President’s Message

Last week I met with the District Governor of Rotary International in Tasmania, Peter Murfett, and spent some time talking about Rotary and Local Government. A number of us in Local Government have known Peter for many years, whether it was during his time with KPMG, or maybe in the days he was with the State Government.

Peter is very keen to encourage and build on the relationships Rotary has with Local Government and so I ask the question, does your Council work closely with Rotary, or other service clubs working in your Council Area? I am certain that as Rotary District Governor, Peter will be asking the various Rotary clubs if they have a good working relationship with their local council?

I see that there are great outcomes to be achieved through councils and Rotary clubs working closely together. In many instances councils have money set aside in their budgets for community improvement projects and quite clearly Rotary can assist with man, or is it, person power? And of course councils should not forget that many of the fundraising activities carried out by Rotary, or other service clubs, are specifically for community projects.

As I have suggested, by working together, greater achievements can be the result. I encourage all councils to enhance the relationship that you may already have with your local clubs, as I know District Governor Peter will be as he visits the clubs under his charge throughout the State.

Local Government Sector Farewells

Strong Advocate

The Hobart community paid tribute to Tasmania’s longest serving female elected member and Hobart City Council’s longest serving Alderman, Ald Darlene Haigh, who passed away this week following a long illness.

Ald Haigh has been a strong advocate for the community and for Local Government, and she served on numerous committees during her 23 years on Council. She played an important role in turning the Council towards more community service provisions for young people by promoting the establishment of Youth ARC and the employment of youth workers to help the homeless. Ald Haigh was also involved in the restoration of three historic trams. Our sincere sympathy to her family, friends and associates.

Panel Appointed on Constitutional Recognition of Local Government

The Gillard Government appointed the members of the independent expert panel that will progress the recognition of Local Government in the Australian Constitution on 8 August.

Led by former Chief Justice of the NSW Supreme Court, the Honourable James Spigelman AC QC, the panel members comprise representatives from a range of backgrounds and areas of expertise.

The panel will consult with stakeholder groups and the community on options for recognising Local Government in the Constitution. The panel will consult widely and the outcomes will help shape any proposal to put to a referendum. The panel will report back to the Government by the end of the year. Details of the panel members and its terms of reference are available at www.regional.gov.au/local/crlg/panel.aspx.

Are you missing your Specs?

A pair of ladies, prescription glasses were found following the Local Government Conference Dinner, held at the Hobart Function Centre on 21 July. The glasses have a fine, brown-coloured frame. If they belong to you, please contact LGAT on 6233 5966.
Grants to Prevent and Reduce Binge Drinking by Young People

Binge drinking among young people is a community-wide problem that demands a community-wide response. This includes an emphasis on young people taking greater personal responsibility for their behaviour. As part of the Australian Government’s Community Level Initiative of the National Binge Drinking Strategy, the Australian National Preventive Health Agency (ANPHA) is offering $10 million over two years. ANPHA is seeking applications from Local Government organisations for project proposals that aim to prevent and reduce binge drinking by young people aged 12-24 years. Partnership and collaborative projects are strongly encouraged. Grants of up to $300,000 are available for individual projects. Grants of up to $500,000 are available for partnerships and collaborations. The closing date is 28 October. The application form and guidelines are available online from www.anpha.gov.au/internet/anpha/publishing.nsf/Content/grants. For further information, email Simon O’Brien at CLIgrants@anpha.gov.au.

2011 Tasmanian Landcare Conference and Awards

The Tasmanian Landcare Association (TLCA) welcomes Local Government professionals and community landcarers from across the state to the biennial 2011 Tasmanian Landcare Conference and Awards, to be held in Stanley from 9-10 October. The theme will be ‘From the Ground Up’. The conference program features varied topics from local food and sustainable farming, to community engagement and inspiring on-ground landcare projects. Delegates can also enjoy field trips. For more information, visit www.taslandcare.org.au, or call 6234 7117.

National Stroke Week

One in six people will suffer a stroke in their lifetime. To help raise awareness of the steps people can take to reduce the risk of stroke, National Stroke Week will run from 12-18 September. In a change from the past few years, the theme for 2011 is focused on encouraging people to understand their stroke risk using the number 6. Councils are encouraged to support the campaign by ordering an activity pack. For details, visit www.strokefoundation.com.au/national-stroke-week.

Open Your Eyes this September

Open Your Eyes is a project initiated through Events / Tourism Tasmania and delivered by Tasmanian Regional Arts. The project runs across Southern Tasmania using arts-based experiences as the key motivator to stimulate travel within the region. From 16-18 September, 28 events will be held in twelve locations across the south, including three art trails. Each trail combines a variety of art forms from music to visual arts and crafts from exhibitions to concerts by local and visiting artists. For full details, visit www.tasregionalarts.org.au/openyoureyes.

Issues Papers for Public Comment

Call for Public Comment on Digital Economy Initiatives

Public comment is sought on the draft program guidelines for the Digital Hubs and Digital Enterprise programs. The draft guidelines provide information on the purpose and desired outcomes of the programs, as well as information about eligibility requirements and the application process. Australians are encouraged to comment on the draft guidelines to ensure these programs meet the needs of the community. The Digital Hubs and Digital Enterprise programs support the National Digital Economy Strategy’s goal that Australia will be among the world’s leading digital economies by 2020. The Digital Hubs program, part of the $23.8 million Digital Communities initiative, provides training and support to residents in local communities to gain the skills needed to maximise the benefits of the NBN. To find out more, visit www.dbcde.gov.au/digitalhubs.

