President’s Message

Happy New Year and welcome to the first edition of the LGAT Newsletter for 2010. What great weather we have had for the summer holiday period and I am sure that those who have had the opportunity to enjoy some time off will be feeling refreshed and ready for the challenges 2010 will be bringing to Local Government.

Just prior to Christmas, the results of the Break O’Day and Glamorgan/Spring Bay Council Elections were announced. Congratulations to the two Mayors, Robert Legge and Bertrand Cadart, who were returned to office along with Deputy Mayors, Margaret Osborne OAM and Jenifer Crawford. New councillors were also elected to both councils and I trust that your time in Local Government will be a rewarding and positive experience.

Whilst talking about newly elected members, it is appropriate to mention that the first Elected Members Residential Workshop for 2010 will be held at Peppers Seaport Hotel in Launceston on 20-21 February. The workshop is designed for all elected members and I would encourage you to register as soon as possible. The weekend will be a learning and networking experience you will thoroughly enjoy and I look forward to welcoming you!

Even though it has been a mostly quiet time for Local Government during the summer holiday period, since being elected President, I have become accustomed to being taken aback by pronouncements from our State Government, and January was no exception. We became aware that the Treasurer’s terms of reference for the Interim Pricing Order Annual Review included provision for a comparative data analysis of the three regional corporations against that of a theoretical single model! This provision was totally unnecessary, quite premature and insensitive, and once again I believe the lack of any consultation prior to the release of the terms of reference shows the contempt this Government displays for our sector.

I sincerely trust that we can establish an improved relationship with our State Government during the year.

Elected Members’ Workshop

Newly elected members and others who wish to update their knowledge regarding essential areas of council business are invited to register for the Elected Members’ Residential Workshop, coordinated by LGAT, to be held at Peppers Seaport Hotel in Launceston, on 20-21 February.

Topics to be covered as part of the comprehensive weekend program include: council finance; asset management; land use planning; intergovernmental relations; and your rights and responsibilities as an elected member under the Local Government Act. Mayor Barry Easther will share some of the ups and downs of life in Local Government, and day two will conclude with a special presentation from Julie Boulter of Developing Potential (Aust.) on perfecting your presentation skills and expressing yourself more effectively at council meetings.

The full two-day program costs $440 (incl GST) and includes lunch and dinner. Partners are welcome to join delegates for dinner. Workshop registrations are required by 10 February. Accommodation is still available at The Sebel. For a copy of the program and registration form, phone 6233 5966.

2010 Local Government Awards for Excellence

Nominations are invited for the 2010 Tasmanian Local Government Awards for Excellence. The annual Awards aim to promote outstanding achievement and inspire leading management practice and continuous improvement, recognising initiatives that have, or are delivering, a positive result for communities and the Local Government workplace.

Award categories include:

- Delivering Excellence for our Communities
- Delivering Excellence for our People
- Delivering Excellence in Natural and Built Environments
- Demonstrating Operational Excellence

Further information and a copy of the Entry Form can be found on the LGAT website at www.lgat.tas.gov.au, under the headings “Meetings & Events / Awards for Excellence”. Nominations are due by 5.00pm on Friday, 19 March. For enquiries, please contact LGAT on 6233 5966.
New GM for Tasman Council

Tasman Council welcomed their new General Manager, Dr Wendy Hunter, on 18 January. Dr Hunter recently moved to the Tasman Peninsula from the Northern Territory with her husband and two children. Her qualifications include a Batchelor of Arts, Graduate Certificate of Applied Management, Graduate Diploma of Criminology, Master of Social Science and a Doctor of Public Policy. Dr Hunter has been a lecturer, counsellor, educator, coordinator and manager, mostly in health related positions, and has a strong interest in community, social, economic and environmental development.

Water and Sewerage Rebates

Tasmanian households and businesses have started to receive notification of their rebate under the State Government’s new 5% water and sewerage price cap. The water and sewerage corporations are contacting customers to explain the changes to their accounts, including rebate information and extended time to pay bills. The size of the rebate is directly linked to the increase in total water and sewerage bills in a particular area. Around 28,000 customers are expected to receive cheques. For other customers, the price reduction will be made through an adjustment on their next bill.

