

Focus

March 2010



LOCAL
GOVERNMENT
MANAGERS
AUSTRALIA
Tasmania

President's Report

As I write this report, all seats in the State elections have been decided but it is still uncertain who will govern Tasmania into the future. I wonder what the future holds for local government in this new and uncertain environment, and what that might mean for local government professionals. While we do know that all 3 political parties have policies of no forced local government amalgamations, I would be very surprised if at least some consideration isn't given to further local government reform.

The Local Government Board has recently completed its review of the proposal to voluntarily amalgamate two east coast councils. While it recommended against the amalgamation, it was also tasked with recommending guiding principles for further voluntary amalgamations. The LGMA Board (see website) and a number of councils took the opportunity to comment on the Discussion Paper. The Minister for Local Government has now released the Board's report for further comment.

While the Local Government Board has recommended that the Minister adopt the guiding principles for voluntary mergers, the report also notes that voluntary mergers are at best an ad hoc solution that can only deliver change to localised areas. The Board has recommended that the State Government enter into a memorandum of understanding with local government during 2010 on local government reform. The Board suggests that the reform process could commence with a review of the role and functions of local government, including the capacity of the current structure to deliver the roles and responsibilities and the available reform options to ensure a sustainable local government sector is

maintained in Tasmania for the long term future.

The Minister has sought submissions to the incoming Minister for Local Government on any aspect of the Board's report by the end of April.

This suggests to me that at least some form of reform is likely to be considered in the near future, and it is clear that LGMA members have a significant interest in the outcomes and how they might be implemented. In my opinion we shouldn't see this in any way as a threat; I believe it to be a huge opportunity for us to think about ways to improve the way local government delivers its services, as well as an opportunity to enhance career structures within the sector. I would encourage you to take an active role in the debate within your own council organisations, and I am sure that the LGMA Board will take a keen interest on behalf of LGMA members and local government professionals generally.

In the meantime, any efforts that we can make to improve the financial sustainability of our councils will ensure that we are best placed to deal with any major changes that might occur in the future.

Frank Pearce
President

Southern Branch Report

The first meeting for 2010 will be held on Friday 16 April, following the presentation of Giam Swiegers, CEO Deloitte. In 2005, Giam was named the 'Best CEO for the advancement of women in business' by the Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workplace Agency. (Full details in attached flier.)



2010 YEAR OF WOMEN
IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT

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In the Year of Women in Local Government, Giam's presentation is certain to inspire ways to capitalise on the female talent in your council.

We would welcome visitors from elsewhere to join the Southern branch meeting.

Many thanks to **Deloitte** for sponsoring Giam's visit.

Frank Pearce
President

Josh Munnings
Secretary

Northern Branch Report

The Northern Branch last met on February 25th

Adam Wilson made a presentation to the meeting on the resource sharing role he is undertaking as General Manager at Northern Midlands Council. Adam also outlined other functions Brighton is providing to other councils such as Break O'Day, Flinders, Central Highlands which include payroll, creditors, finances, planning and advisory services. The prospect of resource sharing other roles is continually being reviewed.

Adam also commented on the different philosophies, policies and cultures that he had experienced at the councils he had been working for.

There was also discussion at the meeting about the responsibility of councils to provide Community Fire Refuges. Further discussions will be held on this topic as limited information is available and the impacts on councils may be significant.

Other matters touched on were regional issues (NTD), Financial Sustainability & Asset Management and Councillor Induction processes with John Martin commenting on Dorset's Councillor Induction processes, particularly a session with Council's Solicitor Shaun McElwaine.

Members are reminded that an information session will be run at Launceston Aquatic

Centre by the Dept. of Justice on the Right to Information Act 2009 on Thursday 15 April 2010 at 12.00 noon. For further information please contact Martin Reynolds, 63 233121 at Launceston City Council or martin.reynolds@launceston.tas.gov.au

The next meeting of the Branch will be held at the West Tamar Council, Riverside on Thursday 29th April at 3.30 pm.

In closing, the Branch congratulates Adam Wilson who has just been announced as Northern Midlands General Manager and also welcomes the new GM's for Break O' Day, Des Jennings and Launceston, Robert Dobrzynski .

John Martin
President

Peter Groves
Secretary

North West Branch Report

The last Branch meeting was held on the 3rd of March at the Burnie Greens, which is the new bowls facility in Burnie.

The meeting was a very special occasion with the presentation of a certificate of recognition to John Stretton for 40 years of membership with LGMA. John Stretton was unaware of the significance of his attendance at the meeting and was coerced into attending under false pretences. The surprise element made the presentation all the more memorable. John Gibson a current life member of LGMA and long term colleague of John Stretton's provided a background on John's achievements and presented him with the framed certificate and a bottle of port.

Work is continuing by the branch on the 2010 state conference with Strahan selected as the location. An organising committee has been working on themes and possible speakers with a focus conscious of previous conferences and the National Congress in May.

Tracey Bradley
President

Karen Hampton
Secretary



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Tasmanian News

Congress Sponsorship

Congratulations to:

Aby McGuire, Kingborough Council

Sam Davis, Burnie City Council

who have been awarded sponsorship to attend National Congress. Their Registration will be paid by LGMA National and travel and accommodation costs met by LGMA Tasmania.

