President’s Message

The AGM, General Meeting and Annual Conference are now all behind us and I feel that the three days in Hobart resulted in some very positive outcomes.

At the General Meeting it was nice to have some debate on motions and I ask councils to consider submitting motions for discussion at all general meetings. I was surprised with the result of the vote on compulsory voting, as I thought there may have been a shift towards support for this, and also with the outcome of Hobart’s motion concerning smoking in public places. I don’t think we have heard the last of this particular matter!

I was pleased with the format of the conference and personally enjoyed the interaction with elected members, sponsors and trade exhibitors. The speakers both at the plenary and workshop sessions provided a diverse range of relevant information for participants.

Minister Bryan Green’s address to conference was well received, with the clear message that it is his desire to build a good working relationship with Local Government. He did say that the sector had achieved some positive reforms in the past but that there was more to be done. Local Government needs to take responsibility in this area and I am sure that in the coming months we can have some mature discussions that will result in strengthening the position of Local Government in Tasmania.

The CMP Conference Dinner was a great success and I congratulate again the winners of the Local Government Awards for Excellence:

- Kingborough Council for their Conversations in Kingborough – Youth Transport Project
- Launceston City Council for their Employer of Choice project
- Launceston City Council for their Launceston Aquatic facility
- Brighton Council for their Common Service Provision Model

Well done to all the winners and finalists, and at this early stage, I encourage all councils to consider entering the awards next year.

Awards for Excellence

The winners of the 2010 Local Government Awards for Excellence were announced at the Civic Mutual Plus Conference Dinner, held in Hobart on 13 May. The awards were presented by the Minister for Local Government, the Hon. Bryan Green.

Launceston City Council received the Delivering Excellence in Natural or Built Environments Award for the development of the Launceston Aquatic facility, which employs world’s best practice principals for heritage and sustainable design, while providing a much-loved health and recreation environment for residents and visitors alike.

Launceston City Council was also awarded the Delivering Excellence for our People Award for their 2009 Employer of Choice initiative, raising staff morale and retention rates with employee-driven, in-house improvements.

The Demonstrating Operational Excellence Award went to Brighton Council for an outstanding Common Service Provision Model which allowed Council to share its staff and resources with six Tasmanian councils while keeping their ratepayers front of mind.

Kingborough Council won the Demonstrating Excellence for our Communities category for their Conversations in Kingborough -Youth Transport Project. The acclaimed project took a simple approach to attract youth consultation on transport issues in their municipality, using a travelling red couch to initiate a series of conversations with younger people.

The 2010 Local Government Awards for Excellence are proudly sponsored by Civic Mutual Plus.
**New Dog Control Legislation - Identifying Restricted Breed Dogs**

The Training Consortium has been working with the Local Government Division (DPAC) to co-ordinate a specialised workshop to assist Local Government officers from all Tasmanian councils with the identification of restricted breed dogs. The workshop will support the new Tasmanian dog control legislation that will come into effect on 1 July. This legislation contains new provisions relating to the ‘pit-bull’ family of dogs that will require dog control officers to be proficient in the identification of these particular dogs. The 2-day workshop will be held in Launceston from 2-3 June. Places are limited. For full details, visit www.ttc.tas.gov.au/_security/flyers/100602DogidentificationWorkshop.doc.

**Launceston City Council Welcomes New General Manager**

Launceston City Council has appointed Robert Dobrzynski as its new General Manager. Mr Dobrzynski, who commenced in the position today, has relocated to Launceston from the Moorabool Shire Council in Victoria, where he has been the Chief Executive Officer for over seven years. He has 26 years experience working in Local Government. Launceston City Council Mayor Albert van Zetten said Robert's experience and knowledge will be a major asset to Council and the Launceston community.

**Home Energy Audit Toolkits**

Due to overwhelming demand, the Hobart City Council and the Southern Tasmanian Council’s Authority are undertaking a re-order of the Home Energy Audit Toolkit (HEAT) and extending the offer to all Tasmanian councils. HEAT assists households to undertake an energy audit of their home in their own time and reduce their energy use by undertaking cost effective and practical actions. They can be borrowed free of charge from participating councils. Councils are supported by a range of materials that provide a consistent approach to borrowing/lending/promotion/media and maintenance of the kits. For more information, or to purchase a toolkit, please contact Katrina Graham at the Hobart City Council on 6238 2741, or email grahamk@hobartcity.com.au by 21 May.

**Landslide Planning Workshop (Ulverstone)**

Mineral Resources Tasmania (MRT) is pleased to announce the imminent release of the North-West Coast Landslide Maps. To mark the occasion, a workshop, supported by Central Coast Council, will be held at the Ulverstone Civic Theatre, from 8-9 June. Key stakeholders involved in landslide risk management, such as land-use planning and emergency management, are invited to attend. For details, visit www.mrt.tas.gov.au (News section), or contact Colin Mazengarb on 6233 8330.

**Australian Social Media Trends (Hobart)**

On 26 May, join Russ Tucker of NSW-based creative agency TEQUILA and Jarrod Lowe from Red Jelly to find out how organisations across Australia are using social media as a successful marketing tool. The seminar, coordinated by the Australian Marketing Institute (AMI), will be held from 5.00pm – 6.30pm at the Old Woolstore in Hobart. RSVP by 21 May. Cost (incl. GST and refreshments) is $44 (AMI members) and $55 (non-members). For further details, visit www.ami.org.au or phone 1300 737 445.

**UTAS Postgraduate Information Evenings (Launceston, Hobart, Burnie)**

People considering their 2010/2011 professional development plan are invited to explore opportunities being offered at the University of Tasmania at one of three postgraduate information evenings to be held in Launceston (24 May), in Hobart (27 May), and in Burnie (1 June). For further details, please visit www.postgraduate.utas.edu.au, or call 1300 363 864.

**Effectively Presenting (Launceston, Hobart)**

Too often people make a presentation to a manager, internal team, or client and the main focus is content. While important, content is only 35% of a great presentation. Learn the basics of preparing and delivering great presentations, managing your nerves and getting audience response at a two-day training session coordinated by High Performance Training. Sessions will be held in Launceston on 20 May and 28 October, and in Hobart on 26 August. For further details, call 1 300 759 313, or visit www.highperftraining.com.au.

**AITPM Sustainable Transport Solutions Seminar (Hobart)**

A Sustainable Transport Solutions Seminar will be held at Wrest Point in Hobart, from 9.30am–4.00pm, on 24 May. The cost is $110 per person (incl. GST), or $80 (AITPM and Engineers Australia Members). For further details, please phone Rebekah Whelan on 6323 1900, or email rwhelan@pittsh.com.au.

**Upcoming Events**

**ALGA National General Assembly, Canberra**

14-17 June

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