



2010 YEAR OF WOMEN IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT

CREATIVE | STRONG | INCLUSIVE | DIVERSE

eNewsletter

March 2010

Welcome

The much anticipated **2010 Year of Women in Local Government** (YoWiLG) is finally off and running and the National Steering Committee is very pleased with the reaction and support received from the sector.

The YoWiLG is a celebration of the significant contribution women make to local government. The primary focus of the YoWiLG is to raise awareness and promote the need for increased participation of women into executive and elected leadership roles within councils and shires across Australia.

Through this monthly eNewsletter, we aim to update you on the numerous activities being held around Australia for YoWiLG, give you some ideas on how your council or organisation can get involved and raise awareness of the many benefits of the increased participation of women in local government and provide you with compelling stories of women in local government who are successful and making a difference in their communities.

We welcome your contributions and suggestions on how to further promote YoWiLG and innovative ideas on how we can achieve our objectives – the Year of Women in Local Government belongs to the sector and its success depends upon your involvement.

We hope to reach as many people as we can each month and encourage you to forward this eNewsletter to those you believe would be interested or benefit from the content.

In this issue, we will be acknowledging those councils and organisations who have partnered with the YoWiLG and for those who are interested in partnering – it's not too late!!! Details are included on how you can partner as well.

Also, we are profiling one of our fabulous Ambassadors who continues to make a magnificent contribution to the sector.

We hope you enjoy the update and again, welcome any comments or contributions.

Official Launch of the Year of Women in Local Government



The official launch of the Year of Women in Local Government occurred on Wednesday, 20 January 2010 at the beautiful Sydney Town Hall. In launching the initiative, The Hon. Anthony Albanese MP, Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government called for all Australian councils and shires to better reflect the communities they seek to represent.

“Given the contribution local governments make, and the role they play, it is absolutely critical that they remain relevant to, and in touch with their communities”

Also presenting at the launch were Monica Barone, CEO – City of Sydney, Cr Marcelle Hoff, Councillor – City of Sydney (on behalf of Lord Mayor Clover Moore), Cr Karen McKeown, President – ALGWA (NSW) and John Ravlic, CEO – LGMA National.

With over 60 guests in attendance, it was great to have such resounding support for the initiative. For photos of the launch, please visit the photo gallery at www.lgwomen2010.org.au.



What being an Ambassador Means to Me – Pam Robinson



Pam was once described as a 'Woman for all Seasons'. The reference emanated at a time she held many positions at the one time: Shire President - Shire of Violet Town, State President and National Vice President - ALGWA –

instigating the Vic Award Bursary for Women wishing to study to improve their career in Local Government; Chair of two State Government Panels, National and State Landcare Advisory Committees to Government, Chairperson - MAV Local Government Week Committee for 'Local Government & the Environment'; member Women in Agriculture Committee and in her local area, Co-founder and Chairman - Warrenbayne Boho Land Protection Group, member of Boho CFA, on the Benalla High School Council and supporting several other groups as well as running the family farm and being a wife and mother.

Since that time Pam continued with her commitments and was appointed to several leading National and State environmental Councils and Boards. Amongst those were - 2000-2006 Parks Victoria Board; 2001-2005 Sessional Member Planning Panels Victoria; 2002 Australian Delegation to the UN on the Status of Women; Chair of the Independent Community Engagement Panel River Murray Environmental Flows and Water Quality Project of the Murray-Darling Basin Ministerial Council and Member, Ministerial Reference Council for Climate Change Adaptation (Vic). An appointment to the Sustainability Victoria Board was a position she would have liked to have proceeded with, but 2009 instead saw Pam take up the opportunity with Darwin City Council as Manager for their new position for Climate Change and Environment.

"My position with Darwin City Council is full of challenges and a wonderful opportunity to work with the Capital City's Climate Change and Environment priorities. Under the strong leadership of CEO, Council is addressing matters of climate change and environment requirements across the organisation as well as in partnership with the community and other levels of government.

The term "A Woman for all Seasons" was to be heard again when friends heard of her role as an Ambassador – all keenly aware that Pam has had an ongoing relationship with local government and the environment for the time they have known her.

Whilst knowing this was said as positive endorsement, Pam with a sense of humour, enjoys

the fact that there was also perhaps an element for some to have given a slightly quizzical thought to the fact that the her commitment must by now be moving through summer and soon to autumn for the Woman for All Seasons! Undaunted, it is enthusiasm and positive attitude at the core of Pam as to what she sees as still much to be done.

Mention People, Community, Local Government and Environment and link responsibility, risks and rewards and you get the Pam Robinson commitment message that she makes to her working in and participating with Local Government and the Environment. It is a life's work and on-going, regardless of seasons.

