For the first time in 12 years, the Local Government Conference is heading north to Launceston’s Country Club Resort, from 18-20 June. Elected members, council managers, Local Government officers and affiliates are invited to attend this exciting event, now in its 96th year.

The annual conference provides a valuable opportunity to come together as a sector, to expand our knowledge base, discuss key issues, network, share information, and to celebrate the role and achievements of Local Government in Tasmania. The conference is coordinated by the Local Government Association of Tasmania, in association with the Institute of Public Works Engineering Australia and Local Government Managers Australia.

The 2008 Local Government Conference, themed Waves of Change, will address some of the key challenges Local Government now faces and at how we, as a sector and individual councils can adapt and progress towards a stronger, more sustainable future. Read on for a glimpse of this year’s line-up. Our thanks to Civic Mutual Plus, Country Club Resort, and Launceston City Council for their generous support of this year’s event.

Forward Thinking

Many of us are deeply concerned about what might happen in the future. But for all of us, the future success of our businesses and organisations depends on it. The issues local councils need to think about are many and varied including climate change impacts, water management issues, ageing population, commodity and energy prices, health pandemics, infrastructure decline, waste management and recycling, asset security, tourism, housing affordability, and the list goes on.

Compiling a list is easy - but how do we plan for and achieve strategic success without spending vast amounts of time and money on just another analysis that few want, and everyone forgets? History tells us the
future cannot be predicted in any foolproof way. The challenge facing councils is to make effective the link between the relative uncertainties of the future, with the decisions that must be made today. Strategic planning is a learning exercise, which always has a future orientation. While learning from the past is a time-honoured tradition, planning for the future, particularly when faced with high degrees of uncertainty, requires new competencies and novel methodologies.

It can be useful to categorise events in three distinctive ways. The first is an event that invokes a reaction of surprise, even shock. Earthquakes, tsunamis, 9/11, a sudden ending, a chance opportunity - these we call ‘wildcards’ when we had no idea it was coming. Then there are happenings in the future which we can say, with virtual certainty, will occur - these we call ‘predetermined elements’ which cover such things as near-term demographics, and levels of demand for staple products. Lastly, there are those events that we have thought about and which seem to be important, but the outcomes (timing, size and nature) cannot be reasonably predicted. These we call ‘critical uncertainties’.

Traditional quantitative approaches to strategic planning strive to reduce the uncertainty in situations by evaluating options using risk-adjusted probabilities, or assessing future investments by discounting future cash flows. Such approaches are highly dependent on the validity of underlying ideas and assumptions, which may not have been tested, or clearly outlined.

Also, consider that the impacts of change occur systematically, not in isolation. Foxes may not have been introduced into Australia as a means to provide sport, if it was thought they could play a leading role in the worst eradication of mammals in 200 years in the world. What is needed for councils to make sense of these complexities, is a framework that accommodates not only diversity in terms of the impacts of future environments, but which also frames the potential developments as new opportunities for organisations to adapt and intervene - pro-active engagement as it were.

Strategic development through ‘scenario planning’ delivers this value to councils by supporting a systemic view of change that is capable of handling the hundreds of influences that combine to shape their future operating environments. By making explicit the full inter-connected set of critical uncertainties that councils face, a customised set of alternative scenarios can help management avoid being blindsided by the limitations of linear projections. In a dynamically changing world, and in order to exhaust our social responsibilities, we need to embrace methodologies such as scenario planning, that help us stay relevant in real-time to the challenges of the future.

Co-director of the Sydney-based Neville Freeman Agency and keynote speaker at conference, Oliver Freeman, will present Future Shock: surfacing the waves of change, to look at what the future has in store for us. His presentation will be followed by a workshop, Scenarios for 2030 - an interactive and practical Australian case study, to look at the benefits of scenario planning for Local Government.

Sound as Good as You Look

“He wasn’t anything to look at, so to speak, but he had a lovely voice,” a woman commented, on a man who had approached her at a home show last week. People remember voices. Read these names and you’ll hear their’s immediately: Bob Hawke, John Howard, The Queen, Lara Giddings...

Steve Barker, The Voice Connection

Unless you’re an incredibly gifted actor, your voice will reveal the emotion you feel every time. When you’re tired - it comes through in your voice. So too, when you’re bored, excited, frustrated and elated. Few people have a bad speaking voice, yet most people aren’t comfortable with theirs. For example, how do you feel when you hear your own voice mail message? Your voice is nothing to be ashamed of. With Steve Barker’s help, it will be something to be proud of!

His Sound As Good As You Look seminar has been presented to thousands of people from all walks of life, all over Australia...and gets people talking!

