Faces of Local Government

Five Minutes with Mayor Jan Barwick
Tasman Council

Birth date: 24 August 1964

How long have you resided on the Tasman Peninsula and what do you enjoy most about the area?
I have lived on the Tasman Peninsula all my life. In fact, I was born at the old Koonya Hospital. I enjoy the people, the sense of community, the fantastic scenery and the lifestyle this area offers.

What motivates you in life?
I am motivated by my family and friends, and always strive to do my best for Tasman due to the love of my community and the people who make it such a great place to live. My husband also tries to motivate me by roaring at me but it doesn’t work. I wish he would learn.

How do you like to spend your free time?
If I do get any free time, I enjoy reading something other than reports, agendas and minutes, trying to relax, running away from the phone, spending time with my family and friends, and walking my dog on White Beach. But most of these things rarely happen.

Three qualities that you appreciate most in people?
1) Loyalty
2) Integrity
3) Punctuality (Because if they are later than me, they are really late!)

When you were a child, you dreamed of becoming...
Rich! Actually I wanted to become a pharmacist but I forgot to get around to it.

What motivated you to become involved in Local Government?
Initially I became involved as an employee. Twenty-two years later, I was still there. After resigning from my position, I was coerced by community members into standing for Council.

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

What do you consider as the major barriers to female representation within the sector?
From my own personal experience there have been none. Having said that, as a female Mayor, I think I do it harder than most men, without the aid of a house husband, as my husband is the bread winner. I therefore find it difficult to juggle my mayoral responsibilities with my household responsibilities, which includes caring for my elderly mother.

What do you enjoy most about your role as Mayor?
Trying to make Tasman a better place to live and work, trying to ensure that our municipality prospers, and recognising the outstanding contributions of community members.

What has been the most embarrassing moment in your Local Government career?
At the announcement of the winners of the 2008 Local Government Awards for Excellence, held in Launceston, I accidentally left my ‘just in case’ speech notes in my motel room. Over dinner, I tried to write another one on the back of a menu in the darkness. To my horror, Tasman Council was announced a category winner and my name was called. I walked slowly to the stage in the hope that there may have been an explosion, that the earth would swallow me up, or that I would trip and break my leg. On stage, most of what I had written on the back of the menu in the dark made no sense at all. I was mortified!

What’s the best advice anyone has ever given you?
To be, not to seem to be.

What word best describes you?
Determined. ♥
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Star Performers

Jonathon Campbell
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
Huon Valley Council

Jonathan Campbell joined the Huon Valley Council just over a year ago as Community Relations Officer. His role involves establishing and maintaining effective communication and developing opportunities for information exchange between the Council and the community. This involves preparing media releases, promotional material and newsletters; maintaining Council’s website; assisting with community consultation activities; developing communication strategies; and preparation of Council’s corporate documents. Jonathan has a Bachelor of Arts Degree and a Graduate Diploma in Public Relations.

For Jonathan, the most satisfying part of his role is seeing ideas that come from the community gain support and become reality.

Huon Valley Council General Manager, Glenn Doyle, said since joining Council, Jonathon has hit the ground running and contributes in all areas of Council communication. “Jonathon has a personable nature which has enabled him to integrate into Council’s work culture very well,” he said.

Rebecca Bell
COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT
Huon Valley Council

As Recreation Services Coordinator for the past ten years, Rebecca Bell’s diverse responsibilities include: developing and promoting recreational and sporting facilities and activities within the Huon Valley; implementing the development and maintenance of public playgrounds, cenotaphs and memorials, cemeteries, swimming pools, sports centres, sports grounds, parks and reserves and marine facilities; servicing the recreational advisory committees of Council; and managing Council’s Reserve Crew. Currently, she is responsible for the supervision of over sixteen staff.

Rebecca has a Diploma in Front Line Management and has since acquired specialised skills on the job. Being involved with projects, programs and facilities that make a positive difference in the community is the most satisfying part of her role. Working with the community and being part of a great team is the most rewarding aspect.

General Manager, Glenn Doyle, said Rebecca is well respected for her ability to balance the needs of the community and Council.

Tasman Council Welcomes New GM

On the 18 January, Tasman Council welcomed their new General Manager, Dr Wendy Hunter, who recently moved to the Tasman Peninsula from the Northern Territory with her husband and two children. Tasman Council now has an all female team of Mayor, Deputy Mayor and General Manager.

Wendy has an extensive work history as a lecturer, counsellor, educator, coordinator and manager in mostly health related positions. Her experience is coupled with a strong interest in community, social, economic and environmental development. Her qualifications include a Bachelor of Arts, Graduate Certificate of Applied Management, Graduate Diploma of Criminology, Master of Social Science and a Doctor of Public Policy.
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Launceston City Council
Farewells Frank Dixon

Frank Dixon has resigned as General Manager with the Launceston City Council, having served in this role since June 2006.

His significant achievements with Council included overseeing the preparation of a ten-year Major Works Program and Financial Sustainability Plan, as well as winning the Professional Leader of the Year - Corporate at the Tasmanian Business Leaders Awards 2008. He oversaw the development of the $26.3 million Launceston Aquatic facility which opened in May 2009, and was instrumental in ensuring a smooth transition when water and sewer services were transferred from councils to Local Government owned corporations.

One of Frank’s key aims was to move Council towards a stronger ‘One Organisation’ culture, with effective customer service its highest priority. He was recognised for this in November 2009 when the Launceston City Council was presented with the 2009 Employer of Choice Award.

Mr Dixon has now taken up the position of Chief Executive Officer at the Maroondah City Council in Melbourne.

Goode for King Island

Mark Goode commenced work as the new General Manager of the King Island Council on 8 February, following the resignation of Andrew Wardlaw. Mr Goode, who grew up in Frankston, Victoria, admits to never having finished high school - something he attributes to his discovery of girls at that time! However, he has since gained a Certificate of Civil Engineering, a Diploma of Applied Science, a Masters of Business Management (Administration), and an Honours Degree in Biological Science.

Mr Goode brings to Council a diversity of experience having spent 15 years with the Country Fire Authority, five years in Civil Design at the Melbourne Water Authority, two years as Director of Planning and Investment at the Wimmera Catchment Management Authority, two years as CEO of the Tiwi Island Shire, and as Shire Engineer and Director of Infrastructure at the Northern Grampians Shire. Mr Goode sees many positives in accepting the position at King Island and is looking forward to contributing positively to the community.

LGAT Welcomes New Team Member

The Local Government Association of Tasmania welcomes Georgia Palmer, who recently joined the team as Senior Policy Officer. Georgia’s role will include policy issues in the areas of emergency management, climate change and ICT, as well as being the new Registrar for the Standards Panel.

Georgia has a Bachelor of Science, with a Graduate Diploma and Honours in Environmental Science. Most recently, she has worked for the Victorian State Government in innovation policy. Georgia has over 10 years of policy experience in Tasmania and Victoria, predominately in the areas of science and technology, workforce development, justice and industry. She has expertise in policy, strategic planning and research.

Georgia Palmer may be reached on (03) 6233 5961, or email Georgia.palmer@lgat.tas.gov.au.
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