

This Week @ LGANT Newsletter



8 AUGUST 08

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DON'T FORGET TO VOTE IN THE NT ELECTIONS TOMORROW!

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



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

Elections for Wagait Shire Council, Coomalie Shire Council, Barkly Shire Council, Central Desert Shire Council, East Arnhem Shire Council, MacDonnell Shire Council, Roper Gulf Shire Council, Tiwi Islands Shire Council, Victoria Daly Shire Council, West Arnhem Shire Council and the Litchfield Council are to be held on Saturday, 25 October 2008. The Belyuen Shire Council is to remain under administration.

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 for candidates will then close on 2 October 2008 and be declared on 3 October 2008.

COAST TO COAST CONFERENCE, DARWIN AUGUST 18TH - 22ND 2008

Coast to Coast 2008 is Australia's biennial national coastal conference. It will focus debate, discussion and learning across the full range of coastal and marine issues - at the international, national, state, regional and local levels. This will be the first time Darwin has hosted the national Coast to Coast Conference - made possible by the opening of the world-class Darwin Convention Centre. Its relaxed, waterfront location and ambience - and proximity to the stunning coastal wetlands and diverse marine life of Darwin Harbour - will ensure that Coast to Coast 2008 will be an outstanding success.

Coast to Coast 2008 offers us all the opportunity to:

- consider key coastal challenges and issues from a range of perspectives;
- learn about new coastal initiatives and programs that tackle current and emerging issues; and
- meet, re-connect and network with people with an interest in the coast, including many professionals and specialists.

For more information visit <https://www.coast2coast.org.au/>



MANYALLALUK ROAD PROJECT

The Manyallaluk Community Access Road has just been completed by contractors Northern Machinery Sales. The scope of works included re-sheeting of flood prone areas and the reconstruction and reestablishment of off let drains and blocks. Works were funded through the Australian Government Northern Territory Emergency Response – Task of Opportunity Program. LGANT assisted the Roper Gulf Shire in the project management of this initiative. The photos below show completed sheeting and work being carried out on drainage by contractors.



LOCAL GOVERNMENT HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGERS FORUM 2008

The inaugural professional development program for Human Resource Managers of local governing bodies in the Northern Territory will be held in Darwin on August 18th & 19th, 2008. This two day program has been developed by LGANT to provide specific support for local government Human Resource Managers in a Northern Territory context. For more information call LGANT on (08) 8936 2888.

CLIMATE READY PROGRAM – CLEAN BUSINESS AUSTRALIA

Round 1 of the Commonwealth Government's Climate Ready Program is open for applications. The program aims for Australian companies in developing new products, processes and services to tackle climate change by providing dollar-for-dollar support for research and development, proof-of-concept and early-stage commercialisation activities. Possible applications expected in areas such as water recycling, waste recovery, renewable technologies, and green building materials. Applications close on 4 September. ***Please pass this information to your local businesses.***

Further information can be obtained from Ausindustry at www.ausindustry.gov.au

DIESEL FUEL REBATE REVIEWS

LGANT is pleased to offer your council a consultancy based service for the review and collection of outstanding diesel fuel rebates. AIT Specialists Pty Ltd have developed a simple and unique assessment system which they now offer through LGANT to Local Government in the Northern Territory with regard to diesel and fuel rebates. This 'no obligation' assessment will include advice to your Council on whether AITS can be of any further assistance to you. There is NO cost to your Council. If you would like to take advantage of this service, please contact **Peter McLinden at LGANT on (08) 8936 2891.**

AUSTRALIAN LEARNING COMMUNITIES NETWORK CONFERENCE 2008 CONNECTING FACES, SPACES & PLACES

The 5th Biennial Australian Learning Communities Network Conference is to be held Sunday 26 – Tuesday 28 October 2008 in Adelaide, South Australia. Connecting Faces, Places and Spaces is the theme for the 2008 conference. Learning communities are defined as a learning city/town/community/region addressing the learning needs of its locality through partnerships. Learning communities use the strengths of social and institutional relationships to bring about cultural shifts in perception in the value of learning and to promote social cohesion, urban regeneration and economic development.

The conference aims to create an increased awareness, interest and engagement in the growth and development of sustainable learning communities in Australasia. Through a series of keynote lectures, plenary, paper sessions, posters and workshops we will explore best practice models of learning communities, internationally and nationally, the development of learning communities, the impact of learning communities on the human, social and economic capacity and workforce development within organisations. For more information visit <http://www.alcnconference.com/>

NEWS FROM ALGA – AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT TAX REVIEW

ALGA welcomed the release this week by Treasury Secretary Dr Ken Henry AC of the first Discussion Paper on the review of Australia's Future Tax System. The release of the paper marks the first stage of the taxation review, following the announcement in the Budget 2008-09 that the Australian Government would commission a comprehensive review of Australia's taxation system, for completion by the end of 2009. The paper presents some considerable facts and information about our current tax system. For example, it finds that Australians pay at least 125 taxes every year, but that there may be up to 259 (excluding local government) nationally.

Further, of the 125 taxes, only one is a local government tax. Whilst state taxation revenue in 2006-07 totalled almost \$49 billion, and the Australian Government's taxation revenue totalled \$262.5 billion, local government taxation was estimated at \$9.4 billion. This is consistent with the broader finding in the paper that since federation, the Australian Government has been the predominant revenue raiser, with revenue being redistributed to the states.

ALGA intends to respond to the paper highlighting that the redistribution of Australian Government taxation revenue to local government is important, but needs to be fairer if local government is expected to continue delivering the services expected by their local communities. 'Fair funding' is a critical objective for local government, and the tax review provides a unique and timely opportunity for ALGA to advocate accordingly.

NOMINATE NOW FOR THE AUSTRALIAN OF THE YEAR AWARDS 2009

Nominations for the Australian of the Year Awards 2009 are now open. Anyone can be an Australian of the Year, but first they have to be nominated. Just think, if the person you nominate receives the Australian of the Year Award, you will have helped create history. Your nomination could mean the world to someone you admire.

There are four categories in which you can nominate:

- Australian of the Year
- Young Australian of the Year (16 - 30)
- Senior Australian of the Year (over 60)
- Australia's Local Hero



Nominate online at <http://www.australianoftheyear.org.au> or pick up a form from major sponsor the Commonwealth Bank. Nominations close 31 August 2008. State and Territory award winners will be announced in November, with the four national award recipients announced on 25 January 2009.

COMING EVENTS

- Water Management 2008 Conference – Ballina NSW, 13-15 August 2008
- LGANT HR Managers Forum, Darwin 18 & 19 August 2008
- Coast to Coast Conference – Darwin, 18-22 August 2008
- National State and Expert Forum – Constitutional Recognition – Canberra, 21 & 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
- 10 Shires and Litchfield Council Elections – 25 October 2008
- Territory Tidy Towns Awards – Darwin, 6 & 7 November 2008
- ALGA Board Meeting – 18 & 19 November 2008
- LGANT General Meeting – Darwin, 4 & 5 December 2008
- Local Government Constitutional Summit – Melbourne, 8-11 December 2008

***FOR BACK ISSUES AND OTHER LOCAL GOVERNMENT INFORMATION VISIT THE LGANT WEBSITE
www.lgant.nt.gov.au***

LGANT recognises its major sponsors:

- **Telstra Country Wide**
- **TIO**
- **Jardines**
- **CommonwealthBank**

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.asn.au**