“I’m about helping people become more aware of their vocal identity and showing them how to give it some polish,” says the former Sydney DJ. “I make my living by going into rooms the size of a telephone booth, with strangers on the other side of the glass poking faces at me, which makes doing voice overs for new cars, dog food and underpants quite a challenge!”

Some of these skills Steve will share in a memorable session at this year’s conference. A Tasmanian resident for the past six years, Steve, has a natural exuberance and real zest for life. His voice is used for television and radio commercials, as well as corporate narration Australia-wide. He will be a welcome addition to this year’s conference.

Avoiding the rip: accessible communities

All councils face changes in their community’s demographic make up and expectations. By 2050, more than 25% of community members will be aged over 65 and, on average, each of us will live with a disability for around 20 years. This workshop will look at what Local Government can do to encourage and maintain a sustainable community by ensuring the built environment is as accessible as possible. This will include looking at some of the resources available to Local Government.

Michael Small works as Senior Policy Officer in the Disability Rights Unit of the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission

Michael Small, Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission
Opportunity Commission. He has worked with people with disabilities for more than 30 years in the UK, Fiji, Canada and Australia. Michael is responsible for a number of compliance projects in the areas of media access, access to health services, e-commerce and the Commission’s work on the development of an Access to Premises standard. He has also had primary responsibility for the Commissions work with Local Government authorities and has run workshops throughout Australia on the development of Action Plans and strategies for improving access to services and premises.

Going “Forward with Fairness”

After the controversy of Work Choices, employers now have to come to grips with the new Government’s policy for industrial relations – Forward with Fairness. Commencing with the introduction of the Workplace Relations Act Amendment Bill in February 2008, implementation of this policy will once again alter the industrial landscape.

The workshop, coordinated by LGMA, will be presented by Craig Green and Rod Collinson of Page Seager, an established Tasmanian law firm with a specialist Workplace Relations Department. Craig has extensive experience in IR as a lawyer and as a former union official, having advised on a broad range of IR/HR issues, and provides workplace training. Prior to joining Page Seager in 2007, Rod practiced in Workplace Relations with a national law firm based in W.A. and later, as an industrial relations consultant and as a director of a specialist incorporated legal practice.

ALGWA Celebrates 30 Years in Tasmania

This year, ALGWA (Tasmania Branch) is celebrating 30 years of continuous operation in this state. Conference delegates are invited to join in the festivities at a special, early evening cocktail event to be held on Wednesday, 18 June. While enjoying drinks and canapés, guests will be treated to some musical entertainment from the talented students at Newstead College. Thanks to Veolia for supporting the event.

CMP Conference Dinner

Day two of the Conference (19 June) will conclude with the CMP Conference Dinner at Launceston’s Albert Hall. Delegates staying at the Country Club Resort, are encouraged to take advantage of the free, return shuttle service. The evening’s entertainment will commence with a stunning performance by Tasdance who will present Anna Smith’s Five for Silver. An inventive costume design by Brisbane based designer, Greg Clarke, provides a unique performance environment, as it literally connects the dancers in the one costume. Anna’s work is intricate and expressive, and the movement fluid, like mercury. After dinner, the winners of the Local Government Awards for Excellence will be announced, followed by dance music played by Midnight Rendezvous. It’s going to be a fabulous night. Be sure to bring your partner!

Conference in Style at County Club Tasmania

Country Club Tasmania welcomes delegates of the 2008 LGAT Conference to Launceston. Country Club Tasmania’s unique setting, professional service and first-class facilities will ensure an enjoyable stay.

After a busy day of conferencing, there may be some work to do. Country Club Tasmania rooms are equipped with work desks and ADSL broadband.

Craig Green & Rod Collinson, Page and Seager

Continued Page 28
CRSP Update

**Rural Bus Safety**

West Tamar CRSP has initiated a Wait Watch Walk campaign targeting primary students who travel by bus. Local school bus drivers plan to conduct education sessions to students, information will be disseminated through school newsletters and local school buses will have cautionary posters displaying the Wait Watch Walk message prominently at exit points.

The Kentish CRSP group will conduct a mail out of postcards to all residents promoting Let's Keep Kentish Kids Safe on Country Roads. This will reinforce 40kmh speed limits near buses displaying flashing lights and encourage parents to drop off and pick up children on the same side as the bus.

**Alcolysers on Loan**

Glamorgan Spring Bay has introduced an Alcolyser On Loan project involving the Council lending breath testers to local hotels and clubs. Training is provided to bar staff and participating hotels and clubs are resourced with bar mats and drink coasters promoting the 'What's Your Plan' message. Recently more alcolysers had to be acquired to cater for increased community interest.

