

NSW/ACT Regional Conference Newcastle			
Wednesday 7 May 2025			
7:30	Registration and Trade exhibition opens Conference Welcome Breakfast		
8:45	Official Welcome - Welcome to Country, PLA President & Newcastle Representative		
9:00	Keynote Speaker - Paul Callaghan		
10:00	Keynote Speaker - Denise Ora		
10:30	Morning tea and Trade Exhibition		
	Sports + Leisure + Aquatics	Parks + Gardens	Social + Play + Wellbeing
11:00	AFL Standard Modular Designs - online configurator <i>Amber Koster, AFL</i>	Newcastle Foreshore Park Playspace: Connecting play through site narratives and inclusivity <i>Alexa Ongoco, Taylor Cullity Lethlean (TCL)</i>	Giant tunnel slides: Safety guidelines for adventurous and thrilling play <i>Fiona Robbé, Landscape Architects & Prof David Eager, Professor of Risk Management and Injury Prevention at UTS</i>
11:30	WSYD Moving "Tackling inactivity and Inequity in Western Sydney" <i>David Burns, WSYD Moving</i>	Weed Management (gardens, not turf) <i>Michael Bradbury, Syngenta Professional Solutions</i>	Being Active in a Hotter World <i>Tobias Volbert, Urban Play</i>
12:00	Maximising the potential of outdoor gyms with ecofit <i>Ron Plotnikoff, Newcastle</i>	Rathmines Park - An Odyssey <i>Stephen Prince, Lake Macquarie City Council</i>	Everybody gets a turn: Connecting communities through the shared economy approach <i>Jodie Dunstan</i>
12:30	Lunch - Sponsors and Trade Exhibition		
	Sports + Leisure + Aquatics	Parks + Gardens	Social + Play + Wellbeing
13:30	Using data to drive decision making and maximize the Community Benefits of Golf <i>Sally Peers, Golf Australia</i>	PLA Advisory Board Masterclass: Managing park and leisure construction cost increases <i>Anand Pillay, PLA Advisory Board</i> <i>Neal Ames, PLA Advisory Board</i>	Inclusive by Design: Play spaces for all <i>Jeanette Fich Jespersen, KOMPAN</i>
14:00			Building your Game Plan <i>Steve Marquis, Australian Sports Commission</i>
14:30	Plan of Management Masterclass	Sportsfields and Turf Focus Panel & Workshop: My Biggest Turf Disasters & Maximising Use on Natural Turf Sportsfields	Exploring Newcastle's Iconic Ocean Baths and Coastal Stretch Technical Tour
	This masterclass will be run by Sandy Hoy, Land Advisory Services and Crown Lands (afternoon tea included)	Join industry experts as they dissect real-life turf disasters—what went wrong and how they fixed it. Learn key lessons, common pitfalls, and strategies to maximize sportsfield performance, covering design, drainage, irrigation, and maintenance. This interactive session includes expert insights, case studies, and practical takeaways. Afternoon tea included.	Discover Newcastle's iconic ocean baths and beaches on this guided tour. Visit Merewether Ocean Baths , the largest in the Southern Hemisphere, and explore The Stretch , home to three stunning beaches. Finish at the heritage-listed Newcastle Ocean Baths , recently upgraded for accessibility. Includes transfers, afternoon tea, and expert insights.
	Rippit Golf Tour, hosted by Golf Australia		
	Your journey begins with a comfortable transfer to the Rippit Golf Facility, where you'll be welcomed with a short presentation. This session will provide insights into the facility's journey, including its development, community impact, and the diverse demographics that engage with its offerings. Following the presentation, you'll have the opportunity to explore the different areas of the facility: 🏌️ Driving Range – Test your swing and refine your skills in a dynamic practice environment. 🏌️ Mini Golf – Enjoy a fun and competitive round on a well-designed miniature course. 🏌️ Golf Simulator – Experience high-tech, immersive golf simulations that bring famous courses to life. Whether you're a seasoned golfer or a first-time visitor, this tour offers an exciting mix of learning, practice, and play!		
17:00	Networking Drinks - Sponsored by Landmark		
19:00	Informal Dinner Arrangements		

	Thursday 8 May 2025		
8:00	Trade exhibition opens, breakfast included		
9:00	Welcome By PLA President Simon James And Fiona MacColl, Director PLA National Board		
9:15	Keynote Speaker - James Castrission, <i>Explorer, Two-time Guinness World Record Holder</i>		
10:00	Keynote Speaker - David Smith - Employ for Ability		
10:30	Morning tea - Sponsors and Trade Exhibition		
	Sports + Leisure + Aquatics	Parks + Gardens	Social + Play + Wellbeing
11:00	Optimising Aquatic and Leisure Centre Development through the right Planning <i>Michelle Nolland, LARCAN</i>	Connecting Health and Green Spaces through Movement Data <i>Mike Morris, ActiveXchange</i>	Minds Collective Football - a community-based physical activity program supporting individuals in their mental health recovery <i>David Burns, Collective Leisure</i>
11:30	Benefit-risk assessment for sport and recreational facilities, activities and equipment <i>David Eager, University of Technology Sydney</i>	AusZen - New Public Open Space Landscape Design Methodology <i>Olga Blacha, AILA</i>	Size matters - Quantifying informal physical activity <i>Gary Rauber, Australian Sports Commission</i>
12:00	Out of the Box Master Planning <i>Guy Thomas, Moreton Bay Regional Council</i>	Nature's Remedy: Designing Healthier Communities Through Biodiverse Landscapes <i>David Moir, Moir Studio</i>	"Socialise with friends or family while enjoying the scenery": Biophilic approach to youth social engagement <i>Parisa Ziaesaeidi, Western Sydney University</i>
12:30	A Water Journey: Immersive, customised spaces for imagination and recreation <i>Shane Vardy, Atlantis Liquid Dynamics</i>	Trail Condition and Auditing <i>Kurt Martin, Trailworx</i>	Valuing a space through local content – a Newcastle case study <i>David Shaw</i>
13:00	Lunch - Sponsors and Trade Exhibition		
14:00	Technology Focus Workshop	Gardens/Landscapes Masterclass Advancing Asset Management and GIS in Parklands	Nature Play Panel & Workshop
	Join this exciting interactive workshop with: Julie Leung, Powerblocks Mike Morris, ActiveXchange Josef Oosthuizen, Positec Peter Sasi, Greenhill	Mark Bruhn - Greater Sydney Parklands West <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Transitioning toward performance-based contracting. •Implementing quality frameworks for improved asset management. •Eeveraging GIS for efficient asset tracking and management. Kieran Bowles - City of Sydney <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Enhancing asset management maturity in park assets. •Optimising asset data for better decision-making. •Applying value engineering principles to maximize efficiency. Karl Nesbitt - XYST <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Utilising GIS and data management for financial oversight. •Analysing where funds are allocated in asset management. •Exploring benefits of detailed asset conditioning through GIS. 	Unleashing the Power of Nature Play: Transformative Approaches for Parks and Communities Lori Modde, Outdoors NSW & ACT
16:30	Conference close		