President’s Message

Two quite controversial issues have been exercising my mind and certainly made the headlines this week. I refer to the impending closure of the Pontville Detention Centre and the extraordinary position taken by members of the Legislative Council concerning the forest IGA process. I really do hesitate getting into the “political arena” in this column but both of these issues are having such an effect on local communities throughout the State.

Mayor Tony Foster has been working very hard to encourage the Federal Government to reconsider their intention to close the Pontville Detention Centre and must be applauded for showing his passion and concern, not only for the retention of local employment, but for the future welfare of the detainees. Well done Tony - it is unfortunate that your calls have fallen on deaf ears and it is particularly disappointing that you have not had the support of our Tasmanian parliamentary representatives. I sincerely hope that the centre can have a useful life in your community especially given the exceptionally large amount of “our money” that was spent getting the facility ready!

Forestry continues to dominate the news and, given the action of twelve of the independent members of the Legislative Council, highlights to me the growing concern in our communities as to where the IGA process is heading. It does appear that the process has at least stalled, if not failed, and one must question whether the desired outcomes from the process ever had any real chance of success.

Many of you would know that, for the last twenty years of my working life, I was engaged in the forest industry and so my views may well be influenced by that experience. However, I still cannot believe it is not possible for Tasmania to continue to have a viable and sustainable forest industry that makes a positive contribution the State’s economy and the economy of so many of our local communities. I would suggest that those engaged in the industry would rather be working than receiving compensation to exit that which many of them have been involved in for generations. So the question is, “where to from here?”

I do not have the answer to this question but, as a start, we do need a government that is prepared to fight for the retention of the industry that has been and can continue to be a major contributor to the economy. There may be some truth in the argument that there is no overseas market for Tasmanian wood products, however it is my belief that the State Government should be exerting their influence to counter that which the environmental movement has been spreading to overseas customers. Other Australian states are having no trouble in exporting wood products so why should Tasmania be disadvantaged?

Given that both the State and Federal Governments are presently relying on support from Independents and the Greens to govern, I conclude with another question – “Are government decisions being made in the best interests of our communities?”

New Programs for a Clean Energy Future

A package of energy efficiency programs designed to drive smarter energy use in business, Local Government, households and communities for a clean energy future have been launched by the Australian Government. The programs will enable all Australians, regardless of where they live or how much they earn, to harness the opportunities of a low carbon future. They will be delivered in partnership with business, councils and community groups.

The new programs include:

- The Community Energy Efficiency Program – $200 million to assist Local Government, not-for-profit and community organisations to undertake energy efficiency upgrades to community infrastructure.
- The Low Income Energy Efficiency Program – $100 million to support groups of service providers to demonstrate smarter energy use in low income households across Australia.
- The Energy Efficiency Information Grants program – $40 million to support small and medium-sized businesses and community groups by providing information and advice to make smarter energy choices.

For regional communities and smaller councils, these programs will make it easier to access assistance and support in the transition to a low carbon future. The guidelines for each of these programs are now available. To find out more about the package of energy efficiency programs, visit the Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency website. To find out more about the Australian Government plan for a clean energy future, visit the Clean Energy Future website.
Vale Tony Flint
The General Management Committee, management and staff of the Local Government Association of Tasmania wish to convey our deepest sympathy to Central Highlands Council Mayor Deirdre Flint on the passing of her husband Tony. With an extensive background in civil and mechanical engineering, Tony served as a Councillor for the Central Highlands Council between 2000 - 2002. Our sincere condolences to Mayor Flint at this sad time.

Smoke-free Areas to be Extended
From 1 March, additional smoke-free areas will be introduced in Tasmania. Aimed at reducing exposure to harmful, second-hand cigarette smoke, they cover places where people – especially children – gather. Building on the efforts of Local Government, smoke-free areas will cover bus and pedestrian malls, bus shelters, outdoor dining areas, sports venues, beaches, public swimming pools and children’s playgrounds. For more information, call the Public Health Hotline on 1800 671 738, or visit www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/peh/tobacco_control.

Grants for Diversity and Social Cohesion
The Department of Immigration and Citizenship has announced the opening of the latest round of diversity and social cohesion grants, under the Diversity and Social Cohesion Program (DSCP). Funding of up to $50,000 is available for councils and not-for-profit organisations to develop projects that aim to address issues of cultural, racial or religious intolerance, or to develop community capacity building skills. Projects must provide an opportunity for participation and interaction by different members of the community. Applications must be lodged by 9 March. For further information, visit www.immi.gov.au/living-in-australia/delivering-assistance/government-programs/dscp/dscp-grants.htm.

War Memorial Repair and Maintenance Grants Program 2011-12
The War Memorial Repair and Maintenance Grants Program has been established to provide funding as a contribution to the cost of repairing and maintaining memorials in Tasmania. Funding will be made available through the War Memorial Repair and Maintenance Grants Program to eligible organisations. Consideration will be given to providing grants up to $5,000 and funding will be approved on a once-off basis. Applications for recurrent or multi-year funding are not eligible. Applications close on 9 March. To access the guidelines, please go to www.dpac.tas.gov.au/divisions/cad/grants_and_community_engagement/grants/war_memorial_grants_program Further information can be obtained by emailing cdgrants@dpac.tas.gov.au, or by phoning 1800 204 224.

Earth Hour is Coming - Sign Up Now to Show Your Support
During Earth Hour in 2011, a record 5,251 cities in 135 countries switched off the lights at key landmarks to highlight the issue of climate change. This year, organisations and individuals are encouraged to participate from 8:30pm on 31 March. To sign up and show your support for Earth Hour 2012, visit http://wwf.org.au/earthhour.

