



# Local Government Professionals Tasmania **Annual Conference 2026**

*The Pulse of the Place – Leading with  
Heart and High Performance*

16-18 September, 2026

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### General event enquiries

**Gary Davies, Executive Officer**  
eo@lgprofessionalstas.org.au  
0428 582 656

**Keron Wise, Event Coordinator**  
keronwise@atmmarketing.com.au  
0427 019 011



## A message from our President

**On behalf of Local Government Professionals Tasmania (LG Pro Tas), welcome to our Annual Conference at the Country Club Tasmania, Launceston.**

On behalf of Local Government Professionals Tasmania, it is my great pleasure to welcome you to the 2026 Annual Conference, The Pulse of the Place – Leading with Heart and High Performance, at Country Club Tasmania in Launceston.

This year's theme speaks directly to the work we do every day in local government: understanding the pulse of our communities, leading with care and integrity, and continuing to lift performance in complex and changing environments. It recognises that strong leadership is not only about results, but also about people, purpose and the wellbeing of the teams and communities we serve.

Over the next two days, we have a rich program of keynote presentations, practical sessions, discussion and connection. We look forward to hearing from Corrinne Armour on fearless leadership, Bart Walsh on building real performance through healthy habits, and Lucy Bloom on leading with wellbeing. Our session speakers will also explore future-focused leadership, imposter syndrome, trauma-responsive leadership and the issues shaping community services across local government.

Just as importantly, this conference is an opportunity to reconnect with colleagues, meet new peers, share ideas and strengthen the professional relationships that support our sector. I encourage you to make the most of the welcome event, the networking session, the trade booths and the informal conversations that often lead to new insights, collaborations and friendships.

This conference is also personally significant for me, as it will be my final Annual Conference as President of Local Government Professionals Tasmania. It has been a privilege to serve in this role and to work alongside so many committed professionals who care deeply about the future of local government in Tasmania. As I prepare to step down and hand the reins to a new President, I do so with great confidence in the strength, generosity and capability of this sector.

The Commonwealth Bank Gala Dinner will be a wonderful opportunity to celebrate excellence across our profession and recognise the achievements of people and teams working every day to deliver for their communities. Events of this scale are only possible through the support of our partners and sponsors, and I sincerely thank them for their continued commitment to Local Government Professionals Tasmania and to the development of our sector.

Whether you are here to learn, be challenged, grow your confidence, build your network or simply take time to reflect on your own leadership journey, I hope this conference leaves you energised, inspired and proud to be part of local government.

Let's embrace the spirit of learning, connection and shared purpose over the coming days, and make the 2026 Annual Conference a memorable and meaningful event for us all.

Kristen Desmond

*President*

***Local Government Professionals Tasmania***

# Key Themes

## *The Pulse of the Place – Leading with Heart and High Performance*

The 2026 Annual Conference Program explores the pulse of local government: the people, places and purpose that sit at the heart of strong communities. Under the theme *The Pulse of the Place: Leading with Heart and High Performance*, the program invites delegates to consider how councils can lead with compassion, confidence and impact in an increasingly complex and changing environment.

Through a carefully curated series of keynote presentations and conference sessions, the program recognises that every policy, service, reform and workplace decision ultimately serves people. It highlights the importance of building organisational cultures that care for employees, because councils are best placed to support their communities when their own people are supported, resilient and equipped to perform at their best.

At a time when Tasmania is navigating reform, rising community expectations and changing social, economic and environmental pressures, the conference will create space for practical and thoughtful discussions about future-focused leadership. Sessions will explore themes including courageous decision-making, trauma-informed leadership, psychological safety, wellbeing, performance, and the confidence required to lead authentically.

As the Tasmanian Government continues to progress its Wellbeing Framework, the program also considers the role of councils as contributors to community wellbeing. It reinforces that high performance is not achieved through pressure alone, but through healthy habits, strong values, constructive culture and a deep understanding of place.

