

MAV Annual Conference & Dinner 2024

Thursday 12 September 2024

9:00am – 5:00pm (Dinner 6:00pm – 10:30pm)

Sofitel Melbourne on Collins, The Grand Ballroom
25 Collins Street Melbourne

About the conference

The MAV Annual Conference and Dinner returns in 2024, taking place on the traditional land of the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung peoples of the Eastern Kulin Nation.

This year's conference theme 'Celebrating our work, reimagining the future, and creating optimism for what's ahead' will explore how the transformative power of forward-thinking, collaborative leadership within local government can build thriving, resilient and sustainable communities to create lasting and positive change.

You will have the opportunity to meet inspirational thought leaders that will take you on a deep dive into legacy minded and optimistic leadership; the imperative of climate adaptation and action; how to navigate our changing political landscape and combat disinformation; and the exploration of innovative global policy and social movements that can lift the gaze of local leaders to help them reimagine their roles and what may be possible in the future. We will also recognise and celebrate the achievements of Victorian councils and their impact in supporting our local and indigenous communities.

This conference is for Victorian Council Mayors, Councillors, CEO's, Executives and Senior Officers. The Gala Dinner will allow you to connect and network with colleagues and also recognise our Councillor Service Award recipients.

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we live. We recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and culture and pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging. We support local government's capacity and knowledge to strengthen relationships with Victoria's Aboriginal communities and for it to encourage greater unity, knowledge, cultural awareness, and respect for the first occupants of our land – through its strong community links and local representation.

Our sponsors

MAV is proud to work in partnership with our sponsors:

Principal sponsor

JLT Public Sector

JLT Public Sector is delighted to continue our support of the MAV. As a long-term partner of the peak body for Local Government in Victoria, we recognise the importance of delivering tangible value and services to local governments and community-based organisations.

Local Government plays a crucial role in providing essential services to communities, and at JLT Public Sector, we are committed to helping our clients identify and manage their risk to help protect their communities.

With a rich history of providing solutions to Local Government since 1972, we are proud to partner councils across the state with our innovative risk

solutions. We draw on the experience and expertise of over 320 local government specialists nationally who are dedicated to delivering positive outcomes through their extensive knowledge and strong relationships within the Local Government sector.

For more information on JLT, please visit jltpublicsector.com



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Our exhibitors

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Keynote speakers



Fabian Dattner

Chief Executive Officer, The Dattner Group

Fabian Dattner, CEO and founder of Dattner Group, leads a legacy-driven consultancy with nearly four decades of expertise in transformative cultural change and leadership practices.

Dattner Group is renowned for its profound impact on diverse audiences, particularly within the council sector, where it collaborates closely with executive teams, staff at all levels, and councillors to effect profound cultural shifts.

Fabian's work spans municipalities such as The City of Greater Bendigo, Banyule City Council, Nillumbik Shire Council, and many others.

A respected thought leader, Fabian regularly contributes to Government News and is a featured guest on the Local Government News Roundup Podcast with Chris Eddy.

Fabian also founded Homeward Bound Projects, a global initiative empowering women in STEMM fields. Recently stepping down as CEO, Fabian's vision continues to shape Homeward Bound's immersive 12-month leadership program, which culminates in an Antarctic expedition, so women in STEMM can amplify their leadership role globally.



Elaine Chia

Chief Executive Officer, Naomi Milgrom Foundation

Elaine Chia is the CEO of the Naomi Milgrom Foundation, a not-for-profit organisation which champions art, design and architecture that improves Australian lives. Operating on a public-private partnership model, the Foundation collaborates with government, educational institutions and industry partners to deliver flagship initiatives such as MPavilion, Living Cities Forum, and the Richmond Power Station renewal project.

A recognised arts leader and mentor, Elaine has run major arts festivals, international tours and groundbreaking cultural infrastructure projects. Past roles include Executive Director at the Adelaide Festival, CEO at Sydney's City Recital Hall and Director, International Signature Projects at the Australia Council for the Arts where she spearheaded the Australian Pavilion redevelopment in Venice, Italy, the first 21st century building in Venice.

As a jack of all trades Elaine actively cultivates collaboration and pooling of diverse talents and perspectives, at times unpredictable and risky, but when it works brings astonishingly powerful outcomes.



