President’s Message

As I sit down to write this fortnight’s column for the newsletter, the media are all reporting on the USA election and the triumphant re-election of President Barack Obama. Just one day after, the Tasmanian Electoral Commission announced that Councillor Kerry Vincent had been elected Mayor of Sorell! Congratulations Kerry and congratulations also to Rob Leach who was elected to fill the vacant councillor position. I was interested to learn that Kerry was a supporter of the hazardous waste cell proposed for the Copping Tip site, and what that says to me is that even with vocal opposition within the municipality, the broader community are certainly wise enough to make an informed decision when called upon to do so. I believe that this is a valuable lesson for all elected members, in that we should always have the confidence to stand by our soundly-based decisions even though there may be some in our communities who have an opposing view. Again congratulations, we look forward to working with you both in your new roles.

Elections are never far from our thoughts, with a Federal Election due next year and our State Election in 2014. Even though we may have both of these elections in our minds, the next important one is the by-election for a vacancy on the West Coast Council, due to be announced on 20 November. I’m sure the people will choose the right person to join Daryl Gemity and his team.

The Water and Sewerage Implementation Steering Committee meet again today and I am able to report that it is anticipated that debate on the legislation will occur in the House of Assembly next week. The only significant amendment to the legislation, following consultation with councils, has been a realisation that the legislation cannot simply allow 75% of members to be signatories to the Constitution – there must be 100%. Councils have been advised of this through the recent briefings on the Constitution. Discussions have occurred with the Opposition with regard to the legislation and a briefing is proposed for Legislative Councillors. A revised Constitution will be forwarded to all councils shortly. It is intended to get ‘sign-off’ on this document at the General Meeting on 21 November, to allow its formal circulation to councils, for endorsement at the December council meetings.

Once again, I note that a deadline set by the timber industry representatives in the ‘round table’ discussions attempting to “gain peace in our forests” has passed! My hope is that someday very soon, someone other than Local Government will give serious thought to our affected communities.

Regional Development Australia Fund

Grants Now Open

The Regional Development Australia Fund Rounds Three and Four are now open, with $225 million available for eligible projects. Regional projects supported include vital infrastructure including upgrades to airports, sporting, cultural and arts facilities and the development of health and support services. Grants of between $50,000 and $500,000 are available to eligible applicants under Round Three, which will provide $50 million for priority infrastructure in towns with a population of 30,000 people or less. Councils with an annual income of at least $500,000 are eligible to apply. Councils and not-for-profit organisations with an annual income of at least $1 million are eligible to apply for Round Four which will provide $175 million for infrastructure projects that have a strong regional impact. Grants of between $500,000 and $15 million are available to eligible applicants. Expressions of Interest must be submitted by 6 December to rdaf@regional.gov.au. For further details, please visit www.regional.gov.au/regional/programs/rdaf.aspx.

2013 Local Government Conference

From 24-26 July 2013, the Local Government Association of Tasmania will be hosting the 101st Local Government Conference at Wrest Point in Hobart. Affiliated organisations are invited to join us as sponsors and trade exhibitors. This year, trade exhibitors and sponsors who register and pay by 14 December 2012, will go into a draw to receive a full refund on the cost of their trade booth. Sponsor packages and trade booths are available on a first in, best dressed basis. To secure your preferred sponsorship or trade package, please contact Stephanie Watson for a copy of the Sponsor Prospectus. Email stephanie.watson@netspace.net.au, or phone (03) 6233 5119.

Last Chance to Have Your Say & Win!

There’s just one week remaining to complete the LGAT News Readers’ Survey for your chance to win a Peppermint Bay Cruise for two people, valued at $236. To be entered in the prize draw, please complete the brief, online survey by 16 November. Full details can be found in the September edition of LGAT News. To complete the survey, visit www.lgat.tas.gov.au. For details about Peppermint Bay, head to http://peppermintbay.com.au/cruise_pbc.php.
Draft Planning Schemes Online Project
The planning schemes online project is a key part of the State Government’s planning reform program which aims to make Tasmania’s planning scheme information more accessible to users of the planning system. The project is a partnership between State and Local Government. New planning scheme mapping will be progressively delivered online through the new LISTmap, commencing in 2013. Planning scheme text (ordinance) will be published online using a content management system being delivered by ICON Software Solutions. The system is being made available to all Tasmanian councils and is being used by councils in the South and North-West for drafting new schemes. The project provides a foundation to support other online services, such as individual property searches to obtain planning scheme information for a specific property development. For more information, contact Stephen Waight on 6233 3014, or email Stephen.Waight@planning.tas.gov.au.

