President’s Message

At last Tasmania has a government in place, but it would appear that there is little enthusiasm for much time to be set aside for the Parliament to sit and start work!

That said, we do know the Local Government and Planning Minister is Bryan Green and I believe that this should be seen as very positive for our sector. Like many of you, I have worked with Bryan Green, when he held the infrastructure and mining portfolios, and personally found him to be a receptive, proactive and helpful minister. Minister Green contacted me a couple of days after the Premier announced the ministries, very keen to arrange a meeting in the near future as he is eager to engage with Local Government. We have also just received confirmation that the Minister will be speaking at the Local Government Conference on Friday, 14 May. I trust that this will be the commencement of the positive relationship we look forward to having with him.

With just over a week to go before our AGM/General Meeting and Local Government Conference, I urge council staff, managers and elected members to register without further delay. Not only is there an inspiring line-up of plenary and workshop speakers, but the conference provides a valuable opportunity to meet elected members and staff from councils across the state and to learn from each other’s experiences. We have had a fantastic response from sponsors and exhibitors for this year’s conference and I have been assured that the CMP Conference Dinner is to be an event not to be missed.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Mayors Deirdre Flint, Don Thwaites and Mike Downie on their successful election to the LGAT General Management Committee and Mayors Adriana Taylor, Albert van Zetten and Robert Legge whose election to GMC did not require a ballot. I look forward to a productive time ahead as, together, we work for the benefit of the Local Government sector in Tasmania.

See you all at the conference!

Local Government Conference

Registrations for the 2010 Local Government Conference and CMP conference Dinner are now due. The conference, themed Up Up Up – a Focus on Excellence and Innovation, will be held at West Point in Hobart, from 12-14 May. Don’t miss the opportunity to hear from an inspirational line-up of plenary and workshop speakers from around Australia and New Zealand, including world top10 speaker - Dominic Thurbon. An extra large trade exhibition will also be a feature of this year’s event.

The CMP Conference Dinner, incorporating the announcement of the winners of the 2010 Local Government Awards for Excellence, will be a conference highlight. The dinner will be held on 13 May at the Hotel Grand Chancellor and the free PML Shuttle Service will transport delegates to and from the venue from West Point. Enjoy an evening of fine food, wine and dance music by Sugartrain - beyond the realms of planet Earth.

The Conference Program and Registration Form is available online at www.lgat.tas.gov.au, or for enquiries, phone 6233 5966.

Planning Course Success

Results from the inaugural Short Planning Course for elected members continue to please, with advice being provided by UTAS that the 15 participants who attempted the exam all passed with flying colours. While 25 people attended the course, the exam was not mandatory. For those that chose to sit the exam – our heartiest congratulations! The course coordinator advises that the results were very gratifying, with some almost near perfect scores. Discussions are underway with UTAS following the feedback and evaluation of the inaugural offering, with another course intended to be offered later in the year. The comments from participants and the experience of UTAS in delivering the course should allow for adjustments to be made to content and delivery, to build on the success of the first course.
I’M ALERT-Food Safety Launch

Hobart City Council has launched a free online product as a way to help food business operators promote safe food handling practices in a convenient and easy manner. Many cases of food borne illness occur each year in Australia and a major cause of these illnesses is poor food handling and personal hygiene practices. This not only impacts on the individual but on the health system, the economy and the food industry as a whole. The new training tool allows for a consistent approach nationally to food hygiene training, in line with the Food Standards Code. The I’M ALERT system allows the food handler to be trained at a time and place convenient for them and has easy, manageable sections reflecting all the important sections within the Food Standards Code, and includes narration. The program also features printable templates like cleaning schedules and temperature monitoring sheets. Visit www.hobart.imalert.com.au.

