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We sincerely thank our national partners for their ongoing support.





Kevin Lowe
President

NATIONAL PRESIDENT REPORT

2015 has been a challenging year with balancing my commitments for PLA as President for a further year as well as undertaking some significant projects at work, this has only been possible with the support of my family and special thanks to Suzanne. Secondly I would like to sincerely thank the board who have worked tirelessly over the last 12 months to settle the direction of PLA and toward the next phase in the evolution of PLA as the peak industry association for our sector with a review of our strategic direction, being mindful that we all have jobs and families who allow us to dedicate our spare time to this valuable industry. And thirdly the CEO and his staff for the support and effort they put into making PLA the stand out industry association it is becoming.

With some additional support from Tim Sargent in the key role as Finance Director on the board following an expression of interest during the year, our focus on finances and improving reporting and accountability has been great and continues to move us forward.

Similarly having Tara Looby providing direction on marketing and membership advice has been very useful for the board.

Regional representation on the board continues however this does come with some challenges and I appreciate the support of the board members for making it work and also picking up responsibility for sections of the 50 point plan.

2015 will also be a significant year as it will be the first time in our history that we will have had a female President. This is a significant milestone for the organisation but also the industry. Kristen Jackson who I know you all know and has been doing some great work over the years being involved in the organising of our conferences, as Master of Ceremonies work 'and' holding positions on the board and also being involved at a regional level.

I wish Kristen every success and I know the board, the staff of PLA and the membership will give her their full support as I have enjoyed.

I wish to thank everyone who has supported me during my term as President and even though there have been some challenging moments they have been few and there is a bright future ahead with, the professionalising of our board and the organisation that is now seeing improvements in turn over, sponsorship and membership, but this is a team effort and can't be achieved without the work in the regions and the many hours our members as volunteers put into the organisation along with our staff who do a fantastic job.

This year we have seen a significant increase in our social media presence given the sponsorship of KWP and this has really improved our image. Added to this our new look magazine in a digital format through our partnership with Universal Magazines, our reach as an organisation to the industry has been extended enormously.

We are fortunate to have some great national sponsors who share our passion and vision for the industry and I wish to thank them for their ongoing support, as without this support servicing the industry is very difficult indeed and these include:

- Forpark Australia
- Green Life Group
- Toro Australia
- Tennis Australia
- KWP!
- Jasstech Solutions
- Hayes Knight

Looking outside PLA we continue to support and make connections internationally with strong relationships with NZRA as our sister organisation in New Zealand, CUGE in Singapore, where we continue to provide training and support to their industry, and the emerging relationship we have with USA through the NRPA.

Overall PLA is on the right track and continues to build and gain presence as the peak industry association for our sector.



Mark Band
CEO

CEO REPORT

2014/15 was a tough year for us all with the tightening of purse strings across all levels of government which has an obvious knock on effect on organisations such as PLA. On a positive note however was the amazing support from both the private and sporting sectors of our industry with many new sponsors coming on board and others renewing their commitment and support to Parks and Leisure Australia. This confidence has not happened by accident and as the National Finance Director alluded to in his report: "positive changes have occurred over the past few years with regards to governance and services to members".

Given that PLA is now no longer a small administration, the move towards both a representative and skills based board was welcomed. Not only does this provide opportunity for sector and regional representation nationally, but also allows onto the board professionals and skills required to run a successful organisation.

To this end, the input from the likes of Tim Sargent, Tara Looby and the new national president Kristen Jackson who all come from a skills based background, strengthens the existing and tireless input from regional representatives to form a strong board with a solid governance focus. Indeed, the focus this year has been on reviewing our governance and reporting processes which has led to a number of priorities and recommendations for the future.

Operationally and with a sound governance platform on which to build; I believe that we need to strengthen our services the sector and as such professional development and advocacy remain a priority. Additional services and income streams also need to be considered and a focus on the needs of larger parks agencies developed. This will mean a realignment of membership categories, and a target driven approach to represent large agencies, Councils and Government departments.

Again, I look forward to continuing to serve the organisation and sector and on a personal note would like to pass on my thanks to the National Board for their support in this difficult year and a huge thank you to my national office staff who never cease to amaze me with their loyalty, commitment and sheer hard work.



