

This Week @ LGANT

Newsletter



21 November 08

21st November 2008

LGANT Conference and General Meeting

Thursday December 4 – Friday December 5, 2008
Novotel Atrium, Esplanade, Darwin

New President for ALGA

The Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) has elected a new President, Cr Geoff Lake, at its Annual General Meeting held in Canberra on Wednesday. ALGA also has two new Vice-Presidents: Bruce Miller, the President of the New South Wales Shires Association, and John Rich, a former President of the Local Government Association of South Australia and a Walkerville councillor.

Cr Lake is a councillor at the City of Monash and was Vice President of the Australian Local Government Association and President of the Municipal Association of Victoria from 2004-06. He works as a lawyer with a national law firm.

Former President Cr Paul Bell served for two two-year terms and under ALGA's Constitution was ineligible to stand again.

ALGA's Chief Executive Officer Adrian Beresford-Wylie said the election of 28 year-old Cr Lake was 'a generational hand-over' and would ensure that ALGA continued to forge ahead with energy and enthusiasm. Cr Lake will be a fresh face at the next meeting of the Council of Australian Governments on 29 November.

Cr Lake said he had a clear vision and plan for local government to:

- play a bigger part in the government response to the global economic crisis by getting infrastructure investment happening locally;
- reduce unnecessary red tape; and
- raise the standard in council performance.

"There is an unprecedented opportunity for local government to be at the forefront of the Prime Minister's COAG reform agenda and I will ensure the sector is an active and intelligent contributor," he said. "The community has a right to expect the highest levels of service from their council and I will work hard to promote and deliver reforms that strengthen confidence in local government."

Cr Lake paid tribute to former President Cr Paul Bell. "Paul has passionately promoted the interests of local government over the past four years," he said. "He has worked tirelessly, determinedly and effectively to secure substantial gains for councils across the nation."



Outback Calling Ltd

Outback Calling Ltd is a not-for-profit national organisation (previously trading as the Australian Outback Development Consortium Ltd) founded by Chairman Bruce Campbell AM MBE – Year of the Outback Founder and Chairman; 2003 Senior Australian of the Year - and established to build on the processes commenced during Year of the Outback 2002.

Outback Calling Ltd is dedicated to the sustainable development of Australia's heartland; supports, co-operates and consults with existing projects to ensure that their full potential is realised and creates and facilitates projects identified as beneficial to the ongoing future of the Outback.

To view a PDF Brochure providing an overview on Outback Calling Ltd and the Outback Calling process please click here.

Outback Calling is committed to reclaiming the lasting legacy of the outback in Australians' minds, amplifying the unique qualities of the outback – mateship, resilience and generosity – and connecting people back to the spirit of Australia. A vital outback will invigorate the nation.

Local Government Workforce Training Workshop

The NT Department of Local Government and Housing, in collaboration with the Local Government Association of the NT, are hosting a workshop in Darwin on November 25, as well as one for Central Australian and Barkly region residents in Alice Springs on November 27. The workshop will cover the following areas:

- Identification of training needs for staff of Shires and Municipals;
- The nexus between employee performance management and assessment of training requirements;
- How training needs are currently being identified and met, or not met;

- Common training needs;
- Identification of opportunities for councils to collaborate; and
- Case studies specific to remote Shires.

The Darwin workshop will take place at the Darwin Airport Inn (opposite the Darwin Airport Resort) and the Alice Springs Workshop will be held at Charles Darwin University's Centralian Campus. Both workshops will run from 8:00am to 5:30pm.

The cost of the workshop, as well as lunch, will be met by the department. Transport and accommodation costs will need to be funded by participants. To register for the workshop or to advise of any special dietary requirements, please call Emma Woods on **8999 8340**.

For further details about the workshop, click on the following link: [Read More>>](#)



Complete Your Training Needs Scan Today!

Calling all Community Services and Health enterprises wanting to take control of the growth of their business and create a sustainable workforce.

The first level of analysis of **SevenScope Training Needs Scan** - an innovative online workforce analysis tool developed specifically for community services and health industries - is ready for **you** to complete online. The Scan is a self-assessment tool developed to assist **your** enterprise in applying for training places and start on your pathway to purposeful planning. [Click here](#) for further details and to complete the **Training Needs Scan**.

\$300m infrastructure funding welcomed by councils, communities

The Federal Government has received plaudits from a broad range of local government and community organisations, with the announcement of much-needed funding for councils under the new Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program. The announcement has been welcomed by groups as diverse as the Council of Capital City Lord Mayors, the Housing Industry Association, the Heart Foundation of Australia, the ACTU, and Keep Australia Beautiful.

