President’s Message

With the 2011 Local Government Elections over, now is the time to think how you are going to have implemented the promises you may have made to the electorate during the campaign.

This is the time when we realise that each elected member has but one vote, and to get your promise up and implemented, you need the support of the majority of council members. Sometimes this can be easily achieved but on other occasions, it takes a lot of time and effort. The effort is usually well worthwhile because when you do finally achieve what it is that you were pursuing, you will have experienced your Council working as a team. I strongly believe that it is when your Council is working well as a team that good and beneficial decisions are made on behalf of your ratepayers.

It is for this reason that I have never made a specific promise to any ratepayer during an election campaign, only to tell them that I will be a strong advocate for them and work to ensure that our municipality is the most desirable place to live, work and visit.

There have been a number of changes as a result of this election with some current Mayors not having been successfully re-elected, Lynn Laycock, Devonport; Alwyn Boyd, Burnie; Charles Arnold, King Island and Acting Mayor Margaret Osborne, Break O’Day. I share in your disappointment at this time and take the opportunity to thank you for the leadership you have provided to your communities during your incumbency. I look forward to working with you as councillors/aldermen in the time ahead.

Congratulations to newly elected Mayors, Damon Thomas, Lord Mayor of Hobart; Craig Perkins, Meander Valley; Sarah Schmerl, Break O’Day; Steve Kons, Burnie; Doug Chipman, Clarence; Steve Martin, Devonport; Roger Broomhall, George Town; Stuart Slade, Glenorchy and Greg Barratt, King Island.

With new mayors, deputy mayors and councillors, Local Government in Tasmania has a bright future. I look forward to the next couple of years working together as a great team for the benefit of all in our communities across the State.

Regional Planning Strategies Approved

The Deputy Premier, Bryan Green, has announced new land use strategies for Tasmania’s three regions to keep pace with reform of the State’s planning system. The regional strategies are designed to guide future development and underpin new planning schemes for all councils. The strategies follow the introduction of a statewide planning template and a new residential planning code. The regional strategies aim to provide more certainty and a long-term vision for sustainable land use. Councils are to be commended for the dedicated and significant work they have put into making these plans a reality.

Water and Sewerage – ‘Due Diligence’

The Chairman of the Water and Sewerage Corporations has written to all councils advising his intent to commission an independent analysis on behalf of owner councils to demonstrate the financial impacts of creating a single entity, region by region and council by council. This is an important piece of work for all councils in the assessment of their respective positions on any future structural proposals.

The Association is also proposing a ‘Governance Principles’ document which will outline the strategic elements of any changes to governance preferred in moving away from the current structure. The document will not seek to identify the absolute outcome but will canvass those matters that will need to be determined/agreed/negotiated if a change is supported. Options would flow from these considerations with, ideally, a preferred governance model agreed after robust consultation and discussion.

Liveable Cities Program

The Australian Government is calling for applications for its Liveable Cities Program following the announcement in the 2011-12 Budget that $20 million has been allocated for planning, feasibility assessment, design and/or capital works projects which improve the quality of life in our cities. The program will provide funding in two streams – up to $500,000 for planning and design projects, and up to $4 million for demonstration projects. The program is open to State and Local Governments within the 18 major Australian cities. For full details, www.nationbuildingprogram.gov.au/funding/liveablecities/index.aspx.
**Nation’s First Cost of Living Strategy Released**

Premier Lara Giddings released the Cost of Living Strategy this week to help all levels of government and the community sector to better understand the pressures facing Tasmanian households. The report by Social Inclusion Commissioner, David Adams, is the first of its kind in Australia and will become a resource for all levels of government and the community sector to help shape advocacy, policy and responses to the cost of living challenges. The strategy can be viewed at www.dpac.tas.gov.au/divisions/siu/strategy/cost_of_living/strategy.

**Lower House Passes Smoking Legislation**

Outdoor dining will become smoke-free under new legislation passed by the House of Assembly earlier this week. The new legislation will extend smoke-free areas to include all outdoor dining areas at cafes and restaurants, pedestrian malls and bus malls, playgrounds, sporting venues and bus shelters. The Minister for Health, Michelle O’Byrne, said the laws responded to community concerns and introduced additional smoke-free areas in public, especially where children were present. “These reforms will help to protect Tasmanians in the places they live, work and play,” she said. The laws are planned to commence on 1 March 2012.

**Hobart City Council Wins National Award**

Hobart City Council has emerged as a National Winner of the 2011 Heart Foundation Healthy Community Awards. Hobart City Council invests in community facilities and various communication and engagement strategies to encourage awareness and participation in healthy activities, community programs and events. One of Council’s healthy community initiatives, the Smoke Free Strategy, has banned smoking in all council-owned buildings, children’s playgrounds and the three pedestrian malls within the CBD. The awards are an important way to recognise the role local governments can play in the continuing fight against heart disease, the number one killer of Australian men and women. For further information, please visit www.heartfoundation.org.au/lga.

**ChemClear to Return**

Farmers and landowners are encouraged to dispose of potentially dangerous agvet chemicals that may be stored in sheds. Around 8,000 litres of unwanted, obsolete, or inherited agvet chemicals has already been registered for disposal in preparation for ChemClear’s December expedition. Upon registration, the chemicals are classified as either group one, or group two. Group one chemicals are currently registered products from participating agvet manufacturers and are accepted free of charge. Group two chemicals are products from non-participating manufacturers, unlabelled, or unregistered, and a fee per litre is charged to collect these products. The booking line closes for this collection on 18 November. To register, call 1800 008 707, or log on to www.chemclear.com.au.

