Five Minutes with Mayor Albert van Zetten

Launceston City Council

Birth date: 12 April 1954

How long have you resided in Launceston and what do you enjoy most about the city?
I have lived in Launceston for 54 years. It’s a very special city with great natural beauty (Cataract Gorge for example), built heritage, culture and very special people.

What motivates you in life?
I am motivated by a strong belief in God and an understanding of his love for me in the Easter story.

How do you like to spend your free time?
I enjoy spending time with my wife and three great children, gardening, and reading challenging books.

What are three qualities that you appreciate most in people?
1) Honesty
2) Dependability
3) Compassion

When you were a child, you wanted to be...
A postman – I thought it was cool to have the whistle!

Name two previous occupations that you have held in the past.
1) Chartered Accountant
2) CEO Launceston City Mission (still do on a part-time basis)

What motivated you to become involved in Local Government?
I was strongly encouraged by various people in the community.

How many years have you served as:
Councillor - Four years
Mayor - Two years

What has been the most memorable moment of your Local Government career?
Being elected Mayor of Launceston.

You faced a particularly nerve-wracking wait for the results of the recent Local Government Elections. Tell us about that time and what was going through your mind.
Whilst I have a great belief in God and I was willing to accept the outcome of the election as guiding my next few years, I had mixed emotions. Initially I was disappointed that I would not be able to continue with my ideas and plans as Mayor. I then started to think of time away with family and other things that I could do when I was informed that I was just one vote in front. I am thankful for the support of my family and friends who were encouraging when it looked like I had missed out on being Mayor. It was a challenge to stay focused knowing there was another and yet another recount. Obviously I was extremely pleased with the end result.

What do you enjoy most about your role as Mayor?
Meeting many groups and people who do so much for our community and helping those on the margins of our community.

What has been the most embarrassing moment in your Local Government career?
When I inadvertently missed the fact that two people wanted to speak to their agenda items and I was informed when it was too late. I let them down.

What’s the best advice anyone has ever given you?
To always be yourself. Don’t try and be someone else.

What word best describes you?
Integrity.
Unparalleled experience in planning & environment

Dr Ian Woodward
Principal Environmental Scientist
25 years experience in natural resource and environmental management in State Government and consulting.

Jim Lockley
Environmental Scientist
35 years experience in mining and mineral processing, environmental regulation and waste water consulting for State Government.

Catherine Nicholson
Environmental Planner
25 years experience in community engagement, urban, regional and environmental planning in government and consulting.

Wendy Mitchell
Strategic Land Use Planner
20 years experience in business planning, rural and regional development in Victoria and Tasmania.

Dr Michael Pollington
Environmental Scientist
30 years experience in environmental education, geology and environmental science for industry and consulting.

Dion Lester
Team Leader Planning and Environment
10 years experience as a strategic and land use planner. Extensive experience in managing environmental approvals for large infrastructure developments.

The expertise within pitt&sherry’s Planning and Environment team allows us to provide an unrivalled breadth of service in Tasmania.

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Projects of Significance • Bell Bay Pulp Mill • Basslink • Transend Transmission Line • Clarence City Council - Cambridge Waste Water Treatment Plant and Reuse Strategy • Joint Land Use and Settlement Strategy for four Southern Tasmanian Councils

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Climate Change  Community Infrastructure  Industrial Infrastructure  Transport Infrastructure

December 2009 LGAT News
Julie Gordon  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT / HEALTH SERVICES  
Huon Valley Council

As Rural Health Coordinator for the Huon Valley Council for the past eight years, it is Julie Gordon’s responsibility to coordinate and provide operational supervision and advice in relation to Council’s Health Services delivery which includes senior’s health programs, independent living units and rural health programs undertaken by Council. She also has responsibility as Practice Manager for the medical services provided by the Council at the Geeveston Medical Centre and the Dover Medical Practice.

Julie has a Certificate IV in Small Business Management and worked in the health care industry prior to her appointment at Council. “The provision of health services in the Huon Valley is vitally important to the health and wellbeing of our community,” Julie said. “Council’s Health Services has ensured that the provision of General Practitioner services in the Geeveston township is maintained and that regular health promotion programs, such as Men’s Health Checks, are provided locally and on a regular basis to ensure members of our community are well informed on health issues,” she said.

“Working within the Huon Valley Council, which provides such a diverse range of services, has provided me with a variety of career opportunities whilst still remaining with one employer,” Julie said. “I feel supported by Council and find it very satisfying and rewarding to have the opportunity to be part of a very dynamic and dedicated team of people.”

Julie has been especially pleased to be involved with the provision of General Practitioner services in the township of Geeveston which commenced soon after the retirement of Geeveston’s sole General Practitioner in 2007. “Council recognised the absolute necessity to retain medical services in Geeveston and worked with the local Geeveston GP to assume management responsibility for the practice,” she said.