**Slow Down Summer in St Helens**

Break O' Day CRSP group conducted a Slow Down Summer in St Helens speed reduction program over the busy January / February period. The program involved a digital speed display trailer placed in 4 key locations, radio advertising and posters in community outlets.

**Circular Head rocks!**

The local CRSP group and representatives of the Smithton Lions Club provided information on standard drinks in conjunction with free breath testing at the recent Rock Festival. Also the Who's Des Tonight? designated driver program was introduced to several clubs and hotels in Smithton over the summer period.

**Drug Driving Posters**

Hobart CRSP recently partnered with the Tasmanian Council on AIDS, Hepatitis & Related Diseases (TasCAHRD) to introduce the You Can't Drive Straight on Drugs campaign which has placed drug driving posters in Hobart City Council public toilets.

**New Communities**

In recent months Devonport City and Southern Midlands Councils have partnered with DIER to become involved in the CRSP program. This brings the total number of CRSP municipalities to 23 across Tasmania. Negotiations are also underway with other interested Councils.

**MORE INFORMATION?**

Anyone interested in obtaining more information regarding the CRSP Program can contact Project Manager, Geoff Frier (DIER) by phone 62 334861 or email geoff.frier@dier.tas.gov.au
Internet connection. The Business Centre also provides broadband facilities, access to all Windows applications, printing and photocopying facilities, and data ports, all within quiet and comfortable surrounds.

Country Club offers a range of 4 to 5 star accommodation where you can unwind after a long day. With 182 rooms and an array of accommodation styles, choose from our premier Manor Suites, stylish Deluxe Rooms, comfortable one, two and three bedroom self-contained Villas, and indulgent Spa Suites.

**Manor Suites** – For that extra touch of luxury, indulge in a five-star Manor Suite. With a spacious bedroom, separate lounge, your own private balcony, granite bathroom with deep spa and five-jet shower, plus a widescreen plasma TV - you’ll be relaxing in luxury in every sense of the word!

**Deluxe Rooms** – Relax in style in a beautifully appointed double or twin room. Take in the golf course, courtyard or bushland views, and stretch out in stylish comfort.

**Self-contained Villas** – Our well-appointed one, two and three bedroom villas contain all you need, plus full kitchen facilities with spacious dining and lounge areas.

All rooms and suites feature individually controlled air conditioning, high speed Internet access, televisions with local programming, pay-TV, in-house movies and info channel, mini bar, refrigerator, toaster and tea/coffee making facilities.

Of course, accommodation means more than a bed. At Country Club, we offer a unique range of wind-down activities. Try our 18-hole championship golf course and driving range for size. Enjoy a set of tennis on one of our three courts, followed by a swim, sauna and spa in one of our two pools. A workout in one of our gyms will help work away any stress - but then again, so will horse riding or fly-fishing.

With five restaurants and four bars, Country Club Tasmania offers an impressive range of dining and entertainment options. Experience the best in fine dining at our multi award-winning Terrace Restaurant. Take in the views over the stunning golf course whilst you enjoy a buffet-style breakfast, lunch or dinner, or the à la carte menu at the Links Restaurant. For a quick and inexpensive meal, head to the Watergarden dining area, or to Scarlett’s or Bolters Pizzeria at the Country Club Villas, adjacent to Country Club Tasmania.

For further information, or to make your reservation, call 1800 030 211, or visit www.countryclubtasmania.com.au.

**Accommodation Giveaway**

Registered conference delegates will go into a prize draw to **WIN a deluxe accommodation package at Country Club Resort valued at $1,000**, including two nights accommodation in a luxurious Manor Suite for two persons and two hot breakfasts each day.

For further information about the Local Government Conference, visit www.lgat.tas.gov.au, or phone (03) 6233 5966.
Deputy Secretary Appointed to Department of Premier and Cabinet

Premier Paul Lennon has announced the appointment of Rhys Edwards as Deputy Secretary of the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

Mr Edwards, who took up the position on 12 February, is responsible for the Department’s Policy, Community Development and Local Government Divisions. The Policy and Community Development Divisions, led by Mr Edwards, will play a major role in implementing a comprehensive, whole-of-government social inclusion strategy which is central to the State Government’s vision for a fair and connected Tasmania.

Previously, Mr Edwards has served as Deputy Secretary of the Department of Economic Development, Economic Adviser to Premier Jim Bacon and Senior Adviser to the Deputy Premier. Mr Edwards has a Bachelor of Economics (Hons) from the University of Tasmania and was awarded a Rhodes scholarship in 1992.

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Long-standing companies Road Transport Training and Driver Improvement Consultancy have amalgamated to become Driver Safety Services.

