



2017-2018
ANNUAL REPORT



The VLGA is an independent organisation committed to supporting councils and councillors in good local governance.

We work to enhance and strengthen partnerships and collaboration between councils, their elected representatives and local communities.



President's Report

I am pleased to present my second President's report as part of the VLGA 2017/2018 Annual Report.

In November 2017, the VLGA launched its five year Strategic Plan (2018-2022).

I acknowledge the input of the Board, staff and the membership in its development. The annual work plan will guide the organisation through its four objectives, *Advocacy and Policy, Local Government Support, Good Governance Leadership, and a Healthy, Sustainable Organisation.*

In its first year of implementation, the VLGA has, as an independent organisation that supports councils, councillors and communities in good governance, undertaken its responsibilities with diligence.

Throughout the year, the VLGA has concentrated on working with the sector to host state-wide information and consultation sessions culminating in our submission on the Local Government Review, the Exposure Draft and Draft Bill. The interest and input from the sector was important in formalising our response to the government. Our partnership with Local Government Victoria (LGV) was appreciated. We look forward to the Bill being ratified in 2019.

We are pleased that the Bill picked up our recommendation to include Sexual Harassment (as defined in the Equal Opportunity Act 2010) as serious misconduct by councillors.

The Local Government Women's Charter turned 21 this year and was celebrated at several events highlighting the Charter Champions. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge Linda Bennett who was the VLGA Women's Officer from 2001 until her retirement in 2017. Linda's work on the groundbreaking 'Victorian Women's Charter of 1997' and subsequent review in 2002 for the Coalition led the way in improving women's representation. Linda actively championed the Charter with various councils to encourage them to sign up and pledge to support the aims of the charter. Her sixteen years with the VLGA and her support for women saw an exponential increase in women standing for local government, being successful and becoming mayor. When Linda began her work 26 per cent of councillors across Victoria's 79 local councils were women. On her retirement from the VLGA in 2017, following the 2016 elections, women now represent 38 per cent of councillors: the highest number nationally. It is now incumbent on us to continue Linda's work and realise 50:50 by 2020.

One of the highlights of the year was again the 2018 HART Awards organised in partnership with Reconciliation Victoria. This is a magnificent celebration of what councils and community are doing to support reconciliation. This year the awards were live streamed by radio 3KnD hosted by Charles Pakana.

Our work over 2018, would not have been so successful if not for the collaboration and partnerships in our training, forums and events in particular with Pitcher Partners and KPMG. The *Leading the Agenda* forums delivered interesting, diverse and topical conversations with high calibre speakers giving their time, experience and knowledge to the sector.

On behalf of the VLGA, our councils and their communities, we pass on our sincere appreciation for their involvement.

I wish to thank the Board for their commitment to local government and its communities, the values of the VLGA and their support for the organisation throughout 2018.

The staff have continued to work strongly to deliver excellent outcomes to support the sector.

I acknowledge and recognise Kathryn Arndt for her excellence in her role as Chief Executive Officer of the VLGA and her increased learning and understanding of the sector. Unexpected challenges and pressures within local government have been dealt with professionally which has led to an increased involvement and relevance. Kathryn's advocacy has enhanced the standing of the organisation in the sector. She is well respected by government organisations and stakeholders. We are indebted to her and offer our sincere thanks.

**Cr Marg Attley
President**



CEO's Report

Respecting the past and acknowledging the future

In last year's Annual Report, it was my great honour to report on the first six months of my time as CEO at the VLGA and what was the last six months of the 2016/2017 financial year.

This year, I am pleased to have the opportunity to provide you with a full financial year report.

The 2017/2018 year has been a time of review, renewal and consolidation.

Beginning in April 2017, an extensive consultation process with both internal and external stakeholders commenced that resulted in the development of a five-year strategic plan which was launched at our November 2017 AGM.

This plan moves the organisation away from the previous two-year plans and provides the organisation, its membership and key stakeholders with a clear vision for the future.

Four strategic pillars were confirmed:

1. Advocacy & Policy
2. Local Government Support
3. Good Governance Leadership and
4. Healthy & Sustainable Organisation.

These pillars have underpinned the focus of our work over the past six months and will continue to do so over the next 4.5 years.

At a governance level, and in line with our goal to be a sustainable, focussed and values driven organisation, a comprehensive review commenced of the VLGA's Rules of Association. This review will see significant constitutional reform presented to our members with the goal of implementing a contemporary and fit for purpose governance structure.