Federal Government Pledge for Year of Women in Local Government

The Rudd Labor Government has thrown its support behind the 2010 Year of Women in Local Government, an initiative to improve the participation of women in Local Government leadership and management. In 2010, the Federal Government will provide almost $500,000 for a range of projects to help improve the participation of women in the sector. Currently in Australia, less than a third of councillors are women; 20% of senior managers are women; and just 7% of Chief Executive Officers are women. For further information on 2010 Year of Women in Local Government, visit www.lgwomen2010.org.au.

New Dog Control Measures to Start Soon

New dog control measures have moved a step closer with the gazettal of a proclamation to commence key elements of the new legislation on 1 July. The new dog controls introduced by the State Government were passed by Parliament in November last year. All parts of the legislation will commence on 1 July, with the exception of the new requirement for compulsory micro-chipping of all dogs which will commence on 1 July 2011. It is estimated that currently in Tasmania, only 10% of registered dogs are micro-chipped. More information on the new dog controls is available at www.dpac.tas.gov.au/divisions/lgd/dog_control.

Shorebird Monitoring Volunteers Wanted

Cradle Coast NRM are seeking volunteers to help with counts as part of a Shorebird Monitoring Program being carried out between Stanley and Narawntapu National Park in Tasmania’s North-West. No previous experience is necessary. To play a part in helping to ensure the survival of resident shorebirds, please visit www.nrmtas.org/home.shtml and register your interest by 12 February.
Hobart City Council Responds to Haiti Earthquake Appeal
The Hobart City Council is sending $15,000 to the Australian Red Cross Haiti Earthquake Appeal to support emergency relief, rehabilitation and recovery activities for communities affected by the Haiti Earthquake. The death toll as a result of the disaster is close to 150,000 and is expected to rise. According to the United Nations, Haiti is going to need significant help for at least 10 years just to rebuild their destroyed infrastructure and buildings.

Be Watchful for Foxes in Wesley Vale
Wesley Vale residents and workers are being asked to be vigilant for foxes following a recent report of a fox sighting in the area. There has been evidence of both male and female foxes in the region and, with the current fox baiting program underway, people are encouraged to keep an eye out for fox carcasses. Anyone finding a fox carcass should not disturb it and immediately call the 24-hour Fox Hotline on 1300 369 688. Calls are strictly confidential. For further information about fox activity, visit www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au/fox.

Heart Foundation Walking
Heart Foundation Walking is a network of free, community-based walking groups lead by volunteer Walk Organisers. The Heart Foundation works with an Area Coordinator (who may be from Council or a Health and Community Centre) to recruit and train volunteer Walk Organisers who lead the groups in their local area. There are currently 35 Heart Foundation Walking groups in Tasmania and 400 registered walkers. To get your Council involved, contact Sally Barns at the Heart Foundation on 6336 5116, or email Sally.Barns@heartfoundation.org.au.

Surveys and Submissions

Records and Document Management Study
A benchmarking study into Records and Document Management is being conducted by Technology Indicators. The study delivers a unique set of business and IT performance and trend data specific to the Local Government sector. Topics covered include: trends in records services; budget and staffing ratios; electronic recordkeeping strategies; email management; compliance readiness; utilisation of Electronic Records / Document Management Systems (ERDMS); integration of ERDMS with other business applications; ERDMS deployment; ERDMS maintenance; and trends in storage strategies. If you wish to join your peer councils to share your perspective and, in return, obtain comparative peer data you can use for positioning, benchmarking and planning of your Records/ Document Management strategies and programs, please email leila_abbasova@tech-indicators.com.au by 19 February.

REDMAP Launched
REDMAP (Range Extension Database and Mapping project), a newly-launched, community-based ‘citizen science’ website project that has strong links with many community groups and local schools. Recreational and commercial fishers and SCUBA divers can report sightings online of marine species that are moving their ranges further south as our waters warm up – species spotted were they haven’t been observed before. Waters off the east coast of Tasmania are in a climate change ‘hotspot’, warming 3.8 times faster than the global average over the last 50 years and we have experienced several dozen new and range-extending marine species in just a few decades. Anybody can log on to the site and plot up maps of where these ‘range-extending’ species are being found. Teaching resources are also available. To log onto REDMAP, go to www.redmap.org.au.