Draft Threshold Guidelines now Available

Heritage Tasmania is seeking comment on draft threshold guidelines, developed alongside the legislative reform process to create greater certainty and consistency in the identification and management of historic heritage places in Tasmania. The guidelines form an overview of the approach used to determine whether or not a place is of historic heritage significance under the Historic Cultural Heritage Act 1995, based on similar approaches used elsewhere in Australia. The guidelines will assist heritage practitioners, statutory bodies, local government authorities, owners and members of the public to understand why places are entered on the Tasmanian Heritage Register, or suggested for listing on a local planning scheme. A copy of the guidelines is available at www.heritage.tas.gov.au. Comments should be forwarded to enquiries@heritage.tas.gov.au by 31 August. For further information, contact Ester Guerzoni on 6233 4152.

Issues Paper on Cultural Differences Released

The Australian Government is asking for comment on a discussion paper for the first National Cultural Policy in almost two decades. The new policy will be a 10-year vision for how arts and creativity will be supported, developed and ushered into the mainstream of modern Australia. Feedback on the discussion paper must be returned by 21 October. To read the National Cultural Policy Discussion Paper, go to http://culture.arts.gov.au/discussion-paper.
Conferences, Workshops & Seminars

**Evaluation Seminar** (Hobart)
Those responsible for delivering and/or evaluating programs or services are invited to attend a free, lunchtime seminar being held from 12pm – 1pm on 24 August in Hobart by the Tasmanian Evaluation Interest Group. Teleconferencing is available in Launceston, Devonport and Burnie. For enquiries, contact Dorothy McCartney at the Department of Health and Human Services on 6222 7625. RSVP via www.surveymonkey.com/s/EvalInterestAug2011.

**Tourism and Events Excellence Conference** (Melbourne)
The inaugural Tourism and Events Excellence (TEE) Conference will be staged in Melbourne from 5-7 September. The conference promotes the continuous development of a profitable, sustainable, innovative and professional tourism and events industry. It will showcase Australia’s leaders in tourism and events, whilst also promoting best practice across a range of industry sectors. To view the conference program, visit www.teeconference.com/program.html.

**Bushfire Prone Area Training** (Cambridge)
There are changes coming for the control of development and building in bushfire prone areas. As part of the changes, the Tasmania Fire Service (TFS) is developing a system for accrediting hazard minimisation plans as well as offering training. The TFS, in conjunction with the University of Technology Sydney, is offering a 5-day course in the development and building in bushfire prone areas. The course is designed for existing professionals and will be held at TFS Cambridge from 12-16 September. The course will be accepted as part of the accreditation requirements for practitioners and is open to professionals working in private practice and at councils. Contact Mark Chladil at TFS for more information on 6230 8615, or email Mark.Chladil@fire.tas.gov.au.

**Board diversity - Breaking through the Glass Ceiling** (Hobart)
Board diversity is a competitive advantage, bringing real value to boards by adding to the collective skills and experience of the organisation. Directors should be chosen from a broadly-based candidate pool, possessing appropriate individual skills, varied experience and sound judgement but also reflecting diversity of gender, age, experience, relationships and background. A complimentary briefing for emerging female directors will provide insight into how to prepare for and secure directorship roles. Hear from experienced directors on what it means to be a director, the skill sets needed, appropriate behaviours and more. The 1.25 hour briefing will take place on 21 September in Hobart. For further details, contact Tanya Stephenson at the Australian Institute of Company Directors on 6224 0559, or email tstephenson@companydirectors.com.au.

**LiveWire Conference** (Wollongong)
The LiveWire Network is a group of Local Government professionals with a vision to shake-up the sector by encouraging an innovative and forward thinking mindset that attracts the best talent. The 2011 LiveWire Conference, to be held in Wollongong from 28-29 September, promises a great line-up of speakers. Local Government professionals will be able to build leadership capacity, gain valuable skills, learn how to influence positive change and network with others. The cost is $349. To register, visit www.livewirenetwork.com.au, or call (02) 4227 7467.

**Bike Futures 2011** (Melbourne)
The role of bicycling in transforming cities and local communities into liveable spaces will be discussed at Bike Futures 2011, being held in Melbourne from 12-14 October. Bike Futures 2011 will consider how to take the next steps from providing bike infrastructure - essential for mobility - to changing the ways cities work. The forum will bring together world experts and leading practitioners to respond to issues confronting communities as they embrace the bicycle revolution. For more information, head to www.bikefutures.conferenceworks.net.au.

**GOV 3.0 Forum** (Canberra)
The GOV 3.0 Forum - Investigating WEB 3.0’s Impact on Public Sector Communications, will take place in Canberra, from 23-25 November. A $700 early bird discount is available to those who register before 30 August. The forum brings together online and digital communications, ICT, PR, media, online policy and social media professionals from the public sector departments in Australia. A group discount is also available. For full details, visit www.ibrc.com.au, or phone (02) 9896 0776.

**Upcoming Events**
- General Managers’ Workshop, Bridport: 14-15 September
- GMC Meeting & General Meeting, Brighton: 21 September
- Sponsor and LG Appreciation Event, Berriedale: 21 September
- Local Government Election Nomination period: 12-26 September
- Local Government Election Polling Period: 11-25 October

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