NEWSLETTER NUMBER 15

AMPERS&ND

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Welcome to the autumn/winter edition of Ampers&nd, the official newsletter of Jeavons and Jeavons Pty Ltd.

MJLA PROJECTS RATE HIGHLY IN BOOK OF MELBOURNE'S BEST PLAYGROUNDS

A new publication Playing Around – A Guide to Melbourne's Best Playgrounds is a consumer guide to playgrounds all over Melbourne and in some rural areas. Of the eight public playgrounds rated best overall, (two of the 'best' list are supervised adventure playgrounds), 4 have been designed by MJLA, with a lot of design input into a fifth. At least fifteen MJLA playgrounds were listed overall. The book by Danielle Miller & Louise Overberg is published by GSP books.

RE 'SHOE' CYCLING

Nike together with EcoRecycling launched a campaign to save old runners from ending up in the tip. The scheme has seen a success in Melbourne, from collection bins located at Nike Melbourne City and Collingwood stores. The recycled shoes become a vast range of items, including playground surfaces.

GAME, SET, MORNINGTON PENINSULA

In the highly competitive market of artificial sports surfaces, Classic Clay is gaining popularity with clubs and Councils for its real clay feel; low maintenance requirements; zero water usage and its rapid drainage characteristics. Classic Clay surfaces will be investigated by @leisure who are currently undertaking a Tennis Facility Development Plan for the Mornington Peninsula Shire. The plan will address issues of adequately meeting future demand for tennis and recommending provisions for new and upgrading existing tennis facilities.

BANNING THE SIXER

Risk management is becoming increasingly important within the sporting environment with one metropolitan Council recently banning the hitting of sixes in cricket at a sports ground. A fine line exists between Councils providing a safe and enjoyable sporting environment, while protecting the community from risk.@leisure recently completed a sports field suitability audit for the City of Whitehorse. Key risk issues identified throughout the project included balls exiting the playing area, buffer zones and run off areas around sports fields.

ALL THE WORK ON SKATING IS NOT HOT!

The focus on ice skating in Victoria is heating up. Two rinks closed recently, leaving skaters high and dry. However a $60 million ice sports centre proposed for Docklands (to be built in 2008) will be an integral part of future Winter Olympic campaigns, featuring twin full-size ice rinks. @leisure is preparing a Strategic Plan for Ice Sports in Victoria, addressing how the sports will work together at the new centre and increase participation in figure skating, ice racing, curling and ice hockey.

SQUASH

US Forbes Magazine's healthiest sport is squash. Ranked out of 5 for cardio endurance, muscular strength/ endurance, flexibility, calories used (squash burned 517 per 30 mins) and injury risk, the top 2 were Squash (22.5) and rowing (22). Approximately 108,000 over 18yrs play squash in Australia. @leisure's Jake and Rob play weekly. But where are the facilities? Recent years have seen a sharp decline in the availability of squash courts, as their space is consumed by facilities that generate more revenue.

BOWLED OVER

Following success at the Commonwealth Games, Australia's top lawn bowlers lined up at the Darebin International Sports Centre to contest the lawn bowls Australian Open. Surprises all round with many medallists being beaten by the underdogs. @leisure is completing a Strategic Plan for Victorian Lawn Bowls which will focus on raising the awareness and profile of the game, encourage more people to participate and provide steps to a unified state body. Here are the team at Jeavons & Jeavons having a go.

ELIZABETH: OUR CORRESPONDENT IN JAPAN

Elizabeth Cummins is moving to Japan to take up a position there. We wish her all the very best and look forward to her correspondence. MJLA welcomes Lisa Abate as their new administration officer.

ACTIVE STREETS

The Run for Kids held on April 9th again proved why Melbourne is such an active City. $400,000 was raised for the Good Friday Appeal and the track had the unique feature of participants running through the domain tunnel and over the Bolte Bridge. Providing for active Melbournians requires sufficient open space in new (and existing) residential developments, and has been recognised as a potential major issue by Government who have engaged @leisure in the development of an Active City Strategy, designed to sit within M2030.

