

National Local Government Community Services Conference

Just and Vibrant Communities



Jupiters Townsville Hotel

**Sir Leslie Thies Drive
Townsville**

27 – 30 July 2003

WELCOME – LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMUNITY SERVICES ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

On behalf of the Local Government Community Services Association of Australia (LGCSAA), I would like to welcome conference delegates to *Just and Vibrant Communities*, the biennial national local government community development conference.



The conference will engage you and your colleagues in inspiring and invigorating dialogue about contemporary challenges, social and cultural policy and justice issues pertinent to your community development work in local communities. The conference themes have been selected because they encapsulate the issues most associated with our practice in developing and sustaining just, fair creative and vibrant communities.

Since 1986, as a means of providing an opportunity for promoting and sharing good practice and social planning and community development, the LGCSAA has organized the national community development conference in partnership with a State Local Government Community Services Association. Bringing together community development officers, executives, elected representatives and other key players from academia and community organizations to hear key-note speakers, share good practice, explore and exchange ideas has been an excellent way of collaboratively improving our knowledge and practice. Successful and memorable conferences have been held previously in Canberra, Hobart, Adelaide, Melbourne, Sydney and Perth. *Just and Vibrant Communities*, at the Jupiter's Hotel in Townsville, organized jointly with the LGCSAA and Local Government Community Services Association of Queensland will prove to be no exception.

As part of the conference, Townsville City Council has sponsored a bookshop that will give delegates access to a wealth of information and published best practice examples relevant to the social and cultural planning and community development field. The LGCSAA's own practice frameworks "*Working Together to Develop our Communities: Good Practice and Benchmarking in Local Government Community Development and Community Services*" and *Just, Vibrant and Sustainable Communities: A Framework for Progressing Community Well-being*" will be available at the bookshop as will the publications of the conference's supporters from Federal, State and Local Governments. On behalf of the LGCSAA and the LGCSAQ I would like to express appreciation to the Mayor and Councillors and the officers at Townsville Council for their warm and generous hospitality in hosting "*Just and Vibrant Communities*" in their beautiful, creative city.

I would also like to acknowledge and thank the Commonwealth Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts; the Commonwealth Department of Transport and Regional Services, Territories and Local Government Division; the Australia Council for the Arts; Queensland Department of Local Government and Planning and Townsville City Council for their funding support and invaluable advice in planning for the conference.

We thank the keynote speakers and workshop presenters for their thoughtful and inspiring contributions. It is our hope that the conference will challenge and equip us with new knowledge, innovative ideas and on-going networks and relationships to assist us in working in partnership with our elected representatives to strengthen democratic community-driven local government and sustainable, vibrant, just, fair and creative communities.

Jenny Merkus

President

Local Government Community Services Association of Australia

WELCOME – LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMUNITY SERVICES ASSOCIATION OF QUEENSLAND

On behalf of the Queensland Local Government Community Services Association, I would like to welcome you to Queensland and to the fabulous city of Townsville – “beautiful one day, perfect the next” It will certainly be great to be in North Queensland in the middle of winter.

Welcome to “Just and Vibrant Communities”, the National Local Government Community Services Association’s biennial national conference. I hope that the few days that you take out of your busy schedules to attend this conference will be rewarding, inspiring, challenging and a time to reflect and learn, but not to forget, a time to relax, catch up, network and to have fun.

The reemergence of community as a central concept in current models of governance puts our sector at the cutting edge of Local Government practice. This presents opportunities for community development and community service practitioners to assist Councils to truly engage with communities and to assist in the building of Just and Vibrant Communities. It is our hope that this conference will assist in that journey.

It has been a big challenge for the Queensland Local Government Community Services Association to host this conference and we are extremely grateful for the confidence and support of the National Association. Also this conference would not have been possible without the tireless efforts of the wonderful staff from Townsville City Council and the Local Government Association of Queensland and I thank them all for their great effort.

This is the first time for this national conference to be held outside a capital city. It is very appropriate though that this conference be held in Townsville as it was one of the first Local Government’s in Queensland to employ Community Development and Community Service staff.

I believe that Townsville is well placed to host this great conference and I think you will find that the warmth, colour, vitality and creativity of the city of Townsville will be very conducive to a great conference.

