

ANNUAL REPORT 22/23



PARKS & LEISURE
AUSTRALIA

LAMINGTON NATIONAL PARK ROAD,
CANUNGRA, AUSTRALIA
- PHOTO BY CHRIS FULLER, VIA UNSPLASH

NATIONAL BOARD

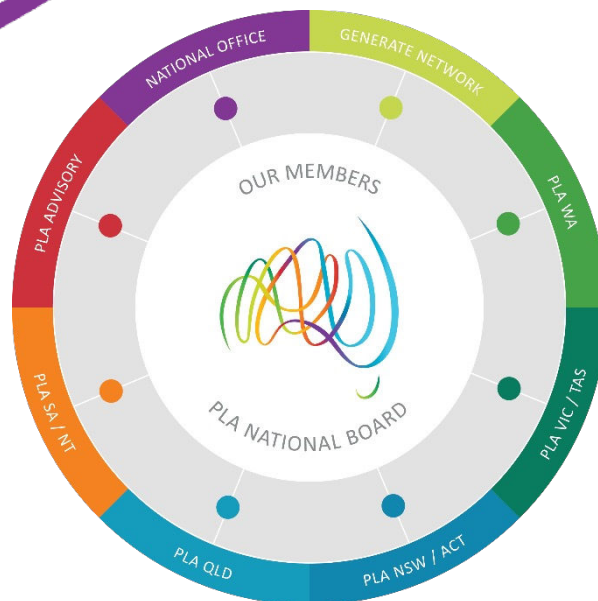
National President
Les Munn

Deputy President
Kristin Davies

Finance Director
Vacant
Mark Holton
(March - June 2023)

Regional Representatives
Margaret Barrett (QLD)
Kevin Lowe (SA/NT)
Rachel Thorpe (VIC/TAS)
Matt Lewis (WA)
Heather Nesbitt (NSW/ACT)

Co-opted Directors
Tara Looby
Barbra Gaiotto
Jarrod Hill
Vanessa Morschel



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NATIONAL PARTNERS

We sincerely thank our national partners for their support.





“Welcome Back Parks and
Leisure Australia!
We are PLA – Better
Together!.”

- Photo by Lachlan Ross
via Pexels

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
OF COUNTRY

“

In the spirit of reconciliation, Parks and Leisure Australia acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of country throughout Australia and their connections to land, sea and community.

We pay our respect to their elders past, present and emerging, and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples today.”

- Photo by Kate Trifon
Unsplash

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Although our new office and management model have been operational for just over a year, we have witnessed significant changes and improvements during this period. Our financial position, detailed in a separate report, remains strong as we continue to expand and solidify our position as leaders in the parks and leisure industry.”

- Les Munn, President Parks & Leisure Australia.



- Photo by Pat Whelen
on Unsplash



Les Munn
National President

NATIONAL PRESIDENT REPORT

As we reflect upon our organisation's progress, it is a pleasure to acknowledge that many of you will be attending the World Congress in Adelaide. It has been five years since our last joint conference with World Urban Parks, and we have eagerly anticipated this wonderful opportunity to engage with some of the most experienced international and national professionals in the parks and leisure industry.

I trust that you are making the most of the wealth of knowledge and experience being shared at this event. For those who were unable to join us in Adelaide, please be informed that all conference materials, including papers, workshops, and keynote addresses, will be accessible to our members via the PLA website.

During our last Annual General Meeting, we announced the retirement of Tim Sergeant, our National Finance Director, from the National Board. After an extensive recruitment process, Mark Holton joined our ranks. Mark came to us with an impressive background and substantial experience, serving on numerous Boards. Unfortunately, due to health reasons, Mark had to step down from his position shortly after joining us. We have been actively recruiting for his replacement over the past month, and as of the time of this report, we are preparing to commence interviews. Further details will be shared at the upcoming AGM.

The National Board has resolved to explore options within our constitution to incorporate an Indigenous Voice on the National Board. This matter will be raised at the AGM and further examined by the National Board. The much-anticipated launch of our new software platform, the Agend AMS SYSTEM, is set to take place at the end of September. This new system promises to significantly enhance our members' ability to access information, register for events, and retrieve data from our website. I would like to extend a special thank you to Alex Giakoumis (Membership Manager) and Tara McConkey for their dedicated efforts in bringing this project to fruition.

This year marks the retirement of three Directors from the National Board. Margaret Barrett, who represented Queensland for the past three and a half years, will be stepping down, with Josh Geraghty from Cairns Regional Council assuming her role. Heather Nesbitt from NSW/ACT will step aside as Regional President but will remain on the council. The appointment of her National Board replacement is still pending. Kevin Lowe, a former National President, returned to the National Board to assist during a transitional stage for the South Australian Regional Council. With over 12 years of on-and-off service, Kevin has been a stalwart member and received the Frank Stewart Award in 2018. Hayley Ashworth will take over his position. We extend our gratitude to all these Directors for their dedicated service to PLA and wish them the very best in their future endeavours.

In the national office, we have welcomed several new team members over the past 12 months. Kate Helmore (Administrative Officer) and Zoe Dunworth (Marketing) joined us in March, complementing Hayley Duggin (Finance), who came on board last October. Under Tara McConkey's guidance, we have assembled a dedicated team that is working seamlessly in our new office space. Regrettably, Alex is leaving us, and his departure is met with heartfelt sadness. We extend our best wishes to him in his future pursuits.

We have also witnessed changes in Executive Officers, with new faces joining our team in all states except for WA, where Leith Fradd continues to provide long-standing and successful service to the industry.