What are Pam's goals during the 2010 Year of Women in Local Government? "I am taking up my role as Ambassador with pride and enthusiasm. I plan to mention YoWiLG as often as I can, in as many ways that I can and to as many diverse audiences that I can. I have been asked to speak at the AGM of the Girl Guides Association (2010 is a Centenary Year for Scouting) and links have been made with the UN Association NT as well as the Principals and Careers Teachers at Darwin's Secondary Schools and Colleges.

I see this year as a great opportunity to promote Local Government generally, to have final year school students think about careers in Local Government, have staff at Darwin City Council think about how to get to more senior positions within their organisation – especially women to the most senior levels - and support women to think about being elected for Council elections.

Whilst I was the first woman appointed as a Councillor at the former Violet Town Shire Council in its 86 year history and its first woman Shire President, Darwin City Council is well represented with almost half of the Aldermen being women, all of whom have an opportunity to be Acting Lord Mayor during the term of their appointment to Council.

I feel honoured to be part of the YoWiLG as it is perfect for me in terms of my way of promoting women's opportunities, which tends to be a bit less militant and more of a Sinatra "I did it my way" approach.

John Adams, 6th President of the USA said - *If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader.*

I like to keep that in mind with most things I do and will apply it to what I can do in 2010 as an Ambassador"

Ambassadors

New South Wales

Cr Karen McKeown
Penrith City Council

Bruce Miller
NSW Shire's Association

Maree Smith
Port Macquarie-Hastings Council

Neryl East
Shellharbour City Council

Queensland

Cr Joyce Crombie
Diamantina Shire Council

Michelle McFadyen
Longreach Regional Council

Sharon Solyma
Gold Coast City Council

South Australia

Cr Angela Keneally
City of Charles Sturt

Tanya Hook
City of Tea Tree Gully

Jane Fetherstonhaugh
District Council of Grant

Rebecca Thomas
Holdfast Bay City Council

Want an Ambassador to Present at Your Next Event?

Our Ambassadors are keen to speak at all Year of Women in Local Government events. Please contact the LGMA National office with details of your event, ie. date, time etc and we will seek their availability. The Ambassadors are available to present on the objectives of the YoWiLG, what the National Steering Committee hope to achieve with the initiative and most importantly, the Ambassadors can present on their personal experiences and local government career journey.

How Can You Get Involved? Become a Partner!

A link to the Pledge Form and the Partnership Opportunity document is available for download on this email, alternatively, please visit the website www.lgwomen2010.org.au to download directly. The three levels of Partnership enable everyone to participate, regardless of size or resource.

Many organisations are visually promoting their partnership in newsletters, their website and even in employment advertisements. Examples of these will be uploaded to the website in upcoming weeks.

Participating in this exciting program is a worthwhile investment in the future workforce of Local Government. Please contact LGMA National on 03 9682 9222 should you need any further information or clarification on the Partners' Program.

You or your organisation may have recently received information about the **Year of Women in Local Government** Partners' Program. We are very pleased that over 85 councils and organisations have pledged their support to become Gold, Silver or Bronze Partners. We still need your support and contribution to drive the success of this exciting initiative nationally!!

Initial marketing has been completed, 21 Ambassadors have been appointed and a website has been developed to promote the YoWiLG www.lgwomen2010.org.au. The website contains a calendar of events and programs being staged across Australia, as well as providing a range of interesting resources and documents.

It would be greatly appreciated if you would consider becoming a Partner by making a small investment.

Who Are Our Partners?

On behalf of the National Steering Committee, we would like to thank and acknowledge the following councils and organisations for their support as Major, Gold, Silver and Bronze Partners.

MAJOR PARTNERS

Bang the Table
City of Greater Dandenong

The Hills Shire Council
Whitehorse City Council
Willoughby City Council
Yarra Ranges Shire Council

City of Ballarat
City of Mitcham
City of Mount Gambier
City of Salisbury
City of Subiaco
City of Whittlesea
City of Yarra
Clare & Gilbert Valleys Council
Clarence Valley Council
Division of Local Government, Dept of Premier & Cabinet (TAS)
Flinders Shire Council
Gannawarra Shire Council
Greater Shepparton City Council
Hurstville City Council
Isaac Regional Council
Kogarah City Council
LaTrobe City Council
Logan City Council
Maitland City Council
Pittwater Council
Port Stephens Council
Regional Council of Goyder
Scenic Rim Regional Council
Shire of Busselton
Shire of Dardanup
Shire of Menzies
Shire of Moora
Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley
Sorrell Council
South Burnett Regional Council
Whitsunday Regional Council
Wollondilly Shire Council
Wyndham City Council

