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We sincerely thank our national partners for their support.



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# NATIONAL PRESIDENT REPORT



Martin Lambert  
President

## NATIONAL PRESIDENT REPORT

PLA as an organisation continues to grow stronger and more relevant every year. With the professionalism of our CEO Mark Band, we have developed considered strategy and strong governance. The success of the last year is due to the efforts of many and I would like to thank all the members of the board for their commitment to the organisation and our industry. The board members all have important folios to manage and they work with the staff, subcommittees and industry contacts to manage PLA and, more importantly, ensure we support our industry and the professionals working within it.

As the President I am exceptionally grateful to have a board that is active, engaged and professional. My sincere thanks go to: Tim Sargent (Finance); Tara Looby (Marketing); Eve Craker (Generate); Anand Pillay (Qld, PLA Advisory); Barbara Gaiotto (National Conference); Rachel Thorpe (WA); Paul Jane (VicTas); Les Munn (NSW) and John Wilkinson (SANT).

As you all know, it is a team effort to keep PLA viable and functioning. So my gratitude and respect for their professionalism goes to Nicoll Parton for her marketing and communications genius and the building of a sponsorship portfolio and conference product that is truly industry leading; Kirsty Newman our finance manager who untangles the web of our multiple operational areas and keeps us informed and in the black; Lina Court who with incredible patience and efficiency coordinates, communicates, problem solves, organises and implements in the myriad areas that keep us functioning and Cathy D'Aloia for coordinating conferences that get more exceptional and organised every year.

On the policy, advocacy and research front we have also been incredibly well supported by the efforts of PLA Advisory and the experience and knowledge we access through that group. In terms of advocacy PLA has been working hard to develop our strategies through new partnerships with peak bodies, engagement with overseas industry groups, presenting at a range of meetings and conferences outside of PLA and the development of discussion papers, position papers and ideas summaries.

We are aiming to communicate that our industry employs hundreds of thousands and our importance as a major contributor to solving many of the problems that our cities face in the 21st century.

In particular I would like to acknowledge the tireless efforts of Penny Davidson who has led PLA Advisory for so many years. Penny's leadership and coordination of the group and the many tasks and challenges that were thrown at them by the board is a key contributor to our current success. Penny has relinquished her role as the chair of PLA Advisory and I would like to thank her for the years of effort, good humour and support of the organisation.

I would also like to welcome the new chair, Andrew Smith who takes on the role with enthusiasm and many years of experience both on the board of PLA and working in our industry.

PLA's strength lies in the regions and the regional activities delivered by our five extremely active and committed regional councils. My thanks goes to the regional committees and their executive officers who continue to grow the opportunities for professional development and networking to serve our members. Their efforts to take PLA events outside of capital cities and to respond to issues emerging in their regions is broadening our impact and expanding awareness of the importance of our industry.

We have also had a very successful year in expanding our partnerships across other industries and building connections with overseas organisations. Recently Mark Band and I were invited to present a Master Class and deliver a keynote for the Singapore IGRIP (International Greenery, Recreation, Infrastructure and Parks) conference. The Master Class and conference involved colleagues from USA, South Africa, France, World Urban Parks, Indonesia, Malaysia, China, Japan and South Korea. It was a great opportunity to learn more about what is happening in our region and to build connections. I felt very proud of PLA when we constantly had requests for more information on how we have built the organisation and the level of regard our

## NATIONAL PRESIDENT REPORT CONT:

colleagues had for all that we have achieved. Our Vice President Paul Jane presented at an international conference in China and domestically PLA representatives have presented at a number of conferences outside our industry.

Our Generate program which aims to support and develop our young professionals is firing up and will be prominent at the conference this year. We have introduced a number of opportunities to grow the innovation and passion that comes from youth. I would like to thank Eve Craker for her stewardship of the program.

As an industry, we often forget we are one of the most important industries in the country. A few things to remember: Arts and Recreation employs as many people as mining – around 229,000 in 2016 and we contribute directly to better health and strong and diverse economies. Sport and sports infrastructure is responsible for 220,000 jobs and 2-3% of GDP. Yes, more than mining which is only 2% of GDP (2017 Intergenerational Review of Sport). But wait there's more! - including volunteering, the productivity benefit of sport is approximately \$50B (2017 Intergenerational Review of Sport).

Our industry returns a value to the community far in excess of the cost. We are not a subsidy proposition, we are an investment with high returns that are guaranteed. A recent study by the National Trust in the UK has found (using Sheffield as a case study): "...that parks and green spaces are a great asset to the city, worth nearly £1.2bn, not a liability of £16m as they appear in

conventional public accounts. They also suggest that parks are excellent value for money: for every £1 spent on public parks in Sheffield, society receives £34 of services – 60% of which is to physical and mental health.

There are now so many studies that demonstrate the positive impact of parks, greenspace, sporting areas, recreation facilities and active transport on our physical and mental health, social cohesion and local economies, that the debate should be considered over.

Research estimates that physical inactivity is costing the Australian economy \$13.8 billion each year in healthcare costs. What we do, what our industry represents, is not optional. It isn't "nice to have after we plan everything else". It is critical. The parks, sport and recreation infrastructure we so tirelessly advocate for will mean more to future generations and future economies than so many other areas of investment.

