

## **Victorian Local Governance Association Biography**

### **Cr Samantha Dunn, President**

Samantha Dunn was first elected to the Shire of Yarra Ranges council in 2005 and is now serving her second term as a councillor.

Up until recent times Samantha worked as a financial controller in the not for profit sector in the area of apprenticeships and traineeships. She now dedicates her time wholly and solely to local government.

Yarra Ranges is an interface council, a mix of urban and rural areas on the Eastern fringe of Melbourne, which has allowed Samantha to learn and understand a broad range of issues affecting rural, regional and urban communities.

Samantha is passionate about community and its wellbeing and thinks it is important to be an advocate on their behalf. She represents the community on a number of different committees mainly focussed on environment, transport, the early years and community safety and wellbeing. She is a committed and passionate member of the Dandenong Ranges community and is focussed on improving liveability in the Shire of Yarra Ranges.

Samantha is the current Chairperson of the Eastern Transport Coalition and plays a key role in advocating for sustainable transport and reducing car dependency across the east of Melbourne. She is also a board member of the Eastern Regional Libraries Corp, and represents Yarra Ranges on a number of different groups including the Shire's Advocacy Reference Group.

Samantha is past Treasurer of the VLGA, during which time the VLGA strengthened their voice on behalf of community and councils for greater democracy in action, undertook strong advocacy on social initiatives and delivered a financially sound position for members.

The community's voice is important in local democracy and the VLGA reflects the important mix of community members, community groups and local government working together to enact social change and uphold the principles of good governance.

Samantha believes it's time to capitalise on good relationships with the new government, maintain relationships with all sides of politics, clearly articulate the needs of communities and local government and focus our efforts on broader participation in the upcoming local government elections in 2012.