This Week @ LGANT Newsletter

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

20 JUNE 08

20/06/2008

FAREWELL FROM LGANT IT SERVICES

This is a final notice to all subscribers to LGANT IT services advising that effective from COB 30/6/08, LGANT will no longer be providing any form of IT support beyond the hosting and maintenance of existing community websites.

This means that LGANT's Helpdesk will be closed to all calls from that date, all support trips will cease, support for Ursys Busiboxes and email administration will also not be provided. From 1 July 2008, as part of the ShiresNet project, CSG in partnership with Fujitsu will take over LGANT's former IT support role in communities.

This service will include fly-in support trips. Support requests can be logged online at **http://rcs.csg.com.au/index.php**, by email on **desktop.rcs@nt.gov.au** and by phone on **(08) 8930 1301.**

Under an independent arrangement with NTG, LGANT will continue to host and maintain community websites for at least the next 6 months. However under ShiresNet, new Shires level web sites will be created. Email addressing and support will also become the responsibility of CSG/Fujitsu.

This marks the end of LGANT's long involvement in the development/support of IT services and IT skill development in remote communities of the Northern Territory. These services and capabilities were originally provided under an $8M grant (the "NT Connect Project") from the former Federal Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts (DCITA) through funds arising from the sale of Telstra.

The network and infrastructure established from that project remains to this date, the only Territory wide, non-government maintained, fully capable, and financially self sustaining large scale communications project ever delivered to remote communities in the NT.

LGANT is proud of this achievement and extends its appreciation to the main architects and implementers of NT Connect: Louise Clifford (Projects Manager) and Venjie Diola (Webmaster) from LGANT, Alistair Muir, Tom Cordingley, Andreas Furche, and Kim Marshall from Convergence e-Business Solutions, and Andrew Thurlow from Portal Computing.

At a time when IT was not a core part of administrative practices in remote communities (unless it was a fax machine), LGANT provided the communications architecture, desktop hardware, remote and on-site IT support, web capabilities and email services to allow communities to grow their IT skills and participate in the new literacy that mainstream communities expect as the norm.

The extent and scale of our efforts are rarely publicised:

In 06/07 alone, ***92 technical support*** visits were conducted to remote communities as well as ***26 training visits***. The latter ***trained 390 people*** across the NT of whom 170 were Indigenous. In the same year, we delivered ***4.2 million emails*** from users and solved over ***3,000 help desk requests*** with an average fix time of 6.8 hours (including ordering and shipping). Our technicians ***supported over 500 PCs*** and we installed and maintained an array of web, email and IT Vision financial servers in a secure data facility- all of which evidenced excellent availability, responsiveness and data integrity.

LGANT is proud of this pioneering achievement but recognises that government can provide economies of scale, depth of skill and service efficiencies that a small organisation like LGANT cannot.

It is therefore an appropriate time to hand these responsibilities on and we have every expectation that the foundation we have built will not only be well supported but further developed and enhanced over the coming years.

It has been a privilege to be a small part of this history.

Perry Morrison
Manager
IT Training and Support
LGANT
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NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT CONFERENCE

The Local Government Association of Queensland is hosting a National Environment Conference in Cairns on 9 - 11 July 2008. This is a national conference and councils from across Australia are invited to attend to hear the latest news and to share experiences with other councils.

LGANT's Waste Management Officer, Jim Fraser, will be presenting a session on waste management standards in remote communities. This will outline the goals and achievements of LGANT's Waste Management Standards Guidelines. This event should not be missed. Register now!

To get more information **contact LGANT on (08) 8936 2864.**

YOUTH ORGANISED AQUATIC LEADERSHIP (YOAL) PROGRAM

The first camp hosted by RLSSA NT was held in Maningrida and was shown to be a great success, check out the photos of the camp below. The highlights of the camp were:

- Participating in a range of sporting and recreation activities
- Story telling by traditional owners & cultural dancing
- Healthy food selection and bush tucker
- Learning new life skills for use in everyday situations
- Safe fishing and boating practices
- Proper marine safety equipment use
- Movie and photo story of the camp experience

The later stages of the project will see the development of a sustainable regional network for youth oriented services and youth leaders working together to develop a youth direction plan across the shires. This week another 39 youth participated in the YOAL camp at Daly River/Nauiyu Nambiyu camp. For more information on YOAL camps please contact **RLSSA Corrine 0428 898 429 or remotepoolsnt@rlssa.org.au**

CONSTITUTIONAL RECOGNITION FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Constitutional recognition is the hot topic at the moment for councils around Australia with almost 20 councils having already held such conversations.

