Ampers&nd

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Welcome to our spring/ summer edition.
Ampers&nd is the official newsletter of Jeavons and Jeavons Pty Ltd.
If the school year is coming to an end, then summer - and 2006 - is almost here.....

The Nature of the STRIP

The nature strip: "a dedicated landscaped margin for road reserves" was a result of the Garden City movement in the late 19th century. This movement's ideals were to merge the city with the landscape, and use garden suburbs as a vehicle for public health and social reform. But there are mixed views about the value of nature strips .

Edna Walling once said *'In Australia we call that strip of ground between the roadway and the footpath on which we plant living mops (pruned trees) "The Nature Strip." Anything less like nature could not be conceived!'*

The City of Unley (SA) encourages residents to beautify the land between the footpath edge and the kerb of the road known as the nature strip. *"By replacing the dolomite in your nature strip with loam and a variety of plant species you are not only helping to beautify your street, but you are also encouraging birds and butterflies to visit your area".*

Canberra also produces a guide for residents about their nature strips.

And did you know that:

> A person must not leave a vehicle (other than a tram) standing so that any part of the vehicle is sitting on a footway or reservation." (A reservation includes a nature strip adjoining a footway or property line.)*

On Melbourne Cup day we noted whole households and friends in arm chairs on the nature strip.

With increasing mixed use neighbourhood and higher density living, the nature strip may come into its own. Some planners say that open space development contributions should exclude nature strips because they are essentially road reservations and not for leisure purposes!

In Dubai they have other ideas (see pic below).

@leisure at LEISURE

With the footy season over and the cricket now in full swing, Michael and his team take ownership of the clubrooms and field. See below:

Awards: MJLA & @leisure

MJLA'S design for the grounds of Aurora school for deaf and deaf-blind children was awarded the Victorian AILA (Aust. Institute of Landscape Architects) President's award for playground design. The project was managed by MJLA's Katherine Masiulanis and built by Arena Gardens. The new school was opened by Premier Bracks.

@leisure recently won the Parks and Leisure Australia (PLA) planning award for the Vic/Tas region, in conjunction with Maroondah City Council, for an open space strategy that used a *'successful collaborative model utilising the benefits approach'*.

Falling SHORT

There are growing concerns within local government and industry circles about the number and quality of sports grounds across the nation. Recent news articles have highlighted that 'booming cricket, netball, football, soccer and rugby competitions are struggling to find enough grounds for record numbers of players.' PLA submitted a recent paper to SCORS documenting the very same issue, as well as raising concern over the appropriateness and capacity of grounds for sporting use. Local government insurers, Civic Mutual Plus, are increasingly concerned about sport ground suitability and playing conditions, requesting that documented sports ground suitability assessments be carried out on some municipal playing fields.

> **@leisure** has recently commenced projects with the Murrindindi Shire (a review of reserve management committees and practices), City of Whitehorse (sports ground activity audit) and City of Whittlesea (cricket/ football strategy), all of which will investigate the issues of risk management, sports ground activity suitability, and ground capacity and availability.

HORSES for courses

The first Tuesday of November at Flemington means 24 horses and their jockeys fighting it out for the coveted Melbourne Cup. Whether you visit the track, watch it at home, or simply enjoy the public holiday, for most of us its our only contact with equestrian sports. But equestrian sports include pony club, polocross, polo, endurence riders, adult riders, hunt clubs, horse cutting, and carriage drivers to name but a few.

> **@leisure** has recently been appointed by Sport and Recreation Victoria to explore the various roles and responsibilities of Victorian Equestrian bodies with the aim of developing a model for the delivery of equestrian sport to Victorians.

SEMINARS 2005

Coming soon...

8 December 05

ON THE MONEY

strategies, inspirations & COLD HARD FACTS...

about fundraising, sponsorships, grantapplications and community involvement in building and developing:
- playgrounds
- skate parks and
- community facilities.

for full program details visit:
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HOSTED BY THE CITY OF MANNINGHAM
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MANNINGHAM

Email any questions or register your interest to:
Allison.muller@jeavons.com.au

Watch this space...

Culture Shock Seminar
coming in early 2006.

MURDERBALL - people are dying to watch it

The world of disability sport is expanding - and it's received fantastic media coverage with the release of *Murderball*, documentary that follows the path of the US Wheelchair Rugby team to the Athens 2004 Paralympic Games.

Wheelchair rugby is the official name for a sport that originated in Canada in the 1970s. It's a full contact game played on a basketball court. The object is to get a ball over the opponents' goal line, as per rugby, while players crash chairs into each other trying to clear a path for team mates.