In conclusion, please rest assured that your organisation is in capable hands. Although our new office and management model have been operational for just over a year, we have witnessed significant changes and improvements during this period. Our financial position, detailed in a separate report, remains strong as we continue to expand and solidify our position as leaders in the parks and leisure industry.

Les Munn,
President
Kristin Davies,
Deputy President
Tara McConkey,
National Business
Manager

EXECUTIVE FINANCIAL REPORT

We are pleased to present an overview of the financial performance of Parks & Leisure Australia (PLA) for the fiscal year 22/23. This year has seen a promising recovery with notable financial outcomes that exceed initial projections, reflecting the adaptability of our association.

In the fiscal year 22/23, PLA achieved a net profit of \$436,574, showcasing a surplus compared to the budgeted profit of \$68,317. This outcome is attributed to the return of face-to-face events, particularly the Annual National Conference and Region Conferences, which are demonstrating gains and returns on our investment and initiatives.

The Statement of Profit or Loss reflects a net surplus of \$353,845. PLA experienced an increase in revenue from \$1,556,889 in the previous fiscal year to \$2,390,495 in the current period, surpassing the budgeted revenue of \$2,363,024. The variance is attributed to the success of face-to-face events, sponsor support, and expanded offerings of our products and services.

Operating overheads for the fiscal year totalled \$1,955,601, presenting an underspend of \$343,163 against the budgeted \$2,298,764. This outcome resulted from strategic organisational restructuring, leading to savings in secretariats, operational overheads, and staff costs.

Noteworthy is the decision to split a special project over two financial years, contributing to an overall financial outcome. Despite these outcomes, it is essential to acknowledge the impact of rising costs in certain areas such as venue hire, travel, and accommodation, reflecting the realities of a post-COVID economy.

As of June 30, 2023, the Statement of Financial Position reveals a net equity of \$757,204, showcasing an improvement of \$144,477 from the previous year's figure of \$612,727. This improvement in net equity during a transitional period underscores the recovery and financial stability achieved by our organisation amidst potentially challenging circumstances.

In conclusion, the financial performance of PLA in the 22/23 fiscal year has been characterised by a modest recovery, with a surplus, gains, and returns on our investment and initiatives. These outcomes highlight our ongoing commitment to organisational sustainability as we continue our efforts to add value to our membership.

“The financial performance of PLA in the 22/23 fiscal year has been characterised by a modest recovery, with a surplus, gains, and returns on our investment and initiatives.”

- Executive Financial Report.



Photo by Jorg Angeli,
via Unsplash



Tony Butler
President
QLD

QLD REGIONAL PRESIDENT REPORT

What a fantastic twelve months for PLA QLD! As the incoming President for QLD, I am grateful to have such a wonderful Regional Council to work with and thankful to outgoing President, Frances Hudson, for her tireless efforts over the past six years. Thanks also to our outgoing Executive Officer, Chris Boulton, for her hard work and dedication, especially to the professional development program.

We welcomed a new Executive Officer to the role with Sally Jarvis joining the team and after a brief maternity leave stint, she has hit the ground running.

August saw us deliver an Industry Forum on Supporting Active Ageing in our Parks and Leisure facilities at beautiful Banksia Beach. This forum gave us insight into the importance of designing our outdoor active spaces in a way that brings the community together.

Following this, we delivered a webinar on rebuilding flood resilient parks and leisure facilities and were joined by speakers from Brisbane, Lismore and Dubbo, who had all recently experienced major flood events, as well as Jarrod Hill from SportENG who provided an understanding of the opportunities to build back better. This forum showed us the vast difference between the experience of each flood event and opportunities to rebuild facilities in a way that offers greater resilience for future weather events.

In early 2023, we teamed up with the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects (AILA) for the 2023 Parks Forum at Victoria Park Brisbane, which looked at Climate Change and future proofing Urban Parks. This event was well attended and gave us a fantastic networking opportunity all before lunch. I thank AILA for their efforts in planning a great event and look forward to teaming up with them again in the future.

We engaged with Professor Amanda Salis from the Salis Institute for a webinar that provided education and advice on writing to win awards and speaking invitations. This webinar proved to be great timing ahead of submissions opening for our Regional Awards of Excellence.

We recently held the Regional Conference and Awards of Excellence in a spectacular room at Brisbane's iconic Gabba stadium. The conference opened with a Paralympic Gold Medallist Triathlete, Katie Kelly, sharing her experiences on living with a disability and unconscious bias, especially within the workplace. We came away with a better understanding of how we can all do better. There were some fantastic presentations over the day which showcased many of the projects from the previous year which had won one of the Regional Awards of Excellence.

I had the privilege of interviewing retired Matilda #63, Sonia Gegenhuber, and rising star footballer, Ella O'Grady, ahead of the FIFA Women's World Cup. It has been fantastic to see one of the biggest events in the world take place on our shores and I'm looking forward to the legacy of this event in grassroots sport and the development of parks and leisure facilities for years to come.

The Technical Tours that followed the Regional Conference included a presentation and walk through of the Gabba by Head Curator, David Sandurski. Those in attendance will understand what an amazing opportunity it was to hear from someone with such in-depth of knowledge in this niche area. I'm hoping more of our members will have the chance to learn from David in the future. We also took a tour of Roma Street and Southbank Parklands and heard from many presenters who are deeply passionate about developing and maintaining such incredible parklands in a major city.

The Regional Awards of Excellence took place on the evening of the Conference in a cocktail style format, and it was with great pleasure we could hand these awards out and celebrate the achievements of many with industry colleagues. Our upcoming professional development opportunities will showcase these award-winning projects, allowing us to continue sharing first-class knowledge across our industry.