Thank you to other nominees for their thoughtful applications.

Emerging Leaders Program

Sixteen participants from councils around the state attended the two-day Emerging Leaders Program. The sessions, presented by Professors David Adams and Janelle Allison from UTAS, explored emerging issues for local government, styles of leadership, community engagement and understanding social, human, environmental and cultural capital.

'Step out with Confidence'

LGMA partnered with ALWGA for the first major events in the year of Women in Local Government in Tasmania. A half day negotiation skills workshop was attended by more than 25 council staff and elected members. Those who attended the dinner that evening had the opportunity to sample the ALGWA Tasmania YoWILG cocktail 'Women's Influence'!

The next day over fifty women attended 'Step out with Confidence'. As well as a number of fantastic presentations, a highly productive workshop has given LGMA and ALGWA plenty of ideas for how the momentum of the day can be harnessed and built on over coming months for the betterment of the whole industry.

Particularly positive aspects of the day for the organisers were the opportunity for interaction between council staff and elected members in a way that is not normally available and that fact that this was the first time many of those attending had attended such an event. Watch this space!

Management Challenge

Five teams participated in the 2010 Tasmanian Challenge:

Burnie

Hobart

Huon Valley

Launceston/West Tamar

Waratah Wynyard/Circular Head

At this stage the winner is unknown, but the lucky team will participate in the National Final in Melbourne at the beginning of July.

LGAT Local Government Conference 13 – 14 May

LGMA, as a member of the Organising Committee, has the opportunity to provide two workshop presenters:

Diane Tompson, Managing Director, Powercom Group Pty Ltd - The Challenges of Recruiting and Keeping Skilled Personnel

Prof Mark Evans, ANZSCOG - Leading the Local State - What Skills Local Government Leaders Say They Need and Why

For more information and registration forms <http://www.lgat.tas.gov.au/site/page.cfm?u=209>

Membership News

The following are new members are welcomed to LGMA Tasmania -

Matthew Greskie, Executive Manager Engineering at Waratah Wynyard Council.

Katrena Stephenson, Policy Director, Local Government Association of Tasmania.

We also welcome a number of new General Managers to Tasmania:

Mark Goode at King Island Council

Wendy Hunter at Tasman Council, and

Des Jennings at Break O'Day Council

Robert Dobrzynski will commence as GM at Launceston City Council in May



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Congratulations:

LGMA congratulates **Brent Armstrong**, former General Manager of Hobart City Council and former President of LGMA Tasmania, on being awarded the Order of Australia Medal in the 2010 Australia Day honours.

Events Calendar

April	
Friday 16	Southern Branch Presentation by Giam Swiegers, CEO Deloitte
Friday 30	Board Meeting
Thursday 29	Northern Branch
May	
Wednesday 12	LGAT AGM
Thursday 13 – Friday 14	Local Government Conference (LGAT)
Sunday 16 – Wednesday 19	LGMA National Congress, Adelaide
June	
Friday 25	Board Meeting
Thursday 24	Northern Branch
July	
Thursday 1	
Friday 2	Australasian Final, Management Challenge, Melbourne
Wednesday 14	N W Branch
Thursday 15	Southern Branch
Late July	Topical Issues Forum, North (TBC)
August	
Friday 13	Board Meeting
September	
Early September	Topical Issues Forum, South (TBC)
October	
Friday 1	Southern Branch
Wednesday 27	Board Meeting
Thursday 28 – Friday 29	Annual General Meeting and Conference
December	
Thursday 2	Southern Branch
Friday 17	Board Meeting

For more news and information visit
www.lgma.org.au/tasmania

National News

To find out what is happening nationally
visit www.lgma.org.au

LGMA Tasmania Board

President:	Frank Pearce <i>Glenorchy City Council</i>
Vice President:	Karen Hampton <i>Cradle Coast Authority</i>
Tracey Bradley	<i>Waratah/Wynyard Council</i>
Susie Bower	<i>Dorset Council</i>
Glenn Doyle	<i>Huon Valley Council</i>
John Martin	<i>Dorset Council</i>
Paul West	<i>Kingborough Council</i>
Andrew Wardlaw	<i>Burnie City Council</i>
Adam Wilson	<i>Brighton Council</i>
Secretary:	Liz Gillam
Address :	GPO Box 1521 Hobart 7000
Telephone :	62 335971
Email :	liz.gillam@lgat.tas.gov.au

Southern Branch

President :	Frank Pearce
Secretary :	Josh Munnings
Email	jmunnings@gcc.tas.gov.au

Northern Branch

President :	John Martin
Secretary :	Peter Groves
Email :	PGroves@dorset.tas.gov.au

North West Branch

President :	Tracey Bradley
Secretary :	Karen Hampton
Email :	khampton@cradlecoast.com

National Board Members

Paul West	Tracey Bradley
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Local Government Board Representative

Paul West

LGMA National Congress Organising Committee

2010 Tracey Bradley
2011 Andrew Wardlaw

Women in Local Government Sub-committee (National Board)

Tracey Bradley

L G Community Development and Services Association of Australia

Lorraine Green

Review of rating and valuation processes

Frank Pearce

KPI Project Review Steering Committee

Liz Gillam

LGAT Skills Group

Frank Pearce



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