<table>
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<th>Item</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<td>Corporate Services – Information Items</td>
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<td>Asset Services – Information Items</td>
<td>4 – 8</td>
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<td>Development and Environmental Services – Information Items</td>
<td>9 – 11</td>
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<td>Climate Change and Local Government Seminar</td>
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<td>LGA – Newsletter “At a Glance”</td>
<td>13 - 17</td>
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<td>Murray and Mallee LGA – Newsletter</td>
<td>18 – 27</td>
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<td>Murray Mallee Community Education Network (Quarterly report – January to March 2010)</td>
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<td>Murray Futures – Lower Lakes and Coorong Recovery – Community Update – April 2010</td>
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<td>South Australia Rural Leadership Program</td>
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<td>Volunteering SA &amp; NT – Newsletter 6 April 2010</td>
<td>67 - 73</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CORPORATE SERVICES

Information Items

1. OHS & RISK MANAGEMENT REPORT

March Activities
- Stress Management training was delivered to staff members who manage employees to enable them to identify stress in the workplace.
- Council’s Human Services Coordinator delivered Injury Management training to Managers, Team Leaders & Leading Workers on March 31st. This is to address an OHS & W Program KPI.
- Three (3) Contractor Management Inductions were conduction in March. This also addresses a major KPI in not only the OHS & W and Injury Management Program, but the Risk Management Program as well.
- OHS&W Policy Review group met early March to review a further 8 procedures to be forwarded to managers for distribution to all employees.
- Staff Health Assessments were held in March at Tailem Bend and Meningie.
- The Leadership Team and Human Services Coordinator attended training at Keith with Stevie Sanders from the Local Government Workers Compensation Scheme on 18th March. The purpose of the training was to bring more awareness to staff of the WorkCover SA Code of Conduct for Self Insured Employers.

OH&S Key Performance Indicators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key Performance Indicator</th>
<th>Month (Mar)</th>
<th>2009/10 YTD</th>
<th>2008/2009 TOTAL</th>
<th>2007/2008 TOTAL</th>
<th>2006/07 TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Employee Lost Time Injuries Claim</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employee Medical Expense Only Claim</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employee Minor Injury/Incident*</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employee All Other Accidents/Injuries/Incidents^</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total incidents</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Minor Injuries / Incidents – Minor injuries or incidents which do not result in any loss or work time, do not require professional medical assistance / advice or which do not cause damage to property or equipment
^ All other Accidents / Incidents – Incidents where professional medical assistance / advice is required, work time is lost, where property (council property or other) is damaged and any minor incidents which have a potential for serious injury.

Risk Management – Riverbank Slumping

The Tailem Bend Community Facilities team is continuing to undertake inspections of riverbanks that have been subject to slumping. A summary of the most recent inspections is detailed below:
2. **HUMAN RESOURCES REPORT**

**Employee Movements**

As Elected Members have been advised, the recruitment process for an Accountant has been completed with the appointment of Paul Duka from Kangaroo Island recruited to the role. Paul will be relocating with his family in time for his tentative commencement date of 10 May 2010. In the meantime representatives from UHY Haynes Norton will continue to assist Council in various financial activities.

Catherine Burnett has advised Council that she will commence maternity leave in July 2010. An internal recruitment process has been completed to replace Catherine during her maternity leave with Laura Peters being appointed to act in the role.
### Human Resources Key Performance Indicators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key Performance Indicator</th>
<th>2009/10</th>
<th>2008/09</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Employee absenteeism (hrs)*</td>
<td>204.9</td>
<td>1541.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Movements In</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Movements Out</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employee turnover</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. RECORDS MANAGEMENT

Records staff have spent time with Council’s records consultants, Jan Lawrence and Associates recently. During this time staff processed the majority of the former District Council of Peake general correspondence. In total 35 large archive boxes (approximately 27 linear metres) have been listed ready for State Records approval for the destruction of these old records. The permanent records will be sorted and listed prior to forwarding to State Records for storing in specifically built climate controlled repository.

In accordance with budget provisions, Council has also secured the consultants for a further two weeks in April. During this time Council are hoping to finish processing all the general correspondence for the three amalgamated councils (Peake, Coonalpyn Downs and Meningie).

4. REPLACEMENT TELEPHONE SYSTEM PROCUREMENT – PROGRESS REPORT

Council’s Strategic Management Plan and 2009/10 Annual Business Plan and Budget ($107k) includes replacing the current telephone system. A progress report tabled at the January 2010 Council meeting advised that telecommunications consultancy experts Gibson Quai.AAS (GQ.AAS) had been engaged to assist with the procurement process.

Whilst selective tenders were scheduled to close on 7 April, two suppliers requested, and were subsequently granted an extension of time to submit their proposal. It is anticipated that submissions will be received from seven (7) suppliers. Further, early indications are that the project will be delivered well within the above capital budget allocation.

The CEO engaged Councillors early April in relation to exercising the monetary limits exception in Council’s Competitive Tendering Policy. Further, that as GQ.AAS have independently called and will impartially assess tenders, there is no need for Council to call tenders and consider a recommendation in a formal manner.

Whilst the telephone infrastructure will be housed in the existing Tailem Bend upstairs office, the call centre will be located from the Willow Street Precinct. At this stage it is not proposed that any telephone numbers will change and all calls will be diverted to the Customer Service Centre.

Nat Traeger
MANAGER CORPORATE SERVICES
# ASSET SERVICES

## Information Items

### 1. MAJOR PROJECTS UPDATE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>February 2010</th>
<th>March 2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Poltalloch Road, Stage 4 &amp; 5 of 5.</td>
<td>• Earthworks 75% completed.</td>
<td>• Enzyme and cement stabilization completed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Enzyme and cement stabilization completed.</td>
<td>• Final trim 50% completed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Final trim 50% completed.</td>
<td>• Sealing expected to be completed by mid April 2010.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Sealing expected to be completed by mid April 2010.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Westbrook Road Reconstruction</td>
<td>• Sealing expected to be completed by March 2010.</td>
<td>• Sealing expected to be completed by mid April 2010.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Placid Estate Road Reconstruction</td>
<td>• Sealing expected to be completed by March 2010.</td>
<td>• Sealing expected to be completed by mid April 2010.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stage 2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meningie Lions Park New Toilet Block</td>
<td>• Steel frame work completed.</td>
<td>• Brickwork internal leaf 50% completed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Roof truss installation completed.</td>
<td>• Plumbing for basins and toilets commenced.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Roof sheet installation to commence 26 Feb 2010.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Brickwork to commence after roof sheet has been installed.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Willow Street Streetscape Upgrade</td>
<td>• Meetings held 8 and 15 February 2010.</td>
<td>• Consultant finalising design for next working party meeting, to be held shortly.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project</td>
<td>February 2010</td>
<td>March 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coonalpyn WTS Development</td>
<td>• Public notices distributed.</td>
<td>• Project completed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Transfer Station is functioning satisfactorily.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tintinara WTS Development</td>
<td>• Works planned for the fourth quarter.</td>
<td>• Works planned for the fourth quarter.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meningie PLEC Powerlines</td>
<td>• Final sign off by Council for ETSA works.</td>
<td>• Project completed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Underground Project</td>
<td>• Equalisation payment from ETSA to Council of $65,433 has been applied for.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fred’s Landing Public Toilet</td>
<td>• Civil works completed.</td>
<td>• Final plumbing works in progress.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. COMMUNITY WASTE MANAGEMENT SCHEME (CWMS) PROJECTS UPDATE

**Meningie CWMS Upgrade**
Factor UTB have almost finished the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) construction. Site acceptance testing is being performed on the WWTP on Wednesday 31 March 2010. Terrain Services have completed most of the civil works with the installation of the rising main to the WWTP being completed late March 2010. The oval irrigation system has been installed and successfully tested with fresh water. Pressure testing of the WWTP pipe work and the irrigation mains will be scheduled first week April 2010. The connection to the golf course irrigation system will not be completed until Department of Health Approval is received, HDS Australia is still waiting on some additional sprinkler location information from the golf course committee before the Department of Health application is lodged.

**Tintinara CWMS Upgrade**
Department of Health approval was received on 29 March 2010 for the WWTP and using reclaimed water on the town oval. Civil works tender documents will be finalised and released early April 2010. Development Application has been submitted.

**Tailem Bend CWMS Upgrade**
Department of Health approval for the WWTP and use on reclaimed water on the oval and golf course has been received. Currently waiting for Development Approval, which is in the public consultation stage. HDS Australia have liaised with Council staff regarding the construction of the hard stand for the WWTP and construction will begin as soon as the Development Approval process is in the final stages. The civil works tender documents have been released and a compulsory pre-tender meeting will be held on site with prospective tenderers on Tuesday 30 March 2010.
Quotes have also been received regarding installing a sub-surface irrigation system in the municipal areas along Railway Terrace. A comparison of the cost of such a system compared with the construction of the irrigation main which will supply reclaimed water to the oval will be submitted to Council. This option, would result in a major reduction in the length of trenching required to get reclaimed water to the oval and with the additional advantage of the municipal areas being irrigated with reclaimed water.

3. REGIONAL & LOCAL COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM (RLCIP) ROUND 2 UPDATE

Community Projects Component (Round 2) Update
The seven projects decided by a Special Council Meeting on 11 November 2009 were submitted on-line on the RLCIP eGrants website on 20 November 2009.

On 23 March 2010, Council was notified by the Department that its seven projects were approved.

The seven projects approved are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RLCIP Project No:</th>
<th>Cong-101</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Project Title:</td>
<td>Construction of Shade Shelter for the Coonalpyn Playground.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Description:</td>
<td>Works include supply and installation of a shade shelter at the existing Coonalpyn Playground.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RLCIP funded component:</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Council funded component:</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RLCIP Project No:</th>
<th>Cong-102</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Project Title:</td>
<td>Construction of Shade Shelter for the Peake Playground</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Description:</td>
<td>Works include supply and installation of a shade shelter at the existing Peake Playground.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RLCIP funded component:</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Council funded component:</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RLCIP Project No:</th>
<th>Cong-103</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Project Title:</td>
<td>Construct a Shelter at the Meningie Cemetery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Description:</td>
<td>Works include supply and installation of a picnic shelter covering 10 by 5 metres.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RLCIP funded component:</td>
<td>$18,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Council funded component:</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### RLCIP Project No: Cong-104

**Project Title:** Upgrades to the Tintinara Bowling Club Synthetic Green  

**Project Description:** Works include replacement of synthetic green at the club as part of a larger project to refurbish the existing grounds covering 1,490 square metres.  

- **RLCIP funded component:** $20,000  
- **Council funded component:** $0

### RLCIP Project No: Cong-105

**Project Title:** Street Enhancement of Becker Terrace in Tintinara  

**Project Description:** Partial contribution to streetscape improvements and replacement of a section of major shopfront footpath on Becker Terrace in Tintinara.  

- **RLCIP funded component:** $26,000  
- **Council funded component:** $19,000

### RLCIP Project No: Cong-106

**Project Title:** Construction of a Bus Shelter in Tailem Bend  

**Project Description:** Works include supply and installation of a bus shelter in Tailem Bend, that provides increased shelter against the elements.  

- **RLCIP funded component:** $8,000  
- **Council funded component:** $0

### RLCIP Project No: Cong-107

**Project Title:** Street Enhancement of Railway Terrace in Tailem Bend  

**Project Description:** Partial contribution to streetscape improvements and replacement of a section of major shopfront footpath on Railway Terrace in Tailem Bend.  

- **RLCIP funded component:** $40,000  
- **Council funded component:** $40,000

**TOTAL RLCIP funded component:** $147,000

The date of completion specified by the Department for all RLCIP projects is 31 December 2010.
Strategic Projects Component (Round 2) Update

At the Council Meeting on 20 October 2009, Council resolved that it would submit an application under the Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program Round 2 - Strategic Projects for the Meningie Main Street Streetscape Beautification including a Visitor Information Centre and a Stormwater Harvesting Project.

The project was submitted on-line on 15 January 2010, with a total value, excluding GST, of $4,379,720.00.

The Department has acknowledged Council’s application.

After the visit to our Council by the Hon Paul Caica MP, Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for Forests and Minister for Regional Development, on 2 February 2010, the Minister wrote to The Hon Anthony Albanese MP, Commonwealth Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government on 12 February 2010 to support Council’s application.

As at 31 March 2010, Council has not received any news of its application.

4. BE ACTIVE GRANT

Council has received notification from the Murraylands Be Active Field Officer that the Region has been successful in obtaining a $10,000 grant for the 2010/2011 financial year to be spent on a project and its promotion.

The submissions from participating Councils were as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Council</th>
<th>Project</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Coorong</td>
<td>Be Active safety messages and warm-up and stretching exercise signs to complement the Meningie Outdoor Gym.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karoonda East Murray</td>
<td>Walking Trail signage.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-Murray</td>
<td>Mobile skate park coaching sessions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Murray Bridge</td>
<td>Avenue of Be Active banners in main street.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern Mallee</td>
<td>Sport and recreational promotional signage for the new sport and recreational precinct.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Each of the five Councils will receive $2,000 each.

Stephen Yam
MANAGER ASSET SERVICES
DEVELOPMENT & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Information Items

1. DEVELOPMENT REPORT

Council issued 5 Development Approvals in March at a total value of $193,823

So far this year Council has issued 27 Development Approvals at a value of $982,204. At the same time last year Council had issued 27 Development Approvals at a value of $943,696.

2. TAILEM BEND MOTOR SPORT PARK

The TBMSP Working Group met with representatives of the motor sport consortium on 23 March 2010. At this meeting the short term lease was finalised for the use of the site. Informal discussions were also held on the long term future use of the site and what Councils involvement, if any, may be.

The short term lease allows Tailem Bend Motor Sport Pty Ltd to organise and hold events on the site without the need to submit paperwork to Council. This is much more efficient. The site has been used almost daily since the beginning of March for mainly driver training events.

Councils CEO and Manager DES have held a subsequent meeting on the 29 March 2010 with representatives of the consortium with regard to the long term future of the site. It is anticipated that a report and presentation will be made to Council at its meeting in either May or June to consider how the long term future development of the site will be most appropriately managed.

3. BETTER DEVELOPMENT PLAN CONVERSION

The public and agency consultation period for the Better Development Conversion Development Plan Amendment closed on Thursday 26 March 2010. During this period Council only received submissions form Government Agencies and Departments, no submission were received from the public. As such, no public hearing was required which would have occurred on 31 March 2010.

Council staff are currently compiling the summary of submissions and Councils response to them. Some liaison with the Department of Planning and Local Government will also occur. It is anticipated that an item for Council to consider the summary of submissions and resolve to make any changes to the DPA will be presented to the May Council Meeting.
4. **BUSHFIRE SAFER PRECINCTS**

Councils Bushfire Safer Precinct Working Group met with Richard Wald from the CFS on 11 March 2010 to discuss Councils concerns regarding the identification of bushfire safer precincts in the district. It was a very productive and informative meeting. It was agreed that the only Bushfire Safer Precincts in the district are Tailem Bend and Meningie. Places or refuges of last resort may be Coonalpyn Hall, Tintinara Hall, Coomandook Hall and Peake Hall.

5. **BE ACTIVE PROGRAM**

The Council resolved to contribute towards the Be Active Program held throughout the Murraylands region. Tim Drew has previously been Councils representative for this program. Jim Quinn, Councils Environmental Health Officer, will now be Councils representative.

6. **LANDCARE REPORT**

The inaugural meeting of the Tatiara LAP will be held on Monday 19th April 2010.

The agenda for this meeting will include discussions regarding:

- **Project background to the Coorong Tatiara joint project**
  A brief history of the Coorong District LAP, their achievements and how the joint Coorong Tatiara project evolved.

- **Funding**
  Available funding and timeframe from Caring for our Country and what has been funded, for example, on-ground works, staff, promotion, NRM education.

- **Project update**
  Update on what the LAP Officers have been doing. This includes project publicity, newsletters, displays, shows, media, websites etc. On-ground works this year including funding process, expression of interest, offers. NRM educational programs at schools and for youth. Workshops and field days attended.

- **Committee membership**
  Committee number of members
  Committee chair
  Filling any vacancies or gaps.
• **Committee status**
  Committee terms of reference.
  Section 41 committee of TDC

• **Scoping Study**
  The Council has also enlisted Faith Cook from Delta Environmental to undertake a scoping study in preparation of creating the LAP for Tatiara.

Timothy Tol
MANAGER DEVELOPMENT & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
SPOTLIGHT ON TRAINING

Climate Change and Local Government Seminar
6 May 2010

For: Council Members, CEOs and Senior Officers.

Seminar Overview:
The physical and regulatory impacts and opportunities that climate change may bring need to be understood, planned for and integrated into systems, functions and culture as the future way of life, much the same as the industrial and technological revolutions experienced in earlier decades.

The projected implications of climate change for Local Government are extensive and will require a heightened level of understanding and action by Councils in coming years.

Local Government also has a significant leadership role in helping local communities understand and adapt to climate change, and take advantage of the opportunities that emissions trading may bring.

This one-day seminar will provide participants with an understanding of:
• science of climate change
• legal and liability implications of climate change for Local Government
• environmental, economic and social cost of climate change
• impact on Council operations of climate change including infrastructure, public and environmental health, community services, parks and gardens, rating, economic development, planning and development
• planning for climate change
• carbon trading and reporting.


Time: 9:30am to 4:30pm.

Venue: Boardrooms, Local Government House – 16 Hutt Street, Adelaide.

Presenters: A panel of climate change experts and practitioners including Darren Ray (Bureau of Meteorology), Dr Tim Moore (BalanceCarbon), Tim Davis (LGA Mutual Liability Scheme) and Adam Gray (LGA)

Cost: $220 including GST – morning and light lunch included.

Registrations:
For on-line registrations go to www.lga.sa.gov.au/goto/registertraining or alternatively complete details on this form and return it to the LGA by email training@lga.sa.gov.au or fax 8232 6336.

Council Name: ________________________________

Contact Person: ________________________ Ph: _______________ Fax: ________________________

Participant Details (please print):

Name: ______________________ Position: ______________________
Email: ________________________________

Name: ______________________ Position: ______________________
Email: ________________________________
Issue 27, April 2010

Women of Unley

A national campaign promoting 2010 as the Year of Women in Local Government is strongly supported by the City of Unley, where women play critical roles in the delivery of services and programs.

Women are employed in all areas of Unley Council’s business, from making policy and setting strategic direction, to managing finances, providing community services and facilities, managing traffic, and maintaining the City’s trees and open spaces.

55% of Council’s employees are women and half of its senior managers are female. The state Local Government average for women in senior management is 16%.

It’s all about Lifestyle

Lifestyle choices will be the focal point of this year’s City of Onkaparinga Sustainable Living Expo. The expo, at Noarlunga Leisure Centre on 1 and 2 May, will offer practical information on choices and contributions people can make regarding water, energy, waste, transport and their gardens.

The workshops, presentations and stalls will include home energy use, worm farming and composting, raising eco-kids, the benefits of backyard chooks, green buildings and more.

Community Matters

Name: Mark Broe, Mayor of Wattle Range

Family: Married to Lisa for 25 years, one son Oliver aged 17. Born in Broken Hill, secondary schooling at Sacred Heart College, Adelaide and Law Degree from Adelaide University.

Occupation: Practised as a Lawyer for 20 years and for the past 8 years has worked for Centacare Catholic Family Services as a Mediator.


Community: Community activity revolves around work as Mayor, membership since 2002 of the State Government Regional Communities Consultative Council and role as the Deputy Chair of Regional Development Australia Limestone Coast. Previously an active member of the Society of St Vincent de Paul and the Rotary Club of Millicent.