We are a large, relevant and future critical industry. I urge you all, to not sit silently when discussions in your workplace turn to what is important, the infrastructure and programs that make a real difference are what we do.

It's time for the National Conference and I am excited to be welcoming so many to the Gold Coast. Please enjoy the coming year and get involved. We welcome ideas, feedback and involvement. So don't hesitate to get in touch or track any of the Board or our staff down at the conference to talk about how you can be more involved in your industry.

"The parks, sport and recreation infrastructure we so tirelessly advocate for will mean more to future generations and future economies than so many other areas of investment."



Mark Band  
CEO

## CEO REPORT

Another year passes and one in which is starting to show the fruits of our labour as a progressive organisation. With over 90 years behind us and fast approaching its centenary year, Parks and Leisure Australia has come a long way and today must aim to become a sustainable Association operating in a competitive world.

To this end, the organisation has a focus on commercial reality to benefit the sector and our members. This has been over the last 2-3 years with some positive results now beginning to show. We simply can't rely on membership income alone for us to remain viable and the direction and leadership provided to me by the National Board has meant we have placed increased emphasis on commercial opportunities and polished business and financial practices.

The support of companies such as Moore Stephens and our Finance Director Tim Sargent and Finance Officer Kirsty Newman has meant we have a solid understanding and appreciation of our financial position. Regular monitored updates are provided to all regions and business areas of the organisation and with the Board's directive for each business area to operate at a specific profit margin, it has assisted in the development of a healthy reserve fund. Indeed, this year's figures show a strong surplus over and beyond the budgeted figure which supports the whole organisation working collaboratively for positive outcomes.

We of course appreciate the support of our national sponsors; GreenLife Group, Syngenta, Lawn Solutions Australia, Toro Australia, Tennis Australia, Belgravia Leisure along with the incredible in-kind partnership with Moore Stephens and our digital agency KWP!

Some of the key outcomes for last year have included another successful conference at the Adelaide Oval in South Australia with over 420 delegates in attendance and a strong and sold out trade show. The conference goes from strength to strength and the support from the sector means that it has now become the leading industry conference in Australia run by members for our members with all profits going directly back into servicing membership.

The formalising of the Certified Parks and Leisure Professional (CPLP) Certification using an amended version of the World Urban Parks (WUP) Certified Parks Professional, now means that the sector in Australia is formally recognised. PLA was instrumental in reshaping this and WUP are now using the model to assist other professional associations across the globe to implement in their own respective countries and regions.

The CPLP will be administered by PLA through the Eppley Institute and will include a Continuing Professional Development (CPD) points system aligned with ongoing training and development of our members. The existing member of Parks and Leisure Australia (MPLA) will remain relevant for any person that is accepted to the Association, but the CPLP will become the formally recognised benchmark for professionals in Australia and can lead to international certification administered by WUP if desired.

Our membership restructure also remains a core priority and means that corporate members will be able to list all staff within their respective organisations as members of PLA. This will be of professional benefit to members such as councils and large parks and leisure agencies whilst also meaning a stronger advocacy platform and reach by PLA to the sector and Government. The new web platform proposed for the 17/18 FY will help to make this a reality and will be launched early in the new year.

Core products and services have also started to be developed in conjunction with a number of stakeholders and partners. The licence for the Greenflag programme will be finalised soon with the UK Government to be run and administered here in Australia by PLA. Negotiations and discussions have commenced between both organisations and it is envisaged that this and other park benchmarking products will be launched by PLA in the coming 12 months.

Behind the scenes the PLA advisory group has been working hard on a number of priorities including the development of a research repository with funds from an old Parks and Recreation Trust established in the days of the Royal Australian Institute of Parks and Recreation. The repository will complement a partnership we have developed with the Australian Sports Commission's Clearinghouse for Sport and is pending the launch of the newly developed web platform.

PLA has been active in the Asia Pacific Region this year having been invited to attend and speak at a number of conferences in China and Singapore. We have also forged some strong international links with similar organisations in South Africa, France, Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore, not to mention the strong collaboration we have with our counterparts in New Zealand.

From a strategic point of view, the Fifty Point Plan has served us well and was the platform in turning the organisation around into a sustainable and viable organisation. This has now been reviewed and a new direction 'Towards Twenty 21' will be the new roadmap for the next 3 years.

The regions also grow from strength to strength and the tireless work and effort of both the councillors in their volunteer roles and the Executive Officers in their professional capacities is second to none and does not go unnoticed. I would personally like to thank them all for their continued support and work in making PLA a truly viable organisation and look forward to working with them in the coming year.

I would also like to thank the National Board for their leadership and direction and more so entrusting me and my national office staff with steering the organisation forwards with their set direction. On that note, the work behind the scenes by my national office staff is truly exemplary and I would like to thank Lina Court (National Office Manager), Nicoll Parton (National Marketing and Communications Manager), Kirsty Newman (National Finance Officer) and Cathy D'Aloia (Conference Coordinator) for their tireless efforts in making PLA what it is today.

Here's to another successful year and a huge thank you to you our members as the people behind the places that make Australia one of the most liveable countries on the planet.

