Vice President’s Message
The LG Financial and Asset Reform Project being conducted by the Local Government Association is gathering a head of steam. Maturity assessments of councils have been conducted for all councils, with results echoing the recent findings of the Auditor-General in that some councils have a way to go.

The project aims to provide councils with an understanding and capability to prepare and maintain asset management plans and long-term financial plans to a national benchmark standard. It is important that councils embrace this work as it is expected that these instruments will become mandated by legislation in time and councils will need to demonstrate that they can manage assets and services at a level their communities can afford.

I will be attending a workshop for elected members next week ‘Towards Sustainable Services’ which will address these issues but it was disappointing to learn that less than half of all Tasmanian councils are sending along participants in their region. There are also three regional workshops for senior staff ‘Talking Each Other’s Language’ being conducted on the same days. I would urge any elected member or officer that has an interest in learning more about asset management and financial planning to consider attendance at these forums.

The free workshops are being held at the Brighton Civic Centre on 29 May, Launceston City Council Reception Room on 30 May, and the Burnie Arts and Function Centre on 31 May. The elected member workshops will begin with a shared afternoon tea with council officers at 3.30pm, will include a hot supper and conclude at 8.00pm. The workshops for council officers will run from 1.00pm to 3:30pm with a light lunch on arrival. To register, email Sue Grau at sue.grau@lgat.tas.gov.au, or phone 6233 5962.

Regional Arts Australia Awards
Nominations are invited for the 2012 Regional Arts Australia Awards program which acknowledges the invaluable contribution volunteer leaders make to the cultural life of their local communities. Regionally-based arts and cultural volunteer leaders whose work has inspired and supported arts development are encouraged to enter. Nominations close on 31 May. For further information, phone 6426 2344, or visit www.regionalarts.com.au/raa1/files/RAAAwards_NominationForm2012.pdf.

Rob Valentine Resigns
Following his recent election to the Tasmanian Legislative Council, Rob Valentine has resigned as an Alderman of the Hobart City Council. Rob served more than 20 years with Council and, as Council’s longest serving Lord Mayor, played a significant part in furthering the development of the city. Upon his departure, Rob announced, “It has been an honour and a privilege to have served the people of Hobart in the capacity of Alderman and Lord Mayor over a combined period of just over 20 years... I look forward to continue serving the people of Hobart and Tasmania in the Legislative Council and once again thank them for supporting me to undertake that role.” LGAT congratulates Rob on his election success and would like to thank him for his years of dedicated service to the Tasmanian Local Government sector and the people of Tasmania.

100th Local Government Conference
Register now for the Local Government Association of Tasmania’s 100th Local Government Conference, themed ‘Treasuring the Past, Transforming the Future’, to be held from 11-13 July, at Wrest Point in Hobart. The exciting line-up of plenary speakers includes: Professor Brian Dollery who asks ‘Is Amalgamation the Silver Bullet in Local Government?’; Michael McQueen on ‘Winning the Battle for Relevance’; and Rob Redenbach, who will reveal the 7 Secrets for Dealing with People. Workshops include sessions by: broadcaster, author and communication consultant, Peter Thompson, on ‘How Leaders Communicate’; Leah Galvin on ‘Building Food Resilient Communities’; and Mathew Healey on ‘Managing Risks from Natural Hazards’. The Conference Dinner, sponsored by MAV Insurance, will be held at Wrest Point on 12 July. Register by 20 June for your chance to win a Special Occasions Package at Wrest Point, valued at $850. For a copy of the Conference Program and Registration Form, visit the LGAT website at www.lgat.tas.gov.au/page.aspx?u=209.
Funding for Major Planning Reform

Funding announced last week as part of the State Budget will continue to underwrite major planning reform in Tasmania. $1.6 million has been allocated this year as part of the Government’s commitment to overhauling the State’s planning system. The Minister for Planning, Bryan Green MP, said the Government is undertaking the biggest planning reforms ever seen in Tasmania. “We are implementing reforms for all types of development together with new planning schemes for every Tasmanian council under a single statewide template,” Mr Green said. Work is also underway on streamlining approvals for villa units and town houses. This follows the new residential building code for single dwellings which the Government introduced last year to streamline approvals and cut costs. Further reforms will also address developments such as apartment and multi-storey residential buildings. Mr Green said this budget provided the second instalment of a $6 million commitment by the Government to planning reform.

Nominations Now Open for 2012 Tasmanian Tourism Awards

The State’s tourism operators are encouraged to nominate for the 2012 Tasmanian Tourism Awards, presented annually by the Tourism Industry Council Tasmania. The awards recognise outstanding achievement across all sectors of the tourism industry and are designed to promote and reward business excellence within the tourism industry. Winners of the Tasmanian Tourism Awards will go on to compete for national recognition at the Australian Tourism Awards, to be held in Hobart. Nominations close on 13 July. For further information, visit www.tict.com.au/tas-tourism-awards.

Bike Map Shows the Way

More than half of all Tasmanians households have access to a bicycle but only 28% of the population ride at least once a month, according to a 2011 Cycling Participation Survey. A new Hobart bike map aims to make it easier for residents and visitors to ride by identifying routes suitable for cycling across the greater Hobart area. The map identifies suitable routes on main roads, local roads and cycleways. People contemplating riding to work will find the city map useful for planning a suitable route that avoids the biggest hills and busiest roads. Visitors will benefit from the campground and bike hire information on the map. The map also includes mountain bike parks and children’s road safety tracks, and is available from map shops, bike shops and council offices. For further information, contact Mary McParland at Cycling South on 6273 4463.