Challenges: Like all regional Councils Wattle Range continues to focus on ensuring Council’s financial sustainability, asset maintenance and construction and ensuring our various communities have equitable access to core medical, human and social services.

Personal Interests: To find the time to spend with Lisa, Oliver, family and friends. A keen supporter of the Norwood and Adelaide Football Clubs. The Company of 7 Theatre Group and Community Radio 9 THE FM.

Prospect strategy best in nation

Last month the Federal Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy, Senator Conroy launched the City of Prospect’s Digital Economy Strategy declaring the Strategy the very best in Australia.

The development of the strategy was in response to demand from the city’s local business community for bigger and faster broadband, research into the potential of Prospect’s economy and the future roll out of the National Broadband Network (NBN). Prospect has marched ahead of the NBN and is currently rolling out its own optical fibre to service its Library, Civic Centre and depot. The route of the fibre bundle has been strategically planned to roll past two local primary schools and a main retail shopping street precinct to encourage further take up by local schools and businesses.

Loxton wins water saving bid

The District Council of Loxton-Wakkerie was awarded $1.12 million in the Commonwealth Government’s first round of the Strengthening Basin Communities program to assist in funding the Loxton Water Recycling Scheme.

Loxton Wakkerie was one of 12 successful Local Government applications nationally, for the $25.08 million first round of the Program, in which the Commonwealth will work in partnership with Councils and water service providers to deliver water saving infrastructure to secure a stronger future for Murray Darling Basin communities.
It’s Opal at Playford

One of Australia's most celebrated female basketballers, Rachael Sporn (pictured right with Mayor Martin Lindsell), is now leading the community as an Ambassador for OPAL, a new healthy eating initiative in the City of Playford.

The $22.3 million OPAL program, funded by Local, Federal and State governments, aims to create a supportive community to encourage a healthy lifestyle and tackle the ongoing issue of obesity and chronic disease through improving the eating and physical activity patterns of young people under 18 years.

The first OPAL campaign message ‘Water – the original cool drink’ encourages the community to choose water over soft drinks.

Welcome to Mount Gambier

Expansion of social and professional networks is being fostered by the Mount Gambier Council in partnership with the Australian Government and private companies through Your Professional Network (YPN) to enhance connection within the community.

Local employers and HR Managers with new staff are encouraged to attend and assist their staff to assimilate into the community of Mount Gambier. YPN meets once a month for professional people to expand their social and support networks in the Blue Lake City.

Get the Drift

More than 250 teenagers recently attended collaborative youth week ‘Get the Drift’ hosted by Burnside, Campbelltown, Norwood Paynesville & St Peters, Prospect, Unley and Walkerville, and attended by Federal Minister for Early Childhood Education, Child Care and Youth, Kate Ellis.

Students from years eight to ten came together from high schools across the six Council areas to take part in a number of workshops designed to help them learn how to deal with the pressures of being a teenager.

The workshops provided practical suggestions on how to avoid alcohol and other drugs, be healthier and reduce stress, plan for the future and manage money as well as covering issues such as bullying, including online bullying on social networking sites.

Half court in the Square

A new $25,000 basketball court in Adelaide’s Whitmore Square will encourage people of all ages to get active in the City and shoot some hoops.

The idea for the basketball court came from Whitmore Square local who made the suggestion to Council on behalf of her sons.

The new court is set in the north-east area of Whitmore Square, and basketballs can be loaned for free between 9am-5pm, Monday to Friday at the South West Community Centre.

Barossa youth have their say

The Barossa Council will poll Williamstown youth on preferred services for the region, ranging from a skate park to library services, to identify which services youth consider valuable, and how these services could be delivered.

The move comes after Council received a petition signed by 118 people lobbying for a facility in Williamstown similar to the Nuriootpa skate park. It's estimated that replicating the skate park in Nuriootpa would cost around $200,000.

Williamstown currently has a BMX track which opened in 2005 as a result of a partnership between Council and the community.

A Tale of Two Suburbs

A new book and DVD detailing the evolution of the suburbs of Salisbury North and Mawson Lakes are available for hire from Salisbury's five library branches.

Titled ‘A Tale of Two Suburbs: Salisbury North and Mawson Lakes’ the book and DVD explores the sense of community, both past and present, the history of the suburbs and hopes for the future. The book delves into the life of the two suburbs, one celebrating half a century and the other a newly established community.

Twenty-one people were interviewed for the project which was sponsored by Friends of the Salisbury Library Service and funded through grants from History SA and the Oral History Association of Australia (SA).

The Council worked with Salisbury High School, Delphin Lend Lease, Housing SA, Salisbury and District Historical Society to create the book and DVD.

Articles for “At a glance...” are sourced from print and electronic media and from Council publications.
President's Column

Mayor Felicity-ann Lewis

The year is marching on and we are closing in on some key dates for Local Government. The General Meeting and Showcase is only days away and promises to be another excellent event with a very full Showcase program. Some pieces of great news regarding the GM and Showcase before the event. Firstly, the Showcase attracted the highest record sponsorship and secondly, the Adelaide Convention Centre has added our event details to their sign at the Adelaide Airport. Take a look if you are flying in or out of the City during Showcase Week.

The State Election is well behind us now and we have already begun our work with the returned Government and with the Opposition, Independents and minor parties. The work that we do with politicians is instrumental in achieving good things for our communities. The LGA's State Election 2010 strategy achieved widespread recognition across the political parties and also received the unqualified support of major peak bodies – well done to all on this as it was the result of the LGA and across-Council collaboration.

The rumbles continue that there will be a Federal Election before the end of the year and work has already begun at the Secretariat to put SA Council's at the forefront of funding negotiations.

Our own Elections loom in November and the Secretariat is well on the way with the preparation of support documents and information guides for candidates, Councils and for voter encouragement, particularly for traditionally under-represented groups.

The ED, Wendy and I have continued our meet and greet travels around Councils, which have given me a greater insight into the issues challenging Councils and where the LGA can best assist. So, if I haven't met with you yet it won't be far away and in the meantime, see you at Showcase and the GM.

Accountability Framework Act

The first tranche of amendments to the Local Government Act 1999 made by the Local Government (Accountability Framework) Amendment Act 1999, came into effect on 8 April 2010. A further tranche, mainly related to rates and audit provisions, will come into effect on 1 July 2010.

Effective dates have not been set for the commencement of the remainder of the Act as a number of these provisions will require regulations to be drafted, consulted on and promulgated.

For further information see LGA Circular 8.1 or contact Paul Perry on 8224 2045 or email paul.perry@lga.sa.gov.au.

ERA Commitment to Women

The Eastern Region Alliance (ERA) comprising Burnside, Campbelltown, Norwood Payneham and St. Peters, Prospect, Tea Tree Gully, Unley and Walkerville Councils will fund seven places in a women's leadership program as part of their Year of Women in Local Government initiatives. The program is being run by Campbelltown in partnership with a Registered Training Organisation and will be subsidised with Federal funding.

One ERA woman will also be awarded a scholarship to undertake leadership training with the Management and Research Centre (MARC) and another scholarship will be awarded for an ERA woman to study for a Certificate IV in Frontline Management.

An ERA award will also be given to a female who has made an outstanding contribution to the development of women in Local Government.

For further information contact Sandy Semmens on 8224 2026 or email sandy.semmens@lga.sa.gov.au.

Management of Trees

The LGA Mutual Liability Scheme (MLS) Board has approved funding for the LGA to conduct an independent inquiry into the management of trees located on land under the care and control of Councils. The purpose of the inquiry is to provide independent advice to the LGA on the most appropriate future management regime for trees on public land taking into account current and possible future changes in climatic conditions.

Councils and the MLS have had recent experience with a number of incidents where trees on public land have caused damage to property and people. The recent planning day held by the MLS Board identified 'tree management' as one of the most significant emerging risks for Councils and the Scheme. It is suggested that the recent severe drought has increased the risk of tree damage and future predicted variations in climatic conditions could exacerbate this situation. However, trees are also an important and valued asset and trees on Council managed public land (especially footpaths and road-sides) present a particular challenge to achieve a balance between environmental and public safety considerations.

It is proposed that the independent inquiry be established on a similar model to the highly successful Independent Inquiry into the Financial Sustainability of Local Government with a small board and a dedicated executive support team.

Further details on the conduct of the inquiry will be made available by LGA Circular in the near future. For further information contact Michael Barry on 8224 2033 or email michael.barry@lga.sa.gov.au.
LGA one step closer to a new Constitution

The LGA has moved a step closer to having a new Constitution, following the State Executive Committee's endorsement of a sixth draft of this important document, in March 2010.

The LGA's Constitution sets out its powers and duties, provides guidelines for the conduct of General Meetings and elections, and establishes the governance structures of the organisation. The Constitution can only be altered with approval of the membership and the Minister for State/Local Government Relations.

In October 2005 LGA Members recognised that the current Constitution was in need of a total overhaul, and requested the State Executive Committee commence this process. In response to a formal discussion paper, Councils and other stakeholders provided valuable advice and comments to help the State Executive Committee develop a first draft of the new Constitution, which has been further refined and redrafted over the last year. The current draft will be presented to the LGAs General Meeting on 23 April, for formal endorsement.

It is likely that the Constitution may require some further revision after formal comments are received from the Minister, however it is expected that the new document will be in place by the end of 2010.

For further information contact Barry Parsons on 8224 2025 or email barry.parsons@lga.sa.gov.au.

Council Member Allowances, find out more

Under recent changes to the Local Government Act 1999, the Remuneration Tribunal has the responsibility to set Council Members allowances for the next term of office. Mr Hedley Bachmann, President of the Remuneration Tribunal, will address a special breakfast session at 7.15am on 23 April 2010 just prior to the LGA General Meeting and outline the approach the Tribunal will be taking.

Council Members and staff wishing to attend this breakfast must email alison.gill@gov.sa.gov.au to register by Wednesday 14 April.

Councils Get Ready for Enrolment

Recent amendments to the Local Government (Elections) Act 1999 removed the automatic enrolment provision for non-resident property owners and occupiers. Under section 13A(2) of the Act each Council is now required to inform potential electors in its area not on the State Electoral roll (House of Assembly roll) of the need to apply to enrol if they wish to participate in Council elections.

An information package of materials has been developed for Councils to adapt for their use. This package includes:

- three separate 'Application for Enrolment' forms;
- template letters to electors previously on the Council voters roll;
- a generic notice for placement in local papers, Council newsletters etc;
- an enrolment flyer for inclusion in various mail outs and display in Council facilities;
- wording for a bookmark for Councils to print and place in Council offices, libraries and community centres to alert people that enrolment arrangements have changed; and
- wording for a three stage website notice.

The material can be accessed from www.lga.sa.gov.au/goto/electionresources. The LGA is continuing to develop other election resources for Councils and these will be added to the website as they become available.

For further info contact Meagan Bray on 8224 2029 or meagan.bray@gov.sa.gov.au.

Redesigning Council Rates Notices

The LGA, with the approval of the State Executive Committee, is investigating the feasibility of redesigning the format of Council Rates Notices for the 2011-12 rating year.

The current Rates Notice is being reviewed by a short term working group including representatives from the Department of Planning and Local Government, South Australian Institute for Rate Administrators, and Local Government. The objective is to review the current format with a view to reduce clutter and provide more targeted information.

For further information contact Bethany Loates on 8224 2038 or email bethany.loates@gov.sa.gov.au.

NRM Review

The Natural Resources Management (Review) Amendment Bill 2010 has been released for public consultation. All comments are required by 19 April 2010.

This draft Bill proposes legislative changes that were recommended in the Report on the Statutory Review of the Natural Resources Management Act 2004. The State Government intended for the draft Bill to address inconsistencies, provide clarification, simplify business processes and increase transparency in the administration of the Act.

For further information see LGA Circular 11.1, or contact Bethany Loates on 8224 2038 or email bethany.loates@gov.sa.gov.au.

Leadership Program

Melbourne will be host to 80 exhilarated and inspired Mayors, CEOs and Directors who will have just completed ANZOG's very first Local Government leadership program. This program has been modeled on its existing Executive Fellows Program for Commonwealth and State officials but tailored to Local Government's distinctiveness and diversity.

To find out more about ANZOG and how you can take part in the inaugural three week intensive residential program starting on 22 November 2010, visit http://anzog.edu.au or contact Monica Pfeffer on 03 8344 1989.
**RROCS Update**

The Local Government Association is currently undertaking a ‘Review and Renewal of Organisational Capacity and Services’ (RROCS). It has commissioned Ric Bierbaum to conduct a comprehensive and critical analysis of its current operations and to give clear direction to its future service portfolio and organisational requirements. The primary aim of the RROCS is to ensure that the LGA remains relevant, effective and efficient in the delivery of its services to the South Australian Local Government sector.

Key findings of this review and their associated recommendations will be made to the May 2010 State Executive Committee meeting. They will highlight the structural, staffing, systems, strategic management, skills and cultural changes the LGA needs to make. On their agreement to these recommendations, an LGA Change Management Strategy will be prepared in June to ensure their successful management, implementation, evaluation and reporting.

For further information, contact Wendy Campana on 8224 2022 or email wendy.campana@lga.sa.gov.au.

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**Solar PV on Council Infrastructure**

The LGA has recently engaged the services of ZEN Home Energy to investigate opportunities for SA Councils to significantly increase their uptake of Solar Photovoltaic (PV) on Council Infrastructure, including the physical requirements, regulatory drivers and financial opportunities.

This project will inform the LGA of sector wide opportunities for further policy and advocacy issues relevant to Local Government participation in the renewable energy sector while also investigating the opportunity for the LGA to coordinate the growing demand Solar PV systems for Council Infrastructure.

Councils participating in this Local Government Research & Development Scheme funded project will also receive a report addressing Council specific issues relating to the uptake of Solar PV on Council Infrastructure.

For further information, contact Adam Gray on 8224 2055 or adam.gray@lga.sa.gov.au.

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**LGMA Review into Women in Management**

Women are more successful in gaining top level management positions, than their male colleagues but a recent review of recruitment data shows they are not applying for the jobs.

The review, commissioned by Local Government Managers Australia, was to determine if a relationship exists between the lack of women in senior management and the number of applications to top roles received from women.

Of the 131 senior management recruitment campaigns reviewed, more than four men applied for a CEO, director or manager position to every one woman. Yet, nearly one in three women who were interviewed was successful in getting the position.

The Year of Women in Local Government encourages Councils to increase the participation of women in senior management roles by providing training and mentoring opportunities, establishing voluntary gender equity targets and encouraging and supporting women to apply for executive positions.

For further information about the Review go to www.lgma.org.au and follow the links, or contact Sandy Semmens on 8224 2026 or sandy.semmens@lga.sa.gov.au.

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**Education & Training**

For further information or to register for any courses please visit www.lga.sa.gov.au/quotes/training.

**April and May**

- 16 Apr - Traineeships, Cadetships and Apprenticeships Explained - for Line Managers and HR Managers/Officers
- 19 Apr - Council and Committee Meeting Agenda and Minute Preparation - for EAs, PA and Administration Officers
- 27 April - Business Writing Basics - for Council Officers requiring in-depth assistance with writing in a business environment
- 28 Apr - Emissions Measurement and Management - for Finance Managers, Waste Management Officers, Environment Officers and Risk Management Officers

**April and May 2010**

- 15 & 16 June 2010 - Springboard Women’s Development Program
- 3 May - Local Government – An Introduction – for New Employees to Local Government
- 4 May - Whistleblowers (Fraud and Corruption Reporting) – for Council Officers (including CEOs and Governance Officers) and Council Members involved in the consideration of Whistleblower and Fraud and Corruption issues
- 5 May - Whistleblowers Protection Act - Responsible Officers – for CEOs, Governance Managers, Responsible Officers appointed under the Whistleblower Protection Policy
- 5 May - Child Safe – Mandatory Reporting Refresher/Orientation
- 6 May - Climate Change Seminar – for Council Members, CEOs and Senior Officers
- 10 & 11 May - Rate Administration Fundamentals – for Rates Administration Officers
- 17 May - Council Development Assessment Panel (CDAP) Member Fundamentals – for Members of CDAPs, and Planning Officers/Managers who attend CDAP meetings. All members newly appointed to CDAPs are particularly encouraged to attend
- 21 May - Procurement & Probity Fundamentals - for Purchasing/Procurement Managers/Officers, Works Managers and Contract Managers
Regional Development Australia (RDA)

MURRAYLANDS AND RIVERLAND BOARD

At the Association’s General Meeting held on the 1st April, 2010 Delegates were advised by the Chair, Regional Development Australia (Murraylands and Riverland) Board (RDA) that the State Government had not yet lived up to their promise to provide operational funding for this new RDA Board.

In addition, he advised that all Member Councils had previously signed the funding agreement, in partnership with the State Government.

To keep the RDA Board operating, hold-over monies predominantly held by the Murraylands Regional Development Board (MRDB) were being expended.

The RDA Board has written to the Dept. Trade and Economic Development (DTED) advising them of the deteriorating financial position.

The RDA Board is currently awaiting DTED’s response.

Mayor Neil Martinson, Chair, RDA also advised that Brenton Lewis has been appointed as CEO and that Ken Smith, the previous CEO of the Riverland Development Corporation (RDC) has resigned.

Riverland and Murraylands Drought Offices

At the Association’s General Meeting held on the 1st April, 2010, much discussion was undertaken on the continuation of the activities of the Riverland and Murraylands Regional Drought Offices.
The Association understands that the term of PIRSA’s involvement, in the first instance being the Riverland Drought Office, is nearing an end, with the Murraylands Office not far behind.

In consideration of the continuing economic plight of many primary producers and associated flow-on businesses in the region as a whole, Delegates resolved the following: “that the Association supports PIRSA’s continuance of support for both the Riverland and Murraylands Drought Offices.”

The CEO referred this evidence of support to PIRSA and has been advised that the new Minister has some awareness of the centres, through his involvement in the Riverland Task Force. As a matter of course he has been briefed by PIRSA, on coming into his new portfolio, of the need to maintain the regional drought response services.

The previous Minister will also have an interest in this matter with his new portfolio, and he is fully aware of the situation from his previous role.

Funding will mostly be a Treasury / Cabinet matter, as the Drought Response Program is funded through specific tranches beyond PIRSA’s core funding and as such while they can influence, they cannot decide.

How it plays out over the next couple of months is not certain, but PIRSA’s advice to the Minister will be aligned to the Association’s resolution.

Digital TV - Switchover from Analogue to Digital

Due to logistical reasons, Riverland Councils have referred the matter of hosting the Digital Switchover Taskforce’s Community Liaison person position to the RDA (Murraylands and Riverland) Board.

Brenton Lewis, CEO, RDA Board has advised that negotiations for the hosting with the Taskforce have been completed and that an appointment is now awaiting Ministerial sign-off.
(proxy).

RPC: Mayor Neil MARTINSON, Barry HURST, CEO and Deputy Mayor LOUIS DIMOU (proxy) and Robert WOOD, Director Corporate and Community Services (proxy).

SMDC: Mayor George GUM, Deputy Mayor CR. Robert Sexton, CR. John RAMKE (proxy) and Rodney RALPH, CEO (proxy).

MOMLGA
Chief Executive Officer:
Peter Campbell
PO Box 1014, GOOLWA.
SA 5214

Phone: 08 8555 3929
Mobile: 0429 862 669
Fax: 08 8555 0451
Website: www.mmlga.sa.gov.au
Email: cuo@mmlga.com.au

It is expected that the Community Liaison Officer will commence duties in May, 2010 and cease in January, 2011.

