



PARKS & LEISURE
AUSTRALIA
(VIC/TAS)

2025

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

CENTREPIECE

CENTREPIECE @ MELBOURNE PARK | 20-21 MAY 2025

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.*



PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

The Parks and Leisure Australia VicTas Region Council is excited to host the 12th edition of our Region conference.

We are back bigger and better than ever on 20-21 May 2025 as we head to CENTREPIECE @ Melbourne Park, home of the Australian Open.

The only sector conference brought to you *by local government for local government* and its supporters, the event brings industry together celebrating the PEOPLE behind the PLACES.

We will be bringing you two full days, 50+ speakers and 12+ hours of content across 3 diverse streams:

- Places + Spaces
- Parks + Projects
- People + Planning

And don't forget the social event of the year as we celebrate the best of the parks and leisure industry at our Awards of Excellence Dinner on Tuesday 20 May.

It takes a collective effort to deliver this exciting event and we thank all of the presenters for volunteering their time to showcase the best our industry has to offer. A big thank you also to our partners, who without their support we wouldn't be able to host this event.

A special shoutout to all who travel to attend, especially our Tasmanian presenters and delegates!



Andrea Szymanski - President, PLA VicTas

CONFERENCE PARTNERS

Platinum



Program



Gold



Industry



Support



MINISTER'S WELCOME

On behalf of the Allan Labor Government, I'm delighted to welcome delegates from the sport, recreation, leisure, local government and parks sectors to the 2025 Parks & Leisure Australia Vic/Tas Region Conference and Awards of Excellence Dinner.

As the engine rooms behind Australia's parks, sports facilities, leisure centres, trails and water bodies, you help make the places that Victorians enjoy and love.

Partnerships and joint projects with different levels of government and your sector have led to innovative, inclusive and accessible infrastructure, programs and policies.

An example of this is the Government's Fair Access Policy Roadmap, which has led to policies being adopted statewide to ensure that women and girls across Victoria have equitable access to sporting facilities and participation opportunities.

This is underpinned by a more than \$2.3 billion investment in accessible and innovative community sport and active recreation infrastructure across Victoria since 2014.

The popular Get Active Kids Voucher Program has provided around 180,000 vouchers to eligible families to ensure cost is not a barrier preventing young Victorians from gaining all the benefits that come from being involved in sport and recreation.

Over the coming days industry experts will discuss and put forward their views on future opportunities and challenges across the industry, and I would like to thank Parks and Leisure Australia – Victoria/Tasmania branch and all the sponsors who have made this event possible.

Finally, congratulations to all the Awards of Excellence winners and nominees past and present. The Government is proud to have partnered with many of you on a range of vital community sport and recreation projects across Victoria, and I wish all delegates a great stay in Melbourne.



*The Hon. Ros Spence MP
Minister for Community Sport*

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ABOUT PLA

Parks and Leisure Australia (PLA) is committed to representing, advocating, supporting and servicing all professionals and organisations involved in parks, leisure, recreation, sport, open space, and the environment. We have been servicing and advocating for the parks and leisure industry since 1926 - originally formed as the Victorian Tree Planters Association, becoming the Royal Australian Institute of Parks and Recreation in the 70's, until merging with the Australian Leisure Institute in 1998 to form PLA.

Since then PLA has become the peak industry body for parks and leisure, and we are committed to being a leader in driving the professionalism, recognition and value of the industry. PLA is a now 2,500+ strong member-based organisation with a national office located in Adelaide but administered through five regions: Queensland; NSW/ ACT; VIC/TAS; SA/ NT; and WA.

We exist to

Represent, advocate, support, connect and empower our members, stakeholders and the wider industry; to achieve quality of life for all people in Australia.

Our Vision

For Australia to be the most liveable country in the world, renowned for its parks, sport and recreation facilities that provide the foundation for healthy communities and liveable towns and cities.

Our Members

Our members are "the people behind the places" who work across policy, planning and the provision of assets, services, facilities, programs, and research in the parks and leisure sector.

ABOUT THE VICTORIA/TASMANIA REGION

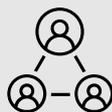
VIC/TAS is the leading PLA region with over 35% of total national PLA membership. We have over 1,100 passionate industry members with reach to 3,500+ sector colleagues via our region database and mailing list, and a further 1,200+ LinkedIn followers.

The VIC/TAS Region is managed by a voluntary [Region Council](#) comprising 15 industry professionals from across all parks and leisure sectors, and each with interests and knowledge across a range of sector issues.

VIC/TAS MEMBERSHIP



1,000+ members



3,500+ reach



35% of national membership

REGION COUNCIL



9 region councillors



6 co-opted members



8 Vic + 2 Tas LGAs, 2 State, 3 commercial members

REGION COUNCIL



**ANDREA
SZYMANSKI**

PRESIDENT

City of Manningham
(Wurundjeri Land)



**SAM
TAYLOR**

VICE-PRESIDENT

City of Boroondara
(Wurundjeri Land)



**BEN
MANNING**

TREASURER

Solucio
(Bunurong Land)



**NAOMI
PATON**

SECRETARY

Sport and Recreation Victoria
(Wurundjeri Land)



**MARK
COREA**

COUNCILLOR

City of Whittlesea
(Wurundjeri/Taungurung Land)



**LISA
GAYDON**

COUNCILLOR

Parks Victoria
(Wurundjeri Land)



**LIAM
COLE**

COUNCILLOR

Wellington Shire Council
(Gunaikurnai Land)



**DION
GOSLING**

COUNCILLOR

106 Architects
(Wurundjeri Land)



**ALLI
COOMBE**

COUNCILLOR (TAS)

Clarence City Council
(Murrumbidgee Land)

CO-OPTED MEMBERS

We are also fortunate to have co-opted members who provide additional guidance and support to our Regional Council:



**Rachel
Thorpe**

Hume City Council
Wurundjeri land



**Michael
Tanner**

Banyule City Council
Wurundjeri land



**Lauren
Close**

Otium Planning Group
Wurundjeri land



**Mel
Pratt**

Cardinia Shire Council
Wurundjeri/Bunurong
land



**Jo
Hansen**

City of Melbourne
Wurundjeri land



**Amy
Walker**

City of Devonport
Pannilerpanner land

CONFERENCE PROGRAM OVERVIEW

DAY 1 TUE 20 MAY

8AM	REGISTRATION	↙
9AM - 10.30AM	WELCOME + KEYNOTE	
10.30AM - 11AM	MORNING TEA + TRADE SHOW	
11AM - 12.30PM	PRESENTATIONS (3 X STREAMS)	
12.30PM - 1.30PM	LUNCH + TRADE SHOW	
1.30PM - 3PM	PRESENTATIONS (3 X STREAMS)	
3PM - 3.30PM	AFTERNOON TEA + TRADE SHOW	
3.30PM - 5PM	PRESENTATIONS (3 X STREAMS)	
6.30PM - 10.30PM	AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE	

DAY 2 WED 21 MAY

8AM	REGISTRATION	↙
9AM - 10.30AM	PRESENTATIONS (3 X STREAMS)	
10.30AM - 11AM	MORNING TEA + TRADE SHOW	
11AM - 12.30PM	PRESENTATIONS (3 X STREAMS)	
12.30PM - 1.30PM	LUNCH + TRADE SHOW	
1.30PM - 3PM	PRESENTATIONS (3 X STREAMS)	
3PM - 4.00PM	KEYNOTE + CLOSE	

PROGRAM PARTNERS

We are thrilled to be teaming up with our program partners to provide a series of spotlight speakers who will present throughout the conference:



MEET YOUR HOST

Brett Phillips is a leading tennis commentator and long time supporter of Parks and Leisure Australia.

Host of SEN's The First Serve, a dedicated two hour weekly radio show, covering the world of tennis from the elite to the grass roots here in Australia and abroad.

Brett is also a host of Channel 9's French Open, Wimbledon, US Open, Davis Cup, Billie Jean King Cup, Brisbane International and Adelaide International TV coverage as well as being the big screens host for Tennis Australia at the Australian Open.

Conference host proudly brought to you by Green Life Group www.glgcorp.com



CONFERENCE + AWARDS HOST

BROUGHT TO YOU BY



glg GREEN LIFE GROUP

BRETT PHILLIPS
Commentator & Broadcaster

OPENING THE CONFERENCE

Luba Grigorovitch MP, Member for Kororoit grew up in Melbourne's West and was formerly employed with the Victorian Department of Transport and VicTrack, which is where she started her journey with the Rail, Tram and Bus Union (RTBU) Victoria, becoming the first woman and youngest ever State Secretary in 2014.

In between all of this, she served close to two terms as a councillor for Hobsons Bay City Council before stepping down in 2014.

This experience with Local Government prompted her to run for Parliament. In December 2024 she became [Parliamentary Secretary for Outdoor Recreation](#).



DAY 1: TUESDAY 20 MAY

	Parks + Projects (Grand Hall 3)	People + Planning (Grand Hall 2)	Places + Spaces (Grand Hall 1)
8:00am	Registration - Barista coffee available on arrival		
8:45am	Welcome - Luba Grigorivitch MP, Parliamentary Secretary for Outdoor Recreation		
9:00am	Keynote #1 - John Harnden, CEO Melbourne & Olympic Parks Trust		
9:30am	Keynote #2 - Sally Capp AO, Former Lord Mayor of Melbourne		
10:00am	Keynote #3 - CEO Panel (facilitated by Sally Capp)		
10:45am	Morning Tea Networking + Trade Exhibition		
11:15am	How goal posts have evolved to match today's requirements for multi sports venues (ABEL SPORTS)	Community clubs are in crisis. And it's nobody's fault. (CLUBMAP)	"Cup of tea, anyone?" A valuable approach in planning and designing of parks and leisure with Traditional Owner communities (ASPECT STUDIOS)
11:40am	Importation and commercialising a new turf cultivar (TURFBREED)	From Strategy to Action – How Golf is Supporting and Empowering its Volunteer Workforce (GOLF AUSTRALIA)	Embedding cultural values and waterways into Hume's Open Space Strategy (HUME)
12:05pm	Remote sensing - how evolving technology can assist in sustainable decision making (SYNGENTA)	The cost to deliver and play community sport (FEDERATION UNI)	Creating Space to make a Place - creating community in the growth corridor (CASEY)
12:30pm	PANEL: Imagine getting more usage out of your natural turf sportsfield: Do's and Don'ts (ETP TURF)	PANEL: Play Well - One Year In (AUSTRALIAN SPORTS COMMISSION)	WORKSHOP: Creating interpersonal connections and creating meaningful recognition of our teams (SYMBIOTIC CONSULTANCY)
1:15pm	Lunch Networking + Trade Exhibition		
2:00pm	UV protection as a climate and health value add in local government plans (CANCER COUNCIL VICTORIA)	Maximising the benefits of Community Sports Infrastructure (SPORT AND RECREATION VICTORIA)	Understanding the impact of "Greening" our schools (DEAKIN UNI)
2:25pm	Urban Forest Canopy Cover: a matter of life and death (UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE)	Reshaping built systems for a fairer, healthier Victoria (VICHEALTH)	PARK IT: Re-imagining child friendly pathways from local parks to schools (OUTDOORS VICTORIA)
2:50pm	3+30+300 rule (RMIT UNIVERSITY)	Active Australia Innovation Challenge (HEART FOUNDATION)	Intergenerational vs multigenerational activities at the park - designing safe and engaging spaces for older adults (NATIONAL AGEING RESEARCH INSTITUTE)
3:15pm	Afternoon Tea Networking + Trade Exhibition		
3:45pm	Gender sensitive design for Increasing Women and Girls Participation in Sport and Recreation (XYX LAB MONASH UNIVERSITY)	We're all in this together. The essential ingredient of partnerships in delivering open space planning and programs (DEECA)	AFL / Ausco Modular online configurator platform (AFL)
4:10pm	What is play for teenage girls? (PLAYCE)	Royal Park Master Plan - exploring effective strategies for engaging with varied stakeholders (MELBOURNE)	Designing for Success: Unlocking Funding Opportunities for Community Sports Infrastructure (IDWALA)
4:35pm	Inclusive by Design: Play spaces for all (KOMPAN)	From paddock to regional park - the challenges and breakthroughs navigated in the planning and delivery of Officer District Park (CARDINIA)	Building a Sustainable Future for Tennis Through a Data-Driven Strategy (TENNIS VICTORIA)
5:00pm	Close		
6:30pm - 10:30pm	Awards of Excellence		

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

John Harnden AM, was appointed as CEO of MELBOURNE & OLYMPIC PARKS TRUST in 2019.

His experience in sports and entertainment spans a 30-year career in key leadership positions, including as Chair and Chief Executive of the Australian Grand Prix Corporation, Chair of the ICC 2022 T20 World Cup Organising Committee, Director of Cricket Australia, Chief Executive of the ICC 2015 World Cup Organising Committee, and Chief Executive of the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games.

In 2007, Mr Harnden was awarded an Order of Australia for services to sport for his work on the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games.



**PARKS & LEISURE
AUSTRALIA**
(VIC/TAS)

CONFERENCE KEYNOTE

20-21 MAY 2025 | CENTREPIECE @ MELBOURNE PARK

CENTREPIECE

**JOHN
HARDEN**

CEO, Melbourne and
Olympic Parks Trust



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Sally Capp AO is a trailblazing leader whose career spans business, government, and academia.

She was the first woman to serve on the Collingwood FC board, the first female Agent-General for Victoria in the UK, Europe, and Israel, and the first woman directly elected as Lord Mayor of Melbourne.

In 2024, Sally became a Vice Chancellor's Fellow at the University of Melbourne, further cementing her legacy of leadership.

Her varied career gives her unique perspectives and some hilarious stories!

SALLY CAPP AO
Former Lord Mayor of Melbourne

CONFERENCE KEYNOTE

20-21 MAY 2025 | CENTREPIECE @ MELBOURNE PARK

 PARKS & LEISURE AUSTRALIA (VIC/TAS)

FACILITATED SESSION

Sally Capp AO will also moderate a Council Chief Executive Officer panel session exploring the challenges and opportunities of our industry.

Panel CEO's have been hand picked for their ties to the Parks and Leisure industry.

Some starting out as learn to swim instructors, others being former members of the PLA Vic/Tas Region Council.

This ensures we'll have a relevant, robust, and honest conversation about what the future holds for the sector.



**PARKS & LEISURE
AUSTRALIA**
(VIC/TAS)

CEO PANEL

20-21 MAY 2025 | CENTREPIECE @ MELBOURNE PARK
2025 PLA VIC/TAS CONFERENCE

**CATHY
HENDERSON**
Merri-bek

**FIONA
BLAIR**
Brimbank

**LINCOLN
FITZGERALD**
Loddon Shire

**ALLISON
BECKWITH**
Banyule

**JACQUI
WEATHERILL**
Dandenong



DAY 2: WEDNESDAY 21 MAY

	Parks + Projects (Grand Hall 3)	People + Planning (Grand Hall 2)	Places + Spaces (Grand Hall 1)
8:00am	Registration - Barista coffee available on arrival		
9:00am	Maximising Impact: Managing Park and Leisure Construction Cost Increases (PLA ADVISORY)	Digital Revolution with Playground Auditing (Softfall Testing + PLAYGROUND 123)	A critical analysis of aquatic and recreation centre planning and decision-making (LA TROBE UNI)
9:25am	Recreational mountain bike injury occurrence and the impact on participation at Victorian mountain bike parks: Implications to stakeholders and industry (FEDERATION UNI)	Local Playspaces on a Budget (BASS COAST)	A unified framework for aligning leisure facilities with council objectives and community outcomes (SWINBURNE UNIVERSITY)
9:50am	Trail Condition Auditing: Enhancing Outdoor Experiences through Safety and Maintenance (TRAILWORX)	Play Network Strategies - Enhancing Community Connections (TRACT)	Illuminating Sports Facilities + Aquatic centres (BUCKFORD ILLUMINATION GROUP)
10:15am	Prahran Skate Park and Sports Court Redevelopment (STONNINGTON)	Tag You're it! Running circles around play spaces (WHITTLESEA)	Plumpton Aquatic and Leisure Centre - Taking Shape (MELTON)
10:40am	Morning Tea Networking + Trade Exhibition		
11:10am	EXTENDED SESSION: Illuminating Public Open Space (BUCKFORD ILLUMINATION GROUP)	PANEL: Sustainable Sports: Connecting People, Activating Places and Influencing Play (SPORTBOX + SEA)	WORKSHOP: Splashpark Design 101 – How to Design and Build a Splashpark from the Ground Up (ATLANTIS LIQUID DYNAMICS)
12:00pm	Places that last - Designing a connected, adaptable & resilient future (HUB)	Building Your Game Plan (AUSTRALIAN SPORTS COMMISSION)	Building Up, Not Out: Revolutionising Sports Facilities with Vertical Design (MCILDOWIE PARTNERS)
12:20pm	Decluttering Ruffey Lake Park Signage (MANNINGHAM)	Gender equity in community sport: Exploring drivers and resistance to change (MONASH UNI)	Pickleball, Padel & Tennis. What's next for racket sports in Australia (SPORTENG + TENNIS AUSTRALIA)
12:40pm	Park & leisure and university collaboration (PLA ADVISORY)	Diversity and inclusiveness in the sport and recreation industry (CMSPORT)	Stonnington Sport Centre (STONNINGTON)
1:00pm	Lunch Networking + Trade Exhibition		
1:45pm	Best Practice monitoring and auditing natural turf condition of sportsfields (ETP TURF)	Using data to drive decision making and Maximise the Community Benefits of Golf (GOLF AUSTRALIA)	
2:10pm	Park and sportsground asset maintenance and management in a Growth Area Council (CASEY)	Supply of courts is stopping the incredible demand for basketball, what can we do? (BASKETBALL VICTORIA)	
2:35pm	Valuing Green Infrastructure - taking a Traditional Asset Management Approach (IPWEA)	Partnership Opportunities with the AFL (AFL)	
3:00pm	Keynote #4 - Beau Miles, The Backyard Adventurer		
4:00pm	Close		

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Who is this bearded bloke?

