

## 2014-2015 at a glance..



# 20th Anniversary



50 Victorian council members

### Our focus



30+  
Events  
750+  
Attendees



Rate  
Capping



Good  
Governance



Participatory  
Budgeting



Women in local  
government



Child-Friendly  
Cities



Responsible  
Gambling



15+  
Guest Speakers

Including:  
Lucinda Nolan  
Former Vic Police Commissioner  
Bryan Dawe  
Writer, comedian, satirist  
Jan Owen  
CEO FYA  
Alistar Maclean  
CEO IBAC



## From the President: Councils & Communities

It's been a big year in Local Government and the small team here at the VLGA has been working hard to bring the best information and responses to the changes and challenges facing our councils and communities.

In the lead up to the State Government election we continued our advocacy to limit the damage to our communities from gambling and we're glad to see other have joined us in the campaign to mitigate the impacts high-loss Electronic Gambling Machines.

We launched three of our four Governance by Design Panels, which proved prescient given the renewed focus on Plan Melbourne and of course the role of Local Government in the context of Rate-Capping.

These time-limited task-focussed panels brought together some of the most prominent thinkers to develop strategies as to how our sector can address these complex challenges.

The VLGA also continued its important advocacy, research and support for councillors, the public sector and the community on issues such as diversity in our representatives, indigenous recognition and reconciliation and best practice regarding representation and engagement with our communities.

A big thank you should be mentioned for Toby Archer who left us this year for all of his service to the sector for his insight and application in his years on the team.

The outcomes from all of these efforts have maintained the VLGA's place as thought leader for the sector in Victoria.

**CR. SEBASTIAN KLEIN** PRESIDENT

## A word from the CEO: Highlights and looking forward

While local government and communities have certainly changed over the past 20 years, the fundamental mission of the VLGA remains the same - **connecting communities and strengthening local democracy**. As shown by our Annual Report, we ably support our members and partners in fulfilling this goal. During the course of the last year, we continued to actively support council members and councillors (such as the highly successful Mayoral Leadership Conference), worked with our community partners and members (such as the Community HART Awards), and strongly advocated on issues of importance to government (such as rate capping and the Georgiou Review into local government electoral reform).

There are many new challenges facing local government and communities into the future - challenges that remind us of the importance of local democracy, good governance and the vital role of local government. After all, local government is that distinctive and essential tier of democratic that remains best placed to advance the interests and well-being of their different local communities.

This is what local governance is about and this is why the job of the VLGA continues to be important.

I would like to thank the incoming VLGA Board, staff and all our members for your continued support and interesting in building local governance and supporting local government.

**DR. ANDREW HOLLOWS** CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



Victorian female Mayors with Minister for Local Government, Natalie Hutchins



End of Year Celebration 2014