It is the intention that the revised structure presented will better position the organisation for future funding and partnership opportunities in addition to providing a model of best practice governance. Unlike other local government peak bodies in Victoria, the VLGA is a not-for-profit and independent membership-based organisation and its governance structure should align with the organisation's purpose and vision.

The VLGA launched a number of new initiatives over the past twelve months, including the VLGA Masterclass, Boardroom, and State Elections Series. In addition, the VLGA's successful Leading the Agenda program continued to draw highly respected speakers and thought leaders in governance and democracy. It provided members and other stakeholders an opportunity to participate in discussions about current and emerging trends.

The end of year Leading the Agenda event was hosted by Barrie Cassidy moderating an eminent panel of speakers discussing the topic of "Are We Over Governed"?

I acknowledge and thank our sponsors, Pitcher Partners, for their ongoing support of our Leading the Agenda Series.

The roll out of the VLGA's Masterclass Series "Governance & Integrity in Local Government" was hugely successful, with several rural/regional Councils reaching out to us to deliver this training in house for both council officers and councillors.

In January 2018, the VLGA hosted its annual Mayors' & Deputy Mayors' Weekend at the RACV Club, Cape Schanck. This weekend was well attended, and participants heard from a number of high-profile speakers on a range of relevant topics.



Key strategic partnerships continued to be nurtured and expanded upon over the past twelve months. The VLGA co-hosted several events which included our highly regarded HART Awards program with Reconciliation Victoria, a Women on Sports Boards forum with the Victorian Office of Women in Sport and several Affordable Housing forums with the Affordable Housing Advisory Group.

In addition to this, the VLGA continued to represent its membership and the sector more broadly through its role on multiple external committees and working groups responsible for the review and development of policy that impacts the local government sector.

In partnership with Local Government Victoria (LGV) the VLGA held several briefing sessions throughout Victoria on the proposed Local Government Bill. The VLGA also represented members feedback to this proposed legislation to the Minister for Local Government, the Opposition, the Greens and other key MPs.

The VLGA also provided submissions to a number of inquiries throughout the year including the review of the Municipal Associations Act, the Parliamentary Inquiry into Rate Capping, Rural Sustainability Inquiry, the Federal Inquiry into Regionalisation and Decentralisation.

To support our events and professional development activities and to provide better access to these services for our rural and regional members, the VLGA has invested in additional technology and resources to professionally record our events. These recordings are easily accessible on the VLGA website.

Late last year, the VLGA was approached by *The Australian* to lead a Victorian Local Government showcase for publication early in 2018. This was a hugely successful publication and reflects the role that the VLGA has as a respected leader in the Victorian local government sector.

The focus of our contribution to this showcase was to highlight the scope and complexity of the business of local government and the significant governance and legislative responsibilities of elected representatives as they deliver, through Council, a range of essential services to Victorian communities and programs on behalf of State and Federal governments.

To support our work, the organisation continues to undergo some reform to better align organisational structure with strategic directions. Some investment is also planned for updating infrastructure to support our work and improve the quality and quantity of member communications, programs and services.

Several new initiatives are also planned, including the roll out of a VLGA Innovation in Local Government Series and a potential collaboration with a leading academic institution to undertake research on good governance and deliver professional development for elected representatives.

I would again like to acknowledge the contribution of all staff and thank them for their agility, resilience professionalism and support over the past twelve months. I also thank the VLGA President, Cr Marg Attley for her support and the VLGA Board for their leadership as advocates and ambassadors of the organisation.

I look forward to working with the sector as the VLGA continues to progress change that will better support the local government sector in Victoria and the important work that our members undertake. These changes continue with the following in mind – “respecting the past and acknowledging the future”

Kathryn Arndt
CEO





Treasurer's Report

The period 2017/2018 has seen a time of review, renewal and consolidation at the VLGA.

Consistent with the work leading up to the launch of a 5-year strategic plan in late 2017, several internal reviews took place the results of which included the appointment of a new Auditor, Standards Accountants and Advisors at our last AGM.

The 2017/2018 *End of Year Audit Report & Financial Statements* reflect the outcomes of this review and consolidation phase.

