

2025 PARKS AND LEISURE AUSTRALIA WA STATE CONFERENCE PROGRAM



Tuesday 17th June

8:00	Trade Show Opens	Coffees and Networking/Exhibitors Open
8:30	Welcome/Intro wtc	Anand Pillay, CEO, Parks and Leisure Australia
8:35	Welcome to Country	Matthew McGuire, Traditional Owner of Whudjuk/Noongar Boodjah
8:50	Welcome Address	Anand Pillay, CEO, Parks and Leisure Australia
9:00 - 10:00	Keynote	Stephen Yarwood
10:00 - 11:00	Keynote	Dr. Brad Pettitt
11:00 - 11:30		

Morning Tea & Trade

		PARTICIPATION PLANNING – activate and energise through sports, recreation and events PLANNING – plan and conceptualise for sport, recreation and leisure		PLACES – activate and operate our community leisure facilities PARKS – design and manage our public spaces		WORKSHOPS – grow and thrive through personal and professional development	
		GOLDEN NORTH		GOLDSWORTHY		HAMERSLEY	
11:30	Concurrent	Session Participation and Planning 1 Mike Beeny - AusActive Title: Getting Western AUActive in 2025 AUActive is recognised as the state and national peak body for the active health sector. In response to the nation's appalling rates of chronic disease, deteriorating mental health and an ever ageing population, earlier this year AUActive trialed "Million Moves", a community activation initiative on Queensland's Sunshine Coast; the results exceeded all expectations. So much so that both the Queensland and Western Australian governments have asked us to run the event state wide in 2025. Mike will share the role of AUActive in the active health sector, outline how the campaign is organised, and describe the crucial role leisure centres play in ensuring community participation is maximised.		Session Places and Parks 1 Andrea Siedl - City of Victoria Park Title: Micro Parks: for people and biodiversity Like many inner-city local governments, the Town of Victoria Park (the Town) has limited opportunities to increase access to public open space (POS). To address this, the Town has identified underutilised land adjacent to drainage basins and converted these into Micro Parks, increasing POS and canopy coverage while providing key community spaces. Nine of the 99 existing sumps have been converted to Green Basins with a Micro Parks, adding 81 trees, 6489 shrubs and 4086m2 projected canopy cover, with 90% of these plants being local provenance seed from remnant bushland. These Micro Parks are also a fundamental tool for engaging with the Town's community. Many of the sites have come from community lead proposals and each design is created from a community planning session. Trees and tubestock are planted on community planting days and ongoing care through the (Vic) Park Care Crew. Some Micro Parks have Little Libraries, murals and nature play. These spaces are designed for the community, by the community. The Micro Parks initiative has revitalised our sumps, transforming them from mere flood-mitigation structures into ecologically beneficial, socially transformational and aesthetically pleasing areas. Through inclusive design they unite people with their surroundings, bolstering communities and natural ecosystems.		Session Places and Parks Workshop Adam Cheyne - Sports Environment Alliance 1 hour (11:30am - 12:30pm) Title: Reducing Community Waste: A Team Sport In 2024 SEA was successful in an application from the Waste Sorted program, an initiative of the Government of Western Australia and the Waste Authority. Today's session is not only recap of the pilot programs success, but shares the lessons learnt and next steps for WA LGAs and clubs to tackle the challenges of tackling waste. The project brought together five of SEA's Western Australian member sporting clubs from grassroots to the elite: Fremantle Dockers, West Coast Eagles, Western Force Rugby, Vasse Soccer and Youngs Siding Swamp Rats. During this session, we will recap, identify and how SEA implemented behaviour change and education programs that reduce waste to landfill by reaching players, spectators, members, staff and volunteers.	