Tim Sargent
National Finance Director

FINANCE DIRECTOR REPORT

Having come onto the board in April 2015 as a 'skills based appointment' with a strong business and financial background, my first 12 months has been focused on working with the CEO and Executive to review governance and financial procedures to ensure we move with the times and stay relevant in a modern competitive and commercial world.

My initial observations are that positive changes have occurred over the past few years with regards to governance and services to members. However, these have an obvious cost to the organisation which has resulted in drawing down on reserves.

Additionally, and as the organisation is almost a fully self funded entity with some support from Government agencies; is the need to ensure accounting practices reflect the terms of our contractual obligations and funds are isolated and accounted for appropriately.

To this end, financials now separate operational funds from grant and other liabilities and the 2014/15 reporting shows a deficit of \$(51,903). Whilst this may seem alarming as a similar figure was reported in the previous financial year, it does mean that we have a strong understanding of the true picture of the organisation and what is needed to address the ongoing challenge associated with a self funded not for profit organisation.

Since being appointed to the board, I have recommended the following initial strategies:

1. Closer monitoring to ensure the association generates annual surpluses by living within its means.
2. Move away from cash accounting to accrual accounting for transaction recording. This will give the board increased clarity regarding our 'true' financial position in any given month.
3. Monitor the monthly performance for each state against the budget to ensure we stay on track within the figures set.

Main points to highlight with respect to the 2015 Financial Statements are as follows:

- In prior years the reserves account reflected the balance of monies "set aside" for each state. Since we are one organisation there is no justification for this account and it has been removed to better reflect our position.
- In the Statement of Financial Position the balance of the WA grant being \$93,436 has been recognised as a liability. This reflects the grant money received that could be required to be repaid to the WA government for funds yet to be spent in accordance with the acquittal.
- Current Assets to Current Liabilities show that we have an excess of \$81,555, meaning that for every \$1 of liabilities we have \$1.24 of short term assets. At this point in time we therefore have sufficient liquidity to be able to pay our debts as and when they fall due. The current position is not as strong as previous years and changes are required to make the association more robust.

On a positive note the budget set for the 2015/16 year shows that the organisation is set to return to a surplus but this can only occur if all regions and national operations are collectively working as one organisation to better service all parks and leisure professionals in Australia.

A lot of hard work is being done behind the scenes to ensure that there is more disclosure around how the organisation is performing on a month by month basis. In return this will ensure board members have increased clarity and confidence to make informed decisions and I look forward to reporting next year on a more positive position.



Les Munn
President
NSW/ACT

NSW/ACT REGIONAL PRESIDENT REPORT

Over the past year, PLA has continued to grow across the country and NSW/ACT is no exception. The regional council staged 5 professional development seminars and workshops, a playground tour and commenced the running of our Outdoor Playground Inspection courses with Level 1 courses held in Dubbo and Albury. Level 2 courses are programmed to take place at those locations in the early part of next year. Those who successfully complete the courses receive a Certificate of Attainment through the University of Technology Sydney. A number of other regions throughout the state are showing interest in having this opportunity to attend locally held training programs and courses are being planned to accommodate this need.

Some very successful seminars were held during the year, in particular the Active Aging seminar (where 35 delegates attended) and the Outdoor Health and Fitness in Parks (42 attendees) were particularly popular with our members. Technology – apps and social media in Parks and Leisure was also a favourite.

Our Executive Officer, Bethanie Tobin was seconded to the National Conference organising committee and along with the other members has continued to work tirelessly to ensure that Sydney stages a fantastic conference in October. From all reports, things are progressing well and it is shaping up to be a memorable event. Our own board member Andrew Robinson is heading up the organising committee and doing a great job. It will be an event not to be missed.

Bethanie has also worked tirelessly organising seminars/workshops, tours and training programs as well as securing new major sponsors, Andreasens Green and Kompan, who we welcome aboard. We are also continuing our relationship with SITA Organics and Scully Outdoor Designs.

