President’s Message

Happy Friday the 13th!

Congratulations to Lord Mayor Damon Thomas for the welcome given to passengers on the cruise ship visiting Hobart over the Easter holiday period. The warm welcome to Hobart was in stark contrast to the rather chilly weather we all experienced! I know that the Mayor of Burnie also welcomes cruise ship visitors and I am sure it must be a great start to their day. The fact that our Local Government leaders “dress” for the occasion is testament to the sincerity of their welcome.

Now to water and sewerage! The working group, established at the last LGAT General Meeting, met in Campbell Town this week to consider governance issues associated with the possible move to a single water and sewerage corporation and I am informed that it was a very productive meeting.

Councils have been concerned that there has been little opportunity to have input into the Corporations and this meeting was an opportunity to discuss a more appropriate governance structure. As owners, Local Government wishes to have a more direct relationship with the Board and the Corporation. Discussion therefore centred around selection processes for the Board’s structure and numbers, communications between the owners and the Board, accountability and reporting, along with the basis for dividend distribution.

The working group is finalising a position paper with a definitive suite of proposals. This position paper will be distributed to owner councils in the coming weeks, allowing them to thoroughly assess the proposals and reach a considered position at the local level. A special meeting to reach a final position on governance matters will be called in early June.

We spent some time at the last GMC Meeting discussing the many great and positive things that are happening in Local Government around the State. This was a very worthwhile discussion and I would encourage all mayors and elected members to spread this good news. Talk to your local media and provide them with a good news story. We all know that what we do, we do well - we just need to ensure that we tell the story!

Local Government Area Climate Profiles Now Available

Climate profiles for all 29 Local Government Areas in Tasmania have been released this week. Developed by the Antarctic Climate and Ecosystems Cooperative Research Centre, the climate profiles highlight key results from the Climate Futures for Tasmania project at the local area level. This world-leading, science-based tool is designed help councils to make informed strategies and planning decisions about the future of their municipality. Information is provided on past and current climate, and projected changes in temperature, rainfall and runoff, extreme events and other climatic impacts under scenarios of future climate change. The Local Government Area Climate Profiles are available from www.climatechange.tas.gov.au. Follow the links under ‘Adaptation – Climate Futures for Tasmania’.

Saluting Their Service
Commemorations Grants Program

The Saluting Their Service Commemorations Grants Program supports projects and activities which directly commemorate Australia’s servicemen and women who served in wars, conflicts and peace operations. The grants also promote appreciation and understanding of the role those who have served have played in shaping the nation. The program is designed to preserve our wartime heritage and to involve people throughout the nation in a wide range of activities and projects. Modest grants are available for projects which meet the aims and objectives of Saluting Their Service. Councils, community and ex-service organisations are invited to apply. Organisations and communities are expected to contribute towards the project, financially and by providing in-kind support. For further information, go to www.dva.gov.au/commems_oawg/commemorations/grants/Pages/eligible.aspx.
Dorset General Manager’s Departure
Dorset Council’s General Manager, John Martin, will be leaving his position on 27 April, having served more than six years in the role. During his tenure at Council, Mr Martin has played a leading role in the exciting development of a number of initiatives in the region including the Musselroe Wind Farm; irrigation projects in close cooperation with Dorset EDG; transport upgrades of $80 million; tourism projects at Derby and Barnbougle; streetscape developments in a number of towns; educational initiatives including the Performing Arts Centre and Trade Training Centre at Scottsdale; and the Primary Health Care program involving State and Federal Governments; the roll-out of the NBN; and the popular walking tracks in Bridport and Scottsdale. Mr Martin plans on taking a break with his family and pursuing further opportunities in government, or community-based employment.