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Towards a Crash Free World
Pandemic Planning

It’s reasonable to wonder why so much effort is going into preparing for the next flu pandemic when we don’t know when it will happen, what will cause it, or how bad it will be.

History, and the World Health Organisation, tells us there will be another pandemic. There have been three pandemics per century for the past three centuries. Even a mild pandemic will be many times worse than a moderately severe normal flu season (like the one experienced in Australia last year) and cause significant social and economic disruption.

The reason for high alert is still bird flu (H5N1 Avian Influenza). While media hype about bird flu has died down, bird flu continues to infect humans and the possibility of the virus mutating so it can spread from human to human, remains.

With the human death rate from bird flu being well over 60%, it is likely a pandemic caused by a mutation of H5N1 would be far from mild. With people being infectious for around 24 hours before they develop symptoms, it’s likely it would spread quickly, causing deaths and havoc for months before a vaccine became available.

For the first time in history, we’ve had forewarning of a possible pandemic; it would be negligent to avoid those warnings. Minimising the potentially huge impacts of a pandemic requires extensive planning and preparation, and significant commitment from the whole community.

Pandemic planning priorities for Tasmania for 2008 include:

1. **Finalisation of plans for local flu clinics (Community Assessment Centres) by local councils.**
   - Free assessment of symptoms;
   - Free, basic medical treatment for flu-like illnesses, including anti-viral medication (if found to be effective once the pandemic virus emerges);
   - Referral to other medical help (e.g. hospital) as appropriate;
   - Advice about how to protect others and look after yourself; and
   - A free but limited supply of personal protective equipment (e.g. face masks) for those with symptoms of flu and their household members.

Flu clinics will help separate those with influenza-like illnesses from other sick people, and will be set up in ways that will minimise the risk of the virus spreading from an infected person to others - making it safe for everyone. Councils are using statewide guidelines and are working with the Department of Health and Human Services and local health and emergency service personnel in developing flu clinic plans. It’s important that local GPs are involved in the development of plans, as doctors will work at the clinics alongside nurses and support staff. For more information about flu clinics, contact your local council, Regional Emergency Management Committee or Duncan Jones, Project Support Officer at duncan.jones@dhhs.tas.gov.au, or phone 6222 7811.

2. **Business continuity planning** to ensure all organisations, big and small, are able to continue providing essential services despite high levels of staff absenteeism. Business continuity workshops are being planned, focusing at this stage on small businesses, the health and community sector and NGOs. The Local Government Association of Tasmania has been an active partner in business continuity planning and is in the final processes of completing a business continuity paper.

3. Planning for the provision of **local level support**, especially for people who lack family support.

4. **Ongoing focus on communications including:**
   - Development of an online Communications Toolkit containing communication tools designed for use...
by multiple stakeholders. The toolkit aims to reduce duplication of effort and increase consistency of messages across all stakeholder groups.

- Production of community service announcements with the ABC, ready for use when a pandemic is imminent or underway.
- Further engagement of news managers and finalisation of a media strategy.

5. Finalisation of border control measures at air and seaports.


7. Whole-of-government planning in relation to community support, containment measures and maintenance of essential services. The Tasmanian Government is working closely with TasCOSS on plans for community support.


For more information about the communication strategy and related activities, phone Belinda Fenney-Walch on 6222 7601 or email belinda.fenneywalch@dhhs.tas.gov.au.

New Civic Centre Underway at Brighton

The new $2.5 million, 1000 square metre civic centre for Brighton began in earnest earlier this year, following the ‘turning of the sod’ for a new building in Green Point Road.

The new Brighton Civic Centre will feature a 500 seat capacity theatrette, dedicated meetings rooms, a commercial kitchen and café. It is the first such centre to be built in the municipality and the theatrette is the first such facility in Hobart’s northern suburbs.

The Green Point Road site, which now contains all of Brighton’s major service centres, with the recent official opening of the refurbished Green Point Shopping Centre and a brand new Woolworths supermarket, is planned to be the civic hub of the municipality.

Mayor Tony Foster said the Brighton Civic Centre would help to bring local schools and community groups together and provide them with a fully-serviced meeting and social amenity. “We will be able to have live performances by visiting art and entertainment groups, and schools will be able to conduct school assemblies and special events in the new facility,” Clr. Foster said.

A new council building for Brighton Council is also planned for Green Point Road alongside the Civic Centre, when the current chamber is sold. The new centre, being constructed by Fairbrother Ltd, is due for completion by mid July. Brighton Council is contributing $2.25 million into the project and the Federal Department of Transport and Regional Services is providing $225,000 under its Regional Partnerships program.