On a local note, the board welcomed the addition of two new regional councillors, Fiona MacColl and Anne Jackson. Both bring a wealth of experience to our board and look forward to being more involved in PLA.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my committee and our Executive Officer for all of their hard work over the past 12 months. It is both inspiring and a pleasure to work with a great bunch of talented and like-minded people who give their time for the advancement of our industry. I would also like to thank Mark Band and his team for the fantastic and professional support that they provide to the regions on an ongoing basis.



Martin Lambert
President
QLD

QLD REGIONAL PRESIDENT REPORT

Following on from the success of last year's National Conference in Cairns, PLA Qld held its first Queensland State Conference at the beginning of June. This event was an incredible success. We had more than 100 delegates and involvement from across commercial, private, state, local and NGO sectors. The quality of the presentations and the amount of content that was available was impressive. The social and networking events were enjoyable and I saw numerous exchanges of contacts, sharing of stories and collegial moments, as we came together as an industry and celebrated the extensive knowledge and experience we have in Queensland.

The conference was a major undertaking and I would like to thank all those who helped organise the conference. In particular the conference sponsor Gold Coast City Council and our trade exhibitors. Overall, I also want to acknowledge the outstanding professionalism and dedication of our Executive Officer Tracy Barkham.

As we become more effective in our role and expand our partnerships we are finding more opportunities to support those in our industry. PLA Qld's success is due to the efforts of a hard working regional council and my thanks goes to them as well for their continued commitment. I would also like to acknowledge the efforts of the national board, our CEO and national office.

In Queensland our focus continues to be on:

- Building our profile as the industry peak body
- Establishing cross industry partnerships
- Advocacy on key state policy issues
- Providing professional development and networking opportunities

Other 2014-2015 Events

Road trip August 2014

In the lead up to the National Conference in Cairns, two of our long standing PLA stalwarts went on a road trip from Brisbane to Cairns stopping in a number of towns and cities to talk about PLA and the industry.

Networking event – Sirromet Winery 21 Nov 2014

This end of year function was well attended and as part of our efforts at collaboration we invited other organisations along to talk about their industry. As a direct result we have started running some joint events with AILA Qld.

Parks Forum with AILA (Australian Institute of Landscape Architects) 26 Feb 2015

A joint industry event focused on practical tools to achieve the highest quality parks was very successful and created additional networks and understanding.

Land Tenure workshop 13 May in Townsville

Supported by NPSRS and Townsville City Council this event was attended by more than 40 people from a range of far north councils, agencies and non-profit organisations. The event was so successful that a follow up event is planned and PLA Qld will be running a similar event in South East Queensland later this year.

Planning Leisure Facilities People Want 15 July Capalaba - Brisbane

This one day workshop supported by Redland and Logan City Councils built upon a workshop at the state conference and was born from some tough questions posed by an SEQ recreation planner. More than 50 attended this professionally facilitated workshop which aimed to set a framework around some of the key issues in facilities planning and the problems associated with legislative and funding frameworks that don't support strong planning approaches.

Other Partnerships

As a result of our efforts to establish partnerships across industries we have:

- Collaborated with AILA on events.
- Engaged with Tennis Qld to partner with events.
- Engaged with Healthy Waterways to establish more cross industry education and look at potential collaborations on key policy issues such as multiple use of open space.
- Maintained connections with PIA Qld.
- Worked with Qld Outdoor Recreation Federation to support their Nature Play initiatives.
- Worked with the State Department of National Parks, Sport and Racing on professional development needs and opportunities.
- Presented to the State Advisors Forum on the state of the industry and the results of the Leisure Facilities Workshop.

Communication and Advocacy

Apart from our weekly E-Newsflash and quarterly Newsletter we continually encourage the development of local networks and information sharing. We have also been encouraging members to raise issues for new professional development events or key advocacy concerns. PLA Qld has been reengaging with other state departments on planning policy and infrastructure funding issues. We are hopeful that there is a greater opportunity for government and industry collaboration in the coming year.

Membership

Our membership is steadily increasing and has grown 17% from 107 in July 2014 to 125 in May 2015. As we develop more regional events and offer greater support, more professional development and increased networking and information sharing opportunities, we are confident membership will continue to grow. I look forward to a strong and successful year both regionally and nationally.