GOLD PARTNERS

Albury City Council
Australian Institute of Project Management
ALGWA (NSW)
Australian Institute of Project Management
Brisbane City Council
Cardinia Shire Council
City of Boroondara
City of Holdfast Bay
City of Kingston
City of Melbourne
City of Swan
City of Sydney
City of Tea Tree Gully
City of Unley
Coffs Harbour City Council
Darwin City Council
Glen Innes Severn Council
Gosford City Council
Holroyd City Council
Local Government & Shires Associations of NSW
Local Government Victoria
Longreach Regional Council
Mid-Western Regional Council
Moonee Valley City Council
Moynon Shire Council

SILVER PARTNERS

Broken Hill City Council
Cairns Regional Council
Campbelltown City Council
Canterbury City Council
City of Charles Sturt
City of West Torrens
District Council of Mt Barker
Division of Local Government, Dept of Premier & Cabinet (NSW)
Hepburn Shire Council
Hobart City Council
Marrickville Council
Shire of Augusta-Margaret River
Town of Kwinana
Tweed Shire Council
Victorian Local Government Ass.

BRONZE PARTNERS

Armidales Dumaresq Council
Ashfield Council
Balonne Shire Council
Barkley Shire Council
Bass Coast Shire Council
Benalla Rural City Council
Berrigan Shire Council
Blayney Shire Council
City of Armadale

Ambassadors

Tasmania

Abylene McGuire
Kingborough Council

Victoria

Fiona Hodges
Cardinia Shire Council

Cr Yvonne Jennings
Swan Hill Rural City Council

Noelene Duff
Whitehorse City Council

Western Australia

Cr Elizabeth Re
City of Stirling

Kat Pinder
City of Swan

Vicky Small
Shire of Augusta-Margaret River

Jonathan Throssell
Shire of Mundaring

Northern Territory

Pam Robinson
Darwin City Council

Sandra Cannon
Victoria Daly Shire Council

Upcoming Events

March

- 4-6 ALGWA NSW Annual Conference (Moree) Further info: www.algwa.org.au
- 8 UNIFEM International Women's Day Breakfast (Perth) Further info: www.unifem.org.au
- 11-12 LGMA TAS Women's Conference (Launceston) Further info: <http://tas.lgma.org.au>
- 18-19 ALGWA VIC Annual Conference (Melbourne) Further info: algwavic@algwa.com.au
- 19 LGMA NSW Women's Power Lunch (Parramatta) Further info: www.lgmansw.com.au
- 23-24 LGMA NSW Horizon Leadership Conference (Terrigal) Further info: www.lgmansw.com.au

How Have You SUCCESSFULLY Asked for a Salary Increase?

This is the first of our monthly Forum questions and we are seeking advice from women who have successfully negotiated a salary increase. This has been in the media recently and we thought it would be interesting to hear from local government women on their experiences when seeking a salary increase. This information could be invaluable to one of your colleagues so visit the Forum page on the Year of Women in Local Government www.lgwomen2010.org.au and provide us with your thoughts – come on, it's time to share!!!

How Can You and Your Organisation Get Involved?

- Become a 2010 Program Partner: local governments, community organisations, business and individuals can become bronze, silver or gold partners and assist with the continued marketing and promotion of the program. To request more information, please contact Nicole Walker via email nicolewalker@lgma.org.au.
- Using a values approach to drive culture change – love of humanity, empathy, connection (“our secret weapons”)
- Develop a living library to highlight women in non-traditional local government roles
- Use local government women's business networks to promote the Year of Women in Local Government
- Locate experienced female Mayors to mentor female Mayoral candidates
- Create internal leadership development networks within local governments
- Create a web link to the events calendar on the Year of Women in Local Government website www.lgwomen2010.org.au
- Work regionally AND locally to expand Local Government change
- Promote the Year of Women in Local Government through regional community leadership programs
- Re-badge existing programs to maintain the focus of Year of Women in Local Government
- Create leadership programs (local, regional and internal) to build better cultures for women
- Think “empowerment” as well as “leadership”
- Develop a Statement of Commitment for Women (to view Moreland City Council's Statement, please visit www.moreland.vic.gov.au)
- Mentor an aspiring female employee in her career development
- Use *The Way Forward* (available for download from www.algwa.net.au) to bring the issues to the attention of Council and the Corporate management team
- Co-badge your events with the Year of Women in Local Government logo – available by request by contacting Nicole Walker via email nicolewalker@lgma.org.au.
- Arrange for some research, for example, who applies for the various positions in your local government
- Make sure your policy tools are very public – women in community can then point to it and ask questions about how their Local Government supports participation
- Use the arts to get your message out – performance, film, web, other mediums
- Offer local government speakers to organisations outside the sector ie. Lions and Rotary to speak at events

We would like to acknowledge and thank the Victorian Local Government Association for compiling this list of ways to get involved.

www.lgwomen2010.org.au

Contact: Nicole Walker

T: 03 9682 9222

E: nicolewalker@lgma.org.au

W: www.lgwomen2010.org.au