



# NEWSLETTER

Institute of Public Administration Australia

December 2006

*To all IPAA Members and their families - Merry Xmas and best wishes for the festive season.*



## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

On 29 November 2006 the Northern Territory Division of the Institute of Public Administration Australia held its Annual General Meeting.

It was pleasing that a number of Members were able to attend the meeting which received the President's and the Treasurer's reports and elected office bearers for the coming year. A highlight of the meeting was the excellent results the Institute received over the last year with its local activities and the organisational success of the National Conference in Alice Springs. This has created a wonderful base on which we can build the future activities of the Northern Territory Division. It is fair to say that as a result of the great work of the previous Council the Territory is fast being recognised as a national leader in public administration.

Prior to the meeting the President, John Kirwan, indicated he would not be standing again and as the only nomination I was elected as President. I would like to take this opportunity to extend to John the thanks of all our Members for his hard work and dedication to the Institute over the last four years. In his roles as a member of the Council and as the Commissioner for Public Employment, John has worked tirelessly to support the Institute and the ideals of a professional public sector. He will remain on the Council as Past President and I am looking forward to working with him during the coming year.

Karen Simpson has been elected as our Secretary. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Heather Dunkel for her contribution in this role over many years. Heather has always been a keen supporter of IPAA and she has contributed generously to our activities over the

years. Heather, your contribution made a difference and you will be missed.

Longstanding Vice President, Murray Redman, decided not to stand for re-election this year. Murray has made a huge contribution over the years and his knowledge and input will be missed.

We will ensure that Heather and the other retiring council members are recognised at a function in early 2007.

We welcome a number of new members of the Council and look forward to their input over the coming year. Your new council is:

### **Executive:**

President – John Carroll  
Vice President – Ian Thynne  
Secretary – Karen Simpson  
Treasurer – Desiree Ng  
Public Officer Gail Fleay

### **Members:**

Sue Davy  
Helen Jones  
Valerie Whitmore  
Luchi Santer  
Matt Darcey  
Tanya McGregor

Ann Jacobs - Alice Springs Representative

### **YPN Representatives**

Aaron Watson – President  
Sarah Galton – Vice President

In the New Year we will be working on a survey of Members to find out what activities you think we should undertake and how we should be using the Institute's resources to further its objectives.

I am looking forward to working with the Council to bring you a balanced and innovative program that will further our objectives and provide meaningful events and activities for you. I am always interested in ideas about how we can do things better and can be contacted at [john.carroll@nt.gov.au](mailto:john.carroll@nt.gov.au).



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I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your loved ones a very happy Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

John Carroll  
President  
NT Division  
Institute of Public Administration Australia

1 December 2006

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The ongoing support by NTPS CEs, the heads of the Australian Public Service in the NT, the Australian Defence Force, in particular NORCOM and the Chief Minister, the Hon Clare Martin, the IPAA NT Patron and Ms Jodeen Carney, the Vice Patron is appreciated.

We also acknowledge the support the traditional owners have provided when we have held forums and workshops in the Territory, their support, including the welcome to country is appreciated. We value this partnership.

## **OBJECTIVES AND PERFORMANCE**

The Council's objectives for the year were consistent with those of previous years:

- To conduct a program of events throughout the year to promote public administration and professional development;
- To encourage professional development by supporting activities which recognize excellence in public administration and by co-operating, where practical, with other professional bodies;
- To promote the objectives of the Institute in regional and remote areas of the Territory;
- To support National Council initiatives; and
- To maintain and grow membership levels.

To achieve these objectives the Council undertook a range of activities during the year.

## **EVENTS PROGRAM**

During 2006 there were a range of events, with almost 1000 members and non members attending, not including the National Conference. This is an increase over the 700 who attended IPAA functions in 2005. Given we have a membership base of 150, member for member this is a credit to the various organisers and the members and non members who have shown an interest in attending a wide range of offerings from IPAA.

