President’s Message
I would like to congratulate all candidates who recently nominated for the 2007 Local Government Elections. It is pleasing that interest in representing the community, as an elected member, is still very competitive. There were some very close results and a number of individuals were narrowly defeated. With the next round of Local Government Elections scheduled for October 2009, hopefully many of the unsuccessful candidates will consider standing again in two years time.

To those candidates who were successful, welcome to Local Government. There are challenging and exciting times ahead and, as in any leadership position, there will also be disappointments and difficult decisions to be made. Whilst councils will be organising induction ceremonies and copies of relevant materials for those elected, it is important for newcomers to allow a transitional period for learning. Meeting procedures, regulations, agendas, workshops, strategic plans, infrastructure and asset management, budgets, rates, annual plans and committees, are just some of the elements of Local Government that you will need to be familiar.

However, many of the management processes and organisational structures will fall into place and I would suggest that you treat each meeting and workshop as an opportunity to develop greater understanding. It is important to ask questions of those around you. Your colleagues will be helpful and supportive of your quest to become an effective and knowledgeable elected member.

Whilst elected members are encouraged to voice their own viewpoint and opinion, it is also important for elected members to understand their role and responsibilities and to acknowledge the intricate network that already exists in councils and Local Government. The community expects elected members and council management to be supportive of each other and to have the capacity to work as a team. Objective and transparent decision-making processes are also essential. The community desires a vibrant and collaborative council that instills confidence and provides regular feedback and information on important issues. Mayors and deputy mayors will need the support of each and every elected member to ensure a successful transition and to provide stable community representation.

LGAT will soon distribute a new Councillor Resource Kit to elected members, to help develop a better understanding of the role and responsibilities of being on council and to provide other important information. The Association is also coordinating a weekend workshop for elected members which will be held on 15-16 March at the Tamar Valley Resort. The elected member workshops, held twice a year, provide a valuable networking and learning opportunity. Full details will be forwarded to all councils before the year’s end. In the meantime, be true to yourself and your community. I look forward to meeting you personally in the not too distant future.

Tasmanian Leaders Program
The Tasmanian Leaders Program is aimed at emerging leaders with at least five years experience in their field of expertise. Participants will be drawn from all sectors including community and not-for-profit organisations, statutory organisations, Local and State Government and small, medium and large business. Applications close 16 November 2007. For more information, go to www.tasmanianleaders.org.au.

Regional Planning and Economic Development Forum
The Planning Institute of Australia and the Department of Justice are hosting a free forum on regional planning and economic development on 15 November in Hobart. The forum will focus on the experiences of regional planning in QLD and Vic, the current regional planning initiatives in Tasmania and the importance of strategic planning in achieving sustainable economic development. Registration is essential. For further information phone 6210 0693.

Submissions Sought for Regional Telecommunications Review
The Regional Telecommunications Independent Review Committee has released a discussion paper for public comment. Individuals, business, industry and community groups are invited to submit their views by 7 December. For details, visit www.rtirc.gov.au or phone 1800 064 851.

Attention General Managers
A reminder that the LGAT newsletter is now only available electronically. Hard copies will no longer be forwarded to councils. Would you please ensure that your elected members have access to it.
**Litter Act 2007 Familiarisation Seminars**
Environmental health officers, reserves and parks management staff, and other persons with an interest in the Litter Act are invited to attend one of two familiarisation seminars being held in Hobart (27 November) and Launceston (28 November). The three-hour seminars, coordinated by the Department of Tourism, Arts and the Environment, will also cover implementation and administration arrangements. RSVP by 21 November. Please phone 6233 4028, or email Diana.Williams@environment.tas.gov.au.

**The A to Z of Going Green for Events Organisers**
Event organisers who are interested in reducing financial and material waste and understanding how events impact on climate are invited to attend *The A to Z of Going Green*. The seminar, to be held in Hobart on 13 November, will provide detailed information on climate change in the business events sector and practical advice on how we can reduce our carbon footprint. For full details, visit www.meetingsevents.com.au.

**Planning and Building Community ‘By the People, For the People’ Conference**
A two-day conference, *Planning and Building Community ‘By the People, For the People’*, will be held in Melbourne from 19-20 November, to provide fresh and innovative approaches to community mobilisation and involvement. Cost is $550 (incl. GST). For enquiries, contact the Municipal Association of Victoria on (03) 9667 5555.

**Our Environment - Can You Really Make a Difference?**
If you are concerned about the environment and global warming and would like to make a positive difference at home and at work, join sustainability coach, Michael Mobbs at a special 1.5-hour seminar to be held in Hobart on 19 November. Cost is $38.50 (incl. GST). For further details, contact the Training Consortium on 6233 6459, or visit the website at www.ttc.tas.gov.au/_security/flyers/071119Michael%20Mobbs.doc.

**Government Skills Australia Workshops**
Training and development managers, environmental health officers, planners and training organisation personnel are invited to attend a free workshop, coordinated by Government Skills Australia, that will enhance and extend the current Local Government Training Package LGA04, particularly in the specialist areas of environmental health and planning. The workshop, will be held in Hobart on 30 November. Register online at www.governmentskills.com.au, or contact Joan Whelan on (03) 9349 3911.

**Funding for On-Farm Efficiency**
Under the $1.6 billion On-Farm Efficiency Program of the National Plan for Water Security, funding is now available to on-farm irrigators for water-saving projects. An Irrigation Modernisation Planning Assistance program also offers funding of up to $500,000 to support the development of modernisation plans for the upgrade of aging irrigation infrastructure. For more information, go to www.environment.gov.au.

