President’s Message

This week, the Parliamentary Committee commenced their hearings into their review of water and sewerage and I am confident that they will have some very interesting and controversial submissions.

Two weeks ago, the CEO and I met with Miles Hampton, the new Chairman of the Water and Sewerage Corporations. We discussed many issues and concerns that the Association had been made aware of by member councils and we appreciated the opportunity to hear his thoughts on how he sees the Corporations operating into the future. It was a fruitful meeting and I believe that it is fair to say that the Chairman shares similar views to those held by many councils around the state.

Councils would be aware by now that the Chairman has arranged a program to visit all councils for discussions with the General Manager and Mayor. This is a great opportunity to talk about matters of concern that you may have and is certainly a great opportunity for the Chairman to obtain from councils their views as to how they consider the Corporations to be performing. This is a very positive step taken by the Chairman and I urge you to take full advantage of speaking frankly to him, as it is only by having open and frank discussions that any concern we may have can be addressed. The Chairman is very keen to hear the views of the owner councils.

By the time you are reading this column, it is quite likely that Miles Hampton’s views he expressed to the Parliamentary Committee will be on the public record and, if this is the case, I’m sure you will be comfortable with his submission. Of course, all of your submissions are to be considered by the committee and what a task that will be for them! I sincerely trust that this process concludes with positive outcomes that are not only supported by Local Government but are beneficial to our ratepayers.

LGAT Welcomes New Staff Member

Sue Grau has been appointed to the part-time position of Project Manager for the Local Government Reform Project Implementing Frameworks for Long-term Financial and Asset Management Planning for All Tasmanian Councils. Sue has experience in a range of positions requiring the development, implementation and evaluation of major community and technical projects. Her last position prior to moving to Tasmania was Manager, Water Recovery, the Living Murray initiative. Sue is also a keen volunteer in the area of environmental management. We look forward to having her as part of the team.

Future Proofing Tasmanian Councils to Better Adapt to Climate Change

Southern Tasmanian councils will be able to identify risks, assess their vulnerability to the effects of climate change and plan accordingly, thanks to the announcement of the Future Proofing Tasmania’s Councils project by the Minister for Climate Change, Nick McKim. “The Future Proofing project will bring together the latest climate change research and projections to be integrated into council policies and procedures,” Mr McKim said.

The Australian Government is providing $400,000 through the Local Government Reform Fund program to support the State Government, Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority (STCA) and the Local Government Association of Tasmania to develop and pilot the new regional and land-use based approach to climate change adaptation.

The Lord Mayor of Hobart and Chair of the STCA, Ald Rob Valentine, said the main deliverables of the project will be development of a regional climate change adaptation strategy for Tasmania’s southern region, community focused land-use adaptation plans for urban, peri-urban, rural and natural areas, and individual corporate council adaptation plans. “The regional, land-use and individual approach will enable southern councils to work collaboratively and cooperatively on climate change adaptation,” Ald Valentine said. “Importantly, while providing a coordinated approach, it will allow councils to identify climate impacts and adaptation actions that are relevant to their communities and their social, economic and environmental circumstances.”

Mr McKim commended the work done by Local Government and the Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority (STCA)’s successful collaboration with the Australian and Tasmanian Governments on the new approach to climate change adaptation, through the Future Proofing project.
Community Capacity Building Grants Program 2010-11
The Community Capacity Building Grants Program has been established to support programs that improve Tasmanians’ participation in the social, economic, political and cultural life of their community by building individual and community capacity. Round two of this program offers grants up to $2,000 to Local Government and not-for-profit community organisations. Applications close on 4 April. For a copy of the guidelines, visit www.dpac.tas.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0003/138936/CCB_2010-11_Round_Two_Guidelines_and_Application_form_updated2.pdf, or phone 1800 204 224.