12:00	Concurrent	Session Participation and Planning 2 Olivia Birkett, Charlotte King and Michelle Magdy - Tennis West (Tennis Australia) Title: Installation of an access control system at tennis facilities to help Local Governments monitor and understand court usage. This project explores the implementation of an integrated online booking system for local government-managed public tennis courts using the ClubSpa software platform in combination with Iqloo smart locks. Tennis West will present the case study of City of Cockburn tennis facilities and will outline plans to expand this project. The objective is to modernise court access and management, allowing participants to conveniently book tennis courts online and access facilities securely via smartphone-controlled locks. The streamlined booking process enables administrators to monitor participant usage, manage court availability, and collect valuable information which ultimately supports data-driven decision-making by local governments. The integration with Iqloo locks eliminates the need for manual key distribution, enhancing security and operational efficiency. The project demonstrates how smart technology can increase accessibility, improve user experience, and support the sustainable development of community sports facilities. Ultimately, this integrated approach fosters broader participation in tennis while enabling more effective management of public assets.		Session Places and Parks 2 Richard Brown - City of Gosnells Title: Setting Hierarchies and Services Standards Establishing a hierarchy and setting service levels can be challenging and can consume a significant amount of time. If not done correctly, it can lead to unwanted scrutiny from various stakeholders or look nice on paper, but not practical to implement. The City of Gosnells has over 370 individual parks, so it needs a hierarchy that can stand the test of time and service levels that can be implemented and measured.		Session Places and Parks Workshop Adam Cheyne - Sports Environment Alliance session (11:30am - 12:30pm) 1 hour	
12:30-1:30PM		Lunch & Trade					
1:30PM	Concurrent	Session Participation and Planning 3 James O'Hare, Co-Founder, Everclime Title: Sustainability and Impact Engagement Everclime Impact-as-a-Service, guiding organisations from ambition to implementation of sustainability strategies. The service is structured in flexible modules tailored to local context and goals. It includes support with goal-setting, stakeholder alignment, project identification, emissions management, community engagement pathways, and implementation roadmaps. Combined with Everclime's impact engagement platform, which connects audiences to verified local projects through digital tools, storytelling, and reporting, organisations can turn strategy into visible, measurable regenerative outcomes. Whether starting fresh or scaling existing efforts, Everclime helps embed impact into everyday operations and build community trust through meaningful, place-based engagement.		Session Places and Parks 3 Martin Weaver - City of Perth Title: Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer, The City of Perth response Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer is the current largest threat to trees throughout the Perth and Peel region. The City of Perth continue to invest and innovate to ensure the impact is proactively managed and engagement with stakeholders is delivered. Senior Arborist, Martin Weaver will review the current situation, methodologies/technology currently being used by the City and provide experience on what is working.		Session Participation & Planning Workshop David Price - Workshop 45 min session (1:30pm - 2:15pm) Title: How to Present Like a Pro This workshop will be hands-on, it's all about being your authentic self whenever you speak. If you want to sit back and listen and watch, you can. But if you really want to grow your skills, there will be hot seat coaching for the people who want to develop their skills in speaking so they own the room whenever they speak. If you have a message to get out to the world, then this workshop is for you.	

2:00PM	Concurrent	<p>Session Participation and Planning 4</p> <p>Alex Mednis - RevolutioniseSPORT by SportScord</p> <p>Title: The intersection of participation data & facility data in transforming the West Australian sporting industry – a practical blueprint toward 2032. The West Australian sporting industry is reaching a pivotal moment in its use of data. With state sporting organisations gathering unprecedented amounts of information on venue utilisation, participation rates, and demographic engagement, the opportunity is ripe for developing a comprehensive blueprint to turn this data into valuable insights. By integrating data into decisions about facility construction, location, and optimising booking processes, the industry can significantly raise the bar both nationally and internationally. Explore real-life case studies that show how data is transforming the sports sector, from grassroots clubs to facility operators. Learn about the opportunities and challenges of using data to understand real-time venue usage, leverage it for funding and grant applications statewide, and develop a cohesive data strategy without needing to be a data scientist. Discover how every business, including sports, can use data to drive success.</p> <p>With a shared interest of the intersection of data, geospatial information, sport & making informed business decisions—and whether you are a council, state sport or recreation planner—Alex & James will uplift your digital capability with actionable insights you can take away from the session.