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PRESIDENTS REPORT:

With the half way mark of 2003 fast approaching it is timely we take stock of the achievements of the past financial year. A focus on those things we have achieved for ourselves and for our industry in the past 12 months may be the refresher needed to tackle the mountain of work projects and competing demands, that face us both personally and professionally in the next 12 months.

Key to this reflection is a celebration of achievement. As an industry we focus a lot on what is still to be done and little on what has been achieved. I know through my role in this association and through my own networks with in the industry the quality of projects that occur every year. I know of the quality of personnel involved, in the quality of the planning and project management that year after year creates a better stronger, more active community. That creates a better environment for that community to enjoy and live in.

Vic./Tas. Regional News

I would ask that if you know of a successful project in your organisation that you put forward a nomination for the 2003 Parks and Leisure Australia industry awards. Intra industry recognition is an important tool in sharing knowledge but most importantly in celebrating success.

We as an industry do so much that impacts on the wider community in a positive and life enhancing manner. We need to understand this and congratulate those who are excelling. I would ask you all to look through the categories and submit projects you feel may best fit. It is important to understand that those things you may feel as normal part of your job may in fact be clear examples of best practice. Sometimes the value of the work we undertake is clouded by our proximity to it.

I would also encourage members to view the Regional business plan attached whilst some of the objectives have already been undertaken it gives a good indication of the frame work we wish to run the local region under for the future. Any input from members is welcome. Though some thought needs to be spared

for our capacity to deliver on suggestions.

I would also commend both the upcoming regional training program which has a broad range of international speakers and the national conference in Perth this year. Both these forums offer excellent professional development opportunities to members.

In further news the report in to the benefits catalogue prepared by Bernadette Pinnell for PLA and Sport and Recreation Victoria has been completed and is now available.

The region has been successful in securing a further grant from SRV with a project for The development of draft risk management standards for implementation by public land owners and managers in establishing "Good Faith Immunity" for public liability. An action plan is currently being developed and further information will be made available over the next few months to members

Peter Utri
Victorian President

A BUSY TIME IS AHEAD

You will shortly be receiving brochures for a series of seminars in July and August, several featuring a number of distinguished overseas visitors.

- The first on 2 and 3 July 2003 and is 1½ day event at the MCG on "Water Use Efficiency on Public Open Space" featuring Dr Stephen Baker from the Sports Turf Research Institute in the UK and a number of Australian experts in an interactive workshop style event.
- The following week at Victoria University (venue to be confirmed), there will be a half-day seminar with Professor Bruce Hronek from Indiana University, USA. Bruce is an international speaker on Risk Management for recreation, parks and leisure services and previously worked for the US Forestry Service.
- Dr. John Crompton from Texas A & M University in the USA, the author of many publications will be the feature speaker at a breakfast seminar to be held during the third week of July on "The Economic Benefits of Parks and Open Space"
- On 8 August there will be a full-day seminar at the Novotel Hotel, St Kilda on "Community Access Unplugged" assisting understanding of contemporary processes that facilitate community participation and increase awareness of opportunities. The Seminar is being staged by PLA's National Interest Group 'Recreation in Disability and Specific Populations'.

A program of further events is proposed for later in the year.

4TH INTERNATIONAL RANGER FEDERATION WORLD CONGRESS

This week-long event was recently held at Wilsons Promontory National Park, attracting over 200 delegates from (an impressive) 36 countries. The Congress was officially opened by the Governor of Victoria, the Hon John Landy - Senator Bob Brown provided the opening address.

The theme "Rangers at Work - Improving the Practice" was a 'back to basics' concept, focusing on the practical skills of the ranger and on-ground delivery of protected area management.

It contained the sub-themes of 'Building Community Support', 'Managing the Masses', and 'Healthy Habitats' - each of a day's duration involving over 70 presentations, workshops and demonstration sessions. A field trip day and IRF business day were also part of the program.

Delegates from developing countries and World Heritage Areas - 28 in all - were sponsored to attend through over \$AUS81,000 was raised in direct financial sponsorship together with in-kind support.

A lasting memory of the Congress is a memorial plaque, located at Tidal Overlook, a quiet reflectful place, now set aside to remember those rangers who died whilst protecting the places and wildlife they were dedicated to.

EASTERN CHAPTER (Eastern Region Sport Recreation and Parks Network)

The next meeting will be held on the 19 June, 2003 commencing at 9.30am at the Box Hill Town Hall, 1022 Whitehorse Road, Box Hill. The topic will be FUNDING with speakers attending from Vic Health, Parks Victoria and Sport and Recreation Victoria. For more information or to RSVP contact Clea Smith at the Melbourne Sports Network on 9349 5781.

AWARDS PROGRAMS FOR 2003 - Parks and Leisure Australia

Considered putting up a colleague or your organisation in the PLA Awards Program for 2003. Categories include National Awards such as the Frank Stewart Award, Organisation of the Year and PRAV Playgrounds Design Award, or Regional & National Awards such as Manager of the Year, Open space Management, Innovation & Best Practice, Fleming's Nurseries Parkland Design. For guidelines, application form and closing dates contact Parks and Leisure Australia, National Office, Telephone 03 5444 1763, Fax: 03 5444 1783, or email: office@parks-leisure.com.au

PICSAR (Participation in Community Sport and Active Recreation) Project.

