



LG Tas

April 2019

Evacuation Centre for Huon Valley Council

COUNCILS SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES IN AND AFTER EMERGENCIES

Councils provide essential community support in the event of an emergency, such as a bushfire, through evacuation and recovery centres, provision of information and community recovery.

With fires still smouldering, the experience of the bushfires of early 2019 is still fresh to many Tasmanians, especially those in the significantly affected communities of the Central Highlands and Huon Valley. These communities were threatened with emergency bushfire warnings for many days, bringing considerable anxiety and major disruption.

Council evacuation centres are fundamental in an emergency, providing basic shelter for people and pets and access to critical information. The recent fires saw councils pull together with their communities. Kingborough Council stepped in to undertake the critical role of communications for the Huon Valley Council, which was without communications staff at the time. In addition, councils from around the state provided support to Huon Valley Council by assisting in the evacuation centre. This helped relieve staff at Huon Valley Council but also provided excellent learning opportunities for councils who don't regularly open their evacuation centres.

Many volunteers and community services worked together to make Huon Valley Council's evacuation centre a physical and

emotionally safe space for people who were at their most vulnerable. People safe in their homes brought food and entertainment for those in the centre and helped look after pets. Councils worked closely with emergency services, state government, and volunteers to keep their community safe and provide critical local knowledge.

Distance was not a barrier to assistance with West Tamar Council generously donating \$5000 to the Central Highlands and Huon Valley Councils. Funds donated to the Central Highland Council will be used for firefighting equipment while funds for the Huon Valley will go to purchasing an emergency response trailer.

A key role of a council in an emergency is to provide information. No matter the emergency, people crave information that is trusted and relevant to them. In addition to critical operational issues provided by emergency services, communities need information on issues such as road closures, available financial assistance, support programs and key contacts. Regular community briefings at evacuation centres help keep the community informed.

During the Huon Valley bushfires, the Council streamed the community briefings via Facebook, which enabled many people who could not physically attend the meetings,

to get real time updates from the Tasmanian Fire Service, Police and the Council. This innovation was welcomed by the community and can be used by other councils.

As a community leader, the Mayor plays an important role in reassuring community members and keeping them updated. Mayors can also provide a broader voice of the community's direct experience to emergency services providers and the media. In the recent bushfires, Huon Valley Mayor Bec Enders and Central Highland Mayor Loueen Triffitt did a fantastic job regularly speaking to the media, in addition to their critical roles on site.

Councils continue to be heavily involved in the recovery of their communities. This includes working closely with the State Government Recovery Taskforce and the community to address the infrastructure, social, environmental and economic recovery needs of their communities. Evaluation of emergency events is a key step in improving future response activities. Councils are keen to learn from the recent bushfires, share information across the sector and collaborate with state government and emergency services to be best equipped to respond to future emergencies.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In this edition of LGTas we are showcasing some of the many ways councils support their communities.

This includes community infrastructure such as halls and playgrounds and helping communities respond to, and recover from, natural disasters - like this year's bushfires in the Huon Valley - Tasmanian councils are working at the grass roots level.

Councils are responding to community needs when they provide health services and support the elderly and those in isolation, when they support tourism and economic growth in their municipalities and when they build places for young people to gather safely.

More and more communities are expecting councils to speak for them on matters of concern to a wider audience, including other levels of Government. They are also looking for Local Government to lead change - the waste agenda being one example of where Tasmanian councils are stepping up.

These activities, and more, likely contribute to the relatively strong connection with, and high trust in Local Government nationally. In Tasmania, we saw evidence of the increasing engagement with councils during October 2018 elections, with the highest voter turnout in 20 years. Further, the preliminary findings from LGAT's latest community satisfaction survey suggest that communities have 'good' satisfaction with the performance of their council - with an average state-wide rating of 6.92 out of 10 (final results will be available at the July AGM).

While some stakeholders might debate the form and function of councils, ultimately Local Government is still important, relevant and responsive to their communities and continues to play an important role in our State.

Mayor Doug Chipman
President, LGAT



Bridgewater Parkland Community Playground

BRIDGEWATER PARKLAND COMMUNITY PLAYGROUND BRIGHTON COUNCIL

An exciting new community playground is now open in Bridgewater! Launched in September 2018, the community playground is the first stage of Brighton Council's Bridgewater Parkland Master Plan 2016-2026.

Endorsed by Council in 2016, the Bridgewater Parkland Master Plan encompasses a valuable area of public open space positioned between the River Derwent and Bridgewater commercial precinct.