"Parks and Leisure Australia has come a long way and today must aim to become a sustainable Association operating in a competitive world"



Tim Sargent  
Finance Director

### FINANCE DIRECTOR REPORT

I am pleased to report that the organisation has reported another surplus for the year of \$115,163 which is a further improvement on the surplus of \$100,145 reported the year before.

In my opinion the board has taken on the advice that we need to be financially savvy in order to survive as an organisation. Regular reviews against the budget set and a successful 2016 National Conference has led to another year where a surplus has been generated.

Main points to highlight with respect to the 2017 Financial Statements are as follows:

Revenue from operations is down by about \$170,000 on the previous year mainly due to the Seminars and State Conferences and a slight drop off in Sponsorship.

At a gross operating profit level (income less direct expenses) the National Conference, State and local seminars have improved profitability by just under \$65,000.

In the Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income we have an income tax expense of \$56,114 for the year which is recognised for tax purposes that we have taxable income of \$182,148. The future income tax benefit at year end is \$115,531, which represents the value the association has in carried forward tax losses being \$420,113.

The Statement of Financial Position shows our net equity position has further strengthened from \$353,345 to \$412,394 which has come about through improved financial performance.

The grants received from the WA State Government has not been fully absorbed over the years and at 30th June 2017 sits at \$119,759.

Current Assets to Current Liabilities show that we have an excess of \$296,863 (prior year \$181,700) meaning that for every \$1 of liabilities we have \$1.79 of short term assets which provides comfort that Parks & Leisure has sufficient liquidity to be able to pay our debts as and when they fall due.

The budget set for the 2017/18 year shows that the organisation is targeting for another surplus which is required to make Parks & Leisure more robust to maintain stability.

Finally, I would like to thank the other board members for the input and support in making Parks & Leisure where it exists today. I can assure you that every effort is being made to ensure that the organisation continues to make surpluses.

“Regular reviews against the budget set and a successful 2016 National Conference has led to another year where a surplus has been generated”



# NSW/ACT REGIONAL PRESIDENT REPORT



Les Munn  
President  
NSW/ACT

## NSW/ACT REGIONAL PRESIDENT REPORT

PLA has completed yet another successful year both Regionally and Nationally.

Another very successful State Conference was held this year in beautiful Kiama with over 100 delegates attending. Attendees were treated to a fabulous presentation from Amna Karra-Hassan, a young Muslim woman activist and advocate for diversity, inclusion and gender parity. Amna formed a women's AFL team in the western suburbs of Sydney (Auburn Giants AFL Club) and used sport to promote both equality in sport but also the rights of women from various ethnic backgrounds.

It was a moving presentation by Amna who has since been named Giant's Woman of the Year. Delegates were presented with some outstanding presentations and subsequent surveys of participants indicated that the majority of those attending, felt that the Regional Conference is excellent value for money.

In accordance with our commitment to professional development, the Regional Council organised seminars for our members on a range of topics. The most popular in terms of attendance were our Place Making Seminar held at the Sydney Botanic Gardens, the Irrigation workshop held at Blacktown International Sportspark and a Waterplay Design and Management seminar held at the Rydalmere Operations Centre. There were also a number of other workshops/seminars held, that although not attended by large numbers, never-the-less provided those who did attend with outstanding presentations.

Our successful Playground Accreditation Course run in partnership with the University of Technology Sydney continues to be popular with our members, with a Level 2 Outdoor Playground Operational Inspectors course held in November in Albury. These courses will continue over the next 12 months with courses planned in the north of the state.

We also staged a unique Christmas Party for members and guests at the Botanic Gardens and combined it with a tour of the newly

opened Calyx facility with its beautifully designed "Green Wall" and fabulous water entry. The Botanic Gardens also hosted our Major Events and Illuminating Ideas seminar which included presentations from the organizers of "Sculpture by the Sea" and the world famous "Vivid" spectacular as well as a tour of this year's event!

Our Regional Council saw some changes with James Harris, Nigel Hobden, Ed Sanderson and Denise Ora leaving us. We thank them all for their efforts and for giving up their time in helping us to promote PLA NSW/ACT. In turn, we had two new arrivals in Carla Armanet and Simon James and I would like to take this opportunity to formally welcome them to our committee. We look forward to working closely with them over the coming years.

This year's PLA Awards saw a record number of entries with 43 coming from NSW over 9 categories. Congratulations to the winners who were announced at the Awards of Excellence dinner which was also extremely well attended. These awards continue to grow in prestige and popularity. I would like to congratulate Botanic Gardens and Centennial Park for their amazing efforts in winning awards in 3 separate categories. Good luck to all of our winners who now compete for the National Awards which will be announced as part of this year's National Conference in October.

I would also like to pass on the Board's congratulations to Blacktown City Council for winning the 2016 National Award for Leisure and/or Open Space Planning with "Planning for Sport and Open Space in New Release Areas."

New NSW/ACT Region sponsorship deals have been secured with Andreasens Green and Kompan, and Scully Outdoor Designs Australia has once again signed on as our e-newsletter sponsor. They join our other sponsors GLG, Syngenta, Lawn Solutions Australia and Tennis Australia. These sponsors provide strong support to our industry and we are grateful for their ongoing support.