**War Memorial Maintenance and Repairs Grants Program 2011-12**

Applications for funding are invited under the next round of War Memorial Maintenance Grants. In Tasmania, there are over 100 war memorials including cenotaphs, halls, honour boards and plaques. The State Government’s $50,000 War Memorial Repair and Maintenance Grants Program provides the opportunity for many of these memorials to receive a facelift and will assist in ensuring their future viability. Eligible organisations that have community war memorials in need of repair are encouraged to obtain a copy of the grant guidelines and to submit an application for funding by 9 December. Guidelines can be found at www.dpac.tas.gov.au/community.

**Show Us Your Lungs Campaign**

The Lung Foundation recently conducted a Newspoll survey which found that while 84% of respondents aged 35 and over rated the health of their lungs as excellent, very good, or good, one in three (36%) revealed that they had experienced at least one of the signs of poor lung health. The Lung Foundation is creating a campaign to draw the nation’s attention to their lungs and encourage people to protect their lung health and to see their GP if they have concerns. Councils are encouraged to help spread the word by erecting posters and brochures, wearing Show Us Your Lungs badges and/or T-shirts to public events and meetings, and including information and images in newsletters. For enquiries, email Bridget Dixon at Bridget@lungfoundation.com.au, or call (07) 3251 3644.

**National Close the Gap Day – Power through Partnership**

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people die 10-17 years younger than other Australians. By working together we can Close the Gap within a generation. Since the Close the Gap campaign was formed by over 40 peak Indigenous organisations in 2006, thousands of organisations across Australia have supported the campaign. Your Council is encouraged to help raise awareness of the Indigenous health crisis by supporting National Close the Gap Day on 22 March 2012 by holding a community or workplace event. Free resources are provided. Register your event today at www.oxfam.org.au/nctgd.
National Volunteering Survey Open
Volunteering Australia is inviting communities to complete a National Survey of Volunteering Issues. Conducted annually for five years, the data has been used by many sources to influence decision-makers about key issues affecting volunteering. Volunteering Australia values the significant involvement and contribution made by volunteers through Local Government in metropolitan, regional and remote communities across Australia, and the important role the sector plays in engaging and supporting volunteers in these communities. The survey will be open until 6 November. If you are a government or not-for-profit organisation, visit www.surveymonkey.com/s/NSVI_VIOs. If you are a company, head to www.surveymonkey.com/s/NSVI_Companies. If you are a volunteer, go to www.surveymonkey.com/s/NSVI_Volunteers.

Slow Down to Save Devils
Tasmanian drivers are being urged to reduce speed between dusk and dawn to reduce the number of Tasmanian devils killed on the State’s roads and to report any sightings of road-killed Tasmanian devils. The Save the Tasmanian Devil Program is stepping-up its campaign to ease pressure on the already endangered species. From November to March, devils are on the move and the juvenile devils start to leave home to find a den of their own. Road-killed devils should not be touched, but their whereabouts reported. Messages can be sent to 0427 733511. Further information can be found at www.tassiedevil.com.au.

Conferences, Workshops and Seminars

Sustainable Living Expo (Hobart)
At this year’s Sustainable Living Expo, to be held in Hobart from 5-6 November, there will be a Q&A Discussion with a panel of experts and prominent Tasmanians about Creating Tasmania’s Future. What will Tasmania look like in 25 years - our economy, community, and land use? How will we move around, power our cities, and what will we eat? Interested persons are invited to contribute to the discussion by submitting a question online at www.sustainablelivingtasmania.org.au/expo/discussions.htm. For a copy of the program, visit www.sustainablelivingtasmania.org.au.

Local Government Forums (Devonport, Launceston, Hobart)
The Tasmanian Chamber of Commerce and Industry is running a series of members' forums for business people and those involved in the Local Government sector to come together to voice their views about the key issues and priorities. The forums will run from 4.45pm – 6.30pm, followed by refreshments, at the Devonport Conference Centre (14 November), the Boathouse in Launceston (21 November), and the Hobart Function Centre (22 November). To find out more, or to RSVP, please contact Judy Phair on 6236 3666, or email judy.phair@tcci.com.au.

2011 National Local Roads and Transport Congress (Mt Gambier)
The 2011 National Local Roads and Transport Congress, to be held in Mount Gambier from 16-18 November, is rapidly approaching, attracting wide interest from across the Local Government and transport industries. The theme of the congress is Better Roads are Safer Roads and an excellent line-up of speakers has been confirmed. On the first day, the ALGA Board will officially launch Local Government’s campaign for the renewal of the Roads to Recovery Program, which represents the primary source of Federal funding for local roads. Registrations for the congress can be made via the ALGA website at www.alga.asn.au/index.php?id=02466bd1af4b98d0db41f62238594705.

The Future of Social Media and Public Sector Communications (Canberra)
The Future of Social Media and Public Sector Communications Summit is a unique two-day event convening global public sector ‘Social Government’ pioneers. The event will be held in Canberra from 23-25 November and will investigate where social media is heading and how “web3.0” is evolving. Discussion will also be focused upon the emerging digital opportunities for public sector communicators and those engaged in social government initiatives.’ For further details, go to www.ibrc.com.au.

Managing Public Communication (Hobart)
Public sector managers and officers and those with communications responsibility, are invited to attend a workshop on Managing Public Communication that will examine the culture and ethos of the public communication role and explore strategies for proactively managing communication in a government context. The workshop is scheduled to be held on 30 November at Morilla, and costs $795. For further details, please visit www.ttc.tas.gov.au or phone 6232 7511.

Upcoming Events
General Meeting, Launceston 16 November
Mayors’ Workshop, Launceston 17 November