**Better Workplaces Kit**
A free, user-friendly kit to help Tasmanian businesses create modern employment and workplace practices and become ‘employers of choice’, is now available. The Better Workplaces Resources Kit has been developed to help small to medium businesses create modern employment and workplace practices. It contains practical resources in relation to a range of human resource issues.
To obtain the kit, phone 1800 440 026, or visit www.development.tas.gov.au/betterworkplaces.

**Wildcare - 10th Anniversary National Conference**
Wildcare presents an opportunity for volunteers, community organisations, volunteer program managers and staff from partner agencies to develop better ways of working together. The program focuses on ways to foster a healthy reserve system, protect the environment, wildlife, and our cultural heritage. Field trips will be a feature of day two. The conference will be held in Hobart from 23-25 November. For more information, visit www.leishman-associates.com.au/wildcare2007/.

**Groundwater Quality Conference (GQ07)**
The 6th International IAHS Groundwater Quality Conference will be held in Fremantle, W.A. from 2-7 December. The GQ conference series is the premier forum for interaction on Groundwater Quality issues worldwide. GQ conferences are held every three years and this is the first time a GQ conference has been held in the southern hemisphere. For further information, visit www.csiro.au/GQ07.

**New Guide for Councils on How to Improve Community Health**
The New South Wales Government has issued new guidelines for councils on how to promote physical exercise and healthy living within their local communities. The guidelines contain good practice examples of council land use planning and community campaigns, designed to increase the amount of physical activity undertaken by local residents. *Creating Active Communities - Physical activity guidelines for local councils*, is available from www.dlg.nsw.gov.au/dlg/dlghome/documents/Information/Physical%20Activity%20Guidelines.pdf.
Issues Paper Available on Tasmania’s Ageing Population
An issues paper prepared by the Demographic Change Advisory Council shows that Tasmania’s population is expected to age more rapidly than the rest of Australia. The paper, *Demographic Change in Tasmania: challenges and opportunities*, reveals that within 45 years, the proportion of older people in Tasmania’s population may be amongst the highest in the world. Tasmania’s population is already the oldest in Australia but the rate of ageing will also be greatest in Tasmania, and we will encounter many of the impacts of demographic change before other states and territories. The paper can be found at www.dcac.tas.gov.au.

Comments Sought on Inland Recreational Fishery Management Plan 2007-2017
The State Government is seeking comment from key stakeholders on a new plan that sets the direction for the recreational fishery in the state’s inland waters for the next ten years. Comments are required by 11 February 2008. Copies of the draft can be downloaded from www.ifs.tas.gov.au.

Government Relations Summit 2007
A Government Relations Summit themed *Strategic Government Relations and the new political landscape post the ‘07 Federal Election* will be held on 11 December at the National Press Club in Canberra. Keynote speakers are Arthur Sinodinos and Geoff Walsh. Cost is $695 (+GST). For details, visit www.trocomm.com.au.

FarmPoint Provides Support for Farmers
A new Tasmanian Government website, FarmPoint, has been developed to provide important and up-to-date information to assist Tasmanian farmers in the management of their property and business. The website features live weather and rural news feeds, bushfire alerts, a calendar of events, polls and subscription services. The FarmPoint project is also offering a computer and six-hour training program to Tasmanian farmers who derive a majority of their income from a commercial farming enterprise. More details are available at www.farmpoint.tas.gov.au.

Indigenous Recruitment and Training Summit
From 11-12 December, an Indigenous Recruitment and Training Summit will be held in Brisbane, showcasing government and employee initiatives aimed at developing employment opportunities and career paths for Australia’s indigenous communities. A special conference rate is available for Local Government. For further details, please visit www.informa.com.au/indigenousrecruitment.

Local Government Youth Forum 2007
The Office of Children and Youth Affairs (OCYA) would like to thank council representatives who participated and contributed to the success of the 2007 Local Government Youth Forum, held last month. Guest speakers shared their expertise on youth issues, including Dr Sue Jenkins (Chair, Tasmanian Early Years Foundation), representatives from the state-wide Youth Collaborative Group and John Lennox from JLD Restorative Practices.

Building Stress Resilience
A workshop designed to build stress resilience will be held in Hobart on 21 November to provide insight into stress and effective tools to maintain calmness, clarity and creativity. For further details, visit The Training Consortium website at www.ttc.tas.gov.au.

Local Responses to an Ageing Community Conference
The Local Responses to an Ageing Community Conference will be held in Sydney from 20-21 November and will focus on innovative strategies being implemented by councils across Australia. The conference will also examine the mechanisms for Local Government to foster partnerships with aged care providers and provide an opportunity to network with aged and community services managers in Local Government from all parts of the country. For more information, visit www.halledit.com.au/conferences/ageing/2007.

ALGWA Christmas Function
The Tasmanian Branch of the Australian Local Government Women’s Association invites newly-elected members and others to join them for a two-course Christmas lunch from 1.00pm at Steve’s Grill, Riverside on 8 December. Cost is $20 for ALGWA members and $30 for non-members. RSVPs are required. Phone 6327 4200 for further details.

Upcoming Events

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<tr>
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<td>General Managers’ Meeting, Launceston</td>
<td>13 November</td>
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<td>General Meeting, Launceston</td>
<td>14 November</td>
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<td>Mayors’ Workshop, Launceston</td>
<td>15 November</td>
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<td>GMC Meeting &amp; PLGC, Launceston</td>
<td>12 December</td>
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<td>Elected Members’ Workshop, Launceston</td>
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