Beau is a Father, YouTuber, award winning filmmaker, author of *The Backyard Adventurer*, wannabe farmer and maker of stuff from other people's junk. He needs to shower more.

Known for oddball storytelling that aims to make seemingly mundane or hair-brained ideas into something that's enjoyable, challenging and insightful.

He started to lecture at Monash University in outdoor education, and later earned his PhD in Outdoor Education which was an autoethnographic inquiry into sea kayak expeditioning.

If you're interested in finding out more, check out [Beau's YouTube channel](#).



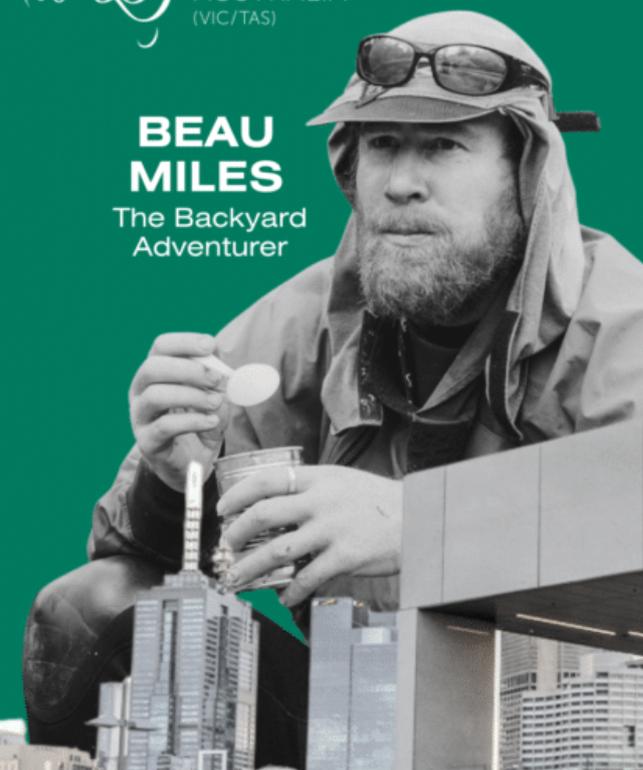
PARKS & LEISURE
AUSTRALIA
(VIC/TAS)

**BEAU
MILES**

The Backyard
Adventurer

CONFERENCE KEYNOTE

20-21 MAY 2025 | CENTREPIECE @ MELBOURNE PARK



CENTREPIECE

ABSTRACTS

Day 1 – Tuesday 20 May

Parks + Projects (Grand Hall 3)	People + Planning (Grand Hall 2)	Places + Spaces (Grand Hall 1)
11:15am		
<p>How goal posts have evolved to match today's requirements for multi sports venues.</p> <p>John Cann General Manager</p> <p>Abel Sports</p> <p>Abstract/Overview: Goal posts for all codes are now designed to be safe and vandal proof as well as easily removed and stored for open ground application. This presentation will explain how today's goal posts for AFL, Rugby League / Union and Soccer are manufactured. The same Abel Manufactured goal posts that appear at MCG, SCG, The Gabba, Perth Stadium, Adelaide Oval and AAMI Park are available for your Local Government Oval.</p> <p>Key Takeaways: How goals are manufactured What they consist of [Aluminium / Steel] Different base plates [Sleeves / Hinged] Onsite storage systems . [No need to take back to depot for storage] Difference between Rugby League / Rugby Union goals ?? Soccer demands . [Semi Permanent / Portable] Advantage of Australian / Local Made equipment</p> <p>Speaker Bio: John Cann has extensive sales and marketing experience, and has spent the last 10 years positioning Abel Sports as a leading manufacturer and supply of goal posts for all sporting codes throughout Australia.</p>	<p>Community clubs are in crisis. And it's nobody's fault.</p> <p>Terry Dillon Co-Founder and CEO</p> <p>CLUBMAP Pty Ltd</p> <p>Abstract/Overview: CLUBMAP has worked with 20,000+ volunteers and 5,000+ community clubs. Increasingly, they are in crisis. Burnt-out volunteers doing too much are lost to their clubs and communities. A 2023 Australian Sports Foundation survey found that the volunteer cycle contracted from 3.1 to 2.1 years from 2021-2023. CLUBMAP data reveals that it's not the volunteers' fault. Neither is it the fault of councils or governing bodies. They don't know what they don't know because the community volunteer system has not kept pace with society or technology. Clubs aren't managed effectively day-to-day and they don't have capacity to plan, so clubs and communities suffer. Even minor facilities improvement takes time. Major infrastructure projects can take many years. When clubs are struggling, their volunteers can't look ahead, but when the day-to-day is under control, volunteers can plan for growth well into the future. Legacy club management is outdated. Digital methods are more efficient, easier, and yield better returns. As the councils and governing bodies we work with can attest, when volunteers learn better methods, their clubs thrive. Increased capability encourages participation and connection. When everyone has a smart-phone, embracing proven digital methods changes everything.</p> <p>Key Takeaways: * how CLUBMAP works with councils to make life easier for their community clubs - not just sporting clubs but all community based clubs. * key take outs from CLUBMAP'S innovative CLUB Development Program. * attendees will be exposed to and learn about the CLUBMAP Resources Hub and the unique benefits it provides to community organisations. * examples of the programs CLUBMAP has already implemented for councils, clubs and governing bodies</p> <p>Speaker Bio: Terry Dillon, CLUBMAP Co-founder/CEO As co-founder and CEO of CLUBMAP, Terry has unique view on the community sporting landscape. He is a CPA with a BBus, MBA and Grad. Dip. Man, he is Vice President of Cora Lynn Football Netball Club and he spent two decades as a senior AFL executive with Hawthorn, Collingwood and St Kilda Football Clubs. Terry also has extensive experience in general business as a CEO and CFO. His work with CLUBMAP over the past ten years has seen the company take a leadership position in community sport to educate, direct and support sporting and not-for-profit administrators, local councils and governing bodies at all levels, Australia-wide.</p>	<p>"Cup of tea, anyone?" A valuable approach in planning and designing of parks and leisure with Traditional Owner communities.</p> <p>Anne-Marie Pisani First People's Partnerships and Design Lead</p> <p>Aspect Studios</p> <p>Abstract/Overview: Parks and leisure opportunities continue to evolve to meet the demands of our rapid development as a society. These opportunities all occur on Country, with their planning and design largely led by non-Indigenous planners and landscape architects. Both Indigenous and non-Indigenous people share a collective responsibility to care for Country, a responsibility that must be recognised in both personal and professional capacities. Through our case studies of acknowledged and award-winning recent planning and design projects, we explain how non-Indigenous practitioners can adopt a culturally responsive and more meaningful approach to enhancing outcomes for communities and the projects themselves. Our practise approach focuses on continually seeking opportunities to enable self-determination to improve project and community outcomes while identifying ways to share the cultural load and support capacity building within communities. These strategies are essential learning outcomes for both clients (local councils) and the planning profession. By examining current exemplar case studies, we will demonstrate how a new, more inclusive approach to planning and designing parks and leisure opportunities can be embedded, benefiting both clients and communities alike.</p> <p>Key Takeaways: - key project importance of early engagement with Traditional Custodians - how non-indigenous allies can successfully collaborate with Traditional Custodians for greater project and community outcomes - we all have a responsibility to care for Country through planning and design of parks and leisure opportunities</p> <p>Speaker Bio: Anne-Marie is committed to advocating and practising culturally responsive and meaningful design processes with First People's communities which enable self-determination through a genuine collaborative engagement. She understands and deeply respects the value local communities knowledge brings to design and encourages us all to connect with this 'Indigenous way of knowing'. She has successfully implemented this approach through many of her projects working with Traditional Custodians from across Victoria. She is the immediate past co-chair of AILA's National 'Connection to Country' Committee, a current panel member for both the VDRP and MDRP and leads Aspect Studios in focusing on genuine and respectful involvement with Traditional Custodians.</p>

**Parks + Projects
(Grand Hall 3)**

**People + Planning
(Grand Hall 2)**

**Places + Spaces
(Grand Hall 1)**

11:40am

Importation and commercialising a new turf cultivar

Nathan Tovey
Business Development Manager
TurfBreed

Abstract/Overview:

Nathan Tovey, Business Development Manager at TurfBreed, brings over 30 years of experience in the Australian turf industry to the process of importing and commercialising new turf grass varieties. The presentation will go through the journey of cultivar selection, importation, trialing, expansion and commercialisation. The journey begins with identifying promising varieties or cultivars through local and global research and partnerships. Once a variety is selected, it undergoes rigorous testing and trials to ensure its suitability for Australian conditions. This includes evaluating performance in different climates, resistance to pests and diseases, and water efficiency to name a few. TurfBreed's TurfRnD Research Facility plays a crucial role in this process, conducting extensive trials to evaluate the performance of improved turf varieties. The company also collaborates with external independent turf experts to evaluate and test varieties in real-world settings. Commercialisation involves working closely with customers, growers and turf consultants providing them with the necessary support and education to successfully cultivate the new varieties. The ultimate goal is to commercialise new varieties as a preferred choice in the Australian market, addressing challenges such as performance and other environmental factors including efficient use of nutrition and water utilisation.

Key Takeaways:

The process of selection and trialing a new cultivar
The trial work and date collection
Timelines it takes from importing to commercialisation

Speaker Bio:

Nathan Tovey is a qualified Turf Manager with more than 30 years' in the Australian Turf Industry. His experience ranges from starting as an apprentice on Golf Courses, managing some of Melbourne's elite private school grounds through to project managing large scale turf installations across the Country. Nathan is also a previous President of the Sports Turf Association of Victoria and is back as part of its Committee.

Nathan's vast work experience has seen him gain a wide-ranging knowledge when it comes to turf. Nathan looks forward to working with all of sports turf industry stakeholders across the country and has a strong appetite to continually learn from all those in the Industry he will be alongside.

From Strategy to Action – How Golf is Supporting and Empowering its Volunteer Workforce

Claudia Marazita
Head of Workforce Engagement
Golf Australia

Abstract/Overview:

Without volunteers, Australian sport wouldn't exist. Golf's success in Australia is powered by a unique and passionate volunteer workforce, which matches its 38,000-strong paid workforce. In 2024, the launch of golf's first Volunteer Strategy marked a transformative step in clearly defining how golf can continue to attract, develop, and retain its volunteers. This session will delve into the strategy's key outcomes, including the establishment of a volunteer management system and recruitment platform, strategic partnerships to diversify the volunteer base, and impactful initiatives to celebrate and recognise volunteer contributions.

A major highlight will include an overview of the Golf Australia Club Governance Program launching in early 2025 in collaboration with the Australian Institute of Company Directors. With over 11,000 volunteer board directors shaping the future of golf, governance has emerged as a top priority. Strengthening governance is essential to addressing workforce challenges and enabling volunteers to have a positive and fulfilling experience.

Attendees will gain a comprehensive understanding of how these initiatives are equipping volunteers with the skills and knowledge needed to foster better decision-making and ensuring sustainable outcomes for clubs and facilities. This session is relevant to anyone in sport and recreation who delivers, enables or supports a volunteer experience.

Key Takeaways:

- Key initiatives to attract, develop, and retain a high-performing and engaged volunteer workforce.
- Insights into the establishment of a volunteer management system, recruitment platform, and new partnerships to diversify the volunteer base.
- Programs and campaigns designed to recognise and celebrate the contributions of golf's volunteer workforce.
- An overview of the Golf Australia Club Governance Program designed to support and upskill the 11,000+ volunteer board directors shaping the sport's future.
- Practical strategies and lessons from golf's volunteer programs that can be applied across other sports and recreation organisations.

Speaker Bio:

Claudia commenced as Head of Workforce Engagement at Golf Australia in April 2023, with the task of developing and implementing a workforce engagement strategy to better organise, coordinate and connect the many thousands of people working and volunteering across Australian golf. She is a HR professional by background with 10 years of experience in a variety of HR roles across a number of sectors, most recently with News Corp Australia, Court Services Victoria and The Royal Melbourne Hospital. Claudia holds a Bachelor of Science and Master of Management (Human Resources) from The University of Melbourne.

Embedding cultural values and waterways into Hume's Open Space Strategy

Sheridan Blunt
Open Space Strategy Lead
City of Hume

Abstract/Overview:

Hume City Council has embedded its open space planning into the wider context of its landscape, waterways and Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung cultural values as the centrepiece for its Open Space Strategy 2025. The Strategy sets the strategic direction for 660+ reserves encompassing more than 4500 hectares, and provides direction to 'protect, optimise and grow' open space for multiple outcomes. This includes balancing visitor experience with ecological, cultural, landscape, canopy, play, leisure, trails, sport and community outcomes in a time of climate change. It also addressed the priorities of multicultural communities in particular greater support for cultural events and large family gatherings to be held in open spaces. Hume's Open Space Strategy began with the Traditional Owners setting out their priorities prior to the Strategy being drafted. This set clear directions for cultural heritage, cultural values, ceremony and return of Country. It also emphasised the importance of Hume's increasingly valued asset - its waterways (26 named and numerous unnamed). There is a focus on climate resilience of open space including cooling, shading, flood and drought resilience.

Key Takeaways:

1. Supporting Traditional Owner self-determination in open space planning
2. Planning open spaces in the context of waterways, landscapes and climate change
3. Applying a visitor experience approach to open space planning

Speaker Bio:

Sheridan Blunt is the Open Space Strategy Lead at Hume City Council - planning and connecting over 670 open spaces across the diverse communities of Broadmeadows, Tullamarine, Roxburgh Park, Craigieburn, Mickleham, Kalkallo, Bulla, Sunbury and more. A senior environment and urban planner with over 25 years of experience, Sheridan has worked with the Victorian and NSW State Governments; various local councils including City of Melbourne, Moonee Valley City Council, and Hume City Council; and NGOs including Loci Environment & Place Inc. in Melbourne and Kabilin Inc in the Philippines. Sheridan's passion lies in creating holistic strategies that deal with big climate, landscape, cultural and equity challenges - and then bringing them to life in a series of exciting projects and partnerships.

**Parks + Projects
(Grand Hall 3)**

**People + Planning
(Grand Hall 2)**

**Places + Spaces
(Grand Hall 1)**

12:05pm

Remote sensing - how evolving technology can assist in sustainable decision making

Peter Frewin
Syngenta

Abstract/Overview:

Urban sprawl has resulted in many open spaces now surrounded by residential dwellings. As technology continues to evolve at a rapid pace, use of drones for NDVI sensing of open space is becoming more limited and regulated due to privacy. Additionally, no fly zones are increasing as commercial aircraft fly over these newly developed areas. As such, the use of satellites and in-ground soil sensors for plant health monitoring is increasing. This session will introduce delegates to the newly introduced satellite monitoring and in-ground soil sensors developed specifically for a wide range of decision making processes. Key learnings from this session will be how this technology works and how to achieve benefits for individual facilities in practical terms.

