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Local Government Association Tasmania

NEWS

MARCH 2010

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**Best Ever Taste Festival
Attracts Record Crowds**

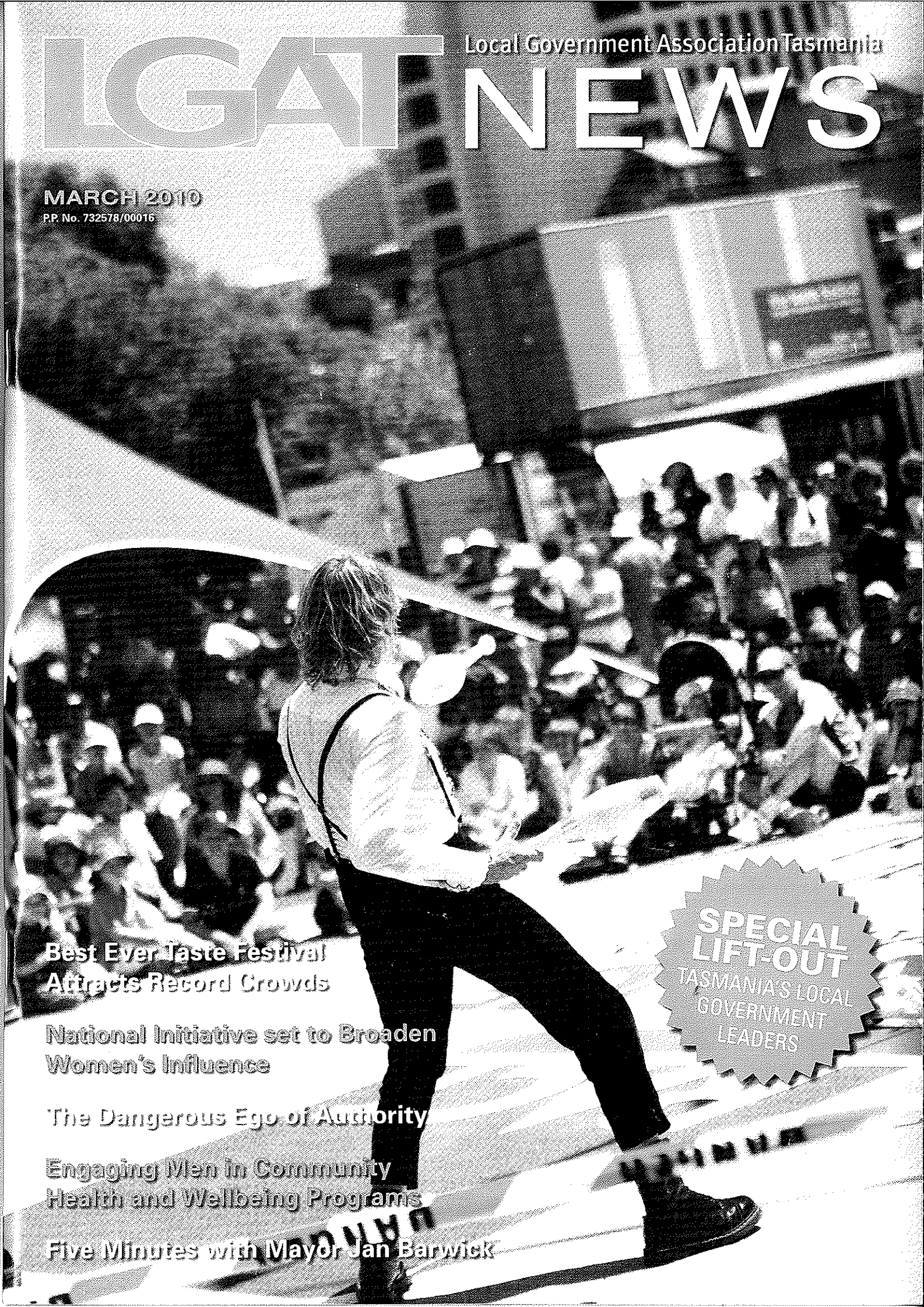
**National Initiative set to Broaden
Women's Influence**