</p>	<p>Session Places and Parks 4</p> <p>Tom Cunninghamham - City of Jondalup</p> <p>Title: Evidence based design for mental health - Duncaura Adventure Hub</p> <p>Discover how the Duncaura Adventure Hub, an innovative outdoor youth facility, has been designed and activated to enhance community well-being using evidence-based initiatives. In collaboration with Curtin University's Act Belong Commit team, we integrate evidence-based practice and an empathetic design process to enhance wellbeing. The Act Belong Commit team have used their expertise to develop an achievable set of five project priorities to guide design and activation. The design process draws inspiration from the tech sector, using an approach aimed to cater for people in an empathetic way. The approach is adaptable to diverse projects and aims to be another tool to help address the growing mental health challenge, especially of youth people.</p> <p>Scheduled to open in winter 2023, the Hub will feature unique attractions such as an outdoor roller-disco with dynamic music and lighting, and a sensory playspace envisioned in collaboration with local children's Illustrator Sean Avery, alongside input from an occupational therapist. Join us at the conference to explore how this evidence-based approach can empower leaders, activators, and designers to enhance community well-being.</p>	<p>Session Places and Parks Workshop</p> <p>Brown - City of Guelph with co presenter, Mark Jolley</p> <p>45 min session (2:15pm - 3:00pm)</p> <p>Title: Rising</p> <p>Stepping Up and Succeeding</p> <p>Through the risks can be an exciting but potentially daunting experience. Most leaders have some personal scars, and many would have witnessed star performers getting promoted only to see them not necessarily getting the proper support to help them navigate the new challenges and avoid the various pitfalls lurking in the shadows. This workshop takes a proactive approach, aiming to understand how to equip leaders with the skills and knowledge they need to succeed. Whether it's internal issues such as budgeting, HR issues, procurement processes, or external issues such as networking, contractor management, or aggressive customers, there is bound to be something that will catch the uninitiated. Few organisations have support networks that proactively facilitate the training required, and supervisors can't be on hand to teach everything. The primary goal of this workshop is to gather insights from industry experts to identify key areas where guidance is often lacking. This will help newly promoted employees avoid the common pitfalls and navigate their new roles more effectively. The aim is to begin establishing a Parks leadership development course(s) that could be rolled out in the coming years.</p>
2:30PM		<p>Session Participation and Planning 5</p> <p>Jarrod Hill - Director, SportENG</p> <p>Title: Designing and delivering Active Open Space Precincts - an Engineer's Perspective</p> <p>Working on countless Active Open Space projects across the country, I've developed a strong understanding on what works and doesn't work in the design and delivery of these type of projects. In recent years I've started to play a more meaningful role, other than supporting, and lead some AOS projects and taken the learnings from earlier projects and applied an engineer's approach to the delivery. What I have found with this approach is that there is a greater emphasis on the external works and prioritising the buildability and functionality of the overall site.</p>	<p>Session Places and Parks 5</p> <p>Michael Bradley - Managing Director, Wick and Grow</p> <p>Title: Desludging Water in soil to grow bigger better trees</p> <p>With a deep understanding of water's movement through the soil profile, WaterUps has developed a series of products based around the original Wicking Cell to greatly improve the survivability of street trees while significantly reducing maintenance visits and water use. Trails with Western Sydney Airport Authority in NSW and the National Capital Authority in the ACT demonstrate the growth gains with the WaterUps Tree Reservoir over a twelve-month period. This presentation will briefly review the concept of wicking and how water is transported upwards through a media via capillary action, going on the explain in more detail the different types of ground water and how it reacts to the process of capillary action deep in the soil profile. The audience will gain a good understanding on how an inground wicking system is best employed for different effect. Research presentation into the comparison of common irrigation methods offer good visual understanding of gravitational water and what it has to offer landscapes compared to sub surface wicking irrigation. Water consumption and maintenance visit comparisons are tested. Water use considerations and watering intervals are discussed. The presentation will explain the research process and show the side-by-side comparisons to show the results.</p>	
3:00PM				
3:15PM	Keynote	<p>Dr. Maria Ignatieva - UWA School of Design</p> <p>Title: Social values of Perth lawns by citizens and professionals. How to create waterwise and biodiverse lawns</p> <p>This presentation will share the results of empirical research on public and experts' perceptions of urban lawns and alternatives in Perth, Western Australia. This is the first study in WA that explores social values and preferences regarding traditional lawns and new options, considering visual appearance, uses, and maintenance. The methods included an online questionnaire, involving 171 respondents from the public, and semi-structured interviews of 21 professionals from diverse fields, including lawn industry experts, landscape architects, urban water professionals, and researchers. All participants demonstrated the awareness of positive ecosystem services of lawns. At the same time, they expressed an environmental awareness of lawns and the necessity of revisiting the existing planning and maintenance routine based on irrigation and intensive mowing by considering several alternative solutions. The study emphasizes the need for a 'blended model' of urban lawns, combining durability with heat-resistant, biodiverse vegetation to address social values and environmental concerns. The results of these social and biodiversity studies on lawns inspired the establishment of experimental demonstration sites (living labs) in public green spaces (parks, golf courses, and university campuses) with community education about new and innovative sustainable design and management solutions for water-wise and biodiverse lawns in a dry climate.</p>		
