President’s Message

It was once said that “life was not meant to be easy” and believe me this week, and in particular today as I sit down to write this column, that has certainly been my experience!

Unfortunately, the Association has come under fire and some of the media comment I have heard and read has been grossly unfair and totally unwarranted.

As President of the Association, I am only too aware that many of our members are going through a very difficult period but, instead of being critical and negative, we should all be pulling together, showing that we are prepared to be supportive and encouraging towards each other.

Since becoming President, I have been very impressed by what such a small team at the Association achieves on behalf of member councils across the state. I know this view is not shared by all members, and we have witnessed that this week, but I can assure you that the work of the Association is always done with the best interests of members at heart.

There is no substitute for ‘solidarity in the ranks’ - we must be united and, whether your council is large or small, a city or a country council, only by presenting ourselves as a cohesive membership can we ensure that our voice is heard, a voice that will garner support for all members.

Healthy by Design Workshops

Healthy by Design - a guide to planning and designing environments for active living in Tasmania aims to assist planners, urban designers and related professionals to design built environments that enable people to incorporate incidental physical activity – such as walking and cycling for transport – into their daily routine.

During July, the Heart Foundation will host a series of workshops across Tasmania on Healthy by Design, facilitated by urban, regional and social planner, Stephanie Knox. The workshops will be held in Latrobe (7 July), Wynyard (8 July), New Norfolk (13 July), Clarence (14 July), Glenorchy (15 July), and Launceston (21 July). Attendance will be free for Local Government employees. Registrations are required by 25 June. For more information, contact Sally Barns at the Heart Foundation on 6336 5116, or email Sally.Barns@heartfoundation.org.au.

Leadership Program

The Excellence in Local Government Leadership Program from the Australia and New Zealand School of Government (ANZSOG) aims to stretch the intellectual boundaries of its participants and build the strategic leadership capability of local governments. The new, 3-week, intensive residential program will commence in Melbourne on 22 November, setting a new standard for professional development among Local Government leaders. Participants will be able to: better understand and manage the broader political, social, demographic and policy context in which Local Government operates; learn effective frameworks to support strategic leadership and management; and sensitively manage relationships with their communities. The program is expected to cost around $19,950. Scholarships are available and $100,000 has been committed by the Commonwealth Government to support the participation of women. For enquiries, please contact Victoria Musgrove on (03) 8344 1968, or email v.musgrove@anzsog.edu.au.

National Leadership Role for Kingborough GM

Kingborough Council’s General Manager, Paul West, will be at the forefront of promoting excellence in Local Government management for the coming year as National President of Local Government Managers Australia (LGMA). The hand-over of the National Presidency took place at the 2010 LGMA National Congress, held from 16-19 May. Paul has been one of two Tasmanian representatives on the National Board for the past six years.
Funding Available for Improved Digital Services for Regional, Rural and Remote Australia

The Australian Government has called for proposals to fund projects in regional Australia that will develop service delivery solutions for education, health and emergency services. The program will foster partnerships between State and Local Government to enhance the way essential services are delivered. A key focus of the initiative is on improving service delivery through the use of innovative digital enablement technology. Projects will be expected to offer sustainable solutions and longer term benefits for regional Australians. Examples may include: remote medical consultation, diagnosis and treatment to address regional skills shortages and enhance patient care; digital resources and services such as teleconferencing to improve access to educational opportunities for regional, rural and remote students and teachers; and digital technologies to improve emergency and disaster response. Applications are required by 14 July. The guidelines and further information are available at www.dbcde.gov.au/digitalregions.

2010 Benchmarking Best Practice in Local Government Conference (Sydney)

CEOs, general managers and senior directors of a number of Australia’s most innovative councils will address the 3rd Annual Benchmarking Best Practice in Local Government Conference, to be held in Sydney from 7-8 July. The speakers will provide detailed insights into innovative and successful management tools being used by Australia’s leading councils to cut costs, increase organisational efficiency, and optimise the delivery of services to their communities. The conference will focus on Local Government best practice in areas such as: organisational development and performance improvement; staff productivity and workforce culture; management structures and systems; financial asset management; technology implementation; and sustainability improvements. Further information is available online at www.halledit.com.au/bestprac2010.

Junction 2010 - the Biggest Arts Gathering in Australia (Launceston)

Junction 2010, the seventh biennial Regional Arts Australia’s national conference, is set to unleash an explosion of ideas and creativity for people involved in the arts. The conference will be held in Launceston from 26-29 August. The stimulating and thought-provoking conference program and arts festival will include sessions on: Population Drift: You Win Some You Lose Some; the Regional Centre of Culture Program, and Reviving the City: Newcastle Renewal. Early bird registrations close 18 June. For further details, visit www.junction2010.com.au.

Women’s Leadership Symposium (Melbourne)

The Fourth Annual Women’s Leadership Symposium is Australia’s premier annual event for women in leadership. The event will be held in Melbourne from 26-27 July. Keynote speaker, Katie Lahey – Chief Executive, Business Council Australia, will be joining Catherine Fox - Writter, AFR Boss, Corporate Woman Archives, and Lisa Eccleston - Group General Manager, Human Resources, Amcor Australasia on an elite panel discussion, asking the question “Women and leadership: Are things really improving?”. A heavily discounted registration fee is being offered to Tasmanians wishing to attend - $895 per person (from $2,295). For details, visit www.wla.com.au/events/dm/10/awls/Melb_2010_AWLS_Tas.pdf, or phone 1300 138 03.

National Cyber Security Awareness Week

As more and more Australians are online every day, the need for good internet security becomes even more important. Unfortunately, as the technologies get smarter, so do the criminals who perpetrate scams and frauds and steal personal and financial data from unsuspecting internet users. From 6-11 June, National Cyber Security Awareness Week 2010 will help Australians to better understand cyber security. For more information, go to www.staysmartonline.gov.au.

TCCI State Budget Breakfast (Hobart)

On 18th June, find out how the new Labor/Green Government’s decisions will impact on Tasmanian business at the TCCI State Budget Breakfast. Guests will gain valuable insight into the State’s finances and will have the opportunity to ask questions. Speakers include Premier David Bartlett MHA, Treasurer Michael Aird and Tasmanian economist - Bruce Felmingham. The breakfast, to be held at Wrest Point, will commence at 7.00am and conclude at 9.00am. Cost is $40 per person (+GST), or $360 for a table of 10 (+GST). Bookings are required by 14 June. Register at www.tcci.com.au/upfiles/tcci/cont/pdfs/events/state_budget_breakfast__flyer.pdf, or call 6236 3600.

Upcoming Events

ALGA National General Assembly, Canberra 14-17 June

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