Huon Valley Council General Manager, Glenn Doyle, said Julie’s adoption of continuous improvement, best practice and sustainability principles enables her to respond to the changing needs of the Huon Valley Community. Julie is well respected within the rural health sector and in both Local and State Government.

Brett Thompson  
CORPORATE SERVICES  
Huon Valley Council

Brett Thompson has been a Huon Valley Council employee for seventeen years. For the past two years, Brett has served as Council’s Asset Management Officer, having spent the previous 15 years in Council’s Water and Sewer Department.

Brett is responsible for ensuring Council’s assets are assessed and captured with a high accuracy Geographic Positioning System (GPS) prior to editing and input into Council’s Geographic Information System (GIS). He is currently furthering his knowledge by undertaking a Diploma of Spatial Information Services.

The broad range of council assets includes the roads, footpaths, recreation parks and buildings which are utilised and enjoyed by members of the community. In order to sustain these assets, it is pivotal that they be accurately captured and recorded, so their maintenance and replacement can be efficiently planned and managed in a sustainable manner.

Brett feels privileged to have been given the opportunity to work in the Huon Valley where he grew up. Being given an opportunity to create from scratch a GIS that is accurate and informative, and able to allow sustainably managed assets now and into the future, is his proudest achievement. “To see how much the Huon Valley has grown and the services Council can now provide, is most satisfying,” he said.

Council’s Manager of Corporate Services, Mike Norman, said Brett has enabled Council to fully verify all its water and sewerage assets to enable the successful transfer to Southern Water. Brett has shown tremendous initiative in that he has been able to make the transition from a field worker to being fully acquainted with asset management issues utilising modern technology,” he said.
Recent developments and major refurbishments in conference and accommodation facilities reinforce Wrest Point’s position as Tasmania’s premier hotel and conference venue. Recently awarded winner of the Tourism Meetings and Business Venue at the 2008 Tourism Industry Council Tasmanian awards, Wrest Point is the ideal location for your next corporate stay, conference or business event.

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Valentine Officially Hobart’s Longest Serving Lord Mayor

Following the 2009 Local Government Elections, Ald Rob Valentine has become the longest-serving Lord Mayor of Hobart, surpassing the record formerly held by Sir Basil Osborne, who served from 1959 - 1970.

Ald Valentine has been a member of the Hobart City Council for the past 17 years. He was first elected as an Alderman in 1992 and was elected as Lord Mayor in 1999. He is now into his sixth term as Lord Mayor of the City of Hobart.

His continued popularity with the Hobart community was evident when he achieved one of the highest results ever, by topping the election poll with almost 81% of the total vote.

Former Deputy Mayor, Ald Eva Ruzicka said the Hobart City Council congratulates Ald Valentine on his success and his long-standing commitment to serving the community and the city.

2009 Local Government Election Results

The 2009 Local Government Elections were held in October, involving 27 councils around the state. Voting for the Glamorgan Spring Bay and Break O’ Day Councils will take place this month, with postal votes closing on 22 December.

The returning officers appointed for the 27 councils shown, have declared the candidates listed as elected to the office of Councillor/Alderman, Lord Mayor, Mayor, Deputy Lord Mayor and Deputy Mayor respectively. Councillors are listed in the order of their election, except for Kentish Councillors who are listed in alphabetical order.

Councillors are elected for a period of 4 years, unless shown with an asterisk (*) to indicate that they have been elected to fill a casual vacancy for a period of 2 years. Mayors and Deputy Mayors are elected for a period of 2 years.

Brighton Council

Councillors
Tony FOSTER
Philip John OWEN
Leigh GRAY
Wayne GARLICK
Sonya WILLIAMS
Mayor Tony FOSTER
Deputy Mayor Geoff TAYLOR

Burnie City Council

Aldermen
Steve KONS
Anita DOW
James SIMPSON
Sandra FRENCH
Malcolm RYAN
Mayor Alvwyn BOYD
Deputy Mayor Anita DOW

Central Coast Council

Councillors
Mike DOWNIE
Jan BONDE
Tony van ROOYEN
Amanda DIPROSE
Gerry HOWARD
Philip VINEY
Mayor Mike DOWNIE
Deputy Mayor Jan BONDE

Central Highlands Council

Councillors
Richard BOWDEN
Tony BAILEY
Lyn BURKE
Joe JACKA
Ian McMICHAEL
Mayor Deirdre FLINT
Deputy Mayor Andrew DOWNIE
Circular Head Council  
Councillors  
Daryl H QUILLIAM  
Jeanie MURRELL  
David John WOODWARD  
Rodney T (Rod) HARDY  
Graham WELLS*  
Mayor Daryl H QUILLIAM  
Deputy Mayor Trevor Robert SPINKS

Clarence City Council  
Aldermen  
Jock CAMPBELL  
Doug CHIPMAN  
Kay McFARLANE  
Martin McMANUS  
Tony MULDER  
Heather CHONG  
Mayor Jock CAMPBELL  
Deputy Mayor Doug CHIPMAN

