



Australian Local Government Women's Association

National Board Founded at Canberra, 1951

ABN 58853 856 904 Inc A0020253H

President's Newsletter

December 2012

Hi Members,

This is my first official HELLO to the members of ALGWA and our partners across Australia.

I am sure you are all very well briefed in that the Biannual General Meeting was held on 10 November 2012 in beautiful Ipswich, here in Queensland. I was honoured to be endorsed as President for the next 2 years, and pleased to also welcome the new executive –

- ❖ Cr Coral Ross (Victoria) – Vice President
- ❖ Ms Karen Murray (Queensland) – Secretary, and
- ❖ Cr Alwyn Friedersdorff (Tasmania) – Treasurer.

Each of your States is represented by your endorsed delegate on the National Board.



National delegates at Ipswich November 2012 – left to right – Mrs Pam Robinson (NT), Cr Betty Gill (SA), Cr Alwyn Friedersdorff (Tas), Ms Kathy Bensted (Qld), Cr Janet Davidson (WA), Mrs Jean Wise (Vic), Mrs Nicole Campbell (NSW)

We as the National Board approach issues and opportunities at a National level and always very conscious of the excellent work your State Branches are doing.

I have certainly hit the ground running, and would like to personally thank the legacy of terrific work and goals set by previous President Cr Darriea Turly and her executive. Darriea is well known for her passion in supporting and encouraging Women in Local Government, and as under her guidance as Vice President for the past year, I intend to emulate those same aims by working with our partnerships for women in local government.

My ambition is to engage all members to ensure the National Body is meeting our member's expectations and requirements, so it is important that you also talk with your delegate to communicate your ideas. There is a brand new webpage up and running linked to every State Branch, from which we can distribute news and opportunities. We are now also on Facebook!

The most existing step forward in the Australian arena of gender equity is that today I signed a contract with the Local Government Association of Queensland for LGAQ to provide the 5050Vision - Councils for Gender Equity program on behalf of ALGWA, with funding provide by the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) until June 2015. ACELG (The Australian Centre of Excellence in Local Government) completed their contract with ALGWA in June 2012, and with a further funding package from the Commonwealth, the program will be enhanced to include building sustainable partnerships with national organisations with clear and shared commitments to work together to achieve greater participation by women in local government. These partnerships and the work LGAQ will do will provide data that we can all use to explain the current picture and to get that balance in gender equity. LGAQ will also be establishing a "Gender Equity State of the Nation" conference.

Keep your eye out for the new branding for the program, with LGAQ officially launching the website in January. LGAQ will be in contact with every Mayor and every CEO or GM across Australia to invite your councils to be part of the program. The benefits are huge!



Some more opportunities currently being negotiated by ALGWA include the Annual Breakfast in Canberra during the ALGA National Assembly in June, and the next National Conference in South Australia in 2015.

The February 2013 National meeting will include work on the Strategic Plan, and considerations of updates to our current Constitution. Ensure you are keeping informed, and please let us know as your National body how best we can further opportunities on your behalf.

I would like to take the opportunity to wish all a very Merry Christmas, and may 2013 be even more successful for you, your families and friends. I look forward to catching up with you at some point over the next 2 years.

Regards,

Kathy Bensted

President

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