

## Northern Territory Branch 2013-2014



The Executive Committee elected for the 2013-2014 term -

### **President**

Pam Robinson OAM  
City of Palmerston, Environment & Climate Change Strategic Planner.  
[pam.robinson@palmerston.nt.gov.au](mailto:pam.robinson@palmerston.nt.gov.au)

### **Vice-President**

Clair O'Brien  
Grazier and former Deputy Mayor, Roper Gulf Shire.  
[ctz.obrien@bigpond.com](mailto:ctz.obrien@bigpond.com)

### **Secretary**

Amber Garden,  
City of Darwin, Senior Employee Relations Advisor  
[A.Garden@darwin.nt.gov.au](mailto:A.Garden@darwin.nt.gov.au)

### **Treasurer**

Alderman Sue McKinnon,  
City of Palmerston  
[sue.mckinnon@palmerston.nt.gov.au](mailto:sue.mckinnon@palmerston.nt.gov.au)

### **Committee Members**

Anne Hammond	Dyaane Allport,
Formerly Darwin	Adelaide River

### Update on Committee Members.

Anne Hammond has completed her outstanding work during her 5 year contract with the City of Darwin as Manager of Strategies and Outcomes. In December, she and her husband Graeme, who was a Ranger with the City of Darwin, returned to their home in South Australia. Anne will continue her Local Government interests as a Consultant, taking up her new career in 2014. We expect we may well see Anne back in the NT as a result. We are very pleased that Anne has agreed to continue her position on the ALGWA NT Branch Committee until the next AGM in June.

Dyaane Allport, who was previously with the City of Palmerston as their Environmental/Emergency Operations Officer for many years has resigned from Council due to illness. Dy is currently managing cancer in her life and I might say with an enormously positive approach – is full of good humour and is giving her all to what is required of her at this time. As a well-known Adelaide River personality who has given many years to community and volunteer activities, particularly in her role as Captain of the Adelaide River Fire and Emergency Services Unit, we are delighted that Dyaane wishes to continue in her role as an Executive Member of our Branch.....and as I type I know she is somewhere else encouraging someone to join ALGWA NT.

In early 2014 ALGWA NT will seek to find another ALGWA NT Member to join the Executive Team so that we can continue our active program.

### ALGWA NT Branch and LGMA NT Division Networking Events:



November saw the ALGWA NT Branch join the LGMA NT Division to provide two events for current, new and prospective members for each organisation to socially mix, mingling and network.

The Alice Springs event was held on Sunday 10 November, following the LGMA NT Division AGM.

What a big few days it was in Alice Springs, with the above two events happening in and around the Local Government Association NT AGM and General Meeting, and the various dinners being held by the Mayors/CEO's and other groupings.

So whilst it was a small gathering for our event it was none-the-less a perfect time to hold it given it is always important to try and have such gatherings when so many from across the vast distances of the Northern Territory are going to be together in the one location.

We thank the Alice Springs Town Council and Mayor Ryan for providing us with a great welcome and generous hospitality in their Town Hall.

*L-R: Pam Robinson (President ALGWA NT), Ricki Bruhn (President LGMA NT), Katrina Fong Lim (Lord Mayor City of Darwin), Ian Abbott (Mayor City of Palmerston)*

Monday 25 November was the second of the two networking events. Again not a large gathering but with a good atmosphere and both LGMA NT Division and ALGWA NT Branch gained some new members – and even caught up with one or two to renew their subscriptions! We thank the City of Darwin for hosting the event in their Function Room.



The Lord Mayor of the City of Darwin Katrina Fong Lim and Mayor of the City of Palmerston Ian Abbott gave all present a warm welcome indicating strong support to both ALGWA and LGMA for holding such an event.

Lord Mayor Katrina Fong Lim is a member of ALGWA NT and subsequent to the event in Darwin the City of Palmerston has become the **First** individual Council in the NT to take out membership of ALGWA NT.

