

CHRISTMAS CHEER...IT CAN'T BE TRUE!

We're not sure about the provenance of this, but it makes sobering Christmas reading:

- 4 people were reported with broken arms after cracker pulling incidents
- 19 Australians have died in the last 3 years by eating Christmas decorations they believed were chocolate
- 31 Australians have died since 1996 by watering their Christmas tree while the fairy lights were plugged in
- 101 Australians since 1997 have had to have broken parts of plastic toys pulled out of the soles of their feet

YEP! It's great to be Australian.

PLAY MATTERS.....

CONCEPT PLANS for two new accessible playgrounds have been prepared: a multi access playground in Nillumbik Shire, & a playground for Bayswater Park for the City of Knox (in collaboration with Sinatra Murphy, local artists & community members).

A regional accessible playground feasibility & concept has just commenced for the City of Banyule. One objective of the project is to ensure a high content of recycled material.

VERY SPECIAL KIDS

MJLA staff are designing the outdoor space at a VSK house for respite & palliative care for children with life threatening illnesses. We'll be creating a beautiful space to engage all the senses, while meeting the practical needs of kids in beds & chairs.

CONTACT US

@leisure - Head Office
Rear 534 Mt Alexander Road
ASCOT VALE VIC 3032
Tel: 03 9326 1662
Fax: 03 9326 0991
Email: leisure@jeavons.com.au

MJLA - Melbourne Office
1st Floor, 154 High Street
NORTHCOTE VIC 3070
Tel: 03 9486 8470
Fax 03 9486 1080
Email: jeavons.la@bigpond.com

@leisure - Sydney
4 Geoffrey Street
TURRAMURRA NSW 2074
Tel: 02 9488 8737
Email: suepym@jeavons.com.au



NOTHING SUCCEEDS LIKE ACCESS

Over 110 people attended our recent **Kids in Space** workshops: *designing play spaces for children with a disability*. The second in the series was recently hosted by Parramatta City Council (thanks to Lyn Morling).

Thank you to our key contributors:

Cr John Haines OAM Lord Mayor of Parramatta
Dr Anne Binkley Vic Uni
Karen Stagnitti Occ. & Play Therapist
Mary Jeavons Landscape Architect, MJLA
Mike Lanyon Achievable Concepts
John Moxon Physical Disability Council of NSW
Janet Robertson Macquarie University
Colin Robinson NSW Dept Sport & Recreation
Alan Baynham Manager VisionEd, Royal Institute for Deaf & Blind Children
Sally Jeavons Principal Recreation Planner, @leisure
John Baxter & Liam Whitely YMCA Special Kids, Special Needs Program
Margaret Cavanagh Kidsafe

KEY ISSUES raised in the series were:

- Organisation responsibilities under the DDA
- The need for councils to be inclusive organisations with:
 - Philosophy & customer orientation towards accessibility
 - Partnerships with access organisations & parents
 - Good choice of accessible programs & facilities
 - Information about accessible options & facilities
- Making sure we provide opportunities for social inclusion & pretend play (places that other children will come to, interact with a disabled child & stimulate play) eg. theme settings, cubby or house, a 'vehicle', a stage etc.
- Make spaces playful & removing barriers to access. As well as providing imaginative, creative/sensory & physical play for able & less able children to play together
- Local accessible/friendly local neighbourhoods are most important – not just big regional playgrounds
- The need for a strategy & plan to address access & inclusion issues, & supported by a budget to fund implementation

■ @leisure & MJLA are now members of the Association of Consultants in Access, Aust. (ACCA).

AWARDS

MJLA wins AILA Award of Merit for the CARLTON GARDENS PLAYGROUND

The Australian Institute of Landscape Architects jury noted: *"Taylor Cullity Lethlean with Mary Jeavons Landscape Architects (MJLA) are to be congratulated for achieving a distinctive & unified design that respects its historic setting & addresses the demands of creative play for spatial & visual variety...an innovative play park of elegant yet robust resolut*

PREMIER'S AWARD

Congratulations to the United Cricket Club – Bendigo, who Celebration of Ability Awards, won the Premier's award for outstanding achievement for including people with a disability. The club won the award for being a positive role model & contributing to the community's acceptance of disability through integration in mainstream training. Well done!!

AROUND THE GROUNDS

■ Skating along nicely.....

With a Wonthaggi skate park & master plan, a location and concept for Gladstone Park skate, assisting Bayside with a junior skate park & a BMX dirt jumps area, & assisting the Docklands Authority in skate routes & installations.