NBN Roll-out Map Now Available
An interactive map which allows Tasmanians to track the progress of the National Broadband Network roll-out is now available. People can simply type in their suburb or town and the interactive map will provide details of when construction is expected to start, and the type of connection their area will receive. By 2015, all Tasmanians will have access to superfast broadband – a full five years before the rest of the country. The NBN will change the way we do business, revolutionise the delivery of health and education services, and provide new entertainment directly into our homes. The roll-out map can be found at www.nbnco.com.au/getting-connected/index.html.

Has Copyright got you Confused?
The rapid take-up of digital technologies has created all sorts of questions about copyright – for both creators and users of copyright material. The Australian Copyright Council’s user-friendly seminars provide expert advice on how to work with copyright in the digital age. The Council currently presents a series of ‘Working with Copyright’ seminars throughout Australia and is looking at extending this to Tasmania in November 2012. To help them determine if there is a high enough demand for a seminar to be held in Tasmania, please complete the three-question survey by heading to www.surveymonkey.com/s/PSVZGN8.

Special Offer for Local Government Employees
If you’re considering joining or switching your health cover to the Local Government Employees (LGE) Health Plan, April is a great month to make the change. Join or switch to any hospital cover, extras cover or a combination of hospital and extras cover through the LGE Health Plan this month and you can receive one month free membership. If you join a combined hospital and extras cover, you’ll also receive an iPod Shuffle. The LGE Health Plan lets you join a health cover with a hospital excess and save with lower premiums. If you, or an eligible family member are hospitalised and pay the excess, the LGE Health Plan will refund it to you as a tax free workplace benefit. For more information, call 1300 543 7526, or visit www.health-link.com.au/Lgat.

Million Paws Walk
Tasmanians are encouraged to show their support for preventing cruelty to animals by taking part in this year’s RSPCA’s Million Paws Walk. Walks will be held this year in Hobart, Launceston, St Helens, Smithton and Ulverstone on 20 May. The Million Paws Walk is the RSPCA’s biggest fundraising event and funds raised through entry fees and merchandise sales will help the RSPCA in its essential work to protect animals and promote animal welfare around Tasmania. During 2010-11, the RSPCA re-homed almost 2,000 dogs, cats, horses and other livestock, and investigated 3,550 complaints. To register your participation, please visit http://tas.millionpawswalk.com.au.

Discount Accommodation Rates for Government Employees
In response to a growing demand from the Government sector, Metro Hotels has developed the "GovROOMS" accommodation program for their government clients. GovROOMS offers specific discounted hotel accommodation rates that can be used by your organisation’s staff and management for both business and leisure stays at any one of their 14 properties throughout Australia. Book online and save a further 10% off the existing GovROOMS rates. Simply log on to www.MetroHotels.com.au; go to ‘Make a Reservation’; select the property you wish to stay at, your date of stay plus the number of people and rooms required; and enter GOVROOMS in the ‘Promo Code’ section.

Conferences, Workshops & Seminars

AEBN Waste Reduction Opportunities and Audit Workshop
The cost of waste treatment and disposal, as well as the increase in government levies are placing an increasing burden on business. A number of businesses have delivered significant savings through improved waste management practices and minimisation. The Australian Environment Business Network (AEBN) will hold a Waste Reduction Opportunities and Audit Workshop in Melbourne on 20 April to: provide an update of waste regulations and legal obligations; identify waste reuse and recycling opportunities; explore waste and cost savings; and to provide tools for the development and implementation of an effective Waste/Resource Management Plan. The cost is $465 (AEBN members), or $615 (non-members). For further information, please phone (03) 9397 2511, or visit www.aebn.com.au.
Putting Standards to Work - How to get Quality and Safety Standards Working for your Organisation
The TasC OSS Industry Development Unit, in partnership with BNG NGO Services Online - the developers of Management Support Online and the Standards and Performance Pathways, is presenting a workshop on how to make quality and safety standards work for your organisation. The workshop, to be held from 10.00am – 3.00pm in Launceston on 23 April, and in Hobart on 24 April will include an: update on Quality and Safety Standards review and changes in the standards environment; how standards are supposed to work; making standards useful: driving change, managing risk; demonstrating performance; making standards manageable; practical tools for taming standards; and using standards to drive better outcomes for clients. The cost is $40 per person (TasC OSS members) and $50 (non-members). Lunch is included. Register online at www.surveymonkey.com/s/MakingStandardsWork by 18 April. For more details, visit www.tascoss.org.au/Portals/0/Events/Flyer-Standards%20Wkshp%20April%202012.pdf.