Eric Moes

President

Queensland Local Government Community Services Association

CONFERENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Jenny Merkus (President LGCSAA)
Moreland City Council, Vic.

Julie Walder
Townsville City Council, Qld.

Frank Hornby
Townsville City Council, Qld.

Damian Ham
Townsville City Council, Qld.

Tom Pavlos
City of Swan, W.A.

Eric Moes
Maroochy Shire Council, Qld.

Stuart Gibb
Sutherland Shire Council, NSW

Jean Andrews
Shire of Campaspe, Vic.

Desley Renton
Local Government Association of Queensland Inc., Qld.

THANKS...

The Conference Planning Committee would like to thank the following organisations for their support and assistance:

Commonwealth Department of Transport and Regional Services, Territories and Local Government Division

Commonwealth Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts

Australia Council for the Arts

Queensland Department of Local Government and Planning

Townsville City Council

Local Government Association of Queensland Inc.

JUST AND VIBRANT COMMUNITIES

Just and Vibrant Communities is about community and cultural development and planning that ensures sustainable long-term benefits to the development of communities, so that they are just and fair, vibrant and creative.

Five themes have been identified as core to the Conference.

- Is integrated community planning a foundation for sustainable communities?
- Social Capital – What are the benefits for local communities?
- How does the contribution of arts, culture and diversity assist in building vibrant communities?
- How can local communities strengthen just outcomes and human rights?
- Is the emphasis on efficiency and corporatisation impacting on local democracy, community development and community services?

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Sunday	27 July 2003
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3.00-4.00pm	Annual General Meeting of the Local Government Community Services Association of Australia (LGCSAA), Jupiters Townsville Hotel
4.00-5.00pm	Annual General Meeting of the Queensland Local Government Community Services Association (QLGCSA), Jupiters Townsville Hotel
2.00-5.00pm	Registration at Jupiters Townsville Hotel
5.00-6.30pm	Civic Reception The Strand, Townsville Official Welcome by Cr Tony Mooney, Mayor of Townsville City

Monday	28 July 2003 Chair – Eric Moes, QLGCSA
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7.30-9.00am	Registration, Coffee & Trade Expo
9.00-9.30am	Opening Address & Welcome

Jenny Merkus, President, LGCSAA

Traditional Welcome

9.30-10.15am

Keynote Address

Mrs Kirsty Sword Gusmao, Director, Alola Foundation, East Timor

“A woman-centred approach to building a just and vibrant community in East Timor”

10.15-11.00am

Dr Lillian Holt, Vice Chancellor’s Fellow, University of Melbourne

Dreams, Dilemmas and Dialogue

11.00-11.30am

Morning tea

11.30-12.15pm

Professor Peter Botsman

Local Government and Social Business

12.15-12.45pm

Dr Sev Ozdowski OAM

Federal Human Rights and Disability Discrimination Commissioner
Former Chief Executive of South Australia’s Office of Multicultural and International Affairs.

“Local Government – Gatekeepers to a More Accessible Community”

12.45-1.45pm

Lunch

1.45-2.15pm

Mr Jon Hawkes

Understanding Culture

2.15-3.00pm

Panel Session – 4 Pillars of Sustainability

Chair – Jenny Merkus

Tim Muirhead (Cultural & Social Sustainability)

Martin Brennan (Environmental Sustainability)

Bill Forrest (Economic Sustainability)

3.00-3.30pm

Afternoon Tea

3.30-5.00pm

Workshops

1. Dimensions of Social Planning

2. Human Services Provision in Outer Metropolitan Municipalities

3. Diversity into the Core Business of Councils

4. Arts Programs & Cultural Development

5. The Information Age & Libraries: Urban & Indigenous Communities

5.15-6.00pm

Meet at the Quarterdeck on the Marina for Drinks and “Community Development in the Pub” with Tim Muirhead