The guidelines for the \$300m in local infrastructure grants have now been placed on the [**ACLG website**](#). Councils should note the timeframes for applications for the strategic \$50m fund (23 December 2008), the deadline for providing details of projects funded under the \$250m allocation and the need to expend those funds by 30 September. Details of council allocations are available [**here**](#)

Cr Paul Bell, who was ALGA President at the time, said the announcement at Tuesday's inaugural Australian Council of Australian Government meeting was the culmination of over two years of work by the Association and meant a 'great deal' to communities.

"The acceleration of funding for community infrastructure has been a critical plank of ALGA's advocacy on behalf of local communities," Cr Bell said. "The announcement of the \$300 million Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program, with a minimum payment of \$100,000 going to each council to be spent by September 2009, will see swimming pools, community centres, libraries, sporting grounds, parks and council-run Meals-on-Wheels kitchens renewed and brought into the 21st century. These facilities are the life-blood of our suburbs and our towns."

National recognition for Australia's best local councils

The winners of the prestigious *National Awards for Local Government* were announced at Parliament House on Monday night.

Local Government Minister Anthony Albanese said the Awards - now in their twenty-second year - have helped drive improvements and resourcefulness among the nation's 565 councils and shires, with the winners becoming important examples to those aspiring to change.

"I congratulate the national winners," he said. "They are among the best in their field, setting the benchmark for innovation and excellence in the delivery of services people rely on everyday. The winners have shown leadership across a diverse range of activities including environmental management, youth services, local action on climate change and support for the tourism industry."

- **NATIONAL AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT:** The Cities of Armadale & Gosnells and Serpentine-Jarrahdale Shire, WA;
- **NATIONAL AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE:** Clarence Valley Council, NSW;
- **NATIONAL AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE** (for a small council with fewer than 15,000 ratepayers): Murray Shire Council, NSW;
- **NATIONAL AWARD FOR INNOVATION:** Brisbane City Council, QLD;
- **NATIONAL AWARD FOR INNOVATION** (for a small council with fewer than 15,000 ratepayers): The Rural City of Murray Bridge, SA - pictured;
- **NATIONAL AWARD FOR MERIT:** Clarence Valley Council, NSW.

Over 114 entries were received across the Awards 10 categories. For more information about the Awards go to: www.infrastructure.gov.au/local/awards. Details of the winners are [here](#).

Inspirational Australian wins prestigious award

Khoa Do, 2005 Young Australian of the Year, will deliver a keynote speech at the Local Government Constitutional Summit in Melbourne from December 8-11. To register to attend the Summit, go to <http://nga.alga.asn.au/event/2008/index.php>

Khoa is honoured to have recently received the Philip Parsons Award. The Philip Parsons Award is given each year to a playwright whose work demonstrates an original and compelling theatrical voice, and the competition attracts the highest calibre of artists each year.

Khoa's belief is that everyone on a team, no matter what their background or experience, is extraordinarily gifted, and the goal should be to help others realise their true potential. This is reflected in Khoa's vision for future Australian films "I believe we need to tell bold, powerful and engaging stories in this country. We need to tell stories that reflect the experiences and lives of all Australians," he said.

Khoa's own amazing story - coming to Australia as a refugee on a tiny fishing boat crammed full of people to becoming the 2005 Young Australian of the Year is a journey of courage, resilience and hope. Growing up in the western suburbs of Sydney, Khoa recalls going to school with sticky-taped shoes and coming home to find out that their electricity had been cut off because the family couldn't afford to pay the bills. Hear him and many other equally fascinating speakers at the Constitutional Summit!



Implementation Forums for New Community Services Training Package Forums – Register Now

Find out about major changes and shifts since the CHC02 Training Package and gain an industry perspective on why best practice implementation of these changes is essential for the Community Services industry. You can now register for these one-day Implementation Forums across all States and Territories for only \$420 inc GST. [More](#)

2009 LGMA National Congress & Business Expo- Darwin



Local Government ... Creating our future is the theme for the 2009 LGMA National Congress & Business expo. It will explore topical themes of culture, country and earth and provide delegates with a truly unique experience where our sector looks at the future and what may be possible.

The 2009 congress will attract high calibre presenters from Australia and around the world to explore how we may go about creating our future.

LGMA invites all prospective presenters to express their interest in participating in the Darwin '09 – culture, country and earth, prospective presenters should nominate their congress topic and provide a brief synopsis of their presentation by 31st August 2008 to national@lgma.org.au

For more information contact the LGMA National Office on +61 3 9682 9222 or visit http://www.lgma.org.au/national/national_congress.php

Keynote Speakers

Elliott McAdam...Former Northern Territory Local Government Minister.

Peter Sheahan....Australia's expert in workforce trends and generational change.

Bernard Salt...Renowned commentator and advisor on consumer, culture and demographic trends.