Key Takeaways:

Delegates will be updated on the latest evolving technology being developed and available for use in daily decision making processes for their facilities. This knowledge will enable the delegates to accurately monitor their facilities from remote locations, assisting them to provide the best turf for end users whether it be parks, gardens, open spaces and sports fields.

Delegates will learn and develop an understanding around:

- What new technology is currently available such as remote satellite sensing and in-ground soil sensors.
- How this new technology can save time in weekly maintenance practices.
- How remote sensing can assist in producing healthier plants, greater stress tolerance, improved water use efficiency, better wear tolerance and better visual presentation.
- A glimpse into new future offerings.

Speaker Bio:

Dr Brett Morris - Technical Services Manager - Turf & Landscape ANZ

The cost to deliver and play community sport

Katherine Owen (on behalf of Rochelle Eime)
Federation Uni

Abstract/Overview:

The cost to play sport is a common barrier to participation. Previous research has reported the cost of participation, but often only the cost of membership or registration is reported. There are many different costs associated with playing community sport such as uniforms, equipment, coaching, competition fees, travel and other associated costs. Further, there is limited understanding of the costs for local community clubs to deliver sport. The aim of this study was to investigate the cost to deliver, from a clubs perspective, and the cost to play sport from a players perspective. An online survey was developed in collaboration with the Australian Sports Commission who funded this research and clubs and players responded from Oct-Dec 2024. This presentation will outline the main costs for participants across a range of demographics and different sport types, as well as the main costs for clubs to deliver sport. Sport policy and strategy recommendations to make sport more affordable will be discussed.

Key Takeaways:

- The total costs to play sport can be quite expensive
- The costs to play sport differ considerably across sport types
- Clubs are under financial pressure to deliver community sport
- There are strategies we can implement to make sport more affordable

Speaker Bio:

Professor Rochelle Eime is a Behavioural Epidemiologist and Professor of Sport Sciences at Federation University, who has over 20 years of research experience specifically related to the sport sector and covering areas of participation, facilities, and health. She is the Director of the Physical Activity and Sport Insights research group. Rochelle is also the Deputy Chair VicSport and a member of the Aus Sports Commission PlayWell Leadership Group.

'Creating Space to make a Place' - creating community in the growth corridor

Janet Reid
Head of Community Facility Management
City of Casey

Abstract/Overview:

'Build it and they will come'. Sounds easy doesn't it? The reality can often be very different. You ask community what they want, you provide it and no one shows up. Even more challenging in the growth corridor where people are new to the area, time poor and navigating everything unfamiliar. So how do we do community?

Orana Community Place, Vic/Tas PLA 2024 Community Facility of the Year, is an interim community hub and early years facility in the growth corridor of Casey, facilitating a greater sense of community connection, ability to access wellbeing programs and early years services much sooner than usual. A partnership with developer Balcon Group, this unique building is home to playgroups, school holiday programs, social groups, wellness activities and a café that has become the heart of the community. Starting determined to let residents lead and take ownership of their community, Orana is slowly becoming a vibrant part of this emerging community. Since opening early 2023, over 50 programs/activities have run out of the Hub, has a growing volunteer base and is helping establish a community resident group, community garden and numerous social connections.

This is a presentation of what we have learnt, what we are still learning and some of the things that have worked to make Orana Community Place a vibrant, connected place.

Key Takeaways:

- Finding the Community Connectors in your local area
- Partnerships as a key ingredient in making it work
- Working towards the long term when the pressure is to impress in the short term

Speaker Bio:

Janet and Racheal work for the City of Casey and are responsible for the development & activation of Orana Community Place – the Vic/Tas PLA Community Facility of the Year 2024. Passionate community development practitioners working in local government, they are strong advocates for the importance of place and how we can create authentic connections and opportunities for creating value, community empowerment and a sense of belonging through the spaces and places we occupy and manage.

**Parks + Projects
(Grand Hall 3)**

**People + Planning
(Grand Hall 2)**

**Places + Spaces
(Grand Hall 1)**

12:30pm

Imagine getting more usage out of your natural turf sportsfield: Do's and Don'ts (Panel)

Grant Greenway
Senior Turf Consultant
ETP Turf

Abstract/Overview:

Imagine not having to completely rebuild your natural turf sportsfield because you understand some of the innovative, yet best practice science and practical and proven options and have an understanding for improving turf condition, participation and versatility of your natural turf surfaces. This panel discussion will touch on construction types, best practices management, managing costs and procurement challenges, balancing sportsfield design science and economics and the role of technology in modern sportsfields. We will also discuss getting the most out of your existing sportsfield with best practice irrigation, drainage and grass species as the essential elements for natural sports turf longevity and if you must improve your infrastructure, where to start and how to investigate what you have and how to economically upgrade.

Key Takeaways:

The presentation will break down the process of contemporary natural turf sportsfield designs, maintenance and reconstruction works into simple and defined stages. It will demonstrate simple design strategies that can be undertaken and how to coordinate outcomes for construction when using contractors. The presentation will focus on how to deliver expected project outcomes and timelines for stakeholder use and negating possible costly mistakes and delays in sports ground reconstruction projects and long-term performance.

Speaker Bio:

Play Well - One Year In (Panel)

Catriona Rose
Australian Sports Commission

Abstract/Overview:

Join us at the Parks and Leisure Australia Victoria/Tasmania Conference for an insightful panel discussion on the transformative journey of the Play Well program. With the implementation of the strategy now one year on, Play Well is working to create inclusive, safe, and engaging sporting environments for all Australians. Our panel of experts will delve into the program's achievements, challenges, and future directions. Discover how Play Well has fostered community connections, enhanced physical literacy, and promoted a culture of positive sport participation. Don't miss this opportunity to learn about the strides made and the road ahead for this groundbreaking initiative.

Key Takeaways:

Speaker Bio:

Creating interpersonal connections and creating meaningful recognition of our teams (Workshop)

Christopher Rivera
Lead Consultant
Symbiotic Consultancy

Abstract/Overview:

Learning from the stoics, researchers and leading influencers in leadership this sessions brings a simple and direct way to understand Emotional Intelligence and its applications.

In a world of heightened emotions learning to recognise and regulate our emotions is crucial to keep our high performing teams members onboard.

With an enhanced EQ we can adapt and use meaningful languages for the personalised recognition of individual members. Learning personal languages can assist in enhancing performance and the team culture to create more positive working environments and opening up the opportunities for transparent communications.

Key Takeaways:

The enhancement of our recruitment and induction processes.

How to apply EQ and meaningful languages for quick fire and enhanced recognition practices.

The ability to review our current culture and how to improve and create an organisation with meaning and purpose.

Speaker Bio:

Christopher Rivera has been dedicated to the aquatics and recreation industry for the more than a decade.

His passion for leadership development, and aligning teams towards personal and organisational purpose has assisted in optimising performance.

In the world of innovation, AI and increasing business performance he works with manager and leaders to not forget about their people in the process. He shares a belief alongside Simon Sinek that consumer satisfaction is a by-product of team satisfaction.

**Parks + Projects
(Grand Hall 3)**

**People + Planning
(Grand Hall 2)**

**Places + Spaces
(Grand Hall 1)**

2:00pm

UV protection as a climate and health value add in local government plans

Justine Osborne
SunSmart Advocacy and Policy Manager
Cancer Council Victoria

Abstract/Overview:

Spending time outdoors is important for health and wellbeing, but it also means exposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation – the leading cause of skin cancer. More than two in three Australians will be diagnosed with skin cancer in their lifetime. Most skin cancer can be prevented by being SunSmart - using personal sun protection measures and seeking out supportive healthy built environments that have UV protective shade.

In addition to reducing UV exposure and related UV harms, shade and greening are key to climate-related heat mitigation and provide multiple co-benefits for the environment and health.

SunSmart conducted an audit of council plans across Victoria's 79 local government areas. SunSmart, skin cancer, sun protection and UV are rarely mentioned however shade mentions (84%) have increased between 2010-2024. Environmental themed and related terms have continued to dominate with most current council plans including trees (96%) and public open space (97%) although these were mainly related to heat mitigation.

So how do we ensure UV protection is integrated as a key co-benefit of shade and greening for both climate resilience and public health in new council plans? And how can we influence shade planning to also include UV protection considerations?

Key Takeaways:

- Shade can reduce overall UV radiation exposure by 60% to 90% and has been shown to reduce surface temperature by 20°C, with the lowest air and surface temperatures consistently recorded under tree canopies.
- By integrating UV protective shade across council policies and planning, we can mitigate heat and reduce UV related harms such as skin cancer.
- Effective shade planning considers design elements that reduce both UV and heat while also incorporating other health co-benefits.

Speaker Bio:

Justine Osborne is the SunSmart Advocacy and Policy Manager responsible for coordinating the successful planning, implementation and evaluation of policies to reduce UV exposure and create healthy environments for communities. This involves advocacy and promotion of integrating UV protective shade and low UV reflective surfaces into strategic climate change and health policy and planning.

Maximising the benefits of Community Sports Infrastructure

Phil Saikaly

SRV

Abstract/Overview:

Quantifying the benefits of community sport and active recreation infrastructure investment provides valuable data for optimising future investments, including informing decisions about design, management, and usage to maximise community impact

Key Takeaways:

Speaker Bio:

Philip is the Lead Director Community Sports Infrastructure at Sport and Recreation Victoria and is responsible for overseeing government's investment into community sport and active recreation investment across Victoria.

Understanding the impact of "Greening" our schools

Jenny Veitch

Deakin University

Abstract/Overview:

Growing levels of urbanisation have resulted in fewer children growing up with access to nature. Schools are an opportune setting for facilitating green space exposure. Transforming school grounds into nature-rich environments can improve children's physical and mental health, social behaviour, academic performance, and teacher motivation. Furthermore, school greening is an equitable approach to foster social inclusion amongst vulnerable and/or marginalised groups. However, the direct impacts of school greening are rarely investigated. The overall aim of this 3-year project is to explore the process, opportunities, challenges and impacts of creating innovative indoor and outdoor green spaces at primary years specialist and mainstream schools. It will include selected intervention and control schools. Intervention schools will undergo co-design "greening". The impact of the interventions will be evaluated via environmental audits, surveys with staff, parents and students, one-on-one interviews with staff and stakeholders, focus groups with students, and students objectively measured physical activity. This research is novel in its inclusion of both indoor and outdoor greening, mainstream and specialist schools, and a focus on the impacts for students and school staff. Feasible and practical tools and clear recommendations will be produced to guide future practice in greening projects for schools and government.

Funded by Hort Innovation. Partners include: Nursery and Garden Industry Victoria (NGIV), TRACT, ecoDynamics, Play Australia, Parks and Leisure Australia

Key Takeaways:

- This project is being conducted with 5 Industry partners
- The selected schools will be located in areas of low socio-economic advantage and low greenness

Speaker Bio:

Professor Jenny Veitch
Jenny Veitch is a Professor in the Institute for Physical Activity and Nutrition (IPAN), at Deakin University, Australia. Her research aims to better understand the impact of the built and natural environment on physical activity and health-related behaviours. Prof Veitch has a particular research focus on understanding how the design of parks and public open spaces can optimise physical activity and social interaction across the lifespan. She is leading the 'Green Schools' project.
Co-authors: Prof Timperio, Prof Salmon, Dr Sahlqvist, Dr Mazzoli, A/Prof O'Shea

**Parks + Projects
(Grand Hall 3)**

**People + Planning
(Grand Hall 2)**

**Places + Spaces
(Grand Hall 1)**

2:25pm

Urban Forest Canopy Cover; a matter of life and death

Dr Greg Moore
Senior Research Associate
Melbourne Uni

Abstract/Overview:

The urban forest is an essential part of urban infrastructure that impacts human health, well being and quality of life. State government legislative frameworks have major negative impacts on the urban forest and the benefits it provides to citizens. In most cities, regional centres and country towns, tree numbers and canopy cover are declining annually. Local governments are often unable to do anything to arrest the declines because of State regulation. The areas of State control that impact most on the urban forest are those that give priority to urban development and those that regulate powerline clearing. State politicians often present this as an either/or situation: you can have homes or trees but not both. This is a false dichotomy and we should have both. In Victoria powerline regulations for low voltage conductors in low bush fire risk areas are no longer fit for purpose. Rather than saving lives that are putting lives at risk during heatwaves.

Key Takeaways:

- Urban forest canopy cover is declining annually
- Victorian Powerline Clearing regulations are no longer fit for purpose in a changing climate
- Lower urban tree canopy cover increases risks of heatwave related deaths

Speaker Bio:

Greg Moore, Senior Research Associate, University of Melbourne, Burnley, was Principal of Burnley (1988-2007) and Head of the School of Resource Management (2002-007). Interested in horticultural science, revegetation and ecology, Greg specializes in arboriculture. He was inaugural president of the ISA Australian Chapter, and has been a member of the National Trust's Register of Significant Trees since 1988 and chair since 1996. He served on the Boards of Greening Australia (1988-2012), Trust for Nature (2009-2017) and is on the board of Sustainable Gardening Australia and TREENET (Chair 2005-2019). He has written three books, seven book chapters and 200 scientific papers and articles. He was awarded an OAM in 2017 for services to the environment, particularly arboriculture.

Reshaping built systems for a fairer, healthier Victoria

Kaitlyn Stringer
Lead, Neighbourhood & Built Systems
VicHealth

Abstract/Overview:

VicHealth has a long history of working with other organisations to promote healthy built environments via policy advocacy, programs, research, and partnerships. In May 2023, VicHealth increased its focus on this area, with healthy neighbourhoods and built systems identified in VicHealth's 10-year Strategy as one of three key systems for VicHealth to reshape, leading to a fairer, healthier Victoria. This focus on the built environment has given VicHealth a strong mandate to renew VicHealth's position on healthy built environments, and address the role of the built environment in health outcomes through investment in programs, research and partnerships.

Two years on from the launch of VicHealth's 10-year strategy, hear about how VicHealth is approaching the built environment system, and it's key learnings to date.

Key Takeaways:

Speaker Bio:

Kaitlyn is a healthy built environment specialist, focused on achieving equitable health outcomes for people and communities. Throughout her career, Kaitlyn has worked on a range of transport and urban development projects through a wellbeing lens, including several nationally significant policy frameworks, strategies and business cases in Aotearoa, New Zealand. In 2024, she relocated to Melbourne, Australia where she is applying her experience to reducing and eliminating barriers to good health in Victoria, with a specific focus on the built environment.

PARK IT: Re-imagining child friendly pathways from local parks to schools

Kieran Brophy
Project Lead
Outdoors Victoria

Abstract/Overview:

PARK IT is a new active travel initiative delivered in partnership by Outdoors Victoria, Hume City Council, Play Australia, La Trobe University, arts bus and Victorian primary school communities, funded by Sport & Recreation Victoria. PARK IT empowers car-dependent families to drop-off students at parks, within 1km from the school gate, enabling more opportunities for children, alongside their communities, to walk to/from school. A key focus is improving child-friendly pathways from park to/from school by; (i) creating more play for children and (ii) growing support for children's independent mobility through family engagement. Hear the latest impacts and learnings from our PARK IT pilot, as we strive to grow support for children's walking to school and improve the health and wellbeing of Victorian communities.

Key Takeaways:

- Understand our community engagement process to co-design PARK IT for school communities.
- Understand our key impacts and key learnings from the PARK IT pilot.
- Learn how to get involved.

Speaker Bio:

Kieran is Projects Lead at Outdoors Victoria, responsible for implementing an array of exciting projects, inclusive of Active in Nature, Discover our Forests, PARK IT and Side-by-Side Nature Walks. He has spent most of his 20-year career as an advocate for active outdoor communities, delivering national campaigns for Play Australia, such as 1000 Play Streets, leading VicHealth's Physical Activity Innovation Challenge, and facilitating a range of community-based health and wellbeing programs for the Victorian Department of Health and Australian Sports Commission. Kieran lives in Croydon (Victoria) with his family and when not working, loves nothing more than playing outside with his three kids!

**Parks + Projects
(Grand Hall 3)**

**People + Planning
(Grand Hall 2)**

**Places + Spaces
(Grand Hall 1)**

2:50pm

The 3+30+300 rule

Thami Croeser

RMIT

Abstract/Overview:

This presentation examines a 'minimum standard' for nature in cities: the 3-30-300 rule. This rule of thumb specifies that every home, school and workplace should have a view to at least 3 trees, as well as 30% neighbourhood tree canopy, and a walk of less than 300m to a local park, drawing on decades of research on human needs in relation to nature. Last year, I published research in Nature Communications showing the results of this test for approximately 9 million buildings in 8 cities across the planet. I will give an insight into how these cities performed, how you can calculate the metric in your city, and offer some reflections on how good the index really is as a benchmark of nature provision. If you're working to expand your urban canopy, green spaces, or become a more biodiverse city, this presentation is for you.