Tuesday

29 July 2003

Chair – Desley Renton, LGAQ

8.15-9.00am

Coffee & Trade Expo

9.05-9.20am

Cr Tony Mooney, Mayor of Townsville City

9.20-10.00am

Rick Farley, Farley Consulting Group

Practical Issues for Community Capacity Building

10.00-10.30am	Social Capital and Local Government Mike Salvaris, Social Researcher Dr Geoffrey Woolcock, Program Leader, Social Capital & Local Communities, UQ Community Service & Research Centre, University of Queensland “Government’s relationship with Social Capital: weekend fling, on and off affair or lifelong romance?”
10.30-11.00am	Morning Tea
11.00-12.30pm	Workshops 1. Planning Across Organisational Boundaries 2. Local Government in Building Social Capital 3. Rural Community Development 4. Integration of Housing Strategies with Local Government Core Business 5. Economic and Community Impacts of Cultural Programs
12.30-1.30pm	Lunch
1.30-2.15pm	Jennifer Bott Australia Council for the Arts, Chief Executive Officer What We Can Do Together: The Arts Place In Our Culture Our Communities And A Sustainable Future
2.15-3.00pm	Panel Session: Does Cultural Activity Make A Difference To Community Capacity? Chair – Frank Hornby Dr Maureen Rogers, Centre for Sustainability Judy Spokes, Cultural Development Network Jan Muir,
3.00-3.30pm	Afternoon Tea
3.30-5.00pm	Workshops 1. Measuring Community Well Being 2. Local Area Planning Processes in NSW 3. How Local Communities can Address Issues of Disability 4. Placemaking & Collaboration on Facility Development 5. Planning for the Redesign of Contested Public Places
7.00-7.30pm	Pre Dinner Drinks by the pool at Jupiters Hotel
7.30pm - late	Conference Dinner Jupiters Ballroom

Wednesday 30 July 2003	Chair – Jenny Merkus, LGCSAA
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8.15-9.00am	Coffee & Trade Expo
9.00 - 9.30am	Genevieve Graves Queensland Department of Families “Qld 2020-A State for all Ages”
9.30-10.15am	Nic Frances, Executive Director, Brotherhood of St Laurence
10.15-11.00am	Anna Howe, Consultant Gerontologist Alive and Ageing Well in Local Communities

11.00-11.30am	Morning Tea
11.30am – 11.45am	Steve Clay Commonwealth Department of Transport and Regional Services, Territories and Local Government Division
11.45-12.30pm	Ms Jude Munro, CEO, Brisbane City Council
12.30-12.45pm	Jenny Slade Scholar & Jenny Slade Scholarship announcement
12.45-1.15pm	Closing Address Frank Hornby, Community & Cultural Services Director, Townsville City Council Jenny Merkus, President LGCSAA
1.15-2.15pm	Lunch
2.15-3.30pm	Bus tour of Social Cultural and Environmental Infrastructure of Townsville

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Kirsty Sword Gusmão	Kirsty Sword Gusmão is the Founding Director of the Alola Foundation, an NGO established to address the needs of East Timorese women survivors of rape and other forms of gender based violence. She is also Founder of the Xanana Gusmão Reading Room, Dili, East Timor. Kirsty holds a Bachelor of Arts and a Diploma in Education (Italian/Indonesian) from the University of Melbourne. She has held positions on numerous boards including Board of Management of the East Timor Human Rights Centre (Melbourne); Director, Fund for East Timor, USA; Patron, Fundasaun Hadomi Timor Oan (Orphanage, Dili, East Timor); Founding Member, Dili Institute of Technology and Member, Board of Directors, Uma Fukun Timor (East Timor Cultural Centre). Kirsty has also published several articles.
Dr Lillian Holt	Lillian Holt was appointed a University of Melbourne Fellow in 2003. Formerly, she was the Director, Centre for Indigenous Education, University of Melbourne. She has a BA with majors in English and Journalism (University of Queensland) and an MA from the University of Northern Colorado, USA. She is currently enrolled in a PhD at Melbourne University; the topic is Aboriginal Humour. Lillian's substantive position before coming to take up her appointment(s) at Melbourne University, was Principal of Tauondi (pronounced Town-dee) which was an Aboriginal Community College in Port Adelaide. She worked there for sixteen years, the last seven as Principal.
Dr Sev Ozdowski OAM	Until his appointment as Human Rights Commissioner and Disability Discrimination Commissioner in December 2000, Sev Ozdowski OAM was chief executive of South Australia's Office of Multicultural and International Affairs. He has a long-term commitment to human rights and his relationship with the Human Rights Commission dates back to the original Commission of the early 1980s. He is the author of many papers on sociology of law, human

