

**ALGWA Northern Territory Branch Inc
GPO Box 3974 DARWIN NT 0801**

September 2012.

Northern Territory Branch 2012-2013



The Executive Committee

President:

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

pam.robinson@palmerston.nt.gov.au

Vice President

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

ctz.obrien@bigpond.com

Secretary

Alderman Helen Galton, City of Darwin

Email: 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, former President of LGANT and Alderman, Darwin City Council.

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

Hello from President Pam

The Newsletter seems to have 'hit the spot' with several of you as a way we can be more connected during the year.

As we know ALGWA NT can't as easily meet in sub groups' due to distance, something that works well between nearby communities in some of our sister State where they have a bigger membership base and 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. The Newsletter is part of that outlook.

Newsletter to become bi-monthly rather than monthly edition.

Due to the speed with which the months seem to go around 'these days' - and a recent increase in existing and new work commitments for both the President and Secretary of ALGWA NT, the Newsletter will be produced bi monthly rather than monthly. The next edition will be the November edition.

Whilst we can't guarantee the Newsletter will come out at exactly the same time in the month of issue - and indeed the September edition is a case in point as both Helen and I have been away a great deal of September with interstate commitments - we will endeavour to bring the Newsletter to you earlier than later in the month of issue. Perhaps keep this in mind should there be a relevant date to be accommodated with what you are sending.

Also continue to encourage colleagues and friends interested in Local Government to join our Association. The annual subscription of \$25 is a modest token amount and is set to make joining very available to all current and prospective members and to encourage Councils to provide membership to staff.

The main aims of ALGWA NT are

- To provide experience,
- Share knowledge and information
- To assist and support local government staff members to find ways to develop their professional skills and
- To support those proposing to stand in Council elections.

Remember also, that as well as the Newsletter, you can non-the-less meet at any time as a group in your own Municipality, even if just where few can get together to meet from time to time.

The ALGWA Newsletter is going to NT Branch Members, all Councils in the NT, Local Government Association NT, Local Government Managers Association NT, NTG Local Government Minister and to various other people and locations. Please take the opportunity to make the Newsletter available to elected and work colleagues in your Council and to groups in the community where you think news of our organisation would be of interest.

Please provide Helen or myself with any news or items of general local government interest that you may have and you would like others to know about and we will add them to future editions.

Feedback: Support to candidates in the 2012 Local Government Elections.

Since the Local Government Elections earlier this year, several of our members who were successful in winning a Council seat and others with interests in our Association but who were not successfully returned or who did not gain a seat in their first attempt - have commented on the support received from ALGWA NT and ALGWA Members with their campaign. You will have been thanked individually from the candidate you supported, but I think it is worth noting here that ALGWA NT as an organisation was appreciated in this regard.

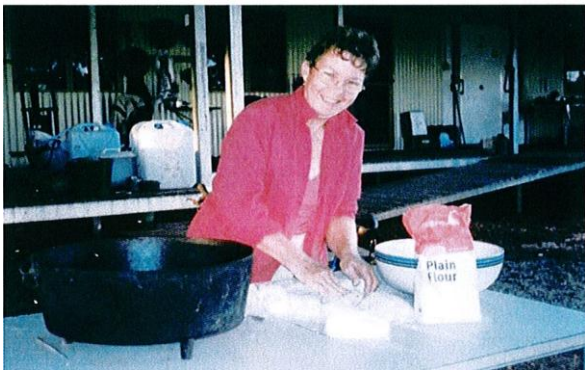
I think this speaks volumes for what our Association and membership can offer. The pre election seminars and workshops provided valuable mentoring and information on the 'How to Go About It'. Then hearing directly from elected members about 'What to Expect', gave a reality check to the future being contemplated. Clearly this was well done as no-one pulled out from standing after these sessions!

Additional support given to candidates by many ALGWA NT Members, in terms of handing out flyers for candidates and attending their booths on Election Day, ensured we 'walked the talk' in terms of the support we can and do give from ALGWA NT.

September Profile:

ALGWA NT Vice President Clair O'Brien, Farmer, former Deputy Mayor, Roper Gulf Shire

Firstly, let me tell you that Clair is featured in the current edition of the prestigious RM Williams magazine "Outlook", in the Section "Women on the Land". Clair has also been very busy in recent weeks with bushfires in her region - but still found time to make another batch of damper.



