

Play Spaces Seminar and Site Tours

An intensive professional development opportunity focusing on play

5 — 7 March 2012, Melbourne

The seminar will be held over three days and will comprise a combination of presentations, case studies and panel discussions on Day 1, followed by two days of site visits to a diverse range of play spaces and youth precincts, with each stop featuring an onsite presentation and an opportunity for delegates to walk around sites and to observe users at play.

Delegates can register for all three days or for any combination of individual days.

Social and networking opportunities will be a feature each day, including an informal cocktail function concluding proceedings on Day 1.

Seminar Overview

Monday 5 March (1.00 - 7.30pm)

Seminar speaker sessions in the Supper Room, Melbourne Town Hall, 90 Swanston St, Melbourne, followed by a Cocktail Function from 5.30pm

- Understand the importance of play and its role in healthy childhood development.
- Hear how two regional playground strategies were developed from very different methodologies to produce innovative outcomes for their communities.
- Latest trends in play space design, placement, settings and functions.



- A New Zealand perspective for the provision of play.
- Different approaches to play space provision in Australia and overseas.

Tuesday 6 March (day tour)

Join delegates on a hop-off / hop-on bus tour to:

- The Venny (Kensington), a communal backyard and play space for children.
- Geelong Special Play Space (Botanic Gardens), a regional playground for children of all abilities.
- Central Geelong Waterfront, including the Eastern Beach precinct and the award winning Geelong Youth Precinct and Skate Park.

Wednesday 7 March (day tour)

Join delegates on a hop-off / hop-on bus tour to:

- Westerfolds Park for a presentation on the *Good Play Space Guide*.
- Presentation and tour to the unique Wombat Bend Play Space in Templestowe.
- Site visit to two neighbourhood playgrounds in the City of Manningham, a comparison to regional play spaces.
- Presentation and tour of the recently completed Croydon Youth Space, part of a larger precinct open space renewal project.
- Presentation and visit to the Children's Garden at the Royal Botanic Gardens (Melbourne).

This event is proudly supported by:



Enquiries to:
Richard Simon
PLA Vic/Tas Secretariat
Email: victas@parksleisure.com.au
Phone: 0459 358 243

Play Spaces Seminar

Seminar Program - Day 1

Monday 5 March

12.30pm Arrival

1.00pm Welcome

1.10pm What is play? The importance of play and its role in healthy childhood development

*Anne Houghton,
Early Childhood Consultant*

With over 38 years in the industry, Anne has seen many changes in early childhood education. She has extensive sector experience as a kindergarten teacher, author of children's books and as a community radio host, and her presentation will provide an important context for the value of the provision of a range play spaces in our communities.

1.30pm Play Ground Strategy Development

Case Study 1:

City of Greater Geelong Play Strategy,
Wendy Holland, communityvibe

Wendy is the Director of *communityvibe*, a consultancy specialising in community planning, and sport, recreation and forestry based projects. Wendy prepared the Greater Geelong Play Strategy, which is innovative in its approach by advocating a range of incidental play opportunities in non-traditional locations around the municipality, including within streetscape settings. The strategy recommends a selection of play opportunities that in today's somewhat sanitised approach to playgrounds might appear challenging for children with the perception of being 'risky'.

Case Study 2:

City of Wodonga Playground Strategy,
Debra Mudra, City of Wodonga

Debra is Council's Acting Director Community Development, and was the principal researcher and author of the strategy. Wodonga City is a rapidly growing rural municipality, and Council recognised the importance of having an endorsed framework and approach to guide the future planning and development of new and upgraded play spaces. A majority of the research and input underpinning this strategy was sourced from children – learn innovative research techniques in observing and engaging with children from this presentation.

2.30pm Latest Trends in Play Space Design, Placement, Settings and Functions

Ric McConaghy, Ric McConaghy Pty Ltd

Ric is one of Australia's leading play space designers having won numerous industry awards for producing unique and exciting play spaces in a range of settings and forms. His presentation will provide delegates with an informative, entertaining and stimulating insight into the latest and greatest in play space design, construction and use. Two of Ric's award winning playgrounds are included in the site tours on Tuesday and Wednesday: the Geelong Special Play Space and Wombat Bend Play Space.

3.30 — 3.45pm Afternoon Tea

3.45pm A New Zealand Perspective to the Provision of Play

Speaker to be advised

The New Zealand Recreation Association will be represented at the seminar by over a dozen local government parks planners and professionals. Some delegates will provide an overview of the key drivers and considerations for the provision of play spaces in New Zealand which will provide an interesting comparison to the Australian experience.

4.30pm Different Approaches to Play Provision

*Cathy Kiss,
Senior Parks Planner, City of Melbourne*

This session will explore the many different approaches to play beyond the 'provision of play spaces'. A number of presenters will join Cathy for a conversation about play and its possibilities. Drawing on examples, the panel will discuss different models of play work and play programming, including ArtPlay, supervised adventure play, street play, play-rangers and play pods; as well as reflections on free unstructured play in different settings.

5.30– 7.30pm Evening Cocktail Function

Venue: Room adjacent to the seminar room

Enjoy canapés and drinks whilst images and audio from Melbourne's ArtPlay continue in the background. The function will be the ideal social setting to mix informally with other PLA members and guests, including the delegation from New Zealand.

Play Spaces Seminar

Seminar Program - Days 2 & 3

Two day-long tours visiting a selection of contemporary play spaces located in Melbourne and Geelong that are suitable for people of all ages. Site tours include presentations on the development of the play spaces and their unique characteristics, and time will be available to delegates to enjoy the play environments or to observe users.

