President’s Message
After a very enjoyable holiday, I am pleased to be back in Tasmania and catching up on Local Government matters. I would like to express my appreciation to Mayor Deidre Flint for so ably holding the fort in my absence.

Just prior to my return, Mayor Flint chaired a Special General Meeting of the Association. While a broad agenda was covered, the meeting was primarily to vote on the Terms of Reference for a Metropolitan Councils Group (MCG) of the Local Government Association of Tasmania. Earlier this year Hobart City Council wrote to the Association seeking the establishment of a Metropolitan Councils Group. Hobart City Council considers that there are a number of matters that could be progressed by such a grouping if the opportunity was provided for regular meetings and dialogue. At the July 2010 General Meeting, members provided in principle support, subject to Terms of Reference being agreed.

In consultation with General Managers from a number of city councils and, with consideration of mechanisms used elsewhere (UK, South Australia), the Association drafted and circulated the Terms of Reference. These were substantially supported, with some minor amendments made at the Special General Meeting. Some key points to note in relation to the Terms of Reference are:

• To be eligible, councils must be a city, or have a population of greater than 30,000 and be a member of LGAT.
• The Metropolitan Councils Group will have the power to identify, implement and evaluate actions in relation to metropolitan issues.
• The Metropolitan Councils Group will meet quarterly, will develop an annual strategic plan, will keep and distribute minutes and agendas to the broader LGAT membership and will also report to each General Meeting of the Association.
• The LGAT President will be an ex-officio, non-voting member of the MCG. The Chair will be elected from the General Management Committee by members of the MCG.
• The Metropolitan Councils Group will be supported by the Local Government Association of Tasmania’s policy and administration staff. Protocols will be developed in relation to interaction with the Local Government Association of Tasmania and costs, with the understanding that costs beyond general hosting and administration will be borne by the member councils.
• The Terms of Reference will be reviewed within 12 months of operation of the Metropolitan Councils Group.

It is intended to initially commence operation of the Metropolitan Councils Group as an ordinary sub-committee of the Association, under Section 30 of the Association’s Rules (Sub-Committees), but the Association anticipates bringing forward rule changes to the Annual General Meeting in July 2011 with the intent of consolidating the Metropolitan Councils Group, as is the practice in other jurisdictions.

Garage Sale Trail Comes to Tas
The Garage Sale Trail is a mission to help promote recycling and sustainability, to bring people together, unite communities and to have a little fun. The first ever Garage Sale Trail, held at Bondi Beach during May in partnership with Waverley Council, was a great success with 126 registered garage sales held on the day and a resulting project offset of approximately 15 shipping containers of waste. The initiative has since received two awards and community groups, sustainability enthusiasts and the organisers are now aiming to take the project national. In 2011, the national date is 10 April and councils across Tasmania are encouraged to participate. A short video showcasing the Bondi pilot event’s achievement and plans can be viewed at www.garagesaletrail.com.au. Councils interested in participating are invited to contact Garage Sale Trail Executive Director, Darryl Nichols, at darryl@garagesaletrail.com.au, or phone 0422 665 088.
Central Coast Council By-Elections
Clr Jan Bonde has been elected unopposed for the position of Mayor of Central Coast Council following receipt of nominations by the Tasmanian Electoral Commission for the forthcoming by-elections. Nominations were received from seven candidates (5 men and 2 women) standing for the mayoral and councillor positions and, with only one nomination submitted for the position of Mayor, current Deputy Mayor, Clr Jan Bonde, has been elected. Postal ballot packs for the councillor election will be delivered between 2-5 November and the poll closes at 10am on 16 November.

Sustainable Buildings - Opportunities for Tasmania
How can Tasmania become a world leader in preparing our buildings for the future? A lecture addressing this topic, will be held from 9am-5pm on 5 November, and from 9am-1pm on 6 November at the Stanley Burbury Theatre, UTAS, Hobart. Cost is $145 (Corporate), $55 (Concession), $30 (UTAS student). Register online at www.futuretasmania.org.

3rd Biennial Abercrombie Lecture and World Planning Day Celebration
Gail Connolly will talk from her extensive experience in NSW on the necessary ingredients for good metropolitan planning and how to avoid writing a plan that gets stuck on the shelf. This will include good governance arrangements, reform of the planning system, land supply and coordination of agencies, infrastructure and land release programs, the role of the development industry, local councils, state agencies and the need for ongoing monitoring and reporting. The lecture will commence at 6.00pm on 9 November at the Hobart Town Hall. Entry is free and refreshments are provided. RSVP by 5 November by email to UTAS.events@utas.edu.au, or phone 6226 2521.

Community Engagement Rural Service Delivery
Discover practical techniques to assist you in engaging the community when delivering services to rural areas at a Community Engagement in Rural Service Delivery Training Workshop, to be held in Hobart from 22-23 November. If you could use some expert advice on methods to improve your service strategies and knowledge on how to create strong relationships in rural communities, call (02) 9224 6055.

2010 Australasian Facilitator’s Network Conference
The 2010 Australasian Facilitator’s Network Conference ‘Resilience, Creativity and Growth’, is a valuable opportunity for Tasmanians working in community engagement, community development and facilitation to participate in a major learning and networking event. Workshops cater to beginner and experienced facilitators and cover a range of facilitation techniques and practices. The conference will run from 24-26 November in Hobart, with pre-conference workshops being held in Launceston and Hobart from 22-23 November. For further details, visit www.afnconference.com.au, or phone Shirley O’Toole on 0429 199 825.

Local Government Sector Survey
The ACELG is assessing the education and professional development needs of Local Government in Australia and undertaking an inventory and gap analysis to inform future development of specific training initiatives. Local Government councillors and staff are invited to complete an online survey and organisations are invited to review a discussion paper and lodge a submission. Survey responses are due by the 5th November. Local Government associations and training providers are also invited to review the inventory of training programs, discuss training delivery challenges in the sector, comment on identified training gaps and opportunities. Submissions are due by 20 November. For details, contact Sarah Artist on 0409 830 283, or visit www.clg.uts.edu.au.

Local Government Youth Forum
This year’s annual Local Government Youth Forum will be held on 8 November, in Launceston. The forum is aimed at Local Government staff and elected representatives who work with young people, or are interested in issues relating to young people. It provides learning, networking and information sharing opportunities, and aims to provide a platform for councils to showcase and share their initiatives for young people. For more information, contact the Office of Children and Youth Affairs on 6232 7080, or email anthony.king@dpac.tas.gov.au.

Environment Management and Sustainability Workshop
An Environment Management and Sustainability Workshop, presented by the Australian Environment Business Network (AEBN), will be held in Melbourne on 11-12 November. This two-day intensive workshop will provide participants with the tools necessary to identify and understand the appropriate and the latest environmental laws and requirements that apply to your organisation. The workshop will also focus on the latest environmental management practices to assist you in developing strategies and processes to become a more sustainable business. Cost is $725 (AEBN member), or $795 (non-member). For details, visit www.aebn.com.au, or phone (03) 9397 2511.

Upcoming Events

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<tr>
<td>General Meeting, Launceston</td>
<td>17 November</td>
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<td>Mayors’ Workshop, Launceston</td>
<td>18 November</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Management Committee Meeting, Hobart</td>
<td>16 December</td>
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