Be Brave and Shave
World’s Greatest Shave is on from 15-17 March and the Leukaemia Foundation invites you to ‘Be Brave and Shave’ to help those living with blood cancer. Register your department as a team and recruit your work colleagues to either shave or colour their hair and to seek sponsorship from family and friends. Organise a ‘shave’ morning or afternoon tea; or BBQ with a few workmates and help promote this year’s event by displaying posters and flyers, or a donation box. Sign up today! Visit www.worldsgreatestshave.com, or call 1800 500 088.

Conferences, Workshops and Seminars

2012 Annual Parks and Recreational Seminar (Launceston)
IPWEA’s 2012 Annual Parks and Recreational Seminar will be held in Launceston on 27 February. Park managers, park planners and asset managers are invited to join this session which will explore asset management for ‘green infrastructure’ and levels of service for green assets. Cost is $550 (inc GST). For a copy of the workshop brochure, visit http://higherlogicdownload.s3.amazonaws.com/IPWEA/8646f36d-42bf-4334-9ca3-e7baaaff7261f/UploadedImages/Events/pdfs/Brochure_AnnualPksRecSeminar_2012v4.pdf.

Young Children, the Arts and Creativity (Launceston)
The Creative Connections in the Early Years project invites you to a two-day forum of dialogue, networking and learning around best practice arts engagement with children in their early years (0 to 6 years) and their families. The forum, to be held in Launceston from 2-3 March, will provide professional development opportunities for those working in the arts, early years education and community sectors. Cost is $88 (incl. GST). Register at www.earlyyears.org.au.
**2012 Women in Local Government Conference (Launceston)**
LGMA Tasmania, in conjunction with the Australian Local Government Women’s Association, is pleased to present the 2012 Women in Local Government Conference. Professional council staff and elected members are invited to attend on 8 March at the Tailrace Centre in Launceston, with an optional “Negotiating for Results in Local Government” workshop on 9 March. The conference provides the opportunity to hear and reflect upon the experiences of a number of successful women, to learn valuable skills and to network with colleagues in the Local Government sector. Speakers include: Donna Adams – the first female Assistant Commissioner of Tasmania Police; Clr Paula Wriedt of Kingborough Council; and Jude Munro - Chair, Queensland Urban Utilities. For full details, visit http://tas.lgma.org.au/events/2012_women_in_local_government_conference.

**Local Government Rates and Revenue - Leading the Change (Sydney)**
On 15-16 March, the International Property Tax Institute in co-operation with NSW Revenue Professionals Society will present a conference on Local Government Rates and Revenue. Session topics include: land value vs rental value vs capital value for rating and taxing; rates/property tax regulation and community; natural disasters-recovery and rates; and alternative revenue sources for Local Government. Register by 1 March. For program details, visit www.ipti.org/event/local-government-rates-and-revenue-leading-the-change.

**Public Speaking Unmasked (Hobart)**
Learn all the trade secrets that, until now, have been kept a mystery and known by only the best speakers and keynote presenters. Public Speaking Unmasked is a one-day course that will give you all you’ll ever need to wow your audiences and have them coming back for more. Sessions will be conducted in Hobart by leadership and performance coach, Grant Mullen, on 19 March, 16 April and 21 May. Cost is $367 per person (incl GST and lunch). For more information, email The Mullen Group at bookings@findalocalcoach.com, or phone Stephanie Barrett on 0402 868 284. For details about Grant Mullen, visit www.findalocalcoach.com.

**HR Capability Training Program (Hobart)**
HR practitioners from all councils are invited to participate in an HR Capability Training Program, to be held in Hobart on 27 March. The program brings together a series of six unique workshops that address many of the core knowledge and skill requirements for people working in the HR area. For further details, please visit www.ttc.tas.gov.au, or phone The Training Consortium on 6232 7511.

**The Effective Team Leader (Hobart, Launceston, Devonport)**
Learn how to lead a highly effective team, utilising strong leadership skills in your workplace. The TCCI is delivering a Team Leader course for existing, new, or soon to be appointed team leaders, supervisors and foremen, in Hobart (27-28 March & 3-4 July), Launceston (15-16 May & 4-5 September), and Devonport (3-4 April & 21-22 August). The program is suitable for team leaders across all sectors and is designed to deliver practical skills in managing people in the workplace. The cost is $795 (TCCI members) and $995 (non-members). Enrol three participants and receive the 3rd registration for half price. For enquiries, contact the TCCI on 6236 3600, or 6331 1144.

**Business Planning and Performance Indicators for Government (Hobart)**
Mary Duckett will present a workshop in Hobart from 27-28 March to help participants develop effective and useful business plans. Mary Duckett is internationally recognised for her achievements in developing performance indicators and reporting mechanisms for public sector organisations. The workshop is suitable for people at all levels within Local Government who develop, review or approve business plans or performance indicators. The cost is $575. For further details, visit www.ttc.tas.gov.au, or phone The Training Consortium on 6232 7511.

**Australian Women’s Leadership Symposium (Hobart)**
The Australian Women’s Leadership Symposium will be coming to Hobart on 22 May. Women of diverse backgrounds benefit from the symposium’s wide-ranging program and have frequently commented on the significance of the opportunity to share their aspirations and challenges with other women. Places for the 2012 Tasmanian Symposium are filling fast. You are invited to take advantage of the Early Bird Rate – reducing the registration fee from $1,495 to $995 per person. For details, visit www.wla.com.au/events/12/symposium/symposium_brochure_hobart.pdf.

**Upcoming Events**
- Elected Members’ Workshop, Launceston 25-26 February
- General Managers’ Workshop, Hobart 14-15 March
- General Meeting, Launceston 28 March
- General Management Committee Meeting, Launceston 28 March