Included in the tours are morning tea, lunch and all travel to and from Melbourne's CBD.

Tuesday 6 March

(places limited as travel is by bus)

8.30am Bus departs

Medina Hotel, 88 Flinders Street, Melbourne

9.00am The Venny, Kensington

The Venny is a communal backyard and play space for children aged 5 - 16 years. The Venny clubhouse was recently upgraded and is a sustainable, purpose-built facility and helped launch the 'new' Venny in November 2010.



11.45am Geelong Special Play Space

The Geelong Special Play Space is set in Geelong's historic Botanic Gardens and is designed to encourage social interaction amongst children of all ages and abilities with a focus on including play opportunities for children with physical, social and intellectual disabilities.

1.15pm Eastern Beach Park

Eastern Beach is a popular swimming and recreation area on the shores of Corio Bay, Geelong. It is an all-ages play space with 1930s Art Deco style buildings, a shark proof sea bath, a children's swimming pool, a playground, kiosk, and dressing pavilion.

2.30pm Western Beach & Youth Precinct

Aaron Wallis (Playce Pty Ltd) designed this multi-award winning Youth Precinct, and he will lead a presentation and discussion for delegates.



The Precinct incorporates skatable spaces within a flexible use community activity area for people of all ages.

3.30pm Return to Melbourne (Medina Hotel)

Wednesday 7 March

(places limited as travel is by bus)

8.30am Bus departs

Medina Hotel, 88 Flinders Street, Melbourne

9.30am Westerfolds Park - 2 presentations:

The Good Playspace Guide
Cathy Kiss, City of Melbourne

Background on the planning and construction of the Wombat Bend Play Space
Joey Boothby, Rec Planner, City of Manningham

11.00am Wombat Bend Play Space

Wombat Bend embraces inclusive designs to demonstrate best practice in providing a play space for people of all abilities. Play features have been selected to foster creative development, inspiration and imagination, and to encourage the mind to explore.

12.00pm Visits to 2 neighbourhood play spaces

The purpose of these site visits is to understand the role of smaller neighbourhood playgrounds in the overall provision of play spaces.

1.15pm Croydon Youth Space

Presentation and discussion led by Cormac McCarthy, Maroondah Council's Open Space Coordinator, about the planning and construction of this recently completed 'playground' for youth.

3.30pm Ian Potter Children's Garden, Royal Botanic Gardens

The Children's Garden is a magical place where children can dig, build, imagine, create, and hide. Places to explore include the Ruin Garden, the Meeting Place, a Wetland Area, the Bamboo Forest, the Gorge, the Plant Tunnel, the Kitchen Garden and the Rill. Your tour will include a presentation by Coordinator, Chris Joy.



5.00pm Return to Melbourne (Medina Hotel)

REGISTRATION FORM

Play Spaces Seminar

Monday 5 March - Wednesday 7 March 2012

Please complete this form and return it by email or post to PLA **before close of business Thursday 1 March**

Delegate Details

Complete one registration form for every two delegates.

Organisation:			
Delegate(s) Person 1 (P1)		Email:	
		Mobile:	
Person 2 (P2)		Email:	
		Mobile:	
Organisation Address			
Purchase Order Number (if applicable)	PLA Member No. (Corporate or Individual)		

Registration Fees

	Mon 5 March Fee	Circle Delegate Code	Day Total
PLA & Play Australia Members:	\$120 pp (incl GST)	P1 ... P2	\$
Non-Members:	\$145 pp (incl GST)	P1 ... P2	\$

	Tue 6 March Fee	Circle Delegate Code	Day Total
PLA & Play Australia Members:	\$110 pp (incl GST)	P1 ... P2	\$
Non-Members:	\$135 pp (incl GST)	P1 ... P2	\$

	Wed 7 March Fee	Circle Delegate Code	Day Total
PLA & Play Australia Members:	\$110 pp (incl GST)	P1 ... P2	\$
Non-Members:	\$135 pp (incl GST)	P1 ... P2	\$
Total Fee Payable			\$

- Monday's fee includes afternoon tea/coffee and the cocktail function.
- Tuesday's and Wednesday's fees include bus transport to and from the Melbourne CBD, morning tea/coffee, lunch and entry fees, where applicable.

Registration Cancellation Policy

2-5 business days prior - 20% refund
less than 2 business days - no refund

Payment Details

Please tick your preferred method of payment.

<input type="checkbox"/> Cheque	Please make cheques payable to Parks and Leisure Australia .		
<input type="checkbox"/> EFTPOS	EFT Payments to: Bendigo Bank 633 000 116 489 691		
<input type="checkbox"/> Invoice	Please send an invoice to the above registration address.		
<input type="checkbox"/> Credit Card	TICK CARD TYPE	MASTERCARD <input type="checkbox"/> VISA <input type="checkbox"/>	EXPIRY DATE ____ / ____
	CARD NO.	<div></div>	
	CARDHOLDERS NAME	CARDHOLDERS SIGNATURE	

This form becomes a Tax Invoice. (ABN: 23 083 489 463). ☐ Tick if receipt required

Please email or post the completed Registration Form, together with payment to:

PLA Vic/Tas Region Office, 526 Hawthorn Road, Caulfield South VIC 3162, or
scan and email (preferred method) to victas@parksleisure.com.au

Enquires to Richard Simon, PLA Vic/Tas Region Secretariat on Mobile 0459 358 243

