



Mayor Barry Easther OAM
West Tamar Council



2009 LOCAL GOVERNMENT
CONFERENCE SPONSOR

President's Message

As I write this column, the final result of the State Election is not known. However, by the time you are reading these words, the make up of our new Parliament will have become much clearer. Whatever the result, we will need to work very hard to develop a close working relationship with the new State Government, ensure that our views are respected and that we are consulted on all issues affecting our sector in a timely manner.

Last week, whilst waiting for the final results of the State Election, there was some media focus on Local Government. Not that the focus was particularly negative but it did allow those critics within the community to again raise their concerns relating to the numbers of elected members and councils in the state. I am very encouraged that councils continue to take the opportunity to review and look at possibilities for improving their situation and are prepared to consider changes that could bring benefits to their community. I do, however, find it sad when the same old media hype is trotted out and talking up the "A" word on these occasions. I know that the recent consideration of a possible change in the number of councillors by the Kingborough Council was a matter that was discussed at the Mayors Workshop last year. Hardly earth shattering news - just good governance!

Another recent example of good governance is the decision by Kentish and Latrobe Councils to share a General Manager for a trial period of two months. During this time period, an assessment will be made as to the benefits that could flow from such an arrangement and maybe a longer-term agreement could result. Whatever the outcome, congratulations to Kentish and Latrobe Councils for taking this initiative.

Finally, I must remind you of the upcoming *Think Big, Work Local* campaign. This is a very important campaign, with TV advertisements commencing on 4 April. Much effort has been put into this project and I sincerely trust that it will have positive benefits for our sector.



I wish you all a very happy and safe Easter.

Think Big – Work Local



The Local Government careers project is now riding on a wave of results. From 4 April - 30 May, the Local Government Association's first television commercial will take the *Think Big Work Local* message to the largest possible audience. With good placement against prime time shows, the television commercial is expected to reach 98% of Tasmania's generation Ys.

Viewers will be encouraged to find out more about a career in Local Government from the newly-developed *Think Big Work Local* website, which links the viewer's interests to careers described by staff in video files, to the training available and to current vacancies. See for yourself at www.thinkbigworklocal.com.au.

The Association has also been granted funding from the Commonwealth to help develop and deliver training to over 80 staff in seven councils, including some in remote locations. Look out for a range of other data and training initiatives coming to fruition as the 2008-2010 project winds up this September.

Climate Change Adaptation Forums

The Local Government Association of Tasmania will be hosting regional Climate Change Adaptation Information and Planning Forums in Launceston (20 April), Devonport (21 April) and in Hobart (23 April). Elected members and council officers are invited to attend. The forums will update councils on the status of a number of Local Government relevant climate change adaptation initiatives and programs, as well as identify where the gaps are in relation to the needs of Local Government in adapting to climate change. For further information, please contact Georgia Palmer on 6233 5961, or email georgia.palmer@lgat.tas.gov.au.

CMP Tasmanian Consultative Committee Meetings

The Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) Insurance will be conducting two CMP Consultative Committee meetings in Tasmania during April. Interested officers are welcome to attend to provide feedback to MAV on its product offerings and performance. Agenda items will include an insurance market update, recent developments within MAV Insurance and current projects and claim trends. The meetings will commence at 10.00am and will be held on 12 April at the Hobart Town Hall and on 13 April at the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery in Launceston. To register, contact Simon Morgan on (03) 9667 5538, or email smorgan@mav.asn.au.

Public Sector Management Program

The Public Sector Management Program is an 18-month Graduate Certificate course for public sector middle - senior managers across all tiers of government. Five Local Government employees graduated in 2009. Want to know more? Free information sessions are being held in Burnie (14 April), Launceston (15 April) and in Hobart (21 April). For further information, visit www.psmprogram.tas.gov.au/Enrolments.htm.

Capitalising on your Female Talent

In 2005, Deloitte CEO, Giam Swiegers was named the *Best CEO for the Advancement of Women in Business* by the Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workplace Agency. In 2008, Deloitte was named the *Best Firm for the Advancement of Women*. From 10.00am, on 16 April, Giam will conduct a presentation at Wrest Point in Hobart to inspire ways to capitalise on the female talent in your Council. Cost is \$25 (includes morning tea). To register, contact Liz Gillam on 0407 485 607, or email lizgillam@lgmtatas.org.au.

KAB Beverage Container Recycling Community Grants

Keep Australia Beautiful is offering financial assistance for local communities wishing to improve beverage container recycling with funding through the Coca-Cola Foundation Community Recycling Grant. Grants between \$3,000 and \$10,000 are available. In larger communities, this may mean infrastructure for events or for special venues such as large retail centres or education centres. In smaller communities, it may mean assistance with transport or processing to overcome remote location or dispersed population. Applications close on 3 May. For full details, go to www.kab.org.au/get-involved/apply-for-a-community-grant.

Local Government Risk Management Summit

From 28-29 April, risk management professionals from councils across Australia will discuss key risks facing the Local Government sector at the Local Government Risk Management Summit, to be held in Sydney. The summit will provide detailed information and advice about best practice systems being implemented by leading councils to effectively manage legal, financial and other risks confronting their organisations. Further information is available online at www.halledit.com.au/rm2010.

Regional Tourism Review

Tourism Tasmania and the state's three Regional Tourism Associations are undertaking a review to look at ways to improve how industry and government work together to grow regional tourism in Tasmania. The review aims to maximise Tasmania's competitiveness as a holiday destination by finding out how the state's tourism industry stakeholders can work together to create effective partnerships, shared goals and clarity about roles and responsibilities. Representatives of Tasmania's tourism industry are encouraged to share their views at a series of workshops to be held around the state. Further information on the Regional Tourism Review can be found on Tourism Tasmania's website at www.tourismtasmania.com.au/news/regional_tourism_review.

Tasmanian Landcaring Grants

The Tasmanian Landcaring Grants program is a new funding opportunity offered by the Tasmanian Landcare Association and Wildcare Inc through the Australian Government's Caring for our Community initiative. Up to \$20,000 will be available for landcaring projects that deliver on national targets and provide benefits to local communities and the environment. Applications are invited from groups and individual property owners who are committed to progressing landcare projects that improve the natural values of their local environment. Applications close on 11 May. Guidelines are available from www.taslandcare.org.au.

Australian Museum Eureka Prizes – Addressing Climate Change

Entries are now open for the Australian Museum Eureka Prizes and on offer are two prizes dedicated to climate change. Nominations are invited for: the *Eureka Prize for Advancement of Climate Change Knowledge*, awarded for work that demonstrates achievements in deepening the broader community's understanding of climate change; and the *Eureka Prize for Innovative Solutions to Climate Change*. Winners will receive \$10,000. Entries close on 7 May. For details, visit www.australianmuseum.net.au/eureka/enter or email eureka@austrmus.gov.au.

Upcoming Events

AGM, General Meeting, GMC Meeting, Hobart
Local Government Conference, Hobart

12 May
12-14 May

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