Conferences, Workshops & Seminars

Strive for Business Improvement

SAI Global, in partnership with Devonport City Council, will conduct a Continual Business Improvement – Methodology and Tools course, tailored to incorporate case studies and activities relevant to Tasmanian Local Government. The purpose of this course is to provide an organisational-wide overview regarding the concepts and principles of continual improvement programs and opportunities. Learn to define continual business improvement and systematically work through each stage of the Plan, Do, Check, Act cycle. The course will be held in Devonport from 21-22 June and the cost is $1,125.00 (GST Exempt) per person. For further details, please visit http://training.saiglobal.com/tis/promotion.aspx?id=a0c2000000058F2AAI, or contact David Barrow at david.barrow@saiglobal.com, or phone (03) 9693 3545.

Bike Futures Seminar

The Bike Futures Seminar Tasmania 2012 provides a professional development opportunity for Tasmanians working in bike planning and related fields. The seminar, to be held in Launceston on 28 June, will include presentations from some of Australia’s leading bike industry professionals and will also showcase the keynote presentation of internationally renowned liveable city advisor and social marketing strategist, Gil Penalosa. Topics to be discussed include developing a great bike plan; rail trail development; effective use of space on-roads for riders; separation of riders and how to do it well. The seminar will be useful to elected members, traffic engineers, planning and urban design professionals, recreation and open space planners, and policy-makers. Register at www.bikefutures.com.au.

Australian Pork Regulator Forum

Australian Pork Limited (APL) is holding a Regulator Forum for regulators, planners and councils from 9.30am – 3.30pm, on 20 June, at the Grand Mecure Hadleyes Hotel in Hobart. The objective of the day is to: update regulators on the issues, drivers and environmental initiatives of the Australian Pork industry; identify planning tools and resources to assist in assessments and decision-making; and to provide a forum for discussion and feedback. Topics Include: APL and its role; industry characteristics; types of piggeries; overview of production, amenity and environmental impacts including outdoor production; the importance of planning and risk assessments; industry direction; national environmental guidelines; and environmental research and initiatives. Lunch will be provided. To RSVP, phone (02) 6285 2200, or email janine.price@australianpork.com.au.
Contract Law Essentials - Crucial Skills for Non-Lawyers
No company should pay the hefty price of contractual oversight. Those who manage commercial contracts on a day-to-day basis need the latest information on Australian contract law. Learn to: negotiate better before drafting a contract; eliminate risks and misunderstandings; resolve a contractual breach; manage disputes without litigation; and understand contractual issues in the tender process at a workshop to be held in Melbourne, on 21 June. The cost is $1,299 (incl. GST). To secure your place, call (02) 9690 0622, or visit http://email.faxem.com.au/forms/s/b932753/31778/366010/80374.html.

Professional Development for Executive PAs
Like any other professional, Personal Assistants (PAs) require continuous skills improvement in their area of responsibilities to stay ahead of the game, achieve organisational objectives and discover new ways to contribute to the overall success of the management team. An intensive two-day training course will be held from 21-22 June in Brisbane to enable participants to become more organised, resilient, proactive, confident, resourceful and competent. The course will be conducted by Susie Barron-Stubble, a highly experienced International Executive Coach, Trainer and Motivational Speaker, who specialises in developing senior level Executive PAs. For details, contact Stephanie Wan on (02) 9223 2137, or visit www.marcusevansassets.com/doc/pdfs/Ep_18920.pdf.

National Employer of Choice Conference 2012
The National Leadership Institute is convening The National Employer of Choice Conference 2012, bringing together a respected line-up of thought leaders to guide you in building a blueprint in becoming an Employer of Choice. In Sydney, from 25-26 June, be inspired by organisational case studies, keynote presentations, panel discussions and development sessions. Public, private and not-for-profit sector organisations present their best practice approaches to building a blueprint. Call 1300 138 037 or visit www.leadership-institute.com.au/events/12/eoc/eoc_brochure.pdf.

Train the Facilitator Program
A practical, three-day Train the facilitator program will be held in Melbourne from 25-27 June, aimed at boosting the skills of moderate and new facilitators. Delegates will be armed with proven strategies to facilitate their own sessions and meetings, and will gain the know-how to plan and prepare their own facilitation sessions and meetings. Register and pay by 1 June and save $250 per participant. Cost is $1,990 (+ GST). For enquiries, phone 1300 323 752, email mail@preftrain.com.au, or visit www.preftrain.com.au.

Advanced Leadership Program for Women
A growing number of high potential women from a broad cross section of industries are choosing to fast-track their careers through the Advanced Leadership Program (ALP). Over a 12-month development journey, ALP students accelerate their individual potential and become part of an exclusive cohort of exceptional women. To view the course prospectus, visit www.wla.com.au/events/12/alp/2012_WLA_ALP_prospectus.pdf.

Upcoming Events
Asset Management and Financial Management Workshops
Brighton, Launceston & Burnie
29, 30 & 31 May

Special General Meeting, Riverside
5 June

General Management Committee Meeting, Riverside
5 June

National General Assembly, Canberra
17-20 June

AGM / General Meeting, Hobart
11 July

100th Local Government Conference, Hobart
12-13 July

Local Government Association of Tasmania
GPO Box 1521, Hobart, TAS 7001 Ph: (03) 6233 5966 Fax: (03) 6233 5986 Email: reception@lgat.tas.gov.au