■ In the fast lane.....

- We are currently preparing a feasibility of Melbourne Sports & Aquatic Centre for establishing a school of sports & recreation management.
- We have recently completed an aquatics strategy for Shire of Glenelg, & a feasibility for the redevelopment of the Whitehorse Aquatics Centre.
- Preliminary findings have been released on benefits of an aquatics centre use. @leisure is undertaking the study of the centre's use. The next stage is to revise the survey instrument & sampling technique & sample three more metro centres if funds become available.

■ Courses for horses.....

We are preparing a business case for the State Equestrian Centre at Werribee for funding an indoor arena.

■ At arms length.....

We are assisting Gippsland Ports & an independent committee to review the impacts of a new speed limit allowing water skis & PWCs in a new area of Newlands Arm, in Gippsland Lakes

COOL & DIRTY

■ BMX WORKSHOP

The City of Darebin hosted our recent BMX workshop, & over forty people took part in a day of information sharing (thanks to Allan Wicks & The City of Darebin).

Sally Jeavons spoke on the benefits of having a BMX facility strategy & working with riders to construct their own jumps.

Judie Alabaster spoke on the growth & directions of the sports' peak body, BMX Australia.

Dinny Spicer provided a professional riders' much needed perspective, & explained the anatomy of dirt jumps.

Juhani Rousu talked about the value of BMX facilities to a town like Mt Beauty & gave advice on facility planning.

Mark Hands described the extensive work undertaken by the City of Greater Bendigo to provide for dirt jumpers.

Lynette While gave a comprehensive coverage of the City of Maroondah's experience in dealing with trails on inappropriate sites & the process of relocating them.

Melissa Rathje spoke on Banyule's initiative to set up a management framework for decisions on BMX jumps.

Michael Beasley (Jardine Lloyd Thompson) provided an entertaining view of the darker side of BMX legal issues.

■ QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Freestyle is hanging out with your friends & having the freedom to have a good time & not worry about other stuff. Just push your limits to see what you can come up with. We should call it freestyle again just because of the fact that you should do what ever you want as long as you're having fun". BMX rider, BMX Xpress.

■ HONEY, YOU'LL HURT YOURSELF

Statistics compiled for @leisure by Monash University's Accident Research Centre show 282 BMX injuries from 1995-2001 registered in hospital emergency wards. 31% were sports injuries & 56% were leisure related. Principal causes of injury were 1. a rider or passenger & 2. falls. The patterns had not altered significantly since 1998, however:

- accidents on the street & at home are down compared to those on sports & recreation areas, (45% to 14%). This is likely to reflect the number of skate parks now online.
- injuries to the upper body are also down (69% - 49%).

OPEN SPACE NEWS & VIEWS

■ MORE WORKSHOPS ON THE WAY

@leisure & MJLA will be holding a further series of workshops on open space in the new year. These will again be presented in conjunction with RAPI.

Workshop 1. Best laid plans.....The ins & outs of planning & master planning local parks.

Workshop 2. Open space contributions – making the most of them.

Workshop 3. Making parks: not just local – accessible.

@leisure can bring the seminar to you – phone us!

■ DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTIONS REVIEW

Public information sessions have now been conducted around Victoria as part of the Planning & Environment Act review.

The draft final report of the Steering Committee is available from the Department of Infrastructure's website:
www.doi.vic.gov.au/planning

■ WORK IN PROGRESS.....

■ @leisure is currently preparing a Revised Open Space Plan for the City of Banyule

■ We recently assisted Urban Pacific with their open space plan for the Springthorpe residential development

■ @leisure was invited to make a presentation at the 2001 NZ Recreation Association National Conference. Sally Jeavons spoke on open space planning & the use of planning standards. You can read the paper on the NZRA web site. The photo of a BMX rider (right) was taken in Christchurch as part of a site visit

■ Open space is developing as a strong theme in the City of Melbourne Recreation & Leisure Strategy. Open space provision appears to be a key issue for CBD residential developments, in the Docklands & to service the City's growing student population

Ampers&nd is the newsletter of @leisure & MJLA. Ampers&nd (&) is a handy typographical device used to connect ideas, concepts & things.

Ampers&nd

NEWSLETTER NUMBER 8

DECEMBER 2



*John
Thanks for your support this year
I hope you have a leisurely break
and I look forward to working
with you next year.
Best wishes
Sally*

from the team...