Resources

New Fireworks Information Available Online
New information is now available online on the Workplace Standards Tasmania website regarding fireworks for council officers involved with fireworks applications and complaints etc. This information reflects the requirements of the new Dangerous Substances legislation and provides a useful reference for councils. The information is located at www.wst.tas.gov.au/safety_comply/dang_subs/fireworks.

Building a better picture of Australian children’s development
The Australian Early Development Index (AEDI) was recently released to help paint a better picture of early childhood development across Australia and to help communities better understand how their children are doing by the time they start formal schooling. These results will assist in providing better targeted services and support for all children in their early years, and their families. To access a copy of the national report, community maps and other information on AEDI, visit www.aedi.org.au.
Major Climate Change Report Released
The State Government released a major climate change report this week analysing the opportunities for greenhouse gas emission reductions across the Tasmanian economy. The Tasmanian Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Wedges Project identifies major actions in different sectors of the Tasmanian economy or “wedges” which present the state’s best opportunities to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions over the next forty years. The report can found at www.climatechange.tas.gov.au.

Carbon Emissions Index Released
The latest Pitt and Sherry carbon emissions index, cedex, has been released with key findings from November 2009 data. A copy of the report can be found at www.pittsh.com.au/cedex/. To register for the regular email link when the report is produced each month, please email cedex@pittsh.com.au.

Monitoring Stations Keep Public Informed on Air Quality
Up-to-the minute information on air quality in a number of locations around Tasmania is now available at the touch of a computer key. Real-time air quality data is now available online from the major stations at Hobart, Launceston, and Rowella, as well as from eight stations of the new BLANKET network (Base-Line Air Network of EPA Tasmania). Data from the major stations is updated every hour and the BLANKET network uploads information from stations in the Huon Valley and North East Tasmania every 10 to 15 minutes. While the main purposes of BLANKET is to obtain information on smoke movement and monitor public exposure to smoke produced by planned burning, the stations also record seasonal concentrations of smoke from domestic wood heaters as well as wildfire smoke. To view real-time data from the major Tasmanian air stations and the BLANKET network, go to www.environment.tas.gov.au.

Work Home and Community Project
Four reports have been released outlining the research findings from the Work, Home and Community Project, exploring how individuals and families seek to integrate the demands of work with the needs of home and community life and shed light on why this is becoming an increasing struggle in suburban Australia. The project was a four-year study, with information collected from adult and teenage residents, workers, business owners and community service providers across ten suburban and urban communities in four states. The overview report, Linked Up Lives: Putting Together Work, Home and Community in Ten Australian Suburbs, draws together all these views and provides specific stakeholder recommendations to government, planners, developers, businesses, schools and individuals. The reports are available at www.unisa.edu.au/hawkeinstitute/cwl/projects/work-home-community.asp.

New Tasmanian Forest Industry Plan Launched
The Forests and Forest Industry Council of Tasmania (FFIC) has launched the industry’s plan for the next ten years. The plan, developed in consultation with the forest industry and other forest-dependent stakeholders over the past year, will provide a clear direction for innovation into the future. The plan provides a catalyst for a partnership approach to developing positive government and industry programs and policy initiatives, and a sound basis for delivering future planning and investment decisions which promote growth, drive investments in new value-adding technology and support profitable and competitive businesses. The Forest Industry Plan can be viewed at www.newforestindustry.com.

E-Newsletter for Workplace Health and Wellbeing
The workplace is identified as a key setting in the Tasmanian Physical Activity Plan to increase physical activity levels of Tasmanians. To further support workplaces improve the health and wellbeing of their employees, The Premier’s Physical Activity Council has developed a bi-monthly e-newsletter to share the latest information about resources, event and case studies relevant to workplace health and wellbeing. To join the network, email ppac@getmoving.tas.gov.au ,with “subscribe to workplace e-newsletter” in the subject line, or phone 1800 252 476.