MOVE OVER MARY POPPINS, THIS YEAR THE WIND IS FOR BLOKARTING

When wind blows, it isn't just the sailors cheering. Blokart, the latest craze to spread rapidly through the country is wind powered. A design that looks like a go-kart, with a sail attached, is ideal for children, grandparents and people with a disability. Size, extreme manoeuvrability and no tools required to assemble, mean it can be used virtually anywhere. The Melbourne Blokart Club operates out of Old Dandenong Sales Yard or Ballnarring/Sandy Point beaches.

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PRODUCT PROFILE

The street surfer (pic below), could be one of most thrilling inventions since the bicycle itself. It has the rider feeling a sensation like they are surfing. A unique four wheel design and suspension system at the front, will be released just before Christmas.

And what about LandRollers - new skates with much bigger wheels that outperform inline skates on all surfaces and offer a smoother, more stable ride. They only have two "out of line" wheels on each boot and that increases stability. See http:www.streetsurfer.com.au and www.beyondtomorrow.com.au/stories/ep31/landroller.htm for more info.

Key issues in skate parks include managing conflict between these different users, risks associated with unintended users of bowls, getting parks through planning approval and keeping up the maintenance.@leisure continues its work on Skate and BMX parks for Casey, Maroondah, Yarriambiack and Mornington Peninsula Councils. This includes risk assessments, site selections, VCAT evidence, strategies, management plans and input into design.

EMERGING THOUSAND YEAR OLD SPORTS

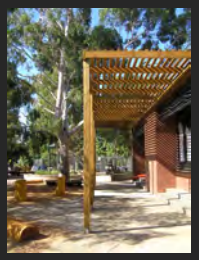
Kai, Woggabaliri, and Wana: These are just some of 3000 separate games identified to have been participated in by indigenous children going back thousands of years. Research conducted by Professor Ken Edwards of QLD's University of Technology, highlights that Australia's love of sport has been around since the time the land was first inhabited. BlackBase, a not-for-profit organisation, has begun reintroducing these games to many of the QLD schools. See the links below:

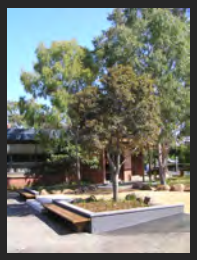
http://www.abc.net.au/cgi-bin/common/printfriendly.pl?/catapult/stories/s1530186.htm
http://www.ausport.gov.au/isp/traditional.asp
http://www.hlth.qut.edu.au/ph/research/projects/indigenous_health.jsp

AROUND THE GROUNDS

MOONEE PONDS

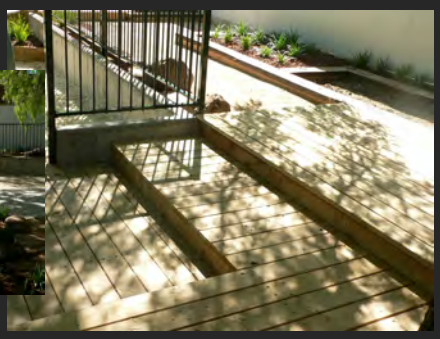
New playground and entrance landscapes were recently opened at Moonee Ponds Central School. The new play spaces provide a unique environment for junior students and have been enthusiastically embraced by the school community.





BERRY STREET, EAST MELBOURNE

The centre had significant changes imposed to property lines. In order to turn adversity to advantage, MJLA developed a design for the main kinder yard which makes a feature of an imposed level change.



MARIBYRNONG PARK ALL ABILITIES PLAYGROUND -STAGE ONE OPENING

Stage 1 of the new playground was opened on Saturday. Mr Bergin, a father involved in the reference group, spoke of the importance of the play area to his family and to the benefits of a socially inclusive environment to his son Alex. Artistic elements by artists James Cattel, musical highlights by Herb Jercher and a wide range of play activities add to the setting.

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