The role of the Officer is to:

- Raise awareness through Community Groups, Events & Local Stakeholders,
- Provide advice to residents on where to go for further information, and,
- Identify residents encountering difficulties from social, economic or geographical barriers.

Regional Transport Strategy Plan (RTS) Review

It was 2006 when the Association last reviewed the region’s Regional Transport Strategy (RTS) Plan.

At the Association’s General Meeting held on the 1st April, 2010, Delegates resolved to undergo a complete review of the current Plan, to be completed by December this year.

The Delegate’s decision was made in accordance with the Association’s RTS Committee resolution, backed by a more recent roads survey completed by the CEO.

This survey indicated that many of the listed roads for reconstruction have had works undertaken by Councils, without funding assistance.

The review process will involve widespread community and industry consultations, along with State Government Agencies and regional NGO’s.
The contract for the review has been awarded to Parsons Brinkerhoff, who are pre-scheduled to commence work on the 1st July, 2010, subject to Delegate’s adoption of the draft budget for that financial year.

Regional Broadband Project

The Association and the Regional Development Australia (Murraylands and Riverland) Board (RDA) has now received official advice of the SA Government’s $310,000 Broadband Development Fund (BDF) funding assistance for extension of Murray and Mallee regional broadband services, predominantly concentrating on the eastern sector of the region.

Due to the current lack of a Project Manager to oversee the project, the CEO liaised with DFEEST and DTED to arrange for DTED to undertake that role, in conjunction with their current Murray and Mallee project. This arrangement has synergies pertinent to both projects.

In addition, this move should eliminate the necessity for the Association to consider further financial support for project management costs, referred to in previous reports.

An RDA representative will be invited by DTED to join the Project Management Group.

DFEEST have advised that they are making progress and are nearing the point of a draft contract for the network construction being available for review by all parties.
Strategic Plan 2008-2011 Annual Review completed

To ensure that the directions and activities of the Association are updated to reflect the changes experienced throughout the region, Association Delegates recently reviewed the Association’s current Strategic Plan.

Comments made by Delegates were collated during February and March this year, and the draft revised Plan was adopted at the Association’s General Meeting held on the 1st April, 2010.

This revised Plan is available to all on the Association’s website at www.mmlga.sa.gov.au under the “Strategic Plan” tab.

Subsequent to the General Meeting, Member Councils have now been circulated with the draft Annual Business Plan and Budget 2010-2011 for comment and or alterations. This action is in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1999 and the Association’s Charter for a Regional Subsidiary.

The final Annual Business Plan and Budget 2010-2011 will be presented to Delegates for adoption at the Association’s Annual General Meeting on the 4th June, 2010 to be held at Murray Bridge.

NRM/LG Protocol - Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)
All Member Councils have agreed with the Association’s execution of the MoU in conjunction with the Chair of the SA MDB NRM Board.

The MoU is prefaced by a philosophical understanding (to which the Association is a party) ensuring that every endeavor to facilitate NRM activities in the region with Member Councils, is undertaken.

The SA MDB NRM Board has indicated that the Association’s execution of this section would act as a trigger for NRM Board staff to commence negotiations with individual Councils on the Operational component (Action Plan) of the Agreement.

2010-2011 Special Local Roads Funding Submissions

LOCAL GOVERNMENT TRANSPORT ADVISORY PANEL

Following the CEO’s request to member Councils for SLRP funding assistance for road reconstruction work during 2010-2011, a total of 6 applications have been received.

Details of these submissions are as follows:

District Council of Loxton Waikerie: Waikerie to Mindarie (incorp. Maggea and Eustice Roads) - continuation, Stage 3.

Coorong District Council: Coonalpyn to Geranium Road (5 year project).

District Council of Karoonda East Murray: Karoonda to Bowhill Road.

Mid Murray Council: Murraylands Road.

Rural City of Murray Bridge: Ferries McDonald Road and OD 4 by-pass route (Hindmarsh Road/Cyprus Terrace).

The CEO has ranked the roads in accordance with the current Association’s Regional Transport Strategy Plan and forwarded the commended applications to the Local Government Transport Advisory Panel (LGTAP).
The LGTAP is scheduled to meet early May 2010 when recommendations to the Local Government Grants Commission will be formalized.

The final decision on funding availability should be announced around September, 2010.

“Q and A” with “DA”.

Strategic Planning and Development Policy Committee.

Question 1:- Does a Council have to establish a Strategic Planning and Development Policy Committee?

Answer:- Yes, pursuant to Section 101A of the Development Act.

Question 2:- Apart from it being a legislative requirement, why does Council need to do so?

Answer:- The new provisions of the Act seek to further reinforce Council’s role as the policy setter with a focus on the strategic direction of its district.

This also continues to promote the separate functions of Council under the Development Act in terms of:-

- the strategic function in ensuring the Development Plan is up-to-date, operating well and accords with the State Planning Strategy.

- the separate role in exercising the function of a Planning Authority (development assessment duties), via the Development Assessment Panel, in making decisions on applications against the Development Plan.
Question 3: - Does the Committee function with its own operating procedures under the Development Act?

Answer: - No, Section 101A (3) of the Development Act specifically states that the Committee will function under the provisions of the Local Government Act, that is, as a Committee of Council.

Question 4: - If Council considers that it is already discharging its ‘strategic planning’ obligations via the ordinary Council meeting process, does the Council need to establish a Section 101A Committee?

Answer: - Council can seek an exemption by writing to the Minister, under Section 101A (4) of the Development Act.

This exemption should be considered by Councils who have issues in establishing additional committees due to the associated resource, cost, administration and membership issues. In this case the Council would need to inform the Minister that this function can be discharged via full Council.

Development Answers Pty Ltd would be pleased to assist any Council with advice or direction on how to best manage these governance requirements.

Please feel free to contact us on this or any other matter.

David Altmann
Managing Director
Development Answers Pty Ltd

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e answers@developmentanswers.com.au
w www.developmentanswers.com.au
Delegate Profile.

Name: Paul Simmons

Position: Deputy Mayor, Coorong District Council.

What I enjoy about my position: Not some of the meetings!!! Taking peoples concerns forward and getting a better outcome.

What I want to achieve:

For Council: Financial stability, strong defendable and fair policies and the roads graded.

Privately: That the farm one day becomes viable again. Perhaps a level of fitness!

My hobbies and interests: Meeting people “There is no such thing as a stranger, just friends I haven’t met yet.”

My favorite Footie Team: Port Power - The only SA team to win a premiership this century!

Nickname: “Simmo”

The things I don’t like: People that don’t care, people that are self serving and bread and butter pudding!

What turns me on: Free beer! Getting results - seeing people achieve the best they can.

What I want the M&MLGA to achieve: A unified voice to lobby State & Federal Governments to get our share of the pie. This will be even more important when we don live in marginal seats.
Diary Dates.

9th April, 2010 - Broadband Project Partners Meeting - Adelaide.

19th April, 2010 - Regional LGA CEO’s Teleconference Meeting.

22nd and 23rd April, 2010 - LGA Showcase and General Meeting - Adelaide.

19th May, 2010 - Regional LGA CEO’s Meeting - Adelaide.

19th May, 2010 - SAROC Meeting - Adelaide.

TBA - M&MLGA Regional Transport Strategy Committee Meeting - Karoonda.

4th June, 2010 - M&MLGA Annual General Meeting - Murray Bridge.
ALGA NEWS
National news for local government
April 09, 2010

Main Stories

**National Broadband Network has seven years to go**

This week, the first anniversary of the Australian Government's announcement to build a National Broadband Network (NBN) over eight years was the subject of a progress update released by the Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy, Senator Stephen Conroy.

In his media release, the Minister said that in the 12 months since the announcement, significant progress had been made. This included the establishment of NBN Co and industry consultations, the rollout in Tasmania, the $250 million NBN Regional Backbone Blackspots Program (which will see approximately 6000km of optical fibre backbone laid, benefiting more than 100 regional locations and approximately 400,000 people), and the announcement last month of the NBN Co First Release Sites in mainland Australia.

ALGA continues to represent local government on issues relating to the NBN through its membership of the Online & Communications Council, and a council-led conference in Melbourne last month (hosted by the City of Whittlesea) specifically focused on the potential benefits which the NBN can bring to local and regional communities.

The Minister's progress update is now available [here](#).

**Australia's population debate**

The Government has estimated that by 2050 Australia's population will be 36 million. The Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd, has created a Minister for Population, and entrusted Labor frontbencher, Tony Burke, with the responsibility "to develop Australia's first comprehensive population strategy". Given the task of working out what is best for the national interest, Tony Burke told Leon Byer on SAA this week that on the one hand, the infrastructure in many Australian cities and regional areas is being stretched; on the other, employers in regional areas who do not have enough workers would welcome immigrants to do the job. Both are true, and the Government's job is to reconcile these facts.

Some are disagreeing with what the facts are. Opposition spokesman, Scott Morrison, the Shadow Minister for Immigration and Citizenship, told ABC's Lateline that the Government's predicted population figures were a radical underestimation, and that migration levels should be cut. He claimed that the Government was merely moving the deck chairs around on the Titanic instead of asking the tough question: how many people can the nation accommodate sustainably? Scott Morrison said that the coalition would cut immigration if it wins the next federal election.

On another occasion, Morrison mocked Tony Burke as the 'Minister for Over-population'. He said that the Opposition and the Greens Leader, Bob Brown, have called for an inquiry into population growth, and that the issues should be put on the COAG agenda.

With Australian Industry Group chief executive, Heather Ridout, claiming that curbing Australia's migration intake will mean higher taxes, and a wide variety of passionate opinions expressed in all media this week, the debate about the possible consequences of Australia's growing population is escalating.

The migration issue has particular relevance for local government, as it is councils who must provide a multitude of services for the settlement of new arrivals, and it is important that councils are given adequate support to do so.

The contentious topic of Australian population growth is set to continue, and we can expect more volatile arguments as the nation moves towards a federal election date.

**Heart Foundation Local Government Awards now open!**

Are you leading the way in creating healthy communities? Are you building a sense of community, encouraging people to be active, be smoke free or make healthy food choices? If your answer is yes, then the Heart Foundation wants to hear from you.

Entries for the Heart Foundation Local Government Awards 2010 are now open and not only do you have the chance of receiving recognition from the Heart Foundation but you could also receive part of the $34,000 in cash awards and a plaque.

Cardiovascular disease is a leading cause of death and a major source of disability in Australia. However, people can reduce their risk of cardiovascular disease by making healthier lifestyle choices. Local governments which create supportive environments to promote better health and reduce the risk of chronic conditions can receive recognition through the Heart Foundation Local Government Awards.

The 2010 awards program has six categories:

- Employee Health and Wellbeing
- Facilities
President’s column

From the President

Cooperative federalism requires more than governments merely meeting together - and one of the main stumbling blocks that must be overcome is Australia's Constitution.

Despite local government having existed in Australia since the 1840s, it is not mentioned anywhere in the Constitution.

That is a problem which I will explain shortly, but before I do, let me just get straight what this isn't on about.

Despite the way some people refer to it, this is not about mere recognition for local government in the Constitution.

To seek constitutional change simply in order to see the words 'local government' appear somewhere in the text of the Constitution, is little more than an indulgent frolic. And one, I think, that invites an impression of local government being a bit too self absorbed. Or to put it another way - a bit of the small man syndrome!

It is a cause in which I have no interest. But let me explain the problem which does exist and which does need to be addressed.

You may recall from last year, academic Bryan Pape challenged the constitutional basis of the federal government's $900 payments to taxpayers as part of the stimulus package.

Although the High Court ultimately upheld the validity of these payments, in doing so, their reasoning has created significant uncertainty for direct funding provided by the Commonwealth to third parties in other areas when it can't be tied to a specific head of power in the Constitution.

The High Court's reasoning suggests that the money paid by the Commonwealth directly to local government is unconstitutional.

That is also the view of Professor George Williams who is one of Australia's leading constitutional scholars and lawyers and who has provided legal advice on this matter to local government.

That's why when federal funding to councils was commenced in the 1970s by the Whitlam government, the funds were channelled into local government through the states to overcome this limitation. Plainly, this is an inefficient way to transfer funding.

Since 2001 though, there has been a preference by the Commonwealth for specific program funding which involves payments directly to local government.

This now amounts to hundreds of millions of dollars which councils receive each year directly from the commonwealth for programs such as investment into local roads.

ALGA sees this development as a good thing and one which makes logical sense - as we see little point in state government being the middle man.

But Pape now stands as authority for the proposition that the Commonwealth lacks the constitutional power to provide funds directly to local government.

Let's just stop and think about that for a second.

The High Court's decision suggests that by continuing to directly fund local government, the commonwealth is breaking the law. This is a real issue and it deserves attention.

It is ridiculous that in 2010, after more than 30 years of commonwealth funding of local government:

1. not only is there still a need to maintain extra and unnecessary bureaucracy to get money to local government via the states;
2. but the move to direct funding over the past decade may also need to be rolled back.

The Constitution is meant to enable government at the national level, but in this instance it fetters it.

It's hardly controversial to suggest that this money ought to flow seamlessly.

The current position, frankly, makes no sense at all and it's an example of where the Australian system of government is out of date and needs reform.

ALGA believes that a referendum should be held during the next parliamentary term to consider whether a new financial power should be inserted in the Constitution to expressly enable the commonwealth to directly fund councils.

We see this as a bit of a no-brainer and fitting into a broader package of constitutional reform, consistent with the sort of changes currently being flagged by both sides of politics.

It's as easy as amending section 96 - the section which sets out that the commonwealth may grant financial
assistance to the states on such terms and conditions as it thinks fit - and simply adding the words 'and local government'.
When it comes to constitutional change, we understand that the starting position of Australian voters and their politicians is - if it ain't broke, don't fix it.
However this is an example of where it is broken and where it needs fixing.
The current arrangements are nothing but a house of cards.
The consequences of a legal challenge would be disastrous. Not only would a successful challenge invalidate current and future funding, but it would also render all past payments to councils illegal and require the money to be paid back to the commonwealth. It would bankrupt every council across the country.
It's absurd that one level of government - the federal one which collects the most tax - can't give it directly to the level which collects the least, without breaking the law.
The Rudd government supports a change to the Constitution to clean this up. So do the Greens, and the Opposition has also indicated its in principle support. This is a promising base to build upon.

Cr Geoff Lake
ALGA President

Briefs

Peter Cullen Trust - 'Bridging Water Science and Policy' leadership program

The Peter Cullen Trust (www.petercullentrust.com.au) is a new charitable organisation set up to support programs that continue the work of the late Professor Peter Cullen. Peter was one of few people able put the science of water management into plain speaking, and be heard. He was indeed “the champion of the rivers who led the debate on the national water crisis and helped revolutionise how Australians think about it.”

Applications are open for the Trust's 2010 leadership program, designed to train a small group of water scientists and policy experts to work together to achieve measurable outcomes bridging water science and policy. Full details are on the website, under Programs. Information packs are available from the website. Applications close on 1 July 2010.

New Productivity Commission publication

A new Productivity Commission publication presents a compilation of speeches delivered by Chairman Gary Banks over the last 12 years.
The speeches were selected for the publication according to significance and contemporary relevance. The PC has advised that 'most of the speeches are edited and abbreviated versions of those of approximately the same title that are listed on the website. They come closer to the 'spoken' versions and should be quicker to read than the longer and more detailed papers.'

Local government is mentioned in a number of the speeches, including those on the National Competition Policy and Interstate Bidding Wars.
The publication is titled An Economy-wide View: Speeches on Structural Reform and can be accessed online or by contacting Ms Tanya Frech on (03) 9653 2102 or emailing her at maps@pc.gov.au.

Best Public Service in the world

Last week, a report titled 'Ahead of the Game' was issued by the Advisory Group on Reform of Australian Government Administration, chaired by Terry Moran AO. The report follows the receipt of more than 200 submissions, six forums with Commonwealth public servants and four online forums involving the wider public in response to the Group’s 2009 paper about how to make the Australian Public Service (APS) the best public service in the world, as envisaged by the Prime Minister.

Last year’s ALGA News (4 December 2009) reported that ALGA lodged a submission to the Group, which stated that whilst the APS is a highly professional and dedicated workforce, improvement was necessary. In its submission, ALGA suggested three overarching principles to enhance the APS. First, that local government should be considered and treated as an integral partner in the smooth functioning of the federation and whole-of-government administration; secondly, that the APS must have the capacity to collaborate meaningfully with the other levels of government, which cannot occur without active support for APS officers to ‘cross-fertilise’ skills and experience through movement between the three levels of government; and thirdly, that sufficient training (both on and off the job) must be provided if the vision of the Prime Minister is to be achieved.

In ‘Ahead of the Game,’ the Group presents its ‘blueprint for reform’. Nine principal recommendations are made, including that: government services be made more citizen focused, which the Group says could be achieved through better links with the States, Territories and local government; and the capacity and capability of the APS should be strengthened by working with the States, Territories and local government to identify and address barriers to jurisdictional mobility, including the recognition of public service entitlements at all levels. In relation to Recommendation 7
(strengthening the APS workforce), the Group recommends that the Australian Public Service Commission, the Department of Finance and Administration and the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government develop a proposal on the portability of entitlements with local government.

Other themes explored in the publication include leadership and a new role for the Australian Public Service Commission, recruitment, learning and development opportunities, cultural change, performance management and efficiency and effectiveness measures.

For further information, click here.

**WALGA and Greensense track greenhouse gas emissions**

Local government now have access to new tools to effectively report carbon emissions. The Western Australian Local Government Association has recognised a significant gap in Local Governments' ability to collect and report greenhouse gas emissions data, following the termination by the Commonwealth Government of the Cities for Climate Protection Program, and the absence of a dedicated Local Government reporting system.

To ensure that Local Government has a robust and consistent reporting framework with which they can meet both their mandatory and voluntary reporting requirements, the Association has worked with Greensense, one of WALGA's preferred suppliers of climate change consultancy services, to develop a Greenhouse Gas Reporting and Abatement Platform that is specific to Local Government needs.

The platform was launched on February 10th 2010, and allows Local Government to track and monitor emissions and energy use, providing a simple interface to insert raw data such as electricity consumed or fuel purchased. The platform then completes all required calculations to determine the greenhouse gas emissions resulting from Local Government activities.

The resulting emissions data can be visualised and analysed using interactive charts, enabling councils to identify trends and highlight emissions or energy intensive parts of their operations.

Users of the system are already providing positive feedback. Mark Wong from the City of Geraldton-Greenough was involved in the pilot. "The Platform has provided a simple, yet effective means of capturing the City's emissions profile from a host of Local Government facilities that the City owns and operates. In addition to achieving various compliance and reporting obligations, the platform has helped identify the larger emitters and energy intensive areas, making Officers aware of potential financial savings in these areas through efficiency improvement measures," he said.

The platform will assist Local Government to further demonstrate its continuing leadership in the climate change management area, whilst encouraging sectoral improvement and increasing Local Governments' profile. Data from the platform may also assist with leveraging climate change specific funding through various mechanisms in the future.

The platform is now available for all Local Governments. Association President, Cr Bill Mitchell said, "In signing up to the platform, Local Government will be demonstrating its ongoing commitment to acknowledging, measuring, benchmarking and reducing emissions across the sector, which reflects the acknowledgements and commitments made in the Climate Change Policy Statement, endorsed by State Council in June 2009."

**About WALGA**

The Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) appointed a Climate Change Coordinator in 2008 to develop and deliver policy, tools and support mechanisms to the Local Government sector on climate change management strategies. Since then WALGA has worked towards ensuring the best outcomes for the sector on climate change, through a commitment to mitigation, adaptation and communication.