Media Training for Professionals and Managers (Hobart)

Font Public Relations has scheduled a one-day Media Training for Professionals and Managers course for 21 May. Media training will provide you with the tools to better understand how the media works and how to manage media communications. You will also have the opportunity to experience firsthand a real-world media interview in front of a professional TV camera operator, and to review that interview and receive expert feedback. Media training is ideal for people who may be called upon to front the media, as well as for those who need to provide support, advice or back-up at times of media interest. The course costs $540.00 (incl. GST) and includes extensive course notes and lunch. Call 6223 3333, or email itsg@fontpr.com.au to register your interest.

Heart Foundation Local Government Awards

Is your Council leading the way in creating healthy communities? Are you building a sense of community, encouraging people to be active, smoke free, or to make healthy food choices? Entries for the Heart Foundation Local Government Awards 2010 are now open, with $34,000 in cash up for grabs. Local governments which create supportive environments to promote better health and reduce the risk of chronic conditions are encouraged to enter in one of six categories including: Employee Health and Wellbeing; Facilities; Healthy Weight; Planning for Active Living; Priority Groups; and Tobacco. Entries close on 4 June. For an entry form, call 1300 36 27 87, or visit www.heartfoundation.org.au/Get_Involved/Local_Government_Awards/Pages/default.aspx.

Get your Area on the Global Tourism Map!

Tourism Tasmania are encouraging all councils to engage with their local residents and tourism operators to ensure Tasmania is well-represented in Tourism Australia’s “Nothing like Australia” campaign. Until 12 May, all Australians are being encouraged to upload photographs and stories of their favourite holiday destination to the campaign website at www.nothinglikeaustralia.com. A winner will be chosen from each state and territory to win an Australian holiday valued at $5,000 and an overall winner will then be selected to win the ultimate Australian holiday valued at $25,000. Tourism Australia will then select the best entries to use in online and print advertising globally.

How to Manage Trouble in Teams (Hobart)

Teams in trouble take their toll. They waste the time and energy of members, enforce lower performance norms, create destructive conflict within and between teams, make notoriously bad decisions and they always reflect poorly on managers. Managing Trouble in Teams training gives you the tools to address performance concerns at the group level and determine the best course of action to rebuild a positive team culture. The program will run in Hobart on 2-3 June. Cost is $544 (or $490 early bird rate) and includes lunch. Register at www.newfangled-ideas.com/template/files/7321/2010%20Registration%20form.pdf.

Event Survival Seminars (Hobart)

Two workshops are being held for event organisers on 19 May. The first workshop, Sink or Swim, addresses the important role of succession planning and the vital part volunteers play in ensuring success and cost effectiveness for events. Anthony Coad, Chairperson of Agfest 2010, will discuss the model that has helped Agfest thrive for the last 23 years, followed by Peter Middleton of Volunteering Tasmania who will cover strategies to bridge the generation gap. The second workshop, Tassie PR Secrets Revealed, will explain how to create prominent public awareness utilising local media channels. The Mercury’s Editor, Garry Bailey, will divulge the inside info on how to get your event on the front page. For further information, email angela.bain@politechnic.tas.edu.au.

Managing Remote and Isolated Workers (Hobart)

On 12 May a one-day course, to be held in Hobart, will explore a systems-based approach to developing effective safety management plans for managing remote and or isolated workers and operations. Cost is $240. For further information, visit www.ttc.tas.gov.au or phone 6232 7511.

Australasian Aquaculture Conference and Tradeshow (Hobart)

Tasmania will play host to the Australasian Aquaculture International Conference and Trade Show from 23-26 May in Hobart. Of interest to Local Government representatives will be the sessions on environmental issues, health and nutrition, initiatives to reduce regulatory red tape and aquaculture development planning. For details, visit www.australian-aquacultureportal.com, or email sarah-jane.day@aquaculture.org.au.
2010 MobileMuster Local Government Awards
MobileMuster, the official recycling program of the mobile phone industry, is calling on local councils to enter the 2010 MobileMuster Local Government Awards. The awards recognise and celebrate the outstanding efforts by Local Government in promoting the scheme and collecting mobile phones, batteries, chargers and accessories for recycling. The winning councils will be announced during the National General Assembly being held in Canberra from 14-17 June. There are five awards offered, including Best Promoter, Working with Schools Award, Top Collector Award Overall, Top Collector per Capita, and National Excellence. Nominations close on 1 June. For details, visit www.mobilemuster.com.au.