Trisha Broadbridge...2004 Tsunami survivor and 2005 Young Australian of the Year.

Latest Reports in Training & Workforce Development

A Study in Difference: Structures and cultures in Australian registered training organisations

The findings of a National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER) study examining organisational culture and structure in ten public, private, community and enterprise-based Australian registered training organisations is presented in this report. [More](#)

To Have and to Hold: Retaining and utilising skilled people

This report examines the ways in which Australian employers retain skilled staff and the ways in which employers enhance their ability to use the skills of their people. [More](#)

Report on Employment Opportunities for the Human Services Industries - January to June 2008

Read the Human Services Training Advisory Council (NT) report on where job opportunities exist in the Northern Territory to effectively focus resources for vocational education and training. [Download the report](#)

Petition for Preservation of Indigenous Languages



The Federation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Languages.

This petition of citizens from Australia and overseas both Indigenous and Non-Indigenous draws to the attention of the House that we are alarmed at the rate of unchecked language loss in Australia. Over 250 vigorous and vibrant languages on record at the time of European arrival in Australia have been reduced to just 17 which are being transmitted naturally to younger members of their communities. Some other languages are still spoken fluently but the vast majority are in varying states of decline and disrepair. There are also vigorous efforts across the country to maintain and revive languages, in some cases to re-introduce them after many decades of non-use.

Those interested in this petition can follow up here http://www.fatsil.org.au/component/option,com_joomlapetition/Itemid,./catid,1/func,viewcategory/

More than \$2 Million to Care for Country in the NT

Member for Lingiari, the Hon. Warren Snowdon MP, has welcomed the more than 2 million dollars across 13 Northern Territory projects announced today by the Australian Government under the *Caring for our Country* Open Grants.

"The grants of between \$80,000 and \$400,000 will assist the NT Cattlemen's Association through to Aboriginal Corporations with environmental and sustainable farming projects," said Mr Snowdon.

"Weed and feral animal control figure heavily, with almost \$400,000 being dedicated to camel control and almost \$120,000 to cane toads.

"It is also pleasing to see a number of projects working to achieve sustainable, healthy and productive pastoral lands.

"The Government also recognises the Landcare movement is responsible for invaluable environmental work across the Territory.

"For example, the Roper River Landcare group has been given funding to protect the NT from rubber vine incursion.

"The Northern Territory landscape is highly valued, lightly peopled and in great need of both research and care.

"And I am confident the funding will lead to significant environmental benefits and advances in land management practices throughout the NT."

Caring for our Country provides funding for sustainable farming practices; biodiversity and natural icons; Landcare projects; coasts and critical aquatic habitats and other initiatives.

The funding is part of the \$2.25 billion earmarked for the first five years of *Caring for our Country*, launched in July this year.

BIITE Offers New Business Degree for Indigenous People



**BATCHELOR INSTITUTE
OF INDIGENOUS TERTIARY EDUCATION**

*A site of national significance in Indigenous Education – strengthening identity,
achieving success and transforming lives*

Bachelor of Business NEW Higher Education course starting 2009

Are you Indigenous and –

- looking to enhance your career prospects?
- working in the Government or private sector?
- finishing school in 2008 and looking for an exciting and challenging career choice?

Batchelor Institute's new Bachelor of Business offers great career development and work opportunities that will help make a difference to your future and the economic viability of your organisation and community.

Units in this three year study program will be initially offered over one week residential workshop blocks at the main Batchelor campus, 1hr drive south of Darwin. Abstudy entitlements cover travel, meals and accommodation for the residential blocks.

**To enrol and for more information
Speak to an Academic Advisor**

Freecall: 1800 677 095

Email: enquiries@batchelor.edu.au

www.batchelor.edu.au

EVENTS CALENDAR

Forthcoming events

For a full listing of forthcoming events, see ALGA's [Events calendar](#).

- 25 November 2008 [WA Mining & Resource Law Conference](#)
- 27 November 2008 [QLD Mining & Resources Law](#)
- 28 November 2008 [Rudd Revolution? Policy Conference on the Labor Government after one year](#)
- 01 - 03 December 2008 [CSA's 25th National Conference](#)
- 01 December 2008 [Privacy Law Conference](#)
- 03 - 05 December 2008 [ABCD Asia Pacific Conference](#)
- 08 - 11 December 2008 [Local Government Constitutional Summit - A Special National General Assembly](#)
- 10 December 2008 [Integrated Plan on-a-Page: Planning for Local Government](#)
- 10 - 13 February 2009 [Australian Disasters Conference 2009](#)
- 17 February 2009 [4th Australian Road Engineering & Maintenance Conference 2009](#)

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**

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](#)
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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**.