Message from the State Grants Commission
The State Grants Commission uses data provided by councils through the Consolidated Data Collection (CDC) in preparing recommendations for the allocation of Financial Assistance Grants to councils. For the most part, data collected is reliable but significant fluctuations in certain ratios, prepared from financial data obtained through the CDC, give rise to concerns regarding data quality. The Commission urges councils to critically examine year on year movements in financial data provided through the CDC and to observe the deadline imposed on the return of data to help ensure the collection of timely and accurate CDC data.

Policy Briefs for Urban Natural Areas
A series of policy briefs has been prepared by environmental consultancy, Urban Natural Areas, in response to issues regarding the management of natural areas. The policy briefs cover issues such as: Cats in Urban Natural Areas; Dead Trees and Logs in Council Reserves; Dogs in Urban Natural Areas; Noisy Miners; Revegetating Degraded Urban Natural Areas; Should We Feed Birds in Our Gardens?; and Tracks and Trails in Urban Natural Areas Reserves. The policy briefs, which will be helpful to bushland managers, define the issues, propose ways to deal with them, and provide sources for further information. For a copy, email Bob Holderness-Roddam at bobhroddam@yahoo.co.uk.

Local Government Forum for Active Communities
A free information forum, specifically tailored for Local Government and interested community organisations, will showcase a range of health and wellbeing initiatives to encourage and support Local Government representatives and community organisations to get involved with physical activity in their community. The forum, coordinated by the Premier’s Physical Activity Council, will be held in Riverside on 22 November from 10.00am - 3.00pm. Lunch and refreshments will be provided. RSVPs are required by 19 November. Contact Kristy Broomhall on 6233 5738, or email Kristy.Broomhall@development.tas.gov.au.

The Neuroscience of Leadership
What do the latest insights into the working of the human mind have to offer to leadership development? This dynamic presentation is a stimulating blend of cutting-edge Neuroscience, Physiology and Psychology that will give you the tools to develop physical, emotional and cognitive resilience and successfully navigate the challenges of leadership in modern organisations. International speaker and Research Professor of Exercise Science, Paul Taylor, will show you how to unlock the power of the human mind with tools and tips to: stay cool under pressure; make effective decisions; engage and influence others and drive change. The presentation will be held in Hobart from 12.30pm – 2.00pm, on 12 November. To register, visit www.ttc.tas.gov.au or call 6232 7033.

Tasmanian Suicide Prevention Community Network
The Tasmanian Suicide Prevention Community Network (TSPCN) is a new network, funded by DHHS, to help provide an on the ground community voice and focus to suicide prevention work in Tasmania. The TSPCN invites any community and organisation representative that has an interest in reducing suicide and responding more effectively to suicide, to join the network. Meetings are planned across the State, with the next meeting to be held in Launceston 6 Paterson Street, from 9.30am – 11.30am on 21 November. To RSVP, contact Victoria Vyvyan at Relationships Australia on 6211 4050, or email victoriav@reltas.com.au.

Slow Registrations Prompt Renewed Calls for Unwanted Agvet Chemicals
A lack of unwanted, unused or out of date agvet chemicals being registered for this year’s ChemClear collection run in Tasmania has prompted ChemClear to once again call on chemical users to clear out their unwanted stocks, or wait another year. Registrations coming in for this year’s collection isn’t enough to reach the program’s specified target. The booking line will close on the 13 November. To register your unwanted chemicals, call the hotline on 1800 008 182, or visit www.chemclear.com.au.

Upcoming Events

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<tr>
<td>National Local Roads and Transport Congress, Hobart</td>
<td>14-16 November</td>
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<td>General Meeting, Devonport</td>
<td>21 November</td>
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