President’s Message

Recently, a number of careers events have been organised for high school and college students across the State. It is recognised that local councils need to be proactive in increasing the awareness of our sector as a career opportunity and, where possible, the Local Government Association of Tasmania has been involved with the events.

I would especially like to thank those councils that provided staff for the Careers Expo and that have been supportive of both school and regional career events. Without your assistance, it would be difficult to have an impact on and engage with the next generation.

From personal experience, I can assure you that the conversations between students and planners, youth officers, team leaders and civil engineers etc regarding Local Government careers, are much more effective compared to the outcomes of a teacher standing at the front of the class trying to provide the same information.

It was also noticeable that the quality of conversation and the opportunity for authentic dialogue was well received and council officers are to be congratulated on their professionalism and willingness to interact with the students.

One might assume that with the constant media attention focusing on local councils that the profile of our sphere of government would be well established and young people might be interested in Local Government as a career choice. However, the media coverage does not always portray council decisions or local community issues in a favourable light and it is not uncommon for words to be taken out of context, or for issues to be left partially explained. Thus, it is necessary and even more important that we take advantage of any opportunity to connect with students, their families and the wider community.

On a different topic, the three pre-election workshops held last week in Burnie, Launceston and Hobart were well-received and well-attended with around ninety people attending in total. Margaret Sing from the Local Government Office, Rob Huskins from the Tasmanian Electoral office, LGAT CEO Allan Garcia and myself presented at the workshops. It is heartening for the sector to have so many interested residents contemplating life as an elected member. Workshops will also be conducted on King Island on 28 August and on Flinders Island on 12 September.

Pre-Election Workshops for King Island and Flinders Island

Residents of King Island and Flinders Island who are interested in standing at the upcoming Local Government elections are encouraged to register their attendance at one of two free seminars coordinated by LGAT. The King Island seminar will be held at the King Island Council Chambers, Currie, from 5.00pm – 6.30pm on 28 August. To reserve a seat, please email kicouncil@kingisland.net.au or contact Leah Martin on 6462 1177. The seminar at Flinders Island will be held at the Flinders Island Council Chambers, Whitemark from 2.30pm – 4.00pm on 12 September. For bookings, phone Althea Bignell on 6359 2131 or email althea.bignell@flinders.tas.gov.au.

LGAT ASSIST Interest Rates

Interest rates for LGAT ASSIST general purpose and special assistance loans have been set at 7.6% as of 1 July 2007. Loans are available for Tasmanian council employees who are employed on a permanent basis, in a full-time or part-time capacity, and who are current members of the Quadrant Superannuation Scheme. Application forms are available from council pay supervisors. More information can be found on the LGAT website at www.lgat.tas.gov.au. Go to the ‘For Council Employees’ section, then ‘LGAT ASSIST’.

New Wood Smoke Regulations

The Environmental Management and Pollution Control (Distributed Atmospheric Emissions Regulations) 2007, which aim to improve air quality in Tasmania, have now come into effect. The new regulations, developed within the framework of the Tasmanian Air Quality Strategy, will tighten controls on the operation of domestic wood heaters and restrict backyard burning. More information on the correct use of wood heaters is available at www.environment.tas.gov.au.

Northern Midlands Council Appoints New General Manager

Mr Mark Pitt has been appointed to the role of General Manager of the Northern Midlands Council. Mark is currently the Chief Executive Officer of the Cook Shire Council in far north Queensland and has well-developed skills in working with and building rural communities. Mark will commence his new position on 5 November and Maree Bricknell will be Acting General Manager until that time.

Acting General Manager for Glamorgan Spring Bay Council

During August, Robert Higgins is serving as Acting General Manager for Glamorgan Spring Bay Council.
Local EXPOsures: Connecting Local Government and Communities Through the Arts

Local EXPOsures, Tasmania’s Regional Arts Conference will be held in Latrobe from 14-16 September. The conference will focus on connecting communities with Local Government through the arts and is being presented in partnership with Latrobe Council. For further information, go to www.tasregionalarts.org.au.

Councils able to apply for waste project funding

Up to $6 million is available nationally through the latest funding round of the National Packaging Covenant program. Local Governments are able to seek funding for projects that reduce packaging waste and improve packaging recycling. Expressions of interest must be lodged by September 14. For more information, visit www.packagingcovenant.org.au/page.php?name=projects.

LGMA National Survey

The Local Government Managers Association is conducting an online survey to explore ways that the LGMA and Australian Local Government can become more involved in international activities – particularly those where the expertise of Local Government practitioners can contribute to Local Government capacity-building initiatives overseas. Respondents must complete the survey by 27 August which can be found at www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=bQxm_2bS5jw_2bxppH3s8UP6OQ_3d_3d.

IAP2 Australasia Symposium

The International Association for Public Participation is holding its Australasia Symposium from 6-7 September in Melbourne. The theme is Future Edges: Pushing the Boundaries of Community Engagement. To find out more, go to www.iap2.org.au.

Middle Management Training

LG Performance Tasmania will be conducting Middle Management Training for managers and team leaders wanting to develop their skills in leading and developing staff and achieving organisational goals. Middle Management training will commence in Hobart on 4 September, in Launceston on 2 October and in Burnie on 3 October. For more information, phone 6236 9055 or go to www.highperftraining.com.au/

Local Government Sustainable Development Conference 2007

Reducing the carbon footprint, water sustainability, waste minimisation and sustainable developments in the built environment within the Local Government field, will be the focus of the 2007 Local Government Sustainable Development Conference to be held from 11-12 September in Melbourne. For details, phone (03) 8534 5000, or visit the website at www.halledit.com.au/conferences/sustainability/2007.

2007 Annual Public Sector Update: Directions in Governance

On 5 September, the 2007 Annual Public Sector Update will be held in Hobart to address topics including balancing commercial needs with policy responsibilities, developing an ethically sound governance culture, and ways to ensure a return on investment in governance. For details, call 1800 251 849 or visit www.CSAust.com/PublicSectorUpdate.

BuyEaSE: Getting Socially Responsible Purchasing Off the Ground

BuyEaSE, a two-day conference being hosted by Strategic Purchasing, will be held in Melbourne from August to develop understanding of the successful implementation of socially responsible purchasing. The. For more information, go to www.strategicppurchasing.com.au/events.phtml.

Remote Aerodrome Safety Program


Procurement and Contract Management for Local Government

The Australian Industry Group is presenting a seminar to provide a solid introduction into contract management and the tools to assist in minimising risk in procurement and contracting. The seminar will be conducted in Sydney on 6 September. For details go to www.aigroup.asn.au/Education/Training672.

Designing for Bicycle Riders and Pedestrians

Planners, engineers, architects and designers involved in planning and designing facilities for cyclists and pedestrians are encouraged to attend a one-day training course to be held in Sydney on 28 August. For enquiries, phone (02) 9526 5088 or visit www.urbanarc.com.au.

Upcoming Events

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<tr>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Pre-election Seminar, King Island</td>
<td>28 August</td>
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<td>2007 Local Government Appreciation Event, Hobart</td>
<td>3 September</td>
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<tr>
<td>ALGWA Pre-election Workshop, Hobart</td>
<td>8 September</td>
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<td>Pre-election Seminar, Flinders Island</td>
<td>12 September</td>
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<td>General Managers Workshop, Hobart</td>
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