## NSW/ACT REGIONAL PRESIDENT REPORT CONT:

“PLA has completed yet another successful year both Regionally and Nationally”

Once again, I would like to pass on my gratitude to our extremely committed, incredibly professional Executive Officer Bethanie Tobin who stages all of these events for us. We are very lucky to have her on board and anyone who has dealt with her walks away impressed. I also wish to thank our very committed Regional Council who work tirelessly to promote PLA, to stage seminars for you, the members, and who advocate on your behalf to promote the industry that we all love. At present, Board members are representing PLA at workshops and round tables with the Australian Sports Commission, the Greater Sydney Commission and the Office of Sport, to name a few. We are also endeavouring to forge stronger partnerships/alliances with other organizations with similar interests

such as the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects and the Sports Turf Association.

Next year's NSW/ACT Conference will be held at Tamworth, home of the Tamworth Country Music Festival. The Council assures us our members will be impressed by what the region has to show and will certainly enjoy their hospitality. We certainly hope to see you all there, you won't be disappointed.

# QLD REGIONAL PRESIDENT REPORT



Frances Hudson  
President  
QLD

## QLD REGIONAL PRESIDENT REPORT

Queensland is vast and diverse both geographically and climatically, as is our journey of change and excellence in parks and leisure. Whether it be our home grown or Queensland based businesses and trades driving for advances in products or data that will assist with continually improving the product or experience that is being delivered or our government authorities and community organisations that are planning for future generations and delivering quality of life opportunities for those who live, work and play in this great state – our 100+ Parks and Leisure Queensland (PLA QLD) members and Regional Council members have been amongst it.

A huge thanks go to “Our Secretariat” – Tracy Barkham who with the assistance of Caitlin Baumann have helped PLA QLD and the Regional Committee make this year yet another to be proud of.

Climate and climate change will continue to be part of our PLA QLD agenda now and in the future. Dry conditions and drought is inevitable one time or another in the Sunshine State. Improving drought preparedness and resilience for those organisations who manage turf facilities was a priority for PLA QLD. An event “Managing turf facilities during drought conditions” was successfully delivered in Townsville and covered the latest in turf technology, tips on how to interpret water usage data and also efficient irrigation and lawn maintenance practices.

Do you capture data for your organisation? How do you store it? What do you do with it? These questions and so much more were answered during the “Harnessing the power of data” event at Logan. Participants heard from industry experts covering case studies as well as a range of topics including key performances measures, best practices and benchmarking.

Francis and Angela took to the road to visit sport and recreation colleagues and locations in central Queensland in early November. They headed to Rockhampton

where they met with representatives from Gladstone, Livingstone, Rockhampton, Central Highlands, Bundaberg and Sport and Recreation Services. The pair then toured the new parklands at the Gladstone Port. They also visited the pump track that was still in construction and Bargara Beach.

Whilst some may have been Christmas holidaying PLA QLD provided a response to the Queensland Government’s “Strategy for social infrastructure – Directions Paper December 2016”. PLA QLD highlighted that parks, sport and recreation facilities, pedestrian/walking trails and bikeways walkable communities /link and place, and areas for nature play etc, and the services and programs that support engagement with these, are critical social infrastructure. PLA QLD stressed that these enabling infrastructure underpin healthy, active, liveable, connected and engaged communities. Social infrastructure such as open space and recreation embellishments are also fundamental to decreasing rising costs and investments in other infrastructure (e.g. walking and cycling – health benefits and reducers of traffic congestion). Sport and recreation builds healthier, happier, stronger and safe communities.

PLA QLD joined forces with our state government partners to help sport volunteers, coaches and administrators kickstart their 2017 with a traveling sport and recreation conference and expo road show. With five locations visited and a theme of ‘plan, prepare and perform’ participants enjoyed a unique blend of presentations, case studies and engaging workshops. The trade displays provided exclusively by PLA QLD were a great success and a fantastic opportunity for member businesses to present their products or services to a wider audience.

Game, set, match! PLA QLD partnered with Tennis Qld to host a networking event, following the Conference and Expo in Cairns. Participants heard all the latest updates from the sport, including the recently adopted Local Government infrastructure and participation planning templates as well

as the current partnership opportunities available.

PLA QLD also provided a response to “ShapingSEQ” - the Queensland Government’s new regional planning framework to sustainably manage change and growth in South East Queensland. “ShapingSEQ” a 50-year vision for the SEQ region captured some of the elements that PLA QLD are seeking to protect and highlighted areas where collaboration and greater focus on our PLA strategic goal will enable improvement opportunities and be ahead of emerging trends.

Take it outside! Outdoor play is vital for the overall wellbeing of our future generations. With the increasing impact of technology, it is more important now than ever to focus on our outdoor play spaces. PLA QLD delivered a popular masterclass – ‘Planning and providing popular play spaces’. This event covered topics including: what is actual play and why it is so important, unstructured play and the different approaches to play provision.

PLA QLD wrapped up the year in the resilient and wonderful Mackay region only two months after Tropical Cyclone Debbie. Mackay welcomed us with open arms and turned on the best of regional hospitality for us. The conference was deemed a remarkable success with over 70 delegates, 4 key note speakers and 9 trade exhibitors. These numbers ensured that this conference was an intimate affair, allowing the opportunity for everyone to get to know each other.

The first day consisted of technical tours, showcasing some of Mackay’s best including the Botanical Gardens, Quota Park and the Bluewater Trial.

