



22 February 2007

**PLA 2007 Conference – Townsville  
Call for Proposals (due by 30 March 2007)**

Parks and Leisure Australia (PLA) is pleased to announce the **Call for Proposals** for its 2007 National Conference to be held in Townsville from 16-19 September 2007.

**PLA 2007 Conference Theme - “A PIVOTAL ROLE”**

Collectively and individually parks and recreation make a vital contribution to society, not just through the pleasure they bring, but in much more significant often under-rated ways:

- the opportunities they offer for family and community interaction, assisting the development of social capital
- the physical and psychological health benefits they provide to individuals
- the value of the ecosystem services they supply naturally - through clean air, water cleansing, offsetting urban ‘heat island’ effects
- the economic value they bring to local economies
- the ecosystems they preserve
- the diversity of landscape character they add, and
- the general quality of life they represent.

The theme of this year’s conference will focus on the **pivotal role** of parks and leisure and the importance of sustaining that relevance in a changing environment and challenging future.

Accordingly “**Proposals**” are invited which

- demonstrate leadership, research, innovation and/or initiative reflecting these considerations (probably presentation or poster format), or
- discuss and seek answers to related problems and issues, or challenge convention (more likely workshop or panel format).
- consider how can we take better advantage of this pivotal role?

Such ‘**Proposals**’ may be forward-looking or a recent initiative; they may be ‘big picture’ (industry wide) or specific best practice (case study) examples, but desirably have measurable outcomes. Relevant Proposals that also demonstrate a partnership or collaboration across sectors are encouraged.

In response to conference feedback, **high quality verbal presentations and “interactive workshops are encouraged, particularly those that enable interaction with the audience. We need a diverse program which will stimulate thinking, showcase best practice, provide ideas and suggest solutions to ensure parks and leisure continue to be responsive to that pivotal societal role.**

**Note** that there are no specific sub-themes; accepted **Proposals** will be arranged into logical groups within the concurrent session format by the Program Committee. For 2007 it is intended that there also be provision for poster presentations and accordingly there will be time allocated within the program to facilitate this medium.

All **Proposals** will be subject to review by the Program Committee. Submissions must clearly address the Theme and focus on the outcomes of the project / study / initiative to be presented. Once your **Proposal** is received, it will be assessed. Specifically it will be scored against the following criteria:

- Responds to the Theme and addresses key industry issues
- Offers opportunities for interaction by delegates
- Is interesting; challenging; and creative
- Proponent has good quality speaking skills

You will be notified of the success or otherwise of your presentation by 20 April 2007. You will then have three months to submit your completed paper / workshop outline. Completed papers / workshop outlines will be duplicated onto a special Conference Proceedings compact disk to be distributed to delegates upon registration. Please note that all speakers are required to pay and register for the conference either as a full or day delegate. Also note that all correspondence will be sent to 'Speaker 1' on the application form, hence it is his / her responsibility to ensure that all correspondence is passed onto co-speakers.

### **Additional Information**

- Applicants are permitted to submit up to 2 **Proposals**.
- Late proposals may only be considered should there still be spaces available in the program. Late **Proposals** that have been accepted by the Conference Program Committee as meeting all of the requirements may be added to a waiting list
- In response to delegate feedback from last year's conference, additional quality control measures have been added to this year's **Call for Proposals** such as the need to supply a referee and to provide details of any previous presentations, and also the opportunity for poster presentations.

Submissions must comprise (see following pages)

1. Proposal outline of between 250 and 350 words (including type of **Proposal** presentation, workshop etc)
2. Brief proponent biography and contact details
3. Independent referee (name, position, contact details)

and should be sent electronically to [alan@ghenshall.com.au](mailto:alan@ghenshall.com.au) no later than end of business **Friday 30 March 2007.**

### **Key Dates:**

22 Feb 07	Opening Date for Proposals
30 Mar 07	Closing Date for Proposals
20 Apr 07	Notification Date for Acceptance of Proposal
20 Jul 07	Closing Date for Submission of Full Paper / Workshop Outline
17 Aug 07	Notification of Date and Time of Presentation
17 or 19 Sept 07	Presentation of Paper or Workshop

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**Type of Presentation** (please tick one)

- 30 minute verbal presentation (including minimum 5 minutes for questions)
- 45 minute verbal presentation (including minimum 10 minutes for questions)
- 60 minute workshop
- 90 minute workshop
- Poster presentation

**Recent speaking/presenting experience:**

Please detail any conferences / seminars that you have previously presented at (title of presentation, name of conference / seminar, year, etc):

Type and Title of Event: \_\_\_\_\_

Nature of presentation: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please provide contact details of a referee who is familiar with recent presentations you may have given:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Organisation: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Context in which this person is familiar with your previous presentations (eg manager, colleague, conference participant, conference coordinator, etc)

\_\_\_\_\_

**Equipment Requirements** (please tick)

- Data projector and screen
- Whiteboard with pens
- Flipchart with butcher's paper and pens
- Other (please specify)

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**Additional Comments:**

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