Derwent Valley Council  
Councillors  
Scott Darrell SHAW  
Damian Rodney BESTER  
Barry LATHEY  
James GRAHAM  
Mayor Martyn EVANS  
Deputy Mayor Craig FARRELL

Devonport City Council  
Aldermen  
Steve MARTIN  
Leon PERRY  
Peter Graham HOLLISTER  
Graham (GB) KENT  
Brian (Snapper) COLE  
Justine KEAY  
Mayor Lynn LAYCOCK  
Deputy Mayor Maurice Walton HILL

Dorset Council  
Councillors  
John BESWICK  
Yvonne R THORNE  
Roger McLennAN  
Sheryl MARTIN  
Peter William PARTRIDGE  
Leonie STEIN*  
Mayor Barry JARVIS  
Deputy Mayor Yvonne R THORNE

Flinders Council  
Councillors  
David WILLIAMS  
Margaret WHEATLEY  
Mary-Anne ROBERTS  
Mayor Carol COX  
Deputy Mayor Michael GRIMSHAW

Continued Page 12 ▶

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faces of local government

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George Town Council
Councillors
Roger BROOMHALL
George Roydon O’SIGN
Bridget ARCHER
Tim CORY
Mayor Doug BURT
Deputy Mayor Heather Jean BARWICK

Glenorchy City Council
Aldermen
Jim MANSON
Stuart SLADE
David PEARCE
Luke T MARTIN
Steven KING
Peter RIDLER
Mayor Adriana Johanna TAYLOR
Deputy Mayor Jim MANSON

Hobart City Council
Aldermen
Rob VALENTINE
Helen BURNET
Peter SEXTON
Damon THOMAS
Marti ZUCCO
Darlene A HAIGH
Lord Mayor Rob VALENTINE
Deputy Lord Mayor Helen BURNET

Huon Valley Council
Councillors
Rosalie WOODRUFF
Bruce HERON
Mike WILSON
Tony DUGGAN
Rohan GUDDEN
Mayor Robert ARMSTRONG
Deputy Mayor Bruce HERON

Kentish Council
Councillors
John DEVERELL
Bob ROBINSON
Tim WILSON
Bart WISSE
Mayor Don THWAITES
Deputy Mayor Tim WILSON

King Island Council
Councillors
Vernon PHILBEY
David BREWSTER
Duncan McFIE
Joris WEITJENS
Jacqueline Vanessa BECKMANN

Kingborough Council
Councillors
Graham BURY
Michele HIGGINS
Steve WASS
David GRACE
Susan NOLAN
Paul CHATTERTON
Mayor Graham BURY
Deputy Mayor Steve WASS

Latrobe Council
Councillors
Rob BEVERIDGE
Stephen DICK
Lesley YOUNG
Mike McLAREN
Mayor Michael GAFFNEY
Deputy Mayor Rick ROCKLIFF

Launceston City Council
Aldermen
Rosemary ARMITAGE
Albert van ZETTEN
Ted SANDS
Robin McKENDRICK
Rob SOWARD
Ian NORTON
Mayor Albert van ZETTEN
Deputy Mayor Frank NOTT

Meander Valley Council
Councillors
Bob LOONE
Pat FROST
Bob RICHARDSON
Rodney LINGER
Craig PERKINS
Deborah WHITE*
Mayor Mark SHELTON
Deputy Mayor Bob LOONE

Northern Midlands Council
Councillors
David DOWNIE
Jeffrey Ian CARINS
Ian GONINON
Mary KNOWLES
Matthew BROOKS
Mayor Kim POLLEY
Deputy Mayor David DOWNIE
Sorell Council

Councillors
Carmel TORENIUS
Kerry DEGRASSI
Kerry VINCENT
Mike PURDON

Mayor Carmel TORENIUS
Deputy Mayor Graeme EVANS

Southern Midlands Council

Councillors
Tony BISDEEE
John JONES
Alex GREEN
Marie CONNORS
Bob CAMPBELL

Mayor Tony BISDEEE
Deputy Mayor John JONES

Tasman Council

Councillors
Jan BARWICK
Roseanne HEWARD
Roger LARNER
Pam FENERTY

Mayor Jan BARWICK
Deputy Mayor Roseanne HEWARD

Waratah-Wynyard Council

Councillors
Robert (Robby) WALSH
Clayton J HAWKINS
Darren FAIRBROther
Mary DUNIAM
Colleen DIBLEY

Mayor Kevin HYLAND
Deputy Mayor Robert (Robby) WALSH

West Coast Council

Councillors
Phil VICKERS
Shane Anthony PITT
Allen ROSE
Peter REID
Robyn GERRITY
Samantha ELEY*

Mayor Darryl GERRITY
Deputy Mayor Al MEDWIN

West Tamar Council

Councillors
Peter KEARNEY
Christina HOLMDAHL
John WATSON
Joy ALLEN

Mayor Barry Maxwell EASTHER
Deputy Mayor Rick SHEGOG

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