President’s Message
Here we are, just about to participate in the 2007 Christmas festivities, when it doesn’t really seem that long ago since we were carolling in 2006 – in fact the throat is still sore and the dog hasn’t quite been the same since my rendition of Silent Night last year!

The next fortnight will more than likely pass very quickly. Many individuals will be focused on finalising projects, coordinating functions, attending community celebrations, participating in school presentation evenings and rewriting committee reports, or perhaps helping to get the council float organised for the local Christmas parade.

One of the things I really enjoy about Local Government life, is the variety of available experiences. No two days are alike, although there may be occasions when you feel as though you have had the same conversation with the same resident, over the same issue a number of times. No doubt some council staff would have similar recollections of discussions with residents and maybe even elected members. It is important for elected members to acknowledge and thank staff for their professionalism, diligence and enthusiasm over the past 12 months.

Likewise, on behalf of the 29 Tasmanian councils, I would like to sincerely thank CEO Allan Garcia and LGAT staff, members of GMC and the Legislative Committee, and individuals (both elected members and council staff) who are involved in numerous statewide working groups. Your efforts are greatly appreciated.

It is also imperative for council staff and elected members to allow a few days for themselves, family and friends over the holiday season. It is a time to reflect on the success, challenges and disappointments of the last twelve months and equally, it is an opportunity to relax, refresh and recharge the batteries for 2008. I try and find some time to consider short-term and long-term goals on a personal, family and community level, so that I am better prepared for the New Year. In closing, I wish each of you and your families a safe, enjoyable and relaxing festive season.

LGAT Welcomes Three New Team Members
LGAT has appointed three new staff members and would like to welcome new Policy Director – Katrena Stephenson, NRM Coordinator – Christine Materia and Policy Officer – Maxine Lowry.

Prior to her appointment, Katrena Stevenson managed Housing Tasmania’s Strategic Policy and Service Delivery areas. Katrena has also worked in the areas of youth health, distance education and online learning policy development, and as a political advisor. She has a PhD in Health Sociology, Honours in Environmental Studies, and has worked in the U.K.

NRM Coordinator, Christine Materia has enjoyed an equally diverse background. Most recently, she was responsible for the development of the Pilbara component of the Western Australian Rangelands NRM Strategy. Christine has also been involved in the development of the South East Regional Marine Plan, the Tamar Regional NRM Strategy, Tasmania’s Coastcare Program, and has worked as a Marine Science Consultant and Invertebrate Zoologist.

New Policy Officer, Maxine Lowry, also brings varied experience, having worked extensively in education as a teacher, assistant principal and policy officer. She also has experience as an adult trainer and in counselling. Maxine has a Batchelor of Education, a Certificate 4 in Assessment and Workplace Training, and is about to complete her Masters in Counselling. Maxine commences in her new role, previously held by Dr Christine Standish, on 10 December.

Mature Age Employment Guide
The Federal Government has produced a handbook for employers seeking to hire or retain mature workers. The Mature Age Employment Practical Guide is designed to be a one-stop resource for anyone employing people over 45 years of age. Aimed at staff responsible for implementing human resource policies and practices, the guide provides practical advice and information on mature age employment practices. To obtain a copy of the handbook, go to www.jobwise.gov.au.

DIARY DATE
18-20 June 2008
96th Annual Local Government Conference
Country Club Resort, Prospect

www.lgat.tas.gov.au
Introducing JobScore!
Local Governments across Australia now have access to their own position classification system – JobScore. This contemporary and reliable position classification and remuneration system has been designed specifically for the Local Government sector. A points factor system evaluates a position by applying descriptors, which are assessed and weighted according to the importance of each skill. The market salary can be determined using data available though the Local Government Remuneration Survey. All state associations have been involved in its development and Local Government Workplace Solutions recommends Local Governments adopt JobScore. Training will be offered to councils using the system. For further details, phone 1300 366 956, or visit www.JobScore.org.au.