*L-R: Brendan Dowd (CEO City of Darwin), Tim Garden, Dyaane Allport (Executive Member ALGWA NT, Adelaide River), Jan Peters (City of Palmerston)*

I would like to thank Ricki Bruhn, President and the Members of LGMA NT Executive for ‘giving it a go with us’ so that both organisations could jointly host the social networking events. As the Presidents, both Ricki and I agree it was a successful idea. This means it augers well for ‘another something-somewhere event together’ another time.

## **ALGWA NT BREAKFAST, FRIDAY 7 FEBRUARY, ‘OUR NEXT BIG EVENT’**



ALGWA President, Kathy Benstead has accepted our invitation to visit the Northern Territory Branch in 2014.

We are delighted Kathy will attend the ALGWA NT February Breakfast and will have an opportunity to say a few words. We will also arrange some other opportunities around her visit so that we can provide Kathy with a good sense of local government in the Northern Territory, while we also benefit from discussions with her in regards to an update of the 50:50 Vision, Gender Equity Program, national priorities for ALGWA and other current matters at that time.

**NB: Secretary’s Notes:** Information about the breakfast, how you can book and other details are provided by Amber Garden under her section as Secretary.

Please get this important date in your diary now and bring along a colleague or two to the breakfast. Most importantly please make an early booking indicating your attendance with Amber. Additional guests can be added at a later stage.

We are delighted to have John McNeur, Regional Development Officer, Volunteering SA-NT Inc.as our guest speaker.

## **Where are the Women?**

A 2 minute video that captures the image of leadership portrayed in mainstream media during a one week period put together by a student. See on <http://youtu.be/7xJhVuRzaJs>

## **ACELG/ANZSOG 2014 Excellence in Local Government Leadership Program**

National President Kathy forwarded the following information from the Australian Centre of Excellence for Local Government.

“ Please find below a short news item about the next ACELG/ANZSOG 2014 Excellence in Local Government Leadership Program that will run in July next year in Canberra.”

Applications are now open and there is generous provision for full and part scholarships for a number of participants who meet the selection criteria.

### **Applications for Flagship Leadership Program Now Open**

The Australian Centre of Excellence for Local Government (ACELG) and the Australia and New Zealand School of Government (ANZSOG) are delighted to announce that applications for the ACELG/ANZSOG 2014 Excellence in Local Government Leadership Program (ELGLP) are now open, to be held in Canberra as a residential package from the 21st to the 25th of July.

This annual program is designed specifically for senior local government leaders, including mayors, leading elected members, CEOs and local government executives in Australia and New Zealand, and will address the following themes:

- Understanding policy contexts and building strong working relationships
- Leading and managing change and forging a strong CEO-Mayor relationship
- Creating and delivering public value
- Understanding localism
- Problem solving in multi-level governance.

This is a program of international calibre and national reach that will inspire, extend and connect participants. The ELGLP program will deliver lasting personal benefits to participants and enhance their ability to serve their communities. In a vote of confidence from the local government sector in this initiative, a number of full and part scholarships are available upon application, particularly from women, rural/remote applicants, and applicants from organisations with limited resources.

For further information, including the program brochure and application form with scholarship information, please view [www.anzsog.edu.au/programs](http://www.anzsog.edu.au/programs).

Further questions can be directed to ELGLP Program Coordinator Jane Durlacher via email at [programs\\_team@anzsog.edu.au](mailto:programs_team@anzsog.edu.au) . View our latest e-newsletter here [www.ancelg.org.au](http://www.ancelg.org.au)

Kind regards,

MELISSA GIBBS | DEPUTY DIRECTOR  
Australian Centre of Excellence for Local Government

Tel + 61 2 9514 4890

Fax + 61 2 9514 4705

Mob + 61 412 647 233

Email [melissa.gibbs@ancelg.org.au](mailto:melissa.gibbs@ancelg.org.au)

## January Profile

### Alderman Robyn Lesley, City of Darwin.



Alderman Robyn Lesley came to Local Government post cyclone Tracey strongly advocating a broader role than “roads, rates and rubbish” for local government as the community’s representative in rebuilding the community.