John Wilkinson
President
SA/NT

SA/NT REGIONAL PRESIDENT REPORT

With another year complete, the SA/NT region has been working to build on the hard work of recent years. The third combined PLA and Recreation SA conference was held in March 2015 and although numbers were down due to various reasons, we explored new topics such as place making and the importance of our industry in making places great.

Whilst membership of the regional council has remained stable, our Executive Officer, Kane Harrison, has recently moved to a role in local government and I would like to extend my thanks to Kane for his efforts and contribution to the organisation. Additionally, we welcome the recent appointment of Cathie Trezona as our new Executive Officer, and I look forward to working closely with Cathie on various exciting initiatives over the next 12 months. I would also like to thank Kevin Lowe for his support to me as a new Regional President and for his efforts in representing the region at the national level.

We have also been active in strengthening existing and forging new partnerships to ultimately benefit our members, including ongoing discussions with Nature Play SA and a new partnership with 'Place SA', which is a network of key organisations responsible for engaging communities, designing, constructing and programming great places.

Our previous President's Report indicated that we have been successful in securing the IP of the Parks Alive program from the LGA in SA. We are continuing to explore how we can further roll out this program and have applied for LGA funding to do this, particularly on national scale.

Like other regions, we continue to face various challenges such as reduced financial support from the state government and we have been active in advocating to these agencies for recognition as the peak body for the sector. I am confident we will gain some ground on this in the coming year and I look forward to another year of achievements.



Paul Jane
President
VIC/TAS

VIC/TAS REGIONAL PRESIDENT REPORT

The Vic/Tas Regional Board has continued the work it commenced in strengthening the Parks and Leisure sector in this region.

This year the board continued to deliver a number of high quality events to the sector that were well attended and addressed the needs of our members.

Our conference, now in its second year, attracted 168 attendees (up from 91 in 2014) and the feedback was overwhelmingly positive with the event now cementing its place in the annual calendar. A personal highlight for myself was to see the range and diversity of speakers and delegates connecting and sharing ideas coupled with the opportunity to showcase the great work of the Ballarat City Council who hosted the event.

Wrapped up with the conference is the announcement of the winners of the Vic/Tas Regional Awards of Excellence, and the interest and number of nominations for awards have grown significantly in the past years. The award announcements are now combined with a conference dinner and it now not only holds its place in the calendar as the Vic/Tas region 'nights of nights', but is also a great opportunity to catch up with colleagues and marinate in the success of the award winners and debrief after a hectic year.

Over the past twelve months Victoria has seen significant change in government. This will considerably effect the local government sector and will require parks and leisure professionals to work harder to secure limited resources along with the ever growing recognition by major sports acknowledging the critical nature of local government in delivering their sports to the community.

I would like to extend a giant thank you to the Vic/Tas regional board and members of our sub committees who have given up their time throughout the year to support our efforts. In particular I would like to thank Marg Scanlon who will be stepping down from the committee, her support has been invaluable. All that the Vic/Tas regional board has achieved wouldn't have happened without our stellar executive team of Richard and Pamela Simon who we are all indebted to. This year saw the board ramp up our relationships with the corporate sector and I thank and acknowledge the many organisations that sponsored State Conference activities and other seminars and events.

The next 12 months we will be challenging ourselves to deliver better events for our members and build stronger relationships with key industry bodies in the state to present a stronger and united sector.

Finally, a big thank you to our members who attended our events throughout the year. I hope to see a lot more of you in the future.



Joanne Smith
President
WA

WA REGIONAL PRESIDENT REPORT

2014/15 was a stellar year for PLA WA with the formation of many wonderful partnerships and alliances that resulted in a diverse range of programs and projects. In conjunction with the Department of Sport and Recreation, Department of Water, Planning Institute Australia WA, Australian Institute of Landscape Architects WA and New WAter Ways, PLA WA were pleased to host two Public Parkland Planning and Design Guide workshops early in the financial year. The guide is a valuable resource for planners, designers and parkland managers that encourages integrated planning at all levels to deliver parkland suited to local conditions, fit for purpose water sources, while optimising community benefit.

A Facilities Benchmarking seminar on 30th September 2014 at the Terry Tyzack Aquatic Centre was attended by 50 delegates who heard from two of Australia's leading benchmarking organisations and three local governments detailing the benefits, use and application of benchmarking.