The second day of the conference was themed ‘Active People and Spaces’ and our speakers did not disappoint. Paul McArdle, Co-founder, Bike On New Zealand, pointed the audience in the direction of creating access and opportunity through the simplest

of realisations that “every child wants to ride a bike”. Cr Linda Cooper, Cairns Regional Council, then took participants on an inspiring and engaging journey of building communities by working with the community and respecting the process of meaningful and respectful consultation. From hearing the inspirational Lyndal Hansen of Amarna, participants learnt that creating places for people, requires vision, collaborative planning, partnerships, stories blended with great design and asking the question WHY? We then learnt about how to make it easy and interesting for volunteers to get involved as shown through the Cairns Regional Council’s the Green Space Our Place Volunteer Program. We then took a ‘step up’ and learnt how getting 10,000 Steps into your community could not be any easier than accessing the free resources of the new look program. Finally, Angela Wright of Nature Play Qld wrapped up the day by discussing the new partnerships and enlightened us of ways of getting our children back into the green.

Day three of the conference was themed ‘Active Transport’. Again, we saw an outstanding line up of speakers. Paul McArdle backed up with the return of investment theory being turned into practice of more kids riding bikes today will lead to more adults choosing active transport tomorrow. Transport Planner, Rachel Smith, took us all for a ride on the 7 ways in which we can all respond to the 7 inhibitors of not getting active today.

Alice Woodruff, Director of Active City gave us insight through evidence based behavioural interventions, leading to changes in people’s “choice architecture” and ultimately walking behaviours.

The return on investment was well demonstrated through presentations by Gerard McCormick, Village Bike, and Joan Crawford, Connecting Cairns – Not Just from A to B. Both the Ross River Bikeway and Bluewater Trail further cemented the ethos that well-planned, well-connected spaces become well-loved places for people.



## QLD REGIONAL PRESIDENT REPORT CONT:

Bringing the conference to a close was our state of origin themed Awards of Excellence. In a suitably decorated Claudies Restaurant with the game on screens around the room, the feast of knock-on nibbles, forward pass entrées, golden point pizza and blue and maroon kick off cupcakes, time out was intermittently called to announce our nominees and winners. Congratulations to all.

Throughout the year, monthly social get-togethers in the north and south-east provided great ways to network on a regular basis, with special thanks to Nikki Williams and Angela Wright for their commitment and drive to make this happen, which was greatly appreciated. Special thanks also to John Wood who without fail reminds us of the value of sharing information across our industry whether that be through research, photographs or newsletter contributions. Thanks to Anand Pillay for stepping in to proxy as Queensland's representative on the National Board.

The wrap up of the year wouldn't be complete without a special thanks to Marty Lambert who held the Queensland President role until he stepped into the National President role. Marty continues to provide support and guidance. His contributions to the State Conference as well as assistance with questions about the Regional Council administration and the future directions have been invaluable.

All in all another successful year for PLA QLD.

“Queensland is vast  
and diverse both  
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# SA/NT REGIONAL PRESIDENT REPORT



**John Wilkinson**  
President  
SA/NT

“The year that was can be summarised as a year of achievements, delivering innovative and relevant events and welcoming new faces and skills onto the SA/NT Regional Council”

## SA/NT REGIONAL PRESIDENT REPORT

The year that was can be summarised as a year of achievements, delivering innovative and relevant events and welcoming new faces and skills onto the SA/NT Regional Council. We have also continued our efforts in advocating for the sector, particularly via the debate around planning reform in South Australia and the importance of providing quality open space for current and future generations. It was also a pleasure to be the host city for the 2016 Parks & Leisure Australia national conference held in October at Adelaide Oval.

In December 2016, we came together at the Adelaide Zoo to hear from ZOOS SA chief executive Elaine Bensted, who has been recognised as one of the state's most successful managers after turning around an organisation on the brink of financial ruin. Elaine inspired us to think about how we can apply critical thinking to all areas of our business in order to be the best. This was also followed by an insightful tour of the zoo from operations manager (and zoo resident), Jeff Lugg.

The highlight of the year was our State Conference, held at the new Campbelltown Leisure Centre in April 2017. The conference, organised in partnership between Recreation SA and Parks & Leisure Australia SA/NT, attracted over 150 delegates, trade exhibitors and presenters from a range of different sectors, including local government, aquatic, facility managers, sport and recreation officers and planners, and horticulture and land managers.

The theme was “Transforming Challenges into Opportunities” where we heard from some world class speakers, including Jane Woodlands-Thompson (former coach of the Adelaide Thunderbirds) and John Buchanan (former Australian cricket coach). We also heard from some excellent local speakers, including topics such as an update of the 30 Year Plan for Greater Adelaide, a summary of directions for recreation and sport participation statistics and how smart technology is being used at the Adelaide Zoo.

The State Awards of Excellence was held in May 2017 and was an opportunity to hear from some past award winners and how these projects are tracking ‘one year on’. These included presentations from the City of Marion on the Oaklands Skate Park and Rajah Street community development project and it was great to hear how these projects are enriching local communities. We also acknowledged and celebrated a number of worthy projects through the awards, and I congratulate each of the winners and nominees for the work you do for our sector. I would like to once again thank our sponsors GreenLife Group, Lawn Solutions Australia, Syngenta Australia.