Public Place and Events Recycling
A new Litter and Away from Home Training Program, developed and funded by the Packaging Stewardship Forum, is ready for rollout across Australia. Based on the highly successful Bin Infrastructure Systems Training Program, two new courses have been developed – Public Place Recycling (for Local Government) and Events Recycling. The free, one-day training sessions will be held in Hobart on 13 February 2008. Participants will work step-by-step through the principles, concepts and systems of reducing litter, minimising waste and recovering valuable resources through away from home recovery systems. Places are limited. To register, email loraine@sustainablelearning.com.au. For further details, phone Lisa Shadforth on 1300 799 938, or go to www.afgc.org.au/index.cfm?id=581.

Water and Sewerage Paper Released
Treasurer Michael Aird has released a paper outlining proposed changes to the regulatory framework for Tasmania’s water and sewerage sector. Future Regulation of the Tasmanian Water and Sewerage Sector was prepared by consultant SAHA International, for consideration by the Ministerial Water and Sewerage Taskforce. The paper lays the foundation for the management of water and sewerage assets and services, and presents a regulatory framework to ensure minimum service standards, and the sustainable management of water and sewerage infrastructure. The regulatory objectives cover key economic, social, public health and environmental aims. Public comment is sought on the approach outlined in the proposed regulatory position paper by 14 January 2008. The preliminary position paper can be viewed at www.treasury.tas.gov.au.

Old Forests, New Management Conference
The Old Forests, New Management Conference will be held in Hobart from 17-21 February 2008. Hosted by Forestry Tasmania and the CRC for Forestry, the conference will bring together international forest managers and researchers from a range of disciplines, focused upon delivering ecologically sustainable forest management practices. Exhibition packages and advertising opportunities are now available. For details, please email Ben Thiessen at ben@cdesign.com.au, or visit www.oldforests.com.au.

Passive Smoke, No Joke
From 1 January 2008, motor vehicle occupants will not be permitted to smoke inside if a child is present. The new law has been introduced to prevent children under the age of 18 from being exposed to the dangers of passive smoking, which can lead to a range of serious illnesses. Police officers and tobacco control officers will have the authority to issue an on-the-spot $110 infringement notice, or an offence can be referred to court where the maximum penalty will be $2,200. For further details, contact the Department of Health and Human Services on 1800 671 738, or go to www.dhhs.tas.gov.au.

New Guidelines on Community Health
New guidelines for councils on how to promote physical activity and healthy living within their local communities have been issued by the NSW Government. The guidelines contain good examples of council land use planning and community campaigns, designed to increase the amount of physical activity undertaken by local residents. Creating Active Communities - Physical Activity Guidelines for Local Councils, is available from www.dlg.nsw.gov.au/dlg/dlghome/documents/Information/Physical%20Activity%20Guidelines.pdf.

Protected Wildlife on the Cards
Wildlife diseases of significance are increasing in number in Tasmania, and some have the potential to significantly impact on biodiversity. The Department of Primary Industries and Water is developing a statewide wildlife health surveillance and reporting system and has developed a quick reference guide on what to do when presented with sick or injured Tasmanian wildlife. The First Response to Sick or Injured Tasmanian Wildlife card is presented in laminated form, to place in a well-viewed area as a quick reference guide. To obtain a copy, contact Annie Phillips on 6233 2265.

Support for 'Active Transport'
A new resource for local councils investigates active transport issues for pre-school aged children and their parents and provides helpful guidance on active transport to childcare centres. As an alternative to private vehicle use, active transport has significant health, environmental and community benefits. The resource provides case studies, findings from surveys, and tips for things councils can do to plan for, encourage and increase active transport to childcare centres. The research project was funded by the Local Government and Shires Association (LGSA). To view the resource, visit www.isf.uts.edu.au/whatwedo/local_government_projects.html#active.
Speaker, Sponsors and Exhibitors Wanted for Annual Master Builders Conference
The Master Builders Association of Tasmania are holding their 4th Annual State Conference from 9-10 May at the Country Club Resort in Prospect. Organisers are currently sourcing speakers, sponsors and exhibitors to be involved. The conference theme will be People, Policies and Principles relevant to the building and construction industry. A speaking position is available within the topic of Principles (ethics) and interested persons are encouraged to contact Jillian Hamer at Master Builders Tasmania on 6334 7400, or to email jillian@mbatas.org.au.

