President’s Message

The results of the Legislative Council Election have been confirmed and three new faces will adorn the Upper House benches. Congratulations to Rosemary Armitage, an Alderman with the Launceston City Council, to Craig Farrell, Deputy Mayor of Derwent Valley Council, and to Tony Mulder, an Alderman with Clarence City Council on your successful election to the Legislative Council.

It is interesting that all three of the newly elected members have had considerable experience in Local Government, the sphere of Government closest to the people, and this has no doubt assisted them in building a profile within their respective communities. Well done!

There is no doubt that Local Government is a very good training ground for someone who wishes to pursue a career in State or Federal politics. It is therefore extremely disappointing for me to read in relation to Tony Mulder that, “the father- of- five said he would advocate for an increase in the size of Parliament and abolishing Local Government” (The Examiner, Tuesday, May 10, 2011). Come on Tony Mulder, don’t you owe Local Government some loyalty? At least for a while it would have been nice to nurture that sphere of government that has been so good to you. Please don’t simply use it as a spring board for your political career and then dump it like a hot cake. The electorate always remembers!

I must admit that I am still in shock at this revelation as I thought all elected members would have been extremely supportive of and proud of the achievements of their local council’s contributions to their community, and keen to see them grow and prosper. It has been said on many occasions that Local Government is best suited to be the deliverer of a wide range of services to the community and we do it in a more effective and efficient manner than other spheres of government.

This is a timely reminder that we in Local Government need to be continually aware of the thinking of our political representatives and most importantly at this time as we pursue the recognition of Local Government in the Federal Constitution.

Local Government Conference

Registrations are invited for the 2011 Local Government Conference, to be held at Wrest Point in Hobart from 20-22 July. Themed 100 Years Long: 100 Years Strong, the conference will celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Local Government Association. The speakers will explore how far we have come over the last century as a sector and as a State, with a view towards the future and the challenges, trends and influences that lay ahead. Register by 17 June to go into the Early Bird Prize Draw to win a Special Occasions Package for two people at Wrest Point, valued at over $850. For full details, head to the LGAT website at www.lgat.tas.gov.au and download the 2011 Conference Program and Registration Form, or phone 6233 5966.

Life Members Award for Meritorious Service

The Life Members of the Local Government Association and LGAT are pleased to announce the inaugural Life Members Award for Meritorious Service. The award enables councils and communities to recognise significant achievements by elected members within the most recent electoral term. Nominees will have made a demonstrable contribution to Local Government in one or more of the following areas:
- Enhancement of the status of Local Government;
- Introduction of a significant new or amended policy;
- Innovation;
- Entrepreneurship;
- New or improved services;
- Improved structural or operational outcomes; or
- Engagement and consultation.
Contributions may be within a community or council area, or at a regional or statewide level, and the award may be presented posthumously. Nominations close on 27 June. A copy of the Guidelines and Entry Form can be downloaded from the LGAT website at www.lgat.tas.gov.au.
Pre-election Information Sessions
Would you, or someone you know, like to nominate as a candidate in the 2011 Tasmanian Local Government Elections? LGAT, in partnership with the Local Government Division and the Tasmanian Electoral Commission, will be hosting a series of free information sessions to provide an introduction to Local Government, as well as details of what is expected of a councillor and how to become a councillor. The sessions will be held from 5.30pm - 7.30pm at the Burnie Arts and Function Centre, Wilmot Street, Burnie (6 June), Riverside Meeting Room, Eden Street, Riverside (7 June), Beachfront Motel, Bicheno (8 June), and the Mercure Hotel, Bathurst Street, Hobart (9 June). Delegates will have the opportunity to ask questions and to raise any concerns. To register your attendance, please contact LGAT on 6233 5966. Advertisements will run in the three regional newspapers on 14 and 28 May.

First Meeting of Infrastructure Council
Members of the recently formed Tasmanian Infrastructure Advisory Council met for the first time this week in Hobart. The Minister for Infrastructure, David O’Byrne, said the Council will provide a vital link between Government, industry and the community, and help ensure government decisions are guided by expert advice. “This is the first time in Tasmania that all the key players in infrastructure decision-making are around one table – including business and Local Government,” he said. The Council, chaired by Mr Phillip Clark AM, will provide advice to the Government about current and future infrastructure policy, planning and delivery. Members of the Council include Allan Garcia (CEO, Local Government Association of Tasmania), Miles Hampton (Chair, Tasmanian Water and Sewage Corporations), Peter Davis (CEO Aurora Energy), Peter Clark (CEO Transend), Greg Alomes (Executive Commissioner, Tasmanian Planning Commission), Matthew Phillips (Manager Commercial Strategy, NBN Co), Damien White (CEO, TasRail), Paul Weedon (CEO, Tasports), Robert Wallace (CEO, Tasmanian Chamber of Commerce and Industry), Kim Evans (Secretary, Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment), Mark Kelleher (Secretary, Department of Economic Development), and Norm Mcilfatrick (Secretary, Department of Infrastructure Energy and Resources).

