

VLGA President Lambros Tapinos

What's News

Annual General Meeting

I look forward to welcoming you to the VLGA's Annual General Meeting (AGM) which will be held on Thursday 14th November 2019 (3.30pm for a 4.00pm start) at Pitcher Partners, Level 13/664 Collins Street, Docklands. The Notice of Meeting can be found [here](#).

There will be no special items or resolutions for discussion at the AGM, however I look forward to the event being an opportunity for networking and providing our members with a wrap up of the activities of the VLGA over the past twelve months.

Please register your attendance [here](#). This will be a catered event.

Local Government 101 & Pre-Candidate Training

In the lead up to the end of yet another busy year, the VLGA has been actively working with our members throughout Victoria.

The VLGA has developed a pre-candidate training prospectus which outlines our training offerings for women, CALD and Aboriginal communities as well as more general pre-candidate training. Please refer [here](#) for a copy of the prospectus.

A number of Regional Roadshows have been undertaken and are listed below. A list of upcoming training can be found [here](#). These Roadshows involve women's training, a Victorian Local Government Women's Charter Champions afternoon tea and meetings with council ELT and councillors to discuss broader training offerings and VLGA activities.

The VLGA has been focusing on 'Local Government 101' sessions this year, with one session blocked in for each RDV region (9 in total), two in Yarra Ranges (Eastern Melbourne) and two in metro Melbourne (at the VLGA offices).

This covers the VLGA's 2019 requirements as per our funding agreement with the Victorian Government. It is also a great opportunity for us to visit rural and regional councillors and make connections at the councillor and officer level.

If you would like further information about the VLGA's candidate training programs, please contact Deborah Wu at deborah@vlga.org.au or Bo Li at bo@vlga.org.au.

Date	Region (RDV + Greater Melb)	Host council	Location
19 Jun	Metro	City of Melbourne	Carlton
20 Jun	Eastern Melbourne	Yarra Ranges Shire	Kilsyth (for VoW)
21 Jun	Metro	City of Melbourne	Melbourne
6 Aug	Gippsland	Baw Baw	Warragul
29 Aug	Barwon	Greater Geelong	Geelong (for WILD)
25 Sept	Loddon Campaspe	Mount Alexander	Castlemaine
8 Oct	Wimmera Southern Mallee	Horsham Rural City	Horsham
10 Oct	Gippsland	East Gippsland Shire	Bairnsdale
17 Oct	Mallee	Buloke Shire	Wycheproof
25 Oct	Ovens Murray	Wangaratta Rural	Wangaratta
7 Nov	Great South Coast	Moyste Shire Council	Port Fairy
18 Nov	Goulburn	Greater Shepparton	Shepparton
21 Nov	Eastern Melbourne	Yarra Ranges Shire	Lilydale (for VoW)
25 Nov	Central Highlands	Hepburn Shire	Daylesford

Young People in Local Government



I was pleased to host a VLGA event to increase civic engagement in young people on the 31 October. This event was for people under 30, with a panel of young councillors and a former candidate presenting to the audience.

Over 100 people registered for the event. It was a terrific opportunity to engage with the youth peak bodies, active young citizens and increase the VLGA's engagement with the

youth affairs teams at Victorian councils. There has been a lot of interest from member and non-member councils alike in continuing this work in civic engagement.

The VLGA looks forward to continuing to work to support young people's contribution, including through the formation of a Young Councillors' Network to support young councillors in the next term.

Review into Victoria's Building and Planning Approval Processes

The Victorian Red Tape Commissioner has undertaken a review of State and local government processes surrounding building and planning approvals, and early building works infrastructure approvals and to identify opportunities to streamline processes and reduce delays.

The VLGA has been consulted as part of this review and the initial recommendations of the Commission are contained in the [Discussion Paper](#).

The Commission is seeking comments to this Discussion Paper by Friday 15 November 2019. For further information please contact the VLGA's Senior Policy Advisor, Bo Li, on bo@vlga.org.au.

Local Government Rating System Review

The VLGA has provided a submission to the Local Government Rating System Review. A copy of this submission may be found [here](#).

We encourage the panel to give due consideration to the proposals provided by the VLGA and other stakeholders to the Rating System Review in order to facilitate a rating system that is fair, equitable, simple, efficient and sustainable for all Victorians.

Sustainable Futures Workshop



Earlier in the month, the VLGA hosted a workshop with Professor Jay Friedlander in partnership with Central Queensland University.

Global sustainability innovator, Professor Jay Friedlander, led the two-hour workshop, aimed at council changemakers, focusing on impact, measurability and creating abundance. Professor Friedlander takes sustainability beyond greenwashing and ad hoc initiatives, to ensure best outcomes for people and planet.

Presented by the Office of Social Innovation, Central Queensland University, as part of *Sustainable Futures: Real Strategies for People, Planet, Profit*, this workshop aimed to equip participants to systematically and strategically embed the UN Sustainable Development Goals across their operations.

Rated by Stanford Social Innovation Review as a top-ten solution to the climate crisis, Professor Friedlander's dynamic approach has helped transform and empower changemakers across business, community and not-for-profit sectors. Professor Friedlander's *Abundance Cycle* guides impactful sustainability, supporting participants to identify barriers to innovation, reduce waste and realise latent value across systems and organisations.

Professor Jay Friedlander is Sharpe-McNally Chair of Green and Socially Responsible Business at College of the Atlantic and is setting the global agenda around sustainable business and entrepreneurship.

Leading the Agenda in October: One Year Out



It was great to host council CEOs and governance managers for an information and Q&A session on the governance procedures for council elections, including the caretaker convention. Thanks to Chief Municipal Inspector David Wolf, and experienced council CEO Chris Eddy for their expertise, as well as the VLGA's own Senior Policy Advisor, Bo Li.

Thank you to those who took part in our remote access pilot via Zoom (video broadcast with Slido question facility).

Click [here](#) for the video wrap up.

Councillor Leadership Development Fasttrack Program 2020

Keep an eye out for the VLGA's 2020 Councillor Leadership Development Fasttrack Program which will be held on Friday 28 February 2020 at the RACV Club, Melbourne. This full day program will be focusing on the countdown to the 2020 elections and comprise of panellists and speakers, including the Minister of Local Government, covering topics of relevance and interest for councillors in their final term.

Remote Access for Regional and Rural Councils

I am pleased to advise that the VLGA is now able to offer remote access options for our rural and regional members via Zoom video conferencing. Please get in touch with Deborah at deborah@vlga.org.au for more information.

The VLGA works to support the local government sector and our members. If you would like to speak with me about the work of the VLGA, please do not hesitate to contact me on Itapinos@moreland.org.au.