



Australian Institute of Landscape Architects

VIC State President, Adrian Gray, AILA

In 2017 - 2018, the AILA Victoria Chapter office and Executive have been very busy engaging with the growing Victorian membership on a range of issues about the important role landscape architects have in terms of city shaping. AILA Victoria membership has reached nearly 1,200 building on the 1,000 member milestone reached in May 2017.

- The Chapter has done a lot of work to provide an event program that focusses on core landscape architectural issues for Victoria. This has resulted in various opportunities for engagement between members, sponsors (state and national) and affiliated networks. One such engagement required a statement of mutual support signed and issued by the presidents of AILA Victoria, Australian Institute of Architects and Planning Institute demonstrating the commitment to this collective voice questioning the plan to allow Apple to have a store in Federation Square.
- This Executive continues to support the 'Connection to Country' strategy launching the AILA Reconciliation Action Plan on the 25th July after two years of thoughtful consultation, initiative and leadership by the AILA Connection to Country Committee. The launch attracted around 100 people from various professional backgrounds.
- AILA Victoria continues to advocate on green infrastructure in line with The Five Point National Living Infrastructure Plan contained in The Living Cities Workshop Report. The Blue Meets Green event in November 2017 is an example of AILA Victoria leading the discussion across peak bodies with Australian Water Association and Stormwater Victoria. Another Blue Meets Green event is planned in November this year.
- With a State election looming later this year, the important collaboration between AILA Victoria, Australian Institute of Architects and Planning Institute of Australia resulted in shared advocacy on key issues while providing direction and solutions to all political parties leading up to the Victorian State election in October 2018. This is the first time that these peak bodies have come together to promote key issues in the lead up to a State election. Melbourne is awash with State led infrastructure projects and it is crucial that AILA/AIA and PIA advocate and give direction on how these projects are designed and delivered. AILA Victoria's election statement focuses on four key issues: Green Infrastructure, Cooler City, Active Transport and Healthy Landscapes that support liveability and well-being for a city that has just reach 5million people. These will shared with all political parties with meetings sought with key ministers and shadow ministers to discuss the importance of these issues.
- AILA Fresh Victoria continues to create innovative forums for graduates and practitioners. After two years in the making, AILA Fresh Victoria launched a new mentorship program in March that aims to connect young landscape architects with experienced professionals. AILA Victoria will share the process and outcomes with the rest of AILA as an excellent member benefit that can be delivered in other states.

AILA Victoria greatly appreciates the support of the following partners over the year. WE-EF Lighting, Austral Bricks and Masonry, Street Furniture Australia, Lawn Solutions, ACO, Glascott Landscape and Civil, Fleetwood Urban, PlayRope and City of Melbourne.

AILA Victoria members can look forward to a diverse and innovative calendar in 2018 – 2019. This calendar will include activities that discuss and address topical issues affecting the industry that members want to hear and learn about like pre-election work with AIA and PIA and the Blue Meets Green event. We will continue to work closely with the Executive, affiliated organisations and sponsors to help drive an event program that meets the needs and Continuing Professional Development requirements for a very active and engaged membership.