In summary;

- Income increased by 2.6 per cent to \$1,531,000.
- Net result was \$412,000 which was approximately \$36,000 above a budgeted surplus of \$190,994 after extraordinary items were taken into account (refer below for more detailed information). *
- Total expenses reduced by 23 per cent.

*Note: The Auditors identified \$115,000 of project income from 2016/2017 projects that were completed in that year but brought to account in the 2017/2018 period. Employment (wages) costs reduced in the 2017/2018 period as a result of an internal restructure which saw considerable savings achieved in corporate support functions such as book keeping and IT which were identified to have escalated over recent years to a level that an organisation of this size did not warrant given the relatively uncomplex nature of the VLGA's business model. The net result of these activities has seen a healthy surplus above the level originally budgeted for which the Auditors have commended given that the VLGA's service offer has expanded across a number of areas.

Council membership income for the period increased marginally following a dedicated Council re-engagement strategy. This strategy will continue in line with further efforts to position the VLGA as a respected peak body for local government that compliments the work of other stakeholder groups in the sector.

The 2018/2019 financial year is anticipated to deliver a more conservative and balanced end of year result as additional investment is made to position the organisation into the future, and as part of this, build on the services it provides to its membership.

Specifically, funds will be used to invest in a significant website and membership database which will improve the quality and quantity of information made accessible to members. This new website will include a "members only" portal. A new IT server will also be installed to support the VLGA's overall IT infrastructure which is critical to the organisation's seamless functioning.

Investment has also been allocated for the legal costs associated with a review of the governance structure of the VLGA and the anticipated constitutional reforms which the Board have identified as critical to providing the organisation with a contemporary fit for purpose governance model.

Council membership subscriptions essentially cover the costs associated with the extensive advocacy and policy work that the VLGA undertakes on behalf of the local government sector in Victoria. Additional investment has been allocated to underwrite the costs of networking forums and professional development services while at the same time creating a fee for service model that will be attractive to members and non-members and bolster income streams.

The VLGA is reviewing its current accommodation in line with the provision of member services and the objective to provide a more comfortable, accessible and professional workplace for staff.

Consistent with its focus on good governance leadership, planning is underway to create an important partnership with a leading academic institution to undertake research and professional development in governance at the elected representative level. This partnership may result in the VLGA contributing seed funding to the partnership. However, multiple funding opportunities are being explored.

Retained earnings will be used to deliver on some of the projects outlined above and members should feel assured that this investment, made possible by the conservative management of the budget over the past year and those prior, will position the VLGA well into the future.

The VLGA delivered two externally funded projects over the year - Councillor Champions, Civic Communities funded by the Victorian Responsible Gambling Foundation until 30 June 2019 and the Women's' Charter 21 Project which was funded by the Community Partnership for Primary Prevention grant program.

Cr Lambros Tapinos
Treasurer

Policy & advocacy

Advocacy and training is at the heart of what we do. We give councils a voice through regular meetings with key government departments, the Minister for Local Government, portfolio ministers and their advisors. VLGA members benefit from subsidised training, events and policy analysis. We are a consultative organisation with a strong focus on representing our members through lobbying and advocacy.

Membership

Membership is the lifeblood of the VLGA. We undertake a deliberative engagement process with our members and key stakeholders. We have worked hard not only to retain our existing members, but to also gain new members. The VLGA undertakes regular visits to councils for briefings, consultations and to deliver training opportunities for councillors and senior staff.

We actively advocate on behalf of our members to government agencies and key reference and advisory groups tasked with implementing government's policy impacting councils and their operations.

Representing our members

In the last fiscal year, the VLGA continued to have input on government policies and guidelines that affected our members. For example:

- Officers for the Protection of the Local Environment (OPLE) Pilot Program Stakeholder Reference Group
- Rural & Regional Councils Sustainability Reform Program Steering Committee
- Local Government Performance Reporting Framework Advisory Group

We also made the following submissions:

- Exposure Draft of the Local Government Bill
- Electoral Matters Committee Inquiry into Civics and Electoral Participation in Victorian State Parliamentary Elections.
- Planning and Environment Committee Inquiry into Rate Capping Policy

Advocacy and training is at the heart of what we do... We are a consultative organisation with a strong focus on representing our members through lobbying and advocacy.



Image: Dr Andrea Carson
"Are We Over Governed?"

Training & events

The VLGA is up-to-date with current issues facing councils and their communities, and is in constant liaison with key government departments, agencies and ministers.

