

ALGWA Northern Territory Branch Inc
GPO Box 3974 DARWIN NT 0801

August 2012.

Northern Territory Branch 2012-2013



The Executive Committee elected for the 2012-2013 term -

President

Pam Robinson OAM, City of Palmerston, Environment & Climate Change Strategic Planner.

pam.robinson@palmerston.nt.gov.au

Vice-President

Clair O'Brien - Farmer, formerly Deputy Mayor, Roper Gulf Shire.

ctz.obrien@bigpond.com

Secretary

Alderman Helen Galton, City of Darwin

h.galton@darwin.nt.gov.au

Treasurer

Alderman Sue McKinnon, City of Palmerston

sue.mckinnon@palmerston.nt.gov.au

Committee Members

Councillor Veronica Birrell, Victoria Daly Shire.

Kerry Moir - formerly Alderman Darwin City Council and President LGANT.

Anne Hammond - City of Darwin, Manager of Strategies and Outcomes.

Hello from President Pam and Welcome to a new Newsletter.

The Newsletter will I hope provide increased communication between us and give a greater sense of being more connected during the year.

I feel this is important. It will I hope go part way in bridging the geographic distance between us. ALGWA is not like some other 'interest' organisations which have in their charter to meet weekly or once a month. Also in the Northern Territory, we can't as easily meet in sub groups' of ALAWA NT, something that works well between nearby communities in some of our sister States where they develop a regional group.

So let's go with our strengths – which are many. 'Diversity and Difference' being our strong suit and with that comes the opportunity of flexibility to mould our own needs and requirements.

Remember also, as well as the Newsletter, to look at the ALGWA website from time to time www.algwa.net.au

This will lead you to a link to all the State and Territory Branches. On the Northern Territory link you will also find Membership Forms and the Annual Report.

Secretary Helen Galton will update the NT link from time to time and continue to contact you by email at relevant times.

The ALGWA NT Newsletter will go to Members, all Councils in the NT, Local Government Association NT, Local Government Managers Association, Local Government Minister and various other locations.

Over the year, the Newsletters will provide a photograph and small bio from each your 2012-2013 Committee. This will assist with getting to know each other. I will start the ball rolling for the August edition.

Please provide Helen or myself with any news or items of general local government interest that you may have and we will add them to future editions. Whilst we can't guarantee the Newsletter will come out at exactly the same time each month we will endeavour to bring it to you in the first week of each month. Perhaps keep this in mind should there be a relevant date to be accommodated with what you are sending.



In **2003** I came to Darwin to attend the National Landcare Conference. It was my first time back since 1964 when I visited Darwin on a 'gap' year from Ireland.

I loved it so much I then came back in **2005** to undertake some consultancy with the Darwin City Council. By **2006** I was Acting Environment Manager and subsequently took on the Council's new role of Manager Climate Change and Environment **2006 - 2011**.

In **2010** I was one of the 21 National Ambassadors for the Year of Women in Local Government and joint Ambassador for the Northern Territory with former CEO Victoria Daly Shire, Sandra Cannon.

2011 – 2013 I am now on a two year contract with the City of Palmerston, as Council's Environment and Climate Change Strategic Planner. Again, a new Council position with a Council addressing contemporary environmental and climate change priorities.

It is an interesting and challenging time to be here. As the second largest city in the Northern Territory, Palmerston is developing rapidly through the growth of new suburbs, schools and an increasing population. All the hallmarks of an emerging and significant major regional centre, Palmerston is a City working towards sustainable solutions for the built and natural environment of the area.

I came to the Northern Territory from NE Victoria where I lived and farmed for 30 years. I was Councillor for 11 years with 2 years as Shire President in the former Shire of Violet Town in North East Victoria and had the great honour of being President of ALGWA Vic Branch and Vice President of the National Board of ALGWA.

Then to Melbourne, following the sale of the farm, where I developed my small rural consultancy into a larger business, working mainly with local government, government departments and natural resource management organisations.

I feel fortunate to have had the experience of being an elected member of Council, to have provided consultancy to local government and then later to be in the position of being a local government officer. Life is indeed interesting!

ALGWA History

For new members and indeed as a refresher for those of us who have been in ALGWA for a while, here is some history of the Association.

The Australian Local Government Women's Association (ALGWA) was founded in 1951 during the Jubilee Year of the Commonwealth of Australia. ALGWA was formed as a non party political organisation to support women's participation in Local Government.

A National Board was elected following the first National Convention held in Canberra in October 1966.

Councillor Violet Lambert of Fern Tree Gully Shire, Victoria called the inaugural meeting and a provisional committee was elected, consisting of local government members from South Australia, New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland.

All branches of the ALGWA are autonomous; however, their aims and objectives are based on those of the National Association. Branches can hold conferences, seminars and special meetings to advertise their work and educate women in Local Government. National Conferences are held biennially.

MISSION

To encourage, educate and support those interested in local government

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

- To assist in further knowledge and understanding of the function of local government.
- To encourage women to participate in local government.
- To encourage women to make a career in local government.
- To watch over and protect the interests and rights of women in local government.
- To take action in relation to any subject or activity affecting local government legislation
- To act in advisory capacity to intending women candidates for local government election

Whilst there was a great deal of interest and some gatherings of women in Local Government in the NT at an earlier stage, ALGWA NT officially got underway as the Association it now is, with a launch in 2006.