Key Takeaways:

- The rule is a good heuristic measure for providing nature for human health.
- The rule is catchy, easy to understand, but hard to actually achieve, especially the canopy standard.
- This is a pause for thought about how we do urban greening now – we may simply not be allocating enough space to nature.
- This metric is useful 'scaffolding', not the whole build. Getting biodiversity, aesthetics and park functionality right is critical too.

Speaker Bio:

Dr Thami Croeser is an urban planner at the RMIT University Centre for Urban Research in Melbourne, with a specialist focus on planning for urban greening. Thami's research and advocacy focuses on using geospatial mapping techniques to demonstrate how our cities can bring back nature, at scale, into the places that we live and work.

Active Australia Innovation Challenge

Jarrold Leggett

Heart Foundation

Abstract/Overview:

The National Heart Foundation of Australia Active Australia Innovation Challenge (AAIC) grants program commenced in 2018 via funding by the Australian Department of Health and Aged Care. The AAIC funding enables communities to deliver physical activity initiatives that meet the needs of their local priority populations, with a focus on innovation and equity. Between 2018 and 2022 the program provided 54 \$10,000 grants to support over 6,100 people to be active in their community. An evaluation was conducted in 2022 to assess the current grant structure and support ongoing delivery of the program. Feedback included more robust information on application criteria, and offering flexible grant amounts. This information informed the 2024 grants program, with the first flexible grants round offering up to \$50,000 for community physical activity initiatives. Applications were received from 1,148 communities across Australia. Grants from \$10,000 to \$50,000 were awarded to 10 community projects and were awarded based on project innovation, equity, and community co-design. Activities ranged from designing a bespoke cycle track and providing adapted bikes for children with disabilities, to a digital app to scale up and sustain community walking groups for men. Grant recipients attended a workshop which provided capacity building support around program implementation, sustainability and scale up.

Key Takeaways:

- Successful projects demonstrated innovation for their community to be physically active.
- Flexible grant amounts significantly increased application numbers and highlighted need for more funding for community physical activity initiatives
- Grant winners reported that the program had addressed an existing gap and program designs met the needs of their priority group.
- Post award support a key to successful project implementation

Speaker Bio:

Name: Jarrold Leggett
Senior Individual Walking Officer, National Heart Foundation of Australia
Bio: Jarrold Leggett is an experienced program coordinator with over 15 years of expertise in sport, health, and environmental sustainability. He has led key initiatives at the Heart Foundation, including the Heart Foundation Walking program, the Active Australia Innovation Challenge, and Personal Walking Plans. Passionate about promoting physical activity and community connection, Jarrold is dedicated to creating opportunities that empower people to lead healthier, more active lives. With a strong background in program management and community engagement, he continues to drive impactful projects that inspire positive lifestyle changes.

Intergenerational vs multigenerational activities at the park - designing safe and engaging outdoor spaces for older adults

Pazit Levinger

NARI

Abstract/Overview:

Local parks provide vital recreational spaces for all age groups, fostering intergenerational interaction and incidental activities. Multigenerational active spaces, including outdoor exercise equipment, offer opportunities for older people and children to engage in shared activities. However, ensuring these spaces are safe and accessible for older adults presents design challenges. In this presentation, findings from an observational study of six parks in Victoria, will be discussed, highlighting how older people and children engage and interact in active spaces in local parks. Observations (n=5373 visitors) revealed that older adults commonly attended parks in intergenerational groups (30.5%), with many engaging in physical activity (≥78%). Additionally, survey responses from older park visitors (n=48) showed that nearly half attended alone (47.9%), while others visited with company, including grandchildren (22.9%) and partners or friends (12.5%). Approximately a third of respondents reported exercising with their grandchildren in the designated space. This presentation will explore key factors influencing the safe use of these spaces by older people, including accessibility, proximity to children's play areas, and park layout. Practical recommendations for designing safe, inclusive, and engaging intergenerational recreational spaces will be discussed to support active and connected communities.

Key Takeaways:

- ☑ Understand how intergenerational engagement occurs in outdoor spaces and its role in promoting physical activity.
- ☑ Identify key design factors that influence the safe and effective use of multigenerational recreational spaces by older people.
- ☑ Learn practical strategies for designing age-friendly, inclusive parks that support safe and active participation for all generations.

Speaker Bio:

Presenter: Prof Pazit Levinger, National Ageing Research Institute
Bio: Professor Pazit Levinger is a Senior Principal Researcher at the National Ageing Research Institute in Melbourne. A leading expert in age-friendly outdoor environments within recreational parks, she collaborates with government bodies on strategic planning and policy development to enhance public health through the built environment. Her research focuses on translating evidence into practice, working closely with local governments and communities to promote physical activity and improve the health and well-being of older adults.

**Parks + Projects
(Grand Hall 3)**

**People + Planning
(Grand Hall 2)**

**Places + Spaces
(Grand Hall 1)**

3:45pm

Gender-Sensitive Design for Increasing Women and Girls Participation in Sport and Recreation

Niki Kalms

XYX Lab Monash University

Abstract/Overview:

Regular physical activity helps to prevent and manage health risk factors. Yet, 42% of women in Australia do not meet Australia's Physical Activity and Sedentary Behaviour Guidelines (AIHW 2024) and this figure is higher for women with disabilities and culturally and racially marginalised women (Ray, 2014). Evidence suggests that women are more likely to partake in physical activity if facilities and recreational spaces are available to them (Hanlon et al 2019). However, fear of gender-based violence, harassment and assault, along with gender-bias in the built environment impact women's access and use of parks, sporting facilities and recreational spaces (Brace et al. 2021; Yourground 2021; Walker & Clarke 2023; Wickes et al. 2023). This presentation will discuss a new research project focussed on how women and girl's perceptions of safety in parks, sporting facilities and recreational spaces impact their participation in physical activities and how we can use intersectional, gender-sensitive place-making to improve equitable access and enhance their health and wellbeing. It will discuss the value of both traditional and non-traditional research methods and a novel engagement programme to connect key stakeholders including women and girls, government, health, gender, parks and sporting bodies.

Key Takeaways:

The presentation will discuss

1. The value of Spatial Assessment Tools for Partner Organisations
2. Gender-Sensitive Design Frameworks and best-practice regarding lighting, recreational amenity, equity and access for parks, sporting facilities and recreational spaces.
3. Benchmarking Best Practice Principles
4. The development of Gender-Sensitive Design Training for Partner Organisations.

Speaker Bio:

Professor Nicole Kalms, XYX Lab Monash University Nicole Kalms is a Professor and Associate Dean (research) in the Faculty of Art Design and Architecture founding director of the XYX Lab at Monash University which leads national and international research in Gender and Place. Kalms' research examines digital, experiential, political and material interventions to reposition design as a strategic tool for challenging gender inequity. Her recent research has focused on public transport spaces for women and girls, gender-sensitive crime prevention (CPTED) and the use of participatory co-design to challenge gender-neutral urban policy.

We're all in this together. The essential ingredient of partnerships in delivering open space planning and programs.

Fran Horsley + Damien Taylor

DEECA

Abstract/Overview:

Partnering and engaging widely with local and state government, traditional custodians, communities, researchers, consultants, and peak industry bodies is central to our work in open space planning and programs at DEECA. Whether its advocating for open space actions in state government strategies, working with others to help deliver their programs, preparing planning guidance with local councils, bidding for funding or implementing grant programs, its only possible through working together. This session will outline the current open space planning and programs underway and upcoming that the DEECA open space teams are involved in. It will focus on the importance and benefits of partnerships and engagement to what we are achieving together. Share your ideas about other connections we might be missing or more focused ways of working with so many different groups when staff and resources are limited for all of us.

Key Takeaways:

- Partnerships and genuine engagement are essential for delivering great open space planning and delivery outcomes
- Open Space teams at DEECA are leading projects but also working across state government to influence other projects impacting the industry
- The more we partner with and learn from different groups the better we can be at advocating for all of our needs
- We want to thank everyone for their generosity and collegiate working culture, and we aim to be valued partners in reciprocal relationships

Speaker Bio:

Damien Taylor brings nearly 20 years of experience in State and Local Government, with qualifications in environmental science and public safety. He's worked across emergency management, regulatory enforcement, forest management and biodiversity initiatives. Outside of work, Damien loves running, mountain biking, and spending time at the beach with his family of five (yes, the Golden Retriever Teddy counts!). He currently works with Victoria's Department of Energy, Environment, and Climate Action, delivering programs that focus on urban greening and transforming open spaces across metropolitan Melbourne.

Fran has been working in park management and open space planning for more than 35 years. She has had the privilege of serving the community through a range of roles from park ranger to executive level, projects from local park masterplans to the Shipwreck Coast, a vision for the bay, the 2006 Commonwealth Games, Healthy Parks Healthy People, and open space planning for metropolitan Melbourne. She is currently the Manager Open Space for Everyone, Department of Energy, Environment, and Climate Action, and thrives on engaging widely to advocate and plan for Melbourne's open space network.

AFL / Ausco Modular online configurator platform

Amber Koster

National Community Football Venue Lead
AFL

Abstract/Overview:

The AFL and Ausco Modular have developed an online configurator tool that enables users / stakeholders / football community the ability to login and start to design their own Junior and Local Level football facilities that comply to the AFL Preferred Facility Guidelines. Learn how to start connecting 'lego type' blocks together to build out player and umpire changerooms, social spaces, canteen facilities etc.

Key Takeaways:

- You'll be shown how easy it is to design your own initial concept drawing of a compliant community football facility
- Learn about the benefits of modular construction for sporting facilities

Speaker Bio:

As grassroots football participation continues to grow across Australia, Ausco Modular's partnership with the AFL ensures that players experience enhanced facilities and increased accessibility through our range of standard facility designs. Amber Koster and Brad Mather would love to demonstrate the recently developed AFL Configurator model, an online concept design tool that assists clients to build a compliant Junior and Local level football facility within minutes and cost estimates then turned around in 48 hours.

**Parks + Projects
(Grand Hall 3)**

**People + Planning
(Grand Hall 2)**

**Places + Spaces
(Grand Hall 1)**

4:10pm

What is play for teenage girls?

Aaron Wallis
Director
Playce

Abstract/Overview:

Skateparks, ball courts, bouldering walls, parkour spaces & ninja warrior courses. We have everything covered for our teens...or do we? So much play and recreation provision for teenagers focuses on active and physical play. But are we not effectively creating fun and engaging spaces for all our teens. Whilst there are growing numbers in girls skateboarding, particularly with the success of Arisa Trew at the Olympics and participating in more active pursuits, surely it is not just about girls having to join in? What about spaces that are more relevant to them, particularly those not as interested in traditional active recreation? Are they simply not welcome in our parks and recreation spaces. Playce has prepared strategic plans for youth space provision across Australia as well as completed a number of large active recreation and youth precincts where we have focused on ensuring young women are both a key consideration and actively catered for in these spaces. This short presentation will touch on some of the challenges young women face and some examples on how we have designed social playable spaces that are fun, inclusive and relevant for young women accordingly.

Key Takeaways:

Highlighting some of the existing challenges in engaging and encouraging young women to participate in play/recreation in our parks and public spaces.
Explaining what play and recreation can look like for young women
Strategies for how play or young women can be designed into broader recreation spaces
Real examples of how play for young women has been a success in public spaces designed by Playce across Australia

Speaker Bio:

Aaron Wallis is the Director of Playce, a creative multi award winning design studio that is passionate about designing playful and fun spaces for people of all ages. Supported by a committed group of like-minded experts, for over 13 years, Playce has created designs for bespoke playspaces, parkour and climbing spaces, skateparks, youth spaces and interactive sculptural play elements. A registered landscape architect, regular guest lecturer at RMIT, Youth Specialist on the Victoria Design Review Panel, Play Australia and Parks and Leisure Member, Aaron is passionate about everyone in the community being able to have fun, enjoy themselves and be active.

Royal Park Master Plan – exploring effective strategies for engaging with varied stakeholders

Alicia Otto
City of Melbourne

Abstract/Overview:

Royal Park, the largest open space in Melbourne, is a vibrant and historically significant urban park that serves a wide range of stakeholders, including local residents, park users, government agencies, environmental groups, businesses, and tourists. Managing the diverse interests of these groups requires a strategic, inclusive approach that balances competing needs, promotes collaboration, and ensures long-term sustainability. This presentation will explore effective strategies for engaging with and managing Royal Park's varied stakeholders. It will cover key topics such as stakeholder identification and mapping, ensuring a thorough understanding of each group's concerns and expectations. The presentation will also highlight tailored engagement strategies to foster transparency, inclusivity, and active participation among all stakeholders. Additionally, it will address conflict resolution techniques to manage disagreements through collaborative decision-making processes, and discuss how to balance the park's management goals—such as preserving heritage, providing recreational spaces, and supporting biodiversity—while also accommodating public access and urban development. The presentation will draw from the two phases of consultation conducted for the Royal Park Master Plan, offering practical insights into addressing challenges in diverse stakeholder engagement. The ultimate aim is to demonstrate how effective stakeholder management can lead to a more inclusive, resilient, and sustainable park, guiding its future management and development.

Key Takeaways:

Speaker Bio:

Designing for Success: Unlocking Funding Opportunities for Community Sports Infrastructure

George Devenish
Director
iDwala

Abstract/Overview:

Securing funding for community sporting infrastructure is increasingly competitive, making it essential to craft compelling, forward-thinking proposals. George Devenish, a leader in sports surface design, will share insider insights from a recent internal study on factors that influence funding success. This session will explore key design considerations, including inclusive layouts that promote accessibility and multi-sport functionality to maximise usage. George will demonstrate how these trends are transforming outdoor sports courts and significantly enhancing the approval rates for funding applications. Attendees will gain practical strategies to align facility designs with funding priorities, ensuring proposals stand out to decision-makers. Whether you're a council, school, or club, this session will provide actionable insights to position your project for success while meeting the growing demand for accessible and versatile community sports infrastructure.

Key Takeaways:

Proven Design Strategies: Learn how inclusive layouts and multi-sport functionality can increase the success rate of funding applications by maximising community impact and usage potential.

Insider Insights: Gain knowledge from real-world case studies that showcase how innovative facility designs are securing funding and transforming outdoor sports courts.

Future-Focused Planning: Understand emerging trends in sports facility design including maximising unique spaces, and how to incorporate accessibility and versatility into your infrastructure plans.

Speaker Bio:

George Devenish is a renowned expert in sports facility design and construction, specialising in sustainable, innovative, and cost-effective solutions tailored for councils, schools, and sporting clubs. With extensive experience in maximising facility versatility, George's work empowers active communities through innovative design, cutting-edge technologies and sustainable practices. By leveraging impactful case studies and a deep understanding of future trends, accessibility and inclusive design, George provides practical, forward-thinking insights to shape the next generation of sports infrastructure.

**Parks + Projects
(Grand Hall 3)**

**People + Planning
(Grand Hall 2)**

**Places + Spaces
(Grand Hall 1)**

4:35pm

Inclusive by Design: Play spaces for all

Jeanette Fich Jespersen

KOMPAN

Abstract/Overview:

Creating inclusive and accessible play spaces is both an opportunity and a challenge for local governments. It requires thoughtful planning and collaboration to meet the diverse needs of all community members. This presentation, led by Jeanette Fich Jespersen of the KOMPAN Play Institute, explores how closer partnerships between local government parks teams and playground designers can lead to more accessible and impactful play environments.

Drawing on research, local guidelines and global case studies, we will examine key principles of inclusive design, such as sensory engagement, universal accessibility, and age-appropriate thrill. The discussion will highlight the value of incorporating specialised expertise early in the planning process to address barriers and deliver truly inclusive play solutions.

This session invites attendees to reflect on how collaboration can improve project outcomes, from community consultation to design implementation. By fostering these relationships, parks teams can gain insights into emerging trends and practices that enhance the inclusivity and usability of play spaces. Join us to explore strategies for building stronger partnerships that empower communities and create spaces where everyone, regardless of ability, can access, play and stay.

Key Takeaways:

1. Attendees will gain a deeper understanding of the core principles of inclusive and accessible playground design.
2. Participants will learn how early engagement with playground designers and suppliers can enhance the planning and development of play spaces, ensuring better alignment with community needs.
3. Attendees will discover how to leverage findings from global research, such as those from the KOMPAN Play Institute, to inform decisions and integrate innovative solutions into play space design.
4. Participants will leave with practical strategies for fostering productive partnerships between local government parks teams and playground designers to achieve equitable and impactful play outcomes.

