This Week @ LGANT Newsletter

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

25 JULY 08

25 July 2008

INVITATION TO THE NZ COMMUNITY BOARDS CONFERENCE – CHRISTCHURCH MARCH 2009

The New Zealand Community Boards Conference is being held in Christchurch from 19 -21 March 2009. The conference entitled "Reflect, Refresh, Revitalise." will be celebrating 20 years of Community Boards as well as the Best Practice Awards. The community boards are part of Local Government NZ and work at the local level as the local voice. LGANT members are invited to attend. The conference will be educational and excellent training for all people working in Local Government.

For more information you can visit the conference website at **http://www.cbc09.org.nz/**

COUNCIL ELECTIONS – MAKE SURE YOU ARE REGISTERED ON THE NT ELECTORAL ROLL

Elections for the 11 Shires and the Litchfield Council are to be held on Saturday, 25 October 2008. Persons registered on the NT electoral roll in Council areas are eligible to vote and stand for election. Notices inviting persons to nominate for council elections are expected to be published by Friday, 12 September 2008. The close of the electoral roll is expected to be advised by 23 September 2008. Nominations will then close on 2 October 2008 and be declared on 3 October 2008.

For information on enrolment visit: **http://www.aec.gov.au/index.htm**

GIANT WALK 2008 – SEPTEMBER 1ST 2008 – REGISTER NOW

The goNT Giant Walk 2008 is the Northern Territory's contribution to the Guinness World Record attempt to be held on Monday 1 September. Territorians are being encouraged to join in on a 1km walk to try and beat the record set by Canada last year for the most number of people walking simultaneously in multi-venues. The number to beat is 231,635.

The Giant Walk 2008 website is now up and running!

Please visit **www.thegiantwalk.com.au** and either register a walking site or choose a walking site that you'd like to participate at. Contact the Walk Coordinator to let them know you're interested in coming to their venue.

NEW COMMUNITY PROJECT - BORROLOOLA SWIMMING POOL

Borroloola Community Swimming Pool is one of three pools in the Pools in Remote Areas Program.

Jointly funded by the Australian Government, Northern Territory Government and the Community through the local soccer club who will be sharing the facilities and change rooms and Xstrata, McArthur River Mining Pty Ltd.

McArthur River Mining is also the Project Manager and together with the local steering committee is working to have the pool completed before the wet season.

Andersons Concrete and Construction will have the shell completed by the end of next month. The photos below show the concrete being laid for the shell of the main pool and the toddler's pool.

ROAD MAINTENANCE BY CONTRACT SEMINAR – DARWIN 19TH SEPTEMBER

Workshop run by ARRB Group to discuss road maintenance delivery in the new millennium.
Issues to be addressed at the workshop will include:

- Quality of service and value adding
- Contract periods
- Risk and risk sharing
- Contract models
- Customer issues
- Organisational change management
- Ownership, partnership and alliancing
- Information management

Course enquiries:
Email: **training@arrb.com.au** Ph: **(03) 9881 1555** or visit: **www.arrb.com.au/workshops**

REMINDER- IT SERVICES TRANSITION TO CSG

This note is to remind former subscribers to LGANT's IT Support Service that our help desk is no longer operational and users need to contact CSG for ongoing support.

While LGANT has, and will continue for a short period to assist users where it is able, it is in the interests of all parties and stakeholders to make the transition to CSG support as soon as possible. While interim arrangements can assist in the short term, in the long term they prolong confusion and service inefficiencies.

CSG Support requests can be:

- logged online at **http://rcs.csg.com.au/index.php**
- by email on **desktop.rcs@nt.gov.au**
- by phone on **(08) 8930 1301**

CSG/Fujitsu's services are part of very large commercial IT arrangements with the NT government and as such, it is in the interests of all users to make these contracts work as effectively as possible for THEM.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE TERRITORY –

Council hopes lease will become ownership

The organisation responsible for Tennant Creek's seven Aboriginal town camps says it hopes a new lease deal will lead to more home ownership. Julalikari Council signed a memorandum of understanding with the previous Federal Government for a 99-year lease over the camps.

It has now renegotiated with the Rudd Government to have three 20-year leases.
The deal will see $30 million spent upgrading the camps so they can become normal suburbs of Tennant Creek. The Council's general manager Pat Brahim says while the camps' 1200 residents will initially become public housing tenants, she hopes this will change. "Hopefully in 20 years you're able to look back and say yes we did the right thing," she said. "The opportunity for people to actually purchase their own home, you know, that's the long term goal of the Julalikari Council."

SOURCE: ABC Online 21/7/08

Indigenous Boarding Facilities in NT to Help Close the Gap

The Federal Government has announced the short listed locations for three new boarding facilities in the Northern Territory to provide better school access for remote Indigenous students. The short list includes the regions of Wadeye, Warlpiri Triangle, East Arnhem and Maningrida. Extensions to existing facilities in locations such as Tennant Creek or Katherine will also be considered, should funding permit.

The announcement was made at the Yirrkala Community Cabinet meeting. It signals the first step in the delivery of the Government's pre election promise to build three new boarding facilities in the Northern Territory. Northern Territory Education Minister, Marion Scrymgour, MLA, strongly supported the establishment of boarding facilities in communities in a recent statement, Transforming Indigenous Education. This is an important step in meeting the Government's commitment to at least halve the gap for Indigenous students in Year 12 or equivalent attainment rates by 2020.

The new facilities will provide more than 150 beds across a range of accommodation styles. They will support improved access to quality schooling and better education outcomes for Indigenous secondary school students. The first of the facilities is expected to be completed in 2009 with the remaining two built in 2010.

Following community consultations, and with the support of relevant communities and key stakeholders, feasibility studies will be commissioned to address issues such as likely student demand, community infrastructure needs, social and cultural expectations of the feeder communities, costs, timeframes and sustainability. Only after the consultation is completed will final decisions be made on locations.

SOURCE: Media Release Prime Minister's Office, 23/7/08

COMING EVENTS

- National State and Expert Forum – Constitutional Recognition – Canberra, August 2008
- Coast to Coast Conference – Darwin, 18-22 August 2008
- goNT Giant Walk 2008 – 1 September 2008
- Healthy Places & Spaces Forum – Darwin, September 2008
- Local Government Sustainable Development Conference – Sydney, 10-11 September 2008
- Shire and Litchfield Council Elections – 25 October 2008
- Territory Tidy Towns Awards – Darwin, 6 & 7 November 2008
- Local Government Constitutional Summit – Melbourne, 9-11 December 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