



Australian Local Government Women's Association Inc

National Board Founded at Canberra, 1951
ABN 58853 856 904 Inc A0020253H

From the ALGWA Board, a summary of the National Executive meeting held September 2013

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Our president, Kathy, has been busy attending various events, networking and showcasing the outstanding work of ALGWA. Kathy has represented ALGWA at:

- Annual Breakfast in Canberra on 18 June 2013.
- Lobbying as the ALGWA representative for the National Rural Women's Coalition (NRWC) to Federal Ministers on the outcomes from the NRWC Forum held in February this year.
- ALGWA Queensland Branch Annual Conference held in Airlie Beach from 24-26 July 2013 with 40 delegates attending. Under the theme "Getting Back to Business", key note speakers showcased the North Queensland prosperity in terms of the mining industry, farming and tourism. Kathy's presentation is available at www.algwaqld.asn.au
- Western Australia Local Government Association Annual Conference and President's Cocktail Reception held in Perth from 7-9 August 2013 at the invitation of State President Troy and the CEO Ricky.
- ALGWA Western Australian Branch AGM - even played the role of returning officer for the branch elections! Thank you to past President Cr Elizabeth Re and congratulations to President Heather and her executive on their appointments.

ANNUAL NETWORKING BREAKFAST - 18 JUNE 2013 AT THE CANBERRA CONVENTION CENTRE

The Annual Networking Breakfast was an outstanding success with 80 delegates attending from across Australia representing all levels of government and allied organisations including Minister Catherine King, Speaker Anna Burke, Senator Claire Moore and Margaret Reynolds. Prof David Headon was our exceptional guest speaker for the morning providing a very insightful look at the Centenary of Canberra including the role of key women during this time.

Kathy had the great honour of presenting a \$5,000 donation to ALGA President, Felicity-Anne Lewis for the 'YES' vote for Constitutional Recognition for Local Government. It is very disappointing that with the change in Federal Government that the vote did not go ahead.

LATE NEWS: ALGA has refunded our donation of \$5,000.

DATE CLAIMER: We will again be holding our Annual Networking Breakfast as part of the ALGA National General Assembly next year. Don't miss out - Monday, 16 June 2013 at the Canberra Convention Centre.

5050VISION PROGRAM AND GENDER EQUITY CONFERENCE

Interest in the Program continues to grow with an increased number of enquiries being received by LGAQ following the publicity for the Gender Equity Conference. It is very unfortunate that due to low registration numbers the Conference has been postponed until next year.

The Gender Equity Conference was one of the main topics of conversation for the Steering Committee. Feedback indicates that there were several reasons for the poor registration numbers including cost of travel (not registration fees), upcoming federal election, timeframes for gaining approval to attend conference by Council and the limitation and high volume of conferences currently offered.

The Executive along with our Program Mangers are investigating options for hosting this conference in the new year including webinars or aligning it with other conferences or seminars as a way to include delegates who are unable to travel to Brisbane.

LGAQ have contracted a statistician, Denise Conroy, who will be collating information on gender equity initially in Queensland but will also be contacting Executive members to gather information in their states.

Awards

Currently eight Councils hold Silver Awards and Devonport City Council in Tasmania is working towards the Gold Award, which will be the first one in Australia. Further information is available on the website - www.5050vision.com.au.

The Executive will have an opportunity to meet with the Program Managers as part of their training day hosted by LGAQ on 22 November 2013.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Our Annual Networking Breakfast provided a small profit to ALGWA of \$1,368. Thank you Alwyn for the amazing work you do as Treasurer in keeping us all on track financially!

The Executive will be developing a Risk Management Policy as part of their training day in November.

LAUNCHING OUR NEW WEBSITE

Check out our new on-line presence!

www.algwa.net.au

We are happy to receive feedback so please email secretary@algwa.net.au with any suggestions.

STATE BRANCH REPORTS

Queensland

The state conference was very successful and President, Cr Clifford, was honoured to have the welcome presentation provided by the President of LGAQ, Cr Margaret de Wit and the conference officially opened by Her Excellency Ms Penelope Wensley AC, Governor of Queensland.

Two motions were discussed at the Queensland Branch AGM including requesting the Queensland State Government to reinstate the Water & Sewerage Program to assist local governments meet the demands of infrastructure requirements of the community and lobbying for consistency in requirements for sitting candidates versus new candidate in local government elections.

The Executive is focused on developing its members and offered a bursary valued at \$1,500 each for two (2) members to attend the Gender Equity Conference. As a development opportunity for the Executive, registration costs were also to be covered for Executive members who wished to attend.