QLD REGIONAL PRESIDENT REPORT

As I look ahead to the next 12 months, we will sadly see some members of our Council depart and I want to take this opportunity to offer enormous thanks to Margaret Barrett, who tirelessly served both the Regional Council and National Board as well as Nick Matthews, who has been a fantastic advocate for PLA QLD. I look forward to welcoming new Council members and am energised by the exciting opportunities we have over the next twelve months for professional development, networking, connection, advocating, celebration and recognition for the people behind the places in Queensland.

Photos from top to bottom:

- Kieran McGrane from Leadsun and Ryan Longford from Lark Industries
- Sean Winterflood from Skyline and Dan Barr from Better Cities
- PLA QLD 2023 National Conference

Photos over page from top to bottom:

- Megan Abela presenting the Enchanted Garden
- Leo Newlands, Redlands Council presenting the Eastern Escarpments project at the QLD Regional Conference







Heather Nesbitt
President NSW / ACT

NSW/ACT REGIONAL PRESIDENT REPORT

As I look back over the past 12 months, it is evident that the industry has continued to grow and strengthen to meet the increasing demands for high quality, accessible, safe and affordable open spaces, parks, sport, leisure and recreation infrastructure. No longer is this infrastructure considered “an add-on” or “nice to have” but rather essential to the physical and mental health, wellbeing and quality of life of all Australians.

NSW/ACT has been a strong advocate and leader for the industry to deliver this outcome. Prior to the recent NSW state election, based on feedback from our members, NSW/ACT advocated to government MPs our Election Priorities:

1. **Prioritise the development of more open space for recreation and leisure spaces** and places which are genuinely inclusive and provide opportunities for communities to connect, cultures to be showcased and for communities to be active and healthy.
2. Enhance investment for open space and community facilities through the **expansion of existing grant programs and delivering reforms to development contributions systems.**
3. **Renew open space, sport, and recreational infrastructure to be more resilient to climate change** particularly natural disasters such as floods, bushfires and extreme heat which has and will continue to devastate many urban, regional, and rural communities.
4. **Provide practical resources to assist open space and recreation practitioners,** leading to enhanced community liveability outcomes.
5. Provide annual funding to PLA NSW/ACT to support the NSW Government’s objectives and priorities. **The funding will help deliver targeted research, training and resources in collaboration with government agencies, local government, research and educational institutions.**

In July 2023, NSW/ACT also launched the **Lismore Legacy Project**, to support Lismore City Council and the Lismore/Northern Rivers communities, in their recovery from the major natural disaster flooding earlier in the year. The Wade Park Masterplan has codesigned with the community a re-envisioned park which was severely impacted by major flooding. A huge thank you to all involved - Context Landscape Architecture, Cred Consulting, Peak Water Consulting, University of NSW, RedBelly Design and our own Simon James, NSW/ACT PLA Vice President.

Our annual NSW/ACT Conference 2023 **Leading the Way – engaging, sharing, connecting** in Albury was a roaring success with 144 delegates, 40 speakers and 28 trade stands thriving in the opportunity to once more share ideas and innovation across the industry. A highlight was our keynote speaker, Lauren Jackson AO OLY who spoke about greater inclusive sport and physical activity particularly for women and girls.

The NSW/ACT Awards of Excellence were also celebrated at the Conference with outstanding projects from our regional members - Tweed Shire Council, Newcastle City Council, Snowy Mountains Council, Wollongong City Council and Eurobodalla Council.

Several successful professional development and/or industry events have been held throughout the year attracting some 160 attendees including:

- Rebuilding Flood Resilient Parks and Leisure Facilities
- Lismore Legacy Project
- NSW Public Spaces Charter Workshop
- Northern Beaches Council, Lionel Watts Park of the Year Tour and Christmas Drinks
- Tips to writing and winning Awards of Excellence submissions
- First Nations Women in Parks and Recreation #EmbraceEquity

NSW/ACT REGIONAL PRESIDENT REPORT

This year's Region Councillors have again steered the organisation through a busy year with enormous dedication and energy. My thanks to Mark Taylor (Vice- President), Simon James (Vice President), John Siemon (Treasurer), Les Munn, Fiona MacColl, Fiona Tucker, Debbie Sibbick, Tony Duffy, Ian McAlister, Lori Modde, Brad Billet, Abinaya Rajavelu (Generate). What a team!

We are strongly supported by our hardworking Executive Officer team with Katherine O'Regan (until December 2022) and Michelle Nolland and Brooke Atkins from LARCAN starting in February 2023.

Thank you also to our generous region sponsors; LARK industries, Glascott Landscape & Civil, Marsupial Landscape Management, and SPORTENG. Your support will ensure that our industry continues to grow into the future.

For 2024 we are strongly focused on growing our NSW/ACT membership, engaging with members, and attracting and developing career pathways and professional development for young and diverse members. We will also be working to ensure that the issues of importance to you are addressed through constructive engagement with government and industry.

Photos from top to bottom:

- Lauren Jackson at NSWACT Region Conference 2023
- NSW/ACT Awards of Excellence 2023
- NSW/ACT Christmas Drinks
- Lauren Jackson AO OLY Keynote Speaker





Kevin Lowe
President SA/NT

SA/NT REGIONAL PRESIDENT REPORT

Well, it's been a full year for the SA/NT Region with a lot of activity thanks to our Regional Council members; Annie Charlton, Hayley Ashworth, Emily Moskwa, Chloe Oborn, Sue Suter, Bob Fleming, John Wilkinson, James Lomax, Jason Taylor and our Executive Officer Danielle Gevers.

During the year we said goodbye to Sue Suter, who retired from the Regional Council after years of service to PLA and the Region as SA/NT President before I took over and really appreciate her efforts to set the region up for success. Sue was also recognised in 2022 with the Frank Stewart Award for Distinguished Service which was a fantastic achievement and well deserved.