Tasmanian Social Enterprise Study
Are you a social enterprise, or are you aware of a business, community organisation or venture that could be? The definition is broad, but whether you call yourself a social enterprise or not, if your organisation or business has a mission to create public or community benefit and you conduct some kind of regular trading activity, then you are encouraged to complete the survey and be involved in the first ever Social Enterprise study in Tasmania. Get involved in the first study to document what’s happening in the state. To find out more, head to www.socialenterprisetasmania.blogspot.com. For hard copies, email socialenterprise@utas.edu.au.

Full Immersion Liveability Experience
Don’t we all want a good, healthy, pleasant, well functioning built environment? We promote it in council literature but do we really know how to achieve liveability? To find out why and how exactly successful liveability planning and implementation is handled elsewhere, council planners and general managers are invited to join a “full immersion liveability infrastructure study tour” in Zurich at the end of June. The tour includes the attendance of the IFLA World Congress (www.ifla2011.com) and continues with visits of the Zurich traffic planning, water management, parks, open space offices, a regional street tree nursery, and Greenfield developments and inner city retrofits in Freiburg (Germany). For details, please contact Peter Brenner at brenner@netspace.net.au, or phone 6224 7999.

ALGWA 60th Anniversary Celebration
2011 marks the 60th anniversary of the Australian Local Government Women’s Association (ALGWA). From 3.00pm on 5 March, anniversary celebrations and the launch of the Mentoring Framework will take place at ‘Home Hill’, 77 Middle Road, Devonport. ALGWA National President, Clr Darriea Turley will be the guest speaker and light refreshments will follow. Local Government representatives, ALGWA members and associates are invited to attend. The cost is $15. RSVP by 1 March to Annette Rockliff on 6427 2363.

Earth Hour 2011 is coming!
Earth Hour 2010 was the largest voluntary action for the environment in history, with 4,500 cities in 128 countries participating. This year, Earth Hour will commence at 8.30pm on 26 March. During Earth Hour, people throughout Australia and around the world will turn off their lights for one hour to demonstrate their support for action on climate change and sustainability. To register your participation, visit www.earthhour.org.

New Weeds Threat to Environment
Comment is being sought from interested groups on the declaration of four serious weed species under the Tasmanian Weed Management Act 1999. They belong to the genus Nassella and include Mexican feather grass (Nassella tenuissima), Texas needle grass (Nassella leucotricha), Lobed needle grass (Nassella charruana) and Cane needle grass (Nassella hyalina). Texas needle grass has been found in Southern Tasmania but not the other species. Their presence in Victoria, however, increases the risk of the plants being spread here. Declaration as weeds under the Act will increase Tasmania’s capacity to control cross-border movements of the plants. The establishment and spread of additional Nassella species would have particular impact on sheep graziers and native vegetation communities. Interested groups are invited to comment on the declaration of these species. Comments are to be submitted by 7 March. Statements of Intent to Declare can be viewed online at www.dpiw.tas.gov.au/inter.nsf/WebPages/LBUN-8DP3FB?open, or phone DPIPWE on 6233 6168.

Infrastructure Asset Management Technologies
A new benchmarking study confronts ICT issues in one of the most fundamental areas of Local Government – the delivery of sustainable public infrastructure. This vendor independent study will enable local councils to: benchmark the maturity of their ICT systems used for asset management and identify their strengths and weaknesses based on comparative peer data; uncover factors that enable the top 10% best performing councils to make good use of their systems; and discover anticipated changes based on initiatives planned across the Local Government sector. To participate, email service@tech-indicators.com.au for details, or visit www.tech-indicators.com.au.

