



Inspired by
the past | **VISIONS FOR
THE FUTURE.**

PROGRAM

9-12 NOVEMBER | HOBART, TASMANIA



Letter from the President

I am thrilled to announce that Parks & Leisure Australia will be hosting the 2025 National Parks & Leisure Conference in Hobart, Tasmania — and we invite you to be part of it!

Our theme this year, “Inspired by the Past – Visions for the Future,” invites us to honour the legacy of our landscapes, parks, facilities and communities, while boldly imagining what comes next. Tasmania, with its rich heritage and breathtaking natural beauty, offers the perfect setting to challenge our thinking, spark innovation, and forge lasting connections across our industry. It is also the perfect backdrop to reflect, reimagine and reconnect. This year’s conference carries special significance as it marks the beginning of celebrations leading into Parks & Leisure Australia’s 100th anniversary in 2026. A century of shaping the places, programs, and experiences that define the liveability of our places, spaces and communities. This is more than a conference; it’s the start of a historic journey that recognises our shared achievements and sets the course for the next century. Together, we can inspire action, drive change, and create legacies that last.

Join us in Hobart from 09–12 November 2025, and be part of history in the making.

I look forward to welcoming you to Tasmania, a place where history and future meet to inspire greatness.

Kindest regards,
Kristin Davies
National President
Parks & Leisure Australia

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PROGRAM DAY 1 – TECH TOUR

SUNDAY 09.11.2025

Title	Explore the History and Nature of Hobart Rivulet
Time	10am - 3pm
Transport Type	Meet at Hamlet Café car park, 40 Molle Street, Hobart and walk from there
Cost	\$35pp for Cascade Female Factory Entry and Tour. Delegates to pay their own cost on arrival.
Description	<p>Join us for a fascinating guided walk along the Hobart Rivulet, where nature and history intertwine.</p> <p>This 2.7 km long track is remarkably successful example of long term planning and commitment that has seen an underutilised space become a critical community asset that links the mountain to the city. This tour will examine the multi layered benefits of this public space including minimising flood risk to the community, well used city and school access linkages, incredible biodiversity and natural values outcomes combined with multiple recreation uses. Learn about the boulder trap, and see the climbing wall before arriving at the Cascades Female Factory, a World Heritage-listed site rich in stories of the past. Tours on the hour of the Female Factory. Along the way, you'll have the unique opportunity to witness the Platypus Guardian, a remarkable presence in the rivulet's ecosystem.</p> <p>Your insightful guide for this journey is Peter Walsh, who will share knowledge and captivating stories about this historically and ecologically significant area. The tour concludes at Cascade Brewery. Delegates can walk back or make their own way back. An unmissable tour for history buffs, nature lovers, and curious explorers alike!</p> <p>Hobart Rivulet Park Greater Hobart Trails</p>
TBC	Welcome Drinks
TBC	Conference Opening with Hobart Lord Mayor

PROGRAM DAY 2

MONDAY 10.11.2025 | 7:30AM – 6PM

7:30am Registrations Open - Trade Exhibition Area

8:15am Official Open

8:30am KEYNOTE SESSION 1: Allana Corbin, overcoming adversity and extending your limits

9:15am KEYNOTE SESSION 2: Steve Sammartino, Futurist, Technology Entrepreneur

10:00am Morning Tea and Expo

	Facilities	Open Space	Innovation and Sustainability	Sports and Physical Activity
10:35am	Wrestling a 10 thousand Pound Elephant’ - Managing Sport & Recreation Facility Cost Guidelines – PLA Advisory	Managing recreation on Kunanyi / Mount Wellington – Greg Milne, Program Leader Bushland, City of Hobart	AI and Digitisation in Sport and Recreation: Building Smarter Systems for a Sustainable Future - Dr Lin, Xe, Senior Solutions Analyst, Office of Sport & Dr Juanita Weissensteiner, Principal Advisor Talent Pathways, Office of Sport	Designing for Belonging: Inclusive Recreation and Play for All - Dr Kelsie Prabawa-Sear, CEO, Nature Play
11:05am	Dive In: Designing the Future of Leisure with 10,000+ Voices – Michelle Devanny, Program Leader, & Kim Marshall, Team Leader, City of Kingston	Planning Tomorrow’s Trails – Anna O'Sullivan, Associate, Fitzgerald Frisby Landscape Architecture	PANEL - Beyond the Fairway: How local governments are leveraging golf assets to deliver inclusive, multi-use community value - Facilitator - Carly Goodrich, Head of Government Relations, Golf Australia	From Dream to Reality – Carmine Gallarello, Director, Maverick Recreation
11:35am	Regional Aquatic Strategies – Ben Bainbridge, Associate & Mal Kuhn, Senior Consultant, Otium Planning Group	The green approach to urban biodiversity and environmental stewardship – Monina Gilbery, Partner & Kate Torgersen, Partner, Torgersen Gilbey	PANEL Continued - Beyond the Fairway: How local governments are leveraging golf assets to deliver inclusive, multi-use community value - Facilitator - Carly Goodrich, Head of Government Relations, Golf Australia	Future-Ready Play: Legacy, Trends and Innovations - Ben Toussaint, Area Sales Manager, KOMPAN