rights, immigration and multiculturalism. Born in Poland in 1949, Dr Ozdowski migrated to Australia in 1975 and has held senior positions in the Federal portfolios of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, Attorney-General's and Foreign Affairs and Trade. He has also worked as Secretary of the Human Rights Commission inquiry into the *Migration Act 1958* and for the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade.

Jon Hawkes

Jon Hawkes is an independent advisor specialising in cultural issues currently in receipt of a Community Cultural Development Board (Australia Council) Fellowship. He is author of 'The Fourth Pillar of Sustainability: culture's essential role in public planning' (Cultural Development Network (Vic) & Common Ground, 2001) and has been Director of Community Music Victoria since early 2001. He was the Director of the Australian Centre of the International Theatre Institute for eight years (1991-1998), Director of the Community Arts Board of the Australia Council (1982-1987) and founding member of Circus Oz and the Australian Performing Group. Jon may be contacted on artslink@vicnet.net.au

Rick Farley

Rick Farley is the Managing Director of the Farley Consulting Group, which specialises in land use agreements. He is the chairman of the NSW Resources and Conservation Assessment Council, the chairman of the Lake Victoria Advisory Committee, the chairman of the Community Forum for review of the management plan for Kosciuszko National Park, and an Ambassador for Reconciliation. He worked for rural organisations for 20 years and was the Executive Director of the National Farmers' Federation and the Cattlemen's Union of Australia. Rick now provides advice to a range of development companies and Aboriginal communities throughout Australia. He delivered one of the Barton Lectures for the Centenary of Federation in March 2001 and the 2003 Australia Day Address.

Mike Salvaris

Mike Salvaris has worked for 9 years as a Senior Research Fellow at Swinburne's Institute for Social Research. From 1997 he has been a member of the Reference Group for the Australian Bureau of Statistics' and Department of Social Security's 'Living Standard Project' developing new national indicators of well-being. Mike has worked at the Victorian Council of Social Service on children's rights, poverty and welfare policy; was on the national executive of the Australian Federation of Consumer Organisations; been Chairperson of the Inner-Urban Regional Council for Social Development (Victoria); been policy coordinator for the Victorian ALP and then Senior Policy Advisor to the (then) Premier, John Cain. He has conducted a three-year project working with a number of local governments (in Victoria and NSW) to develop local citizen-based audit and benchmark processes, aiming to promote better democracy and more responsive local government (1999-2001).

Dr Geoffrey Woolcock

Dr Geoffrey Woolcock is the Research Manager at the University of Queensland's Community Service and

Research Centre, Ipswich. He has 14 years community based research experience, nationally and internationally, in housing, youth and health sectors. He has a committed intellectual and experiential interest in community activism and social reform, especially the evolution of progressive social movements. He is currently working with the LGAQ on the Local Government Social Capital Action Research Project.

Jennifer Bott

Jennifer Bott is the Chief Executive Officer of the Australia Council for the Arts the Federal Government's arts funding and advisory body. Presiding over the organisation officially charged with enriching the life of the nation by supporting and promoting the arts, Jennifer oversees a staff of 140 and an annual budget of \$136 million. A member of the Foreign Minister's Australia International Cultural Council and the Commission for International Cultural Promotion, Jennifer is also a member of UNESCO's Australian National Commission. She is also Australia's Cultural Commissioner for the 2004 Olympics. She has a life-long interest in arts and education and her life career commitment is effective management of the not-for-profit sector.

Nic Frances

Nic Frances was born in the United Kingdom, Nic first worked in the corporate world of hospitality as well as a stockbroker, but later established the two UK charities – Furniture Resource Centre (FRC) and CREATE. He received an MBE from the British Government for services to charity. He was ordained as an Anglican priest in 1996. Nic joined the well-known Melbourne welfare and advocacy organization, the Brotherhood of St Laurence, as executive director in July 1999 and in 2001 co-founded the Social Entrepreneurs Network (SEN), of which he is now Chairman. Nic is a Visiting Fellow at the Institute of Social Research at Swinburne University 2002 and an Advisory Board Member with the Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research 2000. The Schwab Foundation also recognized him as one of the world's leading Social Entrepreneurs at the World Economic Forum's annual meeting in New York 2002.