The community playground features a new children's play area, kick-to-kick oval, toilets, bbq shelters, seating and a network of footpaths that provide links throughout the Bridgewater community.

To fund the project, Brighton Council received a \$430,000 Federal Grant under the Building Better Futures Fund as well as a generous contribution of \$150,000 from the Affordable Community Housing Alliance Tasmania Limited. Brighton Council contributed the balance of the \$1 million build.

The new playground enables local families, children and young people to have access to an exciting play area in a convenient and safe environment. Natural features such as logs, rocks and water encourage informal, unstructured play and encourages kids to explore.

This facility creates opportunities to increase levels of physical activity for the whole community, in turn helping people to lead healthier lifestyles through participation in more play, walking, cycling and general activity.

The location of the playground in the heart of the residential community, ensures that it is easy to see and easy to access. Its visual prominence entices people to use the facility and reminds the community what they have on their doorstep. The central location also encourages residents and visitors to walk or cycle to the playground using new foot and cycle paths that connect from within Bridgewater and now extend into the Parkland Master Plan area.

In partnership with landscape architecture and urban design consultancy Play Street, Brighton Council were determined to deliver a community asset of a quality not seen before in the historically disadvantaged area of Bridgewater. Parks and other social infrastructure in the area had previously been subject to significant vandalism and so was often built to be "bomb proof" rather than functional, enjoyable and aesthetically pleasing. Even when the opening of the community playground was announced on Facebook, there were multiple comments along the lines of Council are 'wasting their money, it'll be vandalised by the local hooligans in no time'.

For the project, Council adopted a positive mindset that if Council provided a high-quality area that the community could value, then the community would repay the faith and would look after it.

In the six months the playground has been open, the community playground is well used, there has been almost no vandalism and Council has received great community feedback.



West Coast Council Rebranding

REBRANDING THE WEST COAST WEST COAST COUNCIL

In early 2018 West Coast Council embarked on an ambitious project – to rebrand the West Coast.

This new brand would need to be more than a logo and slogan. A dynamic brand was needed, and it had to be community driven; a true, regional brand, to showcase the West Coast to the world, as a place to live, work and visit.

Strong community engagement was vital and a key deliverable for Council when appointing a lead consultant. Enter *For The People*, who immersed themselves in the West Coast with almost fifty hours of interviews, over 100 informal chats, five community sessions and an active social media channel providing opportunities for ongoing dialogue.

To build an authentic brand the community were asked: What's true to our past? What is true now? What will always be true about the West Coast? What was uncovered during the community engagement was a strong connection to place, from both long-term residents and those new to the area. It could be described as 'something that got under the skin'.

The West Coast is rich in natural resources, has a history of ingenuity and of conflicts between man and nature. There was also a deep-rooted stubbornness – both in its people and the landscape. West Coasters live on the terms of the land and with a dark humour and love of storytelling.

The appeal of the West Coast is that it's untamed, challenging, and – to most – unknown. All in all, the West Coast is Just Outside Your Comfort Zone. Brand concepts were exhibited in April 2018 providing the community with more

opportunities to be involved, allowing for refinement of the brand narrative and design. The brand was officially launched during The Unconformity arts festival in October, premiering two films. An Instagram account (@westcoasttas) was launched and a regional map – the Official Guide to Getting Lost – was distributed across Tasmania and is available onboard the Spirit of Tasmania.

In January 2019 the brand was number one in the BrandNew Annual Review Best of 2018. The project also created the West Coast Made Program, which offers local businesses and organisations access to brand assets and in April 2019 a new regional website, www.westcoasttas.com, will be launched.

In building an open-source brand with the community, the West Coast Council has been able to facilitate a project that has captured the layers and complexities of the region, developing a brand that can evolve and bring opportunities to the community.



Garden team mates at work

GARDENING MATES CITY OF HOBART

Many older people who live in Hobart are passionate gardeners, but may sometimes find keeping active in their own gardens challenging.

The City of Hobart's Still Gardening program connects 'Garden Mates' with older people in their local communities to help them stay active in their home gardens.

'Garden Mates' are dedicated and inspiring volunteers of all ages who work one-on-one with older people in their back yards, helping with difficult jobs such as weeding, pruning and lifting heavy objects. 'Garden Mate' volunteers assist an older person for one or two hours a week with simple gardening jobs as well as provide a friendly face with whom they can share their passion for gardens. Volunteers are provided with an induction, first aid training, skills-based workshops and reimbursement for travel.

Besides being enjoyable, gardening provides gentle exercise and offers many health benefits including reducing stress and promoting relaxation, which can aid in better sleep. Gardening can also help facilitate social interactions and assist with mental health.