First elected in 1978, Robyn has come and gone in the elected member role and has represented in the early days, the new suburbs of Waters Ward as well as the inner city Lyons Ward. She has been passionate about Council staying in touch with the community and its needs, with the development of Local Government in the NT and the role the City of Darwin plays as the Capital City and oldest local government jurisdiction in support of LGANT, TOPROC and other local government initiatives.

Having been an elected member of City of Darwin 1978-84, 1996-2004 and now 2008-2016, Robyn has taken on many responsibilities including:

- Community and Cultural Services Committee, Chairman
- CBD Parking Advisory Committee, Member
- Bombing of Darwin and Military History Advisory Committee, Chairman
- Public Library Advisory Committee, LGANT Representative
- Top End Regional Organisation of Councils (TOPROC), Member
- Administrative Review Committee, Member
- Arts and Cultural Development Advisory Committee, Chairman
- Town Planning Committee, Member
- Corporate Services Committee, Chairman
- Capital City Committee, Member

Since coming to Darwin in 1972 Robyn has been involved in many not for profit organisations and has been honoured with life membership of RSPCA, Life Education Centres and Darwin Family Centres. “My daughter Emma was born and raised in Darwin married a local and I now have two wonderful grandsons”.

Robyn is interested in reading, politics, what makes people tick and how to support a community which embraces diversity, innovation and change. Also, town planning for quality living and good economic development, the Arts, services to the community and multiculturalism are all important issues in her role as Alderman for Waters Ward.

Robyn has post graduate qualifications in Local Government Management from Charles Sturt University and is expecting to complete her studies for a Masters Degree in Business Administration at the end of 2014.

Robyn was a senior manager with the NT and Commonwealth Governments up until 1993, ran her own successful businesses between 1993 until 2010 when she sold the businesses and took on the role as CEO, COTA NT (Council on the Ageing NT Inc.), a not for profit peak body advocating for senior Territorians.

Natasha Stott-Despoja with her daughter Cordelia is Australia's new ambassador for women and girls.  
Photo: Andrew Meares



**16/12/2013**

**Former Democrats leader Natasha Stott Despoja** has been appointed Australia's Ambassador for Women and Girls by the Federal Government.

Ms Stott Despoja will be visiting and working with developing countries to promote economic development and growth.

The former senator will travel with Foreign Affairs Minister Julie Bishop to the Solomon Islands, Nauru and Vanuatu this week.

The visit will focus on how Australia can help encourage women in the region to take up paid work.

Ms Stott Despoja, founding chair of the recently established Foundation to Prevent Violence Against Women and their Children, described the role as being her "dream job".

"As Ambassador for Women and Girls, I look forward to contributing to the Australian Government's efforts to continue this change, to further in progress.

"I want to see more women in our region, but specifically, in the Pacific, elected to Parliament and taking on leadership roles, be it in government or local government, in business, in the community.

"I want women to have the knowledge and the support that they need to start successful businesses and to increase their families' incomes."

Ms Bishop described the role as Australia's "voice on the international stage" which is "pivotal to our foreign policy priority and initiatives"

"One of the best ways to achieve peace and security and one of the best ways to achieve stronger communities and societies is to empower the women and the girls in your populations," she said.

Please Consider Renewing your Subscription asap and encourage others to become a Member



Membership/Subscription Application  
Northern Territory Branch Incorporated

TAX INVOICE

Name.....

Address.....Postcode.....

Council/Shire Area.....

Position with Council (if applicable).....

**CONTACT DETAILS**

Telephone.....Fax.....

Email.....Mobile.....