The following Summary has been provided:

Clair has always lived in the "bush"; never close enough to see her neighbours or walk to the shops. She has developed a hard work ethic to derive a living from the land in order to sustain her family and yet has still been prepared to help others as well as have an "open-door" policy with her home. Her culture is closely defined by strong family ties; a pioneering spirit; working together to earn a living and raise a family of four (now adult children with six grandchildren aged 18 to 2 years). Distance has never been a barrier to Clair or deterred her from being involved in her "community".

Clair is a Director of the family company, Coodardie Brahmans who lease 500sq km on the Roper highway from the Numul Numul Aboriginal Corporation and have brought the pastoral lease back into production. Brahman bulls are sold for breeding purposes and steers for the live export trade to Asia. The Coodardie

Brahman Stud celebrates 36 years of production of quality Brahmans based on temperament and fertility for functional cattle.

Clair is rather shy but very sincere, approachable, resourceful and a practical person who demonstrates an active interest in, and commitment to, her community as a volunteer spanning 45+ years involvement across a variety of associations at a local, state and national level. Her passion for issues of sustainable diversification opportunities in agriculture and supporting businesses, access to relevant education, landcare ethics, along with a fair and equitable representation and voice for rural and remote people is what drove Clair to stand for the inaugural Roper Gulf Shire Council.

Clair believes in and is standing testimony to family succession planning in practice. Holistic management goals now see her and husband Mike, establishing a 2080ha freehold property, 10kms south of Mataranka, as a learning / sharing experience for others through her Coodardie Station Stay country hospitality in her own designed homestead — "Living with the environment — not against it.....Healthy in every aspect of the word."

**** Although Clair is no longer on the Roper Gulf Shire Council, her interest in Local Government and support of ALGWA NT is shown by her willingness to take up the role of Vice President for our Association in the 2012-2013 year.**

2012 ALGWA National Conference

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

With **Ms Therese Rein**, founder Et Managing Director - Ingeus, **Hon Margaret Reynolds** Chair, Australian Centre of Excellence in Local Government, **Mayor Lynette De Santis** Tiwi Island, Tim **Eltham**, Strategic Community Planner and many more you can see that ALGWA conference is a 'must do' for all women and men in Local Government - whether elected officials or Council staff.

To register for the conference please go to <http://www.discoveripswich.com.au/pages/2012-algwa-national-conference/>

Darriea is keen to see at least 10 delegates in attendance from the Northern Territory.

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, will not be able to get to Ipswich.

However, if you are not able to attend **DO** encourage other Council colleagues both elected and officers to attend and importantly, register as soon as possible.

National Teleconference for State and Territory Presidents and Secretaries .

On Sunday 26 August I participated in the National Teleconference.

The purpose was to attend to some pressing matters for ALGWA and I want to relate some of these with you.

- 1. Gender Equity Contract.** The Office of Women sent a contract regarding new funding on 1 August. The program will be expanded to include a broader scope. The new Gender Equity contract will be administered by ALGWA with the support of interim Co-ordinator Kathy Benstead. The Australian Centre of Excellence for Local

Government, which is a research organisation, got the program off to a great start but is now time for a new arrangement. The transition of information regarding the Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards to the capable hands of Kathy Benstead was assisted by a presentation from Karen Purser of ACELG. 159 Councils are registered, with Council's working towards all levels of recognition.

Information re : 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 of the 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'. It is up to all of us to make participation happen.

Other matters from the National Teleconference for President's and Secretaries

- 2. Constitutional change requirements.** Two changes were flagged. The reinstatement of the position of immediate past president and also the removal of the requirement to give 4 months notice of an AGM and subsequent timelines and replacement with lesser timelines. Both matters will be investigated further.
- 3. Ipswich Conference in November.** See separately information in regards to the conference. The National Board are arranging an outstanding conference and the City of Ipswich is providing great support with venues and hospitality.
- 4. Reports from States and Territory.** As the teleconference was during the early days of newly formed State and Territory Committees, brief reports were given. The Northern Territory was commended for getting its first Newsletter out quickly and a copy of the August edition has been placed on the new ALGWA National website under NT activities. The ALGWA NT development of a relationship with LGMA NT was also seen to be a way other states could follow - as both ALGWA and LGMA State and Territory Branches are keen to grow their numbers and also ensure they work together rather than have competing events happening at the same time.
- 5. ALGWA's New Website.** Helen Harris, Secretary of ALGWA National Board has been working on our behalf with a web designer. As we all know these moments of such creativity give meaning to, "Life Wasn't Meant To Be Easy".