We provide authoritative, consistent and quality training. Participants at VLGA training and events provide us with great feedback.

In the last year, we continued to support member councils, councillors and communities through the following briefings, events and training sessions:

- Local Government Bill 2018 - briefings (see below).
- Post-budget Wrap Up 2018 (Victorian)
- Mayors Weekend - extensive training and support for mayors and deputy mayors.
- Governance and Integrity in Local Government training
- Leading the Agenda - We continued to bring high-profile leaders, councillors and community members together to discuss a range of issues facing local government. The highlight was the Leading the Agenda Panel hosted by Barrie Cassidy.
- Candidate training in collaboration with WILD (Women in Local Democracy) and with community members.
- Community Leadership Program training
- Boardroom Lunch Series

Review of the Local Government Act (1989) and Introduction of the Local Government Bill (2018)

In the last year we have seen the finalisation of the review of the Local Government Act (1989) and introduction of the Local Government Bill (2018). The VLGA has been actively consulting with its members from metropolitan and regional areas around changes to the legislative framework that governs local government in Victoria.

The Victorian Government released the Exposure Draft Bill in December 2017. The Policy Unit presented an analysis to councillors in six locations across metropolitan and regional Victoria. We were pleased to conduct these briefing sessions in conjunction with Local Government Victoria and hosting councils.

VLGA reflected council input in its submissions, and in representations to state parliamentarians. We made several recommendations in our written submission to the Exposure Draft and commend the changes that were made in the tabling of the Local Government Bill 2018.

We will continue to advocate strongly for our members during the next phase of this Bill.

Here's what participants said about our training

"I became really aware of the amount of commitment required to be involved in local government."

"It was good to get insight into, and a bit of understanding that there are complex systems in place to make sure Governance is legal, compliant and accountable."

Governance and Integrity Training

"Please attend - it's a must!"

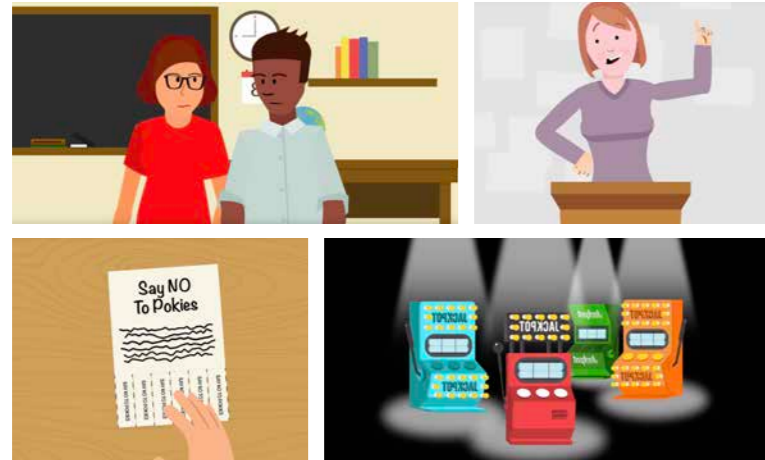
"An enjoyable and worthwhile event where mayors and deputy mayors can exchange best practice so that council performance can be improved."

"A fantastic opportunity to consolidate my knowledge, learn from others and kick-start my coming year on council."

Mayors, Deputy Mayors Connect Weekend



Say No to Gambling



The VLGA's *Say No to Gambling Harm* work has gone from strength to strength over the last year. Beginning 1 July 2017, the VLGA was successful in obtaining a grant from the Victorian Responsible Gambling Foundation to deliver *Councillor Champions*, *Civic Communities* with two key areas of work.

Councillor Champions

This initiative builds councillor knowledge and skills in developing and implementing actions to reduce harm from gambling. We have focussed on building councillor leadership. *Councillor Champions* encourages councillors to initiate and implement actions to raise awareness of, or reduce harm from, gambling. Local government has influence and levers that extend widely across the community and different modes of gambling; from the planning role to work in supporting sporting clubs and associations, and beyond to the ways in which they build community resilience and deliver social, leisure and recreational activities that can provide alternatives to gambling.

With support from the VLGA, councillors around Victoria have:

1. Passed motions highlighting local losses and advocating for reform
2. Strengthened policy responses to prevent gambling harm
3. Initiated actions that hold to gambling industry operators to account
4. Attended awareness and advocacy events
5. Funded actions to prevent gambling harm
6. Rejected applications for more poker machines in towns and suburbs around the State.