Together, these themes position the conference as an opportunity to reflect, reconnect and re-energise local government leadership across Tasmania, ensuring councils remain responsive, grounded and truly connected to the pulse of the places they serve.



# Agenda

**Wednesday 16 September** Country Club Tasmania

**6pm - 8.30pm**

Sponsored by Insight GIS

**Welcome Event**

Welcome Address by Kristen Desmond

**Thursday 17 September** Country Club Tasmania

|                                                                          |                                                                                                         |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>8am - 8.45am</b>                                                      | <b>Doors open, registration, coffee &amp; networking</b>                                                |
| <b>8.45am - 9.10am</b>                                                   | <b>Welcome &amp; housekeeping</b>                                                                       |
| <b>9.10am - 10.30am</b><br>Sponsored by JLT                              | <b>Keynote Speaker – Corrinne Armour</b><br>Fearless Leadership                                         |
| <b>10.30am - 11am</b><br>Sponsored by Westpac                            | <b>Morning tea</b>                                                                                      |
| <b>11am - 11.45am</b>                                                    | <b>Network Session</b><br>Speed networking with trade booths                                            |
| <b>11.45am - 12.15pm</b><br>Sponsored by<br>Dobson Mitchell Allport      | <b>Speaker Session – Angela Driver</b><br>Future Focused Leadership                                     |
| <b>12.15pm - 1pm</b><br>Sponsored by CareSuper                           | <b>Lunch</b>                                                                                            |
| <b>1pm - 2pm</b><br>Sponsored by<br>Simmons Wolfhagen                    | <b>Keynote Speaker – Bart Walsh</b><br>Build Real Performance through Healthy Habits                    |
| <b>2pm - 2.30pm</b><br>Sponsored by Edge Legal                           | <b>Speaker Session – Dr Kate Cashman</b><br>Unmasking Imposter Syndrome                                 |
| <b>2.30pm - 3pm</b><br>Sponsored by Synectic                             | <b>Afternoon tea</b>                                                                                    |
| <b>3pm - 3.45pm</b><br>Sponsored by Page Seager                          | <b>Speaker Session – Dr Polly McGee</b><br>Trauma Informed Leadership                                   |
| <b>3.45pm - 4.30pm</b><br>Sponsored by LG Solutions                      | <b>Panel &amp; Workshop with Andrew Beeston, Sammi Gowthorpe and Kylie Murphy</b><br>Community Services |
| <b>6pm</b><br>Sponsored by Mav Insurance                                 | <b>Pre-dinner drinks</b>                                                                                |
| <b>7pm - 10.30pm</b><br>Dinner entertainment sponsored<br>by Page Seager | <b>Commonwealth Bank Gala Dinner</b>                                                                    |

## Friday 19 September Country Club Tasmania

|                                                     |                                                        |
|-----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| 8am - 8.55am                                        | Doors open, registration, coffee & networking          |
| 8.55 - 9am                                          | Welcome                                                |
| 9.30am - 10am                                       | AGM                                                    |
| 10am - 11.30am<br>Sponsored by<br>Commonwealth Bank | Keynote Speaker – Lucy Bloom<br>Leading with Wellbeing |
| 11.30am - 12pm                                      | Morning Tea & Lucky Door Prize Draws                   |

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# Master of Ceremonies



## Kim Millar

Kim Millar is the weekday News Anchor for 7 Tasmania Nightly News – the state's most watched television news bulletin. Kim has decades of experience as a journalist, producer and presenter covering local, national and international news. She is also a communications specialist producing written and branded content. She provides media training to clients for dealing with the media, interview skills, crisis management, media strategies and media release preparation.

