

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF NSW ANNUAL CONFERENCE 28th October to 1st November 2006

The Local Government Association of NSW Annual Conference 2006 will be hosted by the Blue Mountains City Council and will be held at Peppers Fairmont Resort, Leura.

The theme of this year's conference is "Community: A Sense of Place".

THE PROGRAM

This year's conference will be opened by the Governor of New South Wales Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir AC. The Premier of New South Wales The Honourable Morris Iemma has been invited and the former Prime Minister The Honourable Paul Keating and a number of New South Wales Government Ministers.

The topic for the Local Government Forum on Saturday 28th October will be a Hypothetical along the lines of the ABC's series, with a team of specialist panel speakers and Julie McCrossin as facilitator to discuss issues that are pertinent to the conference and local government. The topic for discussion is:

Local Government – is it the Biggest Loser?

The Independent Inquiry into the Financial Sustainability of NSW Local Government reveals an alarming number of pressing problems that need urgent attention including dealing with an infrastructure renewal backlog in the order of \$6 billion. The report also questions the ongoing financial viability of a significant proportion of councils.

It is apparent that councils do not have the resources to be all things to all people so what should they do? How can they meet the demands of their citizens and what are these demands anyway? Do citizens care what councils do or don't do or do they only care that jobs get done?

Is constitutional recognition or more funding from state and federal governments the answer or will more radical changes be required? Are the days of local government numbered or would serious cooperation from the other tiers of government ensure local government and the communities they service don't end up being the biggest losers?

The Forum is included in your delegate registration fees, please indicate your attendance on the registration form.

For the latest copy of the program please go to www.bmcc.gov.nsw.au.

VOTING

A reminder that this year is a voting year for positions on the LGA Executive. The elections are run by the State Electoral Office on behalf of the Association and nominations have now closed. The SEO will conduct the draw to determine the order of candidate's names on the ballot paper at 2.00pm on Monday 23 October 2006. If you would like further information about the conduct of the elections contact Diana Kosseifi at the SEO on 9290 5924.

THE SOCIAL PROGRAM

The social program will provide delegates and their partners with the opportunity to enjoy the many delights of the Blue Mountains. Along with the President's Welcome Reception and Gala Dinner there are a number of tours to local attractions as well as the optional Golf Tournament where friendly competition and spectacular views wrap up your conference experience.

WSN are sponsoring the Monday evening Social Night at the historic Carrington Hotel. There are multiple venues within the Hotel and this provides 'something for everyone'.

It is an event with a complete dining and entertainment experience, whether you want to network in a quiet lounge, wander through the hotel and grounds, play billiards, join in the fun of the local Oktoberfest, be entertained by local musicians or dance the night away. You will enjoy excellent food prepared by one of the Mountain's favourite chefs,

The Carrington Hotel will provide the perfect backdrop to this evening, with its beautifully restored ornate ceilings, leadlight glass and grandeur.

Don't forget to complete the optional section on the registration form to attend the Social Night.

While this is an optional evening that has been designed to appeal to **all** delegates attending the conference there are only a small number of exclusive, gourmet local eateries that will be open as an alternative dining experience. Delegates can be provided with available dining venues at the Conference Registration Desk.

ACCOMMODATION

If you haven't booked accommodation, you are advised to contact Coralie Faye at Blue Mountains Tourism cfaye@bmcc.gov.nsw.au.

Your hosts of this year's Conference, the Blue Mountains City Council, look forward to welcoming you to the mountains for what will be a very informative and enjoyable conference.

SPONSORSHIP AND EXHIBITION

There are a number of opportunities available to organisations to market their products and services to decision makers from local government bodies. The Conference sponsorship and exhibition Prospectus is now available. To receive a copy, please contact the LGA Conference Secretariat at sponsorship@conexion.com.au.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Contact: LGA Conference Secretariat
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