Civic Communities

This work aligns with a key philosophy of VLGA work, promoting civic participation. *Civic Communities* builds social connectedness and community resilience with a key focus on assisting communities to build knowledge and skills to participate in licensing and planning processes relevant to pokies applications. We know that communities which engage in these processes are more likely to see applications rejected. VLGA work has been a significant contributor to great outcomes in several municipalities:

- In the City of Whittlesea, we assisted over one hundred community members and organisations to put in a statement of grounds to VCAT in support of Whittlesea Council's rejection of a planning permit and opposition to the granting of a pokies license. After a marathon 11-day hearing, VCAT refused the pokies license on the 22 December 2017 – a terrific early Christmas present for the residents of Whittlesea who would see losses skyrocket if the application went ahead.
- In the Shire of Cardinia we supported community members in their campaign against a new pokies venue in the town of Officer. This included participation in community meetings, letter writing sessions and other activities. In May 2018 the Victorian Commission for Gaming and Liquor Regulation made a decision to refuse the license. It cited community opposition as a significant factor in this outcome.
- We worked with communities in Casey, Geelong, Surf Coast, Maribyrnong, Wyndham, Dandenong and Bendigo to ensure their voices were heard in the Commission. Community participation is now becoming the norm, a change from just 2 years ago when it was common for no community members to participate in VCGLR hearings.



Local Government Working Group on Gambling

Bi-monthly LGWGOG meetings have been dynamic and engaging with increasing participation from council officers and councillors. Presenters have included John Rantino and Kate Lyle from Maddocks on developments in legal cases at the VCGLR and VCAT, the Alliance for Gambling Reform on campaigning for reform, the Victorian Responsible Gambling Foundation on new initiatives and research, Cate Carr, Executive Director Office of Gaming, Racing and Liquor on developments in gaming regulation and Associate Professor Samantha Thomas and Amy Bestman, Deakin University on recent research on gambling exposure and children. Strong and growing attendance is testament to the high regard of the local government sector for this forum.

Women's Policy

Women's Charter 21 Project

In July 2017 the VLGA obtained funding under the State Government's Community Primary Prevention Partnerships program to run a 12-month project aimed at supporting councils to reactivate their commitment to the Women's Charter and its principles. It is also the 21st year of the Charter's existence so the project also celebrated that, and the progress made to date.

The Women's Charter is based on the three principles of gender equity, diversity and civic participation and provides a good platform for councils and communities to take actions that challenge gender stereo types and male-dominated decision-making at a local government level. These are key drivers of violence against women and so the Charter has a role to play in primary prevention.

During the project, 29 councils appointed new Charter Champions and reaffirmed their commitment by developing new action plans. The VLGA developed and distributed a comprehensive guide to action that could be used by any council at whatever stage it was with gender equity work. Another 3 councils adopted the Charter for the first time – bringing the total of councils signed up to the Charter to 71. All councils were contacted during the project with the revised Charter, action plan and other support.



In addition, the VLGA worked closely with a range of community-based support groups to build their capacity to support women to run in 2020. The project has highlighted the need for the three pillars of support to ensure gender equity work progresses in local government – community-based support, councillor involvement and council engagement.

The project finished with two successful lunches – one in Shepparton and the other in Melbourne. More than 50 women attended these lunches and both events produced excellent conversation and ideas and recognised the powerful role of local women leaders in challenging gender stereotypes.

VLGA's Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) – Reflect

After consultation with Reconciliation Australia (RA), Reconciliation Victoria and the Wurundjeri Tribe, the VLGA decided to embark on the (RAP) process, the first stage of which is the Reflect complement. The draft RAP will now be reviewed by the CEO and board before going to RA for approval and input.

Geelong – WILD (Women in Local Democracy)

During August in the lead up to the 2017 City of Greater Geelong elections, the VLGA designed and supported a series of workshops for women intending to run or wanting to support women to run. Over four weeks, the workshops attracted more than 40 women from the region and provided a campaign blueprint to candidates and their support teams. In the limited time available, women were given an idea of what to expect as candidates and councillors.

Victorian Aboriginal and Local Government Action Plan (VALGAP)

As a partner to VALGAP, the VLGA has some core tasks including the HART awards with RecVic. Other than that, our actions are awaiting resourcing and discussion on VALGAP has not really progressed over the past 10 months.

