Farewell Mayor Mike Downie

It was with sadness and pride that I attended the funeral of Mayor Mike Downie this week. Along with other Local, State and Federal Government representatives, family members and many hundreds of people from the community and community groups, we said our goodbyes to a true Local Government crusader.

Tenacity, single-mindedness, wisdom and a love of life and those around him, were a few of the tributes paid to Mike during the service. Fitting tributes came from both the Premier and the President of the Legislative Council, demonstrating the high regard with which Mike was held both within his community and the broader population of the state.

Mike will be remembered for his strong campaigning on local issues but also his desire to lift the bar of Local Government. Mike was never backward in coming forward and was never afraid to be the first to speak. He asked the hard questions and he pushed for the tough outcomes. He was always having a go and was a true fighter for the Local Government cause. Local Government needs leaders and it is sad that the sector has lost such a strong one when he had so much more to give.

Our thoughts and condolences are with Kath and family but we know that they can proudly look back and celebrate a life of endeavour, selflessness and achievement.

Rest in peace Mike

Hands off Water and Sewerage

The Local Government Association of Tasmania has warned the State Government over its plans to take over Local Government owned water and sewerage corporations and related infrastructure. “We did not support the State Government takeover of water and sewerage then and we don’t support it now,” Acting President of the Local Government Association of Tasmania, Mayor Deirdre Flint said. “If the State Government thinks that it can just march in and covet billions of dollars worth of ratepayer assets, then it had better think again,” she said.

“We worked with the State Government to try to get an outcome that was workable. There was a lot they didn’t like about the process and a whole lot more that we didn’t like, particularly the haste with which it was done,” Clr Flint said. “Seeking to renege on the arrangements negotiated because the State Government lost its majority does not seem to be a sensible or logical basis upon which to base a review of the reform process. We told the Government that the people didn’t understand. We told them that there would be confusion. We warned about the concerns there would be about price hikes and we also made it clear that there should be no takeover of assets by the State Government.”

The capping of prices by the State Government followed the initial recommendation by the State Government to increase prices by 10% each year for the first three years of operations. “The State Government’s track record with utility corporations does not stack up at the moment, yet there seems to be a view that Tasmanians would be better served by having the State control another essential service. The increased pricing results from the regulated environment controlled by the Government,” Clr Flint said. “Costs and prices would not be reduced by simply changing ownership. Blaming the Legislative Council for an outcome that had previously been agreed to by the State Government is a total red herring.”
Tasmania Together – Launch of 10-Year Review
Premier David Bartlett has officially launched the Tasmania Together Progress Board’s 10-year review process, involving a fresh round of community consultation. Tasmania Together is the community’s 20-year plan which outlines what Tasmanians want by 2020. The plan is reviewed and updated every five years to stay relevant to the changing needs of Tasmanians. The recent 2010 Progress Report showed more than half of the Tasmania Together benchmarks are either achieving their targets or making progress, and a quarter of the benchmarks have gone backwards. Tasmanians are encouraged to attend a forum, complete a questionnaire, or go online to make a submission. To find out more about the 10-Year Review of Tasmania Together and how to get involved, visit www.tasmaniatogether.com.au.

Tasmanian Early Years Foundation 2010-11 Funding
The Tasmanian Early Years Foundation 2010-11 funding program is now open, offering grants of up to $3,000 for one year and grants from $3,001 to $50,000 for up to two years. The Foundation’s objective is to support and promote the wellbeing, development and learning of Tasmanian children up to the age of six years. To help meet this objective, the Foundation is offering grants with a total allocation of $300,000 for 2010-11. Not-for-profit organisations and service providers from all tiers of government are eligible to apply. The Foundation is looking to sponsor initiatives that involve families in improving outcomes for young children as well as strengthening parenting, and projects that enhance existing services, build on existing family and community strengths, or develop a new approach to issues. Applications are required by 5 November. For details, visit www.earlyyears.org.au/grants, or call (03) 6232 7468.

Workplace Health and Wellbeing
Did you know the healthiest Australian employees are almost three times more productive than their unhealthy colleagues? The Premier’s Physical Activity Council is bringing together a range of local and interstate expertise to assist organisations with developing or enhancing workplace health and wellbeing programs through a public forum. This Workplace Health and Wellbeing forum is provided at no cost as part of Safe Work Tasmania Week. The forum will be held on 27 October at the Mercure Hotel in Hobart. Places are limited. Registration closes on 15 October. To register, contact WorkCover Tasmania on 6233 3928, or fill in the registration forum online at www.workcover.tas.gov.au.

Risk Assessment for Dangerous Goods Workshop
Dangerous Goods legislation across Australia places an obligation on the users of dangerous goods to conduct Risk Assessments and to properly manage the risks associated with the use of dangerous goods chemicals. The AEBN Risk Assessment for Dangerous Goods Workshop will provide participants with the necessary tools to manage the Risk Assessment process at the workshop, to be held in Melbourne on 13 October. A comprehensive set of course notes will be provided. Cost $310 (AEBN member), or $385 (non-member). For further information, please contact the Australian Environment Business Network on (03) 9397 2511, or go to www.aebn.com.au.

Sponsorship Fundamentals
Want new high value sponsors? A Sponsorship Fundamentals workshop will be held in Melbourne on 21 October. In this highly practical workshop, Julian Moore, one of Australia’s most successful business development specialists, will share proven ideas, tips, tools, templates and contacts that will enable you to find new high value sponsors. The cost is $499. To register, visit www.membershipssolutions.net/2/sponsorship_fundamentals_2221751.html.

Go Red for Women Leadership Award
Do you know a female leader who champions healthy heart initiatives? Recognise a female leader working in Local Government by nominating her for the Heart Foundation Go Red for Women Leadership Award. Winners will be announced in November and will receive $1,000 and a plaque recognising their success. Entries close on 15 October. For nomination forms and entry criteria, visit www.goredforwomen.org.au.

Upcoming Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Planning Course for Elected Members Part 1, Hobart</td>
<td>16 October</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special General Meeting, Launceston</td>
<td>20 October</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Meeting, Launceston</td>
<td>17 November</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mayors’ Workshop, Launceston</td>
<td>18 November</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planning Course for Elected Members Part 2, Hobart</td>
<td>20 November</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Management Committee Meeting, Hobart</td>
<td>16 December</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To unsubscribe from this newsletter, email stephanie.watson@lgat.tas.gov.au and write ‘Unsubscribe LGAT Newsletter’ in the subject line.

To subscribe to the newsletter, email stephanie.watson@lgat.tas.gov.au and write ‘Subscribe LGAT Newsletter’ in the subject line.