**President's Message**

For those involved in Local Government the beginning of each year tends to be very busy. This year is definitely no exception and the diversity of issues being addressed at local, regional and state level reinforces the important role of local government in the decision making process. Our decisions have a direct impact on our communities.

In order to be a more effective member of a decision-making team, elected members need to be constantly updating and increasing their knowledge base. LGAT coordinates information services via newsletters, magazines and a website and also facilitates workshops, meetings and forums to address certain issues or topics.

It is pleasing that a number of councillors and alderman have enrolled for the two-day workshop to be held on 3 and 4 March at Bridport. Every elected member should have received an individual enrolment form in the mail and there is still time for further enrolments. If for some reason you did not receive an enrolment form please contact LGAT on 6233 5964.

As well as providing an opportunity to listen to a number of well-credentialed speakers there are other advantages in attending the workshop. Firstly, a chance to extend your personal Local Government network and meet with elected members from different municipalities. It does allow a concentrated period of time to further discuss and exchange ideas about a myriad of issues that confront those in community leadership positions. It is beneficial to understand the position and circumstances of other municipalities, which more than likely differ greatly from your own community.

I look forward to meeting with you over the weekend and encourage those thinking of enrolling to do so by Monday 19 February.

**Farewell Alderman Barden**

It is with great sadness that LGAT acknowledges the passing of Alderman Rodney “Jake” Barden on 31 January 2007. Alderman Barden was first elected to Devonport City Council in 1994, and of the current Aldermen he was the second longest serving member. Our sincere condolences to friends and family of Alderman Barden.

**LGAT Website Update**

The Association would like to advise that a new section is soon to be added to the LGAT website. The new section will focus on staff training and provide some useful resources in developing their staff and improving productivity. Watch this space for further updates!

**Trails Tasmania Strategy**

Sport and Recreation Tasmania, in partnership with the community and key stakeholders, is undertaking to develop a strategy for the development and ongoing management of an integrated trails network in Tasmania.

Forums will be held across the state to provide an opportunity for the public to have input into the strategy. The forums will be held:
- South: Monday 19 February, 7.30-9pm
- The Theatre, Philip Smith Centre, 2 Edward St, Hobart
- North-West: Wednesday 21 February, 7.30-9pm
- Burnie Civic Centre (Braddon Hall), Burnie
- North: Thursday 22 February, 7.30-9pm
- The Gallery Room, Tamar Yacht Club, 7 Park St, Launceston

**Bachelor of Regional Resource Management Scholarships**

The Cradle Coast Authority, in partnership with the University of Tasmania Institute for Regional Development, is sponsoring scholarships for new students enrolling in the Bachelor of Regional Resource Management (BRRM) degree for 2007. The scholarship aims to encourage those in the Cradle Coast region to enrol in higher education, and to earn a degree that equips students with skills highly sought-after in regional communities, leading to careers as project leaders, strategic planners, regional consultants and policy makers for community, industry or government. Scholarship applications closing on Monday, 5 March, 2007. For more information contact Linda Callahan on 6430 4912, email Linda.Callahan@utas.edu.au or attend the information night on Tuesday, February 6 from 6 – 7pm at the UTAS Cradle Coast campus, 16-20 Mooreville Road, Burnie.

**LG Economic Development Guidelines**

A new set of guidelines for local governments that assist with the successful implementation of economic development strategies has been released in Queensland.

The project to develop the guidelines has sought to break down the complex technical issues associated with economic and regional development into practical, easy-to-understand guidance that can be integrated into councils’ day-to-day business.

The guidelines are expected to be available shortly on the LGAQ’s website [http://www.lgaq.asn.au](http://www.lgaq.asn.au) under the ‘Publications’ section.
New Royal Hobart Hospital Site
Tasmanians are invited to have their say on what they see as important when deciding where to build a new Royal Hobart Hospital. The Department of Health and Human Services has released 12 assessment criteria to help guide discussion on the selection of a site for the new hospital, which will be built in or near the Hobart CBD. Submissions close 2 March 2007. A copy of the assessment criteria together with a form to facilitate responses can be obtained from www.dhhs.tas.gov.au or by phoning 1300 795 311.