Speaker Bio:

Jeanette Fich Jespersen is the head of the KOMPAN Play Institute, a global team of passionate play researchers. Jeanette researches, innovates and advocates for quality playscape design, implementation and development. She has served on scientific committees and organising boards of several international organisations and presents regular educational sessions on child-friendly city planning. She has authored numerous publications on playgrounds, health, inclusion and well-being in an urbanising world. Jeanette is an MA of Scandinavian philology and has taught at universities in Germany and Denmark. She is the vice president of the European Network for Child-Friendly Cities.

From paddock to regional park - the challenges and breakthroughs navigated in the planning and delivery of Officer District Park.

Belinda Powell

Coordinator Parks and Social Infrastructure Planning
Cardinia Shire Council

Abstract/Overview:

From paddock to regional park. This presentation will provide an overview of the process and associated challenges and breakthroughs navigated in the planning and delivery of Officer District Park. Officer District Park is an incredible new regional park located on a prominent hillside in the centre of Cardinia Shire. A landmark destination which provides many unique and enticing features. The delivery of this park has been planned and led by Cardinia Shire Council from its inclusion in the Cardinia Road Precinct Structure Plan right through to the delivery of Stage 1 which opened in December 2024.

The park is being delivered in stages. Stage 1 includes a multi-level regional playspace, two dog off leash areas, Council's first dedicated parkour zone, a WSUD swale creek feeding into a wetland, and a strong focus on fitness with a 1km loop track around the park, running stairs and exercises stations.

One of the unique features of the regional playspace is the age range which are catered for. This regional park truly caters to all ages and has something for everyone. This presentation will also explore and reflect on both the challenges and benefits being experienced through providing age-appropriate play opportunities.

Key Takeaways:

- An overview of the planning process associated with the delivery of a greenfield regional park.
- An understanding of the challenges faced and the ways these were navigated.
- An understanding of the key features included in Stage 1.
- Reflections on the challenges and benefits being experienced through providing age-appropriate play opportunities.

Speaker Bio:

Belinda has nearly two decades of diverse experience spanning statutory, strategic, parks and social infrastructure planning. As the Coordinator Parks and Social Infrastructure planning at Cardinia Shire Council, she is driven by a deep passion for crafting vibrant public spaces that foster community connection and wellbeing. Belinda believes in the importance of genuine community and stakeholder involvement and is committed to meeting community needs and creating places where people feel happy and want to spend time. Belinda is a leader who takes pride in her capabilities, adeptness at achieving positive results, and passion for improving the quality of people's lives.

Building a Sustainable Future for Tennis Through a Data-Driven Strategy

Fiona Young + Paul Senior

Tennis Victoria

Abstract/Overview:

The future of Tennis is built on a foundation of solid data and insights, ensuring long-term sustainability and growth. At the heart of this approach is Tennis Victoria's Strategy 2024-2027, a three-year roadmap guiding the organisation's efforts to strengthen its sporting network. A key driver of this strategy is the Thriving Tennis Communities Program (TTC), which works directly with clubs and councils to gather critical data and knowledge. These insights have informed the development of our Statewide Facilities Blueprint, a strategic framework that identifies infrastructure gaps and opportunities to build a more connected and sustainable network across the state.

To ensure that all levels of our network are optimally structured, Tier 1 and 2 venues undergo regional planning and demand analysis, helping us determine necessary interventions for full utilisation and sustainability. Meanwhile, Tier 3 through Tier 6 venues are evaluated at a more localised level, with tailored programs developed in collaboration with municipalities.

Key Takeaways:

- Learn how a commitment to insights-driven decision-making is shaping the future of Tennis, creating a more sustainable, inclusive, and high-performing sporting community
- See how our data-driven strategies can lead to quick wins and long-term transformation
- See how our comprehensive approach ensures that all facilities, from major regional centres to smaller community venues, are aligned with long-term strategic goals.

Speaker Bio:

Fiona is a respected leader in the sport and recreation industry and is currently employed as the Manager, Places to Play at Tennis Victoria, a role including direct responsibility for sustainability projects. Fiona commenced her career with a decade in local government, before moving into sports management roles with Women's Cricket, Women's Golf and a senior position as Community Netball Manager at Netball Victoria. Prior to Tennis Victoria, Fiona was CEO of Squash & Racquetball Victoria, a position she held for 10 years, and a period of significant structural change and governance reform for the organisation.

Paul Senior is the Regional Manager at Tennis Victoria, bringing 18 years of experience in sports and recreation, including leadership roles at both Tennis Victoria and in local government. In his current role, Paul leads state initiatives focused on Venue Health and Network Planning. These initiatives have resulted in the development of the Thriving Tennis Communities framework and Health in Tennis Assessments, which offer valuable data and insights essential for enhancing club health.

Day 2 – Wednesday 21 May

Parks + Projects (Grand Hall 3)	People + Planning (Grand Hall 2)	Places + Spaces (Grand Hall 1)
9:00am		
<p>Maximising Impact: Managing Park and Leisure Construction Cost Increases</p> <p>Laura Shaw PLA Advisory / Recreation Planner LA Advisory</p> <p>Abstract/Overview: Following the success of our workshop at the 2024 National Conference, which focused on addressing the challenges posed by rising park and leisure construction costs, we will continue to build on the innovative solutions discussed to maximize the value of existing infrastructure. This year, we will take a deeper dive into the practical application of strategies for optimizing resources and improving operational efficiency. Attendees will examine case studies and share best practices on enhancing the usage, accessibility, and impact of existing park and leisure assets. By collaborating on creative, sustainable approaches, we will continue to ensure our infrastructure remains resilient and responsive to the evolving needs of our communities in the face of ongoing economic pressures.</p> <p>Key Takeaways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Building upon solutions identified at the 2024 PLA National Conference workshop addressing the challenges of rising park and leisure construction costs. - Practical strategies for optimising resources and improving operational efficiency in park and leisure infrastructure. - Exploring and sharing case studies and best practices aimed at enhancing the usage, accessibility, and impact of existing park and leisure assets. - Emphasis on collaboration to develop creative, sustainable approaches for maintaining resilient infrastructure. <p>Speaker Bio: As a member of the PLA Advisory Committee, Laura plays a lead role in the preparation of position papers on critical issues which support PLA's role as an advocate for the industry.</p> <p>Laura holds a Bachelor of Sport Management and has experience across a number of different local governments across Melbourne.</p> <p>As the Recreation Planner, Laura is responsible for developing, implementing and monitoring strategies, plans and policies that provide the framework for the provision and management of Council's sport and recreation facilities.</p> <p>Laura's role also extends to include the research, assessment and analysis of expectations, needs and demands of the community in relation to future sport and recreation priorities.</p>	<p>Digital Revolution with Playground Auditing</p> <p>Robert Fleming Softfall Testing</p> <p>Abstract/Overview: TBC - 2024 award winner!</p> <p>Key Takeaways:</p> <p>Speaker Bio:</p>	<p>A critical analysis of aquatic and recreation centre planning and decision-making</p> <p>Katie McDonald Lecturer, Sport and Recreation Management LaTrobe University</p> <p>Abstract/Overview: Aquatic and recreation centres (ARCs) play a vital role in communities, offering health, social, and economic benefits. However, the factors guiding ARC planning and decision-making processes remain largely unknown. This study employs new public management theory and public choice theory to explain these processes in two local government cases in metropolitan Melbourne, Australia. Using documents and interviews, the research revealed a non-systematic leisure planning process, falling between ad-hoc and structured approaches. Four focus areas in ARC planning (research, service delivery, engaged experts, and organisational outputs) and three in decision-making (government, financial, and political influences) were identified. The study found that ARC planning and decision-making processes were interdependent, with decisions more heavily weighted towards financial outcomes rather than community benefit. While local governments did not use a structured planning model, they applied similar focus areas, providing a starting point for developing a comprehensive ARC planning model. This first in-depth academic investigation into ARC planning and decision-making processes offers valuable insights for future research and policy development in ARC management and planning.</p> <p>Key Takeaways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *ARCs play a vital role in communities, providing health, social, and economic benefits, but the factors guiding their planning and decision-making processes are largely unknown. * Local governments often follow a non-systematic, ad hoc planning approach for ARCs rather than using structured leisure planning models. * ARC planning typically involves four focus areas: research, service delivery, engaged experts, and organizational outputs. * ARC decision-making is influenced by government, financial, and political factors, with decisions often weighted more towards financial outcomes than community benefits. * Effective regional planning for ARCs is lacking, which could lead to future problems as many existing facilities are aging and will require significant capital expenditure for refurbishment or redevelopment. <p>Speaker Bio: Dr Katie McDonald Katie has worked in the sport and active recreation industry for over 30 years. She has a particular interest in policy development, aquatics, community service delivery, and the infrastructure surrounding the provision of these services. Katie completed her PhD on the planning and decision-making processes of aquatic and recreation centres in Melbourne, Australia. Currently, Katie is a Sport and Recreation Management lecturer at La Trobe University and serves on the ANZALS board.</p>

**Parks + Projects
(Grand Hall 3)**

**People + Planning
(Grand Hall 2)**

**Places + Spaces
(Grand Hall 1)**

9:25am

Recreational mountain bike injury occurrence and the impact on participation at Victorian mountain bike parks: Implications to stakeholders and industry

Emma Siesmaa
Lecturer in Sport and Exercise Science
Federation University Australia

Abstract/Overview:

Mountain bike (MTB) riding is one of the fastest growing recreational activities globally. In Australia, Victoria accounts for 22% of the national adult MTB participation, with increased popularity driving the demand and corresponding development and expansion of MTB parks across Victoria. Both in Australia and internationally, the number of injuries is increasing as a result of greater engagement with MTB parks, and from participants requiring more complex skills associated with the technical demands of many MTB park features. In this study, an online survey was promoted via site visits and signage at popular Victorian MTB parks, as well as social media, particularly through MTB groups. Survey data is available on approximately 400 Victorian recreational MTB riders. Key findings on several aspects of MTB park riding/use will be presented, including insights into participation, the impact of injury, rider's injury risk perceptions and their safety strategies utilised. These findings are being used by a Mountain Bike Injury Prevention and Participation Enhancement Advisory Group to ensure the viability of MTB park maintenance and operation and understand how MTB riding can be enhanced to grow and retain participants safely. Several practical implications for local government and industry will be presented.

Key Takeaways:

- The participation and self-reported injury occurrence of riders who use MTB parks.
- The perceived impact of injury on continued MTB park participation/usage.
- Rider's MTB park-related safety behaviours and injury risk perceptions, and implications of these to park operators.
- Practical applications of key findings to inform future injury prevention strategies to promote and retain participants.

Speaker Bio:

Chris Ali is a Lecturer in Outdoor Environmental Education at Federation University Australia. He is a mountain bike (MTB) instructor with over 20 years' experience guiding and instructing mountain biking, as well as training mountain bike guides. Chris is a Co-Investigator on a funded research project looking at MTB participation, to explore injury occurrence and the safety/risk perceptions of participants. These insights inform stakeholder strategies for reducing injury and enhancing participation. Chris has a passion for MTB among many outdoor adventure sports and an interest in promoting safe participation in these activities to all.

Local Playspaces on a Budget

Ella Angarane OAM
Recreation and Open Space Planner
Bass Coast Shire Council

Abstract/Overview:

- D & C briefs
- Consultation process
- Natural shade
- Access
- Nature Play
- Challenging items for older kids
- Theming on a budget
- Things that haven't worked
- Open the mic to other people's wins.

Key Takeaways:

- Creative ideas to get the most out of your local playspace renewals (\$80k-\$120k)
- Consultation and D & C briefs
- Learnings from recent projects

Speaker Bio:

Ella is an experienced Recreation and Open Space Planner who values inclusion, access and gender equality. As a passionate Bass Coast local she loves seeing her work make a difference in her local community. She lists her career highlight as winning the 2023 Vic/Tas Playspace over \$500k award for Guide Park Regional Playspace and the pride her two sons take when they tell other kids "my mum built this park". With this major project now complete she has recently undertaken a series of local playspace developments and renewals (\$80k-\$120k) and would like to share her wins and learnings.

A unified framework for aligning leisure facilities with council objectives and community outcomes

Carleigh Yeomans

Swinburne University

Abstract/Overview:

Councils and leisure service providers share a common mission: to deliver meaningful outcomes for communities. However, the gap between council objectives and the way leisure facilities measure, and report success often limits their collective impact. This presentation explores how a globally aligned outcomes framework can bridge this gap, fostering stronger partnerships and ensuring every facility contributes meaningfully to council objectives. Through innovative approaches to measurement, customer insights, and transparent reporting, this session will highlight how leisure facility management can transform its operations to better support council goals. Attendees will gain insights into building alignment between council health and wellbeing objectives and leisure facility management, ensuring that resources are leveraged to their fullest potential. As councils prepare to implement new health and wellbeing plans in 2025, this presentation provides practical tools and strategies to uplift community outcomes, align priorities, and create measurable, lasting impacts that resonate with the broader community.

Key Takeaways:

- How to co-design an outcomes framework that translates council objectives into measurable facility-level metrics.
- The role of advanced customer analytics in refining programs, services, and retention strategies to meet both customer and council goals.
- Strategies to align with council health and wellbeing plans for 2025 and beyond.
- Practical steps to foster a shared language and drive measurable progress in council-facility partnerships.

Speaker Bio:

Dr Carleigh Yeomans is the Director of the Sport Innovation Research Group and a Lecturer at Swinburne University of Technology. Carleigh's research areas focus on customer behaviour, engagement and community wellbeing in sport and leisure contexts, with particular emphasis on data analytics and innovation. Carleigh has published in ranked peer-reviewed sport and leisure journals and has engaged in a range of research and consulting activities across sport and leisure organisations, including facility management, local councils, governing bodies and professional sport teams in Australia.

**Parks + Projects
(Grand Hall 3)**

**People + Planning
(Grand Hall 2)**

**Places + Spaces
(Grand Hall 1)**

9:50am

Trail Condition Auditing: Enhancing Outdoor Experiences through Safety and Maintenance

Scott Llewelyn

Trailworx

Abstract/Overview:

Join Trailworx Australia to discuss the process and purpose of establishing a good trail audit program for your trail network. We will work thru why regular audits can help you manage your trail assets for both risk and user experience.

Key Takeaways:

- Preparing for and understanding good trail auditing techniques and equipment.
- Evaluating trail conditions and understanding priority works
- Good Reporting and Data, talking to asset management systems and your staff on the ground

Speaker Bio:

Kurt Martin, Business Development Manager, Trailworx Australia

With 20 years in the outdoor and recreation sector as both a user and manager of outdoor recreation assets he brings and understanding of both the user and the land manager to his current role with Trailworx Australia. Previous projects include the development, construction, and management of the Sunshine Coast Trails networks with projects such as the Sugar Bag Road Mountain Bike Park, The Leake Webbya Foreshore Trail, and the Olympic bid for the 2032 Mountain Bike Venue.

Play Network Strategies - Enhancing Community Connections

Clare Della Bosca
Play Space Design Strategist
Tract

Abstract/Overview:

How can we transform public spaces into vibrant hubs of activity and connection? Research shows that a comprehensive approach to play space design builds stronger, healthier, and more connected communities. This presentation will cover:

- Play Value in Design:
How unified play networks foster deeper connections and meaningful community impacts.

- Meeting Evolving Community Needs:
The ways that green spaces today work harder than ever, serving larger populations with both ecological and social impacts.

- Building for Legacy:
How inclusive, diverse and connected play spaces can create enduring, positive impacts within communities.

By exploring the power of play, we reveal how thoughtful design can foster stronger community bonds. We'll delve into the importance of community-centred design and how diverse, adaptable play spaces encourage broad participation in outdoor recreation. By thinking about play networks that invite social interaction, foster intergenerational play, and maximises accessibility as a wider system. These strategies can go beyond isolated spaces to address childhood development, mobility, biodiversity, and opportunities for belonging. By embedding play into our urban landscapes, we can cultivate environments that are not only engaging but also support growth, connection and thriving communities.

Key Takeaways:

- Play Value in Design:
How unified play networks foster deeper connections and meaningful community impacts.
- Meeting Evolving Community Needs:
The ways that green spaces today work harder than ever, serving larger populations with both ecological and social impacts.
- Building for Legacy:
How inclusive, diverse and connected play spaces can create enduring, positive impacts within communities.

