Want to attend the 2014 PLA National Conference in Cairns and need help presenting a business case?

Well here are some suggestions.

The Parks and Leisure Australia National Conference is a collaborative, inclusive event involving government, industry, students, educators and organisations of all levels. This year’s event will focus on:

Communicate I Cooperate I Collaborate – Sharing ideas and resources for a healthier, happier Australia

The conference seeks to present innovative ideas, emerging trends and current issues affecting parks and leisure professionals and students.

Why should you attend

- Hear from a range of amazing international and national keynotes across our sector, including Ethan Kent, USA, David Bond, UK, Tania Major, Glen Jacobs and Paul Hockey.
- A diverse range of presentations and interactive sessions focusing on this year's theme will challenge your thinking and provide you with practical examples and ideas for how to better communicate, cooperate and collaborate in your role to achieve better outcomes.
- You will learn about innovative projects from around Australia and internationally, including state award winners, adding to your knowledge about what is going on in the industry and ideas to apply to your work.
- Get a chance to meet and network with other professionals from across Australia and some from overseas, make contacts you can later ask for advice once you are back in your normal workplace.
- Attend the Awards of Excellence Gala Dinner to learn which inspiring projects win from across Australia, and join us in celebrating high achievement in your industry.
- Participate in a technical tour which will show you practical examples from the Cairns area which will not only inspire you but give ideas for application in your local workplace.

I need to provide an outline of conference proceedings

This 3 day 4 night event is one not to be missed.

Sunday 24th August

The conference commences with a Welcome Reception on the Sunday evening at the unique Tanks Arts Centre located in the Cairns Botanic Gardens and hosted by Cairns Regional Council. This is the first opportunity for you to meet your fellow delegates to catch up on industry news and discuss the conference proceedings ahead.
Monday 25th August

The speaking programme commences on Monday morning. Monday’s session will open with Ethan Kent (USA) Vice President Project for Public Spaces, an authority in the practice of Placemaking, with experience on over 200 projects. Public open spaces make an enormous contribution to the health and wellbeing of Australians and a significant contribution to the economy, and ‘getting them right’ is critical to the parks and leisure sector. Ethan will draw on his experience from public space transformations in more than 750 cities and 55 countries to inform and inspire delegates.

Ethan will be followed by Cairns local Tania Major, who in 2004 became the youngest person elected to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC) and was named Young Queenslander and Young Australian of the Year in 2007. Tania will be speaking about indigenous collaboration.

Keynote presentations are followed by a full programme of presentations and workshops concluding at 5.00pm.

In the evening you will have the opportunity to network with your peers over dinner at The Salt House, Cairns Marina.

Tuesday 26th August

On Tuesday proceedings continue with a full programme across 8 streams with 4 concurrent sessions of presentations and workshops and concludes with keynote presentations by the inspiring Paul Hockey who was the first person with a disability to climb Mount Everest from the north side in 2005, and Glen Jacobs, a world renowned mountain biking specialist who has built and designed Olympic and World Cup mountain bike trails and race courses worldwide who will share his experiences from across Australia and the globe to deliver quality participation opportunities for both competitive and recreational riders.

Tuesday’s presentations conclude with the screening of the internationally renowned Project Wild Thing documentary. Project Wild Thing is a film led movement to get more kids (and their parents!) outside and reconnecting with nature. The film is an ambitious, feature-length documentary that takes a funny and revealing look at a complex issue, the increasingly disparate connection between children and nature.

Project Wild Thing is much more than a film; it is a growing movement of organisations and individuals who care deeply about the need for nature connected, free-range, roaming and outdoor playing kids in the 21st century.

Wednesday 27th August

David Bond the writer, director and producer of Project Wild Thing will join us to deliver a keynote address on Wednesday morning. David will be followed by the CEO of the City of Sydney Monica Barone. The morning plenary session concludes with a conference handover between the Cairns Regional Council and 2015 event host, City of Sydney.

On conclusion of the plenary session, technical tours commence and you have the option of one of the following exceptional tours on offer:
Tour 1: Outdoor recreation in community, sport and tourism contexts
Tour 2: Natural Area Shared Management – World class management of a World Heritage site to be confirmed
Tour 3: Community Recreation Facilities – Drawing on existing assets and local strengths to create unique community recreation opportunities
Tour 4: Cairns Sporting Facilities – Building quality sporting infrastructure with community partnerships
Tour 5: Public Spaces and private places – using collaborative partnerships to create vibrant leisure experiences

The final highlight of the conference is the 2014 Awards of Excellence Gala Dinner hosted this year by the multi-talented writer, presenter and comedian Jean Kittson. The Parks and Leisure Australia Awards of Excellence showcase the best of the best in the parks and leisure sector. National award finalists represent each of our 5 regions (QLD, NSW/ACT, VIC/TAS, SA/NT and WA) across 12 categories:

- Events Award
- Inclusive and Connected Communities Award
- Leisure Facilities Award
- Open Space Planning Award - strategic planning for open space
- Parks and Open Space Development Award - design and management
- Playspace Award
- Research Project Award (NEW)
- Sustainable Initiatives Award
- Use of Technology Award (NEW)
- David Aldous Student of the Year Award (NEW)
- Emerging Leader of the Year Award (NEW)
- Frank Stewart Distinguished Service Award

This evening is a celebration of the achievements of our parks and leisure professionals

How to explain your level of participation in the conference.

I plan to attend a series of seminars and presentations that specifically relate to my role as (insert role) at (insert organisation name). This year’s conference will involve 7 workshops and over 60 presentations delivered by industry leaders and colleagues across the following streams:

- Collaborative Leadership for Community Change
- Community and Urban Planning
- Getting Women and Girls Active
- Indigenous Collaboration
- Management and Leadership
- Parks, Environment, Biodiversity and Conservation
- Sport and Physical Activity
- Tourism, Arts and Interpretation
In addition to hearing about new ideas and approaches, I will have the opportunity to participate in workshop discussions on key issues affecting our industry, which will help me address some of the issues we face in our organisation. I will also hear from the leaders in my sector being this year’s Parks and Leisure Australia National Award Finalists. The 45 national finalists will be presenting in the main 2 day speaking programme and this conference affords a great opportunity to hear from the best of the best.

How to obtain further information about the conference


Alternatively contact the Parks and Leisure Australia National Office, 207 The Parade Norwood, P: +61 8 8332 0130 E: events@parksleisure.com.au.

Good luck and we hope to see you in Cairns from the team at Parks and Leisure Australia