Free Business Planning Workshops
The Australian Government is running free business planning workshops to help position businesses to stay in business. The workshops will help business managers to examine their current capacity to handle a crisis like a natural disaster, human influenza or other threat. Workshops are being held in Launceston on 23 April from 8.30-12.30, and in Hobart on 24 April from 8.30 to 12.30. For further information and to download the registration form go to www.industry.gov.au/workshops

Climate Change Conference
Sustainable Living Tasmania are running an Open Space Conference to discuss “what are the key ways Tasmanians can make a difference on climate change?”. The conference will be held from 1pm-6pm on Saturday 3 March, at the Philip Smith 2 Edward St Giebe, Hobart. To register phone 6234 5566 or e-mail info@sustainablelivingtasmania.org.au.

Second Annual Information Exchange Forum
A joint initiative of the Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources, Pitt & Sherry and GHD Pty Ltd, this forum aims to provide a platform for networking and knowledge exchange across the Tasmanian road construction and maintenance industry. This year’s forum will feature a number of technical and non-technical presentations, designed to cater for a broad range of interests. The forum will be held Wednesday 14 March at Hadley’s Hotel, Hobart. Please contact Brett Manning of DIER on 6233 2651 for more information.

Extended Design Domain (EDD) Workshop
The EDD is a range of design values below the minimum values currently used in Australian road design guidelines. The scope to use the lower minimum values comes when the normal design domain contains considerable latitude. This workshop, to be held 15-16 March at Hadley’s Hotel, Hobart, seeks to provide an overview of EDD, and would be of interest to both road design practitioners and senior managers. Please contact Brett Manning of DIER on 6233 2651 for more information.

2nd National Road Pavement Management and Engineering Conference
The 2nd National Road Pavement Management and Engineering Conference will be held in Melbourne on 28-29 March. The conference will look at emerging issues in road construction, maintenance, asset management and contract management. A range of relevant case studies will be presented from councils including Glenorchy, Gosford, Coffs Harbour, Mornington Peninsula, Corangamite, Melbourne City, and Latrobe City. For the full conference details please visit http://www.halledit.com.au/conferences/roads07. For registration enquiries, please contact Denise McQueen on (03) 8534 5021 or email denise.mcqueen@halledit.com.au.

Envirofund Grants
Grants of up to $50,000 are available for local environmental projects as part of the latest round of the Australian Government Envirofund. Envirofund is for local, on-ground projects across Australia addressing all aspects of the environment, but this year it will include special arrangements for projects in drought-affected and coastal areas. Further information and examples of eligible activities are detailed on the application form. Applications close on Friday 27 April 2007. For copies of the application form visit http://www.nht.gov.au/envirofund/ or telephone 1800 065 823.

Fishing Community Assistance Grants
The second round of Fishing Community Assistance Grants is now accepting applications. Applications for Fishing Community Assistance do not have to relate to the fishing industry, but should deliver benefits in the fishing communities, identified as Launceston, George Town, Bridport, St Helens, Swansea, Triabunna, Hobart, Kettering, Strahan, Devonport and Currie, King Island. Further information and examples of eligible activities are detailed on the application form. Funding of up to $500,000 per application is available. For more information on the Securing our Fishing Future package visit www.daff.gov.au/fishingfuture or call the helpdesk on 1800 617 866.

Reminder – Natural Disaster Mitigation Program Funding

Upcoming Events
Elected Members Weekend Workshop  Bridport, 3-4 March
General Meeting  Launceston, 7 March
General Management Committee Meeting  Launceston, 7 March
Elected Members IT Workshop  Burnie, 17 March
Elected Members IT Workshop  Launceston, 18 March