In support of the campaign for Constitutional Recognition for Local Government, the branch donated \$1,000 towards this very worthwhile campaign.

Victoria

ALGWA Victoria together with VLGA hosted a workshop for 30 female mayors. The branch also had the opportunity to co-host a delegation for China along side the National Council for Women Victoria. In support of the Constitutional Recognition Campaign, the branch donated \$1,000 to MAV for the Fund.

ALGWA Victoria will celebrate its 50th Anniversary this year. Two events are planned to celebrate this milestone - a lunch in Geelong on 15 September 2013 and a cocktail function in Melbourne Town Hall on 24 October 2013 which is the actual anniversary date!

Planning continues for the 2014 Annual State Conference to be held in Nillumbik. The Executive has also been proactive in reviewing and updating their brochures and promotional material so don't forget to check it out.

Tasmania

Elections for the Branch Executive were held at the recent Annual General meeting (AGM) with Heather Chong from Clarence City Council being appointed as the new President, Sharon Carnes as new Secretary and Cheryl Fuller as Vice President. Congratulations to your all!

As part of the Local Government Association of Tasmania's Conference, ALGWA Tasmania hosted a fund raiser cocktail function which raised \$930 for the branch.

South Australia

ALGWA South Australia has been very proactive in arranging a number of functions for their members including:

- 19 July 2013 - event sponsored by Wallmans Lawyers. Members heard about the life of Queen Adelaide, after whom Adelaide was named. This interesting story told of the challenges she faced in her life after marrying King Albert who was over 20 years older and having 11 children; a great woman who had many qualities. A lawyer on their Board also gave a presentation on the 'Tips and Traps' of using Social media and the many ways in which we need to be careful and consider just where any message would go!
- 25 October 2013 - AGM and Mini-Conference. A former Mayor will talk on 'How to achieve the next level' and how to 'come back' after an election defeat. A presentation on the ICAC and how it will affect councillors will be given by Normans Lawyers along with the Code of Conduct, followed by the AGM when there will be the election of officers for the next 2 years.
- 30 November 2013 - a Christmas Brunch.

Work has continued on organising the upcoming 2015 ALGWA National Conference to be held in the Barossa Valley from 25-27 March 2015.

Northern Territory

It is great news that Pam will remain as the ALGWA Northern Territory Branch President following the elections at the recent AGM. Amber Garden is the new Secretary. Congratulations to you both! The Branch is discussing options to hold functions with the possibility of aligning it with LGMA or hosting another breakfast which was very successful this year and extended an invitation for Kathy to attend.

Western Australia

ALGWA Western Australia held their AGM on Thursday, 8 August 2013 at the Perth Convention & Exhibition Centre as part of the WALGA Conference. Elections took place for the Executive with Mayor Heather Henderson (Subiaco) being elected as President, Cr Elizabeth Re (Stirling) elected as City Vice President, Cr Jill Mathwin (Kojonup) elected as Country Vice President and DLM Janet Davidson (City of Perth) elected as the Secretary/Treasurer. Congratulations!

The branch held a very successful workshop on Bullying and Harassment conducted by Kott Gunning Lawyers, plus post event reception hosted by the City of Subiaco.

Janet also attended the ALGA Board in Canberra on Sunday 16 June 2013 as the ALGWA observer.

2015 ALGWA NATIONAL CONFERENCE - 25-27 MARCH 2013

The theme for the conference is '**STEP UP & TOP UP AT THE BAROSSA**'

A six person sub-committee has been established with Betty chairing the group. The sub-committee recently visited the area to investigate options for the conference program and options for hosting a study tour' are being discussed.

Stay tuned for further information in the coming months and don't forget to put these dates in your diary!

NEW CONTACT DETAILS FOR THE EXECUTIVE

Kathy Bensted	president@algwa.net.au
Alwyn Friedersdorff	treasurer@algwa.net.au
Karen Murray	secretary@algwa.net.au

FACEBOOK

Is anyone interested in managing the ALGWA Facebook page?

We would love to hear from you! If you can manage the page please contact ALGWA Secretary Karen Murray at secretary@algwa.net.au

Members who 'tweet' are encouraged to use the #algwa

NEXT MEETING

Executive Training Day - LGAQ House, Newstead - Friday, 22 November 2013 covering the follow topics:

- Gender Equity
- Strategic Plan - all Branches are encouraged to review and provide feedback
- Risk Management Policy

Annual General Meeting and National Executive meeting - Herbert Geer Offices, Brisbane - Saturday, 23 November 2013

Contact Karen Murray, Secretary, at secretary@algwa.net.au for further information on the upcoming AGM.