Mary Reibey Scholarship
The Mary Reibey Scholarship offers businesswomen the opportunity to further their expertise in core business disciplines. It takes the form of enrolment in a five and a half day residential General Manager Program, conducted by the Australian Graduate School of Management Executive Programs, valued at $14,300 (incl GST). To apply for the scholarship, please advise in 500 words or less how your business or career would benefit from attending the course and attach a one-page curriculum vitae. The General Manager Program is designed for General and Divisional Managers responsible for managing performance, senior managers being groomed for a place on the executive team, and business owners leading a team of employees. Applications close on 25 February. To apply, visit www.therubyconnection.com.au/BoardRoomLunch.aspx?PageID=81.
2011 Hydrawalk Corporate Health Challenge
Enjoy all the benefits good health and positive teamwork can make for you and your company by participating in
the 2011 HydraWalk Corporate Health Challenge. The HydraWalk Challenge is a 9-week corporate health program
that will motivate and engage your staff. It combines the essential components to a healthy human; movement,
nutrition, sleep and hydration, in a fun, team-based, competitive environment. The basic elements of the HydraWalk
Challenge are: to complete 10,000 steps per day, sleep eight hours a night, eat two pieces of fruit and five serves of
vegetables per day, drink enough water relative to each participant’s size, and a virtual journey online with
leaderboards, progress bars and team statistics available. For details, visit www.hydrawalk.com.au, or phone Healthy
Business Tasmania on 1300 655530.

Conferences & Seminars

Australian Family Friendly Workplace Seminar
Tasmanian employers and HR practitioners are invited to attend the annual Australian Family Friendly Workplace
Seminar, to be held from 7-8 March in Melbourne. Delegates will benefit from powerful insights offered by a
comprehensive range of speakers. The Regional Access Grant for attendance at the seminar is available for
registrations made prior to 25 February - granting a $900 subsidy. For further details, visit

4th Annual New Media Summit
PR practitioners are invited to attend the 4th annual New Media Summit in Sydney, from 22-23 March. Topics to be
covered include: the top five ways to generate value for your organisation from social media; community building;
product research; customer service; and transparency. An early bird rate of $995 (+ GST) is available till 7 March
(normally $1,094.50). To register, phone (02) 9476 3333, or visit www.frocomm.com.au.

Safety in Action
Safety in Action is on at the Melbourne Exhibition Centre from 5-7 April, showcasing all that is new in the safety
industry from Australia and overseas. Running concurrently with the Safety in Action Conference, this is a not-to-be-
missed event for any OHS professional. Delegates can source and compare new products and services, research
the application of new technologies and practices, speak with experts and other professionals, and network with
peers. To register, visit safetyinaction.net.au.

Free Registration for Sustainable Councils Conference
Sustainable Councils is Australia’s national sustainability conference and exhibition, bringing local governments
together to build a sustainable future. The conference will be held in Brisbane from 5-6 September, and will be co-
located with EcoGen 2011, Australia’s clean energy industry conference and exhibition. Sustainable Councils 2011 is
offering one free conference registration to every local council in the country. Register your interest by 3 June. Visit
1/053817.

Local Government Human Resources Conference
The 2011 Local Government Human Resources Conference will run from 7-9 November on the Gold Coast.
Suggestions are invited from HR staff in the Local Government sector for quality keynote speakers and workshop
presenters, for topics that you would like to see addressed at the conference, and for networking events. Details of
innovative council projects and practices in the HR area are also invited. If your council has won, or been a finalist in
an HR award, perhaps you would like to do a 10-15 minute ‘showcase’ of your initiative. For further information or
suggestions, please phone Local Government Learning Solutions on (02) 9442 4181, or visit learning@lgsa.org.au.

Workshops

Finance for Non-Finance Managers
The Australian Institute of Management is pleased to present ‘Finance for Non-Finance Managers’ on 9-10 March in
Hobart. This practical, two-day course will provide council managers with the financial skills to enable them to better
understand and improve financial performance. Topics to be covered include: analysing financial statements to
improve council financial performance; analysing revenue and costs; financial analysis of business decisions; capital
investment evaluation and decisions; cash management and budgeting. The cost is $1,285 (+ GST). To register,
please phone 6236 9055.