So - What is planned for the next Year?

It is pleasing to see the Executive of the 2012-2013 ALGWA NT Branch is made up of elected and officer Council representatives along with interested community representatives. This enables us to have a keen sense of our membership make-up and what is perhaps required by all parties with what stage they are at. With that in mind we have given consideration to the following.

Standing for Local Government

Given the Northern Territory elections have been and gone and elected representatives are now sitting with their Councils for the next four years, the Executive have decided that perhaps we can leave calling for Candidates to stand for Local Government to another time!

However, mentoring and continuing to provide support and contacts for elected members will always be available. There are many experienced Aldermen and Councillors both present and past who have a wealth of knowledge and who are willing to provide support where asked and/or needed.

You may like to look at information relating a Mentor program held 2010-11 and which may have the potential to be run again in the future, depending on funding. LGANT CEO Tony Tapsell and then LGANT President Kerry Moir hosted the information sessions. Committee Member Kerry continues to take a keen interest in Mentoring programs and is supportive to see opportunities continue.

www.lgant.asn.au/about-lgant/publications/supported-programs/algwa-nt

50: 50 Vision – Councils for Gender Equity

This program has been running over the past two years. It has been designed to be accessed by all councils regardless of their size, location and progress on gender equity. Council's are able to apply for accreditation across three levels – bronze, silver and gold and must move through these levels sequentially.

The accreditation and identification of Councils as 50:50 Vision **employers of choice** will make it easier for councils to attract and keep strong female candidates and officers.

Several Northern Territory Councils have achieved Bronze, with some either about to get to silver status or are considering going for silver. The next round of accreditations achieved will be presented to successful Councils at the National ALGWA Conference in November. (See information about the National Conference later in the Newsletter).

Check to see if your Council is working towards the Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards – you may find they are and you just didn't know it, or they may have received the Bronze Award, or you may find some support by you as an elected member or officer is required to get your Council 'over the line' in whatever level they are looking at achieving. It is up to all of us to make participation happen.

Two Main Events

We will always try and have events when there are maximum members available. This will come by our paying attention to other Local Government events that are on and when many of you come into the Darwin area to attend.

At least one of the events in 2013 will happen this way but with whom and when it will be is not yet secured. However some early discussion with the Local Government Managers Association NT has been initiated in a conversation, promoting the potential of a joint opportunity for ALGWA NT and LGMA NT to join forces and co-host an event for mutual benefit.

More on that potential later when it has had time to have proper consideration by both the ALGWA NT and LGMA NT committees as to the feasibility of the idea.

It is also important that we hold an event of social nature in the Darwin area so that we can showcase the organisation and attract new members. This may mean you can't all attend but then sometimes it is surprising how many can link it with some other local government business to be undertaken providing the date is well in advance.

To this end consideration is being given to holding an "ALGWA NT Meet and Greet" sometime before the end of the year.

The Committee will undertake to arrange the above events.

2012 ALGWA National Conference

ALGWA National President, Darriea Turley invites your interest in the 2012 National Conference.

As the President of ALGWA NT I will be attending and it would be wonderful to see many other Northern Territory delegates. I understand the date clashes with the LGANT Conference in Alice Springs, which means some of you, may not be able to attend.

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

*Registrations are now open for the **2012 Australian Local Government Women's Association National Conference** which is being held at the Ipswich Civic Centre, Ipswich, Queensland from 8 - 10 November 2012.*

The program will include presentations and workshops on a diverse range of topics including:

- *The Future of Women in Local Government*
- *Cultural Diversity - Opportunities and Challenges*
- *Critical thinking, Problem solving*
- *Customer Service vs Customer Focus*
- *Global Issues Impacting on Our Work*
- *Technology - A Brave New World*
- *Women in High Places ... and what it takes to get there*

For more information about getting to Ipswich, accommodation and registration [click here](#)

We look forward to welcoming you to Ipswich and ask that you share this information with your colleagues.

Kind Regards,

Darriea Turley, ALGWA President.

Other Events

We would also encourage you to take any and all opportunities to run a small event in your own Council to highlight opportunities for Women in Local Government. Consider now perhaps an event on International Women's Day 2013 – start planning.

Our mission is “To encourage, educate and support those interested in local government”.

Whilst our clear focus is to encourage women to participate at all levels of local government both as elected members and officers, we should be inclusive and invite our male colleagues to be involved in our pursuit of excellence in local government.

We all need to work together to ensure better understanding and outcomes for women in local government and indeed for the health of local government generally.

I look forward to assisting where I can during the next 12 months and meeting as many of you as possible.

Until next time,

Regards
Pam

President ALGWA NT
pam.robinson@palmerston.nt.gov.au

Secretary's Notes:

I look forward to working with Pam, the Executive Committee and all Members in 2012-13.

I will be forwarding information I receive from the ALGWA National Committee and other organisations to you from time to time.

If you need to contact me please do so on 0400659661 or h.galton@darwin.nt.gov.au

Cheers
Helen.