking in Greenland and the Bass Strait. Based on his experience, Graeme draws striking parallels between success in expeditions and success in business.

Civic Mutual Plus Conference Dinner
Day two of the conference (11 June) will conclude with the CMP Conference Dinner at Hobart’s City Hall. Delegates staying at the Wrest Point are encouraged to take advantage of the free, return shuttle service. The evening’s entertainment will commence with a moving performance by 21 year-old Tasmanian Aboriginal singer/songwriter, Dewayne Everett Smith. Dewayne’s 2007 audition for Australian Idol brought Mark Holden to tears and Marcia Hines described his voice as one of the most beautiful she had heard in years. Past performances include the 2008 Dreaming Festival, the Festival of Pacific Arts in American Samoa, the 2009 Falls Festival, a sell-out show at the Taste Festival, Sydney’s Survival Day Yabun Festival and, most recently, performances as part of G’Day USA in San Francisco, Los Angeles and New York.

After dinner, the winners of the 2009 Local Government Awards for Excellence will be announced, followed by dance music played by Tasmania’s premiere pop/rock vocal harmony band, The Giant Hamsters.
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Wrest Point welcomes delegates to the 2009 Local Government Conference. Located on the shores of the Derwent River, Wrest Point offers all the necessary facilities to ensure an enjoyable stay. Choose from the 269 superbly appointed rooms and suites which capture stunning views of the Derwent River, Mount Wellington and surrounds. Enjoy 24-hour in-room dining, complimentary car parking, a choice of four restaurants, five bars, a tennis court, mini-golf course, and an exclusive Health Club complete with indoor pool, spa, gymnasium and sauna. Wrest Point also provides an excellent base for pre and post conference touring with access to cruises and group tours.

For further details, or to make your reservation, call Wrest Point on (03) 6225 0112, or visit the website at www.wrestpoint.com.au.

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For details about the 2009 Local Government Conference, visit the LGAT website at www.lgat.com.au, or phone (03) 6233 5966.

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Ten Years of Successful Partnerships

The Tasmanian Government’s pioneering partnership agreements program celebrated its 10th anniversary in December 2008. The program has spearheaded over 3,000 actions on almost 200 initiatives including road safety, education, community health, tourism, water and sewerage, infrastructure planning and weed management.

Many of the positive outcomes achieved through the program are recorded in an anniversary edition of the Governments in Partnership Progress Report 2008. Over the past decade, the partnerships program has become the means by which the State Government and Local Government do business in Tasmania and is a proven way to deliver benefits to communities.

When it was launched in December 1998, the partnership agreements program was the first of its kind in Australia. It has been so successful that it has been used as a model for a range of other partnership programs including partnership agreements with the University of Tasmania and Volunteering Tasmania.

The first agreement under the program was signed in June 1999 between Circular Head Council and the State Government and, a second with Launceston City Council, which started in December 1999. Forty-four agreements have since been signed under the program including 34 agreements between single councils and the State Government, three regional agreements, six statewide agreements and one agreement on aged care involving all three levels of government. Each of the 44 agreements has captured and achieved dozens of ideas and initiatives, all aimed at delivering better outcomes for Tasmanian communities.

Highlights captured in the report include:

- Burnie City Council’s *Who’s Des Tonight?* program. Tasmania Police worked with the Council, community groups and State Government agencies to deliver this successful designated driver project which received a $7,000 Certificate of Merit Award in 2006, in the Australian Crime and Violence Prevention Awards.

- The establishment of the Rivers Run Tourism Association involving both the Central Highlands and Derwent Valley Councils. The Rivers Run Touring Map and Guide to the district was published and the parties worked together on the branding and promotion of a joint tourism marketing plan.

- The Circular Head Community and Recreation Centre which received $200,000 in State Government funding to enable the Circular Head Council to complete the multi-purpose facility.

- The Trail of the Tin Dragon, which celebrates the history of tin mining and the presence of up to 1,000 Chinese prospectors in Tasmania’s North-East in the late 19th Century. The State Government provided the Dorset Council with $1.8 million for the trail.

Details on these and other community projects delivered through the program can be found in the Governments in Partnership Progress Report 2008, available on the Local Government Division’s website at www.dpac.tas.gov.au/divisions/lgd/partnership_agreements/publications.
‘Lo-Pact’ Resource Recovery Project: a First for Tasmania

With funding from the State Government’s Living Environment Program Resource Recovery Grant Scheme, the Northern Midlands Council has been able to trial an innovative recycled product - shredded tyre rubber mulch - for use as soft-fall in the public playground at Longford.

Rubber mulch is increasingly being used by the public and private sector in Australia and internationally as a cost and health effective alternative to traditional mulch. It is being used in private and public playgrounds and as mulch for gardens.

The Northern Midlands Council, the community and Tyre Recycle Tasmania are partners in the project, a first in the use of the Tasmanian-made, rubber mulch product. Tyre Recycle Tasmania, which currently handles 60% of the state’s used tyres, has produced eighteen tonnes of the ‘Lo-Pact’ softfall material for the project. The pre-existing pine bark mulch at the playground was removed by Council staff and replaced with the ‘Lo-Pact’ softfall material. Signage has been erected at the playground to inform users of the trial and to invite feedback.