Speaker Bio:

Specialising in play space design since 2012, Clare is an award-winning industrial designer dedicated to creating innovative and user-centred experiences. As Tract's Play Space Design Strategist, she combines creativity, strategy, and a passion for designing engaging play spaces that inspire joy and enhance communities. Clare's diverse background includes an honors research thesis on the impact of play space design on childhood development. She is committed to leveraging research to drive innovation, ensuring that spaces are not only engaging but also support growth, development and societal enrichment through play.

Illuminating Sports facilities (indoor and outdoor)

Trevor Duncan
Technical & Marketing Manager
Buckford Illumination Group

Abstract/Overview:

Sports lighting refers to the illumination systems employed in sports venues such as stadiums, fields, and recreational centres. The primary objective of sports lighting is to ensure adequate illumination for athletes and officials to carry out their activities, while also providing spectators with optimal visibility of the game or event. This presentation will delve into the crucial role of good lighting in sports, examining key considerations, including light levels, uniformity, maintenance, glare control, and energy efficiency. Furthermore, it will highlight why Signify sports lighting stands out as the ideal choice for illuminating outdoor fields and indoor centres, creating the perfect atmosphere for players of football, soccer, tennis, netball and more, and enhancing the overall experience for supporters.

Key Takeaways:

- Aquatic Centre Considerations:
 - Safety & minimising veiling reflection on the water surface
 - Humidity and corrosion
 - Ambience

Key lighting options for aquatic centres:
Understanding the difference between uplighting and downlighting

- Key Considerations for sports lighting
 - Standards –AS2560 & 4282
 - Signify & Sustainability
 - Controls
 - Case Study: North Melbourne Football Club in Melbourne & AAMI park

Speaker Bio:

Buckford Illumination Group is a distribution company responsible for the sales and supply of high quality European and Australian made lighting products with the purpose to provide exceptional solutions that enrich people's lives. Trevor is the Technical Solutions and Marketing Manager at Buckford Illumination Group, with over 13 years of experience in the Electrical and Lighting arena. With his advanced problem-solving skills and strong passion for the lighting, Trevor has a unique ability to develop lighting solutions that meet the high standards set by Buckford Illumination Group's clients.

**Parks + Projects
(Grand Hall 3)**

**People + Planning
(Grand Hall 2)**

**Places + Spaces
(Grand Hall 1)**

10:15am

Prahran Skate Park and Sports Court Redevelopment

Georgina Hagger
Coordinator Landscape Projects, City Design
City of Stonnington

Abstract/Overview:

The \$6 million Prahran Skate Park and Sports Court Redevelopment is a benchmark project for inclusive, sustainable, and community-driven urban design. This presentation will explore the key learnings, challenges, and actionable strategies that emerged throughout the redevelopment of the iconic Prahran Skate Park and multi-purpose sports courts.

A key focus of the project was extensive community engagement. Consultation with user groups, including a community led skate group, Prahran Summer Jam, Tennis Victoria, Netball Victoria, and former skate World Champion Renton Millar, ensured the redevelopment balanced cultural heritage preservation with modern design. This feedback drove decisions to reinstate a full-size vert ramp, a feature of global significance while upgrading street course elements to meet evolving user needs. Similarly, the multi-purpose sports courts were reconfigured to support tennis, netball, and futsal, with the introduction of the Book-a-Court system. This technology delivered a significant increase in bookings, highlighting replicable strategies for maximising revenue and asset management.

The project was not without challenges. In addition to soil contamination and construction impacts on neighbouring venues like Chapel Off Chapel and Prahran Aquatic Centre, the project faced issues such as managing cultural heritage preservation of the iconic vert ramp, addressing safety concerns via CPTED principals, and balancing diverse user needs for multi-purpose sports courts. These challenges required innovative design solutions, effective soil management, and close stakeholder collaboration to deliver a functional and inclusive outcome.

This presentation will share practical insights into managing complex projects, enhancing community engagement, and overcoming site-specific constraints. Delegates will gain actionable strategies to improve their projects by leveraging multi-functional spaces, technology-driven solutions, and inclusive planning. Through lessons learned from the Prahran Skate Park and Sports Court Redevelopment, attendees will leave with tools to deliver recreation spaces that are sustainable, equitable, and responsive to future community needs.

Key Takeaways:

- Community consultation and inclusive planning
- Designing for CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design)
- Sustainable and technology driven solutions
- Key learnings from delivery and construction management

Speaker Bio:

Georgina is a qualified Landscape Architect experienced in the design and delivery of public realm Capital Works. Georgina leads a design and construction department at the City of Stonnington and is committed to the delivery of high-quality built environment projects focusing on sustainable, equitable and community led design.

Tag You're it! Running circles around play spaces

Andrew Chau
Coordinator Open Space Planning
City of Whittlesea

Abstract/Overview:

In rapidly growing communities like the City of Whittlesea, the challenge of creating successful public open spaces and play spaces requires both specialist expertise and strong collaboration. Often, developer-driven projects fail to meet the diverse needs of evolving populations. Whittlesea's landscape architects bring local knowledge and essential skills in site analysis, design, and community engagement, while collaboration with multidisciplinary teams and the community ensures that diverse perspectives are incorporated. By proactively planning and investing in adaptable spaces, Whittlesea aims to create inclusive and responsive environments that benefit all community members, both in new and established neighborhoods.

Key Takeaways:

1. Knowing the community and who you are designing for
2. Setting community expectation through consultation and design
3. Adapting and changing with population growth and demographic change
4. Knowing your assets – function, provision, condition and compliance
5. Leverage the knowledge of diverse people in local government

Speaker Bio:

Andrew Chau, Coordinator of Open Space Planning, and Adrian Napoleone, Unit Manager of Parks Development, collaborate at the City of Whittlesea to enhance local parks and open spaces. Through proactive planning and multi-million dollar annual capital works, they lead teams of like-minded professionals to deliver inclusive and functional open spaces. Andrew focuses on planning, while Adrian oversees design, procurement, and construction. Together, they prioritise community engagement and strive to create vibrant green spaces promoting community well-being.

Plumpton Aquatic and Leisure Centre - Taking Shape

Aaron Biscan
Manager Recreation and Facility Activation
Melton City Council

Abstract/Overview:

Construction on the City of Melton's new aquatic and leisure centre will commence late 2025 and is set to open in 2028.

The Plumpton Aquatic and Leisure Centre (PALC) will be focussed on wellbeing, accessibility and inclusion featuring Australia's first water sensory area. It will be a destination for physical activity, participation, community connectivity and fun.

The PALC will feature the following components:

- Indoor Aquatic Hall including:
 - o 50m pool
 - o 2 x Learn to Swim Pools
 - o Water play unit and splash pad
 - o Water slides
 - o Warm water program pool
 - o Spas, sauna and steam room
 - o Sensory aquatic space (the first of its kind in Australia)
- Café
- Gymnasium (1,400m2) and group fitness rooms
- Community allied health area (2,000m2+)
- Outdoor leisure pool
- Second-floor function space with roof top deck

Attendees will learn about the pre-planning undertaken to deliver the City's largest ever infrastructure project including the development of the business case, master plan and design stage. Attendees will hear about the construction stage and the management and operation of the facility including the aquatic sensory space. The presentation will include a 3D virtual tour of the PALC.

Key Takeaways:

- PALC Business Case Development
- Master Planning and Design Stages
- Next steps to construct and manage the PALC
- Australia's first aquatic sensory space

Speaker Bio:

As the Manager Recreation and Facility Activation at Melton City Council, Aaron is responsible for the planning, provision and management of the City's aquatic, sport and recreation facilities.

As the Head of Major Project Delivery at Melton City Council, Caterina leads the end-to-end delivery of Councils high risk high profile major projects including the Plumpton Aquatic and Leisure Centre.

**Parks + Projects
(Grand Hall 3)**

**People + Planning
(Grand Hall 2)**

**Places + Spaces
(Grand Hall 1)**

11:10am

Lighting Public Open Spaces

Trevor Duncan
Technical & Marketing Manager
Buckford Illumination Group

Abstract/Overview:

Join us in delving into the intersection of functionality, sustainability, and community-centric design in public lighting. "Lighting Public Open Spaces: Meeting the Needs of Communities Sustainably" explores the considerations of space utilisation, emphasising day and night functionality, and prioritising community-centric lighting. Achieve a balance in biodiversity preservation by minimising light pollution and addressing wildlife needs through thoughtful temperature considerations. Utilise smart lighting systems with controls and motion sensors to strategically illuminate areas based on human activity. Advocate for heightened safety standards through quality, consistent, and layered lighting, challenging the misconception that brightness equals safety.

Key Takeaways:

Consider community needs from day to night.

Address flora and fauna needs with warmer temperatures and less blue light.

Use controls and motion detection sensors for human-centric lighting and energy savings.

Ensure quality, consistent, and layered lighting; challenge the brightness-safety misconception.

Speaker Bio:

Buckford Illumination Group is a distribution company responsible for the sales and supply of high quality European and Australian made lighting products with the purpose to provide exceptional solutions that enrich people's lives. Trevor is the Technical Solutions and Marketing Manager at Buckford Illumination Group, with over 13 years of experience in the Electrical and Lighting arena. With his advanced problem-solving skills and strong passion for the lighting, Trevor has a unique ability to develop lighting solutions that meet the high standards set by Buckford Illumination Group's clients.

Sustainable Sports: Connecting People, Activating Places and Influencing Play (Panel)

Jodie Dunstan
CEO
SportsBox

Abstract/Overview:

This panel discussion provides insights into the adoption of an innovative solution to maximise utilisation of existing spaces, address barriers to participation in physical activity and engage communities in a sustainable and inclusive manner. Presented by an innovator working in local government, a leader in Youth Sport and Policy Research and a global Sustainability in Sport expert, they will discuss the challenge faced, what the data tells us and walk through a real-life example demonstrating how free, easy access to sports equipment in public spaces, can increase participation in physical activity while promoting sustainability and health and wellbeing outcomes.

Panelists will share insights into how innovative approaches can foster inclusive environments, support community well-being, and address the growing demand for accessible sports. The conversation will also highlight the sharing economy model, which reduces waste and encourages shared access to sports gear.

Key Takeaways:

Increasing participation through access: How providing free, easy access to sports equipment in public spaces encourages greater participation in physical activity.

Sustainability and the sharing economy: The role of the sharing economy in reducing waste, promoting shared access, and creating more sustainable sports programs.

Data-driven insights for community engagement: Using real-world data to better understand community needs and design inclusive programs that foster health, well-being, and active living.

Speaker Bio:

To be confirmed

Splashpark Design 101 – How to Design and Build a Splashpark from the Ground Up (Workshop)

Shane Vardy
Aquatics Specialist
Atlantis Liquid Dynamics

Abstract/Overview:

Do you want to know how to build a splashpark? An incredible intergenerational recreational experience, splashparks offer opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to socialise in a fun and active environment, with increasing demand for these facilities within our aquatic centres and urban environments.

However, the fun you see above the ground is only the tip of the iceberg; consideration of the infrastructure and water quality elements is key to design, engineer and construct a safe, healthy and successful aquatic environment.

In this session, we'll build a splashpark from the ground up, with insights into hydraulic infrastructure and water quality, onsite infrastructure needs, aquatic slab structural requirements and discussions around water quality and plantroom provisions.

Then we'll dive into crucial considerations around access, water bodies and features, sustainability options and how your desired outcomes can be achieved within your allocated budget.

Created for designers, asset owners and operators, this is a peek behind the curtain of splashpark design, with transparent access to design, hydraulic requirements, compliance and costings.

Key Takeaways:

Watch in real time as a splashpark is built in 3D throughout this presentation and workshop, where you will learn:

- All of the elements required to build a successful splashpark – from hydraulic and structural considerations to water quality and the aquatic features
- Best practise design techniques to answer your design brief and community needs
- Where your budget goes and how much it actually costs to build a splashpark
- Performance specifications, documentation around design and getting that right before a tender process
- Construction methodology, onsite infrastructure requirements and what you need to consider in engaging a construction partner
- Ongoing costs and maintenance requirements for a splashpark asset – whether you're a design professional, local government representative or operator

Speaker Bio:

Shane Vardy brings more than 20 years' experience within the design, fabrication, construction and commercial Aquatic sectors to the table; a passionate industry leader with the skills, experience and knowledge to guide others through technical project considerations and the issues affecting the industry. As a professional, Shane works with key stakeholders in the aquatics industry; from designers and hydraulic specialists through to asset owners and local government collaborators, imparting knowledge and supporting people at every level to deliver a community focused, best practise project outcome. An engaging speaker and thought leader, Shane's niche is providing innovative and technical guidance to the industry, aligned with global advancements in technology to create world-class destinations.

**Parks + Projects
(Grand Hall 3)**

**People + Planning
(Grand Hall 2)**

**Places + Spaces
(Grand Hall 1)**

12:00pm

Places that last - Designing a connected, adaptable & resilient future

Shalome Joseph
Business Development Manager
HUB Australasia

Abstract/Overview:

The public realm is evolving quickly, driven by changing community needs, climate resilience, and technological advancements. This presentation explores how flexible and technology-enabled product design is shaping future-ready public spaces. From multifunctional infrastructure to adaptive design solutions, this presentation will showcase how public places can seamlessly integrate technology products and enable flexibility to enhance usability, sustainability, and user experience. This presentation will use real life case studies to address both current challenges and future opportunities, demonstrating how thoughtful product design can create dynamic, adaptable, and connected urban environments that serve diverse needs over time.

Key Takeaways:

1. Learn how adaptable product design can respond to evolving community needs, environmental challenges, and future urban demands.
2. Discover how technology-enabled products enhance functionality, connectivity, and user experience in the public realm.
3. Gain insights into approaches that combine flexibility and technology to create sustainable, resilient, and multifunctional infrastructure.
4. Review case studies that demonstrate successful implementation of adaptive and tech-driven solutions in urban environments

Speaker Bio:

Shalome is HUB's Business Development Manager NSW, with over a decade of extensive experience in both design for manufacture of architectural products and Project Management encompassing complex and large-scale deployments of product installation within the construction industry.

Drawing from her background with a Bachelors in Industrial Design, Shalome is deeply committed to understanding the needs of users and client's alike. Her love of form and function of exceptional design drives her to create collaborative and seamlessly executed projects.

Building Your Game Plan

Steve Marquis
Senior Adviser
Australian Sports Commission

Abstract/Overview:

Capability building across the sport sector is critical in delivering positive sporting experiences and sustainable sports organisations. Game Plan is the free sector wide online program that is supporting club development, sport specific capability and positive implementation of policy and sport initiatives. Through simple self-assessment, organisations identify key areas to target and improve their operations with data connected directly to sports, state and local government to build communities of support. From Safeguarding and Governance to Women and Girls in Sport, what is the data telling us and how can sports and Local Government impact?

Key Takeaways:

- Game Plan capability data from across the sector
- How to connect with Game Plan and maximise the benefits
- How to target capability areas – Women and Girls in Sport
- Examples of success through Game Plan

Speaker Bio:

Steve Marquis is the Senior Advisor for Game Plan with the Australian Sports Commission and an experienced leader in sports and recreation. With a deep passion for building and supporting organisations, he helps them deliver high quality sporting experiences that positively impact communities.

With extensive experience in strategy, leadership and program development, Steve has worked closely with sports organisations, local government, and community groups to create sustainable and engaging sports and recreation initiatives. His expertise lies in fostering collaboration, enhancing operations and promoting sporting opportunities that are accessible and enjoyable for all.

Building Up, Not Out: Revolutionising Sports Facilities with Vertical Design

John McIldowie
Director
McIldowie Partners

Abstract/Overview:

In this presentation, we'll explore the groundbreaking design of Australia's first vertical sports centre at Ivanhoe Grammar. Nestled 25 meters below natural ground level, this innovative building stacks multiple sports courts on top of one another, responding to a heavily constrained site & planning conditions to utilise space in an entirely new way to meet the growing demand for recreational and sporting facilities in inner Melbourne. We will dive into the design principles that made this feat of engineering possible, from structural and acoustic design, to space planning and circulation, John will explore the benefits and shortcomings of vertical sports design and how they might best be addressed to maximising development potential and space in sporting facilities across the country.

Key Takeaways:

- What are the key considerations & challenges of vertical sports facilities & how should they be overcome?
- What are the benefits of vertical sporting facilities?
- What are the key budget considerations in vertically integrated sporting facilities, and how do they compare with traditional construction?
- How can schools play a role in the ever-growing demand for community sports facilities?