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12:05pm	Lunch and Expo			
	Facilities	Open Space	Innovation and Sustainability	Sports and Physical Activity
1:15pm	Workshop: Cost effective modular, stagable aquatic/recreation facilities through innovative technology solutions - Mike King & Peter Brook, Director, PTD Studio	Feeling hot hot hot.... how do we make our suburbs cooler? – Katie Jackson, Urban Forest Programs Officer, Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action	Co-Designing the Future: Reimagining Public Parks for Evolving Communities – Kristy Welsh, CMO, GX Outdoors	Belgrave South Create Protect Love Project- Co designing Recreation Spaces with the Community - Jason Young, Recreation and Sport Project Officer & Ellie Ingwersen, Recreation and Development Liaison Officer, Yarra Ranges Council
1:45pm	Workshop continued: Cost effective modular, stagable aquatic/recreation facilities through innovative technology solutions - Mike King & Peter Brook, Director, PTD Studio	Navigating change: developing scalable and responsive operational models – Kerrie Davies, Senior Manager Operations, Greater Sydney Parklands	Designing for Healthy, Sustainable Communities – Kylie Mills, Director, Architect and Social Entrepreneur - BluKube Architecture	Designing for Connection in a Technology-Driven, Lonely World - Dani Eastwood, Brand Lead & Custom Design Consultant, Playscape Creations
2:15pm	Money CAN Grow on Tees: Reimagining Public Golf through Innovative Partnerships - Peter Vlahandreas, Managing Director, GreenSpace Management & James Catterall, Social Policy & Sport Planner, City of Salisbury	All Unleashed? ... Dog & Owner Behaviour Change Imperatives – Lesley Humphreys, Director, LMH Consulting	From Static Maps to Living Places: Mapping the Future of Recreation, Michael Cushen, Senior GIS Analyst, OneMap Maptivate & Chris Bulford Managing Director, Circ Consulting Maptivate	Brand Lead & Custom Design Consultant - Nadine Kemp, General Manager – Recreation, Y Victoria
2:45pm	Afternoon Tea and Expo			
	Facilities	Open Space	Innovation and Sustainability	Sports and Physical Activity
3:25pm	Navigating the Complexities of Aquatic and Leisure Centre Developments - Michelle Nolland, Executive Director, LARCAN	Creating Cool Parks as refuges from extreme heat events - Jason Summers, Director, Remarkable Trees	Considerations for delivering the vision – balancing expectation and legacy in a changing industry – Anne Sacco, Head of Design, Penrith City Council	Smashing Silos: Integrating Strategy, Delivery and Funding for Open Space – Helen Carroll, Senior Consultant, Ross Planning

3:55pm	Disability Sports – Community Facility Guidelines (Volume 1: Indoor) – Jason Leslie, Director, Otium Planning & Gary West Bail, Project Manager, Australian Sporting Alliance for People with a Disability	Setting Hierarchies and Service Standards – Richard Brown, Manager, Parks & Environment, City of Gosnells	Bendigo Low Line – a complex past and a positive future – Matt Kerlin, Coordinator, Active Communities & Brett Flavell, Coordinator Community Projects, City of Greater Bendigo	Children-centred co-creation of an active travel initiative: the ‘Park It’ program, Victoria - Dr Nicholas Hunter, Research Fellow, La Trobe University
4:25pm	The Evolution of Play: Inclusive Design for Connected Communities – Clare Della Bosca, Play Space Design Strategist, Tract	TBA	Habitat for play – Jenn Reed, Founder/Director, Urban Discovery	Where are the girls? - Dr Kelsie Prabawa-Sear, CEO, Nature Play
5:00pm	Drinks and Networking - Exhibition Area			
6:00pm	Day Close			