Some of the benefits of the project include the:

• Production of a mulch that has several applications through reuse of rubber from waste tyres;
• Diversion from landfill of waste tyres;
• Reduced childhood injuries from falls in playgrounds; and
• Reduced costs in the longer-term to the Northern Midlands Council in playground maintenance.

The Northern Midlands Council will use various means to gain feedback on the effectiveness, suitability and acceptance of the ‘Lo-Pact’ rubber mulch for use in the public arena, such as conducting a survey to gain people’s views of the product, and testing the compaction rate and level of wear and tear.

For further information about the project, contact Lorraine Green at the Northern Midlands Council on 6397 7315. For enquiries about the ‘Lo-Pact’ softfall material, contact Tim Chugg at Tyre Recycle Tasmania on 0400 692 023.

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On 1 January, Oak Tasmania became the auspicing body for the successful youth diversionary and restorative program, Chance on Main. This important partnership provides an increased level of support for staff and participants of the program, whilst strengthening Oak Tasmania’s significant role in delivering outcomes that improve the state’s social infrastructure.

Oak Tasmania CEO, John Paton, said our vision is to auspice organisations that work with disadvantaged Tasmanians, assist them to build capacity by offering our expertise in HR, IR, payroll, research, marketing and governance, whilst ensuring our partner organisations retain their identity and uniqueness.

Chance on Main works with young people aged 10-19 years who are often seen as ‘high risk’ by mainstream service providers and are often the source of much concern for police, education and health personnel. Many are at risk of entering the juvenile justice system, disengaging from school or training programs, or experiencing difficulties living with their family.

Using restorative practices, Chance on Main supports young people to develop life and decision-making skills, increase academic competence and job readiness. It also improves the health and wellbeing of young people involved in the program through offering opportunities to address issues of anger management, mental health, nutrition, alcohol and drug use, and sexual health. A variety of methods are used to achieve these aims including mentoring by high profile community and sporting personalities, intensive individual support and counselling, support to the families of young people involved in the program, and hands-on activities offered on and off site such as metalwork and computer training.

National Community Crime Prevention Program funding has enabled the program to continue until now and a successful submission to the Tasmanian Community Fund will ensure the survival of Chance on Main up until 30 June. However, it is vital that recurrent funding is established to avoid the demise of the program. A submission has been made to the Tasmanian Government’s 2009-2010 State Budget Process, with a view to securing recurrent, indexed funding for Chance on Main in Glenorchy. The submission also outlined Oak Tasmania’s strategic plan to expand the program statewide into the Disability, Child, Youth and Family Services sectors.

“There is an enormous need to implement the Chance on Main Program throughout Tasmania - and the opportunity exists for Local Government to play a pivotal role in assisting Oak Tasmania to do just that,” said Mr Paton. “This is a multi-award winning program delivering tangible outcomes for participants and the community. In the first 22 months of operation, 82% of participants did not re-offend since entering the program - a trend that is continuing today.”

Mr Paton said Chance on Main is extremely cost effective in comparison to the costs the community bears in the form of crime, anti-social behaviour, under-achievement in education, unemployment and the resulting social issues then picked up in the wider health and welfare sector every year. To date, up to 150 young people per annum participate in the program and the number of participants continues to grow. Chance on Main’s strength lies in its’ dedicated staff and their ability to deliver contemporary restorative practices and crime prevention principles.

For further information about Chance on Main, visit www.oak.org.au.
News in Brief

New State-of-the-art Facility for Launceston Waste
Launceston City Council officially opened the new Launceston Waste Transfer Station at Remount Road on 21 January, improving both the operation of the existing landfill and providing a safe environment for staff and residents. The station is an undercover, safe and easily accessible area for residents to dispose of waste without entering the landfill site. It utilises one of the biggest moving floor systems in Australia where refuse is dropped into sealed bins and compacted. Refuse is then taken to the landfill by Council staff, reducing the size of the open face and improving operation of the landfill. The initiative will also decrease odour and windblown litter.

New Plan to Capture Cultural History
Clarence City Council has adopted a Cultural History Plan that identifies initiatives and significant activities to promote and preserve the cultural heritage of Clarence. The plan provides a strategy to capture and retell stories of Clarence’s rich and diverse living and evolving history. It will also improve the management and preservation of historical collections. Council’s first action will be to establish a committee to assist Council in the implementation, monitoring and review of the plan. The committee will identify those actions which can be addressed in the short-term and establish a process for implementation of longer-term projects.

Seven Mile Beach Land Use Strategy Released
A strategy to guide future land uses on the Seven Mile Beach peninsula has been finalised. The Department of Economic Development and Tourism undertook a Strategic Land Use and Development Study for the 900 hectares of Crown land, involving extensive stakeholder participation and public consultation. The peninsula has had a long history of both plantation forestry and a wide range of recreational uses such as horse riding, orienteering and dog walking. The strategy helps in securing those recreational uses while providing a framework to consider other options in the future. The Seven Mile Peninsula Strategic Land Use and Development Study can be viewed at the Clarence City Council’s website, or at www.development.tas.gov.au/publications/sevenmile.html.

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