Speaker Bio:

John is an award-winning architect and leading voice in research-based design with a focus on sustainable and innovative design solutions within Sports & Aquatic Centres and Education Facilities.

**Parks + Projects
(Grand Hall 3)**

**People + Planning
(Grand Hall 2)**

**Places + Spaces
(Grand Hall 1)**

12:20pm

Decluttering Ruffey Lake Park Signage

Cormac McCarthy

Senior Open Space Development Officer
Manningham Council

Abstract/Overview:

Following the adoption of the Ruffey Lake Park Master Plan in 2021 it has been a 3-year journey to redesign a signage suite for the whole park. The removal of over 300 signs has been replaced with contemporary designs that cover gateways, welcome, directional, regulatory and interpretive signs. The process has been painstaking involving the use of seven providers and consultants and many hours of consultation for Manningham's premier regional park. Now completed it sets the standard for future park upgrades that provide well considered and practical signage that enhances visitors experience.

Key Takeaways:

- How to develop a signage strategy
- Process for designing an integrated signage suite
- Consultation process for interpretive signage
- Construction and maintenance for a long life

Speaker Bio:

Cormac has over 20 years experience working in local government as an Open Space Planner/ Coordinator, responsible for the funding, design, consultation, construction and ongoing management of many park facilities in Melbourne. He has been instrumental in the production and implementation of signage strategies for several Councils along with design of trail wayfinding signage for the Northern Region and digital mapping for the Eastern Regional Trails.

Gender equity in community sport: Exploring drivers and resistance to change

Dr Nadia Bevan

Research Fellow
Monash University

Abstract/Overview:

The Victorian State Government established the Office for Women, Sport and Recreation (OWSR) in 2017 representing significant government investment in addressing gendered inequities. In late 2022, the OWSR announced the 'Fair Access Roadmap policy' which places local governments as key policy actors in driving gender equity in local sporting clubs to ensure equitable and fair access to grounds and facilities. This paper examines volunteer community sports understandings and engagement with gender equity. The paper will explore the role of local government and grassroots sports clubs in driving and supporting gender equity agendas. Drawing on analysis with 13 interviews from 10 local government areas and 46 interviews with local sporting club leaders/members, the study illustrates how the local level is engaging with gender equity agendas and policy. Sports clubs are pillars of the community and participants believed they need to be inclusive to all community members. However, as volunteers they feel constrained by human and financial limitations and desire more support from peak bodies. Despite controlling how key resources are distributed to sports clubs at a local level, many councils felt driving gender equity agendas was peripheral to their core role and policy was too challenging to properly implement without further resources.

Key Takeaways:

- explores the role of local government and grassroots sports clubs in driving and supporting gender equity agendas.
- demonstrates what supports and hinders gender equity at a local level
- outlines what grassroots sports clubs require to support gender inclusive environments

Speaker Bio:

Nadia's research focusses on sociocultural, physiological, and psychological factors in people avoiding and/or participating in physical activity and sport and creating inclusive communities for marginalized population groups. Ruth is a sociologist whose research interests focus on the use of sport and active recreation as a community development resource, particularly to address social exclusion amongst acutely marginalised groups.

Pickleball, Padel & Tennis. What's next for racket sports in Australia.

Jarrold Hill

SPORTENG + Tennis Australia

Abstract/Overview:

Come and learn about the latest offerings for racket sports in Australia. How both pickleball and padel are supporting tennis facilities around the country. From facility planning through to the technical considerations."

Key Takeaways:

Speaker Bio:

**Parks + Projects
(Grand Hall 3)**

**People + Planning
(Grand Hall 2)**

**Places + Spaces
(Grand Hall 1)**

12:40pm

Park & leisure and university collaboration

John Tower
PLA Advisory Chair and Honorary Fellow
PLA Advisory

Abstract/Overview:

PLA Advisory, Australian and New Zealand Association of Leisure Studies (ANZALS), and a team of interested colleagues have developed a range of resources to help guide parks and leisure staff to collaborate more effectively with universities and TAFEs. This workshop session will provide an overview of the resources and seek participants' comments about how well the resources may meet their needs. The purpose of these resources is about increasing the number of high quality people entering the park and leisure industry. The collaboration with universities and TAFEs may include student placements, graduate positions, community based program delivery, and local research projects. The range of resources include i) a list of park and leisure post-secondary courses, ii) examples of placement contracts, iii) case studies of successful collaboration, iv) risk management considerations, v) costs and benefits of collaboration, vi) local research collaboration opportunities, vii) park and leisure industry contributions to course content and careers, and viii) creation of graduate positions.

Key Takeaways:

Attendees will learn:

- About the range of resources that have been developed to facilitate better collaboration between park and leisure staff, and post-secondary courses.
- How to establish a relationship with post-secondary education providers.
- How to recruit students and graduates to contribute to park and leisure programs, facilities and services.
- How to contribute to the development of the skills and knowledge of students for the park and leisure industry.

Speaker Bio:

Dr. John Tower has been working in the leisure, recreation and sport industry for over 40 years with a particular interest in community leisure and recreation participation and the delivery of community leisure and recreation experiences. His research has usually focused on leisure management and has been designed to assist community leisure managers to improve how they manage leisure, recreation, and sport experiences. His involvement in leisure and recreation academia is driven by a keen interest in the capacity of positive leisure and recreation experiences to contribute to a community's quality of life and health.

Diversity and inclusiveness in the sport and recreation industry.

Junior Melo
CMSport Manager
CMSport

Abstract/Overview:

Diversity and inclusiveness in the sport and recreation industry.

Key Takeaways:

Understands the need for sporting organisations around Australia to strategically turn opportunity into a competitive advantage and connect meaningfully to our growing cultural diversity.

Speaker Bio:

Junior Melo holds a degree in Exercise Sports Science with a double major in Physical Activity and Health, and Sport Coaching. He has extensive experience working with young people in various settings, including schools, community centres, sports clubs, and youth justice centres at Malmsbury and Parkville. Junior is also a former professional soccer player. Throughout his sports and work career, he has led key social, sports, and educational programs for newly arrived refugee and migrant young people across Melbourne, promoting multicultural inclusion.

Stonnington Sport Centre

Kiara McDonald
Coordinator Sports and Active Recreation
City of Stonnington

Abstract/Overview:

The Stonnington Sports Centre project, a \$50 million project for the City of Stonnington, aimed to create a state-of-the-art facility for local sport and recreation. This presentation will provide an interactive look into the design and construction journey, offering insights on the steps taken, what worked well, and the challenges faced along the way. A key focus of the project was community consultation, ensuring the facility met the needs of local users, from tennis and bowls clubs to casual visitors. Attendees will learn about the consultation process, including how feedback was gathered and integrated into the final design. The management options explored at the project's conclusion will be discussed, highlighting the importance of balancing community use with facility sustainability.

The session will also cover the usage and management of the facility, including how the transition was handled for community sports clubs into their new spaces and the strategic placement of these clubs within the broader facility layout. Special attention will be given to the integration of these clubs, ensuring their continued involvement while adapting to the new environment. The presentation will also delve into how relationships with stakeholders, including local clubs and residents, shaped the development and ongoing success of the project. Designed with female participation in mind, the facility also emphasises inclusivity, creating spaces for diverse community engagement. This session will provide valuable takeaways for those involved in similar projects, offering practical advice on community engagement, project management, and fostering lasting relationships between stakeholders

Key Takeaways:

- Insights from the design and construction process of \$50 million multi-sports venue
- Challenges of undertaking complex stakeholder consultation and feedback integration
- Designing inclusive and accessible sports spaces for women and girls

Speaker Bio:

With over 15 years in sport and recreation, Kiara is a proven leader known for driving strategic initiatives and fostering high-performing teams. She plays a pivotal role in shaping active spaces and recreation opportunities, focusing on collaboration, stakeholder engagement, and delivering sustainable outcomes for diverse communities. Kiara's expertise spans project management, policy development, and strategic planning. She has led large-scale projects while maintaining high standards of community engagement and stakeholder relationships. In local government, Kiara has managed multidisciplinary teams, coordinated capital works, and championed inclusivity. Holding a Master's in Sport Management from Deakin University, she blends innovation with practicality.

Parks + Projects
(Grand Hall 3)

Places + Spaces
(Grand Hall 1)

1:45pm

Best Practice monitoring and auditing natural turf condition of sportsfields.

Grant Greenway, Senior Turf Consultant, ETP Turf

Abstract/Overview:

Understanding key items for best practice monitoring and auditing of natural turf sportsfields helps maintain condition of infrastructure and longevity of use any hours of play for natural turf surfaces. Having an appreciation of the challenges and pressures that are faced and role that auditing plays in outcomes of quality and performance helps plan maintenance requirements, irrigation, renovations, season change overs and quality and usage outcomes. The session will demonstrate that both Sports and Recreation and Open Space and Parks staff together should be involved in the decision making around grounds auditing and monitoring priorities. It will also explain some of the typical critical points and problems faced when maintaining community turf sports grounds.

Key Takeaways:

Understanding the aspects and benefits of auditing many sportsfield in an efficient style by utilising technology, software, and in-field data measuring equipment.

Speaker Bio:

Using data to drive decision making and Maximise the Community Benefits of Golf

Sally Peers, Local Government Coordinator, Golf Australia

Abstract/Overview:

Golf is transforming and there are now 3.8 Australians enjoying the benefits of golf across all its formats. This presentation will explore how data driven decision-making is creating positive outcomes for golf and is maximising community benefits. We will explore the changing demographics of golf and how more women, girls and diverse communities are getting into the game. Golf plays a vital role in fostering economic growth, environmental stewardship, and social well-being. Our Community Benefits of Golf report created a platform to showcase this, and our Maximising Benefits of Golf report is a practical tool to further explore the different venue types and their benefits, and how clubs, facilities and venue operators can take steps to maximise their own benefits. The presentation aims to inspire attendees to embrace golf's data as a tool for growth and positive community impact. By showcasing success stories and providing actionable steps, this session fosters collaboration and empowers stakeholders to align golf's benefits with community priorities. Attendees will gain insights into how the reports can be used, and have been used to create positive community outcomes.

Key Takeaways:

Increased awareness of golfs data and insights including the Maximising Community Benefits Report and NatRep Surveys. Empower stakeholders with actionable insights on how they can ensure their golf facilities are community hubs. Foster collaboration and collaboration between industry professionals and share insights on Golf in their communities

Speaker Bio:

Sally joined Golf Australia in 2022 and has worked across different functions of the business gaining broad understanding and experience. As Local Government Coordinator Sally works closely on the PLA National Industry Partnership, and with Local Government and Industry to uncover opportunities to turn golf facilities into thriving community hubs. Sally brings a passion and understanding of sport, with a unique lens having played professional tennis for 10 years before transitioning into Sports administration.

2:10pm

Park and sportsground asset maintenance and management in a Growth Area Council – the Casey experience and approach

Kristen Jackson, Leanne Terrington and Daniel Schwarze, City of Casey

Abstract/Overview:

The City of Casey, located in Melbourne's south east, already has the municipal largest population within Victoria and is expected to grow by another more than 200,000 people by the year 2046. This growth in population also has a corresponding growth in parks and sportsgrounds which require regular maintenance. At the same time, the existing parks and sportsgrounds need maintenance and renewal when they reach the end of their useful life. Layer on top of this, increasing community and sporting club expectations, tightening financial constraints and aging existing infrastructure and open space maintenance and renewal becomes very complex. This presentation will outline this issue and how we are responding at Casey, including our new Open Space Asset Management Strategic Framework, our existing and proposed asset handover process and contract structure to manage existing and future growth.

Key Takeaways:

- Increased knowledge of the challenges in existing and new asset maintenance and management in a growth area council
- Specific information on the challenges at Casey in particular
- Specific information on the approach Casey is implementing to address these challenges
- Open space asset management framework ideas for their own workplaces.

Speaker Bio:

Kristen Jackson, Head of Open Space and City Greening
Kristen has over 30 years experience in open space and environmental planning, development and management in local and state government within Victoria and is passionate about the positive difference parks and the natural environment can make to improving people's physical and mental health. Kristen is employed as the Head of Open Space and City Greening at the City of Casey. Kristen has previously served on the Parks and Leisure Australia National Board and World Urban Parks Board, Governance Committee and Healthy Parks Healthy Cities Committee.

Supply of courts is stopping the incredible demand for basketball, what can we do?

Jake Keogh, GM – Government, Strategy & Innovations, Basketball Victoria

Abstract/Overview:

Basketball currently has 695,000 participants in Victoria, the largest of any community participation sport. As the sport has grown, it has also transformed, the growth of 3x3 is a perfect example of this. As 3x3 grows, it also provides an opportunity to provide courts for participants to play games that are outdoor and can be produced at far less of the cost of traditional indoor facilities. Indoor basketball courts need to be sprung timber and with increased building expenses come in at an average of \$6 million a court, where outdoor 3x3 courts can be built for hundreds of thousands and can allow greater participation in sport. While the demand for indoor courts will only continue to grow, the inclusion of additional 3x3 courts in new parklands and open space areas can substantially reduce the current court shortage of 210 courts and dramatically shift how we view access to indoor sports moving forward. In addition to 3x3, Basketball Victoria has developed a facilities guide that will be used national to ensure that basketball facilities moving forward are indoor community facilities that serve multiple sports and community groups. This change in thinking allows greater utilization and economic return for Local Government.

Key Takeaways:

- Basketball's new facility guide requirements and multi sport approach
- How Local Government can focus on outdoor courts
- The role outdoor 3x3 courts will have in the future in basketball

Speaker Bio:

Jake is the General Manager of Government, Strategy & Innovation for Basketball Victoria, representing Victoria's largest participation sport. He is responsible for all facility developments for basketball within Victoria. Jake is a former Councillor and Mayor. He holds a Bachelor of Laws and a Bachelor of Criminology and is currently undertaking a Master of Business Administration degree and the University of Melbourne. He has been recognised by the Australian Financial Review as one of Australia's Top 100 Future Leaders. He is also President of the Ringwood Football & Netball Club and is passionate about community sport and access to facilities.

Valuing Green Infrastructure – taking a Traditional Asset Management Approach

David Jenkins, CEO, IPWEA

Abstract/Overview:

In the drive for financial and environmental sustainability, natural assets can be used in parallel with or to replace some traditional approaches and hard assets. In many cases, these natural solutions come with lower capital and operating costs, and they can mitigate urban heat islands and support resilience to the impacts of climate change. Natural assets also bring additional benefits; they can enhance recreational opportunities, purify air, improve soil quality and enhance habitat. The interaction of urban green infrastructure components can collectively help conserve biodiversity and restore ecological processes. Amid discussions focused on market-based approaches to 'valuing nature,' the session will highlight the significant opportunity within traditional infrastructure asset management. This overlooked avenue incorporates natural assets into a traditional asset manager's portfolio, emphasizing the opportunity and examples for the sustainable management of natural assets as a cost-effective alternative to grey or built infrastructure.

The emerging practice of natural area asset management provides a real opportunity to halt the decline and sustainably manage natural environments in urban landscapes. Taking an asset accounting approach using traditional asset management principles will help identify our natural asset inventory, the environmental services they provide, the risks of neglect, and the priorities and funding for their protection, restoration and management.

The presentation outlines the asset management process and reviews some leading examples of the application of natural area asset management in urban landscapes.

Urban landscapes, vital to the global economy, often exist outside market systems.

"Valuing Nature" delves into recognizing, protecting and managing the intrinsic value of natural assets in urban environments.

Key Takeaways:

Understanding Green Infrastructure (GI) and Natural Assets (NA)
How you can use an asset accounting approach
The benefits if using GI and NA

Speaker Bio:

Over fifteen years of Oceania experience in senior leadership roles, including CEO, General Manager and Country Head. David is currently the CEO of IPWEA Australasia, a role he has held for four years. David is recognised as a thought leader in infrastructure asset management, speaking at the Sydney Morning Herald Infrastructure Summit and major events hosted by the Institute of Civil Engineers (U.K.), The Institute of Asset Management, The Institute of Municipal Engineering of South Africa, and the Government Finance Officers Association based in the United States. He has published articles in the New Zealand Herald, (New Zealand's largest newspaper) and regularly contributes to the online publication - Government News. David has an EMBA from the University of Auckland, a postgraduate degree from the University of Oxford, and a degree from the University of London. He is on the Board of IFME (International Federation of Municipal Engineering) and Chairs the Technical Committee. David hosts IPWEA's Infrastructure Matters podcast and has interviewed international thought leaders on water, roading infrastructure, and asset management.