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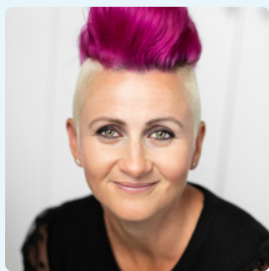
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## Keynote Speakers



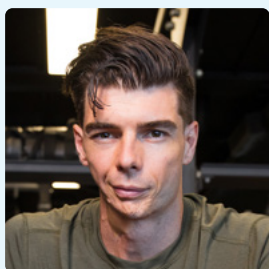
### Lucy Bloom

Lucy Bloom is an award-winning leader and speaker. She's a change-maker, exceptional communicator, and business fixer with the best mohawk in the business. Lucy led an advertising agency for 20 years before she held CEO roles leading international aid organisations, one in Ethiopia and another in Cambodia. She's the founder of an education start-up and the author of four books including her memoir, *Get the Girls Out*, and her latest, a killer novel. You will find Lucy challenging and entertaining in equal measure, with humour tied into a powerful business message. She's a rule-breaker, idea-maker and momentum creator.



### Corrinne Armour

Corrinne Armour CSP is a leading authority on Fearless Leadership®, known for delivering entertaining, provocative, and practical insights. She blends contemporary brain science with powerful storytelling, including lessons from her time living and teaching in a jungle refugee camp on the edge of a warzone. Recognised as a Certified Speaking Professional (CSP), Corrinne is regarded among Australia's top speakers. With more than 20 years working alongside senior leaders — and a decade in senior corporate roles — she brings a grounded understanding of realworld leadership challenges.



### Bart Walsh

Bart Walsh is a performance and resilience speaker and one of Australia's most respected voices at the intersection of resilience, health and personal development. As the former Head Coach of Jetts Fitness Australia, Bart spent years in the trenches with people; understanding what it actually takes to perform when life gets hard, not just when conditions are ideal. Today, he works with organisations across the world on a single mission: to show them how to better manage this changing world by seeing their challenges as opportunities for profound growth.

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## Session Speakers



### Angela Driver

Angela Driver joined Tasmanian Leaders in 2011 and became CEO in 2021. She has spent a decade developing and studying leadership, following a successful career in the arts. A Churchill Fellow and Harvard Kennedy School graduate, Angela brings a practical and human approach to leadership development, helping people lead more effectively no matter their context. She is committed to cultivating ship that is brave, inclusive and equipped to make a lasting difference.



### Dr Polly McGee

Dr Polly McGee is a neuroleadership consultant, psychotherapist and author who works at the intersection of human behaviour, leadership and organisational systems. With a background spanning government, innovation, academia and executive leadership, Polly specialises in making the neuroscience of stress, connection and performance practical and usable in complex environments. Known for dynamic, engaging keynotes, Polly helps leaders and teams understand how to lead, communicate and perform when it matters most.



### Dr Kate Cashman

Dr Kate Cashman comes with a background spanning legal and policing academia, executive coaching, and business ownership. Dr Kate brings grounded practicality, clarity, and realworld experience to every stage and workshop. She holds a PhD in law and forensic criminology, is a trained coach, TEDx speaker, and serves as Head Coach and CoCurator at TEDxHobart. She runs her leadership development business, Human, Actually, alongside owning Udara, a yoga and Pilates studio in Hobart. Kate's work across law, academia, policing, movement, and business gives her deep insight into how people communicate, lead, and make decisions under pressure. A mum of two who lives by the beach in southern Tasmania, she understands the challenge of balancing life, leadership, wellbeing, and legacy — and helps others build courage, boundaries, and selftrust in uncertain times.

# Panel & Workshop

## Community Services

We're delighted to welcome Andrew Beeston, Sammi Gowthorpe and Kylie Murphy, who'll join host Kim Millar to discuss and explore all things community engagement and impact.



### Andrew Beeston

Andy Beeston is the Youth Project Coordinator at George Town Council and has worked in youth development since 2003, with a strong passion for equipped young people and building thriving regional communities across Tasmania.

Since joining George Town Council in 2022, Andy has led the youth-led Our Futures project, delivering initiatives including Seagulls to Chips, the George Town Youth Impact Council, Youth Voice Collection and Launchpad Youth Space. These programs have enabled local young people to become leaders, volunteers and advocates.



### Sammi Gowthorpe

Sammi is Flinders Council's Community Engagement Manager, which is a tidy title for the person expected to develop the economy, run events, manage communications, wrangle social media, keep the website useful, make the IT behave and somehow know what everyone on the Island is thinking.