ALGA is convening an Experts Forum in August, comprising 80 – 100 representatives, which will review and refine the options for recognition as well as develop and refine the yes and no cases, and possible ways forward in terms of process. This work will then feed into ALGA's Constitutional Summit to be held from 9 – 11 December 2008 in Melbourne. At this summit local government will have an opportunity to clarify and decide on the style of recognition which should be pursued and the strategy for taking constitutional recognition forward.

More information on 'Council Conversations' and a copy of the kit and feedback form are available at **www.alga.au/constitutionalrecognition**

COMMUNITY COASTCARE GRANTS

The Australian Government has opened a new grant program called Community Coastcare. Community Coastcare is part of the **Caring for our Country** package of activities contributing to the coastal environments and critical aquatic habitats priority outcome. Applications are being sought now for funding in 2008-2009.

Applications must be received by **5.00 pm Friday 25 July 2008**. Information can be found by accessing the Australian Government website at **www.nrm.gov.au/funding/coastcare.html**

WORKING ON COUNTRY GRANTS

Working on Country is part of the **Caring for our Country** initiative that builds on Indigenous knowledge of protecting and managing land and sea country. It provides funding for Indigenous people to deliver environmental outcomes to the Australian Government. A local government authority or a natural resource management body can act as a contract manager and apply for funding (however works that are considered part of the local government's normal responsibility are not eligible).

Applications must be received by **5.00 pm on Monday 11 August 2008.** More information can be found at: **www.nrm.gov.au/funding/woc.html**

LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMENT ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF NT CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY

Currently, the Northern Territory Government is developing it's climate change policy. It is critical that the NT positions itself strategically during this time when national and international climate change policy development will make a difference to the way that we go about our everyday lives and management of local government authorities. Local Government is ideally placed to be at the forefront of climate change adaptation in our communities. As changes in climatic and weather patterns will vary regionally, this variation will need responses that are tailored to the local or regional context.

Have your say by checking out the discussion paper on the Territory Government website and making comments: **www.nt.gov.au/dcm/legislation/climatechange**

Or please call **Jim Fraser at LGANT on (08) 8936 2864** for more information.

NOTICE FROM OUR PINE CREEK COMMUNITY GOVERNMENT MEMBER

Pine Creek Community Government Council extends an invitation to all local government council members to attend a function to mark the disbanding of Pine Creek Community Government Council after 21 years.

Where: Pine Creek Hall

When: Saturday 28th June, 2008 – 3.30 to 6.30pm
Drinks & Nibbles & reminisce with old newsletters, newspaper articles, digital archives and photo displays.

TERRITORY TIDY TOWNS AWARDS

The Keep Australia Beautiful Council of the Northern Territory is pleased to inform communities that the popular Territory Tidy Town Awards will be held in Darwin on the 6th and 7th of November 2008. The forum will be held at the Darwin Frontier Hotel and the awards will be held at the Casino on Friday night 7th November.

Now is the time to start budgeting and planning for your community's participation. Don't forget to get your community entry in. All remote community entries will receive a free copy of the 'Remote Community Clean Up Book'.

For more information on the Territory Tidy Towns Forum and Awards or for assistance in community clean ups and litter management call **Heimo Schober on 0407 186 461**. More information on KABNT and the Territory Tidy Town Awards can be found on their web site **www.kab.org.au/nt/**

A WORK IN PROGESS - IMANPA ROAD SEALING

Funding for the Imanpa road sealing has come from the Federal Government's 'Roads to Recovery' Program. The photo below shows the results of road sealing in the community.

Click on a link below to view job vacancies or tenders currently advertised by LGANT Recruitment.

TENDER - Provision of Street & Traffic Signs
Closing Date: 24/06/2008 (15:30)

COMING EVENTS

- Official start of the new Shire Councils from July 1st 2008
- Local Government Environment Conference – Cairns Qld. 9 to 11 July 2008.
- Coast to Coast Conference – Darwin August 2008
- Territory Tidy Towns Awards – Darwin 6 & 7 November 2008

FOR BACK ISSUES AND FURTHER INFORMATION ON LATEST JOBS AND OTHER LOCAL GOVERNMENT INFORMATION VISIT THE LGANT'S WEBSITE **www.lgant.nt.gov.au**

LGANT recognises its major sponsors:

- Telstra Country Wide
- TIO
- Jardines
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This newsletter is emailed direct to elected members and councils in the NT. For further information on any of the items in this newsletter, please contact the Officer concerned or LGANT on (08) 8936 2888.

If you would like to contribute an article to the "This Week at LGANT" newsletter, or need to get some information out to our members, please email Jim Fraser on jim.fraser@lgant.nt.gov.au