The DRAFT and subsequently agreed on style will be much as seen below. The new website will certainly be easier to navigate and each State and Territory will have its own port to house information of activities in their area. If you have information or an event you would like posted, please get it to Helen Galton who will in turn place it on site for you.

Australian Local Government Women's Association - Windows Internet Explorer
 http://www.algwa.net.au/

ALGWA AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

HOME ABOUT US BRANCHES NEWS CONTACT US MEMBERSHIP EXECUTIVE

ALGA National Assembly in Canberra

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CONGRATULATIONS to an ALGWA Member named in the Queen's Birthday Order of Australia listing:

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National Board Meeting

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WHAT'S NEW?

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women and the Order O' Australia

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Tile Eon Juba Griad 5- e -o renertno to the AFIF Equal Pay Alliance Breakfast on 11 March 2010

New ALGWA Facebook Page to be launched at the National Conference in November.

<http://www.facebook.com/home.php?ref=hp#!/www.algwa.net.au>

.....BUT..... you can join today.

Women in Leadership:

Keynote Speaker at Parks and Leisure Australia 2012 National Conference.

Along with fellow work colleague Simone Drury, I had the privilege of representing the City of Palmerston at the Parks and Leisure Australia 2012 National Conference with a joint presentation on behalf of Council called "Sustainability and Healthy Communities".

On the second day of the conference I was an invited Keynote Speaker, along with Craig Tiley, Director of the Australian Open, Tennis Australia and Professor Caroline McMillen, Vice Chancellor, University of Newcastle.

As President of ALGWA NT - and with a 'women in leadership' bag of experience from some years in Local Government and working with the Environment - it was great to see a leading mainstream conference such as this including the topic of Women in Leadership in their national program.

The 300+ delegates from Australian and State Government Departments, Local Governments, Business and Industry sectors of Parks and Leisure across Australia were attentive listeners. Follow up from my presentation brought about keen, positive and in a couple of instances 'push and pull' discussions over the next two days. All ages of men and women delegates provided me with good information about gender equity activities in their workplaces and the juggle in their personal lives where both partners are on career paths.

Outcomes:

1. The overall perspective I got from what is happening 'out there' is positive improvement, BUT still there is a real and visible cut off getting women from middle management to senior executive level in Departments, Organisations, Business and Industry.
2. There were two very positive commitments made during the Conference following the "Women in Leadership" address.
 - One from a *major* Sporting Body: That a review of the current advertisement for the Board of Directors will be undertaken and that future advertisements will more clearly convey that the Peak Sporting Body is seeking applications from women as well as men for appointment to the Board. (Currently this particular Board has a 1 woman to 9 men ratio, yet increasingly the numbers of people playing the sport are women and girls).

The other -

- A warmly received Statement from the PLA National President to the delegates and guests at the Parks and Leisure National Awards Dinner. An important decision had been made at the National Committee Meeting that morning:

"The National Committee of Parks and Leisure Australia agreed to make a positive gender equity inclusion to the 2012-2013 Committee, by increasing the current membership of the all male Committee by two members - and that the two additional Committee member places would be for two women to join the team".

Contributions to ALGWA NT Newsletter

So, where have you been, what is happening in your neck of the woods and what useful information do you have that you could share with our members?

Please don't hesitate to provide information to the Newsletter. Contributions can come in a paragraph or larger; with a photograph or not; showing a link to a website of interest perhaps - or it could be advice of a forthcoming event.

Please forward contributions to Secretary Helen or myself for inclusion in a future Newsletter.

Until next time,

Regards
Pam

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

Secretary's Notes:

Hello All

Pam and I met last Thursday to discuss current information and to consider future activities especially an ALGWA NT function early next year - we are looking at a breakfast in February. We will also have Christmas drinks and you will be advised of both functions in the November Newsletter.

Please consider attending the National ALGWA conference in Ipswich (Queensland) from 8 to 10 November. Unfortunately it coincides with the LGANT Conference and AGM in Alice Springs however I am sure there are many of you who would like to go to Ipswich. The Conferences are always a lot of fun and a wonderful opportunity to network with our colleagues from interstate and intrastate.

If anyone would like a Membership form forwarded for your colleagues please contact me direct and I will send to you.

That is all for now.

Cheers

Helen Galton
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