Martin Brennan

Martin Brennan is the Manager, Partnerships and Political Support for the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives - Australia / New Zealand (ICLEI A/NZ). Martin was appointed to this position in 1998 following three years with the Australian Local Government Association as the National Facilitator for Regional Cooperation and Development. As a former Melbourne City Councillor for 9 years, he has a long association with local government as both an elected representative and professional. Martin is a Vice President of the Victorian Local Governance Association, representing local councils, community organisations and individuals.

Anna Howe

Anna Howe has 25 years experience in research and policy development in aged care in Australia and internationally. Her research and policy development work

together are widely recognised as having had a significant influence on shaping the development of aged care services nationally and in Victoria in particular. Her recent consultancies in Australia include work for the Commonwealth and State Governments, on the interfaces between acute care and aged care services and a review of the Tasmanian Aged Care Assessment Program. Anna has brought her research and policy skills to bear on aged care services at the local level through membership of aged care committees in the City of Manningham and the City of Moreland.

Tim Muirhead

Over the last 18 years Tim Muirhead, of CSD Network has amassed wide experience in all aspects of community, cultural and organisational development. The CSD Network, established in 1993, specialises in these fields, working with all spheres of government and the non-government sector. He works in a wide range of capacities, from volunteering in local community groups through to advising on policy and CD strategies to various government departments. Tim has worked extensively with Aboriginal communities, particularly through his work as WA Coordinator of Australians for Reconciliation. This project included a number of large undertakings, including a state-wide consultation (which directly reached 2000 people) and both community and logistical development and management of the Reconciliation Bridge Walk, which saw 40,000 – 50,000 people walk in support of Reconciliation. Tim is the author of *“Weaving Tapestries – a handbook for building communities”* and provides extensive training in various aspects of community development, including ‘working effectively with Aboriginal communities’.

SUMMARY FOR WORKSHOPS

DAY ONE

Monday 28 July (3.30pm – 5.00pm)

Dimensions of Social Planning

- (1) *Dee Elliott and Andrea Young – Sinclair Knight Merz (QLD)* .
Community wellbeing and social principles which influence decision making are critical to planning frameworks within Local Government.

Eric Moes, Bea Rogan and Maria Tennant - Maroochy Shire Council (QLD)
A case study: The journey from the strengths and weaknesses of community participation and consultation.

Andrew Worrall and Bettina Seifert - Westward Urban Renewal (SA) Issues of employment and economic development working alongside housing redevelopment.

Human Service Provision in Outer Metropolitan Municipalities

- (2) *Ruth Spielman – City of Whittlesea (Vic)*
Workshop to explore Human Services Provision, gaps and issues for outer metropolitan Councils. A research report done by RMIT for outer metropolitan Councils in Melbourne will be presented as a discussion starter. Others' experiences will be sought. It is hoped that a network can be established for ongoing dialogue.

Diversity into the Core Business of Councils

- (3) *Lindy Drew – LGAQ (QLD)*
Building inclusive communities: How do we build cultural diversity into the core business of our Councils so that it lasts and it has benefits.

Arts Programs & Cultural Development

- (4) *Nicola Downer - Regional Arts Australia*
A discussion on the Federal Government's funded Art and Cultural Programs and the impact on regional communities.

Carolyn Ramsey - Adelaide City Council (SA)
Policy & Strategy Development : Adelaide City Council's Arts and Living Culture Strategy. Setting a vision for the future of the City of Adelaide (2003-7).

Carol Mayell – City of Port Phillip (Vic)
How the Council has adopted a four pillar model of sustainability to guide and inform its planning, monitoring and service delivery functions.

The Information Age & Libraries: Urban & Indigenous Communities

- (5) *Damian Tyquin - State Library of Victoria*
Libraries building communities: Let's think beyond the stereotypical image of the public library to one which plays a critical role in supporting social cohesion.