In 2022 SA/NT had the double with Hayley Ashworth receiving the coveted David Aldous Young Professional of the Year Award and again well deserved.

The other national award winner for SA/NT was SA Water-Activating Reservoirs for Healthy Communities project which saw the groundbreaking approach of opening drinking water reservoirs in Adelaide for recreation.

During the year Chloe Oborn left us to take up a new position in Queensland but was a strong contributor with a large role in our events and state conference and wish her well.

Annie Charlton, our Deputy President, was a driving force for our state and regional conferences in 2021 and 2022 that were very successful. Annie will soon be welcoming a little person into the world and wish her all the best. In SA/NT we have adopted the model of rotational regional and metro state conferences in alternative years to support our membership in the metro and regional areas. We are also looking to support NT with events as we did in 2021.

Through elections for Regional Councillors, we need to replace some vacant positions including James Lomax who has been a great contributor to the Regional Council.

As a region we are building a good relationship with the Office for Recreation, Sport & Racing and were successful in gaining funding from them for the next few years to support our operations and the industry.

We have also built a good relationship with Green Adelaide (Department for Environment & Water), who are also our major partner for the 2023 International Congress in Adelaide.

Our activities have included:

- Climate Resilience in the Urban Environment event held in November 2022 at the new 6 Star Green Star Max Amber Sportsfield facility. Held in partnership with Green Adelaide it was very successful with seven key industry speakers including Martin Haese (Ex Lord Mayor of Adelaide & Premiers Climate Change Council Chair), and Chris Daniels (Green Adelaide Chair). Thanks to Sue, Emily and Danielle for all their efforts on this successful event.
- Christmas function in December 2022. Well attended by regional members, National Office staff and sponsors. A great opportunity to celebrate achievements and wish everyone a Merry Christmas as well as thank our sponsors over the year.
- PLA SA/ NT Regional Conference & Awards of Excellence held in May 2023 in Angaston, Barossa Valley. Again, well-attended with Awards guest speaker being SANFL CEO Darren Chandler who was great in a Q&A session with our MC Steph Frick around all things AFL in SA including the recently held Gather Round. Attendees were from Local Government – 26.3%, State Government (DEW, Wellbeing SA, ORSR, SA Water) – 14.4%, - Playspace/Park Furniture Suppliers – 12%, Consultants (Sport & Recreation, Turf, Asset Management, Landscape Architecture) – 20%, Sponsors (e.g. -GLG, Kompan, Syngenta, Terrain, DesignInc, P123, Camco, Inside Edge, BRM Advisory) - 14.4%, Parks & Leisure Australia staff (National, SA/NT, Vic/Tas) – 5.2%, Recreation Centres (YMCA, Belgravia) – 6.5%.

“We have had some great support from our many national and regional sponsors, and we thank you enormously as these events for our industry are not able to be run without your generous support.”

SA/NT REGIONAL PRESIDENT REPORT

The following events are planned:

- 2024 PLA SA/NT State Conference booked for 9 May 2024 at the Australian Wine Centre – Adelaide & planning has commenced. We return to the National Wine Centre again after our very successful event here in 2022.
- “Breakfast with Bruce” with Bruce Djite 24 November 2023. Bruce is a former football star, who represented Australia with the Socceroos. He is also Executive Director of the Property Council South Australia and a football commentator. The session will be a Q&A with MC Steph Frick. Thanks to Hayley and Danielle.
- 2023 Playspace Technical Tour 12 September 2023– hosted by Kompan and PLA SA/NT. This event is sold out and thanks to Danielle and Emily for all their work.
- A program of webinars by Kelledy Jones Lawyers is also planned for September 2023, November 2023 and January 2024 covering: Leases and Licenses, Land management agreements and liability in open space and Structuring and managing contracts. Thanks to John and Annie for their work on this.

We have increased PLA SA/NT profile and followers on Facebook and Linked in – with weekly posts on events, new parks, playspaces, grants and other industry news.

We have had some great support from our many national and regional sponsors for our events and too many to name, but you know who you are, and we thank you enormously as these events for our industry are not able to be run without your generous support.

My involvement in the Regional Council will reduce as I focus on supporting the recognition of PLA’s Centenary in 2026 with the organising of lead up events and marketing the significant milestone with other members of a recently formed committee. I hand over the reins to Hayley Ashworth as President for the region, I know Hayley will do a great job and I look forward to still contributing to driving outcomes for PLA but in different ways.



Photos are from the 2023 PLA SA / NT Conference and Region Awards of Excellence.



Rachel Thorpe
President
VIC/TAS

VIC/TAS REGIONAL PRESIDENT REPORT

A year full of firsts... My first year as president. Our first year (in over a decade) with a new Executive Officer. We exceeded 1,000 members (40% of national membership).

Our annual professional development calendar is a cornerstone of what we do. This year, we explored some of the best our region has to offer, including:

- Tasmania Field Based Sports Seminar
- Parks Week: Wilson Botanic Park Tour
- Nature Play Week: Playspace Bus Tour

Our much-loved Industry Talk webinars have returned including:

- World Wetlands Day
- Fields of Play Post-Flood
- PLA22 Preview

With Rec+ Research, we continue to bring evidence-based research findings directly to industry practitioners, including:

- Active Healthy Kids Australia: 2022 Report Card – Deakin University, UniSA and UTAS
- 1,000 Play Streets Community Impact Summary - La Trobe University and Play Australia
- Sport Participation Research Project - Victoria University and Federation University
- Australian Park Life Project - University of Western Australia
- YourGround and gender based design – Monash University

Finally, we partnered with the Planning Institute of Australia to provide PLANET professional development opportunities to our members.