4:00PM	Close Day 1	MC		
4:00PM-6:00PM		Networking Event and Drinks		
Wednesday 18th June				
8:00	Networking Event	Coffees and Networking/Exhibitors Open		
8:50	Welcome	Anand Pillay, CEO, Parks and Leisure Australia		
9:00 - 10:00	Keynote	Dr. Kelsie Prabawa-Sear		
10:00 - 10:55	Panel	Leisure Leaders Panel - Anand Pillay (MC), Dr. Kelsie Prabawa-Sear, Blake Humble, Nick Cox and Dawn Penney		
11:00 - 11:30				
Morning Tea & Trade				
		<p>PARTICIPATION – activate and energise through sports, recreation and events</p> <p>PLANNING – plan and conceptualise for sport, recreation and leisure</p>	<p>PLACES – activate and operate our community leisure facilities</p> <p>PLACES – design and manage our public spaces</p>	<p>WORKSHOPS – grow and thrive through personal and professional development</p>

11:30	Concurrent	<div>Session Participation and Planning 8</div> <div>Minchin - Golf Australia</div> <div>Changing face of Golf</div> <div>A look at the changing face of golf and the new markets that it is engaging with.</div> <div>Golf is big, getting better and is different. This presentation will showcase on the emergence of off-course facilities, the type of people that are engaging with them and how this benefits our sport and communities.</div>	Arron	<div>Session Places and Parks 8</div> <div>Shea Hatch - UDLA</div> <div>Title: Active Networks - Connecting People and Place</div> <div>This presentation explores how movement networks in large-scale public realm and city-shaping projects can balance technical design criteria with place-led outcomes. While safety, engineering and maintenance requirements often drive early design decisions, these constraints need not limit the potential for joy, discovery and cultural expression in public spaces.</div> <div>Drawing from recent projects such as SubiEast, Ocean Reef Marina, Scarborough, the session will examine how early planning of pedestrian and active transport networks can shape and elevate the broader design. In each case, movement corridors were conceived not simply as routes, but as opportunities to reflect local identity, cultural narratives, and community needs.</div>	<div>Session Places and Parks Workshop</div> <div>Kelsie Prabawa-Sear - Nature Play WA</div> <div>session (11:30am - 12:30pm)</div> <div>Title: Where are the girls? Creating more inclusive parks and recreational spaces for girls.</div> <div>Do our parks have more facilities for dogs than teen girls? Join Dr. Kelsie Prabawa-Sear from Nature Play WA for an interactive, hands-on workshop exploring how to design parks and recreational spaces that better include and engage adolescent girls. Learn about current research and real-world examples shaping more inclusive environments and contribute to the development of a new Western Australian toolkit aimed at helping designers and developers create spaces that truly work for girls. Be part of the movement to make our parks and leisure spaces more welcoming, equitable, and empowering for all.</div>	Dr	1 hr	
12:00	Concurrent	<div>Session Participation and Planning 9</div> <div>van den Berg - SpacetoCo</div> <div>Title: Growing Utilisation of Community Facilities whilst reducing Administration</div> <div>WA-based SpacetoCo was created to address the issue of under-utilised community spaces. The SpacetoCo technology enhances the visibility and accessibility of rooms, fields, courts, pavilions, auditoriums, parks, and centers through an innovative online marketplace. The City of Cockburn, located in the southern suburbs of Perth, WA, with over 125,000 residents, has leveraged this technology to improve the utilisation of its community facilities.</div> <div>The partnership between the City of Cockburn and SpacetoCo is an example of innovation improving accessibility and utilisation of community spaces. SpacetoCo allows users to easily discover and book spaces through a familiar online marketplace interface, with individual space pages optimized for search engines. This has led to a significant increase in bookings, enhancing community recreation and leisure activities.</div> <div>The technology has streamlined administrative processes, particularly in managing transactions through secure online payment gateways. This efficiency has freed up City staff, grown facility bookings by 25%, reduced customer calls by 62% and led to substantial time savings in administrative tasks.</div> <div>This partnership demonstrates how modern digital tools can transform the parks and leisure industry by improving the discoverability and booking process for community.</div>	Francine	<div>Session Places and Parks 9</div> <div>Koning & Tim Yuen - Skate Sculpture</div> <div>Title: UNLOCKING POTENTIAL THROUGH DIVERSE DESIGN OF SKATE FACILITIES</div> <div>Skateboarding has unlimited potential because it is inclusive of everyone. People of all ages, genders and socio-economic backgrounds are not only included, they can openly compete against one another. It is perhaps the only sport where disabled people regularly compete against the able-bodied without limitations. Just look at the recent Olympics as an example of skateboarding's potential, where both an 11 year old girl and a 51 year old man were competing at the same level, and where a 14 year old girl became Australia's youngest ever Olympic gold medalist. Imagine being a child – of any gender, able-bodied or disabled – and seeing a sport where you are welcomed, accepted and have the potential to become a World Champion regardless of your circumstances.