**About Greensense**

Greensense is a Perth based climate change and carbon management consultancy. Their mission is to help business and government work towards a sustainable future and to respond to the challenges and the opportunities of a carbon-limited economy. They are engaged with many of Perth's leading organisations as well as being a preferred supplier to the Local Government sector.

For further information contact:

Melanie Bainbridge, WALGA Climate Change Co-ordinator on 9213 2039 or mbainbridge@walga.asn.au or Derek Gerrard, the Managing Director of Greensense on 0403 068 271 or derek@greensense.com.au.

**Education key to sustainable future**

It's official, writes Peter Boyer in the Hobart Mercury this week (6 April): the furore over emails by UK climate scientists, leaked from the University of East Anglia last year, was baseless. A bilateral House of Commons investigation found there was no scientific fraud, no fiddling with the evidence, no intent to mislead the public. The inquiry did take issue with the common scientific practice of not publishing data and computer codes on which conclusions are based. "Climate science is a matter of global importance and of public interest, and therefore the quality and transparency of the science should be irreproachable," the parliamentary committee said.

It recommended that climate scientists release via the internet enough data and methodology to allow others to verify findings.

"Climategate" demonstrated with startling clarity that the number one challenge facing humanity is not about science or technology, but about us: specifically, how we perceive and respond to what is going on around us. In
1862, with a deadly civil war threatening to tear apart the youthful United States, Abraham Lincoln urged his people to “think anew, and act anew” to save their country. In desperate times, he said, people must cast aside old ways of thinking. This great leader understood how an informed imagination can lift a people to achieve things that ordinary mortals thought impossible. Informed imagination is what we need today to deal with the twin giant challenges of climate change and peak oil. We are talking about education in its broadest, purest sense: the spark that casts familiar things in a new light so that we understand them in a wholly different way. We are floundering. These challenges, so big and so new, seem beyond the grasp of many of us in positions of authority: political leaders, bureaucrats, company managers, teachers, doctors, lawyers and, yes, journalists. Along with the rest of us, our leaders seem incapable of making the kinds of mental shifts that Lincoln understood so well. While the impact of a growing world population on our natural systems makes clear our desperate need to restrain economic growth, our leaders remain fixated on growth. They know that the critical need is to cut carbon emissions now, not in a decade’s time, yet they continue to talk about energy demands as if these are non-negotiable, as if they can’t possibly be curbed.

We need to break our dependence on increasingly vulnerable systems. A massive public education effort, touching all ages and all social and economic strata, can achieve this. We need to re-engage with our good Earth. We need to understand more about how energy works, on both a global and a personal scale.

Boyer concludes his lucidly reasoned article with what is necessary for an education for life. This debate has a long way to go, he writes. Let’s get it under way. He can be contacted at the email address below.

pb@climatetasmania.com.au

Climate Change on a Shoe String

Climate Change on a Shoe String is a combination of management and basic upgrading of fittings, many being low cost, according to Angus Kell, Archicentre’s Queensland spokesman. He told the Northern Territory News/Sunday Territorian that the management and maintenance of small fittings around the home, such as dripping taps, the installation of a water efficient shower heads and turning off lights and electrical equipment such as Plasma TVs or computers when not in use, were all part of the simple plan.

Mr Kell said that this “Climate Change on a Shoe String concept will be driven home by the rapidly increasing prices in energy and water, which are set to increase by 70 per cent to 100 per cent in the next three to five years as governments move to pay for expensive new infrastructure to secure water and energy supplies.”

Mr Kell said the challenge for Australian families was to improve the environmental performance of existing homes, reducing the demand for energy and water, but at the same time maintaining their existing quality of life. "It is also important that homeowners renovating ensure that any home improvements or renovations are sustainably designed by someone qualified and experienced to maximise the potential," he said.

The first step is to conduct an audit of the home to find out where and how energy is being wasted. Mr Kell recommended the Federal Government’s website as a good starting point to find information and make a list related to your home.

WA libraries cut

The future of the WA local library is in doubt after the State Government proposed slashing funding for books by up to 40 per cent, despite fears it could have a severe impact on literacy among WA children. Under a long-running agreement, the State Government covers the cost of book stocks on a per capita basis, while local councils pay for the infrastructure, maintenance and running of libraries. After allocating $10.8 million to buy books in 2008-09, the Barnett Government cut funding to $7.95 million this financial year.

WA Local Government Association president, Bill Mitchell, told the West Australian that during negotiations with the Government, councils had been told the State planned to spend just $6.5 million on books next financial year. This was a 40 per cent drop in three years and half what the State’s 139 councils needed to provide books and other resources for library users, Mr Mitchell said.

University of WA Dean of Education, Helen Wildy, warned the State Government not to cut funding to community libraries, saying they were a “pivotal point in the educational landscape of all children”. She said that libraries were central to early childhood literacy and evidence showed children without a strong foundation in reading entered school “many steps behind”.

About nine million visits are made to local libraries each year, ranking them second behind cinemas as WA’s most popular cultural activity.

Pilot scheme to target obesity

The jobless, retirees and Aboriginals in Wanneroo and Derby-Kimberley local government areas will be targeted to lift their fitness levels and avoid chronic diseases as part of a pilot Federal scheme, reported in the West Australian last week. The two WA councils will share with another 10 across the country in a $4.9 million program that is focused on obesity and people who are overweight.

In Wanneroo, targeted community members will be referred to a 12-week program of physical activity and a dietary education. The Derby-Kimberley Shire program is aimed at developing culturally appropriate ways of increasing
activity among residents with a particular focus on aquatic pursuits. Health Minister Nicola Roxon said the programs formed part of a wider effort to get Australians to become more active in their daily lives. “These initiatives are a down payment on the Government's efforts to tackle the rising prevalence of lifestyle-related chronic diseases by laying the foundations for healthy behaviours in the daily lives of Australians,” she said.

Rates will be kept in check

After the release this week of the latest land valuations by the Department of Environment and Resource Management, rises in the valuation of land in some parts of the Moreton Bay region would not mean similar jumps in council rates, Mayor Allan Sutherland told the Northern Times on 26 March.

“I'd be very much disappointed if we couldn't come in with a single digit rate increase (in 2010-11),” Cr Sutherland said.

Councils use these land valuations when setting the general rate component of rates bills (this excludes other charges such as rubbish collection). The average increase for the 88,000 properties in the Moreton Bay region was 34 per cent (median value $195,000) since the last valuations were issued in 2005 for Caboolture and Redcliffe, and in 2007 for Pine Rivers. Some areas were well above that average, including Kallangur, with a 69 per cent increase. Bray Park resident, Sharon, who only wished to give her first name, said that the value of her land had jumped from $130,000 to $187,000 in two years and that it was unfair because her rates were going to go up as a result. Lin Lahiff of Albany Creek blamed developers for pushing up valuations by an average of 34 per cent in her area. “People will have to move from here and let the developers have it,” she said.

Cr Sutherland said the council might have to use capping to limit increases in some areas so residential ratepayers did not have to endure undue hardship. The new valuations were calculated to reflect the property market as at October 1, 2009, and will take effect from July. Objections can be lodged with DERM until May 6.

* For a full breakdown of land values by suburb-by-suburb visit www.northerntimes.com.au.

Climate change

Peter McMahon and John Davis, from the School of Sustainability at Murdoch University, told the West Australian last week that the recent storm that wreaked havoc in and around Perth provided some important lessons, reminding us that as economic development accelerates and our climate changes, we will face increasing threats of bad weather. We will have to adapt to the new conditions. Perth has had storms before, but now the intensity and frequency of storms is predicted to increase as a result of global warming. They showed evidence that Perth's weather is changing stated that the recent fierce storm in Perth left 160,000 homes without electricity and that there were thousands of calls to the State Emergency Service. They said that we must bolster emergency services and make our critical transport, energy and communications systems more robust.

The SES has pointed out that more resources are needed to deal with climate change threats. The traffic gridlock that resulted from flooding and the failure of more than 180 traffic lights showed how vulnerable our road system is, and the damage at Perth Airport indicates the vulnerability of the air transport services that make up most of our links to the Eastern States and overseas.

The need for more resilience in our transport systems is obvious. Roads and bridges, as well as the public transport system and emergency communications must be strengthened. They also pointed out the importance of a sense of community in dealing with unpredictable dangers. The growing emphasis on individualism, on money as the only meaningful value and the volatility that goes with boom times has greatly undermined neighbourliness.

The authors pointed out that an ideology favouring private over public property and low taxes has undermined attention to and investment in social and physical infrastructure. It is too late when an emergency occurs, so these things must be put in place and maintained beforehand.

Win for skate bowl kids

Young Innes Park residents are one step closer to having a skate bowl after zoning of the village's reserve was changed to accommodate the controversial project. Lea Emery reports in the News Mail this week that the Bundaberg Regional Council applied for the alteration after construction, which was approved last December, had to be put on hold.

Council successfully requested the Department of Environmental Resource Management change the reserve's zone from "reserve for park" to "reserve for park, recreation and boat ramp". Innes Park mother-of-four, Michelle Miller, welcomed the move.

"I think it is important for the kids to ride somewhere that's safe," she said. Mrs Miller said her older boys were in Bargara almost every weekend after mothers began to make special trips to the skate park there. They first asked for this in 2006," she said. However, not all residents are pleased the area has been approved for rezoning. Bundaberg Regional councillor Greg Barnes, who voted against the skate bowl being erected on the Innes Park Reserve, said, at this stage, there was no reason for another vote to be called.

"While I don't agree with it, it is going to go ahead," he said. Cr Barnes said the next step would be for council to call for and award the tender for the design, and construct the facility.
Local councils' hardship

Local government is suffering its worst financial crisis, with one in four NSW councils on the brink of being unable to pay for services they have an obligation to provide, according to Debra Jopson in the *Sydney Morning Herald* on 5 April.

The president of the Shires Association, Bruce Miller, said the state government had forced councils to pick up the tab for essential services, such as health, dental, childcare, waste recycling and policing, while severely restricting their income through rate-pegging.

Mr Miller, who has just completed six weeks of meetings with regional councils, said: "Three years ago a major report found that 25 per cent of this state's councils were financially unsustainable - but it is even worse now. The only thing that has allowed us to be able to maintain our infrastructure at all was the direct funding we received from the federal government."

Funding through the Federal Roads to Recovery program and the national economic stimulus package had kept local government viable, despite the global financial crisis. But that funding would run out, he warned. At the state election next year councils would press the electorate to vote for an end to rate-pegging, Mr Miller said.

The chairman of the Country Mayors Association of NSW, Keith Rhoades, said the state Opposition Leader, Barry O'Farrell, had agreed recently to investigate an alternative local government funding method such as that used in New Zealand, in which councils submit a 10-year costed plan of infrastructure they require. Shires Association surveys have found NSW councils pay more than $430 million annually for services which should be provided by other levels of government. This equated to 6 per cent of local government income, Mr Miller said.

Regional councils footed the bills for services which, in the city, fell to the state government, including establishing health clinics for which they levied little or no rent, he said. For instance, Gilgandra Shire Council, in the central west, paid to set up an aged-care centre and dental surgery, services which had never previously been the responsibility of local government, Mr Miller said.

Country councils were "bending over backwards" to lure and keep health workers, the mayor of Weddin Shire, Maurice Simpson, said. "We provide a home and surgery to the doctor and get $50 a week out of it, and they don't mow the lawns or cart the garbage away. Even for that, we don't get [government] assistance," he said.

Several councils, including Wentworth Shire in the south-west, were hiring security guards and spending money on lights and cameras in their town centres to compensate for a shortfall in police numbers, Mr Miller said.

Barbara Perry, said the state government monitored the finances of all NSW councils and there was no evidence to support claims of a crisis.

"Rate-pegging has been protecting ratepayers from excessive and unjustified rate increases for over 30 years," she said. Councils had a responsibility to deliver services within their allocated budgets and they could apply to vary their rates for particular projects, she said.

Journey beyond Road Trauma online community

Behind every fatality and serious injury statistic there are thousands of stories. Around 1,600 people die on Australian roads each year and another 140 people are seriously injured every day, requiring ongoing care.

Thousands more are affected by road trauma through their work in the emergency services, legal professions and disability sector.

Journey Beyond Road Trauma is a 'one-of-a-kind' online social network for those affected by road trauma, and has had people from all over the country joining up, demonstrating a huge need in the Australian community.

By joining Journey beyond Road Trauma, people can tell their story and connect with each other. Under the guidance of road safety experts, the community can channel their grief into positive action by collectively campaigning for road safety and showing support for one another.

[www.journeybeyondroadtrauma.org](http://www.journeybeyondroadtrauma.org)

Quote of the week

"There has been a quiet revolution occurring over the past 50 years ... an explosion in the size, scope and role of local government. Whereas once all councils did was manage and build physical local infrastructure - the roads, rates and rubbish, today local government delivers more than 150 services across a huge spectrum of people services. Council services play a big part in just about everyone's life." - Cr Geoff Lake, *National Press Club, 31 March 2010*

International

The World Health Organisation and other public health bodies have diminished public confidence by exaggerating the dangers of the flu pandemic, according to a draft report of the Council of Europe, reported the *Guardian Weekly* last Friday. In the opinion of British Labour MP, Paul Flynn, vice-chair of the council's health committee, a loss of credibility could endanger lives. In Britain, the discrepancy between the estimated numbers who could die from flu and the reality was dramatic. "The Department of Health initially announced that around 65,000 deaths were to be expected ... by the start of 2010 this estimate was downgraded to only 1,000 fatalities," he said. If health associations such as WHO overstate the risks, a situation like the boy who cried "Wolf" may follow, and people
may refuse to be vaccinated when it is actually necessary. Flynn's report claimed that some members of the WHO advisory group had received funding from pharmaceutical companies making drugs and vaccinations against flu, and the "neutrality of their advice could be contested".
ALGA NEWS
National news for local government March 26, 2010

National General Assembly - put 30 April in your diary
In addition to this year's National General Assembly being held in an election year, and following Dr Ken Henry's review of the tax system, the themes of NGA reflect the government's focus on economic reform workforce participation, population and productivity or "the 3 Ps". An election year offers opportunities for local government to seek commitments from the major parties on these issues as the parties look for initiatives to include in their election platforms.
The ABC 7.30 Report's Kerry O'Brien will be our keynote speaker this year to address the three themes, workforce participation, population and productivity, as well as provide insight on the current broader social and political landscape. As well as being a formidable interviewer and political commentator, he also has an interest and understanding of local government issues.
Kerry is one of Australia's most prominent and respected names in Australian journalism. As well as having over 20 years experience in political journalism, he also spent three years as a press secretary, first for Labor leader Gough Whitlam in 1977 and then in the post-Whitlam era, with Deputy Labor leader, Lionel Bowen.
In a couple of weeks, all councils will be sent the registration brochure, which contains full details of the NGA, however in the meantime this can be accessed on the NGA website. 30 April is a date for all councillors to remember as the early bird registration rate of $840, which saves you over $100. The call for motions closes on 30 April. But don't feel you need to wait until 30 April! If US President Barrack Obama schedules his visit to Australia in June, as is being predicted, accommodation in Canberra is likely to be booked out well in advance.
For more information, to register your attendance or to submit motions, go to http://nga.alga.asn.au

Earth Hour Saturday 27 March=
What is your carbon footprint? Click here to find out.
On that website you can also find the Earth Hour official video plus a register and an events list. There will be a family event on Sydney's Goat Island, celebrity cooks will host an event in Brisbane and at Queensland's Sanctuary Cove it will be possible to dine by the light of 100 metres of candle light. At the website above there is also an Earth Hour blog to see who is doing what, where, for Earth Hour.
Debra Bell, Queanbeyan City Council's environmental sustainability officer, is enthusiastic about green innovation and implementing eco-initiatives. "We're hoping to focus this year on our outdoor lighting for signs, except for those ones that are needed for security and safety," Ms Bell told the Queanbeyan Age. This is the third year the council has participated in Earth Hour, and, once again, it will turn off all non-essential electrical appliances throughout its premises. The Earth Hour theme this year of 'Earth Hour, Every Hour' will align with the council's implementation of recommendations contained in its sustainability report.
Greenhouse gas emissions actually fell in Australia over the last summer, according to a survey by the non-government group, The Climate Group. Perhaps the awareness generated by Earth Hour helped. Rupert Posner, Director of the Climate Group, told the ABC that people were trying to use less power, but that there was also a substantial reduction in coal-fired power station emissions, possibly evidence of the global financial crisis having an impact. In his opinion, a carbon tax would result in a greater incentive for us to produce more of our electricity from the more greenhouse-efficient power stations, thereby reducing emissions of greenhouse gases further.
Earth Hour started in 2007 in Sydney when 2.2 million homes and businesses turned their lights off for one hour to make their stand against climate change. Since then the event has grown exponentially, to become the world's largest global climate change initiative. In March 2009, hundreds of millions of people took part in the third Earth Hour with more than 4,000 cities in 88 countries officially switched off to pledge their support for the planet. Earth Hour takes place at 8.30pm on Saturday, March 27.

2010 MobileMuster Local Government Awards
Councils are to be recognised for their mobile phone recycling efforts. The call for nominations for the 2010 MobileMuster Local Government Awards is on now. MobileMuster, the official recycling program of the mobile phone industry, is calling on local councils to enter the 2010 MobileMuster Local Government Awards.
The awards, established in 2007, recognise and celebrate the outstanding efforts by local government in promoting the scheme and collecting mobile phones, batteries, chargers and accessories for recycling. The winning councils will be announced during the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) National General Assembly at the National Convention Centre in Canberra from 14th June - 17th June 2010.
Rose Read, Manager of Australian Mobile Telecommunications Association's (AMTA) official recycling program, MobileMuster, encourages councils to nominate for the awards. "Councils play a major role in educating residents about waste and collecting mobile phones for recycling. With most homes having at least
two old mobiles sitting in drawers either broken or unused, there is a lot of potential e-waste that could end up in landfills if not recycled. In the last 12 months to December 2010, local councils diverted almost 3,100 kg of mobile phones, batteries, chargers and accessories from landfill. This included over 30,000 handsets and batteries, as well as 1,100 kg in accessories," said Ms Read.

Previous winners of the awards include Eurobodalla Shire Council, Brisbane City Council, Moonee Valley City Council, Lismore City Council, City of Stirling, Lockhart Shire Council, Dalby Regional Council, Eastern Metropolitan Regional and the Shire of Lake Grace.

There are five awards offered, including Best Promoter, Working with Schools Award, Top Collector Award Overall, Top Collector per Capita and National Excellence.

"I encourage all councils to nominate for the 2010 MobileMuster Local Government Awards," concluded Ms Read.

Nominations close on Tuesday 1 June 2010. For more information and to nominate for the awards click here.

President's column

From the President
The momentum for constitutional change continues to build with the Senate agreeing last week to the establishment of a select committee on the Reform of the Australian Federation.

The motion to establish the select committee was put forward by Senator Marise Payne (Liberal, NSW) and it includes specific reference to financial relations between the three levels of government and foreshadows a possible constitutional amendment for the inclusion of local government in the Constitution.

Discussion will focus on (i) the distribution of constitutional powers and responsibilities between the Commonwealth and the states (including territories), (ii) financial relations between federal, state and local governments, and (iii) possible constitutional amendment, including the recognition of local government.

Senator Payne was one of the Opposition politicians ALGA spoke to about Constitutional reform last month and she was certainly very interested in the ALGA case. ALGA has now spoken to more than 25 federal MPs from across all major parties about the case for change.