The highlight of the year is our annual Region Conference and Awards of Excellence dinner - both sell-out events that inspire us to do even better next year!

Thanks for joining us in the Yarra Valley as we explored our theme: 'The road to recovery and resilience through parks and recreation', considering so many recent floods, storms, and pandemics that affected so much of our region. We want to thank the over 90 presenters who volunteered their time to showcase the best of our industry across the 60+ sessions held, as well as the 21 exhibitors who participated. The event would not have been possible without the support of our sponsors.

Our lucky 13th Regional Awards were held in the picturesque Yarra Valley as well. Thank you to all 250 attendees, who joined us to celebrate all the nominees' great achievements and efforts. We would like to thank all our sponsors, including the ten Award category sponsors, as well as Golf Australia, for supporting our event. Congratulations to all the winners and best of luck at the National Awards. A special shout-out goes to last year's Vic/Tas National Awards of Excellence Winners, Mornington Peninsula Shire; the City of Casey; Bayside City Council; and Federation University.

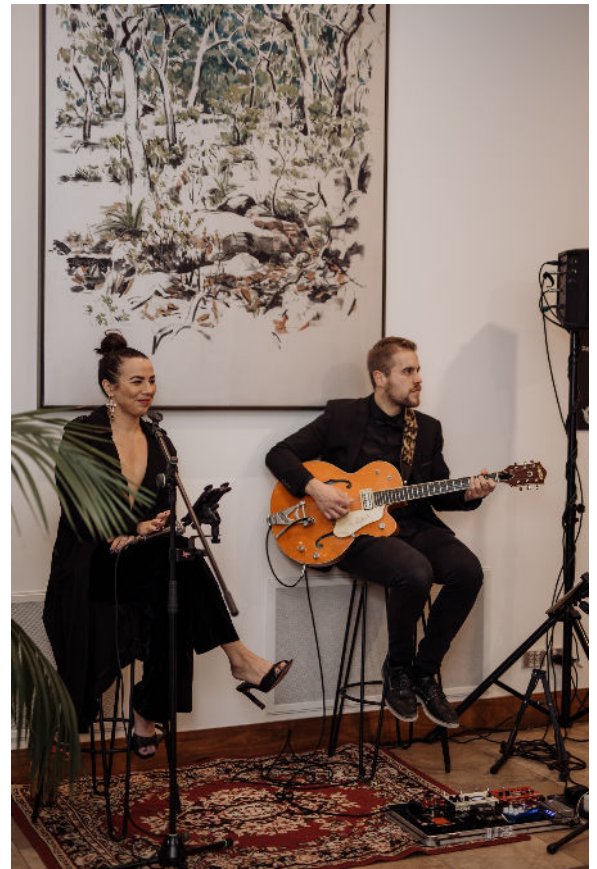
Furthermore, the Region participated in the creation of state and national industry strategies and plans, aided the Melbourne Park Managers Forum and the Open Space Planners Network, and strengthened existing partnerships.

None of this could have happened without our Region Council's strong leadership. I'd like to extend a huge thank you to Jarrod Hill and Jill Hickie whose terms ended this year, whilst we bid farewell to Dean Joel and Natasha Tempest who have recently relinquished their roles as co-opted members. I can't thank each one of you for your tireless work ethic and willingness to volunteer your time to support our industry.

And last, but not least, I'd like to thank our valued sponsors who support us in doing what we do – SPORTENG, Lark Industries and Skyline Landscape Services. It is a pleasure to partner with like-minded organisations who are equally committed to supporting the industry and our member base.

Thanks for looking back on the year that was, and I look forward to a bigger and better 2023/24!

“The highlight of the year is our annual Region Conference and Awards of Excellence dinner - both sell-out events that inspire us to do even better next year!”



Photos from VIC/TAS Region Awards of Excellence



Matt Lewis
President
WA

WA REGIONAL PRESIDENT REPORT

Over the past year Parks and Leisure Australia in WA (PLAWA) has experienced a very active and productive year with a wide range of activities and initiatives. PLAWA's standing as the peak body for Western Australia has been reaffirmed by the Department of Local Government Sport, Cultural Industries (DLGSC). DLGSC continues to provide essential funding to support programs, courses, professional development, research, and various projects that enhance the capacity of the parks and leisure industry. PLAWA expresses profound gratitude for this ongoing support and the opportunities it has created to deliver key programs.

Along with the bi-annual State Conference, PLAWA also successfully developed & delivered a comprehensive five-day Leisure Planners course along with the third iteration of the Leisure Facilities Manager course. Learning and development training opportunities were delivered through a range of workshops, seminars, technical tours, and courses delivered face to face and online. Regional training programmes were also delivered in Bunbury, Northam, and Busselton over the past year as well as online seminars and meetings. These events have been made possible and successful by PLAWA members who gave their time to share their knowledge and experience to the industry.

The 2023 Awards event witnessed a sold-out gathering of over 200 attendees, including representatives from various regions. The event showcased an impressive array of applications, reflecting increased nominations (and winners) from regional WA. PLAWA extends sincere appreciation to all Award sponsors, with special gratitude to platinum sponsor Woodlands.

During this period, PLAWA actively engaged in advocacy initiatives, participating in numerous industry and government advisory groups and reference groups. The organisation responded to state government policies, including those related to Outdoor Basketball noise regulations, State Infrastructure Strategy, State Planning Policy 7.1, and DCP Operational Policy 2.3 Planning for POS.