Skills Connect Breakfast Workshop
On 24 April, a DEEWR/CPSISC Skills Connect Workshop will be held in Hobart from 7.30 - 9.30am. This information session, which will be attended alongside members of the construction and property services sectors, is to learn more about funding and skilling opportunities. The program includes: breakfast; an overview of the future of the program and industry-led skilling by the Construction and Property Services Industry Skills Council (CPSISC); brief presentations from industry and government representatives; and the opportunity for questions and networking. Council representatives are invited to attend, to gain a better understanding of this workforce development program. Places are limited. To find out more, visit the CPSISC website at www.cpsisc, or phone (02) 6253 0002.

Leadership Masterclass
“You can be appointed a manager but you’re not a leader until your appointment is ratified in the hearts and minds of those who work for you.” On 1 May, Professor John Adair, who is the pioneer of the Three Circles Model of Leadership, the current United Nations Chair of Strategic Leadership, and the world’s first Professor of Leadership Studies, will conduct a Masterclass in Hobart as part of his Australian tour. Participants will explore the current nature and practice of leadership, a vital ingredient to organisational success, and will gain an in-depth understanding of the Three Circles Model (Action-Centred Leadership), and will learn some practical ways to improve their own leadership performance. The cost is $100. Register at www4.eventsinteractive.com/leishman/getdemo.ei?id=7020079&s=_20K0P0MZW.

Public Speaking Unmasked
Learn all the trade secrets that, until now, have been kept a mystery and known by only the best speakers and keynote presenters. Public Speaking Unmasked is a one-day course that will give you all you’ll ever need to wow your audiences and have them coming back for more. Sessions will be conducted in Hobart by leadership and performance coach, Grant Mullen, on 21 May. Cost is $367 per person (incl GST and lunch). For more information, email The Mullen Group at bookings@findalocalcoach.com. For details about Grant Mullen, visit www.findalocalcoach.com.

5th International Parks Management and Leadership Conference - Parks Beyond Boundaries
The Parks Beyond Boundaries Conference, to be held in Adelaide from 22-24 May, provides an opportunity for leaders in the parks sector and allied sectors to share expertise and ideas, discussing the future of parks and the role they play in environmental, social and community health, as well as cultural and economic development. Senior managers and leaders in the business of environmental, social and human health are encouraged to attend. To register, visit www.parksforumconference2012.org, or phone (03) 9416 2080.

Australian New Zealand Third Sector Research Call for Papers and Participation
The Board of Australian New Zealand Third Sector Research (ANZTSR) invites the submission of abstracts for full papers, case studies and research reports in the third sector and related areas at the 2012 conference, to be held from 21-23 November, in Hobart. The conference is an opportunity to explore emerging local and international trends in third sector research. NGO groups, academics and government sector representatives are encouraged to attend to discuss local issues. This conference has an emphasis on sustainable governance, challenges to organisational management and service delivery, as well as a general focus on the challenges facing government and non-government organisations. Conference details are available at www.anztsr.org.au.

Upcoming Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LGMA Congress, Perth</td>
<td>20-23 May</td>
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<td>General Management Committee Meeting,</td>
<td>30 May</td>
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<td>Hobart</td>
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<td>National General Assembly, Canberra</td>
<td>17-20 June</td>
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<td>AGM / General Meeting, Hobart</td>
<td>11 July</td>
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<tr>
<td>100th Local Government Conference</td>
<td>12-13 July</td>
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