Ampers&nd

NEWSLETTER NUMBER 6 FEBRUARY 2001

Welcome to Ampers&nd, the newsletter of Jeavons & Jeavons Pty Ltd. This is our first edition for the new year (the Chinese Year of the Snake).

SEMINARS

At JEAVONS & JEAVONS we've enjoyed the opportunity to give something back through our recent seminar series. For us it is about:

- fostering debate on topical issues
- bringing together the field & developing the networks with allied professionals.

Following our last seminar, a series of resolutions addressing the key open space planning issues was drafted, circulated & refined before being forwarded to the Hon. John Thwaites for response. We are also assisting RAPI to draft a national Open Space Policy.

We'll keep you posted. (Ring JRTP for copies.)
Feedback on the first seminar series included:

- enthusiasm about the venue (and the food!)
- satisfaction with the low price
- appreciation for bringing industry people together to discuss issues of mutual interest.

NEW SERIES for 2001

The positive response to JEAVONS & JEAVONS' first successful seminar series has prompted us to begin planning for our next. The focus will be on **'Kids in space'**.

Three seminars are planned:

- COOL & DIRTY Exploring the best way to plan & design for BMX racing, & dirt & street areas.
- SPECIAL KIDS Planning spaces & including kids with disabilities.
- PLAYING SAFE All about play equipment & play area design.

STOP PRESS!

The Hon. Justin Madden, Minister for Sport & Recreation, will officially launch the Skate Facility Guide (prepared by JRTP) at the Endeavour Hills Skate Park on Wednesday, 21 February, 2001.

GOING THE DISTANCE – HONG KONG

Clients of MJLA will continue to experience the benefit of Mary Jeavons' personal expertise – but at a distance – because Mary will be in Hong Kong for 24 months. With cable & web cam links to the Northcote office Mary will be able to provide leadership and communicate just as quickly as on the ground. "It's also an opportunity to upgrade our quality procedures, review staffing structures, & explore new trends & issues, especially in play" she says.

This has only been possible with an excellent team in the Northcote office. Our team includes:

- Mary Jeavons Principal Landscape Architect
- Maree Conheady Senior Landscape Designer/Manager
- Felicity Brown Senior Landscape Designer
- Jane Sandow Architect
- Katherine Masiulanis Industrial Designer
- Mark Hill Landscape/Architectural Draftsperson
- Elizabeth Cummins Student Landscape Architect

Watch this space for news from Hong Kong!

THE BENEFITS OF LEISURE

Parks & Leisure Australia & Sport & Recreation Victoria have appointed JRTP & HM Leisure Planning to devise a program to research the benefits of using aquatic & indoor centres. The project will include a literature review, focus groups & a pilot survey in centres. We will then seek partner support to conduct further research. If you can help please email us.

QUOTE ME...

The annual direct health care cost attributable to physical inactivity is around $377 million per year. Costs were estimated to be $161 million for coronary heart disease, $28 million for non-insulin dependant diabetes mellitus, $16 million for colon cancer, $101 million for stroke, $16 million for breast cancer, and up to $56 million for depressive disorders.

THE COSTS OF ILLNESS ATTRIBUTABLE TO PHYSICAL INACTIVITY IN AUSTRALIA: A PRELIMINARY STUDY

Ampersand (&): A handy typographical device used to connect ideas, concepts & things.

JEAVONS & JRTP
RECREATION AND TOURISM PLANNERS

MARY JEAVONS
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

The old dart(s) indoors

History tells us most sports have humble beginnings and eventually move indoors. Archers of medieval England carried at least two sorts of arrows: long ones for flight, & short heavy ones for self defence at close quarters. At the end of a day, for fun, they would throw them at a tree stump. In winter they sawed off a section of a tree trunk & moved the first dart board indoors to the tavern wall. Metal shafted darts were invented in 1936. Experts favour dart flights made from four turkey wing feathers.

School is IN!

More than ever before, children are dependent on school grounds for their outdoor play. Some children do not have access to a private yard, streets are not the option they once were, & children have many competing pressures on their time & attention.

More schools are recognising the strategic importance of outdoor areas & are attempting to provide a good range of physically active play as well as social interaction & opportunities for creative & imaginative play - for all ages.

Schools & parents need to resist moves to reduce play time at recess or lunch time, or to fill them with structured extra curriculum activities. **Free play time is vitally important learning time.**

MJLA are undertaking an increasing number of school playground research studies & masterplans. Recent Clients include Genazzano, Xavier, St Peter Chapel at Deer Park, Moonee Ponds Central, Benalla East & MacRobertson Girls School.

Rolling right along...

We are finding increasing interest from in-line hockey & speed skaters in outdoor facilities, particularly for training. This is a further indication that roller sports are maturing.

Many trail ways are not suitable for speed skating so roller hockey is forced into tight indoor spaces not designed for this purpose.

Two recent JRTP surveys indicate roller hockey is increasing in popularity and as many as 2% of children in our sample of 9 - 16yrs participate in roller sports.

Victoria victorious

Victoria has a growing track record of success in competitive roller sports.

- Dandenong Ladies Roller Hockey Club team are Australian champions & will contest the next World Ladies Cup in Portugal – a first for an Australian team.
- Vic. defeated Qld in the Australian State Championships in late 2000.
- The Aust. Ladies Team (6 of 8 are Vics) achieved the second best result by an Australian team ever at the World Ladies Roller Hockey Championships in Germany.

MONKEY BUSINESS

Horizontal ladders (or monkey bars) are a very popular item of play equipment – good for building upper body strength and agility. This item may become increasingly important as children now commonly have poorly developed upper bodies.

Monkey bars are also well represented in injury data. Part of the reason is likely to be that often children are using bars too high for them. It seems obvious that if a child is to be able to use the bars, they need to be able to reach them. But how high should they be?

We recommend:

- If there's only one horizontal ladder in a playground, make it no higher than 1950mm above the mulch.
- If there's room, we recommend two ladders at: Junior 1800mm & Senior 2000mm.
- Make sure that impact-absorbing surfaces are soft and deep and well maintained.

Skate park as art object
A simple suburban skate park in the Sydney municipality of Strathfield. (Photo: Mary Jeavons)

FAX FEEDBACK

MJLA 03 9486 4106
JRTP 03 9326 0991

I'd like more information on:

SEMINAR RESOLUTIONS ..... ☐
NEW SEMINAR SERIES ..... ☐
THE COSTS OF ILLNESS ..... ☐
OTHER..... ☐

name.....

email. .....

phone.....

AND THE WINNERS WERE....

Shane Darcy (City Mutual Plus)
Shauna Sherker (Monash Univ)
- special award for spotting three cows!
Lynne Josephs (Delfin Limited)
Megan Pritchard (Shire of Nillumbik)

WELL DONE!

at
ut
to tender shortly. The City of Darebin has

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