Townsville City Council (QLD)
The opening up of libraries to Indigenous communities.

Tony Tapsell - Northern Territory Local Government Association & Alistair Muir, Convergence E-Business Solutions
Networking the Nation with Indigenous Communities.

DAY TWO (AM) Tuesday 29 July (11.00am – 12.30pm)

Planning Across Organisational Boundaries

- (6) *Mark Randell - Human Sciences (WA)*
Community Development workers do not design buildings, nor road layouts or community facilities. They design programs to bring people together, to link people, to allow people to plan.

Martin Richardson - City of Swan (WA)
Integrated Community Planning – Foundations for the City of Swan to provide a comprehensive planning tool that crosses functional and organisational boundaries.

Local Government in Building Social Capital

- (7) *Geoffrey Woolcock, Desley Renton – University of Qld & LGAQ*
Documenting the roles of Local Government in building social capital. Provides opportunities to sharpen measurement building on the impetus given by Robert Putnam during his Queensland Local Government address in 2001.

Pam Bourke - Brisbane City Council (QLD)
Place based planning and strategies to achieve improved quality of life outcomes and strengthen social capital in 3 disadvantaged communities.

Rural Community Development

- (8) *Gerard Byrne – Dept of Primary Industries (QLD)*
Case studies on rural communities in Queensland that have adopted a proactive engagement with the philosophy of Peter Kenyon and community/cultural development.

Integration of Housing Strategies with Local Government Core Business

- (9) *Jon Eastgate - Brisbane City Council (QLD)*
Housing policies over the past two decades have been characterised by increasing stress for people on low incomes. Exploration of the integration of housing strategies with Local Government core business.

Economic and Community Impacts of Cultural Programs

- (10) *Dee Martin – Qld Community Arts Network & Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts*
An exploration of the role that arts and culture plays in building social capital
- Jan Muir – Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts*
The Economic and Community Impacts of Cultural Programs

DAY TWO (PM) Tuesday 29 July (3.30pm – 5.00pm)

Measuring Community Well Being

- (11) *Jenny Wills, Kate Nash – LGCSAA*
Framework for progressing and measuring community wellbeing based on the QLGCSA publication Just Vibrant and Sustainable communities.

Local Area Planning Processes in NSW

- (12) *Jackie Ohlin - NSW Parliamentary Library & Local Government Presenters*
Public participation in the local area planning process drawing on the experience of selected Councils in NSW.

How Local Communities can Address Issues of Disability

- (13) *Ric Thompson - Inclusion Works, Townsville (QLD)*
How has History, Disability Legislation and its associated Service Development weakened inclusion outcomes for people with disabilities - an open critique."

Dr Sev Ozdowski – Federal Human Rights & Disability Discrimination Commissioner

Geoff Jenkins - Gold Coast City Council (QLD)

Accessible Community Gardens: The session will explore community processes which engage specific groups in the community to build and manage a community garden.

Placemaking & Collaboration on Facility Development

- (14) *Sue Bessell - Wollongong City Council (NSW)*
Best practice and placemaking in economically disadvantaged communities.

Gavin Lyons, Michelle Feenan - Thuringowa City Council (QLD)
Community collaboration on facility development.

Planning for the Redesign of Contested Public Places

- (15) *Mandy Press - City of Port Phillip (Vic)*
Communities for everyone: The principles of place management and its inclusive approach to the redesign of contested public places.

Jane Crawley - City of Melbourne (Vic)

A joint project by the City of Melbourne, the Office of Housing and tenant groups using cultural interventions as a means of documenting social change within Housing Estates.

JENNY SLADE SCHOLARSHIP

The Jenny Slade Scholarship Trust Fund is awarding a scholarship of up to \$4,000 which is to be announced at the conference. This is to enable the recipient to undertake further education, attend a conference or forum, undertake a study tour or participate in an officer exchange program.

The scholarship is in memory and recognition of the contribution of Jenny Slade to innovation and the advancement of networks within local government community services. Jenny was Manager of Community Services in Springvale, Victoria from 1984 until her untimely death in 1990. The scholarship is funded by donations.