Often people feel that maintaining a garden is burdensome and it can be one of the reasons an older person leaves their home. Matching Hobart and Glenorchy's older community members with a 'Garden Mate' can keep them doing what they love; getting their hands dirty and enjoying the outdoors. Encouraging low maintenance gardening often makes it easier for them to keep enjoying their home gardens.

If you want to join the 'Garden Mates' team and can give one or two hours a week to an older person in the Hobart or Glenorchy municipal area, visit www.hobartcity.com.au/gardenmates or call 03 6236 9349 to find out more **information**.



Clarence City Council Disability Access Advisory Committee members Lee Jordan & John Bates who assisted with the toolkit with Ross Park

ACCESS AND INCLUSION ASSESSMENT TOOLKIT CITY OF CLARENCE

Wouldn't it be great if there was something to help you know how to accommodate for all members of community when upgrading existing or designing new buildings or facilities, public open spaces, recreation and sporting venues? Well now there is!

Clarence City Council has developed an Access and Inclusion Assessment Toolkit. Titled 'The Human Factor', the Toolkit champions and supports the importance of accommodating all people in the community when planning for and creating accessible and inclusive environments. It was developed as a collaborative project of Council's Disability Access and Positive Ageing Advisory Committees.

The unique resource assists with general design elements for buildings, facilities, streetscapes, and recreational spaces to deliver more accessible and inclusive facilities for their community. It helps council staff assess the level of accessibility to and within council's existing buildings and facilities and identify poor functionality or design issues early on in the planning phases.

Incorporating legislative standards, universal design, inclusive approaches and functionality to planning, the toolkit is an easily navigated guide to suit any project, with fillable components that can be completed online or in hard copy. The toolkit is relevant and useful for those who:

- Plan for, and contract, others when working on upgrades to or new buildings or facilities, public open spaces, recreation and sporting venues
- Work on landscape design or streetscape projects
- Plan for and develop roads, pathways, transport, car parking or track and trails and? want to ensure that community spaces and places are safe
- Have an interest in the redevelopment of a council facility

You can request a copy of the toolkit here: www.ccc.tas.gov.au/toolkitrequest



Barry Jarvis Education Scholarship recipients

BARRY JARVIS EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIPS DORSET COUNCIL

To support local students in Dorset to continue their education through years 11 and 12 of high school, Dorset Council runs an annual scholarship program. The scholarships are named in honour of the late Barry Jarvis, former Mayor of Dorset and President of the Local Government Association of Tasmania, who was a strong advocate of education in Dorset.

Commencing in 2015, the scholarship program recognised that many students from the area faced financial constraints attending high school or travelled long distances to attend high school in Launceston, often affecting attendance. It was hoped that the scholarships would help increase enrolments and attendance at Scottsdale High School, resulting in more courses being made available locally and reducing the need for many students to travel to Launceston.

The program aims to support students who would like to come back and live and work in Dorset eventually, however recognises students may need to work in other places for a while before they eventually find their way back home. The program includes five high school scholarships for students entering Scottsdale High, one apprenticeship/traineeship scholarship, one for agribusiness and one for University.

The successful applicant for the 2019 Barry Jarvis University Scholarship (\$3000 for up to three years) is Louis Burr from Scottsdale, to study a Bachelor of Exercise and Sport Science at the University of Tasmania in Launceston. The Barry Jarvis Agribusiness Scholarship (\$2,500 per year for two years) for 2019 was awarded to William Headlam, to study an Agricultural Business Management course. The 2019 Barry Jarvis Apprenticeship/Traineeship Scholarship was awarded to Tom Saunders from Scottsdale. It includes \$1,000 financial with expenses associated with his Apprenticeship with Bridport Electrical.



Men's Shed Members with Executive Officer Wendy Kennedy

STOP SMOKING AND SMELL THE FRESH AIR

LESS NICOTINE MORE PRISTINE

For your health and pleasure your Ulverstone shopping precinct is now smoke free.

HEALTH, IT'S IN OUR NATURE.

Created by Ulverstone High School media students for the Central Coast Council.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT & MEN'S SHEDS ASSOCIATION WORKING TOGETHER

The Tasmanian Men's Sheds Association (TMSA) is the Peak Body for Men's Sheds in Tasmania and in 2019 is celebrating its tenth year in operations. Currently, there are 60 Men's Sheds in Tasmania with approximately 2,600 members.

Men's Sheds play an extremely important role in community life, especially in regional Tasmania. They provide a sense of belonging for many and help to overcome one of today's biggest social issues – loneliness. The sheds are ideally placed to help improve the health and wellbeing of many Tasmanian men.