These forums have included addresses and workshops such as Mr Robert Fitzgerald AM; two Frankly be Fearless sessions; Developing & Writing Operational Policy with Dr Ida Vincent; Meet the CEO with Mr Michael Gooda; Pitfalls of Policy Implementation with Dr Randal Stewart followed by a Policy process workshop; and The leadership Voyage with Robin Taylor.

The ongoing focus on policy is due to support from the NT Department of Chief Minister, with support from OCPE, CDU and NT Treasury.

IPAA NT does not run its professional program at a profit, in doing so we keep the cost at an affordable level. What we do is differentiate the cost between member and non members, which in part seems to be assisting our steady increase in membership numbers. The issue we have now faced for the second year in a row is oversubscribing, which is problematic for those programs that have to be limited/caped for quality reasons. The NT trait for registering late has meant that many members and non members have missed out attending some session in 2006. We encourage you to register for IPAA events early to avoid disappointment and to assist the organisers with venue and catering.

## **2006 IPAA NATIONAL CONFERENCE**

IPAA NT, with the support of the Office of the Commissioner for Public Employment, hosted the Institute's National Conference in Alice Springs from 13 - 15 September 2006. This was the first



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time the prestigious event was held in a regional location, it was an outstanding success with excellent feedback received from the post conference on-line evaluation.

The conference was opened with the Garran Oration presented by Sue Vardon, AO, Chief Executive, South Australian Department for Families and Communities. Ms Vardon's address titled 'Size matters. Should this continue?' was a fitting start to the conference; its value was rated by 85% of the evaluation respondents as good or excellent.

Eight keynote speakers provided various insights and perspectives around the conference theme of 'Does size really matter?' The two speakers that proved the highlight of the conference for many delegates were Dr Peter Shergold AO, Secretary of the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet; and Brigadier Craig Orme CSC ADC, Commander 1st Brigade, Robertson Barracks, Northern Territory.

Nine concurrent sessions covered a range of topics with the primary objective being:

- To provide sessions of a more specialised/detailed nature
- To allow a broad range of issues to be addressed over the duration of the conference
- To provide further interaction with speakers and other conference participants
- To provide opportunities for participants to raise issues in a smaller forum.

## ***2007 IPAA NATIONAL CONFERENCE***

The 2007 National Conference will be held in Perth, 18 - 21 September 2007. The theme of the 2007 IPAA Conference is Western Reflections: conversations on the place of Australian public services in a changing world. See the web page at <http://www.ipaaconference2007.com.au/> for further details.

## ***2006 COMMISSIONER'S AWARDS EQUITY & DIVERSITY***

In 2006 OCPE in consultation with IPAA agreed to move these annual awards to bi annual, with the Chief Ministers awards to be held every second year in rotation.

## ***2007 COMMISSIONER'S AWARDS FOR EQUITY & DIVERSITY***

The Awards pack for the 2007 Commissioner Awards for Equity and Diversity will be available by mid 2007. For further information please contact the Equity and Diversity unit in OCPE.

A major goal of the Office of the Commissioner for Public Employment is to promote that importance of valuing workplace difference and to encourage agencies to include equity and diversity principles in everyday workplace practices. The Awards aim to promote, stimulate and inspire better management practice in the area of workforce equity and diversity through the recognition of outstanding initiatives.

Each year the Awards are run in partnership with the Institute of Public Administration Australia (NT Division) and have 3 categories, Open, Regional, and Special. The Open Category is open to all NT Government equity and diversity initiatives. The Regional Category is for initiatives designed to meet the needs of NT Government regional or remote staff. The focus for the Special Category changes each year.

## ***IPAA SCHOLARSHIP***

CONGRATULATIONS to Benjamin Beckwith, the winner of the IPAA Scholarship to attend the 2006 IPAA National Conference in Alice Springs. Many thanks to those who supported and contributed to this scholarship.



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## **IPAA NATIONAL ESSAY COMPETITION**

IPAA SA hosts the national essay competition, the Sir George Murray Awards on behalf of all State Divisions. The winner was **Colette Rogers of Victoria**, for her article "**The Impact of the Australian Government Job Network contracting on not-for-profit service providers**". Colette will receive a \$1,000 cheque and will have her article published in Australian Journal of Public Administration.