There will be an opportunity for ALGA to make a submission to the select committee supporting our case for constitutional reform and this is a positive step forward in arguing for a referendum. The deadline for the committee to report is 24 August 2010 which does raise the prospect of the committee's inquiry being caught up in the forthcoming election.

The ALGA Board meets next week in Canberra on 31 March and will have an opportunity to consider in more detail the opportunities arising from this new development.

Cr Geoff Lake
ALGA President

Briefs

Healthy debate on hospitals and health reform
On Tuesday, the Prime Minister Kevin Rudd and the Leader of the Opposition Tony Abbott appeared in their first ever public debate against each other in their respective roles. The debate, held at the National Press Club in Canberra, was televised live across Australia and focused on health and hospitals reforms.

In his opening statements, the Prime Minister noted that his mother was a nurse and that his sister still is a nurse, which he says has put health and hospitals at the forefront of his policy commitments.

Opposition Leader Tony Abbott focused his opening comments on the need to end the blame-game and queried how this can be achieved under the Australian Government's policy, which will still leave states with the duty to pay 40 per cent of much of the health system. He noted Australians would still be uncertain despite the reforms about who is responsible for what in the health system, including who would be in charge of their local hospital.

Tony Abbott said Australians need 'more medical doctors not spin doctors.'

Many media representatives reported after the debate that there was not much detail coming from either side, and no new information, although one source (www.news.com.au) said that and the Prime Minister "appeared to amend [his policy] on the run in the middle of the debate, promising regional hospitals could get special grants if the funding formula put them at risk. 'This wasn't the policy that he announced a couple of weeks ago,' Mr Abbott countered".

Mr Abbott refused to release the Opposition's health policy during the debate, promising instead that this will occur 'well ahead of the next election.'

Neighbour Day this Sunday
Residents across Australia will be turning on the kettle and firing up the barbecue to celebrate Neighbour Day on Sunday 28 March 2010. Now in its eighth year and with the personal endorsement of Prime Minister Kevin Rudd,
the national event has evolved to become Australia's annual celebration of community by bringing neighbours closer together. Councils and government bodies are organising relevant events and activities in public parks and spaces.

"Our communities are only as strong as the people who live in them, which is why Neighbour Day provides a chance to pause, reflect and celebrate the people who live around us," said founder, Andrew Heslop. "We know how vital neighbours are to each other during bushfires, floods and emergencies, but everyday actions like borrowing power tools, taking in the recycling bin or walking the kids to school are often forgotten. Whether you live in the city or the bush, in a house, an apartment or on a farm Neighbour Day is the day to say thanks for being a great neighbour, thanks for helping me out and thanks for being there when I needed you most," Andrew said.

For more information, please check the website.

Mayors split on super councils
The Local Government Association has rejected the NSW Business Council's suggestion that Sydney's 41 councils should be merged to form 10 super councils, saying bigger doesn't always mean better, reports John Morcombe in the Manly Daily earlier this month.

The peninsula's mayors are divided on the issue, with Pittwater mayor, Harvey Rose, vehemently opposed to it, Warringah mayor, Michael Regan, ambivalent about it and Manly mayor, Jean Hay, resigned to it.

NSW Business Council executive director and former Liberal Upper House, MP Patricia Forsythe, said that cutting the number of Sydney councils from 41 to 10 would see a cut in the number of councillors from 520 to 120, all of whom should be paid full-time wages.

"Councillors need to see themselves as boards of directors who focus on the larger strategic issues facing their region, rather than managers lost in day-to-day administration," she said.

In a discussion paper, the NSW Business Council stated that "local councils have become emasculated by a stripping of council powers, a tightening of revenue sources through rate pegging and by council decision-making upended by suburban and personal pettiness".

Women in management
The male-dominated makeup of Hornsby Council reflects a statewide trend, according to a recent survey of 148 NSW councils.

Hornsby councillor, Wendy McMurdo, is the only female councillor on Hornsby Council. Last year she threw her support behind new measures to increase female representation on local councils but warned the job had challenges, especially for mothers. "Anything that would encourage a better balance is marvellous," she said.

The challenge facing Australian local governments to increase the number of women in council manager and Chief Executive positions is analysed in-depth in the latest edition of Council Manager magazine. In recognition of 2010 being the Year of Women in Local Government, the February/March edition of Australia's national magazine for senior managers in local government features commentary from a number of current local government women CEOs about how they believe councils can improve the proportion of women in key management roles.

Published by Hallmark Editions, which also produces LG News and Councillor Magazine, Council Manager is a quarterly magazine that provides senior management of local governments across Australia with case studies about leading-edge council management practices that managers can use to benchmark their own council's performance.

For information about how to subscribe to Council Manager, please phone Naomi Braham at Hallmark Editions on (03) 8534 5000, email naomi.braham@halledit.com.au or visit here.

Council's living rooftop
Victoria's City of Monash is cooperating with Melbourne Water and Monash and Melbourne universities as a partner to research the benefits of an innovative rooftop garden that will be installed on the top of the council's chambers.

Melbourne Water is funding the Living Roof Research project, which involves retrofitting the 92 square metre concrete roof over the council chambers with a shallow garden. As part of the development, the existing waterproof membrane will be removed and replaced with a new high-performance membrane.

The project will allow staff from Monash University to test the quality of stormwater discharging from the roof and to measure the reduction in roof rainwater runoff. Researchers from Melbourne University will assess the benefits of living roofs for application in urban Melbourne, including their insulating properties and improved building performance, and potential advantages for bird and wildlife habitat. The researchers will monitor plant and soil substrate performance over three years.

City of Monash Mayor, Charlotte Baines, said that green roofs offer potential solutions for reducing pollution and improving stormwater management in urban areas. Stormwater run-off from suburban streets and gutters is the main polluter of Melbourne's waterways because the water carries debris and high levels of nutrients into rivers and creeks.

Mayor Baines said that Chicago City Hall has a rooftop garden that saves nearly US$10,000 annually in energy costs.

Mayor Baines also stated that green roofs can help mitigate the effects of climate change and alleviate the heat island effect - the term used to describe built-up areas in cities that are hotter than nearby parks with trees and
greenery. She said that living roofs will be one of the important elements of the design of liveable buildings and cities in the 21st Century.

**Framework for Sustainable Communities**

The Green Building Council of Australia (GBCA) has released a new national framework for sustainable communities at the opening of the Green Cities 2010 conference. Launching the new Green Star - Communities framework, GBCA Chair Tony Arnel said that the framework would establish an independent, national language to guide the development of sustainable communities and precincts. The national framework has been developed by the GBCA and its partner VicUrban, in collaboration with industry and government, and outlines five national principles for sustainable communities:

3. Create liveable communities
4. Provide opportunities for economic prosperity
5. Enhance environmental quality
6. Design great places
7. Promote good urban governance

According to the GBCA’s Chief Executive, Romilly Madew, launching the framework at Green Cities 2010 reflects the evolution in the GBCA’s focus - from individual buildings to communities, precincts and cities themselves. The new framework complements the Australian Government’s new reforms, which require states and territories to develop capital city strategic plans by 2012 that meet national criteria for transport, housing, urban development and sustainability. The framework can be downloaded from the GBCA website and is open for comment.

**ASBEC Cities for the Future report**

The Australian Sustainable Built Environment Council’s report points to a bleak future where transport-related greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) increases by almost 50 per cent and travel times increase by a quarter. ASBEC is calling for swift, decisive action from all levels of government to deliver better transport systems in Australia’s cities. A new agreement between Australia’s two leading environmental rating tools for buildings - Green Star and NABERS - will deliver a more consistent and compatible approach to building rating. A memorandum of understanding between the Green Building Council of Australia (GBCA), which manages Green Star, the Commonwealth Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA) and the NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (DECCW), which administers NABERS, outlines the parties’ commitment to share information on rating tool development, calculators, benchmarks and methodologies to strengthen both rating systems.

**Nelson Bay conflict**

Port Stephens has long been a holiday haven from the hassles of the big city. But is over-development threatening to tarnish its appeal? The shire is a microcosm of the challenges facing local governments up and down the coast. Councils starved of cash from rate-pegging need growth to generate revenue to provide services; residents see once sleepy fishing hamlets turning into high-rise resorts for the well-heeled, and native fauna and flora dying by a thousand cuts, as Harvey Grennan observes in the *Sydney Morning Herald* this week.

In one corner are the blunt-talking mayor of Port Stephens, Bruce MacKenzie, and his "Magnificent Seven" majority of unashamedly pro-development councillors. In the other are the Tomaree Residents and Ratepayers Association and EcoNetwork, a coalition of 20 local environmental groups striving to preserve the Nelson Bay waterfront and the extraordinary biodiversity of the Tomaree peninsula.

The stunning beauty of the port triples the population to 100,000 at Christmas, but for most of the year, hundreds of units remain empty and shopkeepers struggle to survive. Dozens of new apartments remain unsold, and developers take a severe haircut when they do sell.

Yet there is pressure for more development. Consultants for the council have recommended five-storey development for the two-storey Nelson Bay town centre, with 12 stores to be permitted on the hill overlooking the town. Residents say the report is flawed because it is based on a misinterpretation of the Lower Hunter Strategy Plan. The plan calls for 1,200 more houses and 1,500 more jobs on the whole of the Tomaree peninsula, not just in Nelson Bay, as provided for in the report.

The council’s consultants have recommended that five-storey development be extended right to the waterfront. Such development would be contrary to the state government’s own coastal policy guidelines, which limit foreshore development to three storeys and prohibit the alienation of parkland. There is little doubt that the overriding motive is to maximise lease revenue for the Lands Department.

Geoff Washington, of the residents and ratepayers’ association, stated. "People come here for the water and the
views, they don't come to see a five-storey block of cement that cuts off the foreshore from everything else.”
But the mayor is unrepentant. "I am pro-development and proud of it," Mr McKenzie said on the occasion of his
recent re-election.

National Tree Day
National Tree Day Sunday 1 August 2010
Schools Tree Day Friday 30 August 2010
For 15 years, local councils from all over Australia have been hosting tree-planting events for National Tree Day,
allowing volunteers of all ages to enjoy time with nature and their community. As well as promoting councils’
environmental initiatives, National Tree Day is an opportunity to revegetate local bushland and green spaces.
Planet Ark is calling on Australian councils to coordinate tree-planting sites or continue care to existing native trees
and shrubs. By taking part, your council will be helping future generations understand the value of trees and why
life is better with them.
If planting trees is not an option for your council this year, you could invite residents to continue the maintenance
of a former tree-planting site. This year's National Tree Day, sponsored by Toyota, will take place around the
country on Sunday 1 August. Councils can host their own site or provide support to a participating school or
community group.
Planet Ark provides support to all councils who register through its National Tree Day Hotline and website, where
downloadable resources and a step-by-step guide, as well as tools to help you promote your tree planting, are
readily available.
For a Council information kit click here or call the National Tree Day Hotline on 1300 88 5000.

New Chairperson for NBN
The Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy, Senator Stephen Conroy, today announced
the appointment of Harrison Young as Chairperson of the board of NBN Co Limited. NBN Co has been established
to deliver the National Broadband Network.
Senator Conroy said that Mr Young would be leading NBN Co through a period of rapid growth as it rolls out high
speed broadband across Australia.
Senator Conroy said that the appointment of Mr Young further extends the already strong set of skills possessed by
the NBN Co board. Senator Conroy also acknowledged the leadership of Mike Quigley and his achievements in
establishing NBN Co.
The appointment will allow Mr Quigley to focus his attention on the substantial management demands of rolling
out the NBN. Mr Quigley will continue his role as CEO of NBN Co and as a director on the NBN Co board.

The Development Assessment Forum (DAF)
DAF met in Adelaide last week and appointed a new chair. Mr Paul Waterhouse, the Executive Director, National
Policy from the Property Council of Australia was elected for a two year term, Ms Allison Hailes, Executive
Manager, Planning and Community Development, Western Australian Local Government Association, was elected
as the Deputy Chair.
Mr Waterhouse thanked the outgoing Chair, Mr Peter Allen, Executive Director, Statutory Planning Systems
Reform, from the Victorian Department of Planning and Community Development, for his leadership and
commitment to implementing and promoting the leading practice model and strongly supported Peter's continuing
participation in the work of the forum. The Forum debated numerous opportunities for future action, as well as
considering the implications of the range of significant development assessment reform initiatives being undertaken
by the Local Government and Planning Ministers' Council and COAG.
A key result of the meeting was the agreement that a more detailed work program will be developed by the DAF
working group, who meet in between full DAF meetings to progress identified priorities. Potential projects
shortlisted include: an overarching DAF communication framework, notification and referral guidelines, private
sector guidelines to support track based assessments, and developing templates for model development/permit
applications forms.
DAF was formed in 1998 to bring key stakeholders together to reach agreement on ways to streamline and
harmonise the processes used for development assessment while preserving high quality decision making. DAF
membership includes ALGA and the state/territory local government associations in addition to Commonwealth,
state/territory governments, the development industry and related professional associations. For further information
on membership and work undertaken to date, please click here.

Recognising Excellence in Parks Management
The Parks Forum Awards celebrate and promote excellence within the parks industry, by an individual, project
team or an agency. By identifying excellence in park management we can communicate our success and
achievements to the broader community and promote the diverse values of parks.
The Awards are open to all Australian and New Zealand park management agencies and are designed to identify
• an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to the parks industry (Individual Award)
• the projects that exhibits excellence (Excellence in Parks Award) in the areas of
  • social management or
  • environmental management or
  • cultural management or
  • economic management
• the organisation that best displays excellence across management of its business (Organisational Excellence Award).

We welcome submissions from now until 30 April 2010. The winners will be announced at the Conference Dinner at the 4th International Biennial Parks Leadership Conference, Common Ground, in Sydney on Wednesday 25 August 2010.

The forms are easy to fill in. Download a free PDF copy of the Parks Forum Awards Program Information and Nomination Package and Nomination Forms from [here](#).

Parks Forum is the peak body for park management organisations, with members across Australia, New Zealand and the UK. Their vision is for a strong and vibrant parks industry recognised and supported by the whole community. For more information please visit the [website](#).

Prospect’s digital strategy the best

Senator Stephen Conroy, Federal Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy launched the City of Prospect's Digital Economy Strategy on 5 March, declaring the Strategy the very best in Australia. City of Prospect CEO, Mark Goldstone, said, "The development of the strategy was in response to demand from our local business community for bigger and faster broadband, research into the potential of our economy and the future roll out of the National Broadband Network".

Mr Goldstone said there is little point in declaring your desire for your council to be first to see the roll out of the NBN in your city, if your businesses and residents don't understand what to do with the fibre. "Prospect has been developing projects around the NBN that we have proven deliver real benefits to the community and council. The results have been outstanding”. City of Prospect has marched ahead of the NBN and is currently rolling out its own optical fibre to service its library, Civic Centre and Depot. The route of the fibre bundle has been strategically planned to roll past two local primary schools and a main retail shopping street precinct to encourage further take up the fibre by local schools and businesses.

A core project of the released digital strategy is to support local small businesses in understanding how to trade over the internet. This project won pilot funding from the state government's Department for Further Education, Employment, Science and Technology. From this pilot project, 140 local SME's undertook the two and one half day program, which in many instances transformed the business model of the participating businesses.

Australia's number one digital economy strategy has also created some Australian firsts such as a digital daily newspaper Prospect INDAILY. A collaboration with Solstice Media, INDAILY is emailed to over 1,000 volunteer residents and businesses that have registered to receive the e-newspaper. The e-newspaper includes international, national and regional news with one page daily devoted to council news, which is not subject to editorial change.

Prospect has also introduced an open access wireless service at its library to support 'digital warriors' who like to have access to their laptops as they travel around the city.

City of Prospect's Digital Economy Strategy is the foundation strategy used to create a National Broadband Network proposal from the Eastern Region Alliance of Councils which was also presented to Senator Conroy at the Prospect breakfast.

Smart Infrastructure awards

Nominations are now open for the inaugural Australian Smart Infrastructure Awards for innovative, technology-driven solutions to infrastructure bottlenecks and urban congestion. Federal Infrastructure and Transport Minister Anthony Albanese announced the new annual awards at the ThinkSmart 2010 conference held today in Parliament House as part of the House of Representatives Committee Inquiry into Smart Infrastructure. The awards will recognise project excellence in design, delivery, and use of infrastructure in any of Infrastructure Australia's national priority areas, including the rail freight, water and urban development.

- The Australian Smart Infrastructure Project Award will go to an innovative technology based project.
- The Australian Smart Infrastructure Research Award will provide a $25,000 grant for an innovative proposal supporting excellence in smart infrastructure research and development.

Quote of the week

"If God had intended us to be vegetarians, why did he make animals out of meat?" - John Cleese

International news

New Zealanders in the 15 to 19 year age group are 60 per cent more likely than their Australian counterparts to die in road crashes. They suffer an average of 21 deaths a year for every 100,000 in their age group, compared with Australia's rate of 13.
The Government has decided to raise the driving age from 15 to 16, and to impose a zero alcohol level for drivers under 20. Prime Minister John Key said that there must be a "clear line that says when you get in a car and you're under 20 you don't drink."

This may cause inconvenience for a small number of predominantly rural families, but the Government is right. Fifteen is far too young to be driving. Many studies, such as at institutions such as Harvard University and the National Institutes of Health in the US have strong evidence that the part of the brain that deals with judgments and values, long-term goals, the weighing of risks and consequences, is fully developed at about age 25.

In the light of this evidence, the push to raise the driving age to 17 seems a moderate measure. Unfortunately the Government has declined to go this far. The evidence shows that the combination of the low driving age and the reduction in the legal drinking age to 18 has been lethal on the roads.

The Law Commission is preparing its final report on the sale of liquor, which is expected to recommend placing curbs on the age and circumstances in which young people are able to buy alcohol. This and the age rise are likely to gain widespread support.
ALGA NEWS

National news for local government March 19, 2010

Steve McGregor: Army Reservist and Senior Parking Patrol Officer/Ordinance inspector with Holroyd City Council

Corporal Steve McGregor is one of 40,000 Australian Reservists living a double life. Just like many Local Council employees, Steve is employed in a civilian role while also serving in the Australian Defence Force (ADF) Reserve. Steve signed up to the Army Reserve in October 2000. Both his father and father in-law were in the ADF and this strongly influenced his decision to join. He also wanted to experience Army life, but having a young family made joining full-time difficult. The Reserves provided the perfect balance.

After starting as an Infantryman he worked his way up to his current role as Section Commander for 11 Platoon, Charlie Company, 1st Military Police Battalion. Steve has been with the Military Police for seven and a half years and has served as a Section Commander for about four years.

"Being a Reserve member, I have gained experience and have been able to experience things I would not have been able to in my normal day to day life," Steve says. His civilian job is with the Holroyd City Council as the Senior Parking Patrol Officer/Ordinance inspector (Ranger). Basically, Steve's role enforces all Local Government Laws and Bylaws.

The Council is very supportive of Steve's Reserve commitments. They have allowed him to attend courses which have helped to further his career with the ADF. Additionally, after starting with the Council in February 2006, Steve was released for Reserve Service in March 2006 to deploy to Melbourne to provide security for the Commonwealth Games.

One of the memorable moments in Steve’s Reserve career is assisting on ANZAC Day 2009. "Driving in the ANZAC Day march through Sydney with elderly retired service members on board; the amount of cheers and calls of ‘thank you’ received from the general public and young children directed not just at you but to the retired serviceman.”

"My career in the Defence Reserves has been a wonderful experience. I believe that the skills I have gained in the Defence Force have been used in my civilian life and have made me a better person.”