The Dangerous Ego of Authority

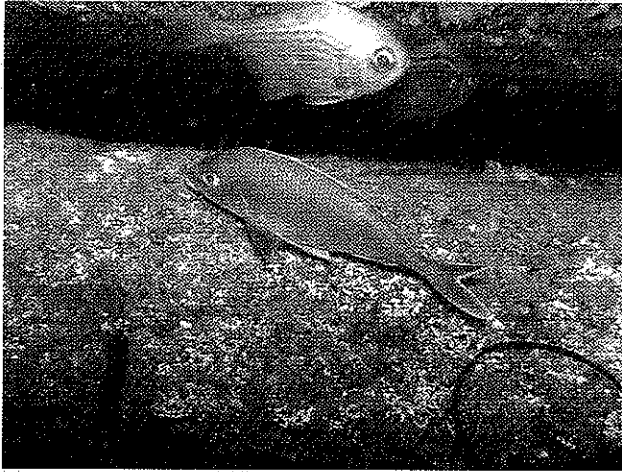
**Engaging Men in Community
Health and Wellbeing Programs**

Five Minutes with Mayor Jan Barwick

**SPECIAL
LIFT-OUT
TASMANIA'S LOCAL
GOVERNMENT
LEADERS**



In Brief



REDMAP Keeps Track of Roving Marine Species

REDMAP (Range Expansion Database and Mapping Project) is a new, interactive website designed to collect data from the community about how climate change may be influencing the distribution of marine species in Tasmanian waters. Many species are undergoing range expansions or shifts in their distributional range, with those more often associated with mainland waters being more frequently caught or seen by local fishers and divers in Tasmania. There are also species that are usually present in the north of our state moving much further south. The REDMAP site allows the local community to record scientific data by logging sightings of species that are caught or observed outside their usual or known range. To sign up as a member and receive the quarterly online newsletter, log on to REDMAP at www.redmap.org.au. For further information, contact Fiona Brodribb on (03) 6227 7267, or email enquiries@redmap.org.au.

Forest Clearing Policy Revised

The State Government will progressively phase out broad-scale clearing and conversion of native forest on private land by 2015. An annual limit of up to 40 hectares of conversion per property will be imposed until 2015, after which only small-scale clearing of 20 hectares over any five-year period will be allowed. A policy has been in place since 1997 to regulate how much native forest must be permanently retained and how much can be cleared and converted to other uses. The policy was last revised in 2006 to provide an approach to phasing out broad-scale clearing and conversion of forests in Tasmania. The provisions under the existing policy to allow clearing for essential infrastructure and routine agricultural activities remain unchanged. The new policy provisions will apply to all new applications for clearing and conversion of native forest to be lodged with the Forest Practices Authority. The revised policy can be viewed at http://www.dier.tas.gov.au/forests/permanent_native_forest_estate_policy.

Rogue Devil Cell Revealed

Researchers have isolated cells that are the source of the deadly facial tumors that have devastated Tasmanian devils in the wild. Tasmanian scientists has discovered that Schwann cells, in a sheath that protects nerves in the devils' mouths, are the source of the disease - ending theories that the tumors were a genetic condition passed down through generations, or that they originated in organs in the devils' bodies before metastasizing in the mouth. The discovery also puts an end to speculation that in-breeding is involved in the outbreak that has forced the devils on to the nation's list of threatened species. Although the search for a cure is now a step closer, scientists don't yet know why the Schwann cells are mutating. One of the roles of the cells is to protect nerves from infection and the reason they are failing is still unknown.



Heads Up for Serrated Tussock

Northern Tasmanian farmers are encouraged to be on the alert for any infestations of serrated tussock - a Weed of National Significance and a declared weed in Tasmania. Prompt action is required to prevent serrated tussock from dominating a pasture. Last year, an infestation of around 100 plants of serrated tussock was eradicated at Macquarie Settlement, between Cressy and Campbell Town. Another larger and older infestation has been found at Lake River. Serrated tussock has also spread to the Southern Midlands, with a roadside infestation of about 1,000 plants found at Spring Hill on the Midlands Highway. Serrated tussock has a thin, cylindrical leaf and produces multiple florets during the summer months. For more details, visit www.dpiw.tas.gov.au/inter.nsf/WebPages/RPIO-4ZV3UE?open.

**Bridport Resort &
Convention Centre**

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