Get the Big Picture with a Local Perspective
The Australian Business Register (ABR) is contacting around 30 local councils across Tasmania to let them know about ABR data and how they can use it at no cost to support their business objectives. Local councils will learn how to benefit from: free data that can be downloaded from the Internet; a free, electronic tool to provide fast, easy access ABR data; and a client service program designed to help them get the most out of ABR data. ABR data is already being used by over 110 local councils around the country to assist with economic planning and other activities within their region. To find out more, download the ABR brochure from www.ato.gov.au/content/downloads/CAS00166223.pdf, and booklet from www.ato.gov.au/content/downloads/CAS00166225.pdf, or email abrenquiries@ato.gov.au.

Local Government Leads Climate Watch
Earthwatch has begun a national program to alert councils to the ClimateWatch Citizen Science program and the opportunity to establish their own ClimateWatch Trails to promote awareness of the local environment. Councils can add the ClimateWatch link to their website and promote the program’s availability online for local schools, environment groups and council employees and their families. The program shows how councils can develop their own local ClimateWatch Trail and become part of a growing network of climate change monitoring sites across the country. To register to become a Climate Change Watcher, go to www.climatewatch.org.au/. For further information, see www.earthwatch.org/australia/

Stepone Web Resource
The StepOne web resource - provides guidance and practical resources to councils and community groups interested in implementing community cohesion initiatives in their local areas. The website features downloadable ‘good practice’ case studies covering a range of communities and issues such as reducing racism, intolerance, negative stereotypes and building positive and sustainable relationships between communities. Submissions of new case studies from local councils are welcome. For enquiries, contact the Centre for Research on Social Inclusion at www.crsi.mq.edu.au/crsi_home, or email crsi@scmp.mq.edu.au.

Smoke-free Alfresco Dining
Hobart City Council will introduce smoking bans in all alfresco dining areas on land under its control from 1 August, including parts of Salamanca Place and Elizabeth Street in North Hobart. The initiative follows the establishment of smoke-free areas in the Elizabeth Mall, Hobart Bus Mall and Wellington Court.

Business in Mind
Stress and mental health issues can seriously impact your organisation. Increased regulation and reporting demands, and a reduced capacity to support staff and service users can be sources of workplace stress. A free DVD and resource kit has been developed to provide an ‘immunisation’ for smaller businesses and NGOs against what has been called the ‘stress epidemic’. by promoting mental health and wellbeing in the workplace. The information provides support to managers and aims to raise awareness of what can be done to prevent problems from occurring, as well as improving the way individuals and organisations cope with the impacts of poor mental health and stress. The Business in Mind Research Project has been set up to evaluate the effectiveness of the resource kit. To find out more or for a copy of the DVD, please visit www.businessinmind.edu.au.
**National Grants to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children**

Community Action Grants are now available to councils, community groups and not-for-profit organisations with innovative primary prevention projects aimed at engaging their community to prevent violence against women and to encourage and promote respectful relationships. Applicants can apply for up to $250,000 over three years from July 2011 to June 2014 to fund their project. Priority will be given to projects which support older women, women with disabilities, culturally and linguistically diverse communities, and gay and lesbian communities. Applications close on 30 May. For full details, call 1300 138 494, or visit www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/women/funding/community_action/Pages/partC.aspx.

**Awards**

**Heart Foundation Healthy Community Awards**

Entries are now open for the Heart Foundation Healthy Community Awards 2011. Previously known as the Local Government Awards, these new look awards recognise councils for their contribution to improving heart health and aim to encourage their ongoing commitment to creating healthy communities. Any council working to improve the health of their community is invited to submit an entry. Winners will be awarded at both state and national levels, with $38,000 in cash awards on offer. Entries are required by 27 May. For details, go to www.heartfoundation.org.au/lga, or call 1300 36 27 87.

**2011 National Disability Awards**

Australians are encouraged to nominate individuals and organisations that make a positive contribution to the lives of people with disability for the National Disability Awards. The awards give recognition to the remarkable achievements of the disability sector and the role models with disability who inspire all Australians. Award categories include: Minister's Lifelong Achievement Award; Young Disability Challenge Award; Business Award; Local Government Award; Social Inclusion Award; Inclusive and Accessible Communities Award; and the Health and Wellbeing Award. Nominations close on 30 June and award winners will be announced in Canberra on 22 November. To nominate for the National Disability Awards, visit www.idpwd.com.au/, or call 1800 440 385.

**2011 Diversity@Work Employment and Inclusion Awards**

Nominations open for the 2011 Diversity@Work Employment and Inclusion Awards. Councils that support the employment and inclusion of people with a disability, culturally and linguistically diverse individuals, mature age, youth, Indigenous Australians or gender diversity are encouraged to nominate. More information is available online at http://www.diversityatwork.com.au/ or by phoning (03) 9862 4222.