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2896 Huon Hwy, Huonville 7109
Building in Landslip Prone Areas

Large tracts of land throughout Tasmania are subject to slope instability, and landslips have destroyed about 60 houses since the 1950s. The financial cost to individuals and the wider community has been many millions of dollars.

Problems can be avoided when ground conditions are better understood and building designers and owners understand that restrictions on activities in landslip areas will prevent future complications. Certain known problem areas in Tasmania have been declared as Landslip Areas. The Building Act 2000 and Building Regulations 2004 restrict the type, size and construction methods of new buildings and alterations on land in declared areas. There are also certain restrictions on land use activities such as clearing of vegetation, excavations and depositing of soil.

A new brochure, Building in Landslip Prone Areas, prepared by the Building Control Branch of Workplace Standards Tasmania, outlines the provisions of the Building Act 2000 and Building Regulations 2004 relating to landslip areas. It also gives general advice about good practices for building on steep or unstable ground. The brochure will help land and building owners, building and design professionals, and council permit authorities to better understand the law.

The brochure (ref. no. GB182) can be downloaded from the Workplace Standards Tasmania website at www.wst.tas.gov.au/building, or call 1300 366 322.

Sandy Bay Beach Seawall Gets the Green Light

The Hobart City Council has awarded a contract to Geotechnical Engineering for the construction of the new Sandy Bay Beach Seawall. The awarding of the contract, with a value of $5 million, follows detailed studies and major reports, together with widespread community consultation, to determine the most appropriate method for the replacement of the ageing structure.

Sandy Bay Beach has long been recognised as one of Hobart’s favourite places for families, attracting people from across a wide area. Key attractions include the beach, picnic and barbeque facilities, children’s playground, river views, a pleasant stroll to Blinking Billy Point and dog walking areas.

In 1908, the first timber structure was put in place to control the erosion of the beach and the first concrete wall was constructed in 1938. In 1962, storm events caused damage to the seawall and a 60 metre section was replaced near the old Regatta Pavilion.

The green light to a modern replacement now forms the major component of the Sandy Bay Beach Master Plan. Council engaged specialist consulting engineers to assist with the development and design of the seawall replacement, and the works will also include the widening of the footpath to Blinking Billy Point. Construction of the seawall is expected to commence in early April and will take approximately 24 weeks.
The recently released report on the French expedition visit to Recherche by Bruni d’Entrecasteaux in 1792 and 1793, greatly enhances understanding of the role of the French in early Tasmanian history.

The report was prepared by the French Archaeological Collaboration Team following a collaborative project between the Australian, French and Tasmanian governments, led by Dr Jean-Christophe Gaulipaud, Head of Archaeology at the Research Institute for Development, Noumea, on behalf of the French Government. The project targeted six sites including:

- The site previously considered to be the site of the 1792 French garden of Delahaye in Coal Pit Bight, on the north-east peninsula;
- The French forge and shore facilities of the ship the Recherche at Motts Beach, associated with the return visit in 1793;
- The onshore observatory and forge of the French expedition ship, the Esperance, at Cockle Creek in 1793;
- The onshore observatory of the expedition ship, the Recherche, at Cockle Creek in 1793;
- The grave of gunner, Boucher, the first European buried in Tasmania; and
- A whaler’s grave at Planter Beach, which was not part of the French expedition, for comparative purposes.

Dr Gaulipaud said the investigations concluded that the site, considered by many to be the French Garden, is not what people have previously thought and the actual site is further inland on the peninsula. In addition, he said the fieldwork was not able to clearly establish the location of the grave of the first European to be buried on Tasmanian soil, the French gunner, Boucher.

Nevertheless, most of the sites were securely positioned according to available historical data. Dr Gaulipaud said the review of historical charts and diaries, archaeological investigations, use of remote sensing, soil analysis and historical research were all used to help investigate and better understand this area of the far south. The investigations also detected some possible traces of one of the French expedition’s shore facilities on the western shoreline.

This project has been an important step to help in understanding the historical links between the French, Tasmanian Aboriginal people and Tasmania, and the findings have confirmed the importance of this area for its historical values.

The French d’Entrecasteaux expedition is an important component of Tasmania’s European history and it also contributed to the world of science. Each stay was for about four weeks. During that time, repairs were made to the ships and provisions of wood and water were replenished. The expeditions scientists surveyed the area, described and collected plants and animals, made scientific observations and drew an accurate map of the Bay and adjacent d’Entrecasteaux Channel.

