President’s Message

Earlier this week, I was fortunate to travel to King Island and was made to feel very welcome by Mayor Charles Arnold, General Manager Andrew Wardlaw, elected members and Council staff. The purpose of the trip was threefold.

Firstly, I was able to represent Local Government at the Careers Expo, held at the King Island District School. Karen Taplin, King Island Council’s Youth Development Officer, also assisted and the three hours went very quickly. While conversations with the students were not always career focused, they did allow me greater understanding of life on the Island.

At a presentation to elected members at the King Island Council, I enjoyed a number of interesting and enlightening discussions focusing on LGAT, ALGA and a range of issues relevant to Local Government. One of the main issues identified by the Council, was the potential impact of wholesale tree planting that could eventuate from initiatives such as carbon emissions trading and the vulnerability of the Island to the detrimental effects of the Protection of Agricultural Land (PAL) policy in its current form. The community’s social health and wellbeing is a priority of any council and in the King Island context its farming future definitely needs to be acknowledged and understood by those who don’t live there and are perhaps responsible for making policy decisions.

Following the elected members’ workshop, an information session was held for candidates in the lead-up to the Local Government Elections. It is always worthwhile to spend time with new candidates and it is refreshing to see the sparkle in the eyes of people willing to stand and who are interested in representing their community.

Whilst it was quite a full day, I was very thankful for being given the opportunity to visit the Island for the first time. The evening meal was sensational and the Island definitely has charm and intrigue. I look forward to returning for a longer period of time to experience more of the sights.

AIAM Conference on Urban Animal Management

The AIAM Conference on Urban Animal Management will be held from 3-5 October at Surfers Paradise, featuring twenty-two speakers from a range of related disciplines. For details, visit www.abcon.biz/aiamconference.html.

Review of Tasmanian NRM Framework and Legislation

The Department of Primary Industries and Water is currently reviewing the Tasmanian NRM Framework and the Natural Resource Management Act 2002, with assistance from the NRM Council. In 2001 the Act enabled the establishment of a Framework for NRM in Tasmania, which included a statewide NRM Council, and three regional NRM Committees (North, South and Cradle Coast). The review aims to assess the effectiveness of the framework and legislation and, if necessary, make recommendations for change.

The focal point of this review process will be the release of a discussion paper in mid-September. This paper will provide background information and pose focus questions based around the review’s terms of reference. The release of the discussion paper will be followed by a six-week consultation period, which will include public meetings in each of the regions. For more information on the review, visit www.dpiw.tas.gov.au/inter.nsf/WebPages/ LBUN-76C2FL?open.

WANTED! Solutions to Increasing Tasmania’s Social Housing Supply

The Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaCSIA) is seeking information on new and more cost-effective ways to increase the supply of social housing. Submissions are sought from Local Governments and other interested organisations and individuals that have relevant, innovative and practical ideas or models designed to meet these needs. To register for an information kit, visit the FaCSIA website at www.facsia.gov.au.

Special Broadband Offer for Local Government Employees

Bigpond invites Local Government employees to take advantage of a special deal to switch to a 24-month BigPond Broadband ADSL monthly plan. The package includes 3 months free access, a free standard modem, no connection fee and 20% discount on access for the remaining term. BigPond Broadband offers faster speeds and reliable, technical support, seven days a week. To take advantage of this offer, call 1800 220 032, quote the Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT) and the code 2797.
It’s About Time: Women, Men, Work and Family
The Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission will be holding a community forum on their final paper “It’s about time: Women, Men, Work and Family.” The forum will be held from 11.00am - 1.00pm on 5 September at Women Tasmania, 140-142 Macquarie Street, Hobart. To RSVP, phone 1800 001 377.

Movement on Historic Heritage Reform
A consultation paper on the review of Tasmania’s Historic Cultural Heritage Act 1995 will be released in September. The consultation process will include forums with Local Government, to receive input on any amendments to the legislation. It is anticipated that draft legislation to amend the Act will be tabled in State Parliament in autumn 2008.

Kingborough Safer Speeds (KISS) Demonstration
From 24 September, new rural speed defaults of 80km/h on gravel and 90km/h on sealed roads will apply from in Kingborough as a result of the KISS Demonstration, an initiative of the Tasmanian Road Safety Strategy (2007-2016) Action Plan. Full details are available at www.kingborough.tas.gov.au.

Rural Health Week
From 3-9 September, local planning groups around the state will host a vast range of activities as part of the inaugural Rural Health Week. For information on events and activities happening during in your area, please visit the website at www.rhwtas.com.au.

Public Sector Day
On 26 September, CPA Australia will be hosting a Public Sector Day Conference in Hobart. Delegates will gain skills and knowledge to improve sustainability and bring about the necessary change for long-term financial security. To register, call 1300 857 705 or visit www.cpaaustralia.com.au/links?events (event code TA071301).

Grants to Support Positive Ageing
The first $50,000 annual grants round to support positive ageing has been announced, providing grants of up to $2,500 for smaller projects, or up to $6,000 for a major event or project that supports older Tasmanians in each of the state’s three regions. Grant applications must be received by 8 October. The Tasmanian Plan for Positive Ageing is available from www.seniors.tas.gov.au.

On-site ’07: Innovation and Technology for On-site Systems
On-site ’07 will be held from 25-27 September in Armidale, NSW. The conference will address many aspects of domestic wastewater, greywater, reed beds, transport of pathogens, mounds and risk assessment. For full details, visit www.lantaxlabs.com.au/onsite07.

Heart Foundation Annual Doorknock Appeal
During September, the Heart Foundation will be conducting its Annual Doorknock Appeal to help raise funds for vital heart research and community education programs. Donations can also be made directly to the Heart Foundation at www.heartfoundation.com.au, or by calling 1800 55 22 55.

BLUElink: A Triumph of Scientific Collaboration
Broad-scale, up-to-date information on ocean currents, temperature and salinity is now available for the first time, following the launch of a new, online ocean forecast system developed by the CSIRO, the Bureau of Meteorology and the Royal Australian Navy. BLUElink provides daily, high-resolution analyses and twice-weekly forecasts, incorporating the latest changes in the weather and ocean, particularly in extreme conditions. Further information can be found at www.bom.gov.au/bluelink.

Launch of Landmark Youth Forum
On 28 September, the launch of the Tasmanian Youth Forum will be held in Launceston. The new youth consultative group, involving key youth representatives from around the state, will replace the Tasmanian Youth Consultative Committee. For further information, please contact Ben Mackay, TYF Project Officer, on 6223 5511 or go to www.tycc.org.au.

City and Urban Development Summit 2007
The City and Urban Development summit will be held from the 16-18 October in Brisbane. The speakers will share 21st century solutions for city and urban development across major Australian and international cities. For more information go to the website at http://www.acevents.com.au/cities2007/.

Upcoming Events
2007 Local Government Appreciation Event, Hobart 3 September
ALGWA Pre-election Workshop, Hobart 8 September
Pre-election Seminar, Flinders Island 12 September
General Managers Workshop, Hobart 26-27 September
General Management Committee Meeting, Hobart 14 October