2020 Council Elections

The VLGA has produced a comprehensive candidate guide for the 2020 council elections to guide community members and groups in developing their campaigns.

Online presence

The More Women for Local Government Facebook group has continued to attract new members and converse about issues and challenges for women in councils.





VLGA Women's Officer 2001-2017

Linda Bennett was a stalwart of the VLGA, and for sixteen years until her retirement was a beacon for women in local government and the community.

Linda made a significant contribution to shifting the balance of women councillor representation in Victoria's local government sector. With her diligent persistence, dedication, lobbying, and expertise. She has been a genuine change agent in the field of women's participation in local government, bringing significant and lasting change to the local government sector.

When Linda was first employed at the VLGA only 26 per cent of councillors across Victoria's 79 local councils were women. On her retirement from the VLGA in 2017, following the 2016 council elections, women now represent 38 per cent of councillors.

Linda contributed to this by not only supporting women candidates from urban professional backgrounds but by working hard to reach diverse women from CaLD, ATSI, rural and LGBTI communities.



As an innovative thinker and resourceful woman, she has been able to forge collaborative alliances and funding from governments, councils, not-for-profits and attract community groups to join in 'the good fight' for gender equality in public office. Through persistence and determination, she has reformed the support available to help women run for office through the production of resources for women candidates including two film documentaries, various 'how-to' kits, social media and mentoring programs.

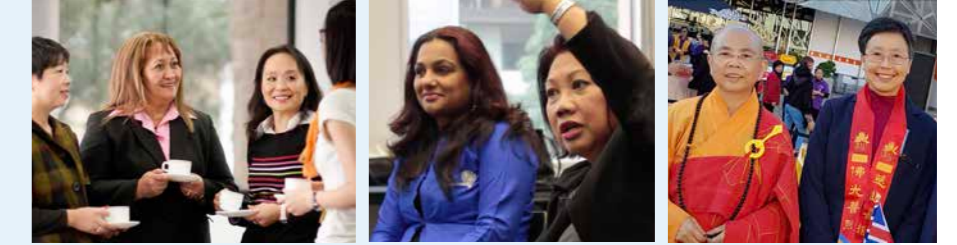
Key projects:

Key achievements

In 2000, Linda was at the forefront of the VLGA joining the Women's Participation in Local Government Coalition (WPILGC) and managed the Secretariat role for the Coalition from 2000. This collaboration supported the ground-breaking *Victorian Women's Charter* of 1997, which was reviewed in 2002 for the Coalition, and coordinated by Linda. She always actively championed it to various councils to encourage them to sign up and pledge to support the aims of the charter.

Linda managed the updating of the very successful resource of *A Gender Agenda; a kit for women wanting to stand for local government and for those who want to assist other women to stand*. (First published in 1998 and then Linda oversaw the production of four subsequent editions in 2002, 2005, 2011, 2015).

Linda has promoted 'intersectional feminism' long before it became a well-known term and worked hard to include the needs of diverse women in the VLGA programs and resources. An example is the VLGA's short film *Your Community, Country and Council - Aboriginal Women Standing for Council* (2014). She managed to gain financial support from 11 councils for this work.



Prior to the 2016 local council elections, Linda led the strategic thinking which resulted in funding to run the *Go Women LG 2016 campaign* which built successful social media platforms on Twitter and Facebook. During Linda's time there has been a growth in women Mayors, with a record 40% reached in 2016.

Linda has made a key contribution to supporting women mayors to network and to increasing the "why not me" attitude of women councillors to step up as mayors. Linda championed mentoring for women and worked to informally link up new councillors with experienced mentors. She had a knack for pairing women with their mentors.

Following the 2016 Council elections Linda was successful in seeking funding for a short video documentary on diverse female candidates. The film *50:50 by 2025* was produced and continues to be a valuable resource of the stories of diverse women in local government.