Project Coordinator, Melbourne Sports Network, is currently finalising a draft report for VicHealth. Key findings of the research will be fed back to all participants involved in the consultation process. For further information contact the Melbourne Sports Network on 9349 5781.

**SPORT & RECREATION
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (SRDP) -
Industry Development Project Fund**

Parks & Leisure Australia Victoria/Tasmania Region has been the recent recipient of a research grant from Sport & Recreation Victoria provided through the Sport & Recreation Development Program.

The successful project titled "Development of draft risk management standards for implementation by public land owners and managers in establishing 'Good Faith Immunity' for public liability" seeks to address the prevalent issue of escalating insurance premiums for land managers in their attempt to meet community expectation in the provision of public sport and recreation facilities.

Recent upheaval in the insurance industry has impacted strongly on recreation and sporting organisations, landowners and managers of sport and recreation facilities at the local level. It has meant that volunteers as well as providers of public sport and recreation facilities have been placed at a disadvantage in trying to re-insure their facilities in respect to public liability.

Identified in the March 2002 report "Review of Australian Sport Insurance" presented to the Sport and Recreation Minister's Council was the specific issue we seek to address. The summary report identifies a range of options available to sport and recreation bodies,

and landowners and managers. It recommends the development of "Good Faith Immunity" based on agreed statutory standards in regard to risk management of sport and recreation activities.

Invitations to tender for this project have been released through the National PLA e-mail discussion list and the Regional Council is hoping to attract positive response from the industry to investigate this issue and develop a set of acceptable standards for broad application in the public sector.

Tenders close on Wednesday 28 May 2003 and the project is expected to be completed by December 2003. Interested individuals or agencies should contact Christopher McCormack by e-mail (cmccorma@parks.vic.gov.au) or by telephone on (03) 5430 4645 or 0419 379 802.

BENEFITS

The literature research project managed by the Region (SRV grant funded) into the "Benefits of Leisure" has been completed and will be available shortly. The work was undertaken by Bernadette Pinnell of SGL Consulting Group and is presented under the categories of health, personal development, community, economic and environmental benefits. A comprehensive bibliography is included. The comprehensive report should become an excellent reference for the industry.

**PARKS & LEISURE AUSTRALIA
DRAFT BUDGET for 2003/2004 -
Vic/Tas Region**

Summary Items	Budget
Income	\$
AGM	\$500
Regional Conference	\$0
Regional Sponsorship	
Seminars/Industry Functions	\$8,785
Special Projects	
Social	\$2,975
Other Inter.Exch.-sponsorship	\$4,000
Total	\$16,260
Expenditure	\$
Administration Costs:	
Postage	\$100
Stationery	\$200
Other Admin. Costs	
AGM	\$400
Award/Scholarship	\$250
Newsletter	\$1,000
Regional Conference	\$0
Regional Meetings-Venue/Travel/Accom.	\$600
Seminars/Industry Functions	\$7,050
Social	\$1,050
Other Inter.Exchange	\$10,000
Total	\$20,650
Profit/(Loss)	\$4,390

Lynda Counsell
Secretary/Treasurer

**STUDENT PRIZE RECIPIENTS -
2002/2003**

The President of the Vic./Tas. Region is proud to announce the following student prizes given in recognition for student excellence in their respective advanced

diploma, degree and/or postgraduate programs. The award comprises a plaque, and one years' membership in Parks and Leisure Australia and is presented at a University graduation ceremony or at a Parks and Leisure Australia seminar.

In alphabetical order:

- Lydia Beshara*
Parks and Leisure Australia Prize in Parks and Gardens
Diploma of Applied Science (Horticulture)
The University of Melbourne-Burnley College
Madeleine Bisits
Parks and Leisure Australia Prize in Environmental Horticulture
Bachelor of Applied Science (Horticulture)
The University of Melbourne-Burnley College
Jeanette Webb
Parks and Leisure Prize in Park Management
Bachelor of Park Management
Deakin University
Jennifer Westphal
Parks and Leisure Prize in Recreation Management
Bachelor of Arts (Recreation Mgmt)/Bachelor of Business (Tourism Mgmt)
Victoria University of Technology

The Vic./Tas. Region appreciates and acknowledges the financial assistance offered by Australian Landscape Management in supporting this educational initiative. Australian Landscape Management address is Suite 9, 1st Floor, 902 Mt Alexander Road, Essendon 3040, Telephone: 9326 1992, Fax: 9375 7288, eMail: alm@alm.com.au.

NEWSLETTER DATES FOR 2003

Information for inclusion in the subsequent editions of the 2003 Vic./Tas. Regional Newsletter needs to be with the co-ordinator/editor: David Aldous (daldous@unimelb.edu.au) by the following dates - August 15 and November 14, so that the issues can be prepared and circulated to Vic/Tas members.