Tasmanian Landcaring Grants
The Tasmanian Landcaring Grants program is a new funding opportunity offered by the Tasmanian Landcare Association and Wildcare Inc through the Australian Government’s Caring for our Community initiative. Up to $20,000 will be available for landcaring projects that deliver on national targets and provide benefits to local communities and the environment. Applications are invited from groups and individual property owners who are committed to progressing landcaring projects that improve the natural values of their local environment. Applications for Round One close on 11 May. Guidelines are available from www.taslandcare.org.au.

Promoting your Tourism Business (Hobart)
A free, three-hour seminar for tourism businesses, coordinated by Font PR, will be held in Hobart on 7 May. Attendees will learn cost-effective communications techniques that will assist to raise the profile of small to mid-sized tourism enterprises and stimulate customer interest. In particular, the seminar will explain how to effectively participate in visiting journalist programs, how to successfully engage with the travel media, and provide valuable detail on Tourism Tasmania’s work around social media. To register, phone Sarah at Font PR on 6223 3333, or email sarahs@fontpr.com.au.

World Environment Day Awards 2010
Nominations are now open nationally for the World Environment Day Awards 2010. In support of the International Year of Biodiversity 2010 and this year’s United Nations World Environment Day theme ‘Many Species, One Planet, One Future’, a new Department of Sustainability and Environment Biodiversity Award has been launched that seeks to recognise the best company, organisation, local government, community or individual that has demonstrated innovation and excellence in the development and management of Australia’s biodiversity. For full details, contact Catherine Sutherland, Program Manager, United Nations Association of Australia on (03) 9670 7878, or visit www.unaavictoria.org.au.

Contact Officer Training (Hobart)
The Tasmanian Training Consortium is holding a workshop in Hobart on 5 May for those with existing responsibilities as harassment or anti-discrimination officers, or with an interest in becoming a contact officer. Cost is $385. For further information, visit www.ttc.tas.gov.au, or phone 6232 7511.

Fourth Annual Women’s Leadership Symposium (Melbourne)
The Fourth Annual Women’s Leadership Symposium will be run in five key locations throughout the country, showcasing presentations from over 60 of Australia’s highest achieving and inspirational women. The symposium’s key objective is to help support a greater representation of female leadership across all Australian industries and sectors. The 2010 Victorian Symposium, to be held in Melbourne from 26-27 July, will include: personal and organisational leadership case studies; audience table discussions; leadership debates; participant workshops; facilitator review sessions; and networking opportunities. For full details, visit www.wla.com.au/events/dm/10/awls/Melb_2010_AWLS_Tas.pdf.

National Employer of Choice Conference 2010 (Melbourne)
The National Employer of Choice Conference 2010 will be held on 21 June in Melbourne, providing a unique examination of the award-winning policies of today’s most innovative and respected employers. Conference participants will be exposed to contemporary HR theory through best practice models and will receive detailed case studies to accompany the oral presentations. Tasmanian delegates are entitled to a $600 travel-offset discount, reducing the cost from $1,195 to $595 per person. For more information, visit www.wtaa.com.au, or phone 1300 138 037.

Upcoming Events
AGM, General Meeting, GMC Meeting, Hobart 12 May
Local Government Conference, Hobart 12-14 May
ALGA National General Assembly, Canberra 14-17 June

To unsubscribe from this newsletter, email stephanie.watson@lgat.tas.gov.au and write ‘Unsubscribe LGAT Newsletter’ in the subject line.

To subscribe to the newsletter, email stephanie.watson@lgat.tas.gov.au and write ‘Subscribe LGAT Newsletter’ in the subject line.