Aspects of particular note from the French visit included:

- The establishment of an observatory on what is now known as Bennetts Point by Elisabeth Paul Edouard Rossel and the two observatories established in 1793 in Rocky Bay;
- The initiation of the science of geo-magnetism which is of great significance to navigational science arose out of this French Expedition. Observations made here helped prove that the Earth’s magnetic field varied with latitude;
- The research undertaken and maps drawn by hydrographer Beautemps-Beaupre which influenced the later exploration and settlement of Tasmania; and
- The friendly contact between the first European visitors and the Aboriginal people.

Heritage Tasmania is currently reviewing the report to ensure that the protection mechanisms for existing and newly identified sites can be confirmed. The project followed the listing by the Tasmanian Government in 2005 of a portion of the north-east peninsula of Recherche Bay on the Heritage Register to provide an opportunity for an assessment of the site to be undertaken, particularly around the area of the so-called French Garden, while comprehensive research was undertaken to confirm its status. The Australian Government also listed a more extensive area off the north-east peninsula on the National Heritage List in 2005.

A full copy of the report is available from the Heritage Tasmania website at www.heritage.tas.gov.au.
Investing in Our Children’s Future

The Tasmanian Early Years Foundation was officially launched by the State Government in November 2007 to support and promote the wellbeing, development and learning of Tasmanian children up to the age of 6 years. The foundation’s key function is to provide grants for early childhood initiatives and projects that further this objective, and to raise awareness of the importance of investing and supporting the early years.

A total of 69 applications were received following the inaugural grant round in late 2007 and 40 grants were subsequently awarded. Tasmanian councils received $27,210 in grants, courtesy of the foundation during the initial grant round. The foundation is proud to support councils in the development of projects that will help to raise the importance of the early years. Local councils are well placed to understand the needs of their communities and have a proven capacity to play an important role in connecting community members to available services and projects.

The grant program will be run annually and it is proposed to open a second round of grants in July 2008. The program is open to non-government organisations, and Local, State and Australian Government agencies. Council grants issued to date include:

Launceston City Council - funded to undertake consultation with children under six and their parents for the Launceston City Council Social Plan. The aim is to include this section of the community into the consultation process by engaging the children and their parents in creative ways.

Waratah-Wynyard Council - received a grant to compile a Parent Information Pack for each child born in the regional hospital and for parents accessing the local childcare centre.

Hobart City Council - funded to provide a Hobart Family Information Package.

Sorell Council - for their B Happy program which involves engaging children aged 3-5 years from a local child care centre in a health promotion program which covers a range of topics related to health and wellbeing.

Promotional Products

The foundation has a range of promotional items to raise awareness of the early years. All proceeds from the sale of the promotional products will help the foundation in meeting its objectives.

For more information about the Tasmanian Early Years Foundation, visit the website at www.earlyyears.org.au, or phone 1300 367 863.
Glenorchy City Council Recognised for Commitment to Crime Prevention

Glenorchy City Council has taken out awards in three of five categories of the 2007 Australian Crime and Violence Prevention Awards and the Tasmanian Crime Prevention and Community Safety Awards.

The awards were presented by Police Commissioner Richard McCreadie at a ceremony at Parliament House in December 2007. Glenorchy City Council received a Certificate of Merit in the Australian Crime and Violence Prevention Awards for the Glenorchy Operation Bounce Back project - Tackling Motor Vehicle Theft through Community Partnerships and Engagement. The Glenorchy Operation Bounce Back initiative, also a category winner of the 2007 Local Government Awards for Excellence, aimed to implement a multi-faceted, highly visible community awareness and education campaign designed to reduce the incidence of motor vehicle theft in the Glenorchy Local Government area.

In addition, Glenorchy City Council’s Coordinator Youth and Community Safety Development Officer, Ross Park, received a Tasmanian Crime Prevention and Community Safety Award Certificate of High Commendation for his long-term commitment over fifteen years to developing a diverse range of programs focused on crime prevention and community safety. Glenorchy City Council was also the joint winner of the Tasmanian Crime Prevention and Community Safety Journalism Award for providing an outstanding contribution to crime prevention and community safety through the publication of the Glenorchy Gazette, distributed monthly to every resident and business in the Glenorchy area. The Gazette provides a strong focus on crime prevention and community safety including a Police Report by the Glenorchy Police Inspector, Safety Tips from the Glenorchy Safer Communities Committee and other relevant articles promoting crime prevention and community safety.

Historic Heritage Reform Update

A series of projects and workshops with Local Government officials and heritage practitioners is being planned to finalise proposed reform to the Historic Cultural Heritage Act 1995, and introduce a more integrated heritage-management approach across Tasmania.