This year has also seen us identify a need for further networking and discussion around the planning of open space across the region, and has led to the formation of an Open Space Planners Network. I would like to thank Sue Suter for her efforts in bringing this together.

This will be my last year as SA/NT President and I feel positive that I am leaving the role in good shape. I will continue on as vice president and would like to welcome our next president Sue Suter. I wish Sue all the best, and would also like to thank our members, sponsors and the broader sector for your support and passion and look forward to a great 2017/18!

# VIC/TAS REGIONAL PRESIDENT REPORT



**Paul Jane**  
President  
VIC/TAS

## VIC/TAS REGIONAL PRESIDENT REPORT

The Regional Board has continued to work hard throughout the past year to provide advocacy, professional development and networking opportunities for the Region's members.

The State Conference is now in its fourth year and has established itself as the pre-eminent professional development and networking event for the sector. The 2017 Conference attracted 224 delegates, an increase of 38 delegates on 2016. A highlight of this year's Conference, which was held in Creswick, was the final keynote presentation by Gill Hicks, a survivor of the 2005 London bombings. It was a powerful and thought provoking way to wrap up the two day Conference.

The Board identified early in the planning for this year's State Conference that it wanted to increase the number of Tasmanian delegates. The cost to travel to the State Conference from Tasmania was identified as a key barrier for prospective delegates. With this knowledge, the Board introduced a reduced registration fee for Tasmanian delegates, and it was satisfying to have 14 delegates take up this offer and attend – up from one delegate in 2016. With this success and renewed engagement with Tasmanian parks and leisure professionals, the Board will now turn its attention to increasing its offerings in Tasmania, with the aim of growing PLA membership. The Board is currently planning to conduct 1 – 2 professional development seminars in Tasmania during the next 12 months.

The Awards of Excellence Dinner is a big part of the State Conference proceedings, and also experienced an increase in the number of guests – 255, up from 230 guests in 2016. This year there was a record 60 Award nominations received from the Vic/Tas Region. Congratulations to all category winners and good luck in the National Awards. I encourage all members to continue to nominate worthy projects for awards, and together we will continue to grow the number of nominations and the reputation of the PLA Awards of Excellence.

I am pleased to again 'shout out' that three of the 2016 Vic/Tas Region Awards of Excellence winners went on to win the National Award. These were the Valley Reserve Adventure Playspace (Monash City Council), Connect Warrnambool (City of Warrnambool), and the Pride Cup (Yarra Ranges Council). Big congratulations to these three National Award winners.

The PLA Regional Board has continued to advocate on industry issues on behalf of its members. PLA was represented at the industry workshop for the Planning for Golf in Victoria Discussion Paper; is part of the Project Reference Group for the Value of Sport to Victoria project commissioned by the State Government; and provided an industry response to Sport and Recreation Victoria's Valuing Sport and Recreation Discussion Paper.

A major undertaking by the Board during the past 12 months has been the preparation of the industry resource, Outdoor Fitness Equipment - Guidelines for Planning, Installing and Activating. The project was funded by Sport and Recreation Victoria and was managed by a Steering Committee comprising of PLA members who provided guidance and feedback as the project unfolded. Thank-you to all of the members who responded to a survey seeking background information from local government in relation to the current provision of outdoor fitness equipment. The Guidelines are a valuable resource to assist local government and other land owners/managers with the planning, installation, maintenance and activation of outdoor fitness equipment.

The Board was successful in 2016 in its application for a grant under the Victorian Government's 2016-19 Supporting Victorian Sport and Recreation Program. The grant will enable the Board to provide increased professional development and training opportunities to its members, with a specific focus on improving the reach to rural sector staff and practitioners, and continue to establish formal partnerships and collaborations with industry partners to ensure the benefits to members can be expanded from strategic alliances with other key industry stakeholders.

“Over the next 12 months, the Board will continue to use this grant funding to connect better with the rural sector and provide more accessible professional development opportunities”

The first initiative made possible from the grant was to enable the Board to offer staff from rural LGAs a reduced registration fee to attend the 2017 State Conference. This had the desired effect of increasing the number of staff from rural or small councils attending the State Conference this year, and so providing valuable development and networking opportunities for these professionals that might otherwise not have been possible.

Over the next 12 months, the Board will continue to use this grant funding to connect better with the rural sector and provide more accessible professional development opportunities. Work has already commenced to establish partnerships with other key industry organisations, with the Board already completing MOUs with three industry groups: Play Australia, Botanic Gardens Australia New Zealand (BGANZ) and Sports Turf Association.

Sponsorship has grown substantially during the past 12 months. The Board successfully secured corporate support across the following operational areas: Regional operations, seminars, the State Conference, and Awards of Excellence program. We thank all of sponsors for their interest and support of the industry, particularly our Region sponsors Syngenta, Toro, Lawn Solutions, SportEng, Glascott Landscape and Civil, and Sport and Recreation Victoria, our State Conference major sponsors, GreenLife Group and Sport and Recreation Victoria, and our Awards Dinner major sponsor, Urban Maintenance Systems (UMS).

Special mention also of the support received from a number of councils which hosted seminars and other activities at no charge to PLA.