She has also produced strategic and advocacy documents compelling enough that state and federal politicians have appeared to understand the realities of remote island life.



### Kylie Murphy

Kylie Murphy is a Community Development Pracademic with over 20 years of experience in community development, inclusion, and community-led change. As Community Development Officer at Brighton Council, she works to strengthen community participation, wellbeing, and local leadership.

Most recently, Kylie completed a Churchill Fellowship researching innovative Indigenous-led justice diversion programs across Aotearoa New Zealand, Alaska, and Canada. Her research explored how culture, belonging, relationships, selfdetermination, and connection to place can improve outcomes for young people and strengthen communities.



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# About Local Government Professionals



**Operating since 1936, Local Government Professionals Tasmania (LG Pro Tas) is the state's strongest network of professionals working in local government.**

Local Government Professionals expands across Australia, where each state division acts independently while upholding collaborative efforts under our united federation.

LG Pro Tas serves and supports all 29 councils of Tasmania. Our interconnected network allows us to grow together as a state. Our Board is made up of multiple members from varied councils, giving strength to our mission through diverse perspectives of Tasmania.

LG Pro Tas is your member association and leading voice for Local Government Professionals providing leadership, quality professional development and representation in the pursuit of excellence right here in Tasmania. Our members are a community of professionals aspiring to shape the sector and make a difference in their local government career.

We are committed to ensuring that our members are supported by sector specific professional development to help them in their work and to progress their career, develop strong networks with sector leaders and that our member interests are represented by a credible and independent voice and ensure that our members are an integral part of the bigger picture.

# About our Membership Program

**Our membership provides beneficiaries access to high-quality professional development opportunities through training, events, networking, and communication between fellow members and corporate members.**

A membership with LG Pro Tas builds upon your professional development, whether you're new to or a long-standing member of the local government community.

We support our members through:

- **Representation & Advocacy** to ensure your voice is heard with an independent and credible voice on issues of importance to our members.
- **High quality professional development** to progress your career in Local Government through a range of programs specifically designed to develop our emerging leaders.
- **Networking & Peer support** to share best practice and collaborate across the sector.
- **Awards & Recognition** by raising the profile of our members and rewarding their contribution to Local Government.

We value all our corporate partner members, whose support allow us to provide valuable information and increase accessibility to our events. With these funds, we continually strive to enhance local government management, uphold ethical standards, and shine a spotlight on the innovators in our community.

We encourage you to talk with the representatives of our wonderful sponsors at the sponsor booths.

**[Click here to learn more!](#)**

# Sustainability Commitment Statement

**This year, sustainability has had a significant impact on how we operate our Annual Conference. We wanted to ensure that all our marketing materials and collateral had purpose and value, to us and you.**

This year, we created lanyards with the sole purpose of re-usability, so they don't go to waste. Please return your lanyard so it can continue to be used by attendees for years to come.

Attendees will receive Local Government Professionals-branded laptop covers – something we could all make use of in our professional lives.

Country Club Tasmania is highly committed to environmental sustainability and is proactive in minimising environmental impacts where possible. They pride themselves on their well-maintained grounds and natural bush land setting, which is home to many species of native wildlife.

## Thank you to our host city and venue

**We'd like to thank the** Country Club Tasmania and the Meander Valley Council for their valued and ongoing support.



## Event Sponsors

Thank you to all of our generous sponsors who have helped make this event possible. We appreciate your support of Local Government Professionals Tasmania.

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## Silver



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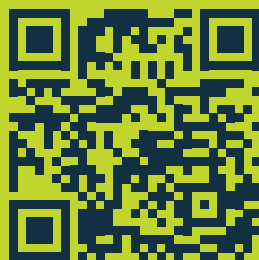


## Acknowledgement of Country

Local Government Professionals Tasmania acknowledges the Pallitore and Panninher people as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the land on which we gather today and pay our respects to Elders past and present. We extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people here today.



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