President's Message

I will devote this fortnight’s column to the subject of training and begin by saying a big thank you to the 45 elected members who attended the Elected Members’ Workshop in Launceston last weekend. It was a great session, well organised, with good presenters and networking opportunities. I certainly appreciated the time I spent with such a wonderful and diverse group of enthusiastic elected members. Although I have not been given a report on the content of the feedback forms, I did gauge from the conversations that were taking place over the weekend that people seemed very satisfied.

There is no doubt that these training sessions provide not only the opportunity of gaining knowledge from those presenting, but also the opportunity to learn from the other participants how they do things at their council. I believe that all the sessions contained much information for all of us, whether it was in the area of ‘Getting the Most out of your Meetings’, or the Fundamentals of Council Finance’, maybe ‘The Ethical Obligations of Councillors’, or even ‘Land use Planning’ and ‘Asset Management’. These are all areas that elected members need to be familiar with! Again, I say thank you for taking the time to participate. May I encourage all elected members to seriously consider some future training opportunities provided by the Association - you really will be rewarded!

Coming up in Canberra, from 17-20 June, is the annual National General Assembly of Local Government, a conference that has not generally been well supported by elected members from Tasmania. I am acutely aware that attending such a conference is an expensive exercise but I really do encourage participation. The opportunity of meeting elected members and officers from all over the country is certainly a great learning experience, and also an opportunity to visit your local member at Parliament House.

2012 World Mayor Prize

Communities are being asked to nominate their local mayor for the 2012 World Mayor Prize. Every two years, the City Mayors Foundation awards the prize to a mayor who has developed a vision for urban living relevant to towns and cities across the world. The City Mayors Foundation is seeking candidates who are at least in their second term of office. Mayors wishing to be considered for the World Mayor Prize will be asked to sign the City Mayors Code of Ethics. Nominations will be accepted until mid-May. Nominate your mayor now at www.worldmayor.com/contest_2012/world-mayor-nominations-2012.html.

Local Asset Management Policy Released

The Tasmanian Government has announced the release of the Tasmanian Local Government Asset Management Policy, aimed at assisting the State’s councils in their management of $8 billion worth of assets.

“The Tasmanian Local Government Asset Management Policy provides guidance for councils in developing their own policies and strategies for sustainable, long-term asset management,” Tasmanian Minister for Local Government Bryan Greens said. “This Policy is a key component of the long-term sustainability framework that the Local Government Association of Tasmania and State Government are working with councils to implement.”

President of the Local Government Association of Tasmania, Barry Easter, welcomed the policy announcement, describing it as “a sustainable way to support both the current and future needs of the Tasmanian community.”

The Local Government Association of Tasmania is currently coordinating asset management maturity assessments of all councils as a first step in this process. These assessments will provide councils with fundamental information in progressing or improving their long-term asset management plans, and will provide consistent information around asset maturity in councils across the State.

Cycling Development Fund Open

Local Government and community-based organisations are invited to submit projects for funding under the 2012 Cycling for Active Transport – Local Infrastructure Development Fund. The fund is designed to support the development of cycling infrastructure and facilities in local communities, and deliver programs which encourage people to use their bikes. Organisations can apply for up to $10,000 on a dollar for dollar basis for transport oriented cycling projects. Submissions are required by 12 April. Further information can be found at www.dier.tas.gov.au/passenger_transport.
Help Build Tasmania’s Vision (Statewide)
The three levels of Government are coming together to clarify and build on what the people of Tasmania want for their future, and developing a plan to achieve that vision. A Regional Economic Development Plan for Tasmania’s three regions will inform the priorities of all levels of government and will reflect the expectations of our local communities and ensure the regional visions that are built are based on local needs, opportunities and capabilities. Interested persons are invited to provide input at one of a series of public sessions being held throughout Tasmania from March to April. For session times and locations, visit www.rdatasmania.org.au. To take part, please call Business Point on 1 800 440 026.

LivCom Awards 2012
The Department of Municipal Affairs, Al Ain City Municipality, United Arab Emirates invites applications for the International Awards for Liveable Communities ‘LivCom Awards 2012’. The objective of LivCom is to develop and share international best practice, with the further objective of improving the quality of life of individual citizens through the creation of liveable communities. Government and private entities are invited to participate. Award categories include: Bursary Awards; Whole City Awards; and Project Awards. The finals will take place in Al Ain, UAE between 22-26 November. The deadline for registration is 31 May. For full details, visit www.livcomawards.com, or email info@livcomawards.com.

Get Ready for a Taste of Harmony
A Taste of Harmony – Australia’s biggest celebration of cultural diversity and food on the Australian calendar – will take place from 19-25 March, to coincide with National Harmony Day on 21 March. A Taste of Harmony is an annual week that invites all Australians to bring in a dish and share a meal and stories with colleagues to celebrate our diverse cultures. To participate, register your workplace event for free by visiting www.tasteofharmony.org.au and receive free merchandise.

Conferences, Workshops and Seminars

2012 Women in Local Government Conference (Launceston)
LGMA (Tasmania) and ALGWA are proud to present the 2012 Women in Local Government Conference from 8-9 March in Launceston. The conference, themed ‘Advancing Women in Local Government’, 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, Assistant Commissioner, Tasmania Police; Clr Paula Wriedt, Kingborough Council; Jude Munro, Chairman, Queensland Urban Utilities; and Karen Purser, Project Manager, 50:50 Vision. For full details, visit http://tas.lgma.org.au/events/2012_women_in_local_government_conference.

Ports and Cities: Partnerships that Work (Newcastle)
From 11-13 March, Infrastructure Australia will host a conference in Newcastle aimed at fostering informed debate about the importance of port development for the future of our cities. The conference will pay particular attention to the issues cities and ports need to address in developing and implementing plans for port development; especially what needs to be done to use ports as a catalyst for economic development in cities, and how that success will improve national economic performance. For further information, or to register, visit www.infrastructureaustralia.gov.au/conference_series.

IPWEA Plant and Vehicle Management Workshop (Launceston)
IPWEA will be conducting a Plant and Vehicle Management Workshop in Launceston on 26 March. Workshop highlights include: new leading edge online plant and vehicle management services; new OH&S harmonisation laws and what they mean to managing plant safety; improving fleet management performance; and leading edge hybrid technology. Cost is $310 (IPWEA members) and $370 (non-members). Register online at www.ipwea.org.au/FleetMgtWorkshop2012.

Public Sector Management Program – Free Information Sessions (Launceston, Hobart)
The Training Consortium will be holding free information sessions to provide a detailed understanding of the Public Sector Management Program and assist you to decide whether it is the right tertiary-level leadership development program for you. Sessions will be held in Launceston (3 April) and in Hobart (4 April). For full details please visit www.psmprogram.tas.gov.au, or phone 6232 7544.

Upcoming Events

- General Managers’ Workshop, Hobart 14-15 March
- General Meeting, Launceston 28 March
- General Management Committee Meeting, Launceston 28 March

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