New Members 2013-2014 and Renewal 2013-2014 Subscription Period to 30/06/14

(Subscription fee is Non-GST) \$25

**Cheques:** please make payable to: ALGWA Northern Territory Branch Inc.

**Direct Credit:** Westpac Darwin – The Mall – 035302 152130 (please advise Sue McKinnon as below if making a direct deposit at any Westpac Branch)

(ALGWA NT does not have Credit card facilities)

Please pay by Cash, Cheque or directly into ALGWA NT Account.

**POST to:**

Alderman Sue McKinnon  
Treasurer ALGWA NT Inc.  
66 Sibbald Crescent  
Woodroffe NT 0830

Email: [sue.mckinnon@palmerston.nt.gov.au](mailto:sue.mckinnon@palmerston.nt.gov.au)

Phone 0434 348 950

**Privacy Requirements:**

The Executive advises that due to the Privacy Act, we are required to have your authorisation to be able to release any information pertaining to your membership or to include your details in any publication.

We ask that the following authorisation be agreed to:

I authorise ALGWA NT Inc. Executive Committee to release my contact details to ALGWA Members, other organisations, or persons for matters pertaining to the Association's interests.

Signature.....Date.....

## Happy Christmas as we leave 2013 and Every Best Wish for 2014



Season's Greetings to all ALGWA NT Members, our National Board and all State Branch Presidents and their Executive Committees.

The festive season is a time for family, friends, holidays, presents and lots of food - and for sparing a thought for others less fortunate.

During this busy period Australians travel more, eat more, drink more and buy more than at any other time of the year. This also means we have a bigger impact on the environment now than at any other time of the year. There are lots of simple things you can do to have a fun and green festive season. Some of the ideas will also save you money! (The Environment and Climate Change Strategic Planner in me felt a modicum of

responsibility to make recycling part of my Christmas message!)

Check out the Planet Ark resource, [The 12 Do's of Christmas](#), for quick tips on how to 'green up' your festive season! For a more comprehensive guide, see their [Festive Season Green Guide](#) as well as other information on this website <http://planetark.org/>.

**In signing off for 2013** - Tis the season to be jolly. But some of those jokes in the Christmas crackers are more likely to make you groan than grin. A man called Richard Batson had a hunt around Santa's grotto for top 10 festive rib ticklers. But you might still groan – so just sending two!

**A few days before Christmas**, two young brothers were spending the night at their grandparents' house. When it was time to go to bed, and anxious to do the right thing, they both knelt down to say their prayers.

Suddenly, the younger one began to do so in a very loud voice. "Dear Lord, please ask Santa Claus to bring me a PlayStation, a mountain-bike and a telescope." His older brother leaned over and nudged his brother and said, "Why are you shouting your prayers? God isn't deaf."

"I know" he replied, "But Grandma is!"

### **The Three Stages Of Life**

**Stage One:** You believe in Father Christmas. **Stage Two:** You don't believe in Father Christmas.

**Stage Three:** You are Father Christmas.

Regards and Best Wishes to All,  
Pam,  
President ALGWA NT



**Secretary's Notes.**

Hello Everyone,

Please see the Invitation below for our Annual Networking Breakfast.

**RSVP as early as possible please with Secretary Amber – contact email and phone on invitation.**

**INVITATION TO ALGWA NT'S  
ANNUAL NETWORKING BREAKFAST**

When: Friday 7 February 2014  
7.00am for 7.15am start

Where: Il Lido, Waterfront

Cost: \$35.00 per person

Guest Speakers:  
Kathy Benstead - ALGWA National President  
John McNeur, Regional Development Officer,  
Volunteering SA& NT Inc.

RSVP: Tuesday 28 January 2014 to Amber Garden  
a.garden@darwin.nt.gov.au or 8930 0647

Payment by direct deposit to:  
BSB: 035302 Account: 152130  
Name: ALGWA - Northern Territory Branch Inc.  
Reference: Last Name

**ALGWA**  
AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

GREETINGS ISLAND

This interesting networking morning will be full of surprises and the odd 'give away'.

So come along, bring a colleague/s or friend/s and take part in our Annual Local Government Breakfast –  
Let's get 2014 off and racing!