**Conferences**

**Success by the Tonne**

The Waste Management Association of Australia (WMAA) Victoria Branch invites you to attend the Success by the Tonne Conference: Achievements in the Transition from Waste to Resource Management, to be held from 6-8 June in Melbourne. The conference offers the opportunity to profile and reflect on achievements, to understand how to influence future activities and boost confidence that the waste and resource management industry will continue to play a lead role in delivering resource sustainability in Australia. Register online at www.wmaa.com.au/CONF/CB32011/register.html.

**2011 Communities for Children Connections Conference**

The 2011 Communities for Children Connections Conference will be held from 29-30 June at the University of Tasmania, Newnham, Launceston. Speakers Include Peter Kenyon, Andrew Fuller, Margaret Sims, Maria Consuelo Barreda-Hanson, Stefan Grunert, Paul Pritchard, Larry Cashion, Sirppa Khan, Rose Clarke, Gabrielle Fakhri and Katrina Miller. Attendance is free. Email cfcevents@anglicare-tas.org.au, or call Diane on 6333 3052 for further information and a registration form.

**Australasian Conference for Public Participation 2011**

The International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) Conferences are recognised as the forum where public participation practitioners come together to learn from world-renowned master practitioners, network and share with each other, and take away tools and techniques to meet the increasingly complex challenges faced by communities, governments and others. The Australasian Conference for Public Participation 2011 will be held in Sydney from 20-21 October. The organisers are currently developing a targeted program that will allow participants to explore the theme of Excite, Engage, Evolve through showcased leading practice. IAP2 is offering interested organisations and individuals the opportunity to be part of the conference program as volunteer session curators. Further information can be found at www.iap2.org.au, or call Jodi Clark on (03) 9844 5499.
Workshops and Seminars

4th Annual Parks and Recreation Seminar

Registrations are invited for IPWEA’s 4th Annual Parks and Recreation Seminar in Tasmania, to be held in Launceston on 24 May. The seminar includes two practical workshops focusing on asset and contract management and will provide a valuable learning and networking opportunity for those involved in parks and recreation management. Numbers are limited. To secure your place, visit www.ipwea.org.au.

Working with Complex and Demanding Clients

The Australasian Housing Institute (AHI) is delivering a Working with Complex and Demanding Clients workshop in Hobart on 26 May, facilitated by John Flanagan. Gain a greater understanding of complex and demanding clients, develop useful communication skills, identify relevant community networks and gain a broad appreciation of diverse intervention strategies. While the workshop is aimed at social housing professionals, the AHI welcomes the support of Local Government and other external organisations. For details, please visit www.housinginstitute.org or email kelly.badewitz@housinginstitute.org.

Right to Information Introductory Workshop

The Office of the Ombudsman and Health Complaints Commissioner will be running a Right to Information introductory workshop in Hobart (26 May, 30 June, 28 July, 25 August), in Devonport (3 August), and in Launceston (4 August). The workshop will provide a basic overview of the Act, and step through how information is disclosed under RTI. The cost is $35. For more information, email Rachel Castles at rachel.castles@ombudsman.tas.gov.au.

People Power Workshops

Difficult clients, customers, volunteers, work colleagues, employees and bosses are everywhere. Yet very few people really know how to handle these annoying, frustrating, distressing and badly behaving people. Two action-packed workshops, designed by Dr Judy Esmond, will be held on 8 June in Melbourne on the true potential of ‘People Power’ and the most powerful strategies and techniques to deal with difficult people in any situation and the secrets to building brilliant teams. The cost is $249 per person (incls GST). For full details, go to www.teamconsultants.info/peopleandteams2011.html.

Passion, Entrepreneurship and Invigorating Local Economies

TasCOSS and Tasmanian Regional Arts are partnering with the Sirolli Institute to provide a 3-day workshop in Launceston from 15-17 June and a 12-month mentoring program in the Trinity of Management®, the management coaching system at the heart of Enterprise Facilitation®. Enterprise Facilitation® is a unique approach to local economic development and successfully exported to hundreds of communities around the world. This initiative is designed to share the best practices of Enterprise Facilitation® with personnel at the frontline of organisations. The program will enhance their capacity to successfully interact with would-be entrepreneurs and will provide a simple but effective tool to safely and competently respond to people with ideas for businesses and social enterprises. People with a passion for helping their region to grow and prosper are invited to attend. The cost is $2,500. For more information, head to http://tascoss.org.au/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=hlkfNf5d%3d&tabid=36.

Upcoming Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LGMA Congress, Cairns</td>
<td>22-25 May</td>
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<tr>
<td>National General Assembly, Canberra</td>
<td>19-23 June</td>
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<tr>
<td>AGM/General Meeting, Hobart</td>
<td>20 July</td>
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<tr>
<td>Local Government Conference, Hobart</td>
<td>21-22 July</td>
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