

In Brief

Professional Development

A series of seminars and other training opportunities are being planned for this year. See the Professional Development article inside to learn more about how to become involved.

Team USA

The US Exchange Group hit Melbourne on 20 March, and have been busy meeting many PLA Members and visiting Parks and Leisure places of interest.

By all accounts, they're having a great time and gaining many valuable insights about Parks and Leisure provision in Victoria!

Email Discussion List

The Victorianas PLA email discussion list was successfully launched recently as a means for quick and easy topical discussion, debate and information sharing between Members. The next Newsletter will have further information about this initiative and ongoing handy hints for use and operation.

Newsletter Goes Electr (on) ic

The newsletter will be phased out as a hard copy publication this year. This Newsletter was planned to be the last hard copy, but best laid plans! Stay tuned for further developments. (Those without email access will continue to have access to a hardcopy text version.)

President's Message

A very happy New Year to you all.

I should start by thanking Richard Simon for yet another innovation – the Christmas function held at Pentridge, where I was able to wish seasonal greetings to the “captive” audience!

One of the major initiatives of this year is the inaugural group study exchange between the Victorian Region and the (USA) New England Region of the NRPA. More details are included in this edition. This should be the start of regular exchange visits with a variety of countries and can only enhance professional and personal development.

The Victorian industry has seen a couple of significant changes in the last month. See People Do, People Don't, for further details!

Martin Sheppard has taken on the education portfolio with great energy and is finalising a diverse seminar and training program for the year while Anthony Sherry has contributed a lot of time and effort to the Group Exchange itinerary. Work changes have forced Jerome Stuart to resign from his position on our Regional Council and will be replaced by Sharon Sykes from our Gippsland Chapter. Jerome's Treasurers role has been picked up (voluntarily!) by Lynda Counsell along with her existing secretarial duties. Your past efforts are appreciated Jerome and thanks Lynda for stepping forward.

I hope to catch up with you at some stage during the year.

John Senior
President Victorian Region

People do, People Don't

A regular feature in the newsletter, from now! Highlighting people movements in the industry. If you know of a recent movement, please drop a line to the National Office or Anthony Sherry to help keep everyone updated!

Richard Simon

After spending the past several years progressing local government authorities in various roles, Richard has moved to the heady world of consulting. Richard joins **stratCORP consulting** as Senior Consultant.

Richard is well known for his commitment to local government leisure issues and his successful and entrepreneurial PLA social functions, and is working on a number of other PLA initiatives. We wish Richard the best in his new and exciting role!

Helen Croxford

Helen recently departed the Darebin City Council after many years of committed service to the Leisure Industry whilst at Darebin, to take up the position of Manager, Leisure, Culture and Youth at the **Maroondah City Council**.

Alan Bull

Alan recently departed the Greater Dandenong City Council for a position with **Sport and Recreation Victoria**. Alan's role is to manage the Volunteer Involvement Program and coordinate a development project for this program.

Penny Wilkinson

Penny will soon depart Banyule City Council to join **Garry Henshall and Associates** starting after Easter. Penny has been integral in the development of leisure services and facilities at Banyule over many years.

Vince Haining

Vince has commenced at **Melbourne City Council** as the Group Manager Parks and Recreation. We wish Vince well in his new role with the MCC.

Rob Small

Rob Small is a new member of the parks and leisure fraternity in Victoria haven taken the new position of General Manager, Environment and Recreation Services with **The City of Greater Geelong**. This newly created position combines the parks and recreation specifier and service delivery, along with Environmental services.

Rob was formerly The Director of the Regional Parks Service in Auckland. Rob is the immediate past president for the Asia Pacific Region for the International Parks and Recreation Federation (IFPRA), and has been involved as a senior executive member of the New Zealand Recreation Association.

Vicki Davidson

Vicki was Group Manager Parks & Recreation at the Melbourne City Council since 1995 and has left the organisation to start her own business - **consulting in cultural change and strategic planning**.

Vicki had worked for the MCC for 12 years in total, utilising her unusual combination of qualifications (in psychology and economics) to advantage in community services and traffic enforcement areas prior to her recent role.

Vicki was a strong supporter of Parks and Leisure Australia (and its predecessor bodies), an active contributor to the Strategic Partners network and a willing presenter at the National School in Park Management (Melbourne University) and the Bachelor of Park Management course (Deakin University). Vicki also initiated the Parks Industry Breakfast series in 1998.

LATE BREAKING !

Lesley Humphreys

Lesley has recently announced her resignation from Yarra Ranges Shire Council as Manager Leisure & Parks Services. Whilst the move will be a loss for Yarra Ranges, it will be a gain for the broader industry as Lesley focuses her energies with **Sykes, Humphreys and Associates**.

Congratulations to all those who have made a move, whether you are listed above or not!

A number of strategies are being developed to deliver these key objectives. These strategies will include tasks associated with:

- Development of the 'Victorian Page' on the PLA web-site.
- Distribution of regular newsletter (Vic Region).(to incorporate Tasmania)
- Establishing guidelines and protocols for media relations.
- Promotion and marketing of PLA.

Richard Simon is the Executive Member responsible for the Communications Portfolio and would welcome any ideas/feedback on communications strategies. He can be contacted on 9524 3109, or via email on simonrp@smartchat.net.au.

Professional Development

PLA Victoria have developed a training matrix for discussion in anticipation of the proposed training and development needs for Victoria and this has been circulated via e-mail to the membership. The idea behind it is for PLA to identify the industry and its memberships training and development needs and then either promote directly or source training providers for the industry under a coordinated banner. We hope to be able to secure discounts for our members from other providers.

If members would like a copy of the training document please let Martin Sheppard know on (03) 9809 0685 or via e-mail on martin@smartbp.com.au

Best Value Information Exchange

With the change of legislation from CCT to Best Value, Victoria PLA have established a Best Value Information Exchange so that the industry can share information freely. The first Newsletter has already been distributed electronically and the second is being prepared presently and will be due out around 20 March. For people who would like to be part of the Information Exchange please e-mail Martin Sheppard on martin@smartbp.com.au.

PLA will be promoting a Best Value conference in July aimed at exploring the new legislation and what it means to sports and recreation provision with specific streams for grounds / parks management; health and fitness, recreation management; and Best Value implementation.

Any members who are going through any Best Value reviews who would like to share their experiences please let Martin Sheppard know at the above e-mail address or on (03) 9809 0685

Visit the PLA website regularly to keep up to date on all professional development seminars and training opportunities that are being offered, or to post the details of your own seminars you may be running.

REMINDER

Parks and Leisure Australia
in conjunction with the
University of Melbourne

Present a Seminar & BBQ

Parks and Recreation in the USA "A Comparison"

Featuring

Patty Carey, Guy Lefebvre, Marcia Noyes,
Dyana Lassonde and Mark Hyson
From New England, USA

Thursday 6th April 2000

3.00 p.m. – 5.00 p.m.

at

University of Melbourne - Burnley Campus – Main Hall
Yarra Boulevard, Richmond

Melway Ref. 45 - A12

Seminar & BBQ	\$25.00 \$35.00	PLA member non member
Seminar only	\$15.00 \$20.00	PLA member non member
BBQ only	\$15.00 \$20.00	PLA member non members

BBQ cost includes all catering, wine, beer and soft drinks

If interested in attending, pls ring PLA National Office on (03) 5444 1763 – contact Diana