To find out more about the ADF Reserves and how you can be a supportive employer of Reserves visit www.defence.gov.au

Prime Minister launches National Compact with the Third Sector

Prime Minister Kevin Rudd launched the National Compact with the Third Sector, or Not-for-Profit Sector, on 17 March, after a two year consultation process. He described the Compact as a natural partnership - joining what government should be doing in this area, with what the Third Sector can deliver in partnership with government. The government and the Third Sector need each other - in particular, the government needs the 3rd sector to provide the reach into the community.

The Compact, he said, provides a framework to enrich public sector delivery. Now there is a need to break down the walls of indifference and the walls of hostility between the bureaucracy and the community organisations.

Stressing the importance of the work of the voluntary sector, Prime Minister Rudd said that the highlight of his mother's life was the volunteer work she did for the auxiliary nursing service for many years after her retirement. The Compact gives community organisations real input into policy decisions and the opportunity to work in true partnership with government.

There are 5.4 million volunteers in the 3rd sector. According to the Productivity Commission, there are over 600,000 not-for-profit organisations, contributing $43 billion to the economy each year and providing 1 million jobs.

The launch concluded with a "toast" to the new Compact: an official signing ceremony with the Prime Minister Kevin Rudd, Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs Jenny Macklin, Parliamentary Secretary for Social Inclusion and the Voluntary Sector, Senator Ursula Stephens and 23 Third Sector organisations signing the Compact as a symbol of their commitment and support.

Senor Stephens concluded the launch by saying the signing of the Compact "marks the beginning of the relationship, not the end."

The signing coincided with the launch of the National Compact website where organisations across Australian can sign on to the Compact.

The relevant website is at www.nationalcompact.gov.au

A second website called Working Together will also allow organisations to discuss issues around the Compact. Organisations which could not get to the launch are encouraged to sign up on line by visiting www.nationalcompact.gov.au and clicking on the "sign up now" button.

Harmony Day events

The Department of Immigration and Citizenship's Kerri Eckhardt has helped to distribute over one million
Harmony Day products to all parts of Australia. Local governments around Australia are organising a wide range of celebrations for Harmony Day 2010. From a morning tea in the office to a film festival, councils are finding new ways to celebrate and promote Australia's cultural diversity within their own areas around 21 March. Council organisers have been quick to order some of the one million items of free Harmony Day merchandise supplied by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship. Hurstville City Council and the NSW Department of Education and Training will celebrate 2010 Harmony Day by screening eight short films which promote community spirit and togetherness. All the films focus on a single theme: courage, and tackle issues such as compassion, disability, cultural diversity and human rights. The City of Mount Gambier is going to celebrate Harmony Day with activities at the Mount Gambier Library, such as a free barbecue, in conjunction with SA Police, a cultural display by the Skilled Migrants Welcome Program, give-aways of helium balloons, a chance to make paper cranes with the City of Mount Gambier Youth Advisory Committee, a dance presentation by the local Karen Community and performances by North Gambier Primary students and the Compton Cool Kids. In Western Australia, the City of Swan and the Ballajura Youth and Community Venture will host a community festival. The festival will celebrate the cultural diversity of the Ballajura community through activities such as African drumming workshops, face painting, henna tattoos and crafts. There will also be performances, including Indonesian and Indian dancing, a Welcome to Country with a message stick and didgeridoo recital and choirs. At Bonegilla in Victoria, Block 19 of the Bonegilla Migrant Camp will be opened to visitors. As previously reported in ALGA News, Wodonga City Council is launching an education program for school students at the Bonegilla Migrant Experience Heritage Park, where post-war migrants began their Australian journey. To find out more and learn what other local government are doing click here.

President's column

From the President

The Steering Committee of the Australian Council of Local Government (ACLG) met this week in Canberra with the Minister, Anthony Albanese and Parliamentary Secretary, Maxine McKew. Part of our agenda was to discuss the themes and issues for debate at the next Plenary meeting which will be held in Canberra on 17-18 June 2010. This is the occasion when mayors from across the country come to Canberra for a meeting with the Prime Minister and ministers.

I suggested that partnership and collaboration should be the broad themes of the gathering. The development of a stronger partnership between local government and the Australian Government has been a feature of the last two years and the creation of the ACLG is a very real and tangible sign of that partnership. But it's not the only sign. The establishment of a $25 million Local Government Reform Fund to support improvements in local government asset management and financial planning, the direct engagement of local government in the Regional Development Australia (RDA) Committees, the creation of the Australian Centre of Excellence for Local Government (ACELG) and of course the more than $1 billion in community infrastructure funding are all testament to the new relationship.

It's not just a one way street, however. Local government plays its role in the partnership as well. Local government experience, enthusiasm and innovation is being tapped by 55 RDA committees around the country. The projects funded under the new Reform Fund will build on efforts already being undertaken by councils and state local government associations. Local government has been at the forefront of identifying the areas of work for the ACELG. Last and not least, councils have completed almost 3,000 of the 3,220 projects funded under the original $250m allocated across all councils.

Our commitment as a sector to spending the community infrastructure funding as quickly as possible has paid real dividends in terms of jobs and local fiscal stimulus. I suspect that the Community Infrastructure Program stands out as one of the most successful elements of the government's fiscal stimulus package.

Having said that, the job is not over and there are still applications being considered for further allocations under additional tranches of the program. It is important that we make sure, as a sector, that all of the proposals we put forward for funding meet the Program guidelines and are of a high standard. ALGA has argued and will continue to argue for ongoing community infrastructure funding and our case will be strengthened by the quality of our performance under the current program.

Cr Geoff Lake
ALGA President

Briefs

Metropolitan Strategy review

Community and stakeholder consultation is now underway on a review of Sydney's Metropolitan Strategy. The
Information Document April 2010

NSW Department of Planning has released a discussion paper named Sydney Towards 2036 as a first step in this review. The discussion paper highlights key challenges, including jobs growth in Western Sydney, making Sydney climate change-ready, placing new houses close to services and infrastructure, and revitalising our centres. Consultation on the discussion paper is running hand in hand with the exhibition of the $50 billion Metropolitan Transport Plan until April 30 - linking land-use and transport planning. Following feedback on both documents, a single Metropolitan Plan will be created. The review also includes an online community forum on the NSW Government's Shape Your State website.

Volunteer awards

Nominations for the 2010 Regional Arts Australia Volunteer Awards close on Friday 26 March. Nominate yourself or someone you know who has made a difference in your community. Young people are particularly encouraged to apply. The Regional Arts Australia Volunteer Awards recognise, reward and encourage regionally-based artists and cultural volunteers who have made a substantial contribution to the arts in regional communities in Australia. Recipients will receive benefits valued at over $1,800, including registration, conference dinner, travel to and accommodation at Junction 2010, the largest gathering of arts professionals in Australia. They will also receive an original artwork and a certificate signed by the President of Regional Arts Australia and CEO of the Australian Council for the Arts.

The Regional Arts Australia Volunteer Awards Program is supported by the Australia Council for the Arts, the Australian Government's arts funding and advisory body, through its Community Partnerships section. Nomination is easy: fill out the form, write a description of the contribution made by the person you are nominating, gather any relevant support material, and send it in. Nomination form and details are available here. Give it a go, you never know, your nominee might win a national arts award.

Councils and Queensland land tax

The Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) says councils may have to pay back $600 million in collected revenue if the State Government does not go ahead with changes to land tax laws, reports Chris O'Brien. Rates could rise 27 per cent, as councils try to make up the shortfall. LGAQ executive director, Greg Hallam, claims that it is a real threat: "The State Government came up with the figure first - we've come up with that figure internally - Australia's leading local government finance expert came up with that figure. That is the potential - that's why the government has moved."

However, Property Council spokesman, Steve Greenwood, disputes the $600 million figure. "We've also done the calculations," he said. "Of the 300 outstanding appeals, worst case, if those appellants were successful, at most the amount of rates that would have to be paid would be around the order of $7 million to $10 million."

Council will cope with new rates peg

Campbelltown Council's financial position will not suffer as a result of the new lower rates peg, Mayor Aaron Rule said. The State Government has announced the rates cap for 2010-11 will be 2.6 per cent, down from the previous year's 3.5 per cent. The rates peg sets the maximum income that NSW councils can collect from rates revenue. Cr Rule said that his position on rates pegs had not changed, regardless of the figure. "You have to live within a budget and that's what we'll do," he said. "The council will have to be briefed about the rates pegging as part of the budget, and that is something that will continue as usual."

Cr Rule thinks that Campbelltown is in a good position ahead of the 2010-11 budget, thanks to Federal Government funding. He asserted: "We've been very fortunate with the federal stimulus package in terms of getting a lot of capital funding for halls, the stadium and other things."

NSW Local Government Minister, Barbara Perry, said the rates peg had been announced earlier than normal this year in order to allow councils more time to speak with their communities about their plans and projects for the coming year.

Smart councils work with national waterwise label

Now with widespread Federal and State Government support and good recognition of water conservation issues at consumer level, Australia's independent national outdoor water saving label, Smart Approved WaterMark, is seeking greater involvement from local government in water saving programs. The Smart WaterMark was endorsed by the Environment Protection and Heritage Council four years ago, and is now utilised as the independent adjudicator when it comes to water saving around Australia. It provides a simple reference for the public in their choices when it comes to saving water. Smart Approved WaterMark was established as a national not-for-profit scheme to provide independent professional assessment of product and service water saving claims. Supported by the Australian Government's Water for the Future Water Smart Australia Program, it is the sister scheme to the Water Efficiency Labelling Scheme for indoor products. The label can be found on water saving products for the home, garden and pool along with commercial and industrial appliances, from irrigation, rainwater harvesting and greywater systems through to...
cleaning systems and pool covers and filters.
As part of community communications program, a comprehensive website has been developed by Smart WaterMark providing a host of water saving information, including links to rebates across states and local government areas, a complete list of approved products and unique water and energy saving calculators.
Funding is provided by the Australian Government's Water for the Future - Water Smart Australia Program through the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts. For further information visit the Smart WaterMark consumer website or email info@smartwatermark.info

Shoalhaven wins gold
The Shoalhaven is celebrating being Australia's most successful local government area after winning two gold medals and a highly commended at the Australian Tourism Awards, writes Greg Ellis of the Illawarra Mercury. Shoalhaven's tourism manager, Tom Phillips, is brimming with pride for the tourist industry around Nowra, after operators at Jervis Bay and Kangaroo Valley successfully flew the flag for the South Coast.
Crystal Creek Meadows Luxury Cottages and Spa Retreat won the Qantas Award for Sustainable Tourism, in a dead heat with Queensland's Skyrail Rainforest Cableway, while Booderee National Park won gold in the Indigenous tourism category, and was highly commended in the tourist attractions category.
Mr Phillips said the Shoalhaven was the most successful local government area in Australia. And the wins have added more weight to www.shoalhaven.net.au's claim that the Shoalhaven, with around twice as many domestic overnight visitors as the Wollongong local government area, is the number one tourist destination in NSW outside Sydney.

Calculate your energy use
Do you want to find out how much it costs to use your tumble dryer? Did you know that each year the average Australian household generates 14 tonnes of greenhouse gas? And a dishwasher can use 35 litres of water per load, so do try to fill up the dishwasher each time you use it, and not use it for two cups and saucers and a teaspoon.
Ashfield residents can now monitor their energy consumption for free by borrowing a Power-Mate energy meter from Ashfield libraries. This device can calculate the energy consumption of different home appliances. It will even estimate the average cost of running the appliance over a year, both in dollar value and in terms of greenhouse gas emissions.
Ashfield Council says it will allow people to make more informed decisions about how they can reduce energy consumption and reduce their energy bills. The three PowerMate portable energy meters can be borrowed free of charge from Ashfield and Haberfield libraries.
The council assures us that Power-Mate is easy to use and comes with full instructions.

Not enough women
A major review of local government recruitment statistics has shown that women are generally more successful than men when applying for senior council management positions, but the low number of women who actually apply for such jobs is leading to a lack of women who end up working at senior levels.
The review sought to ascertain the relationship between the lack of women in senior local government management roles and the number of job applications submitted by women for such positions.
The review was carried out by recruitment firm, McArthur, at the request of Local Government Managers Australia, and formed part of McArthur's annual national survey of council remuneration levels. The 2009 survey covered 141 councils from throughout Australia. The review found that for every woman who applied for a council CEO, director or manager position, more than four men applied for the same role.
However, nearly one in every three women who were interviewed for such roles were successful in securing the position.
LGMA National President, Neil Hartley, thinks that the findings go some way to explain the lack of women in senior local government management positions, and he urges councils to do more to encourage women to apply for top roles.
According to the review, during the last two years women made up just 11 per cent of applicants for CEO positions, and 12 per cent of the women who applied ultimately secured the role. Women made up 22 per cent of applicants for second-tier management positions, and 27 per cent of those women were successful.

Bigger houses, fewer inhabitants
According to the Federal Government, Australian housing patterns are not sustainable, reports Chris O'Brien from the ABC. In the recent report on the state of Australian cities, released by Infrastructure Minister, Anthony Albanese, traffic congestion could cost the national economy $20 billion by 2020.
Mr Albanese told the Queensland Media Club that while the average Australian family is getting smaller, houses are getting bigger, and that we need to have a debate about this unsustainability.
The report says congestion, housing affordability, energy use and water consumption are some of the biggest challenges facing 17 cities of 100,000 residents or more. Mr Albanese says the Government will take a more systemic approach to the issues.
“Over the coming months, using this report, the major cities unit will contribute to the Government's national urban policy,” he said. “It will inform our thinking; it will expand our understanding and target our actions. It will encourage and broaden debate to include new dynamics, one of which ... is the use of smart infrastructure.”

**The mayor of Paradise**

Manly mayor, Jean Hay, was one of six women in NSW to be honoured in this year's Women in Local Government awards. Cr Hay won the award for a metropolitan elected representative for "her long-term contribution to local government and the community through community action and fundraising". Cr Hay said it was a great honour to receive the award in the Year of Women in Local Government. "I have to say that in my 23 years in local government, I've enjoyed every moment of it. I've lived in Manly all my life and it's been an honour to represent the community and to be mayor. I call myself the mayor of paradise.”

Manly Council general manager Henry Wong said Cr Hay's award was well deserved. "I think this is a wonderful recognition for her role in local government and for women in local government as a whole," he said. "The award is much more than symbolic.

"Whether it is elected representatives or professional staff, we should do everything we can to address the gender imbalance that exists. It's a shame a lot more women who work in local government don't get honoured.”

**Town crier competition**

The 20th National Town Crier Championships will take place in Ipswich as part of the city's 150th anniversary celebrations. Town criers from every state will compete for the championship title at the Ipswich Mall rotunda on Saturday, April 17, from 10am.

President of the Ancient and Honourable Guild of Australian Town Criers, Stephen Clarke, said taking part in Ipswich's 150th birthday celebrations made this year's championships a unique occasion.

"We regard this as a very special event as the founders of the guild in Australia, Patricia and Gerry Adamson, are attending, as well as a special guest from England, Robert Needham,” he said. As Colchester's award-winning town crier, Mr Needham will represent the original English guild and perform a special proclamation of congratulations for the city of Ipswich.

Ipswich town crier, Mark Overell, put in an official bid for Ipswich to host the event two years ago. "It's a bit like bidding for the Olympic Games - different councils put in bids to host the championships at their council,” Mr Clarke said.

Four judges will evaluate contenders on poise, bearing, confidence, sustained volume, inflection and word content. To coincide with Ipswich's anniversary, the entrants' competitive cries must have a local flavour. "We have to incorporate Ipswich's 150 years of local government in 75 to 125 words,” Mr Clarke said. He welcomed every member of the public to come and see the town criers in action.

**Erosion on beaches**

Victoria's state government will invoke climate change projections to reject a "millionaires playground" housing development on beachfront sand dunes at Port Fairy. *The Age* journalists Adam Morton and Peter Collins reported recently. Planning Minister, Justin Madden, refused a planning permit for the East Beach development, in part because the site is vulnerable to erosion and flooding from the nearby Moyne River.

Pushed by transport boss, Mark Rowsthorn, the 22-lot development was proposed to run along a 500-metre strip overlooking Port Fairy Bay. It is bordered by a flood plain that regularly blocks road access. The refusal is the second time the government has cited increased risk of flooding in rejecting a coastal development. Mr Madden turned down a 165-hectare resort at Apollo Bay in June last year.

The minister said the Port Fairy proposal was inconsistent with planning and coastal policies, which include avoiding development on primary sand dunes and in low-lying areas. "The government is working collaboratively at local, state and national levels to prepare coastal areas for sea-level rise,” he said. He called in the decision on the East Beach proposal from Moyne Shire Council more than two years ago. The site will be re-zoned to ensure future development is limited.

Warnings of erosion at the site go back to 1992, when a state government report predicted a 25-centimetre sea-level rise would cause a 23-metre recession in the dunes by 2050.

**Australian Roads Summit 2010**

Geoff Lake, president of ALGA delivered a speech on local government and its role in roads and transport to the Australian Roads Summit 2010 in Brisbane on 5 March.

In his speech he reflected on the significant growth and aging of the population forecast over the next 40 years and the transport challenges this will bring for all three levels of government. The majority of these extra people will live in our major cities - with most concentrated on the eastern seaboard in Melbourne, Sydney and South-East Queensland. He welcomed the involvement of the Federal Government in our cities and their recognition that efficient cities are essential to the future prosperity of Australia.

However, he noted that local roads and other local transport systems will continue to provide the key linkages to arterial systems for the foreseeable future. He argued that one of the immediate priorities for local government is to
establish more robust funding arrangements which will ensure a well-managed and sustainable local road system that provides appropriate access and levels of service for communities and industry. He observed that a recent High Court decision brings into question the constitutional validity of the Federal Government providing funds directly to local government through programs such as the Roads to Recovery Program. This is a big issue for local government because a loss of Roads to Recovery funding would have a severe impact on the ability of local government to deliver local roads. In particular, rural councils would fall even further behind in the delivery of roads to their communities and economic productivity would suffer. Geoff also referred to the Henry Tax Review which has identified the funding arrangements for roads as an area ripe for microeconomic reform through the development of a system of direct road user charging. A road user charging regime would potentially provide the basis for a source of ongoing funding for local roads and address the anomaly of the lack of a direct link between local road usage and funding. If road user charging is to be adopted, he said that the same system and pricing mechanism should apply to local roads as to whatever applies to arterial roads. Total funding to local government for local roads should at least be maintained at current levels and there should be a corresponding offset in the current tax burden through a reduction in fuel excise charges. If there is no offset communities will perceive any move to road user charging as no more than a 'grab' by government for additional taxes.

The full speech can be found on the ALGA website

Social Research in Transport (SORT) clearinghouse

The Institute of Transport Studies (ITS) at Monash University, Australia have developed a free web based international research clearinghouse to increase knowledge and learning in the transport profession about research relating to social issues in passenger transport. The clearinghouse collates research reports focusing on social issues such as disadvantage and inequality. Researchers can search the database to find and access reports, sign up to a newsletter providing updates on new research reports, or submit research to be included on the system. For more information click here.