More than 70% of planning authorities took part in seminars held across the state in November 2007 to discuss the proposed reforms outlined in the State Government’s position paper, Managing our Heritage, and to obtain feedback from planning authorities. Thirteen councils made formal submissions to the position paper. Many supported the move to identify places of local or state significance, with Local Government responsible for managing local heritage places and the Tasmanian Heritage Council managing state heritage places.

Submissions provided valuable suggestions on ways to better integrate heritage provisions with the Land Use Planning and Approvals Act and address resourcing concerns, and will form the basis of discussions with Government that will finalise the details of the reforms. It is anticipated that the reforms will be tabled in Parliament later in 2008, following further refinement of the proposed approach.

Background materials about the reform process are available at www.heritage.tas.gov.au, or by contacting Heritage Tasmania on 6233 2037. Updates on the reforms will be provided in the Heritage Tasmania e-Newsletter (to subscribe contact Heritage Tasmania). For further information, please contact Ester Guerzoni or Pete Smith on 1300 850 332.
Public Art Sets Park Apart

The Hobart City Council’s first major public art project, developed under its new Public Art Strategy, has been officially unveiled at the Peace Park in Prospect Place, West Hobart.

The Hobart City Council commissioned the project with assistance from the Tasmanian Peace Trust, the West Hobart Peace Park Community Group, and Holy Tantra Esoteric Buddhism.

Commissioned artist, Tom Coley, was to provide the Peace Park with a work that embodies and celebrates the values of peace. The park has a special significance for the local community. More than 20 years ago, residents successfully applied for federal funding to convert the vacant land into a ‘peace garden’. Students at nearby Goulburn Street Primary School planted shrubs and trees with the assistance of local peace organisations. The park was later taken over by the Hobart City Council with support of the local community. A landscape plan was then developed which included a proposal for a public artwork.

To celebrate the unveiling of the 2.2 metre high, sandstone sculpture of a mother holding a young child, a street party was held by members of the local community.

For further information, contact Jane Castle, Public Art Coordinator, Hobart City Council on 6238 2767.

TOP RIGHT: The new sandstone sculpture at Peace Park
BOTTOM RIGHT: Lion dancing at the unveiling celebrations

Civic Centre Dream Becomes a Reality

Close collaboration between the Tasman Council, the Department of Education, the Steering Committee and the Tasman community has resulted in the opening of a new Tasman Civic Centre in Nubeena.

The idea for a civic centre started more than a decade ago. Initial efforts saw the centre reaching lock-up stage in 2003. The State Government provided $500,000 under the Community Health and Wellbeing program to bring the building to a standard where the structure met the guidelines for use. The intention of the grant was to encourage health and wellbeing within the community and enhance the cooperative relationship that exists between the Tasman District School and the local community.

The Tasman Council and the State Government provided further funding of $150,000 for a car park upgrade, pathway, kitchen fit-out and other internal works. Sporting facilities including basketball, badminton, and volleyball will be completed over the next few months. As well as providing a sporting facility for the Tasman District School, the centre will become an important hub of community activity and interaction. It will be available for conventions, performances, exhibitions and meetings.
Should Your Council Become Engaged in Corporate Volunteering?

BOB HOLDERNESS-RODDAM
Volunteering Tasmania Inc.

What is corporate volunteering? The Volunteering Tasmania Inc. website defines corporate volunteering as “... the action by which businesses choose freely to contribute to their community without expectation of immediate financial gain”. Popular areas of contribution are activities like sport, education, health and welfare, community service, recreation, emergency services, arts, environment and heritage.

More and more Australian businesses are adopting corporate volunteering as a means of enhancing staff attitudes, improving workplace relations, maintaining a positive business culture and promoting a positive corporate image. Among the biggest of these are Telstra, ANZ, Westpac, The Body Shop, Ford Australia, BHP, Esso, Mobil and Shell. In addition to more traditional philanthropy, all have instituted some form of staff volunteer program where employee time is ‘donated’ in support of selected community activities.

There are two principal models of corporate volunteering. In the first, employers leave the choice of project and not-for-profit organisation to the employee volunteer. They are simply allocated a certain period of time (days per year / hours per month) in which they may volunteer. The second form is where the employer consults employees and they decide upon an appropriate volunteer project and organisation to become involved with, together. This has the benefit of helping with team building - particularly where employees who do not normally work together are engaged in the same volunteer project.

So, why should local councils become involved in corporate volunteering? Perhaps the key factor is that they are just that - local! They know their community, its organisations and their needs. Local councils are also likely to be one of the largest employers in their area - and these employees are likely to have a wide range of skills they can offer local, not-for-profit groups. Examples include administration, accounting, computer, gardening, animal care, media liaison, weed management, etc. It is also good public relations, giving staff the opportunity to network with people they may not normally have the chance to meet in the municipality.