## **ANNUAL REPORT AWARDS**

IPAA is proud to be a co-sponsor of the Annual Report Awards run by the Public Sector Accounting Group (PSAG). Congratulations to Department of Employment, Education and Training for their achievement as overall winner for 2006.

## **YOUNG PROFESSIONALS NETWORK (YPN)**

**The Young Professionals Network is a sub-branch of IPAA NT and aims to provide a forum for professional development and network building opportunities for the young and young at heart within the public and private sectors.**

Building on the support that IPAA and several NTPS CEs have provided in 2005, the YPN has continued to work closely with IPAA NT. The successful Frankly be Fearless featuring Professor Ian Thynne, Dr Tess Lea and Mr Graham Symons were so successful, an encore performance was required.

The YPN group also broke from tradition at the IPAA National Conference and hosted a day long workshop that was well attended and very successful.

**YPN will be hosting many more seminars, debates and events in 2007. Members will also be hosting**

social gatherings where people can meet and share experiences in a relaxed environment. Already the membership target of 60 has been met.

**YPN Membership details:**  
**President – Aaron Watson**  
**Vice President – Sarah Galton**  
**Secretary – Natalie Merida**  
**Treasurer - Desirée Ng**

**YPN members pay a \$15 Annual membership and \$80 (a \$40 discount!) on the annual IPAA subscription for the first 2 years of joining (valid to June 2007).**

**The main aims of YPN are to:**

- **Provide professional development opportunities through facilitating guest speakers in specific areas of interest to members and guests.**
  - Facilitate formal, informal and social networking events.
  - Give young people an opportunity to get involved in organising YPN activities and to work closely with peers from other agencies.
  - Share knowledge and skills, and affect change and innovation.

If you'd like to find out more about the Young Professionals Network e-mail [ypn\\_nt@yahoo.com.au](mailto:ypn_nt@yahoo.com.au) or phone any of the committee members.

## **MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS**

**Membership is due for the 2006/07 year. Cost is \$120. See membership form below.**

**DID YOU KNOW THAT by being a member of IPAA, you have saved \$205.00 in discounted functions this past financial year as well as receiving journals that are worth over \$100.00? WHAT A GREAT INVESTMENT!**



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As a professional organisation, the membership fee is tax deductible. The membership fee is considerably less than in other States and as a bonus, includes subscriptions to the Australian Journal of Public Administration, an excellent publication with contributions from leading academics and the Canberra Journal of Public Administration, which has a greater contribution by practitioners. Other benefits include:

- The opportunity to network with other members at all levels of the NTPS and Commonwealth Public Service.
- Availability of personal development through excellent seminars with first-class speakers, particularly on government policy and the latest in administration.
- Discounted admission to IPAA seminars and functions.

When your yearly renewal notice arrives, feel free to photocopy the form and encourage your colleagues to join. If you prefer, please use the renewal form at the end of this newsletter.



Please do not hesitate to contact any of the Councillors with any ideas or suggestions you may have for improving our newsletter or programs.

**Kay Pisani** is our Membership and Minute Secretary. Kay's phone number is 8945 1668, fax number is 89451679 and email address is [kpis5971@bigpond.net.au](mailto:kpis5971@bigpond.net.au).

We  
wish you  
a merry Christmas,  
we wish you a merry Christmas,  
we wish you a merry Christmas, and  
a  
Happy New Year.



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## MEMBERSHIP FORM

Full name: .....

Department or Organisation: .....

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Current Position: .....

Address for Correspondence: .....

.....

Business Phone: .....

Facsimile: .....

Email: .....

Signature: .....

Date:            /...../.....

Payment: \$120 yearly  
Cheque / Bankcard / Mastercard / Visa

Card Number: .....

Expiry Date:    /...../.....

Card Holder Name: .....

Please fax to Kay (details above) or post to:

IPAA  
GPO Box 967  
DARWIN NT 0801