Quote of the week

"Eating is not merely a material pleasure. Eating well gives a spectacular joy to life and contributes immensely to goodwill and happy companionship. It is of great importance to the morale." - Elsa Schiaparelli, French dress designer

International news

So, French women do get fat. In response to rising levels of obesity in France, Australia’s Jenny Craig has come to the rescue, with ready-made meals and individual consultation. The Program has been launched in France with 17 Jenny Craig centres and an at-home program. Customers have access to information on nutrition, exercise and behaviour either face-to-face or on the phone. Founded by Jenny and Sidney Craig in Melbourne in 1983, Jenny Craig was bought by Nestle Nutrition in 2006. There are now 725 weight loss centres and Jenny Craig employs 4,000 people worldwide.
Achievement of STRATEGIC PLAN Objectives

- To promote the value of learning programs/opportunities
- To promote and facilitate learning opportunities for the community.
- To facilitate and encourage partnerships to deliver programs
- To promote a culture of ongoing/lifelong learning.
- To assist individuals to identify and action their learning needs.

Courses Funded to Deliver during 2009/2010
via Adult Community Education Program (ACE)
Community Learning Multi-Literacies Projects

- Basic Computer Skills (1440 student hours)
- Relationship between Money and Life (540 student hours)
- Future Mallee Leaders – Youth Development Program (600 student hours)

Computer Skills

Courses held/running during July 2009 – March 2010:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Course Description</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Basic Word Course (Meningie)</td>
<td>10 week course (completed Nov 09) – 12 attendees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Intermediate Word Course (Meningie)</td>
<td>10 week course (completed Nov 09) – 7 attendees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Word Course (Karoonda)</td>
<td>5 week course (completed Aug 09) – 8 attendees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Excel Course (Meningie)</td>
<td>3 attendees (completed Nov 09)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Basic Computing Course (Karoonda)</td>
<td>12 attendees (March – April 2010)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Basic Computing Course (Meningie)</td>
<td>Aboriginal MASH group (March – April 2010)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Courses Scheduled:

- Basic Computer Course (Pinnaroo) – April to May 2010
- Intermediate Computer Course (Pinnaroo) – May to June 2010
- Basic Digital Photography Course (Geranium) – April 2010

Prospective Courses:

- Internet/Email course (Meningie) – Tutor Julie Barry
- Digital Story Telling/Digital Photography (Meningie, Karoonda and Salt Creek)
- Basic Computing courses (Coonalpyn) – Tutor Julie Barry
- Basic Computing class (Tintinara)
- How to use Photoshop (Murray Mallee)
- Intermediate Digital Photography Course (Geranium)

**Total Hours funded for:** 1440

### Relationship between Money and Life

**Courses held/running during July 2009 – March 2010:**
- Tintinara “Money and Life Management” course (commenced 25 Nov 09) 10 attendees.

**Courses Scheduled**
- Money and Life Management - Pinnaroo (April 2010)

**Prospective Courses:**
- Money and Life Management - Coonalpyn
- Money and Life Management - Mannum

**Total Hours funded for:** 540

### Future Mallee Leaders (youth program 17-24)

**Courses held/running during July 2009 – March 2010:**
- Courage Confidence and Charisma – 3 day personal development workshop (October 2009) 10 attendees

**Courses Scheduled**
- Youth Personal Presentation workshop “Healthy Hair, Body and Mind” – Coomandook Area School Term 2, 2010
- Youth Personal Presentation workshop “Healthy Hair, Body and Mind” – Meningie Area School Terms 1 and 2 2010

**Prospective Courses:**
- “Life Matters” youth leadership workshop via international organisation Initiatives of Change – community project. A working party to bring this workshop to the Murray Mallee is in the process of being organised.
- “MusoMagic” youth workshop (dependant on funding) – community project in conjunction with Camp Coorong. MMCEN are actively seeking funding to bring this workshop to the Murray Mallee (Karoonda and Meningie) from various sources

**Total Hours funded for:** 600

### Non Funded Courses

**Courses held/running during July 2009– March 2010:**
- First Aid Course Lameroo
- Woodwork Meningie - 2009
- Boys Personal Presentation workshop “Healthy Hair, Body and Mind” held in Tintinara – (Be Active Funding)
- Art Classes – Tintinara 2009
- Art Classes – Tintinara 2010

**Courses Scheduled**
- Youth cooking classes in Tintinara (Be Active Funding)
- General interest courses in Meningie – MMCEN supporting reestablishment of courses at local Chambers via Meningie Education Group
- Woodwork – Meningie 2010
- First Aid course x 2 - Pinnaroo

**Prospective Courses:**
- Doll making workshop (Pinnaroo)
- Health and Wellbeing workshops (Murray Mallee)
- Sewing class for young mums (Tintinara)
- What to look for when buying a digital camera (Murray Mallee)
Community update
April 2010

The South Australian Government is close to finalising a long-term plan for the Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth region. This is part of the South Australian Government’s $610 million Murray Futures program, funded by the Australian Government’s Water for the Future program. The long-term plan has been developed in three stages with input from community, scientists and industry.

The South Australian Government is also working to address immediate drought response issues and to plan for worst-case scenarios. These are projects that are dealing with urgent issues such as low water levels, reduced flows, increasing salinity and acidification of exposed soils.

In this edition

- Long-term plan and business case for $200M funding
- Managing salinity in the Coorong’s South Lagoon
- Finding ways to restore one of the Coorong’s most important plants
- Lake Albert update
- Possible limestone dosing in Currency Creek
- Lower Lakes Bioremediation and Revegetation Project news
  - Tackling spiny rush
  - Preparing for autumn vegetation works
  - Fencing funding allocated
- Floodwaters on their way to South Australia
- Latest water quality results for Lower Lakes
- Native fish captive breeding success
- Join the team at Vintage Wings, Wheels and Wine Festival
- School students learn about the Lower Lakes
- Find out more about biodiversity and laws to protect it

Long-term plan and business case for $200M funding

The long-term plan will be submitted to the South Australian Government for approval in late April. It will be supported by a comprehensive business case for the $200 million funding that is needed to implement the plan.

Some long-term plan activities, such as vegetation works around the lakes, have already been approved by the Australian Government and have started.

The long-term plan centres on a freshwater solution. This position is supported by the extensive research program undertaken to support the development of the long term plan. The research covered impacts on the region caused by acidification of soils, variable water levels and climate change.

The long-term plan is expected to be released publicly in May/June 2010.
Managing salinity in the Coorong’s South Lagoon

The Department for Environment and Heritage (DEH) will shortly submit a referral under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act 1999, to the Australian Minister for Environment, Heritage and the Arts. The referral relates to a proposal to pump hyper-saline water from the southern Coorong lagoon into the ocean.

The referral process determines whether or not a proposed action will need formal assessment and approval under the EPBC Act, for example, whether or not an Environmental Impact Statement is required.

This proposal is one of a suite of complementary projects being considered as part of a long-term plan to manage salinity in the Coorong with the aim of re-establishing a healthy Coorong-Murray Mouth ecosystem.

Urgent action is needed. If nothing is done, it is expected that the South Lagoon ecosystem will decline to the ‘point of no return’, even when freshwater inflows at the barrages return.

The proposal to pump hyper-saline water has, from an environmental perspective, been investigated thoroughly - in particular the impact to the ocean. Conservative modelling, marine surveys, beach surveys and salinity tolerance testing have shown that adverse impacts would be very local, short-term and recoverable in relation to the landscape-scale benefits for the whole Coorong system.

These detailed studies are attached to the referral and will be available online once it is lodged.

The EPBC Act approval process is the first of a series of approvals required before a final decision can be made to proceed with this proposal. Other matters such as heritage issues, residents’ concerns, costs, construction logistics and timing will also be considered.

In addition to the legally required consultation process required under the EPBC Act, the Department for Environment and Heritage (DEH) will continue to liaise with residents within the proposed pumping corridor, the wider community and the Ngarrindjeri people.

- To find out more about the process of lodging a referral, including the opportunity for public comment, visit the DEWHA website

Finding ways to restore one of the Coorong’s most important plants

Trials are being carried out to find ways to restore one of the most important plants currently under threat in the Coorong.

*Ruppia* – or tassel as it is more commonly known – is a native aquatic grass and is a crucial part of the Coorong ecosystem. It is a key species in the Coorong South Lagoon (when the ecosystem is healthy), providing food and shelter for many aquatic species.

But the beds of *Ruppia* once prominent in the Coorong have now declined or been lost because of changing water levels and excessively high salinity levels.

However, through funding from the Murray Futures program, a research team led by Associate Professor David Paton from the University of Adelaide, is trying to find ways to retain *Ruppia* in the South and North Coorong and potentially restore *Ruppia* in the South Coorong in the future when conditions improve.

- Find out more about Ruppia and what’s being done to try and restore it in the Coorong

Lake Albert update
Adaptive management plans based on reduced and varied water levels have been agreed as the best way to address acid sulfate soils in Lake Albert.

Shallow-rooted cover crops will also be planted on exposed areas of lakebed this autumn to help prevent soil erosion and encourage natural bioremediation to take place.

Due to increased amounts of water available, at least 56 gigalitres of water is being pumped from Lake Alexandrina into Lake Albert to keep Lake Albert’s high-risk clayey soils saturated. This will maintain the water level above 0.75 metres below sea level and cover about two-thirds of the lakebed.

This pumping began in January 2010 to allow more time for bioremediation and vegetation works to be assessed for their effectiveness.

As part of the adaptive management plans, limestone may also be used to help neutralise acid released from the soil into the water.

**Possible limestone dosing in Currency Creek**

On-going water quality monitoring in Currency Creek indicates that as water levels have fallen during the summer, alkalinity (which neutralises acidity) has also fallen.

If alkalinity falls below a critical point, limestone treatment will be required to prevent potential acidification. Limestone raises the pH to levels where natural bioremediation will occur, neutralising soils and removing acid from the water.

While the timing is uncertain, it is expected that if the current climatic conditions continue, limestone treatment will need to be undertaken during April.

An estimated 200-300 tonnes of limestone may be needed for the work, which is likely to take no longer than a week. The work would include on-ground and aerial delivery of the limestone.

The temporary flow regulator at the mouth of Currency Creek was designed to allow the rewetting of acid sulfate soils in the creek to be carefully managed and freshwater flows to be captured, allowing bioremediation to take place before the water flows into the Goolwa Channel. The structure also allows the first inflows of autumn to be treated with limestone to assist bioremediation to remove acid and heavy metals from the water.

Limestone trials in Currency Creek and the Finniss River conducted last year by DEH in partnership with Rural Solutions SA, helped to manage much of the acid that had formed in the waterways.

**Lower Lakes Bioremediation and Revegetation Project news**

**Tackling spiny rush**

A large infestation of the invasive weed, spiny rush, was recently burnt on the northern shore of Lake Alexandrina.

The operation was part of a joint DEH and Rural Solutions SA strategy to prevent the further spread of the weed, which established a dense infestation along a 13-kilometre front near Nalpa, between Boggy Lake and Pomanda Point.

Along with the burning operation, sparse areas of spiny rush will be sprayed with herbicide, and smaller
plants near the water’s edge will be pulled out by hand. Herbicide treatment will occur 6 to 12 months after burning, to kill the remaining plants.

Rural Solutions SA is managing the project for DEH, with the co-operation of the Country Fire Service, the DEH Fire Management Unit and the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board.

- Find out more about spiny rush weed control in the Lower Lakes

Preparing for autumn vegetation works

Large scale vegetation works are set to take place on and around the Lower Lakes from late April 2010.

- Aircraft will apply over 600 tonnes of seed to around 7,000 hectares of exposed lakebed
- Over 1 million native seedlings will be planted over 2,300 hectares of the exposed lakebed that was stabilised by aerial seeding in 2009 or is newly exposed on the lakes
- Approximately 100,000 seedlings will be planted on higher ground around the lakes by community groups.

Volunteers at community nurseries across the region have propagated around 130,000 seedlings for hand planting. A further 15,000 seedlings will come from Ngarrindjeri nurseries. The remaining seedlings will be supplied by commercial nurseries.

Aerial seeding and hand planting are expected to start in late April and continue until the end of June/early July.

Fencing funding allocated

Funding for alternative water points and fencing to stop stock from accessing the lakebed has now been fully allocated.

Eligible landholders are receiving funding of up to $6000 per km for lake shore fencing to protect vegetation on the exposed lakebed and prevent acid sulfate soils from being disturbed by livestock.

Although the current round of funding is now closed, if you are interested in fencing to protect the lake shore on your property, please contact the Lakes Hub on 8537 0808 or call in at Shop 2, 10 Daranda Terrace, Milang to discuss your options.

The fencing project is being delivered by the Goolwa to Wellington Local Action Planning Association and Coorong Districts Local Action Planning Committee.

The Lakes Hub has been funded through a $220,000 grant to the Milang Progress Association as part of the Australian Government’s $10 million Lower Lakes Bioremediation and Revegetation Project, supported by DEH.

Floodwaters on their way to South Australia

South Australia has been officially assigned the first 257 billion litres of floodwaters from Queensland and New South Wales, which are now on their way to the Medindee Lakes.

South Australia is set to get a minimum of 500 billion litres of water from the Queensland floods, with this first tranche arriving within weeks.
• Find out more about the floodwaters on their way to South Australia

**Latest water quality results for Lower Lakes**

The latest reports on water quality monitoring and River Murray water resources are now available.

- [River Murray Water Quality Resources – 5 March 2010](PDF 291KB)
- [EPA water quality report – February 2010](#)

At the start of March, the average water level in Lake Alexandrina was about 0.88 metres below sea level, and in Lake Albert the average water level was about 0.76 metres below sea level.

The average salinity in Lake Alexandrina was 5,500 EC and the average salinity in Lake Albert was 17,500 EC*. Sea water is approximately 60,000 EC units.

*River Murray Water Resources report, 5 March 2010

**Native fish captive breeding success**

Juvenile southern purple-spotted gudgeon (*Mogurnda adspersa*) were released at Paiwalla Wetland at the end of March, thanks to a successful captive breeding and reintroduction program.

The species is assumed locally extinct in South Australia, so this first release of juvenile fish into a wetland that perfectly matches their natural habitat is a significant step in conserving this critically threatened species.

The captive breeding program is part of the DEH Drought Action Plan to protect, conserve and restore key threatened fish species across the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin.

Young fish reared through the breeding program can be released into carefully prioritised wetlands and waterways that provide refuge or alternative homes until wild habitats are healthy enough for them to return.

This was a great collaborative project between government and non-government organisations. Many groups and organisations played a part in the southern purple-spotted gudgeon project, including:

- DEH
- South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board
- SARDI Aquatic Sciences
- Murray-Darling Basin Authority
- Wetland Habitats Trust of Paiwalla
- Healthy Rivers Australia
- Native Fish Australia
- Alberton Primary School

**Join the team at the Vintage Wings, Wheels and Wine Festival**

The Lower Lakes and Coorong Recovery Team will be attending this year’s Vintage Wings, Wheels and Wine Festival on 18 April 2010 at Aldinga aerodrome’s new PC-12 hangar.

Visit our stand to find out more about developing a long-term plan for the region and emergency
response projects that are underway to tackle issues such as acid sulfate soils.

Staff will be on hand between 10 am and 3 pm to answer questions and provide information on planning for a sustainable, healthy future for the region.

Information will also be available at the event on regular flight tours over the Coorong and Lower Lakes.

School students learn about the Lower Lakes

The Lower Lakes and Coorong Recovery Team joined students from Loreto and Christian Brothers Colleges on field trips to the Lower Lakes this month.

Students received information about the environmental issues facing the region, such as acid sulfate soils and salinity, as well as work underway to secure a healthy, sustainable future for the region.

Christian Brothers College Year 9 students carried out acid sulfate soil and water quality testing at Goolwa.

They were joined by Carole Richardson, Monitoring and Evaluation Project Officer from the Lakes Hub who provided further information on acid sulfate soils and bioremediation.

Year 11 geography students from Loreto College visited a number of sites around Lake Alexandrina.

The field trip included:

- Viewing the temporary flow regulator near Clayton and discussing the Goolwa Channel Water Level Management Project
- Visiting Dunn’s Lagoon and Point Sturt
- Collecting water samples and carrying out salinity and turbidity testing at Clayton Bay, Dunn’s Lagoon and Milang
- Viewing regeneration of plants along the Milang foreshore
- Meeting staff at the Lakes Hub and finding out about community involvement through projects such as community nurseries.

Find out more about biodiversity and laws to protect it

To recognise the importance of conserving our biodiversity during this, the United Nations’ International Year of Biodiversity, a one day seminar is being held to provide an overview of the legislative and other responses to this important issue.

The seminar will be held on Monday 3 May 2010, 8:30am to 5pm at the German Club, 223 Flinders Street.

‘Biodiversity and the Law: Building Blocks for Life’ explores the law’s adequacy in managing biodiversity and considers the future status of biodiversity through concepts such as bio-prospecting, legal rights for plants and animals and law reform options.

The reduction in species in the Lower Lakes and Coorong as a result of the ongoing drought, over-allocation and low environmental flows to the region illustrates how important this issue is.

- Find out more about the Biodiversity and the Law: Building Blocks for Life seminar

Further information

For more information about Murray Futures visit www.murrayfutures.sa.gov.au.
To find out about the Department for Environment and Heritage’s work in the Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth region visit www.environment.sa.gov.au/cllmm/ or contact us at:

Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth Projects Team
Department for Environment and Heritage
Email: cllmm@deh.sa.gov.au
Phone: 1800 226 709 (freecall during normal business hours)
Post: Reply Paid 1047 ADELAIDE SA 5001

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Record low flows to the River Murray as a result of drought and over-allocation are having a significant impact on the health of the river environment. To help improve the health of important River Murray wetlands and floodplains the South Australian Government is developing a plan to invest up to $100 million between Wellington and the South Australian border. The Riverine Recovery Project is part of the South Australian Government’s $610 million Murray Futures program, seeking funding through the Australian Government’s Water for the Future program.

In this edition

- Improving the health of the River Murray
- Investing in infrastructure
- Developing the Riverine Recovery Plan
- Further information

Improving the health of the River Murray

Investing $100 million through the River Recovery Project will make a significant contribution to protecting the environment by building on previous efforts and collaborating with current research, investigations and on-ground projects.

The riverine environment includes the floodplains, wetlands, backwaters and main river channel. In fact there are over 1100 wetland complexes along the River Murray in SA. These elements of the river system are essential – they sustain the life of the river. Floodplains and wetlands are the nurseries of the river and preserve vital habitat for plants and animals. They help to maintain water quality by filtering sediments and chemicals and also naturally help to regulate the river system, reducing the risk or impact of floods.

The drought has resulted in severe reduction of in-flows to the Murray-Darling system. It is possible that under climate change there will be even less water available. It is essential that the critical parts of the riverine environment are protected so that, regardless of water availability, the river can continue to function.

Regulation of the river system changed the state of the riverine environment, resulting in the permanent inundation of many wetland areas. Introducing wetting and drying cycles at appropriate sites through the installation of environmental regulating structures will contribute to improving the ecological health. It will enable us to ensure that South Australia’s precious environmental water can be shared effectively across more sites along the River Murray.

Introducing wetting and drying cycles that mimic a more natural regime for the wetlands also reduces the overall evaporation from the wetland. Water saved through RRP investment will be transferred to the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder (CEWH) and managed for environmental benefit. SA receives environmental allocations from the CEWH and The Living Murray for wetland watering at a
number of sites. These volumes will increase as the CEWH water holdings increase and as allocations improve with increasing flows.

**Investing in infrastructure**

To increase opportunities for wetting and drying, the RRP will invest in infrastructure, however where possible RRP will invest in environmental projects that provide the best environmental outcomes with the least on-ground intervention. This will include investing in environmental regulators, reducing flow barriers, improving fish passage and other complementary management. Opportunities to use weir pool manipulation will be investigated.