The Environmental Guidelines for the Establishment & Management of Turf were revised and published by the Swan River Trust through the state's Fertiliser Partnership early this year. These guidelines are an important reference for amenity, sports and recreation space turf managers on the Swan and Scott Coastal plains, along with Turf Sustain from Sports Turf Technology. PLA WA partnered with the Swan River Trust and sponsor Baileys Fertiliser to feature the guide and case studies on 28th October 2014 at the Aubin Grove Community Room. Attendees learned about the updated environmental guidelines and recent findings and discussed current issues with colleagues.

PLA WA ran an Introduction to WA Planning seminar on 20th November 2014 at the Town of Cambridge. Dr Garry Middle from Curtin University provided guidance to those unfamiliar with planning and updated others on the significant changes and recent shifts in the strategic direction of the WA planning system.

Partnering with the Department of Sport and Recreation as an Active Series event, PLA WA hosted award winning social researcher, demographer and futurist Mark McCrindle on Friday, 28th November 2014. Changing Times, Emerging Generations: Creating Healthy, Active, 21st Century Communities seminar presented key trends redefining our society in these times of rapid change, delivering insights to help our industry, not just respond to the trends but to shape them. From technological currents to demographic movements, from social swings to generational shifts, Mark's research acumen provided the understanding to best engage and mentor emerging generations, facilitate meaningful partnerships and engender healthy active communities.

After two very successful Nature Places & Spaces case study presentations and bus tours in late 2013 and early 2014, PLA WA planned two design workshop in early 2015. Hearing of our intentions Urbis offered their expertise and time to assist. Workshop 1 in February 2015 focussed on the key principles for scoping a nature space suitable for general public access and assessing and managing potential risks. Presenters were from Nature Play WA, the West Australian Local Government Association, Play Check, Kidsafe WA, Botanic Gardens & Parks Authority, City of Cockburn and City of Subiaco.

Workshop 2 in March looked at scoping the detail of a nature place project. Playscape Creations, Urbis and Ecoscape presenters set the scene for participants to apply their own skills to design and we are grateful to them all for sharing their knowledge and passion.

The Parks Benchmarking seminar held on Thursday 23rd April at the City of Vincent brought Integrated Open Space Systems and Yardstick to Perth to talk about two industry established Australian benchmarking organisations - what services they offer and how you can use the data to support your business cases. Presenters from the Cities of Joondalup, Gosnells and Armadale talked frankly about their journeys to substantiate and build better parks services and highlighted that without benchmarking as a fundamental tool for measuring assets and service delivery, they would not have been able to develop and substantiate a way forward.

The Youth Spaces seminar held on 11 June this year attracted more than 100 people from the parks, leisure and youth development industries, including elected members, youth workers, physical activity programmers, recreation and parks managers and more. This day was an exhilarating journey through planning for, negotiating the pitfalls of complex community consultation and delivering the best quality spaces that young people want. With sponsorship from CONVIC and the support of the City of Fremantle we had all our senses stimulated by presentations from the Youth Affairs Council, CONVIC, City of Stirling, City of Rockingham, Emerge, City of Joondalup, Skate Sculpture, City of Fremantle and local skate park user Jimmy Thompson.

A record 40 nominations were received for the 2015 PLA WA Awards of Excellence with over 30% from regional Western Australia. Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors the award ceremony showcased the outstanding calibre of planning, projects and programs in 2014. We would like to offer our sincere gratitude to our sponsors who are the backbone of what we do and who continue to make this event grow in significance for industry and community.

Platinum sponsors: Lynx Integrated Systems and Lightbase
Major Sponsors: Hydrosol, Baileys Fertiliser, Natureplay Solutions, Tredwell Management, Domus Nursery, City of Swan, Josh Byrne and Associates, Woodlands Distributors and Agencies, Tri Events, Total Eden, City of South Perth, Belgravia.