PROGRAM DAY 3

TUESDAY 11.11.2025 | 8:00AM-LATE

8:00am	Registrations Open - Trade Exhibition Area			
8:15am	Welcome			
8:20am	KEYNOTE SESSION 3: International perspectives of sport and legacy – Dy Currie, Principal, Principal at Dyan Currie & Associates			
9:05am	KEYNOTE SESSION 4: The Forest of Freedom (celebrating 30 years of democracy) - Bishop Ngobeli, Senior Manager: Protected Area and Environmental Enforcement, Johannesburg City Parks and Zoo, South Africa			
9:35am	PLA 100 Year Launch			
9:55am	Morning Tea and Expo			
	Facilities	Open Space	Innovation and Sustainability	Sports and Physical Activity
10:25am	Building Impact for the Future: Measuring What Community Sports Infrastructure Really Delivers - Erika Gee-Kot, Manager Program Strategy, Sport and Recreation Victoria	The Impact of Homelessness in public open spaces - Bishop Ngobeli, Senior Manager: Protected Area and Environmental Enforcement, Johannesburg City Parks and Zoo, South Africa	Ki Uta Tārei Ai, Ki Tai Rewa Ai: Reimagining Recreation Through a Te Ao Māori Lens – Kuruho Wereta, Kaiwhakahaere Whaihua Māori - Manger Māori Outcomes, Recreation Aotearoa	Supporting Local Government to Support Sport and the Participant Experience - Tameka Collins, Senior Program Manager Funding, Australian Sports Commission
10:55am	Workshop	How an Industry’s Past Has Grown to Shape Its Future: A Career Lived in Open Space – Shane Burrows, Business Manager, Solutions +	Sensing the Wild: Ethics, Technology, and the Thresholds of Wilderness Experience – Tracey Woods, PhD Candidate, The University of Sydney	Programs that deliver best possible outcomes for Sportsfield integrity when facing increased usage and scrutiny – Michael Bradbery, Technical Services Lead – Syngenta
11:25am	Workshop Continued	Aligning our vision for the future, through collaboration– Lara Zeccola, Senior Playground Renewal Officer & Martin Ralph, Coordinator Arboriculture, City of Casey	Trail Development. Trends, events, and the future – Neil Ames, Trail Development. Trends, events, and the future, MidCoast Council/PLA National Advisory & Lincoln Quilliam, Owner and Director, Trail Ventures	TBA



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12:00pm	Lunch and Expo & PLA General Meeting			
	Facilities	Open Space	Innovation and Sustainability	Sports and Physical Activity
1.05pm	Lighting Open Public Spaces – Andy Spivey, General Manager, Buckford Illumination Group	Natural Turf Sports Grounds – Best Practice Design Processes – Grant Greenway, Director, Endeavour Turf Professionals Pty Ltd (ETP Turf)	Inland Waterways - setting up safe swimming spaces - Suzanne Raven, Programs & Operations Manager, City of Paramatta	Using Data to Understand the Bigger Picture & Connect - Mike Morris, Head of Government Relations & Carly Goodrich, Head of Government Relations, Golf Australia
1.35pm	Developing a framework to quantify the physical, mental and social connection benefits provided by sport and active recreation facilities - Anand Pillay	Restoration Without End: Balancing Community and Ecology in the Ongoing Story of the Queens Domain – Emma Birnbaum, Program Leader Fire and Biodiversity, City of Hobart	Incorporating Green Infrastructure into Mainstream Asset Management for Climate Resilience – David Jenkins, CEO, IPWEA (Institute of Public Works Engineers Australasia)	Workshop: National Sport Infrastructure Action Plan, Sue McGill, Director, Participation Growth, Australian Sports Commission
2.05pm	Parks and Leisure in a Changing Climate - Flood Risk Considerations – Julian Skipworth, Director and Engineer, Cumulus Engineering	New Opportunities for Open Space Contracting Models – Simon Branson, Principal / Director, Green Change Solutions	TBA	Workshop continued: National Sport Infrastructure Action Plan, Sue McGill, Director, Participation Growth, Australian Sports Commission
2.35pm	Afternoon Tea			
	Facilities	Open Space	Innovation and Sustainability	Sports and Physical Activity
3.00pm	From Conflict to Consensus: Collaborative Planning for Inclusive Community Spaces and Facilities - Hayley Ashworth, Manager Sport and Recreation, City of Mitcham	Brick Pit Reserve Revitalisation – Sherry Siow, Senior Landscape Architect, COMPLETE Urban & Eliza Halsey, Northern Beaches Council	Workshop: Future of park & leisure industry - PLA Advisory, PLA Advisory Chair	Planning to Ensure Our Future Community has Space for Sport - Simon James, Manager - Open Space and Climate, City of Ryde
3.30pm	Play & recreation opportunities for Young Women - Aaron Wallis, Director, Playce	Fact-check: Is Your Organisation Excelling in Parks and Open Space Management? – Mark Corea, Principal Consultant, Xyst Australia Pty Ltd	Workshop continues: Future of park & leisure industry - PLA Advisory, PLA Advisory Chair	Regenerating and Accelerating Physical Activity: From Global Goals to Local Action - Chloe Dupont, Senior Facilities and Participation Officer, Maribyrnong City Council
4.00pm	2026 Conference Announcement & Conference Closure			
6:30pm	Awards of Excellence Gala Dinner			

