President’s Message

I was pleased to be able to represent LGAT at the recent Local Government Managers Australia (LGMA) Conference hosted at Smithton. The conference was a great success, not only due to the positive and productive relationship which exists between LGAT and LGMA, but Tall Timbers proved to be an excellent venue with great food, a relaxed atmosphere and plenty of room to ensure a worthwhile gathering.

It was an ideal occasion for staff from all levels in councils to meet, share ideas and discuss many of the issues, strategies and viewpoints expressed by the guest speakers. I am certain that the variety and quality of the speakers allowed for each individual who attended the conference to depart feeling that they had gleaned some important information and, even more importantly, that they were able to express their own ideas and thoughts in a receptive and engaging environment.

Many participants also extended their professional networks. The opportunity to connect easily with colleagues from other local councils is definitely one of the advantages of working and living in a small state. The LGMA is to be congratulated on providing a means to enable experienced management staff to interact with those individuals who will provide leadership into the future.

As a member of the selection panel for the LGMA Awards, I have to say it was a difficult and time-consuming task. The quality of both the nominees and the submissions were first-rate and reflect the abilities and capacities of the many excellent managers we have in the Tasmanian Local Government sector. I would like to congratulate the individual winners, Mrs Kathy Schaefer and Mr Michael Stretton from the Central Coast Council, on their well-deserved success. In any organisation it is important to continue to recognise those who excel and I would encourage further nominations from councils next year.

I know that Australian LGMA President, Mr. Steve McGrath, was impressed with the conference. I congratulate the organisers and only hope that next year’s event is as positive and as well supported by all councils.

Warning on Election Signs

The State Government has issued a warning to Local Government candidates about placing election signage on state road reserves. The Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources will confiscate any offending signage, which will be available for collection for up to 14 days from the date of removal. State Parliament has also recently banned the use of roadside electronic message boards for election advertising purposes. For enquiries, phone 6233 8539 or 6233 6089.

Kingborough GM Resigns

The General Manager of Kingborough Council, Mr Greg Alomes, has announced his resignation, to take effect from the end of December 2007. Mr Alomes’ resignation coincides with his third anniversary as General Manager and involves a career shift to focus on major strategic projects in 2008. Mr Alomes is recognised among his peers for his outstanding contribution to the Council and the Kingborough community.

Training for Transfer Station Operators

Transfer station operators are invited to attend a one-day training program hosted by Sustainability Victoria and delivered by Sustainable Learning Australasia on 20 November in Melbourne. The one-day course will address occupational health, safety and environmental obligations, risk management processes, waste management opportunities, and management of the public interface of your business. The course fee is $400.00 + GST pp. Numbers are strictly limited. For full details, visit www.transferstations.com.au or phone (02) 8746 5000.

Have Your Say on Skills

Industry is being urged to have a say on the management of Vocational Education and Training (VET) in Tasmania. Interested individuals are invited to read the Skilling Tasmania discussion paper, which deals with the challenges in managing and resourcing Tasmania’s training system. This year, Skills Tasmania will spend around $90 million on skill development through the training system. A series of training and industry forums will be held in Hobart Burnie and Launceston to discuss future directions. For details, visit www.skills.tas.gov.au or contact Leanne McLean on 6233 3304.
No Show for Stolen Dog
Launceston City Council is appealing to the public for help after the popular bite prevention training dog, Gerri, was stolen from the Launceston Show on 13 October. Gerri was taken from Council’s stand at the Animal Nursery late in the afternoon. Since 2004, Gerri has won the hearts of about 10,000 children through regular school visits. Gerri is one metre tall and has similar colouring to a German Shepherd. Members of the public with any information about Gerri’s disappearance are encouraged to call the Customer Service Centre on 6323 3000.

Water Conservation and Sustainable Living Workshop
Local Government staff involved in water conservation and sustainable urban living areas are invited to attend a workshop, that will assist in developing policy and improving services which are environmentally and financially viable. The workshop, to be held on 19 November at the Hobart Town Hall, will be presented by Michael Mobbs in association with the Hobart City Council. Cost is $65 (incl. GST). Registration forms are required by 7 November. For a copy of the registration form, contact Nicky Reed at the Hobart City Council on 6238 2711 or email reedm@hobartcity.com.au.

Grant Writing Workshop
Are you looking for grants to support your new projects, or to extend tried and true programs? Do you want to reduce the time taken in writing applications? An intensive grants workshop will be held in Hobart on 10 December covering all aspects of proposal development. Cost is $95. For further details, go to www.ourcommunity.com.au/winninggrantsworkshop.

Funding Flows for Irrigation Upgrades
Organisations with direct links to on-farm irrigators are invited to apply for funding under the $1.6 billion On-Farm Efficiency Program. Funding packages are also available for private irrigation water providers under the Irrigation Modernisation Planning Assistance program. Successful applicants will be eligible to receive funding of up to $500,000 to support development of modernisation plans for their districts. For more information, go to www.environment.gov.au.

Get the Facts on Combating Youth Crime Gangs

Promoting Health and Wellbeing in the Workplace
The Australian Health Promotion Association will be hosting a free lunchtime forum - Promoting Health and Wellbeing in the Workplace from 12.00pm - 1.00pm on 30 October in the Amenities Room, 2nd Floor, 99 Bathurst St, Hobart. Guest speaker is Brooke Teale from the Premier’s Physical Activity Council. No RSVP required. For further info, contact Sue Frendin on 6222 7774.

Climate change - Coastal Impact Adaption Strategies Forum
A free forum addressing the impact of climate change on coastal zones and practical strategies for adaption will be held from 3.00pm - 6.00pm on 8 November at the Devonport Entertainment and Convention Centre. The forum is being presented by the University of New South Wales and Pitt and Sherry. Details are available from www.pittsh.com.au. RSVP to Bek Whelan on 6323 1928 by 6 November.

Local Responses to an Ageing Community
Innovative strategies to address the ageing population will be the focus of an important national conference to be held in Sydney from 20-21 November. Local Government managers and councillors, concerned about the social and economic impact of providing aged care services and infrastructure within communities, will have a unique opportunity to learn from the experiences and strategies being pursued by councils across the nation. The conference will examine the mechanisms for Local Government to foster partnerships with aged care providers and will provide a valuable networking opportunity. For more information, visit www.halledit.com.au/conferences/ageing/2007.

State of Australian Cities Conference
Delegates have until 1 November to register for the Third State of Australian Cities Conference to be held in Adelaide from 28-30 November. The conference will be an opportunity for academics, government officers, private sector participants in the urban development process and others to explore contemporary urban policy issues and to learn about the latest research findings on Australian cities. The three-day program will include over 120 presentations. Register on-line at www.unisa.edu.au/soac2007.

Upcoming Events
- General Meeting, Launceston: 14 November
- Mayors’ Workshop: 15 November
- General Management Committee Meeting: 12 December