Men's Sheds are a safe space where men can connect and share information, while also working on projects that benefit them, their shed and the wider community. The direct health benefits from becoming a member of a shed includes mateship, physical activity and also provide opportunities for their members to be kept informed of many health related issues, including mental health issues like anxiety and depression.

Each shed is different, and each is filled with wonderful stories of life, companionship and even survival. The work that takes place in sheds is extremely varied. From blacksmith shops to stone masonry, even coffin building – you will find superb examples of fine craftsmanship in every shed.

Many of the sheds are situated on council land. This year, LGAT and TMSA have started discussions around working together to support and continue the very important community service that Mens Sheds are collectively bringing to Tasmanian communities.

As a volunteer based organisation, the support TMSA receives from councils is extremely important and their future depends on this continued support. To find out more about TMSA visit www.tasmanian.mensshed.org.au

SMOKE FREE CBD CENTRAL COAST COUNCIL

Shopping in Ulverstone is good for you! In a Tasmanian first, Central Coast Council made history in 2018 when it banned smoking in its central business district (CBD), only the second municipality in Australia to do so.

The ground-breaking initiative means visiting the Ulverstone CBD is now a much healthier experience for shoppers, tourists, and for retail staff as well. Following extensive community consultation, including shop owners and staff, who have had to endure passive smoking for many years, councillors voted unanimously to bring in the smoke free designation.

Central Coast Council also sought support from the Cancer Council of Tasmania as part of the initiative. Quit Tasmania advised that 70% of Tasmanians agreed smoking should not be allowed in Tasmanian CBDs. Smoke free areas are an important component of a comprehensive tobacco control strategy, as these areas protect our community from exposure to second hand tobacco smoke, continue to de-normalise smoking, and support Tasmanians who are trying to quit.

A detailed media and community engagement plan was essential to the implementation of the smoke free CBD, with only three weeks between the Council's decision and commencement. Council used its monthly e-newsletter and Facebook to inform all residents and stakeholders and then engaged with local media as the deadline neared. Collaboration with the local Chamber of Commerce helped relay the message to the business and retail communities.

In an innovative approach, Council enlisted the support of media studies students at the Ulverstone High School. The students made some fantastic posters reinforcing the smoke-free zones, which were printed for display within the CBD, and also posted on Council's Facebook pages.

The initiative was launched with thanks to the local Rotary Club, who provided a community bbq. Ulverstone's CBD is now a much cleaner, healthier and sweeter smelling place to shop, relax and catch-up.

107TH LGAT ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Registrations are now open for 107th LGAT Annual Conference held at Wrest Point, Hobart, 3 - 5 July!

This year's Conference theme is "Finding Your Voice" recognising the unique voices across Local Government as a sector, as individuals and as communities.

We are particularly excited this year to welcome many new faces to our sector with fresh ideas and ready to benefit from shared knowledge. Whether you are new to the sector, or a past delegate, the 107th LGAT Annual Conference offers an exciting program suitable for everyone! Our plenary presenters include:

- Heather Rose - Award winning and bestselling Tasmanian author of seven novels.

- Penny Terry - former ABC radio presenter and Creative Director of 'Healthy Tasmania'
- Mayor, Tim Shadbolt - New Zealand's longest serving Mayor
- Mayor David O'Loughlin - President of the Australian Local Government Association
- Matt Pinnegar - CEO of the Local Government Association of South Australia

The panel session is back with a timely focus on the Federal sphere of Government and how Local Government can best have an influential voice. Our workshop program includes more opportunity to collaborate and learn from each other.

This year we are featuring a series of local case studies on citizen engagement and

world café sessions on key policy issues for our sector. A symposium featuring the Road Safety Advisory Council, the Mental Health Council of Tasmania and Volunteering Tasmania will bring together some important voices impacting Local Government.

Enjoy plenty of time for networking and catching up at our welcome reception, conference dinner and lunchtimes and we encourage you to peruse the Trade Exhibit at your leisure. Our much loved Coffee Corner is back, again with re-usable cups and you are welcome to bring your own! Don't forget your LGAT reusable bag from last year and to join the conversation on Twitter during conference at #LGATconf2019.

For the latest program information please visit - www.lgat.tas.gov.au



Key Note Speaker - Heather Rose



Speaker - Penny Terry



Speaker - Mayor Tim Shadbolt

Finding your Voice

107th LGAT Annual Conference
Save the date!

3 - 5 July 2019, Hobart

For latest Program Information
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