

This Week @ LGANT

Newsletter



10 October 08

10 OCTOBER 2008

NOMINATIONS FOR SHIRE ELECTIONS NOW COMPLETE

2008 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION TIMETABLE

Mobile polling commences next week

Monday 13 October

Polling day

Saturday 25 October

Of the 117 elected members vacancies, over 211 nominations were received. For more information and the published candidates and positions on councils in the NT the ballot papers, please visit the Northern Territory Electoral Commission website at www.ntec.nt.gov.au Or call the **Toll Free Inquiry number 1800 019 159**

Visit the NT Government website for further information on the shire elections:
http://www.localgovernment.nt.gov.au/new/shire_elections

COMMUNITY HOUSING FEDERATION OF AUSTRALIA'S (CHFA) NATIONAL AFFORDABLE HOUSING AGREEMENT (NAHA) DISCUSSION PAPER

The Community Housing Federation of Australia has released its first NAHA discussion paper. The intention of the paper is to provide a 'big picture' overview of the National Affordable Housing Agreement and a range of suggestions about possible components to develop, construct and manage new housing stock, either alone or in a partnership with government and or the private sector.

The paper is available at www.chfa.com.au/clearinghouse/index.asp

LOCAL GOVERNMENT'S ON THE NORTHERN TERRITORY GRANTS COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVE

The minister for Local Government, the Hon Robert Knight has appointed Damien Ryan, Mayor of Alice Springs Town Council, as the LGANT representative on the NT Grants Commission for a period of three years. Mayor Ryan replaces Fran Kilgariff, who was the previous LGANT representative on this committee.

HOUSING AFFORDABILITY FUND APPLICATIONS CLOSE ON 15 OCTOBER 2008

Expressions of interest in the Federal Government's \$512 million Housing Affordability Fund close on 15 October 2008. Applications are invited from state, territory and local government groups, in association with the private sector. The program will be run through the Federal Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA). For further information on the Housing Affordability Fund and the application guidelines please visit www.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/housing/haf.htm.

TERRITORY TIDY TOWNS AWARDS AND FORUM - GET INVOLVED!!

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 from 6-7 of November 2008. The forum will be held at the Darwin Frontier Hotel and the awards will be held at the Casino on the night of Friday, 7 November 2008.



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 the web site www.kab.org.au/nt/



REFORMS TO INDIGENOUS EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM – CDEP & IEP

The government has proposed reforms to CDEP and IEP by 2010. Reform to the CDEP program would be restructured to:

- Build individual skills and capacity to take up work where opportunities arise;
- Provide on-the-job work experience;
- Provide voluntary mobility assistance;
- Build capacity of communities including through supporting priority projects;
- Build capacity of local indigenous organisations to deliver a range of services, including Universal Employment service (UES) and Indigenous Employment (IEP), and;
- Make sure community member's undertaking similar activities have the same income and participation requirements;

The reforms would be implemented on 1 July 2009. There would be intensive transition support for the current CDEP providers and participants, starting from early 2009.

NEWS FROM ALGA - CULTURAL MINISTERS' MEETING

ALGA representative and MAV President Cr Dick Gross attended the recent Australian and New Zealand Cultural Ministers' meeting in Alice Springs. Ministers endorsed the Cultural Ministers Council Strategy which identifies opportunities for collaboration between jurisdictions against five key goals over the next five to ten years. These key goals are:

1. Enriching our citizens' lives covering arts education to improve access and participation, and promoting Indigenous arts and culture.
2. Supporting vibrant cultural communities covering cultural diversity.
3. Projecting Australia to the world promoting Australian arts and culture internationally.
4. Building creative futures including strategies for creativity and innovation and building the sustainability of the sector.
5. Transforming cultural spaces and assets covering heritage assets and collections, planning and the built environment, digital and virtual environments, and arts and cultural infrastructure and facilities.

Ministers noted that each goal under the strategy would provide opportunities for collaborative actions to be explored.

AUSTRALIAN CONSERVATION FOUNDATION - CLIMATE CHANGE INITIATIVE

Councils and shires looking to engage with the community on climate change in an inclusive and non-threatening manner may be interested in an initiative recently launched by The Climate Project, Al Gore's climate change leadership program with the Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF).

The ACF has produced a documentary that follows seven Al Gore trained climate change presenters, *Telling the Truth*, and will be distributing the film by asking people who are passionate about responding to climate change to apply to become a 'Connector for Change'.

The Climate Project has already received huge interest from people across the country keen to be involved in their local communities and be part of the solution.

Councillors and municipal staff may see benefit in becoming involved and incorporating it within existing or future climate change initiatives.

To find out more, visit The Climate Project website <http://www.acfonline.org.au/connectors> and view the *Telling the Truth* preview http://www.acfonline.org.au/default.asp?section_id=288

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

Event: Nhulunbuy Corporation Limited – Art & Craft
Held: Last Saturday morning of every month
Time: 9am – Midday
Where: Nhulunbuy Town Hall

NCL Art & Craft is a collaboration of indigenous artwork, local photography, handmade jewellery, precious gems, plants and many unique pieces of art. All of the work is put together by the local community both in Nhulunbuy and from surrounding communities. You will be amazed at all the talented people we have among us! Sit outside under a pandanus, sip a hot cappuccino and nibble on some fresh home made goodies, while getting a back massage!!! Sounds great doesn't it? Come along and experience it for yourself! For more details: **Kendell Kenway 08 89871933**

COMING EVENTS

- 10 Shires and Litchfield Council Elections – 25 October 2008
- Territory Tidy Towns Awards and Forum – Darwin, 6 & 7 November 2008
- ALGA Board Meeting – Canberra, 19 November 2008
- Australian Council of Local Government Meeting – Canberra 18 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

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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**.