Jess Scully

Author

Jess Scully is an author, city-maker and advocate for an expanded civic imagination to empower us to create a fair and sustainable future. As Deputy Lord Mayor of Sydney from 2019 to 2022 and as a Councillor at the City of Sydney from 2016 to 2023, Jess championed new models to address the housing crisis and support a more inclusive economy, worked to embed culture in the life of the city and revive Sydney's nightlife, and advocated to expand who plays a role in shaping the life of the city.

Previously, Jess founded and directed Vivid Ideas, Australia's largest creative industries event; supported emerging talent through the Qantas Spirit of Youth Awards; transformed public space as an urbanism consultant and public art curator, served as a policy advisor to the NSW Minister for the Arts and hosted Saturday Afternoons on ABC Radio.

She is currently a World Bank consultant contributing to sustainable urban development in Indonesia and Senior Associate at the Sydney Policy Lab. Her first book, *Glimpses of Utopia: Real Ideas for a Fairer World*, was published by Pantera Press and shortlisted in the Australian Book Industry Awards in 2021.

Agenda

Thursday 12 September 2024

8:30am Registration and trade exhibition opens – Sofi's Lounge

9:00am **MC welcome**

Welcome to Country – Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung

9:10am **Conference opening**

Cr David Clark, MAV President

9:15am **Principal sponsor address, JLT**

9:25am **ALGA address**

Cr Linda Scott, ALGA President

9:30am **Legacy minded leadership – Building thriving communities**

Fabian Dattner, Chief Executive Officer

This unmissable keynote explores the transformative power of forward-thinking, collaborative leadership within local government. Challenging conventional notions of governance, we delve into the significance of legacy-minded approaches for shaping sustainable and prosperous communities. Through this lens, you will gain insights into building strong, resilient communities that stand the test of time.

Discover the essential elements of legacy-minded leadership and understand how it empowers local governments to create lasting, positive change, even during challenging and uncertain times.

With a focus on fostering community engagement, collaborative environments, and leveraging partnerships, attendees will leave energised and equipped with new perspectives on their role in shaping their council's future.

Don't miss this opportunity to explore innovative strategies that drive progress and learn how legacy-minded leadership can serve as a guiding light for making influential decisions with enduring impact on your community.

Proudly sponsored by Swinburne Edge

10:15am **Morning tea and exhibition – Sofi's Lounge**

Proudly sponsored by Metro Trains

10:45am **2023 ALGA VIC award winners – Celebrating our work**

Merryn Tinkler, Manager – Economy and Culture, Mount Alexander Shire Council

Boorp Boorp Boondyl

Mount Alexander Shire Council winners of the ALGA Awards for the Indigenous Recognition category for its permanent exhibition, Boorp Boorp Boondyl, featuring physical renderings of Jaara culture, artworks made by local and Indigenous Australian artists, and innovative interactive displays.

Sally Garson, Enhanced MCH Team Leader, Glen Eira City Council

Gems Program

Glen Eira City Council winners of ALGA Award in the Addressing Violence against Women and their Children category for Glen Eira Mums (GEMS), an early intervention service supporting vulnerable mothers and their children to access to legal advice and representation to avoid homelessness, debt and other complications from experiencing family violence.

Jo Postlethwaite, Manager, Community Recovery, Buloke Shire Council

The Paddock Run Initiative

Buloke Shire Council winners of the ALGA Awards Disaster Preparedness category for The Paddock Run initiative, which provided flood affected, exhausted farmers and their families with locally-made cookies and an informative card with key flood support details and specialist advisor contacts, including for mental health, during the October 2022 floods.

Bhavin Mehta, Manager City Infrastructure Planning City Futures, Melton City Council

Moving Melton Transport Prospectus

Melton City Council winners of the ALGA Awards Productivity through Infrastructure category for developing the Moving Melton Transport Prospectus, an innovative, interactive and data-driven website that demonstrates the benefits of investment in transport.

Plenary proudly sponsored by Maxsum

11:45am The psychology of spaces and experience design

Elaine Chia, Chief Executive Officer, Naomi Milgrom Foundation

Have you ever wondered why you walk past one shop and there's always a long queue outside, and five doors down is another with the same offer but it's empty?

Is it because one has intentionally designed the user experience, whilst the other hasn't thought about it and expected the product to be enough?

If only the answer was simple.

Elaine Chia has never run a shop, but she's conceived, created and produced many user experiences indoor and outdoor, small and large, formal and informal.

In this presentation Elaine will share what she thinks the answer could be, tracing the opportunities the Naomi Milgrom Foundation creates through public engagement with design and placemaking.