Among the notable projects undertaken in 2022-23 were the Aquatic Leisure Centre Group 1 Benchmarking and a second data collection effort for non-group 1 Leisure Centres. This encompassed the gathering of financial, utility, and utilisation data from 36 Group 1 centres and 11 non-Group 1 centres. An automated data collection platform was developed for the Group 1 project, enabling participants to report and compare data more effectively. PLAWA also conducted the annual data collection on Leisure Centre Fees and Charges and initiated the Sporting Reserve Fees and Charges project.

Since 2010, PLAWA has been actively involved in mapping public open spaces and community facilities in the Perth-Peel region, a part of the comprehensive review of the PLAWA Community Facility Guidelines. In partnership with AUDRC/UWA, the mapping data from the CFG project and other projects conducted by AUDRC will soon be accessible on a newly created PACF website—an invaluable, free resource. PLAWA encourages all interested parties, including other PLA Regions, to explore this resource.

Lastly, PLAWA extends heartfelt appreciation to its regional council for their unwavering support, guidance, expertise, and passion for the industry. Their voluntary contributions have been instrumental in supporting various research initiatives, workshops, courses, industry groups, conferences, and professional development events. PLAWA's continued success is made possible by the dedication of industry members, partners, and volunteers who generously share their knowledge and best practices. The organisation is supported by DLGSC, major regional sponsor Lark Industries, Skyline Landscaping Services, event sponsors, and members who devote their time and effort. On behalf of the Regional Council, PLAWA extends its sincere thanks to all involved.

“PLAWA extends heartfelt appreciation to its regional council for their unwavering support, guidance, expertise, and passion for the industry.”

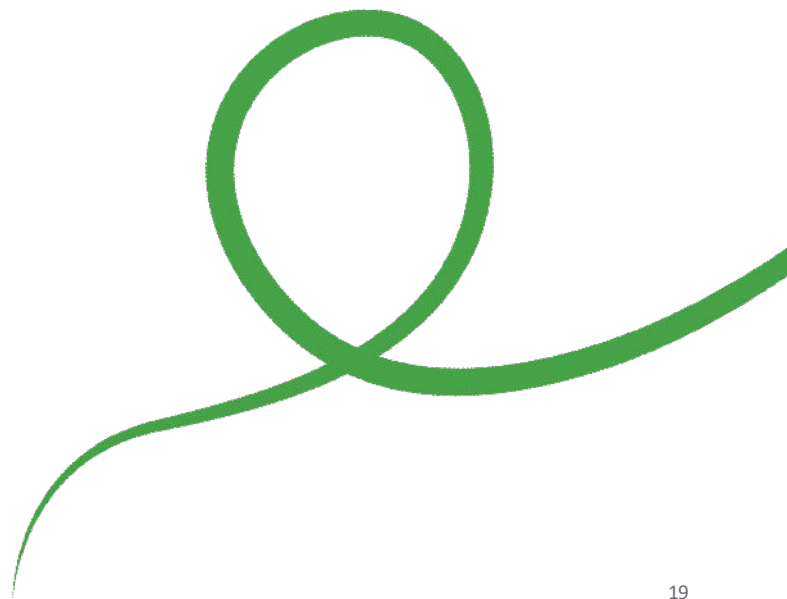


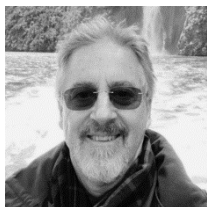
Photos from WA 2023 Region Events



Department of
**Local Government, Sport
and Cultural Industries**

GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA





John Tower
Chair
PLA Advisory Convenor

PLA ADVISORY REPORT

Transition Year

The 2022-23 year has focused on the implementation of last year's review and a broadened approach across Australia to respond to industry wide issues. We have recruited new members and a new Advisory Chair, merged the Research Working Group with Advisory and pursued a range of initiatives so the parks and leisure sector is better positioned to manage and deliver leisure experiences.

Advisory has an established team of dedicated volunteers: Neal Ames, Ben Bainbridge, Cathy Kiss, Wendy Holland, Anand Pillay and John Senior have been stalwarts guiding Advisory's activities over recent years. Advisory has also welcomed new members: Lucilla Marshall, NSW; Steph McCallum-Keily, QLD; and John Tower, VIC; who bring many years of experience and particular expertise to Advisory's activities.

Ben Bainbridge, outgoing Advisory Chair, resigned from Advisory in April, and Cathy Kiss is leaving Advisory after the 2023 International Congress. Ben and Cathy have made many valuable contributions over the years. Their expertise will be missed, and their contributions are much appreciated. There will be more efforts over the coming months to recruit more Advisory members from across Australia who can bring expertise that will contribute to our industry.

“PLA Advisory has had a busy year and made contributions by preparing position papers on critical issues, initiating research and advocating for the benefit of the PLA members and our overall industry.”

Our achievements

PLA Advisory has had a busy year and made contributions by preparing position papers on critical issues, initiating research and advocating for the benefit of the PLA members and our overall industry. The following list itemises Advisory's activities:

- Prepared the draft of 2022 PLA National Conference - Melbourne Statement.
- Prepared a Synthetic Turf Report response.
- Provided articles for each edition of Australasian Parks and Leisure journal.
- Merged Research Working Group with Advisory and continue to produce the "Research Connections" section of Australasian Parks and Leisure journal.
- Finalised the How have global issues impacted Parks and Leisure Australia members and their workplaces? (Global Issues Impact Report) report. This report was the output of the previous year's consultation with Regional Councils and the Advisory Workshop at the 2022 Conference. This report is guiding Advisory's current activities and initiatives.
- Contributed to the analysis of the PLA member survey results.
- Prepared a Statement of Commitment to document Parks and Leisure Australia's acknowledgement of Aboriginal Peoples and Torres Strait Islander Peoples as the first Australians and their continuing cultural connections to the land and sea.
- Liaised with Regional Executive Officers and engaged with the PLA Regions and Generate Network to be better informed and share Advisory's insights about critical issues.
- Engaged with National Office and PaRC Inc. to support the Park and Recreation Collection (PaRC) and further develop this valuable resource.
- Contributed analysis about the Australian Government's Budget.
- Planned an Advisory Workshop for the 2023 International Congress to explore opportunities to guide the park and leisure sector collaboration with universities.
- Contributed to the Australian Sport Commission National Sport Research Advisory Group activities.