Making Museums Work: Writing Successful Grant Applications
Workshops on writing successful grant applications for museums are being conducted from 10am-3.00pm in Oatlands
(10 March), Burnie (17 March) and in Hobart (18 March) by Arts Tasmania. These sessions are open to representatives
from smaller public museums, history groups and community collections from around the state. Registrations are
required by 23 February. To register, please phone Arts Tasmania on 6233 7308, or email
arts.tasmania@arts.tas.gov.au.
**Time Management - Work Smarter, Not Harder**

Most of us are working longer hours, but are we working as efficiently and effectively as we can? This session will help you analyse how to spend your time and then develop processes to achieve greater output with less stress, thereby regaining more control over the time you have. Any person who would like a better understanding of good time management techniques is invited to attend. The half-day workshop will take place from 9.00am-1.00pm in Hobart (16 March), Launceston (6 April), and Burnie (11 May). The cost is $175 (+ GST) for TCCI members and $195 (+ GST) for non-members. For enquiries, phone 6236 3600, or head to www.tcci.com.au/tcci/index.php#c=15.

**Working across Organisational Boundaries**

The Training Consortium is partnering with Prof John Alford of ANZOG to deliver a two-day workshop in Hobart, from 17-18 March, for executives and managers across all levels of government. Getting things done in a government department often requires working across organisational boundaries - with other departments, with the private sector and with non-profit organisations. This workshop includes key content areas such as: types of collaboration, identifying with whom to collaborate, when and when not to work across boundaries, building trust, and facilitators and barriers to cooperation. The cost is $1,575. For further information, visit www.ttc.tas.gov.au, or phone 6232 7511.

**The Manager as Coach - Developing Staff Strengths, Managing Limitations**

This course covers current best practices in coaching staff, managing individual performance, identifying talents and developing staff capacity, providing practical approaches, systems and tools for building productive working relationships with staff via pro-active communication and consistent feedback on performance. The two-day course, to commence in Hobart on 23 March, is for existing managers who wish to develop their people skills. The cost is $850 (+ GST). For further details, please phone LGPerformance on 6236 9055.

**Manage Work Priorities**

The Australian Institute of Management presents a practical program to equip council staff with the skills to better manage their work priorities and plan for professional development. It will also equip managers with the skills to coach their staff in time management and professional development. The course will run from 23-24 March in Launceston. Cost is $1,125 (+ GST). To register, phone 6236 9055.

**Project Management Fundamentals**

A course to provide council staff with an introduction to the project management lifecycle, the functions essential to successful project management and common project management terminology, will be held in Hobart from 23-24 March. The cost is $1,200 (+ GST). For enquiries and bookings, please contact the Australian Institute of Management on 6236 9055.

**Awards**

**Tasmanian Awards for Environmental Excellence 2011**

The Environment Protection Authority is hosting the 13th Tasmanian Awards for Environmental Excellence, highlighting major achievements in sustainable practices and green innovation. Councils are encouraged to submit entries for the Local Government category of the awards for partnership and stand alone projects undertaken in the last two years. The 2011 Awards will be presented in Hobart on 3 June to celebrate World Environment Day. Nominations close on 8 April. For an awards entry kit, go to www.epa.tas.gov.au/taee.

**2011 World Environment Day Awards**

The 5 June is World Environment Day. On this day, the United Nations Association of Australia (UNAA) seeks to focus world attention on the environment and, in particular, on positive programs that work towards protecting or restoring the world's natural heritage. Individuals, organisations, community groups and businesses from across Australia whose work demonstrates environmental leadership are encouraged to nominate for the UNAA World Environment Day Awards. Nominations close on 6 May and the awards will be presented on 3 June. More information on the 2011 Awards program is available online at www.unaavictoria.org.au, or contact Alice Zhao on (03) 9670 7878.

**International Awards for Liveable Communities**

Since the launch of the International Awards for Liveable Communities (LivCom) in 1997, communities from over 50 countries have participated in the awards. The objective of the LivCom Awards is the development and sharing of international best practice in order to make more efficient use of resources, to bring about technical advances and to improve the quality of life. For full details, go to www.livcomawards.com.

**Upcoming Events**

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<tr>
<td>General Management Committee Meeting, Hobart</td>
<td>9 March</td>
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<td>General Managers’ Workshop, Hobart</td>
<td>15-16 March</td>
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<td>General Meeting, Launceston</td>
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