Elaine will explore how understanding the underlying motivations and desires of those we seek to engage has led to transformational creative projects that have a lasting impact for the community.

12:45pm Lunch and exhibition – Sofi's Lounge

Proudly sponsored by Vision Super

1:45pm United in action to confront the climate crisis

Alissa Raj, Deputy Regional Director, C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group

As we steadily approach 2030, it has become evident that we, across all regions, are not working quickly enough to decrease our GHG emissions and increase the resilience of the places we live in.

Cities, towns, and local authorities in particular, are gaining their place as a crucial actor for propelling action against the climate crisis for many reasons – we are often big contributors of emissions, while housing large and dense populations that typically rely on systems beyond our borders, leaving us even more vulnerable when climate hazards hit.

Discover key lessons learnt, and let's discuss how we can improve further moving forward in Australia and the APAC region?

Tiffany Crawford, Chief Heat Officer, City of Melbourne

Councils are on the frontline of efforts to address the impact of rising temperatures. The City of Melbourne recently appointed two Chief Heat Officers – Krista Milne and Tiffany Crawford – who are looking at ways to provide affected individuals with respite from the heat through initiatives such as cool rooms in libraries and other community facilities.

Dan Cowdell, Chief Executive Officer, Geelong Sustainability Group

The Climate Safe Rooms project aimed to retrofit one room in a household to create a safe haven in the homes of individuals most vulnerable to the health impacts of climate extremes. The project also sought to improve home energy efficiency and explore its benefits for energy use, thermal comfort, and overall well-being. Geelong Sustainability is recreating the project in 2024/2025.

Proudly sponsored by CentrePal

2:30pm Our changing political landscape

Facilitator: Kat Panjari, Director Strategic Foresight & Partnership, Municipal Association of Victoria

Tony Barry, Director Corporate Affairs and Communications, Redbridge

Kos Samaras, Director Strategy and Analytics, Redbridge

Facilitated by Kat Panjari, MAV Director Strategic Foresight & Partnerships, this fireside chat with Tony Barry, Director Corporate Affairs and Communications and Kos Samaras, Director Strategy and Analytics both from Redbridge Group, will focus on current trends and issues impacting on the state and federal political landscape. Opportunity for audience participation through Q&A.

Proudly sponsored by CentrePal

3:00pm Afternoon tea and exhibition – Sofi's Lounge

Proudly sponsored by Moray & Agnew Lawyers

3:30pm Combating disinformation – Panel session

Moderator: Ben Hart, Founder & Managing Director, Fireside Agency

Panel Members:

Ika Trijsburg, Research Fello, University of Melbourne

Matteo Bonotti, Associate Professor, Monash University

Mario Peucker, Associate Professor, Victoria University

Andrew Jaspan AM, Professor, Monash University

The rise of powerful digital media platforms has supercharged the ability of bad-faith actors to manipulate public opinion through disinformation. Local government is at the coalface of this battle for accuracy and integrity in the public discourse, with council events and other information activities increasingly facing disruption. This panel event will hear from media and disinformation experts about what's really going on, and provide practical guidance on how councils can protect and promote robust, healthy and accurate debate in the community.

Proudly sponsored by Exsead & Freshworks

4:15pm Local impact, global inspiration: finding glimpses of utopia for local leaders

Jess Scully, Author

Communities around the world are facing dramatic disruptions in their environment, economy, work and housing opportunities, and it's leading to unease, uncertainty and divisions in countless communities. As local leaders, we can sometimes feel overwhelmed, under-resourced and isolated: but all around the world, there are local government leaders playing a transformative role to support and guide their communities towards a future we can be excited about. Jess will share inspiring stories to lift the gaze of local leaders to help them reimagine their roles and what may be possible in the future. Despite the challenges we face, local leaders have reason to be optimistic and uplifting agents of change within their communities, when we're connected, supported and informed about what our peers are doing around the world.

Proudly Sponsored by Ask Your Team

5:00pm Conference close

Kelly Grigsby, Chief Executive Officer, Municipal Association of Victoria

5:10pm Conference concludes

Gala dinner – Proudly sponsored by Mapien

6:00pm Pre-dinner networking – Sofi's Lounge

7:00pm Dinner welcome

Cr David Clark, MAV President

7:10pm Dinner sponsor

7:15pm Entrée service

7:45pm Entertainment

8:15pm Dinner service

8:45pm Councillor Service Awards

9:15pm Entertainment continues

9:30pm Dessert service

10:30pm Dinner concludes