Priorities for next year

PLA Advisory is dedicated to continuing to contribute as PLA's critical analysis and discussion forum. Our newest priority is to further develop the park and leisure sector's engagement with universities and other research / education institutions. This initiative was a direct outcome for the Global Issues Impact Report. We recognise the need for higher and post-secondary education to train future park and leisure professionals, and the potential to collaborate with park and leisure scholars to contribute to and utilise rigorous research.

Advisory will continue to collaborate with PLA Regions, Generate Network and PLA Board to make sure we are aware of issues and contributing our expertise when possible. We will also attempt to be more engaged with the Regional Conferences to contribute our insights and listen to members' needs and issues. We will use this collaboration to guide Advisory's activities and contribute to the park and leisure sector's development.



- Photo by Josh Withers
on Unsplash



Kristin Davies
Vice President
National Board Parks and
Leisure Australia

“As we continue to navigate the evolving landscape of our industry and diverse membership, our focus on fostering connections and supporting our members has never been stronger.

We are just getting started!”

Membership Report

At Parks and Leisure Australia (PLA), we are truly dedicated to representing, advocating, connecting and empowering our diverse community in parks, leisure, recreation, sport, open space, community places and the environment.

We are the sum of all our parts across the regions and all the sectors that make up our wonderful industry – we are the people behind the places. As we continue to navigate the evolving landscape of our industry and diverse membership, our focus on fostering connections and supporting our members has never been stronger.

Membership Growth

We are thrilled to share that our membership community has experienced substantial growth during the post pandemic recovery and has solidified PLA's role as the industry leader and advocate for the Parks and Leisure sector. Since 2016, our membership has surged from 905 to an impressive 2,725 members as of 30 June 2023, with a 24% (+524) increase in the past 12 months.

This growth underscores our commitment to providing a platform for members to connect, learn, and inspire one another, and we anticipate this positive trend to continue.

Engaging Members Nationwide

Our influence spans all regions, exemplifying our national reach. We proudly represent members in NSW/ACT (591), SA/NT (215), QLD (288), VIC/TAS (1036), WA (584), and even have members overseas (11). We'd like to give a special congratulations to VIC/TAS for surpassing the 1,000+ member milestone this year!

Across regions, we hosted over 85 events collectively with an incredible 3,000+ attendees, showcasing the unifying power of PLA's programs.

Our Generate Australia program continues to deliver for new professionals and emerging leaders with the implementation of the first year of the Generate mentoring program, improved integration of young professionals in PLA activities and triple the number of applicants to the David Aldous Emerging Leader Award.

Gender Balance Commitment

In line with our commitment to inclusivity, our community embraces diversity, with women accounting for 40.2% of our membership base up from 37% on the previous year. With 1,605 male members and 1,079 female members (41 unrecorded), we are proud of the progress we have made towards greater gender balance and will continue our efforts in this space.

Member Engagement and Strategic Improvements

Aligned with the PLA Towards 2025 Strategic Plan, our focus on Membership and Member Services remains unwavering. We have prioritised understanding member needs and delivering a spectrum of valuable services.

In our latest member survey (March 2023), despite higher levels of engagement, we still have work to do with our 'Net Promoter Score' (NPS) at 6/10. This indicates that we currently have a lower average of enthusiastic and active promoters of PLA and a large number of passive members.

Our members told us they would like to see PLA focus on good management and easier access to PLA platforms and information, industry advocacy, professional development, sharing best practice and resources, and greater engagement with the PLA community on issues related to the industry.

Our members also told us they want more diversity in our program across a range of topics, locations (outside city centres) and across a variety of formats including but not limited to, more webinars, technical tours, case studies, research and education sessions, networking and practical training opportunities.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Improvements

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Our members told us they wanted PLA to focus on:

- Good management
- Easier to access PLA platforms and information
- Industry advocacy
- Professional development
- Sharing best practice and resources
- Greater engagement with the PLA community on issues related to the industry
- More diversity in our program topics, locations (outside city centres) and across a variety of formats including webinars, technical tours, case studies, research and education sessions, networking and practical training opportunities.

We have listened and responded.

Over the past 12 months we have dedicated our efforts to elevate overall member experiences through a comprehensive platform overhaul.

We are thrilled to announce that these endeavours have culminated in the unveiling of the new online system and member interface in September 2023, including the launch of an upgraded website and member portal. This milestone marks a new era of enhanced member journeys, improved functionalities, and streamlined interactions, all aimed at elevating the PLA member experience.

This fundamental change will allow our services and events program to improve to better reflect member interests, ramp up our career and professional development programs, simplify access to important information and resources and support our overall advocacy efforts.

