Five Minutes with Mayor Lynn Laycock
Devonport City Council

Birth date: 29 April 19?? (a girl has to keep some secrets).

How long have you resided in Devonport and what do you enjoy most about the area?
I have lived in Devonport for most of my life, apart from seven years in Adelaide. I love the location, river, parks and gardens, and friendly people.

What motivates you in life?
I love meeting and talking to people.

How do you like to spend your free time?
With family, walking, reading and watching a good movie.

Name three qualities that you appreciate most in people.
1) Honesty
2) Reliability
3) A sense of humour.

When you were a child, you wanted to be...
A marching girl, not batton twirler!!

Name three previous occupations you have held in the past.
1) Electorate Assistant to Jeremy Rockliff MHA
2) Manager, Radio 7AD
3) Executive Assistant to the Hon Tony Rundle,

What motivated you to become involved in Local Government?
I was involved in the community for many years and I wanted to see Devonport grow and become the retail, business and social hub of the NW Coast.

How many years have you served as:
Alderman – 7 years
Mayor – 4 years

What do you believe is the biggest barrier to female representation within Local Government?
Family commitments.

What has been the most memorable moment of your Local Government career?
The first day I was elected as Mayor was an unbelievable feeling that I certainly won't forget.

What do you enjoy most about your role as Mayor?
Meeting and helping people, especially children, and seeing large projects become a reality.

What has been the most embarrassing moment in your Local Government career?
Forgetting where I was up to at a Council meeting.

What’s the best advice anyone has ever given you?
Treat people as you would like to be treated.

What word best describes you?
Enthusiastic.
Sector Farewells a Familiar Face

Mr Alistair Scott has resigned as Director of Local Government after 3 year’s service with the Local Government Division. Mr Scott departed in early July to take up the role as Director of the new Climate Change Adaptation Unit within the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

In that time, Alistair has been of great assistance to councils, having provided sound and helpful advice on a wide variety of compliance matters. Alistair has also made regular presentations at general managers’ and elected members’ workshops, and at council meetings to raise awareness and understanding of the requirements of the Local Government Act 1993. Ms Jessie Byrne has taken on the role of Director of Local Government while continuing as Director of the Local Government Division.

The Local Government Division and the Local Government Association of Tasmania would like to thank Alistair for his valuable contribution to the sector. We look forward to working with him in his new role, as councils work to adapt to the changing climate.

LGAT Welcomes New Team Members

The Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT) was joined by two new team members recently.

Ivan Zwart is now onboard as Senior Policy Officer, filling in for Kate Hiscock who has taken maternity leave. Ivan’s primary policy responsibilities will be Emergency Management and Community Recovery, Social Policy (including demographic change, ageing, affordable housing, social inclusion) and Registrar of the Standards Panel.

Ivan has experience in various aspects of Local Government. He has most recently worked as a senior consultant in Victoria, working on projects for State and Local Government in the areas of environmental and social policy, community engagement, strategic planning, governance and evaluation. He worked for a number of years for the Victoria State Government providing policy advice in the Land Fire and Management Division. Ivan originally hails from Tasmania and his early career included the role of community participation officer at Glenorchy City Council. Ivan has a PhD in Politics from the University of Tasmania. His thesis addressed environmental sustainability and community engagement in Australian Local Government.

Ivan Zwart may be reached on (03) 6233 5971, or email ivan.zwart@lgat.tas.gov.au.

Melanie Brown has also joined the LGAT team as Policy Officer. Melanie’s experience spans a number of different industries and positions which makes her well-suited to the diversity of issues faced by Local Government. Melanie studied both law and political science at University and has used her skills to travel the world. Most recently she has worked in a project role for Mission Australia but has also worked as a paralegal, a number of managerial roles, teacher of public speaking and communication and network administrator.

Melanie, like Ivan, has returned to Tasmania after an extended period away. Melanie’s primary policy responsibilities will be Roads and Infrastructure (eg public transport, bus stops, cycle ways, telecommunications, electricity contestability), Building and Plumbing (including disability standards), Public Health, Physical Activity, Right to Information. Mel will eventually pick up Climate Change when Georgia heads on maternity leave but, in the interim, she will progress some specific projects including the LGAT website redevelopment.

Melanie Brown can be contacted on (03) 6233 5962 or email melanie.brown@lgat.tas.gov.au.
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Paul Godier  
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT  
Northern Midlands Council

With a Graduate Diploma of Urban and Regional Planning under his belt, Paul Godier has served as Northern Midlands Council’s Senior Planner for the last four years. Working within Council’s Planning and Development Unit, Paul is responsible for the administration of the planning scheme. Through his work, Paul is able to assist in the provision of appropriate development that facilitates local employment. Paul derives his greatest satisfaction from mediating conflicts between neighbours, or between developers and objectors, and he takes great pride in reviewing the planning scheme to keep it up-to-date with development trends.

Planning and Development Manager, Duncan Payton, said since joining the planning team at Council, Paul has honed his skills and broad appreciation of planning issues. “More than a hard working, dedicated planner, Paul is a mentor for other planning staff in Council and provides valuable advice and guidance, from assessment to appeal,” he said. “Whilst we have known of his potential for some time, recent requests from neighbouring council areas confirm that others have recognised what an asset we have in him. Both Council and Paul are looking forward to the challenge of broadening the range and depth of his mentoring skills,” he added.

Acting General Manager, Adam Wilson, said that Paul is an enthusiastic individual who has demonstrated excellent team leader skills in the Planning and Development Department. “He also has the ability to relate well with developers and members of the general public regarding planning and development issues,” he said.

Garry Cooper  
TECHNICAL SERVICES  
Tasman Council

Prior to securing an Out Door Staff position with Tasman Council nine years ago, Garry Cooper spent twenty years working in the construction and earth moving industries for private enterprise. He has also completed a Certificate III in Road Construction and undertaken training through Council. In addition to his role, Garry serves as the union representative for the depot crew and as the local fire chief.

In this position Garry is able to help the community to grow and move forward, and to make it a better place to live and work. Garry derives a great deal of satisfaction knowing that the job he is carrying out is helping the community to prosper. Among Garry’s proudest achievements was being able to build Council’s water cart from scratch to suit their specific needs.

General Manager, Wendy Hunter said Garry is a bit of a local celebrity but very much a quiet achiever. “He is always willing to help out in the community, over and above the call of duty, and was awarded Australia Day local citizen of the year in 2004.”

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