Child-Friendly City Report Released
A report providing an outcomes and directions statement for the Creating Child-friendly Cities Conference has been released. The conference was jointly conducted by the Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth, and the Urban Research Program, Griffith University. For a copy, go to www.griffith.edu.au/center/urp/MediaReleases.

Improved Access to Weed Control in Southern Tasmania
Accessing professional weed control contractors in Southern Tasmania has recently become much easier. Councils, landcare groups, farmers and other land managers in the South of the state can now access weed control professionals easily through a new register of contractors, developed this spring by the Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority. The register provides information on each contractor’s experience, speciality areas, equipment and contact details. The emphasis is on operators who control environmental and pasture weeds. Land managers can access a copy of the register through the Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority website at www.stca.tas.gov.au, or by phoning the Authority on 6270 2242.

Get Moving at Work Kit
Tasmanian businesses can benefit by implementing workplace health and wellbeing programs and are encouraged to get employees active and healthy through the use of the Get Moving at Work kit. The simple-to-use guide for employers wanting to develop a health and wellbeing program for their organisation, addresses health and wellbeing issues such as physical activity, nutrition, stress, hydration, and drug and alcohol abuse. The Get Moving at Work kit is part of a broad strategic focus to help Tasmanian workplaces attract and retain staff and to increase productivity. A copy of the kit can be obtained from the Premier’s Physical Activity Council website at www.getmoving.tas.gov.au, or by phoning 1800 440 026.

What’s New in Regional Statistics?
The second issue of What’s New in Regional Statistics (cat. no. 1386.0) has now been released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). The newsletter highlights products released by the ABS Rural and Regional Statistics Program and includes articles on other ABS releases and developments that are relevant to users of small area data. Some of the topics covered in this issue include:

- The Review of the Australian Standard Geographical Classification;
- The release of additional 2006 Census data;
- Planning for the 2011 Census;
- The Children and Youth Statistical Portal;
- Patterns of internet access in Australia; and
- Regional statistics

To receive a free copy of the newsletter, visit the ABS website at www.abs.gov.au.

New Directions in Heritage Management
The official opening of Heritage Tasmania’s new offices on 6 December in an historic Hobart building, marks a new direction in the management of Tasmania’s historic heritage. Since the proclamation of the Historic Cultural Heritage Act 1995, the legislation has now been reviewed and proposed reforms have been well received by stakeholders. Amendments to the Act will be tabled in State Parliament next year and the reforms will help to develop a more integrated approach to heritage management and ensure greater clarity, consistency and certainty for heritage owners, managers and developers. Greater collaboration is anticipated next year between Local and State Government on the management of heritage, lodgement of the Australian Convict Sites World Heritage nomination, the development of a Tasmanian historic heritage strategy, and plans to release the Tasmanian Heritage Register on-line. Heritage Tasmania’s new offices are located in the 141-year-old former Commercial Bank building at 103 Macquarie Street.

Upcoming Events

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<tr>
<th>Event</th>
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<td>GMC Meeting &amp; PLGC, Launceston</td>
<td>12 December</td>
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<td>General Managers’ Workshop, Venue TBC</td>
<td>5-6 March</td>
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<td>General Meeting, Hobart</td>
<td>12 March</td>
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<td>General Management Committee Meeting, Hobart</td>
<td>12 March</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elected Members’ Workshop, Launceston</td>
<td>15-16 March</td>
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Seasons Greetings from the LGAT team