President's Message

Earlier this week I participated in a teleconference of the ALGA Board Constitutional Recognition Sub-Committee. In the lead-up to the time when a referendum question may be asked, the sub-committee is meeting each month to discuss strategies and monitor progress. All states and the Northern Territory Local Government Associations are working very hard, lifting the profile of Local Government and engaging in discussion with all politicians and interest groups. Encouraging support for the recognition of Local Government in the Australian Constitution is one of the most complex tasks we face at this time.

I know all mayors have received two letters now from our National President, Genia McCaffery, asking that each council passes a motion of support for recognition. To date, just over 200 councils nationwide have responded favourably and I would like to think that in the next few weeks all Tasmanian councils would have considered this important issue. Could I ask that when your Council has passed a supportive motion, that you advise ALGA?

The National General Assembly of Local Government will be held in Canberra from 19-22 June and I believe that around 750 registrations have been received. I look forward to seeing some of you there!

More importantly, I am keen to see even more of you at the Local Government Conference, to be held at Wrest Point from 20-22 July, themed 100 Years Long: 100 Years Strong. Yes, your Association celebrates its Centenary this year so make every effort to be there and make it a conference to remember! All elected members were mailed a Registration Form so be early and register for what will be a great celebration of Local Government.

Register and Win

Don’t miss the opportunity to win a Special Occasions Package at Wrest Point for two people, valued at over $850, by registering your attendance to the 2011 Local Government Conference by 17 June. There will be plenty of other opportunities for delegates to win great prizes too as we celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Local Government Association. The conference, themed 100 Years Long: 100 Years Strong, will be held at Wrest Point in Hobart from 20-22 July. Speakers will explore how far we have come over the last century as a sector and as a state, with a view towards the future and the challenges, trends and influences that lay ahead. Partners, sponsors and Local Government affiliates are invited to join delegates for the Conference Dinner to be held at the Hobart Function Centre on 21 July. Final registrations are required by 30 June. For full details, head to www.lgat.tas.gov.au and download the 2011 Conference Program and Registration Form, or phone 6233 5966.

Life Members Award for Meritorious Service

There’s just over two weeks to nominate an elected member for the inaugural Life Members Award for Meritorious Service. The award, coordinated by the Life Members of the Local Government Association and LGAT, enables councils and communities to recognise significant achievements by elected members within the most recent electoral term. Nominees will have made a demonstrable contribution to Local Government in one or more of the following areas: enhancement of the status of Local Government; introduction of a significant new or amended policy; innovation; entrepreneurship; new or improved services; improved structural or operational outcomes; and engagement and consultation. Contributions may be within a community or council area, or at a regional or statewide level, and the award may be presented posthumously. Nominations close on 27 June. A copy of the Guidelines and Entry Form can be downloaded from the LGAT website at www.lgat.tas.gov.au.

Innovation with Waste

The Bricolage Design Prize has been launched for 2011. The $7,000 prize is to encourage the development of a marketable product from a source of commercial or industrial waste, such as rubber matting, steel scrap, plastic off-cuts, or office paper. Entries close on 31 October. For details, go to www.environment.tas.gov.au/bricolage.
Generating Revenue for Councils - the Politics and Art (Hobart, Launceston)

Does your council require additional revenue options to meet the increasing expectations of your community? Are you taking full advantage of the billions of dollars available each year from state and federal agencies? Are you ready to be up-skilled in how to: develop a sustainable third revenue stream for your council; accelerate delivery of council programs and infrastructure; receive your fair share of available government funding; ensure better stewardship of your council’s existing resources; and enhance your council’s reputation as “good to do business with”?

Training sessions will be held in Hobart on 26 July and in Launceston on 28 July. The cost is $200 (+ GST) and includes a comprehensive manual. To register, please contact Anne Petch on 0427 853 731, or email info@fundingpartnershipsaustralia.com.au.

Festival Funding

Festivals Australia is an Australian Government program which funds Australian regional and community festivals to present quality cultural projects. Funding is available to add a new or special sort of cultural activity. To be eligible for funding, an activity must not have been previously presented and must be one that could not be afforded without the funding. This funding is for projects that commence on or after 1 January 2012. Applications must be made by organisations that manage regular festivals including local councils, cultural organisations and regional arts councils. Submissions close on 15 July. For guidelines, visit www.arts.gov.au/arts/festivals_australia.

2011 Asia Pacific Cities Summit (Brisbane)

From 6 -8 July, Brisbane will host the biennial 2011 Asia Pacific Cities Summit (APCS). Regional development professionals and businesses are invited to be part of this premier international business and civic forum with the theme, The Business of Cities. The 2011 summit will bring together more than 1,000 international business leaders, mayors and senior civic officials from over 100 cities throughout Asia Pacific, Europe, the Middle East and the Americas. The summit will showcase world-renowned speakers, presentations and case studies focusing on three streams: the business of green cities; the business of smart and connected cities; and the business of growing cities. Keynote speakers include Sir Richard Branson, founder of the Virgin Group, and former Mayor of New York City, Rudy Giuliani. To register, visit www.apcsummit.org.

Free Energy Efficiency Workshops (Statewide)

The Department of Economic Development, Tourism and the Arts, in conjunction with Enterprise Connect, the Environment Protection Authority’s CleanBiz Tasmania program and Goanna Energy, is running 16 free energy efficiency Business Boost workshops for small-medium enterprises around the state during June and July. These workshops will provide participants with: a basic overview of energy efficiency strategies and techniques; an overview of alternative energy sources in Tasmania and how they may best be applied; an introduction to engaging people in the change process; an introduction to mapping energy inputs and outputs in your enterprise; an overview of the national electricity market; a comprehensive take-home pack of resources; and the opportunity to access follow-up phone support services. For more information please visit www.development.tas.gov.au/business or freecall 1800 440 026.

Annual Earth Awards

The Civil Contractors Federation – Tasmanian Branch invites you to attend the Annual Earth Awards, to be held from 7.00pm at Wrest Point on 22 July. An estimated 400 industry people will be attending and celebrating their achievements with entries into the Hitachi Earth Awards. Enjoy fine food and wine, entertainment by Nick and Andrew from Hook, Line and Sinker, dance to the sounds of The Tin Men, and a valuable networking opportunity. Tickets cost $150.00 per person. RSVP by 5 July. To purchase tickets, contact the Civil Contractors Federation on 6223 6737, or email kdamm@civilcontractors.com.

Records Management using the Keyword for Councils (Hobart)

This workshop provides information on the principles of keyword classification as a system for classifying and titling records. It explains how keywords and descriptors can be used successfully to title and classify council records and provides an opportunity for participants to create record titles using actual correspondence. The course is particularly suitable to Local Government employees whose work involves classifying, titling and indexing records using keywords for councils. The workshop is scheduled for 29 June in Hobart and costs $200. For details, visit www.ltc.tas.gov.au, or phone 6232 7255.

Upcoming Events

- National General Assembly, Canberra 19-23 June
- AGM/General Meeting, Hobart 20 July
- Local Government Conference, Hobart 21-22 July