Partnership Forums



Image: Dr Bridie O'Donnell, Change our Game - The Future of Women on Sports Boards with the Office of Women in Sport and Recreation hosted by KPMG

HART Awards 2018

The 5th annual HART Awards (Helping Achieve Reconciliation Together) were delivered in partnership between Reconciliation Victoria, the VLGA and supported by Bank Australia and Local Government Victoria. The HART Awards were initiated to promote reconciliation initiatives across Victoria and to encourage and inspire community groups and local government councils to engage with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. Each year has seen an exciting number of quality nominations, featuring a breadth of initiatives across the state. Nominations are submitted by Victorian local councils and community groups for initiatives that demonstrate Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people working together, and initiatives that have contributed to reconciliation through relationships, respect and understanding. The HART Awards is an action item of the Victorian Aboriginal Local Government Action Plan 2016 (VALGAP), developed by Local Government Victoria. The VALGAP is resource for councils to develop and strengthen best practice in engagement, partnership and employment opportunities with their Aboriginal communities.

The Hon Marlene Kairouz, Minister for Local Government opened the proceedings and presented the awards for Local Government. Shadow Minister David Morris presented the awards for the community categories.

The event MC was Dylan Clarke, a former recipient of the Ricci Marks Award Aunty Georgina Nicholson gave the Welcome to Country (organised via Wurundjeri Tribe Council) and shared some moving stories about her past. Shauntai Batzke provided the entertainment with stunning operatic renditions of *Io son l'umille anciella* (Francesco Cilea), *Womin Jeka Elements II* (Deborah Cheetham AO & James Henry), *O Mio Babbino Caro* (Giacomo Puccini).

The awards were live streamed by radio 3KnD hosted by Charles Pakana.

The awards are a means of celebrating the excellent work that is happening across the state, and a means for inspiring others.



Board 2017-18



President

Cr Marg Attley – Mansfield Shire Council

Community Vice President

Terry Larkins – Community Member

Council Vice President

Cr Michelle Kleinert – Manningham City Council

Treasurer

Cr Lambros Tapinos – Moreland City Council

Councillor Members

Cr John Sipek – Moonee Valley City Council

Cr Sharon Ellis – Whitehorse City Council

Cr Susanne Newton – Darebin City Council

Community Members

Chelsea Ayling – February 2017 to June 2018

Rae Kingsbury

Core Staff

Senior Policy Officer

Bo Li

Communications & Office Manager

Liddy Clark

Executive Assistant to CEO

Madeline Paramor

Women's Engagement & Project Officer

Gail Cumming

Events

Shayne Francis

Grant Funded Staff

Senior Policy Advisor

Dr Susan Rennie

Community Engagement Officer (Gambling)

Rose O'Leary

2017-18 Board Attendance

Directors*	Board Meetings		Risk & Governance Meetings	
	Eligible to Attend	Attended	Eligible to Attend	Attended
Cr Marg Attley (P)	10	9	6	6
Cr Michelle Kleinert (VP)	10	9	6	5
Terry Larkins (VP)	10	10	6	6
Cr Lambros Tapinos (T)	10	8	6	5
Cr Susanne Newton	10	8	-	-
Cr Sharon Ellis	10	10	-	-
Cr John Sipek	10	5	-	-
Rae Kingsbury#	10	10	6	6
Chelsea Ayling*	10	9	-	-

Directors' Fees

President \$29,630pa

Executive \$5,800pa

Board members

Rural/Regional \$4,500pa

Interface \$3,000pa

Metro \$1,500pa

Footnotes

* Directors, fees are annual pro-rata

Directors, fees waived

+ Resigned 28/6/18



Image: The Hon Senator Scott Ryan

Hosted Organisations

Alliance for Gambling Reform


Australian Local Government Women's Association (ALGWA)

External Committees

- Local Government Performance Reporting Framework (LGPRF) Steering Committee Meeting
- Ministerial Council on Women's Equality
- Stakeholder Reference Group - Officers for the Protection of the Local Environment
- Gender Equity Working Group
- Victorian Aboriginal and Local Government Action Plan - First Implementation Partnership Group Meeting
- Rural and Regional Councils Sustainability Steering Group
- Alliance for Gambling Reform

Submissions

- Municipal Associations Act (1907) Review
- Inquiry into the Sustainability and Operational Challenges of Victoria's Rural and Regional Councils
- Inquiry into Regional Development and Decentralisation
- Inquiry into Rate Capping Policy
- Discussion Paper - Reforming the Victoria Planning Provisions, October 2017
- Environment and Planning Committee Inquiry into Rate Capping
- Inquiry into Civics and Electoral Participation



The VLGA acknowledges the Traditional Owners of country throughout Victoria and recognises their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to the Traditional Owners, their elders past, present and future, and to their cultures.

Victorian Local
Governance Association



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