</div> <div>Knowing this, we as the designers and builders of skate facilities also have unlimited potential. With newfound reasons to diversify the design of skate facilities ("think outside the box"), we can unlock potential in ways unimaginable even 10 years ago. Not only can we create massive Olympic-level facilities in which our future Olympians can train, but we can purposely create all skate facilities to work in tandem to nurture and unlock this potential exponentially.</div>	Mat de	<div>Session Places and Parks Workshop</div> <div>Kelsie Prabawa-Sear - Nature Play WA</div> <div>hr session (11:30am - 12:30pm)</div> <div></div>	Dr	1
Lunch & Trade								
12:30 - 1:30								
1:30	Concurrent	<div>Session Participation and Planning 10</div> <div>Penney - ECU University</div> <div>Title: Informal Sport Participation: Research insights and considerations for policy and planning</div> <div>This presentation shares key findings from an ARC Linkage project that sought to extend understanding of informal sport participation in Australia and identify ways in which policy and planning at all levels of government can effectively support informal sport participation in communities. The project is the first in Australia to establish an evidence base about informal sport participation and identify specific areas of policy and planning that should be a focus for government and non-government stakeholders to address in initiatives and investments directed towards increasing community engagement in physical activity. The presentation will explain the extent, characteristics and benefits of informal sport participation, and identify enablers and barriers pertinent to policy and planning considerations. Resources developed that are designed to support stakeholders in considering new approaches, arrangements and investment strategies will be shared. Specific considerations to be discussed include: physical activity and sport participation strategies, facility development and refurbishment, facility use, booking systems, supporting infrastructure, funding for user groups, club governance and membership schemes, and community consultation. Initial adoption and opportunities for involvement in further projects to support increased access to informal sport participation will be shared.</div>	Dawn	<div>Session Places and Parks 10</div> <div>Humble - City of Perth</div> <div>Title: The City of Perth has a goal to transition to a Water Sensitive City by 2030</div> <div>One of the key drivers of the transition is the incorporation of alternative water supplies to ensure our irrigation water supply system is robust and responsive to a changing environment. An Alternative Water Supply Study by Wallbridge Gilbert Aztec (WGA, 2017) was undertaken to identify potential sources of water supply, its quality and quantity. In summary additional water is required to meet the predicted future irrigation demand of CoP.</div> <div>The irrigation demand is expected to increase as a result of climate change, a reduction in groundwater allocations and increase in irrigated areas. This study concluded that additional/alternative water supplies were available from the two main drains, however, the quantity and seasonal quality of water formed a significant data gap to CoP security of supply. As the supply and demand profiles typically do not align there are limitations of harvesting stormwater for irrigation purposes.</div> <div>This project would see the capacity of the harvesting system increased along with the construction of pipelines to other City irrigation lakes (Queens Gardens, Lake Vasto) allowing a reduction in Leederville aquifer draw.</div>	Blahe	<div>Session Places and Parks 10</div> <div>Hill - Director, SportENG</div> <div>Title: What does the future hold for the design, construction and maintenance of fields of play?</div> <div>While the fundamentals will likely always stay true, we are already seeing how technology is changing how we design, construct and maintain fields of play. In addition to the technological advancements, environmental considerations will continue to be more important in our design, construction and maintenance activities for fields of play.</div> <div>This presentation will provide an overview of the changes we are currently seeing and what the future will hold for the field of play industry.</div>	Jarrod	
2:00 - 3:00	Keynote	<div>Nick Cox, CEO - Belgravia Leisure</div> <div>Title: Guestology – The Art and Science of Knowing and Understanding Customers</div> <div>In today's rapidly evolving business landscape, understanding the guest experience is crucial to driving success. This presentation will explore a powerful approach to guest centricity that goes beyond traditional customer service. By focusing on staff engagement, understanding the difference between a customer and a guest companies can enhance customer interactions, fostering stronger relationships that drive sales and overall performance.</div> <div>We will dive into how the integration of new systems and AI technology along with the use of specialised contact centres can significantly increase leads, improve conversions, and enhance customer retention. Join us to discover the art and science behind crafting memorable guest experiences that not only meet but exceed expectations, positioning your business for long-term success.</div>						
3:00 - 6pm	Close Day 2 Regional Awards	<div>MC - Lisa Woodbrook</div> <div>Regional Awards of Excellence Event</div>						