PROGRAM DAY 4 – TECH TOUR 1

WEDNESDAY 12.11.2025

Title	Discover Hobart’s Sporting and Recreation Treasures
Time	10am - 3pm
Transport Type	Bus
Limit Numbers	50 pax
	<p>Join us for an unforgettable bus tour through Hobart’s premier Sporting and Recreation Precincts, where you'll see firsthand why locals and visitors alike love this vibrant city!</p> <p>Starting at Kingston Park this nature-based play space for all ages and abilities has nine distinct areas of play representing the aspirations of the community and inspired by native fauna and habitats within Kingborough. We will then make our way up to The Queens Domain - Hobart’s flagship reserve, renowned for its premier sporting facilities and expansive urban bushland. This tour explores how the City of Hobart manages the Domain as a multi-purpose precinct—balancing elite and community sport, ecological restoration, and public amenity in one of Tasmania’s most iconic open spaces. Walk through bushland areas where the City is undertaking prescribed burning, thinning, and threatened grassland restoration. Discuss the challenges of managing threatened ecological communities alongside heavy recreational and sporting use.</p>
Description	<p>Queens Domain demonstrates the complexity and innovation required to manage a major urban reserve for both sporting excellence and ecological health. It gives insights into:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Integrating elite and grassroots sport with bushland conservation and public amenity.- Adaptive management of fire and ecological processes in a busy, multi-use setting.- Real-world examples of balancing diverse stakeholder needs in a capital city park. <p>Includes: the Regatta Ground, the Cenotaph, Doone Kennedy Aquatic Centre, Hobart Tennis Centre, the TCA, Soldiers Memorial Avenue, Legacy Park (nature play), and the Soldiers Memorial Oval, culminating in breathtaking views at the Queens Domain Summit.</p> <p>We will end the tour out north at the newly completed Giblins Reserve – Regional Playspace which includes a multi-court and table tennis area by the water.</p>

PROGRAM DAY 4 – TECH TOUR 2

WEDNESDAY 12.11.2025

Title Brighton Council Sports and Parkland Tour

Time 10am - 3pm

Transport Type Bus

Limit Numbers 50 pax

Brighton is located approximately 20 kilometres north-east of Hobart on the eastern side of the Derwent River and forms part of the urban-rural interface of Greater Hobart.

The itinerary for this technical tour will include:

- 1. Bridgewater Parkland – This project was a result of extensive consultation and the delivery of a comprehensive masterplan. Some well-planned out play spaces, facilities and walkways. We should have stage 3 well and truly completed by Nov!
- 2. Brighton Regional Sports Centre – This facility opened in late 2021 and is an excellent example of a multipurpose facility. We are also starting work on a Masterplan for this site, which may be in Draft format at that point in time.
- 3. Ted Jefferies Memorial Park – A number of stages in the project should be complete by the time the conference is on. This will include the new parking area, off-lead dog park, sports grounds, clubrooms etc. The new bike skills and pump track will also be under construction at the time.

PROGRAM DAY 4 – TECH TOUR 3

WEDNESDAY 12.11.2025

Title	Intercity Cycleway Tour
Time	4 hours
Transport Type	Hire bike – conventional or electric (delegate choice when registering)
Limit Numbers	No limit
Description	Participants will join us on a hire bike to ride the Intercity Cycleway. Starting in Sullivans Cove we will follow the river past the proposed Macquarie Point Stadium, the Shine, then follow the path north. If we are lucky we might see the river dolphins. We will stop to inspect playspaces and sports fields. The final destination is the Giblins Reserve Inclusive playspace in Prince of Wales Bay. We will then retrace our journey, returning the bikes to Sullivans Cove. We might then head into Lark Distillery for a well earned whiskey.



PROGRAM DAY 4 – TECH TOUR 4

WEDNESDAY 12.11.2025

Title	Explore Kununyi / Mount Wellington
Time	9:30am - 3pm
Transport Type	Bus
Limit Numbers	27 delegates (plus 2 City of Hobart guides)
Description	<p>Hobart is a small city in a big landscape. Join us on a journey from the sea to the mountain summit 1270m above sea level, where stunning views and alpine landscapes await!</p> <p>Kunanyi / Mount Wellington is Tasmania’s most visited natural area. This tour explores governance and management issues including visitor experience, tracks and trails, heritage, partnerships with commercial operators and the community. Along the way we’ll stop at key visitor nodes including Hall Saddle, Fern Tree Park and The Springs - perfect places to take in the fresh mountain air. Enjoy short scenic walks to some of Kunanyi’s most iconic spots to experience incredible scenery and learn more about the mountain - an unforgettable way to connect with Hobart’s natural beauty.</p>