Healthy by Design
Healthy by Design: A guide to planning and designing environments for active living in Tasmania will provide practical guidance to planners, urban designers and related professionals for designing walkable, cyclable, and ultimately more liveable and vibrant communities within Tasmania. These guidelines contain planning and design considerations for walking and cycling routes; streets; local destinations; open space; public transport; and strategies for fostering community spirit. Retrofitting strategies have been incorporated throughout each of the planning and design considerations. Tasmanian case studies are provided that illustrate one or more of the Healthy by Design planning and design considerations. To order a complimentary copy of Healthy by Design, A guide to planning and designing environments for active living in Tasmania, email tas@heartfoundation.org.au.

People’s Debate Footage Available Online
For those who weren’t able to attend the People’s Debate, held on 1 December 2009 at Hobart’s Federation Concert Hall, footage of the debate between Premier David Bartlett, Will Hodgman and Nick McKim is now available on You Tube at www.youtube.com/user/PeoplesDebate.
Professional Development

Information Sessions on New Forest Practices Regulations
New regulations have outlined the requirements for forest practices plans for timber harvesting, clearing of forest, or clearing and converting threatened native vegetation community, where permits or licences have already been issued under relevant legislation for the purposes of: mining and mineral exploration; construction of a building/group of buildings and associated development (i.e. water, sewerage, gas, electrical, telecommunications and other services provided to the building(s); construction and maintenance of railways; and construction and maintenance of electricity infrastructure. Information sessions for Local Government planners regarding recent changes have been scheduled in the three regions: Southern Region - 10 February; Northern Region – 16 February; and North-West Region – 25 February. Contact Jo Field at jo.field@fpa.tas.gov.au for more information.

Media Training Day (Hobart)
Font Public Relations has scheduled a media training day on 12 February, in Hobart. The one-day course costs $540.00 (incl. GST) and includes extensive course notes, the recording of a practice interview with a professional camera operator, and lunch. To find out more, email Iris Goetzki at irisg@fontpr.com.au, or phone 6223 3333.

Why Understanding Personality Matters to your Business (Hobart)
Understanding the personalities of you and your staff is crucial to getting the best outcomes for your organisation. A free introductory session, held by the TCCI and presented by Dr Pauline Enright, will explain the importance of personality knowledge and management in the workplace and will assist in maximising the effectiveness of people, teams and managers. The session will be held in Hobart on 3 March. RSVP by 6 February. For enquiries, phone 6236 3600 or email training@tcci.com.au.

Women Encouraged to ‘Step Out With Confidence’ (Launceston)
‘Step out with Confidence’, a program of activities and opportunities for learning and networking for women will be held in Launceston from 11-12 March, as part of the Year of Women in Local Government celebrations. The workshop will be limited to 25 people. For details, or to register your interest in attending, email Liz Gillam at lizgillam@lgmatas.org.au, or phone 0407 485 607 by 2 March.

Road Engineering and Maintenance Conference (Melbourne)
The 5th Australian Road Engineering and Maintenance Conference will be held from 16-17 March, in Melbourne, to alert Local Government road engineers, councillors and managers about new developments and issues in roads and their environs. Key conference topics include: achieving sustainability on road infrastructure projects; road delivery models and contracts; road maintenance practices and management; good paving and sealing practices; landscape design and cracks; and Treatment and Prevention. For details, visit www.halledit.com.au/roads10, or phone Denise McQueen on (03) 8534 5021.

IPWEA Plant and Vehicle Management Workshop (Hobart)
Registrations are now open to a one-day Plant and Vehicle Management Workshop, to be held in Hobart on 22 March. Topics include: achieving lowest light fleet costs; improved automotive technology for trucks; strategies to minimise downtime; recording failures; and technology and environmental issues. Cost is $264 (incl GST) per person (Systems Plus Subscribing Organisation $ 264, or $330 (incl GST) per person (Non Subscribing Organisation). For further information visit www.ipwea.org.au/FleetMgtWorkshop.

Do you drive as part of your job?
Do you have employees who drive during work hours, or as part of their job? Did you know that when an employee uses a vehicle it is considered a workplace? Are you aware that you are required to provide training, safe systems and equipment under the Duty of Care Act? Driver Skills Australia provides a range of driver training solutions. Defensive driving courses have been designed to improve the level of safety of drivers and reduce the crash/incident rates involving vehicles. As a registered training organisation, Driver Skills Australia can also provide nationally accredited training. For details of upcoming courses, visit www.driverskillsaustralia.com.