I would like to thank the members of the VIC/TAS Regional Board and the increasing number of other PLA members who have given up their time to support our efforts by being involved in sub-committees or assisting with the organisation of seminars and other activities. This has been my final year as VIC/TAS Regional President after five years in the position. I will continue to be involved with both the Regional and National Boards and wish new Regional President, Darren Bennett all the best. I urge all members to stay updated with the work that PLA is doing and be involved in PLA activities.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the input of Board members for their advice and support, and the Secretariat team of Richard and Pamela Simon whose passion for the industry and professionalism has helped us to grow our offerings and influence.



# WA REGIONAL PRESIDENT REPORT



Joanne Smith  
President  
WA

## WA REGIONAL PRESIDENT REPORT

It was a proud moment to welcome our industry members and partners to the Western Australian Awards of Excellence 2017 in June and to reflect on how our regional awards event had grown from half a dozen to more than 300 people in five years; how an idea for an open invitation to the WA parks and leisure industry could be so successfully supported by our sponsorship partners. This year West Australian businesses contributed \$8,000 to the Awards of Excellence event venue, catering and entertainment costs so that we could celebrate the achievements of our industry together.

This commitment to the commercial, government, academic and community pillars of people in the WA parks and leisure industry never ceases to delight and astound me. We farewell Luke Ellis and Dan Barber from the Regional Council and thank them for their very valuable advice, portfolio management and project support. Just as Community TAB and the newly amalgamated Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSCI) continue to build capacity with financial support, they also promote and strengthen our capacity to meet the community and industry needs now and into the future. As a community of professionals working with and for our communities, many of our members volunteer their time and expertise for training, seminars, tours, case studies, project developments, committees and peer reviews.

In the previous twelve months the WA chapter delivered twelve professional development seminars to around 700 people across a broad spectrum of subjects, issues and best practice. Planning for better community health and wellbeing outcomes through strategies for local health and sport, recreation and public open space were workshopped in local government team forums and based on the excellent DLGSCI projects: Parkland WA website and Sport and Recreation and Public Health: A Resource for Community Sector Professionals Working in Local Government.

The theme of better planning for communities continued through a joint Heart Foundation: Healthy Active by Design workshop for utilising the urban design web based tool, followed by a presentation and pre-opening viewing of the Cockburn Aquatic and Recreation Centre shared use facility and home of the Dockers. Utilising the design tool to review Cockburn city's integrated community wellbeing and liveability was a valuable practical exercise. The seven design features of public open space, community facilities, destination, movement network, sense of place, buildings and housing diversity will soon be joined by an eighth element for healthy built food environments and PLA WA were proud to be part of the working group for its development.

Our 2017 events program also gave closer consideration to business planning, design, engagement and leisure facility management through a number of very informative seminars presenting the background, evidence, policy, practice and successes:

- Wembley Golf Course now managed by the Town of Cambridge to return \$150 to each household in the Town: achieved by an extensive business and state of the art facility and environmental management system redevelopment, along with best practice grounds, biodiversity and tree management
- Dog Friendly Parks now considered vital to the fabric of the modern urban environment, but with little evidence to support their benefits. Sixty people attended to hear about the conflicts and public pressure issues, dog behaviours and controls, policy, dog specific space design and use.
- Outdoor Gyms and Fitness Areas as a form of organised physical fitness and skill development are undervalued and gaining the attention of fitness and facility providers.
- Activating your Community through Social Media assisted leisure facility, events and marketing managers to workshop ideas and projects to grasp social media tools to better plan for and engage target customers and to analyse the data collected.

“As a community of professionals working with and for our communities, many of our members volunteer their time and expertise for training, seminars, tours, case studies, project developments, committees and peer reviews”

- Leisure Centre Benchmarking and Beyond was the initial meeting with Leisure Facility Managers to transfer the management of leisure facility benchmarking data collection to PLAWA.

Our industry decision makers consider every day and specific risk associated with the delivery of publicly accessible facilities, activities and programs. A shift from risk aversion to considered risk management caused us to look at the two significant areas of playgrounds and events:

- How much risk is OK in Play? proposed that developing a framework for acceptable levels of risk and undertaking risk-benefit analyses was beneficial for users and insurers, and key to addressing real and perceived hazards.
- Threats and Risks in Community Events invited more than 110 people to consider recent amendments to health regulations impacting events; how the City of Joondalup manage risk associated with a large and successful community festivals portfolio, how the WA Police Protective Security Unit manage event safety, and the historical cancellation of the state's biggest single event, the 2017 Perth Sky works.

After each of our events we survey attendees and ask them to tell what their needs and priorities are. This information has focussed the PLA WA Council and administration on developing some key projects for our industry this year:

- The Community Facility Guidelines project is coming to finalisation in 2017 with a peer review, to provide a framework for local governments to determine optimum POS allocations, sport and leisure facilities for metropolitan communities.
- Regional Councillor Luke Ellis spearheaded a Leisure Facility Benchmarking project to assist local government managers to determine and compare community facility operating data, which has now been assumed into a regular program of standard data collection by PLA WA and will be developed with industry for industry for analysis and reporting.

- To complement the current benchmarking of facilities, PLA WA have developed a project for identifying the Socio-economic values of leisure facilities, to assist community facility managers to holistically model business cases for existing and proposed. Once a shared industry funding agreement has been finalised, a consultancy will be engaged to prepare the model.