The Community Facilities guidelines have been the major focus of the region for the past 12 months and with the help of Davis Langdon and the University of Western Australia it should be finalised at the end of 2015. The project, the largest that PLA WA has undertaken, includes the collection and collation of community facilities and their attributes across 46 metro local governments. Analysis of provision per head of population, accessibility and spatial mapping aims to be a guide for planning provision of leisure facilities and services. The Guide will identify triggers for additional or different scale facilities, provide options, templates and models for facility delivery and procurement.

One of the challenges we faced this year was finding a new office when Sports Lotteries House was destroyed by fire. Unfortunately most of our equipment and data was irretrievable. The Department of Sport and Recreation generously agreed to house our Executive Officer and Events Officer at their Leederville offices. This has provided many opportunities for projects, events and information sharing.

A future threat for PLA WA and the industry is the potential loss of funding if the state government does not make provisions for the industry in the sale of the TAB. The industry received approximately \$4.5m last year from the TAB via the Sports Wagering Account (SWA). This money is then used to fund peak bodies, programs and projects in the sport and recreation industry. If this funding is lost the impact on sport and recreation in Western Australia will be extensive. While PLA WA does not have a position on the sale of the TAB, it is vital that provisions are included in the sale to preserve and index the Sports Wagering Account (SWA) funding for now and into the future.

PLA WA are sincerely grateful for the support, strategic direction and organisation sustainability grant funding (from the Sports Wagering Account) that we have enjoyed for the past six years. It has given PLA WA the opportunity to develop as a small organisation to engage with the many volunteers, professionals and sponsors behind the places that share their knowledge and stories to build a stronger parks and leisure industry in Western Australia.

Finally all that we do at PLA WA would not be possible without the support of our many volunteers. From judges, subcommittee members, event attendees, newsletter contributors, presenters, survey respondents to regional councillors, we thank you all for your valuable contribution ensuring that we have healthy, active thriving communities that have good access to quality community facilities, public open space, leisure opportunities and programs.



FINANCIAL REPORT

Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income

	2015	2014
	\$	\$
Revenue	1,303,317	1,275,693
Other income	3,289	4,988
Depreciation and amortisation expense	(6,371)	(8,329)
Conference expenses	(450,141)	(482,266)
Membership expenses	-	(14,556)
Other expenses	(901,997)	(830,680)
Deficit before income tax	(51,903)	(55,150)
Income tax expense	-	-
Deficit for the year	(51,903)	(55,150)
Other comprehensive income	-	-
Total comprehensive loss for the year	(51,903)	(55,150)

Statement of Financial Position

	2015	2014
	\$	\$
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	154,863	315,025
Trade and other receivables	152,430	157,113
Other assets	109,229	71,439
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	416,522	543,577
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Intangible assets	-	6,371
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	-	6,371
TOTAL ASSETS	416,522	549,948
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Trade and other payables	56,611	130,189
Current tax liabilities	16,856	4,747
Other financial liabilities	261,500	228,665
TOTAL LIABILITIES	334,967	363,601
NET ASSETS	81,555	186,347
EQUITY		
Reserves	-	69,264
Accumulated surplus	81,555	117,083
TOTAL EQUITY	81,555	186,347

Statement of Changes in Equity

	2015	2014	
	Accumulated Surplus	Asset Revaluation Reserve	Total
	\$	\$	\$
Balance at 1 July 2014	117,083	69,264	186,347
Surplus attributable to members of the entity	(51,903)	-	(51,903)
Revaluation increment (decrement)	69,264	(69,264)	-
Retrospective adjustment upon change in accounting policy	(52,889)	-	(52,889)
Balance at 30 June 2015	81,555	-	81,555
Balance at 1 July 2013	172,233	69,264	241,497
Deficit attributable to members of the entity	(55,150)	-	(55,150)
Balance at 30 June 2014	117,083	69,264	186,347

Statement of Cash Flows

	2015	2014
	\$	\$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:		
Receipts from customers	1,133,037	1,426,226
Payments to suppliers and employees	(1,451,397)	(1,470,434)
Interest received	3,289	4,988
Receipt from grants	154,909	154,090
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	(160,162)	114,870
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents held	(160,162)	114,870
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	315,025	200,155
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	154,863	315,025

A full version of the Parks and Leisure Australia Financial Statements for the year ending 30 June 2015, including the supporting notes is available online at www.parksleisure.com.au



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