Acting President’s Message

I will be filling in for the President for the next few editions of the newsletter. The last contact the Association had from Mayor Barry Easther was as he drove through an unusually wet Mildura. Barry is taking a well deserved holiday with his family, heading to the top end. I am not sure if he stopped on his travels to vote, or made a postal vote, but I’m sure that he, like most of us, is curious as to what the outcome of the Federal Election will be, and if the outcome will translate to positives for Tasmanian councils. It wasn’t so long ago that we waited for the outcome of a similarly close vote in Tasmania. Based on that experience, I suspect it will be some time before the results are finally revealed.

Of course, things don’t get less busy when people are away. The staff at LGAT have been working on a number of issues which are important to Local Government, including a submission on the draft Common Key Elements Planning Template, the draft Terms of Reference for a Metropolitan Councils Group, the State Government’s Sustainability Objectives and Indicators project, a new Climate Change Partnership Agreement, a number of complex standards panel cases, research for a paper on population trends and impacts for Tasmanian councils, and preparing for the next round of Household Hazardous Waste Collections (starting 4 December).

I note there have been some staff changes at LGAT recently and, while everyone will be fully introduced in the next edition of LGAT News, I would like to take this opportunity to wish Kate Hiscock well for her maternity leave and to welcome Ivan Zwart and Melanie Brown to the Association.

Safe Work Tasmania Week 2010

An ageing workforce, bullying, the value of humour in the workplace, dealing with anxiety and depression, and safe driving practices at work are just some of the diverse topics on offer during Safe Work Tasmania Week 2010, which runs from 24-30 October. As part of Safe Work Tasmania Week, WorkCover Tasmania is running a series of free seminars and workshops across the state and is encouraging all Tasmanian councils to get on board. A program of events is now available which outlines all of the free workplace health and safety focused events on offer in Hobart, Launceston, Burnie and Queenstown. To register, visit www.workcover.tas.gov.au, or phone 1300 776 572.

Elected Member Planning Course

A two-day Planning Course will be held for elected members on 16 October and 20 November at the University of Tasmania campus in Hobart. Councillors will gain a better understanding of Tasmania’s planning system - the Resource Management Planning System (RMPS), its legal framework, purposes, powers and procedures, and of the responsibilities of different individuals and groups within the system. Procedures under the Land Use Planning and Approvals Act (LUPAA) will be a particular focus. Cost is $600 (incl GST). To register, please complete and return the registration form located on the LGAT website at www.lgat.tas.gov.au, or phone 6233 5966.

Sustainability Objectives and Indicators Project

The consultation period for the sustainability objectives and indicators project commenced today. Councils are encouraged to have their say via written submissions, an interactive website, at regional workshops, or in meetings with the project managers (on request). Submissions will be accepted until 1 October. The consultation paper and further details are available on the Local Government Division’s website at www.dpac.tas.gov.au/divisions/lgd/measuring_sustainability.

Geoff Willis Retires from Water and Sewerage Board

Geoff Willis has retired from the Water and Sewerage Board of Management. The Treasurer, Michael Aird, thanked Geoff for his dedication and hard work in the formative period of the new Local Government owned Water and Sewerage Corporations. “Geoff has worked tirelessly to bring together these new businesses on behalf of their Local Government owners,” Mr Aird said. “I am sure that the council owners will have appreciated Geoff’s wise advice and leadership through the setting up of these businesses.” Mr Aird expressed his gratitude for Mr Willis’ frank and independent advice through the transition period. Geoff will continue to make a positive contribution to the Tasmanian community through his other board roles and interests.
IPWEA Plant and Vehicle Management Workshops (Hobart)
IPWEA will be hosting a one-day Plant and Vehicle Management Workshop in Hobart on 20 September. The workshop is designed to provide further professional development and networking in plant and vehicle management best practice. Plant and fleet managers, works and parks supervisors, works engineers, asset managers and procurement officers are encouraged to attend. Cost is $264 (IPWEA members) and $330 (non-members). To register, visit www.ipwea.org.au/FleetMgtWorkshop.

ABS Review
The ABS is currently reviewing products released on its website that have a primary theme about Tasmania and invites contact from any interested parties that would like to make a submission on the content and presentation of the products under review, which can be found at Statistics on Tasmania. For information about the products under review and details of the submission process, phone Chris Carswell on 6222 5848, or visit www.abs.gov.au/Websitedbs/c311215.nsf/20564c23f3183fdaaca25672100813ef1/05307ce951236bb1ca2570310016205 2!OpenDocument.

Presentation Skills Class (Hobart)
Too often people have to make a presentation to a manager, internal team, or client and the main focus is the “content”. While important, content is only 35% of a great presentation. Learn the basics of preparing and delivering great presentations, managing your nerves and getting audience response in a 2-day Presentation Skills class to be held in Hobart, on 26 August and 23 September. For full details, phone 6236 9055 or visit www.highperftraining.com.au/public_short_courses/courses/13505269.

Green Purchasing Fundamentals (Hobart)
Environmental procurement is a proven way to reduce your organisation’s environmental impact, improve its efficiencies and deliver cost savings. ECO-Buy is a not-for-profit Centre of Excellence in environmental purchasing offering a one-stop-shop to support organisations to ‘green’ their purchasing. ECO-Buy provides a wide range of services and resources covering all aspects of green procurement, from policy and strategy development to practical tools, templates and advice. A one-day Green Purchasing Fundamentals and Framework Workshop will be held in Hobart on 28 September. The course is valuable for general staff and purchasing officers, and procurement, sustainability and executive managers. To book, phone (03) 9349 0444, or visit www.ecobuy.org.au.

FluoroCycle
FluoroCycle is the national, voluntary scheme that aims to increase recycling of lamps that contain mercury. It targets the commercial and public lighting sectors and gives recognition to businesses and organisations that become Signatories. Lighting Council Australia has been appointed as the Administrator of the scheme, which opened for business on 21 July 2010. To find out more about the scheme and how you can apply to join it, please visit the FluoroCycle website at www.fluorocycle.org.au/release/. Businesses and organisations that apply before the end of October 2010 will be given special recognition as ‘Foundation Signatories’ for their early commitment to recycling lamps that contain mercury.

Playspace Design Awards
Kidsafe (the Child Accident Prevention Foundation of Australia) has announced details of their 2010 National Playspace Design Awards, aimed to promote safe design and cut injuries. The awards recognise the work done by many local councils in Australia who have created entertaining, stimulating and safe playgrounds. Entries close on 31 August. For full details, phone (02) 9845 0890, or visit www.kidsafensw.org/playsafety/design_awards.htm.

Energy Efficiency Management Workshop (Melbourne)
Many organisations have found significant cost benefits through undertaking energy efficiency programs. The Australian Environment Business Network (AEBN) has developed a practical workshop program to assist councils and businesses in identifying economic opportunities for energy savings and to develop effective energy management systems. The one-day workshop, to be held on 10 September in Melbourne, will provide a detailed analysis of the energy efficiency opportunities and the savings to be made. Cost is $440 (AEBN member), or $485 (non-member). Register online at www.aebn.com.au, or phone (03) 9397 2511.

Upcoming Events
- General Managers’ Workshop, Launceston 15-16 September
- General Management Committee Meeting, Launceston 23 September
- Planning Course for Elected Members, Hobart 16 October & 20 November

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