VIC./TAS. REGIONAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

Peter Utri	President
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Jayson Moran	Vice President
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Peter Goss	Tasmanian representative
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Parks and Leisure Australia – VIC/TAS Region Business Plan 2003

Mission (same as National)

PARKS AND LEISURE AUSTRALIA PROVIDES PARKS AND LEISURE PROFESSIONALS THROUGHOUT AUSTRALIA WITH LEADERSHIP, ADVOCACY, DIRECTION IN INDUSTRY STANDARDS, TRAINING SUPPORT AND PRODUCT INNOVATION THROUGH A MEMBER NETWORK OFFERING AN EXTENSIVE RANGE OF PRODUCTS AND SERVICES.

Vision(Same as National)

Parks and Leisure Australia seeks to be the peak Australian Industry Association that services parks and leisure professionals who plan, develop, manage or provide for community parks and leisure opportunities, which enhance and improve the quality of life of all Australians.

The VIC/TAS Regions role is to support the key directions of the National body through the implementation of the objectives outlined in the following table for the benefit of those working within the industry.

Membership:

Objectives	Action	Timeline	Responsibility
1. To retain and renew existing membership through member services to a high annual level of satisfaction	TBA		
2. To extend and expand the membership through increased industry awareness of membership benefits	TBA		
3. Focus on the quality of the product to members by ensuring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure the development and delivery of programs, advocacy and communication means are delivered according to the criteria set in our implementation plan 	Ongoing	All Council Members

4. PLA Awards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Actively promote awards and prizes 	When due	All Council Members, David Aldous (newsletter editor)
5. Regional Chapters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional Council Representation at least one meeting pa 	Ongoing	representative TBA

Professional Development:

Objectives	Action	Timeline	Responsibility
1. To deliver two Regional training events in Victoria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver an East Gippsland Region event that breaks even financially Deliver an Eastern Region event that breaks even financially 	March 03 April 03	Brendan Lange Lisa Whitehouse
2. To deliver one training & social event in Tasmania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver one training and associated social event that returns 10% net profit 	June 03	Peter Goss
3. To deliver four VIC Region training & two social events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 seminars involving visiting o/s experts CERM seminar Combined Horticulture & Leisure seminar at Mooney Valley 	July 03 Aug 03 Nov 03	John Senior & Nick Graesser Lisa Whitehouse & Christine Irvine Nick Graesser & Christine Irvine

Partnerships and Alliances:

Objectives	Action	Timeline	Responsibility
1. Professional development Badging Checklist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a comprehensive checklist that ensures partnership arrangements derive a quantitative benefit to our membership 	14 March	Nick Graesser
2. Create partnerships with other professional development organisations that satisfy the Badging Checklist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partnership with at least 4 organisations 	Dec 03	Nick Graesser

Communication:

Objectives	Action	Timeline	Responsibility
1. Regional Newsletters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Produce a minimum of 4 newsletters pa 	March,	David Aldous

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The newsletters to include and update or article from the President, National Board, Regional Chapters, Professional Development and Membership. 	June, September, November	As per portfolio responsibility
2. PLA Journal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PLA Journal Support the inclusion of 4 journal articles p.a. either by direct submission or through advocacy to the membership base 	Quarterly	Jayson Moran
3. ALM Journal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submit Regional updates from the Newsletter 	Quarterly	Christine Irvine

Finance:

Objectives	Action	Timeline	Responsibility
1. Annual Budget	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare a draft budget and distribute to Regional Council Adopted Budget to be distributed to Membership 	May 03 June 03	Lynda Counsell Lynda Counsell
2. Annual Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Produce a financial statement for the Regional Annual report 	June 03	Lynda Counsell

Advocacy:

Objectives	Action	Timeline	Responsibility
1. Represent PLA on boards/committees/panels/interest groups that have significance to professional issues relevant to the PLA member base	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Representation on VAIC; PICS&R; VIC Health; Horticulture Australia; PRAV and Tassie equivalents 	Ongoing	Full Council
2. Broaden networks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Examine existing list/scope of representative groups to determine which ones are targeted for involvement 	May 03	Peter Utri
3. Advocacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide an opportunity for the membership to express issues of concern that require advocacy to Government and Institutional industries. Issues to be reviewed by Regional Council and the correspondence referred back to the membership 	Quarterly	Peter Utri

Special Projects:

Objectives	Action	Timeline	Responsibility
1. International Exchange	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Investigate opportunities to link with/utilise existing Parks Victoria network/structures/processes for PLA members.• If Parks Victoria interested in expanding to include PLA (how? What is the process?)	May 03	John Senior
2. Study Tours	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Study Determine feasibility of group study/exchange including link country, logistics, purpose, target audience and financial options.	March 03	Discussed by Council at March meeting
3. Mentor Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Determine what role the Regional Council can play in facilitating/establishing an industry wide mentor program for members – structure, program/framework, logistics. Present discussion paper to Regional Council and draft paper to membership.	Sept 03	Nick Graesser Garry Henshall Lynda Counsell