Community Events

International Women’s Day 2010 – Calendar of Events
International Women’s Day is marked on 8 March every year. It is a day of international recognition for the economic, political and social achievements of women. Individuals, community groups and organisations throughout Tasmania are encouraged to host International Women’s Day events. In 2010, International Women’s Day in Tasmania falls on the 8-hour Labour Day public holiday. However, events can be planned either side of this date to maximise community participation. Every year, Women Tasmania compiles a Calendar of Events for each region. If you are planning to hold an event and would like it included on the calendar, please email wt.admin@dpac.tas.gov.au, or phone 1800 001 377. The closing date for entries is 15 February.
Annual Municipal Bowls Competition (Penguin)
A cooperative approach by the Central Coast Council, Penguin Bowls Club and Municipal Bowls representatives has resulted in this year’s Annual Social Bowls Day being held at the Penguin Bowls Club, from 10.00am on 12 March. Past and present aldermen, councillors and staff are invited to take part. Team and single entries are welcome. For further information, contact Terry McKenna on 6437 2207, or Debbie Lynch at Central Coast Council on 6429 8910.

Celebrate Harmony Day
Harmony Day, to be held on 21 March, celebrates the cohesive nature of Australian society and promotes the benefits of our cultural diversity. ‘Everyone belongs’ is the continuing message and it reflects community participation, inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for all Australians. A key theme in 2010 will be ‘Express Yourself’. This provides the opportunity for councils to let residents know about the diversity in their workforce and communities, and how they manage and promote that diversity. Free promotional items can be ordered through www.harmony.gov.au. Email harmonyday@immi.gov.au, or call 1800 330 100.

Awards

Nominations Invited for E-Government Awards
Nominations are invited for the 2010 Excellence in e-Government Awards which recognise and reward the great work being undertaken in the ICT arena across Australia. This year, the awards have been expanded to include categories across a number of ICT disciplines including: Applications Development; Geospatial; Project Management; and Service Delivery and Systems Architecture. Guidelines are available online at www.finance.gov.au/e-government/better-practice-and-collaboration/e-government-awards.html or for further enquiries, phone (02) 6215 3060. Nominations close on 1 March.

2010 Local Government Awards for Excellence
Nominations are invited for the 2009 Tasmanian Local Government Awards for Excellence. The annual Awards aim to promote outstanding achievement and inspire leading management practice and continuous improvement, recognising initiatives that have, or are delivering, a positive result for communities and the Local Government workplace. Award categories include: Delivering Excellence for our Communities; Delivering Excellence for our People; Delivering Excellence in Natural and Built Environments; and Demonstrating Operational Excellence. Further information and a copy of the Entry Form can be found on the LGAT website at www.lgatt.tas.gov.au, under the headings ‘Meetings & Events / Awards for Excellence’. Nominations are due by 5.00pm on Friday, 19 March. For enquiries, please contact LGAT on 6233 5966.

Tasmanian Awards for Environmental Excellence 2010
The State Government’s Tasmanian Awards for Environmental Excellence, now in their twelfth year recognise initiatives developed and adopted to achieve a more sustainable use of energy, materials and water resources. Award categories in 2010 are: Local Government; Small Business Sustainability; Large Business Sustainability; Community; Education; Environmental Stewardship; and Climate Action. Showcase your sustainable innovations by obtaining an awards entry kit from www.environment.tas.gov.au. Nominations close on 31 March.

Taskforce Life Awards
The Glenorchy Youth Taskforce has been recognised for its work in promoting life and preventing self harm. The Taskforce, a special committee of the Glenorchy City Council, received a Tasmanian LIFE (Living Is For Everyone) Award in the Red Herring Surf Social Inclusion Category. The Tasmanian LIFE Award was presented to the Youth Taskforce by Deputy Premier, Lara Giddings. The award category recognises activities, programs, policies or support provided in pursuit of socially inclusive communities.

Upcoming Events

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<td>General Meeting, Brighton</td>
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