The presence of irrigation pumps in some wetlands and backwaters is an issue when introducing wetting and drying cycles. It may be necessary to relocate pumps from some key wetland management sites to the main river channel where their current location is impacting on our ability to achieve environmental outcomes. There are about 365 irrigation pumps in wetlands and backwaters and the cost to remove all these pumps would be well in excess of the $100 million budget. To address this issue, pumps will be moved in areas that will achieve the best environmental outcomes.

**Developing the Riverine Recovery Plan**

While $100 million is a significant investment, it cannot address all the river’s problems. To decide where to best invest RRP planning is underpinned by the State’s vision of creating a healthy river that is resilient to changes in water availability, salinity and other threats. RRP will select sites based on the level of environmental benefits that can be achieved at an individual site and the level to which those benefits can complement outcomes at other sites across the region. This approach improves the connection of the different functions (services) that the riverine environment needs to provide to ensure that all the requirements of key species throughout their lifecycle are maintained throughout South Australia.

The RRP plan will include five key areas for investment:

1. Site specific investment such as individual wetland investment with ecological and/or water saving benefits. Sites are being identified through work completed by the SA Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board and the outcomes of ecological investment modelling work being completed by CSIRO.
2. Landscape scale investment at priority floodplains such as Pike River Floodplain, Katarapko Floodplain (Katfish Reach) and Chowilla Floodplain.
3. Adaptive management to ensure sufficient, quality data is available to inform on-going management.
4. River operations focusing on weir pool manipulation opportunities and including the development of a Decision Support System (DSS) based on ecological response modelling to be used as part of South Australia’s broader river management.
5. On-going communications, consultation and partnership development.

To date planning has included:

- Scoping the project in collaboration with leading scientists, State Government representatives and other experts.
- Commencing a number of investigations to inform the development of the plan such as:
  - Developing a wetland classification system
  - Developing conceptual models for different wetland types
  - Auditing existing wetland infrastructure
  - Developing standard infrastructure cost
  - Developing an ecological investment decision model
- Commencing writing the plan
- Meeting with key stakeholder groups including an inter-agency Technical Advisory Group

The RRP plan is due for completion in June 2010.
The plan builds on the significant community and scientific consultation stemming from work to improve the health of the river over the last 10 years. The Riverine Recovery plan will be implemented based on ongoing community input and further scientific research and modelling. This will include the final site selection for investment, implementation and adaptive management. A program of ongoing community consultation will occur over the life of the project and as each component is implemented.

Further Information

For more information about the Riverine Recovery Project and Murray Futures visit www.murrayfutures.sa.gov.au.
Alternatively contact the Department for Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation:
Email: DWLBCrrp@sa.gov.au
Phone: (08) 8204 8656
Post: Riverine Recovery Project, GPO Box 2834, Adelaide SA 5001
South Australian Rural Leadership Program

A Program for Leadership Development

Government of South Australia
Primary Industries and Resources SA
THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN RURAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

FOREWORD

Leadership development is becoming increasingly important in the rural sector where continuing pressure on profit margins and increased competition in major overseas markets and the importance of sustainable natural resource management means that our farmers must rely on their own innovation and initiative to remain viable and to prosper.

To succeed in this environment, our State must produce strong and capable leaders who have the ability to motivate and energise themselves, their industries, and their communities. These leaders will help take our rural and regional communities into the future. To achieve this they will require the skills of strategic planning, negotiation, lobbying, managing change, team building and understanding the importance of well-being.

It is our intention to guide and provide assistance to those leaders already forging ahead in their industry, and to those who have the potential to become the leaders of the future.

The South Australian Rural Leadership Program will provide training to assist our future leaders to develop the skills they will require to be successful.

Our aim in developing this Leadership Program will be to work closely with other rural groups to maximise the opportunity to attract quality candidates.

OBJECTIVES/GOALS

The objectives of the Program are to:

- provide an exposure to a range of specialised professional leadership development opportunities and experiences for people working in rural industries in South Australia;
- energise new and existing rural leaders to expand their ability to stimulate rural industry and community development; and
- establish a network of rural leaders who can share creative ideas and promote opportunities for partnerships between individuals, communities, and industries.

The goals of the Program are to:

- encourage and provide potential leaders with the skills, motivation and confidence to seek an active role in addressing current and future issues affecting their local communities and agricultural industries.
- produce leaders who are capable of developing and articulating a shared community vision, have the ability to engender enthusiasm and commitment in their regional community, and possess a greater understanding of the concepts of community involvement in planning for their local community’s future.
- empower individuals to develop an innovative culture within their local communities, businesses, and industries throughout regional South Australia.

PARTICIPANTS

This Program will target enthusiastic individuals who have the potential to stimulate creativity, wealth, and business at the community level, and who are either already involved in activities relating to the development of their local community or rural industry, or are looking for the opportunity to become involved at this level.

The Program will select participants who can demonstrate their potential to be involved in a leadership role in rural industries and communities. It will be aimed at nurturing those community, industry and support agency members who are interested in making a greater contribution to their community and recognise the need for greater skill development.
COURSE OUTLINE

Program Outline
The program will be held as a four day residential workshop with a further two day residential follow up session.
The Program will cover a range of topics and skills including:

Personal and Community Leadership, Self Esteem, Vision, Values
- Understand different styles of leadership and identify and evaluate their own leadership styles.
- Lead with integrity.
- Understand how communities work.
- Explore vision and values and have an understanding of how these affect decision-making.
- Develop a vision for rural South Australia.

Communication Skills
- Communicate more effectively, through increased skills in listening, questioning and being more assertive.
- Respecting differences.

Team Work, Problem Solving
- Use a practical tool for mentoring, team work and problem solving.
- Understand roles of members.
- Convert what has been learnt into action and a long-term change in behaviour.

Decision Making, Change Management
- Understand personal core values and link values with decision-making.
- Understand the concept of conflict of interest.

Health and Well-being
- Understand the importance of taking care of yourself.
- Managing stress.

Conflict Resolution, Negotiation Skills
- Understand that conflict provides an opportunity for improved team performance, and address concerns.
- Develop approaches to work with difficult behaviour.
- Effectively resolve conflict.

Working with Government and Boards (Governance Principles)
- Understand the role and process of government.
- Be familiar with governance issues.
- Assist rural communities to lead by working with government.

Facilitation, Presentation
- Develop facilitation techniques.
- Be confident in carrying out facilitation and presentation tasks.
- Facilitate groups.
- Make short presentations

Outdoor Team Exercises
- Understand responses to challenge, change and uncertainty.
- Support others experiencing challenges and ask for support when facing challenges.
- Overcome perceived personal limitations and open up to new possibilities and areas for achievement.
- Better understand the keys to making teams and organisations function effectively.
- Put leadership theory into action.
- Recognise the ‘traps’ that groups, teams and communities often fall into, that lead to ineffective performance and apathy.
- Understand the critical importance of all group members.
South Australian Rural Leadership Program
29, 30 June, 1 & 2 July 2010
2 & 3 September 2010
Closing date: 29 May 2010

SARLP 2010 Fees

Name.................................................................................................................

The South Australian Rural Leadership Program is funded by Primary Industries and Resources South Australia. PIRSA subsidises each of the three outlined categories to help ensure diversity. The funding structure recognises the difficulty community based people or small private companies often experience in funding employees participation in leadership programs. The following three-tiered funding schedule is used.

The total cost of training is $1750 per person. Some grants are available under some categories listed below.

Please indicate the fee category for your application

☐ (A) Primary Producer or Land Manager
Bona-fide South Australian primary producer (i.e. a farmer/fisher, owner operator, immediate family member of the owner, or in a management capacity of a primary production enterprise, who contributes the majority of their labour to the enterprise and derives the majority of income from farming/fishing) and is able to supply an Australian Business Number for the enterprise.
Or
Indigenous Land Managers who are involved in the management of indigenous lands zoned for rural purposes.

$250.00 if Eligible for FarmReady

Are you eligible for FarmReady? Yes ☐ No ☐ for details PTO

☐ (B) Land Manager

Land Managers who own or have management responsibility for the land, water and habitat of a rural or residential landholding with an area greater than 2 hectares.

☐ (C) Community Employee/Private Company (with less than 100 employees)
Employees of community run and/or managed agencies, not covered in category A. The agency must rely at least in part on community financial or in-kind funding. (i.e. Rural Counsellors, Community Information Officers, Community Development Officers)

$750.00

☐ (D) Government or Public/Private Company Employee (greater than 100 employees)
Employees of government agencies or public companies (or their subsidiaries) listed on the Australian Stock Exchange.

$1750.00
FarmReady Information

The South Australian Rural Leadership Program (SARLP) is a FarmReady eligible course.

Applications must be lodged at least 5 working days prior to the course commencement and all applications MUST have pre-approval for any FarmReady Funding.

A reimbursement grant of up to $1,500 is available per financial year to cover course fees. You can claim reimbursement for more than one course per financial year, but the total reimbursement provided will not exceed $1,500 in that year. Where eligible costs incurred for a course are greater than $1,500, you will not be reimbursed for the full cost of attending the course. You must submit proof of payment (receipts).

Associated reasonable costs (childcare, travel, accommodation, meals) can be claimed in conjunction with a course cost. The amount that will be reimbursed for associated costs will be capped at $500 per financial year. You must submit proof of payment (receipts) for all items claimed.

Items to note:

1. Pre-approval is required for all FarmReady applications
2. It is up to the applicant to get pre-approval for FarmReady before any training has commenced. This must be done at least 5 working days before the commencement of the course.
3. Up to $1,500 is available per financial year to cover course costs.

Application forms are available from www.farmready.gov.au, admin@farmready.gov.au or by calling the Program Administrator on 1800 087 670.

(The information above was obtained from the FarmReady Important Information for Claimants guide and can be found at www.farmready.gov.au)

Information and forms can also be download at http://www.pir.sa.gov.au/pirsa/communities/rural_leadership_program

Hard copies of the brochure and application forms are available by contacting Meg Partridge on 8226 0181. If you require further information, please contact Lib Hylton Keele on 8226 0245.
Consultation Session for VSA&NT Members

Introducing the Advancing the Community Together Partnership Review consultation session for Volunteering SA&NT members.

The Advancing the Community Together Partnership represents a public commitment by the South Australian Government and the Volunteer Sector to open, transparent, consistent and collaborative ways of working together. This partnership was designed to:

- Acknowledge the value of volunteering in our community
- Develop a vision for the future of volunteering in South Australia
- Establish a framework for an ongoing partnership, and
- Promote and facilitate volunteering in a manner that benefits the community.

Volunteers, volunteer managers, and people with an interest in the community sector will have an opportunity to discuss the partnership and make suggestions etc, at a workshop that will look at:

- What has been achieved by the partnership to date and whether that is worthwhile
- Revisit the aims and desired outcomes to see if they are still relevant
- Identify any areas that need to be included in the future partnership document
The session will be held at VSA&NT, Victoria Square, on 21st April at 2:00pm.
If you would like anymore information about the partnership it can be found at www.ofv.sa.gov.au/act.htm

For anymore information and to register for the consultation session please contact Rod Dolling, phone: 8463 6501 or email: rod.dolling@sa.gov.au

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**JOB OF THE WEEK**

**VOLUNTEER DESK HELPER**

**Gallery One (Mitcham Village Art & Crafts Association)** requires 20 volunteers to be rostered over varied shifts between Tuesday to Friday, mornings or afternoons, to staff the front desk in the Gallery.

**Duties include:** retail sales, front desk, gallery enquiries and greeting visitors. Volunteers skills would include a passion and interest in arts and crafts.

If you are interested in this vacancy please contact Julie Arnott, Phone: 8272 4504 or email: info@galleryone.org.au

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**National Landcare Awards - Two New Categories**

The Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation (DWLBC) and the Natural Resources Management Council (NRM Council), **National Landcare Awards is being held in Canberra on 24 June 2010.**

The Federal Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, The Hon Tony Burke, initiated the two new categories to be promoted through Landcare Australia Ltd.

A letter from Heather Campbell, CEO, Landcare Australia, explaining the two new categories can be found on the NRM website, along with the category and entry form. Please follow the [link](#).

The **two new categories are** Australian Government Innovation in Sustainable Farm Practices Award and Australian Government Local Landcare Facilitator/Coordinator.

Individuals and organisations that care for our environment are encouraged to take this opportunity to apply for the two new categories in the 2010 Landcare Awards

If you require any further information, please contact Mica Balela 8463 6860 or email mica.balela@sa.gov.au
The closing date for nominations is **30 April 2010**.

**Social, Home Care and Disability Services Industry Award 2010**

**Implications for community sector organisations forum**

A discussion workshop is being held to share information about the award, the current industrial context and determine the impacts on community organisations in SA.

**Venue:** SACOSS, Marjorie Black House, 47 King William Road, Unley (enter via Young St)

**Date:** Thursday 22 April 2010

**Time:** 1pm - 4:30pm

RSVP by 9 April to Nadia on 8415 4230

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**The 2010 National Conference on Volunteering**

The 13th National Conference on Volunteering to be held from **27-29 October 2010**, at The Sebel and Citigate Albert Park, Melbourne, Victoria.

Challenges such as the impacts of an ageing population and the global financial crisis, opportunities for exploring greater partnerships with the corporate and government sectors, and cementing the pivotal role that volunteering has within the broader social inclusion context, continue to be areas of discussion within the sector.

**The conference aims to provide a national forum to:**

- Initiate discussion, debate and analyse issues affecting volunteering;
- Discover new technologies that can affect or support volunteering;
- Examine initiatives that will grow volunteering and promote best practice in volunteering.

For more information on the National Conference 2010 please visit the [Volunteering Australia website](http://www.volunteeringaustralia.org.au).
Dates & Topics:
Wednesday 21 April 9:30 - 12:30  Introduction to Mentoring
Thursday 22 April 1:00 - 4:00  Introduction to Marketing
Friday 23 April 9:30 - 12:30  Introduction to Risk Management
Wednesday 28 April 9:30 - 12:30  Managing Volunteers to Avoid Burnout
Thursday 29 April 9:30 - 12:30  Skills for Committee and Board Members
Friday 30 April 9:30 - 12:30  Communicating for Best Results
Wednesday 5 May 9:30 - 12:30  Enhancing Customer Service Skills
Wednesday 5 May 1:00 - 4:00  The Treasurer's Role in Small NFP's - NEW!
Thursday 6 May 9:30 - 12:30  Building Conflict Resolution Skills
Friday 7 May 9:30 - 12:30  Supervision and Leadership Skills
Development
Thursday 20 May 9:30 - 12:30  Working in Teams
Friday 21 May 9:30 - 12:30  Introduction to Volunteer Management
Wednesday 26 May 9:30 - 12:30  Connecting with Older People
Thursday 27 May 1:00 - 4:00  Developing Grant Applications
Friday 28 May 9:30 - 12:30  Best Practice Volunteer Recruitment
Tuesday 1 June 9:30 - 12:30  How to get Young People to Become Volunteers

Please visit www.volunteeringsa.org.au for more information on this Free Training Program by downloading the calendar

To book into any of the Training Sessions please email training@volunteeringsa.org.au

National Standards Training for Volunteer Involving Organisations

FEE FOR SERVICE TRAINING
**Tuesday 25 and Wednesday 26 May** 9.30am - 4pm

The National Standards provide the only existing framework for best practice volunteer management. This is a two day practical, hands on, interactive workshop that covers each of the National Standards and how they can be successfully integrated within your organisation's volunteer management program.

Implementation of these Standards in your organisation will lead to happier volunteers, improved retention, better services for clients, and increased credibility for your organisation as well as many other benefits.

The NS training has consistently generated excitement, passion and commitment. You'll love its practicality and working with your peers in a network of like minded leaders.

**2 day workshop at VSA&NT** includes materials and lunch.

Please call (08)8221 7177 or email reception@volunteeringsa.org.au for costs. Members receive discount.

*Please visit [www.volunteeringsa.org.au](http://www.volunteeringsa.org.au) for more information on Training*

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**Nominations Now Open for the 2010 NT Training Awards**

**Friday 28th May is the deadline for nominations** for this year's NT Training Awards. The NT Training Awards are the Department of Education and Training’s (DET) annual premier event recognising training excellence and achievements by Territory businesses, training organisations, apprentices, trainees and students.

The awards are presented annually as official recognition of merit and excellence contributing to high standards of training and for personal achievement through the Vocational Education and Training (VET) sector.

The Awards consists of two categories, student and organisational, with twelve awards in total.

Winners of five of the Northern Territory student categories will automatically go on to represent the NT at the Australian Training Awards and winners of the organisational categories can nominate to represent the Territory at the National Awards. The 2010 Australian Training Awards will be held in Sydney in November 2010.

For more information contact Catherine Harris, email: catherine@changeworksnt.com

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**TERRITORY NEWS**

**Volunteer Financial Contribution in Australia**

*Our Community* recently recalculated their estimation of volunteers' per-hour value. The latest figure of $24.59 an hour is based on newly released Australian Bureau of Statistics earnings estimates dating from November last year.

The full story on how the figure has been calculated is featured in the March edition of *Raising Funds*
The National Compact

A Compact is an agreement that's rather stronger than an understanding but a good deal less binding than a contract, and the Federal Government has now agreed to one. As Mr Rudd said at the launch since coming to office in December 2007:

"We have sought to embrace new ways of governing, including forming innovative partnerships with the Third Sector to tackle the nation's long-term challenges.

For too long, policy debates about how we address many of our greatest social challenges have centred around a false choice between government action or relying on private charities. Our most difficult challenges of disadvantage and social exclusion cannot be solved either by governments or charities alone. Nor can they be solved by the business community alone. Instead, we need to work together - bringing the resources and coordinating capacity of government together with the social capital of community organisations and the entrepreneurial spirit of business.

It is in this spirit that I launch the National Compact: working together. It is my hope that the framework for future cooperation and partnership set out in this document can help foster creative and lasting collaborations that make a difference for our people, our environment and our nation's future.

Trust will come only by stages, on both sides, as both sides see how the ideas of the Compact are put into practice.

The most immediate priorities as:

1. To document and promote the value and contribution of the third sector.
2. To protect the sector's right to advocacy irrespective of any funding relationship that might exist.
3. To recognise sector diversity in consultation processes and sector development initiatives.
4. To improve information sharing, including greater access to publicly funded research and data.
5. To reduce red tape and streamline reporting.
6. To simplify and improve consistency of financial arrangements including across state and federal jurisdictions.
7. To act to improve paid and unpaid workforce issues.
8. To improve funding and procurement processes."

Donation of Textbooks to Community Group

A Darwin school shop has a supply of textbooks (mostly used) that they would like to donate to a community group.

The Kormilda College school has a selection of books for students from years 7 to 12. There are around 20-30 books per subject, and most are only one year old so they are in excellent condition. More books are likely to become available every year or two.

If you think your group could use the books, please contact school shop manager Lyn Tilbrook at Kormilda College on (08) 8922 1625.

Red Cross - REDiPlan Information Sessions

10 April at 2a/40 Bath St

Come along to the FREE Information Session to find out how you can participate in your community through Red Cross.

For more information - contact Kiya on 8952 1399 or kgill@redcross.org.au to RSVP.
Light refreshments will be provided.

**NORTHERN TERRITORY CONTACT DETAILS**

Volunteering SA & NT - **Alice Springs Office**: Robyn Toi  
alice@volunteeringterritory.org.au  
Ground floor of Anangu House, cnr Gregory Tce & Bath St

Volunteering SA & NT - **Darwin Office**  
admin@volunteeringterritory.org.au  
Unit 11, 21 Cavenagh St, The Metro

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**Volunteering SA & NT acknowledges the generous support of the following:**

![Government of South Australia](image1)
![Microsoft](image2)
![hacc](image3)
![Australian Government](image4)

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