Volunteering Tasmania’s role is to help both not-for-profit groups and the corporate sector to decide upon appropriate projects for corporate volunteers and to provide advice and guidance in developing the project. If your council staff are interested in becoming corporate volunteers, then Volunteering Tasmania can provide someone to attend a staff meeting to further explain the concept and answer questions.

To find out more, phone 6231 5550, email BobH@volunteeringtas.org.au, or visit http://volunteeringtas.org.au/index.php?id=204.

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New Look and Service at Bridgewater Library and Online Access Centre

Two of Bridgewater’s key community services have been brought together and relocated to enhance service delivery. The integration of the Bridgewater Library and Online Access Centre at the Green Point Service Centre has been made possible with the assistance of the Brighton Council.

As part of a partnership agreement with the State Government, the Brighton Council consulted with local residents and developed a vision for how services in the area could come together to create a sense of community. The integration of the library and online access centre into a new location was an important part of this vision.

The Brighton Council relinquished management of the online access centre to the Department of Education, enabling an integrated service model to be developed. The new centre is an important part of the State Government’s Community Knowledge Network which aims to improve access to community education, training and information services. It is designed to give clients seamless access to information, training, technology support and library services and programs, in an attractive setting.

Since it opened in its new location, the library and online access centre has enjoyed an increased level of use in all areas of service delivery. At the end of the 2006-07 financial year, borrowing from the library had increased by 10% and there had been a 210% increase in computer bookings. Attendance at training courses increased from 49 people in July-December 2006 to 354 in January-July 2007.
In Brief

George Town Cycling Track Gets a Face Lift

George Town’s cycling track has been given a new lease on life, thanks to $35,000 in funding through Sport and Recreation Tasmania’s 2006-07 Facilities Grant Program. The George Town Cycling Club provided an additional $10,000 in funds and in-kind assistance, and George Town Council contributed $20,000 as well as in-kind assistance. The funds have been used to resurface the cycling track and to make drainage improvements. The George Town cycling track has serviced generations of people in and around the town and has produced many cycling champions, the likes of world-class riders Danny Clark, Graeme McVilly and Phil Whitney.

$57,000 for Campbell Town Sport and Recreation

The State Government has provided more than $57,000 for two major sport and recreation projects at Campbell Town. The Northern Midlands Council received $22,300 for the Campbell Town swimming pool and $35,000 was presented to the Campbell Town Tennis Club. The funding for the swimming pool will assist Council to install solar heating, and the tennis club funding will enable it to rebuild a tennis court. Both projects are being funded by the State Government’s 2007-08 Sport and Recreation Major Grants Program. It is anticipated that the Campbell Town community will enjoy significant benefits as an outcome of the two projects.

Conservation Management Plan for Princes Square

Launceston City Council is developing a Conservation Management Plan for Princes Square to ensure the historic landmark is preserved into the future. The plan will recognise the square’s historic and conservation values as well as the demand for public and recreational use. Council has commissioned a project team comprising Pitt & Sherry, Kirby Brown Landscape Architects and a historical landscape consultant to prepare the plan. It will include an assessment of the heritage significance and, from this, provide management strategies and guidelines that will enable the significance of the place to be retained. A major element of the plan will be to seek public input. The project is expected to be complete by June this year. For further details, contact Chris Moore on 6323 3619, or Graham Reeks on 6210 1472.

Tasmanian Councils Benefit From Crown Land Transfers

Local Government municipalities around Tasmania will benefit from the transfer of nearly 600 Crown properties throughout the State to Local Government ownership. The transfers are being made as part of the Crown Land Assessment and Classification project and are the result of consultation and cooperation between State and Local Governments and communities. The Minister for Primary Industries and Water, Mr David Llewellyn MHA, said that many facilities provided by Local Government on Crown land can be more effectively and efficiently managed if ownership of the properties is placed in the hands of the local council. Reports on the consultation and recommendations on the allocation of Crown land in each municipality are available at www.dpiw.tas.gov.au/clac.

$50,000 for Central Highlands Economic Development

The State Government has announced a $50,000 grant to develop a detailed plan to guide economic growth and development of the Central Highlands community. The plan will look at the key development opportunities in the region, particularly in the areas of agricultural development and tourism, as well as identifying the barriers to investment and key infrastructure issues such as rural water supplies. Local councils will work closely with the Government to provide greater capacity for growth and development. The project commenced in January, involving an initial consultation with the community, businesses and key stakeholders in the region. The plan will guide priority actions Council can take in promoting economic sustainability and will provide guidance for the State Government on areas where it can best assist in promoting economic growth and development in the region.
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