Documentaries such as *Murderball* definitely raise awareness about the ability of wheelchair athletes, as opposed to their disability. This encourages sporting groups to get active in providing opportunities for people with disabilities.

> **@leisure** has in house staff with specific expertise in the disability sports sector who can assist state sports associations, clubs and councils in the development of strategies to attract and cater for people with disabilities.

Leisure, sport & open space market analysis & planning
Rear 534 Mt Alexander Rd
Ascot Vale VIC 3032
Ph. (03) 9326 1662
Email: leisure@jeavons.com.au

Mary Jeavons Landscape Architects
1st Floor, 717 Nicholson St
North Carlton VIC 3054
Ph. (03) 9387 7337
Email: mjla@jeavons.com.au

www.jeavons.com.au

AROUND the (play) GROUNDS with MJLA

SPECIAL playgrounds

MJLA has been working on a number of special school playgrounds recently. Warragul and District Specialist School is under construction and there are a number of designs in progress. Both projects include some specially tuned sound sculptures provided by sound artist Hebert Jercher.

Vermont

Vermont's own playground catering for all abilities was opened last month. This exciting project in a very small space offers an intensive range of play details for intellectual and physical disabilities.

Ascot Vale

New grounds were completed recently at Ascot Vale Special School. This was a challenge as the playground is on a steeply sloping site.

Apart from providing for students' everyday play activities, the grounds are used for many other purposes. Peter, the Phys Ed teacher uses the grounds to teach bike ed skills (and each year takes a group of intellectually disabled students on the Bright to Wangaratta Rail trail ride).

Mernda

Designed by MJLA for Stockland developers, this big new playground - a major new asset within the City of Whittlesea - has a rural stockyard theme.

Designed to be largely wheelchair accessible on a sloping site, [complicated by the presence of large basalt 'floaters' just below the surface] the project has some accessible play tractors complete with sound effects.

Jamieson Way

A new community centre incorporating club rooms, a scout hall and other community facilities was opened by the City of Wyndham recently. The Jamieson Way child care centre (Point Cook) has a large new playground designed by MJLA, which is a fully accessible space offering a rich choice of natural spaces, planting, sand, water, climbing and sensory details.

Boroondara - extra staff

Following Council's adoption of the *Playgrounds Development Strategy* prepared by MJLA, the City of Boroondara has appointed a Recreational Facilities Gardener to work in Council's sixteen District, and two Regional playgrounds as well as Junction Skate Park and Hill 'n Dale BMX Park.

Significantly, the creation of this position provides the opportunity to design and manage landscape elements for children's play at these larger playgrounds. This officer is also responsible for general maintenance, graffiti removal and immediate repairs and safety audits of playground equipment on these sites. We congratulate Boroondara for its intitiative and commitment.

Watson Park Opening

Over 100 people attended the sausage sizzle celebration of this new district playground in Ashburton designed by MJLA and implemented by Steven Perumal. This is another good outcome from the play strategy in an area short of play facilities.

Playtime at Albury

Albury City opened the new MJLA-designed Patricia Gould Reserve playground on28th October. The design is landscape-based.Its sand, paving, and a range of multi-aged play structures, planting, and a paved chessboard attracts much interest. Two new shelters will be installed soon. The beauty of the seamless path access throughout became evident as soon as it was opened. This play space is only a few meters from a new elderly peoples housing complex in West Albury. These residents are likely to become an important user group, as the play space will provide a valuable multi-age attraction when families with children come to visit their grandparents.

EMAIL FEEDBACK & INFO
WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT ANY STORIES?
EMAIL: **kamila@jeavons.com.au** for further info or if you have any comments

ALL for ONE and ONE for ALL

Bringing separate sports organisations together within the one sporting code has become much more common in recent years. The advantages of a unified organisation include:

- having the one voice to represent the sport, combining infrastructure and resources, and
- increasing the possibility of receiving funding from State and Federal Governments.

Sometimes organisations resist change because they worry about possible disadvantages:

- will one organisation dominate the other?
- will the rights and opinions of each group be considered in the future?

Many entities have set a precedent. Recently, the Australian Golf Union (men) and the Women's Golf Australia merged to become Golf Australia.

@leisure recently completed a marketing strategy for Life Saving Victoria during the unification of Surf Life Saving Victoria and Royal Life Saving Society (Victoria Branch). More recently, @leisure has started on a strategic plan for lawn bowls in Victoria that will include directions for the Royal Victorian Bowls Association (men) and the Victorian Ladies Bowls Association to become Bowls Victoria.

EMERGING sports

With technology advancing every minute, a new sport has emerged called Geocaching (also known as GPS Stash Hunt). Players hide caches all over the world and place the coordinates on the internet. The aim - and the adventure - is to find these hidden containers using the GPS in the car.