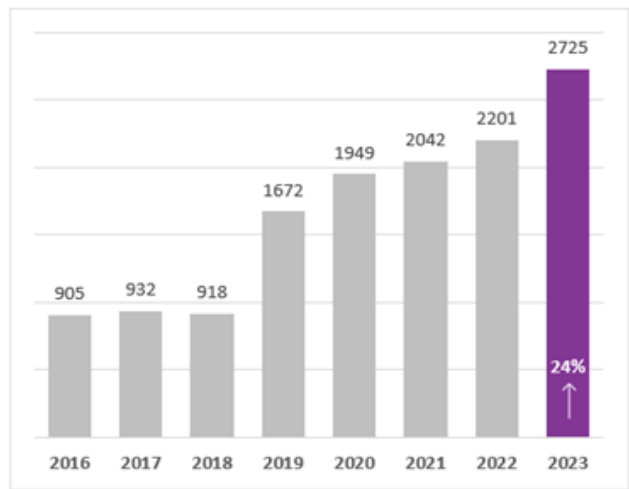
We Are Just Getting Started

Through our dedication to improving member engagement, enhancing electronic platforms, including the website, online AP&L Journal, PaRC Library, e-newsletters, and social media, we will continue to build on and work towards an amplified member experience and meaningful connections. We are committed to continuous improvement and strive to ensure that all interactions with PLA are valuable and satisfying.

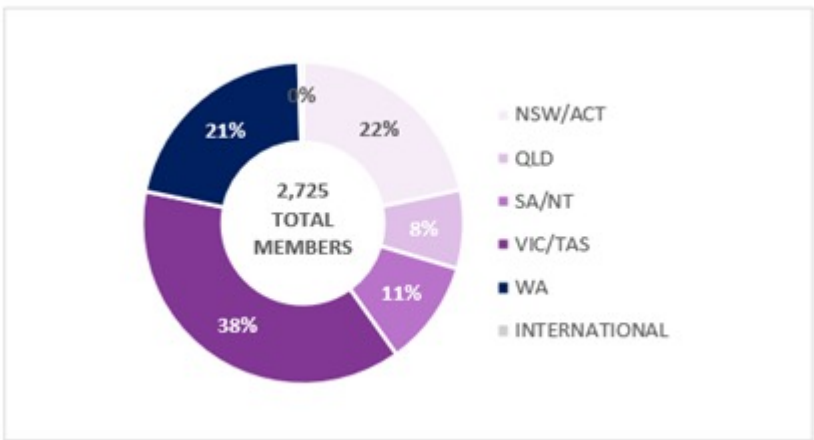
Reflecting on the milestones of 2022/23, we celebrate our expanding member family, united by a shared passion for parks, leisure, and community enrichment. This dynamic community stands as the cornerstone of our industry's future and with unity and resilience, we eagerly anticipate shaping the trajectory of our industry in the years to come.

Thank you for being a valued member of Parks and Leisure Australia and coming on the journey to a new way of working with us.

Change in Membership (2016 – 2023)



Members by Region (2021/22)



Parks and Leisure Australia

ABN: 23 083 489 463

Statement of Changes in Equity**For the Year Ended 30 June 2023**

	Accumulated Surplus \$	Total \$
Balance at 30 June 2021	585,552	585,552
Surplus for the year	27,175	27,175
Balance at 30 June 2022	612,727	612,727
Surplus for the year	353,845	353,845
WA Grant Balance	(209,368)	(209,368)
Balance at 30 June 2023	757,204	757,204

Statement of Cash Flows**For the Year Ended 30 June 2023**

	Note	2023 \$	2022 \$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Receipts from customers		2,238,188	1,452,647
Payments to suppliers and employees		(2,086,803)	(1,443,292)
Interest received		1,680	19
Receipts from grants		267,500	173,697
Net cash flows provided by operating activities		420,565	183,071
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Payments for property, plant and equipment		(4,253)	(4,999)
Net cash flows used in investing activities		(4,253)	(4,999)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Other financing activities		(209,368)	-
Net cash flows provided by/(used in) financing activities		(209,368)	-
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents held		206,944	178,072
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		848,035	669,963
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	7	1,054,980	848,035

Parks and Leisure Australia

ABN: 23 083 489 463

Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income

For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

	Note	2023 \$	2022 \$
Revenue	5	2,390,495	1,556,889
Other income	5	1,680	19
		<u>2,392,175</u>	<u>1,556,908</u>
Depreciation and amortisation expense		(11,813)	(8,820)
Conference expenses		(581,010)	(231,503)
Management fees		(399,677)	(775,034)
Other expenses		(963,101)	(529,685)
Total expenditure	6	<u>(1,955,601)</u>	<u>(1,545,042)</u>
Surplus / (deficit) before income tax		<u>436,574</u>	<u>11,866</u>
Income tax benefit / (expense)		(82,729)	15,309
Surplus / (deficit) for the year		<u>353,845</u>	<u>27,175</u>
Other comprehensive income for the year		-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year		<u>353,845</u>	<u>27,175</u>

Statement of Financial Position

As At 30 June 2023

	Note	2023 \$	2022 \$
ASSETS			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	7	1,054,980	848,035
Trade and other receivables	8	418,448	511,476
Other assets	9	200,517	82,309
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		<u>1,673,945</u>	<u>1,441,820</u>
NON CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, plant and equipment	10	5,829	4,895
Intangible assets	11	2,328	10,822
Deferred Tax Asset	12	164,651	247,380
TOTAL NON CURRENT ASSETS		<u>172,808</u>	<u>263,097</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>1,846,753</u>	<u>1,704,917</u>
LIABILITIES			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	13	54,345	94,131
Current tax liability	14	50,750	35,770
Contract liabilities	15	984,454	962,289
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>1,089,549</u>	<u>1,092,190</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES		<u>1,089,549</u>	<u>1,092,190</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>757,204</u>	<u>612,727</u>
EQUITY			
Issued capital		-	-
Reserves		-	-
Retained earnings		757,204	612,727
TOTAL EQUITY		<u>757,204</u>	<u>612,727</u>

KAKADU, NORTHERN TERRITORY
PHOTO BY NICK DUNN, UNPLASH



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