Partnership Opportunities with the AFL

Beau Tran + Shane Joules, AFL

Abstract/Overview:

Australian football's growth story is compelling and is being led by our thirteen-fold growth in female football participation over the past decade. Significant growth brings with it the challenge of providing the facilities we need, in the right locations to ensure all Australian's can experience the game.

The AFL is heavily focused on developing the right plans in collaboration with Councils, Clubs, Education sector and all other stakeholders. When done well, this maximises any returns on investment through increased participation levels, club sustainability and community wellbeing.

This presentation will provide insights and learnings from partnerships we have developed with schools and councils as well as best practice examples of football facilities across the country.

Key Takeaways:

- Partnership opportunities for facility development with the AFL including with schools
- Best Practice examples from across the country on football developments
- Learnings from the AFL on working with schools to access facilities

Speaker Bio:

Beau Tran

Beau has been with the AFL for around 2 years and is the Community Venue Development Lead for Victoria. Prior to joining the AFL, Beau has worked for State Government and multiple state sporting associations throughout Australia.

Shane Joules

Shane has been with the AFL since mid-2023, as the Schools & Innovative Venue Growth Lead (Victoria). Prior to this, Shane has 18 years' experience within the AFL industry, in a number of roles at Collingwood Football Club and the Northern Bullants' in the VFL. More recently, Shane has worked at Local Government level, in the Recreation & Leisure space at Nillumbik Shire Council.

ABOUT THE VENUE

CENTREPIECE holds prime position in Australia's iconic epicentre of sports, live events and entertainment. It's a place where lasting memories are made and legendary matches are played.

Bounded by the Yarra River and set among 40 hectares of green public space, the Melbourne & Olympic Parks precinct is perhaps best known as the home of the Australian Open, with CENTREPIECE's auditorium and media facilities serving as the broadcast hub for this world-class grand slam tournament.

As the precinct's newest venue, CENTREPIECE rubs shoulders with the giants of elite sports and arena entertainment at Rod Laver Arena, John Cain Arena, Margaret Court Arena, AAMI Park and Kia Arena. The precinct is home to eight national, elite sporting teams and welcomes millions of visitors annually.

CENTREPIECE achieved LEED certification in 2021 thanks to its resource and energy efficiency. The building is home to 370 solar panels, rainwater harvesting capabilities and water-efficient fittings throughout as well as energy-efficient lighting and double-glazed windows which help further reduce its carbon footprint.

CENTREPIECE was also designed with greener [transport options](#) in mind. With easy access to public transport and ample bike parking, you have the option of environmentally-friendly transport methods.

CENTREPIECE's culinary experts hand-pick sustainable ingredients from local producers. The aim is to support local businesses and the Victorian economy, while also limiting food miles associated with sourcing fresh produce. As part of their sustainable commitment, they also have an on-site rooftop kitchen garden where we grow herbs and vegetables that feature in many dishes.



DELEGATES

To be inserted.



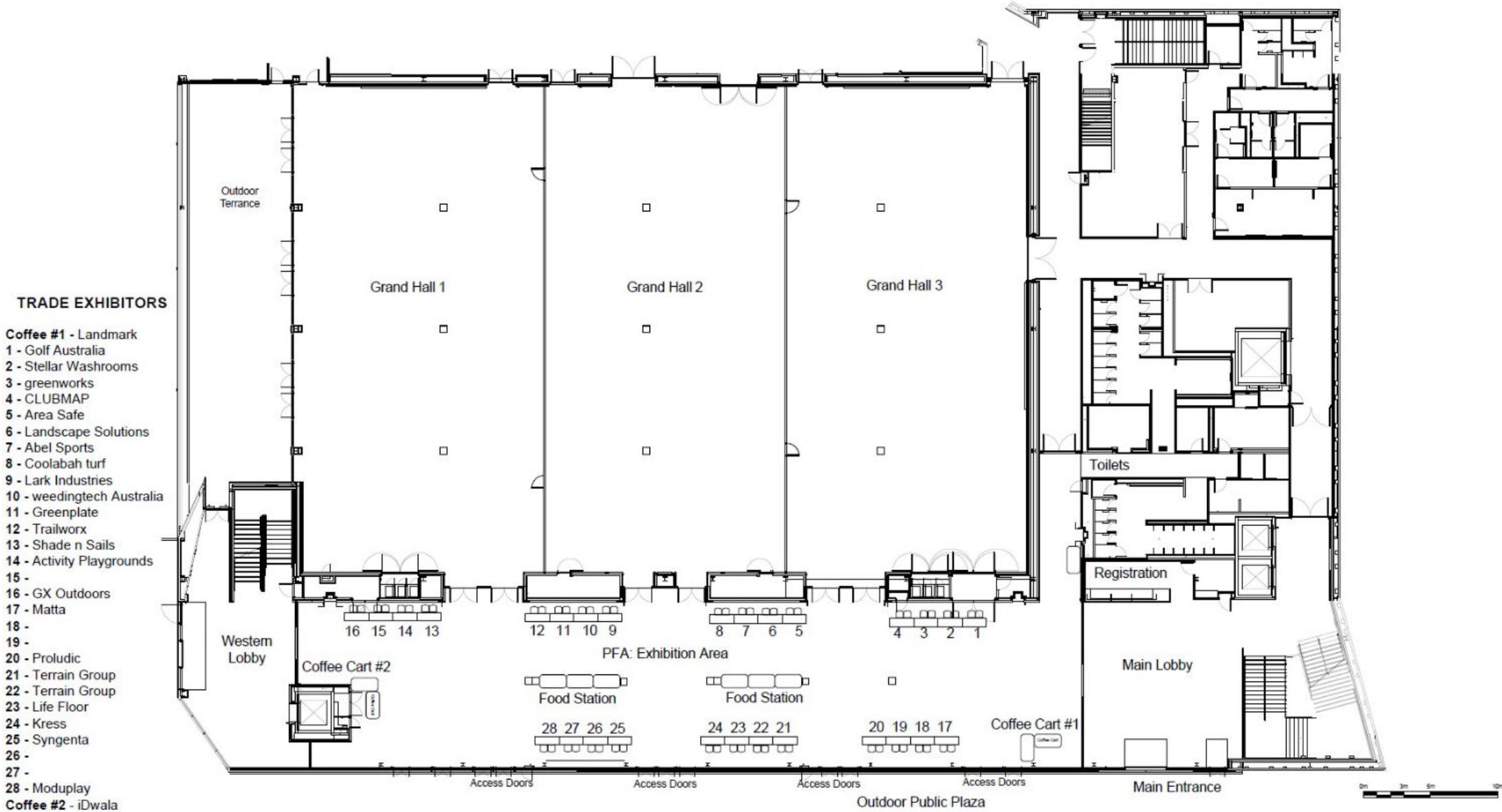
PARKS & LEISURE
AUSTRALIA
(VIC/TAS)

2025

TRADE EXHIBITORS



REGION CONFERENCE | 20-21 MAY 2025



TRADE EXHIBITORS

- Coffee #1 - Landmark
- 1 - Golf Australia
- 2 - Stellar Washrooms
- 3 - greenworks
- 4 - CLUBMAP
- 5 - Area Safe
- 6 - Landscape Solutions
- 7 - Abel Sports
- 8 - Coolabah turf
- 9 - Lark Industries
- 10 - weedingtech Australia
- 11 - Greenplate
- 12 - Trailworx
- 13 - Shade n Sails
- 14 - Activity Playgrounds
- 15 -
- 16 - GX Outdoors
- 17 - Matta
- 18 -
- 19 -
- 20 - Proludic
- 21 - Terrain Group
- 22 - Terrain Group
- 23 - Life Floor
- 24 - Kress
- 25 - Syngenta
- 26 -
- 27 -
- 28 - Moduplay
- Coffee #2 - iDwala



Abel Sports manufacture and install goal posts for all football Codes, AFL, Rugby Union, Rugby League and Soccer. Abel Sports goal posts can be seen at numerous Council sports grounds throughout Australia, and at major Stadiums like, MCG, SCG, Adelaide and Perth to name a few. Abel Flag also supply Flagpoles and Banner poles to Councils and State and Federal Government offices and facilities throughout Australia. Abel is an Australian manufacturer and supports the Australian Made Campaign.

www.abelsports.com.au

[Abel Sports e-Brochure](#)

John Cann, General Manager

jcann@abelsports.com.au



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www.coolturf.com.au

Drew Elliott, Sales Manager

drew@coolturf.com.au



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www.activityplaygrounds.com.au

[Activity Playgrounds e-Brochure](#)

Miles Rayner

miles@activityplaygrounds.com.au



Creating healthy clubs for connected communities. Volunteers in grassroots community sport need help. CLUBMAP offers education, support and direction for all levels of community sport. Learn how to create club success and community connection for years to come. CLUBMAP is joining major community groups and commercial partners to work with organisations from 65 sports. We're trusted by 7500+ volunteer administrators from 3000+ clubs across Australia and internationally.

www.clubmap.com.au



Being the inaugural sporting organization to stand alongside Parks & Leisure Australia as our flagship Industry Partner, Golf Australia is poised to play a key role in cultivating enhanced connections between communities and the realm of golf. This strategic collaboration marks a significant milestone for both organisations, as we embark on a journey to facilitate open and meaningful communication channels within our diverse communities.

www.golf.org.au

[Community Benefits of Golf in Australia Report](#)

Sally Peers, Local Government Coordinator

sally.peers@golf.org.au



Greenplate is an Australian company that design and manufactures energy-efficient electric and solar electric barbecues. With a commitment to sustainability and quality, Greenplate BBQ's use advanced technology to produce clean and healthy outdoor cooking solutions. They offer a range of products suitable for commercial and residential use and are proudly Australian made.

www.greenplate.com.au

[Greenplate e-Brochure](#)

Chris Onslow, National Sales Manager

chris@greenplate.com.au



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www.greenworksaustralia.com



We design and manufacture solutions for public spaces that bring people together outdoors. From shelters, furniture, barbecues, to bin enclosures (and so much more), our solutions are 100% Australian made, semi-customisable and built to withstand the toughest conditions. We're passionate about enriching lives and improving health and wellbeing through outdoor spaces. We are data-driven innovators, and actively work in close collaboration with Councils, Landscape Architects and subject matter experts to meet the evolving needs of our communities.

www.gxoutdoors.com



In nearly a century, we've never made a single internal combustion engine. And we never will. In June last year, the well-established Positec Group launched the Kress Commercial brand in Australia. Since 1928, the Kress brand has built its reputation around advanced German engineering, and endorsements from professional users who have operated and trusted Kress tools for 96 years. Today, Kress is committed to ensure the commercial landscape and maintenance industry a zero-emission future. The innovative CyberSystem™ battery technology offers a sustainable transition from petrol- to battery-powered OPE, not only benefiting the environment but, the users' profitability as well.

www.kress.com

[Kress e-Brochure](#)



At Landscape Solutions, we are a team of professionals across Australia with a shared goal, to create great places. We provide our clients with quality commercial landscaping solutions. Operating since 1993, we're incredibly proud to still be an Australian, privately owned business. From civil landscape construction, landscape maintenance, and building services, to irrigation, environmental services and sports turf and golf course management, we deliver a complete solution.

www.landscape-solutions.com.au



Lark Industries is a family owned and operated Australian business and one of the leading suppliers of multi-generational play and exercise equipment nationally. We boast a wide range of interactive, senior-specific and destination-level play, sport and exercise solutions and offer the freedom to either tailor an existing product to your specific requirements or to develop an entirely new and unique solution for your project.

www.larkindustries.com.au

[Lark Industries e-Brochure](#)

Sharon Winbanks, Senior BDM, VIC & TAS

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It all started with a vision for happier experiences at safer aquatic facilities. As the first safety surfacing engineered specifically for aquatics, our goal has always been to reduce or eliminate injuries wherever our tiles are installed. Over the past decade, our mission has expanded to include impactful design, increased play value, and inclusivity. As Life Floor evolves, one thing remains the same: people will always be at the heart of our purpose.

www.lifefloor.com.au



Leading experts in playground and workspace safety surfacing. Proudly made in New Zealand from recycled materials since 1992, Matta safety surfacing is designed from the ground up to give peace of mind for work and play. Protecting today, protecting tomorrow. Play Matta™ empowers kids all over the world to go further and explore their abilities on a safety surface designed for them.

www.mattaproducts.com



Moduplay is a family-owned Australian company that has been designing, engineering, and manufacturing high-quality commercial playground equipment since 1989. Based in Wollongong, NSW, they offer a wide range of products, including swings, slides, climbers, and outdoor fitness equipment, serving clients such as councils, schools, and landscape architects. Committed to safety, inclusivity, and sustainability, Moduplay ensures durable and engaging play experiences for communities across Australia.

www.moduplay.com.au



Proludic creates award-winning play equipment and playspaces throughout Australia for people of all ages and abilities. We design and build inclusive play and sports areas, nature-inspired and imaginative playgrounds, and multigenerational fun outdoor fitness areas that get every "body" moving. Our products and designs are innovative, functional and durable. We use sustainably sourced, recycled and recyclable materials that are perfectly suited to Australian conditions.

www.proludic.com.au

[Proludic e-Brochure](#)

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Soilbond is an Australian-made, natural organic binding agent designed for stabilizing granitic sand and other materials. Environmentally friendly and non-hazardous, it enhances structural integrity and erosion resistance in paths, tracks, public spaces, unsealed roads, and sportsgrounds. Soilbond offers products for both stabilization and dust suppression, contributing to reduced maintenance costs and improved surface longevity.

www.soilbond.com.au



Shade N Sails is an Australian company that specialises in designing manufacturing and installing shade products. The company was established in 1999 to provide durable shade products for both the domestic and commercial markets. With over 150 years of combined industry experience and a focus on exceptional customer service and communication they have grown rapidly servicing both the Australian and global markets, offering a wide range of solutions.

www.shadensails.com.au

[Shade N Sails e-Brochure](#)

Nick Mall, Business Development

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We're in the business of making people feel comfortable in public spaces. At our core, we're a design-led organisation, committed to creating clean, safe and comfortable environments for everyone. Our mission? To ensure that our customers have a refreshing, worry-free user experience. With an innovative approach and always challenging the status quo, Stellar delivers a complete experience. We take care of the design, development, manufacturing and the installation of Modular Public Amenities, alongside architects and local governments.
www.stellarwashrooms.com.au



Syngenta has more than 20 years' experience in developing solutions specifically for turf and landscape businesses. Syngenta is the preferred partner for protecting valuable turf – regardless of species, season or situation. Our well-established, comprehensive product portfolio covers a wide market from golf courses and sports fields to council parks and garden beds.
www.syngentaturf.com.au
[Syngenta e-Brochure](#)
Peter Frewin, Sales Manager - Turf and Landscape
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With over 50+ years of experience, Terrain Group delivers quality furniture for any outdoor or urban environment. Whether metropolitan or remote, Terrain Group can provide a complete project package, from planning and design to supply and installation. Terrain Group guarantees to deliver quality products built to last on time with 100% customer satisfaction.
www.terraingroup.com.au
[Terrain Group e-Brochure](#)
Bevis Selby, National Sales Manager
1800 335 112



From mountain bike trails and pump tracks to hiking and walking trails, we partner with clients to design, build and maintain trails to create innovative and sustainable spaces for local communities and visitors to get outdoors and get active. Our experienced and passionate in-house team are highly specialised in designing world-class trails that deliver the ultimate outdoor experience. Designed with both functionality and aesthetics in mind, every trail is carefully created to provide a safe and enjoyable experience and are inspired by the surrounding landscape that acknowledge environmental and cultural values.
www.trailworx.com.au
Scott Llewelyn, Marketing Manager
marketing@furphyiq.com.au



WillPlay is an Australian manufacturer of play and fitness equipment with an extensive range of products to suit all size projects and budgets. Using premium materials such as aluminium, stainless steel and recycled plastics, WillPlay offers world class quality in a cost effective package. WillPlay's custom design capabilities can bring your next project to life and create a true destination experience for all users.
www.willplay.com.au
[WillPlay e-Brochure](#)
Nathan Lee, General Manager
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A green solution that's friendly to our planet, Foamstream by WeedingTech is the most effective and environmentally-friendly, organic solution to keep built environments and recreational green spaces weed-free, clean and safe for the healthy enjoyment and care of all. From public entities such as city councils and parks, to green space contractors, utility companies and private landowners, we work with customers worldwide, operating across the Americas, Europe and Australasia.
www.weedingtechaustralia.com.au



PARKS & LEISURE 
AUSTRALIA
(VIC/TAS)

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