- The Leisure Facility Manager Course business case funding was approved by the National Board in 2017 and the Regional Council are currently engaging consultants to write the course curriculum for our first graduates in 2018.

We continue to provide advice and advocate on behalf of our industry by submission on key initiatives and through the Green Space Alliance, Heart Foundation's Healthy Active By Design committee, Perth Metropolitan Parks Managers forum, to name a few. In the WA region, we saw significant change as an outcome of the state elections and change of government. Along with other state agency announcements, the Department Sport and Recreation (DSR) has amalgamated with several other agencies to form the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries. PLA has been one of the many state sporting and industry peak bodies who have enjoyed strong support from the DSR for developing community sport and recreation in WA through their Organisation Sustainability Program. In this new era PLA will continue to advocate for and on behalf of public open space, community leisure facility and skill development in the region. PLA WA is incredibly grateful for the working relationships, advice, policy, guidance and support from the Department and look forward to working with them to continue to advocate for our industry. We would like to thank and farewell DSR's Director General Ron Alexander for his strong leadership and advocacy over his tenure as the figurehead for all things sport and recreation. And, we look forward to working with Director General Mr Duncan Ord and Minister of Sport and Recreation Mr Mick Murray to ensure through cross industry collaboration we are able to meet the sport and leisure needs of all Western Australians.

# GENERATE NETWORK REPORT



Eve Craker  
Skillbased Director - The  
Generate Network

## GENERATE NETWORK REPORT

Inspired by the fantastic work of our neighbours in New Zealand, and with continued appointment to the PLA National Board, I have been working with Jenn Halliday (Chair of New Zealand Generate) to develop Australia's very own Generate network. As you may be aware, the Generate network is free for young industry professionals (under the age of 30), who hold a PLA membership and work in the Parks and Leisure industry. The network is committed to:

- Providing a collective voice; and
- Providing professional development opportunities for young industry professionals.

Since launching of the Generate network, the network has certainly hit the ground running! To ensure sustainability, and under the guidance of an endorsed Action Plan, the network focused on two main areas:

- Customer Analysis; and
- Awareness.

Over the past year, membership surveys and desktop research were conducted to identify the professional development needs of our future and recent industry arrivals – thus shaping the future activities, programs and events of Generate.

Whilst data from the customer analysis is still being reviewed, the PLA National Board have been raising the profile of the Generate network through corporate channels. I am very excited to share that negotiations are underway to secure the network's first corporate partner. Once secured, the Corporate partner will be able to fund and offer in-kind support to activities, programs and events of the network.

Be sure to watch this space!

“Over the past year, membership surveys and desktop research was conducted to identify the professional development needs of our future and recent industry arrivals – thus shaping the future activities, programs and events of Generate”





FINANCIAL REPORT



## Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
Revenue	1,529,523	1,699,623
Other income	3,739	3,578
Conference expenses	(323,556)	(512,844)
Other expenses	(1,094,543)	(1,090,212)
<b>Surplus/(deficit) before income tax</b>	<b>115,163</b>	<b>100,145</b>
Income tax benefit/(expense)	(56,114)	171,645
<b>Surplus/(deficit) for the year</b>	<b>59,049</b>	<b>271,790</b>
<b>Other comprehensive income</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total comprehensive income/(loss) for the year</b>	<b>59,049</b>	<b>271,790</b>

## Statement of Financial Position

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	450,749	349,237
Trade and other receivables	175,611	117,272
Other assets	46,003	32,984
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>672,363</b>	<b>499,493</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Deferred tax assets	115,531	171,645
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>115,531</b>	<b>171,645</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>787,894</b>	<b>671,138</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Trade and other payables	83,755	132,960
Current tax liabilities	13,140	5,445
Other financial liabilities	278,605	179,388
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>375,500</b>	<b>317,793</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>412,394</b>	<b>353,345</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>		
Accumulated surplus	412,394	353,345
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>	<b>412,394</b>	<b>353,345</b>

## Statement of Changes in Equity

2017

	Accumulated Surplus \$
<b>Balance at 1 July 2016</b>	<b>353,345</b>
Surplus attributable to members of the entity	<b>59,049</b>
<b>Balance at 30 June 2017</b>	<b>412,394</b>

2016

	Accumulated Surplus \$
<b>Balance at 1 July 2015</b>	81,555
Deficit attributable to members of the entity	271,790
<b>Balance at 30 June 2016</b>	<b>353,345</b>

## Statement of Cash Flows

	2017 \$	2016 \$
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:</b>		
Receipts from customers	<b>1,438,443</b>	1,501,695
Payments to suppliers and employees	<b>(1,472,628)</b>	(1,461,873)
Interest received	<b>3,739</b>	3,578
Receipt from grants	<b>131,958</b>	150,974
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	<b>101,512</b>	194,374
 Net increase in cash and cash equivalents held	<b>101,512</b>	194,374
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	<b>349,237</b>	154,863
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	<b>450,749</b>	349,237

A full version of the Parks and Leisure Australia Financial Statements for the year ending 30 June 2017, including the supporting notes is available online at [www.parksleisure.com.au](http://www.parksleisure.com.au)





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