



## Message from the Executive Director, Barbara Champion

It is with much delight that I write a message to you all in our new quarterly newsletter! The purpose of this publication is to provide a space for us to communicate together about outdoor play, to offer the opportunity to collaborate, share relevant information, learn more about research being undertaken, training events and getting to know our members.

Importantly it is also about creating a stronger voice for what we are passionate about; promoting the value of play for our children and communities! We hope that you will enjoy our new publication and will take a proactive role in advocating for children's outdoor play opportunities.

In our first edition we are keen to gain your views regarding the steps we need to take in developing an effective operational organisation nationally and internationally. Your involvement is vital to ensure that members are being effectively supported within the structure.

The Board of Play Australia, with the financial support of Sport and Recreation Victoria, has developed a **Discussion Paper** for the consideration of our members across Australia, on how we might continue the further growth and operation of the national organisation to promote play both in Australia and internationally.

We are very keen to hear your views on this proposal and any alternative mechanisms that would allow Play Australia to be truly representative across Australia and on the world stage.

Please send us your ideas and thoughts via email, post or phone. See page 4 for contact details.

Barbara Champion  
Executive Director, Play Australia



## The team representing our members

As part of the 'getting to know you' aspect of our newsletter we would also like to tell you a little more about who provides the leadership and governance for Play Australia. It gives me great pleasure to introduce you to your Board members



1. Cormac McCarthy, (President)  
Open Space Coordinator,  
City of Maroondah
2. Cathy Kiss, Senior Parks Planner,  
City of Melbourne
3. Felix Hemingway, Manager Urban  
Design, City of Greater Geelong
4. Jeff Speake, Director,  
Safe Play Systems
5. Pattie Morgan, Outdoor Play  
Design Consultant
6. Danny Wain, (Treasurer) Manager  
Finance Services, City of Monash
7. Paul Grover (Vice President)  
Director, Risk Management,  
Play DMC
8. Barbara Chancellor, Senior Lecturer,  
School of Education, RMIT
9. Alison Curtis, Engineer,  
Play DMC
10. Rachel Carlisle, (Secretary)  
Health Promotion Consultant
11. Barbara Champion  
(Executive Director)

The Board consists of interested community members who are elected at the annual general meeting to manage the legal and financial responsibilities of the organisation. The Board and Executive Director work together to develop the policies and aims of the organisation, involving an ongoing strategic and business plan to guide the resource allocation in order to achieve the goals of the organisation.

**Play Australia promotes play and supports those involved in play by providing members with information, professional advice and comprehensive training.**

# A landmark moment for children

This year marks a significant milestone for children's development throughout the world. On 1<sup>st</sup> of February 2013 in Geneva, the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child announced the formal adoption of the **General Comment (GC)** that outlines the importance of Article 31 within the *Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)*.

Play Australia<sup>1</sup>, congratulates wholeheartedly the dedication and success of International Play Association (IPA) who have been closely involved and advocating for the GC since 2008.

Now the challenge is to hold our Australian Governments accountable at all levels to demonstrate their active commitment to their responsibilities as part of Article 31. Play Australia takes our role very seriously to advocate for these rights and support our Australian policy makers to adhere to their accountability within the CRC.

*"Each element of article 31 is mutually linked and reinforcing, and when realized, serves to enrich the lives of children."*  
General comment No. 17 (2013)

Robyn Monro Miller, Executive Director of Network of Community Activities, and Vice President of the IPA, together with Barbara Champion, Executive Director Play Australia have recently met with officers of the Prime Minister's Department to advocate for the next steps to make further progress in realising the rights of Australian children under Article 31. We would like to share with you some of the comments from the **IPA Media Release** regarding the announcement.

<sup>1</sup> Play Australia is the Australian representative of IPA

## UN stands up for children's right to play in a landmark moment for children

United Nations adopts in-depth interpretation of 'forgotten' children's rights  
GENEVA - (1 February 2013)

Article 31 has long been considered "the forgotten article" of the Convention. The GC adopted today, however, will right that wrong by clearly defining the responsibilities of governments that are implicit in the article.

The stated objectives of the General Comment are:

- a) To enhance understanding of the importance of Article 31 for children's well-being and development, and for the realisation of other rights in the Convention.
- b) To provide interpretation to States parties with regard to the provisions, and consequent obligations, associated with Article 31.
- c) To provide guidance on the legislative, judicial, administrative, social and educational measures necessary to ensure its implementation for all

children without discrimination and on the basis of equality of opportunity.

Theresa Casey, President of IPA, warmly welcomed today's adoption of the General Comment:

Play, recreation, rest, leisure and involvement in cultural and artistic life are all interrelated and critical to a happy, healthy childhood. Problems arise when such activities are considered luxurious or frivolous. Nothing could be further from the truth.

They are all fundamental rights of children and IPA will do its best to continue supporting policy makers and practitioners who turn these rights into concrete actions. We are delighted by the Committee's decision to emphasize the importance of Article 31 in a General Comment, and are honoured to have assisted in the effort.

### About The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)

Adopted in 1989 by the UN General Assembly, the CRC is a treaty that defines and illuminates - in 54 separate articles - a wide range of human rights due to those under the age of 18. In a statement in 2000, Nelson Mandela described the CRC as "that luminous living document that enshrines the rights of every child without exception to a life of dignity and self-fulfilment." The Committee on the Rights of the Child is the body of independent experts that monitors implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child by its State parties.

### Committee on the Rights of the Child – Monitoring children's rights

The Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) is the body of independent experts that monitors implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child by its State parties. All State parties are obliged to submit regular reports to the Committee on how the rights are being implemented. States must report initially two years after acceding to the Convention and then every five years. The Committee examines each report and addresses its concerns and recommendations to the State party in the form of "concluding observations".



## What's coming up



### 'Outdoor play in early childhood services 0-8 years' Seminar

These seminars will help participants to understand how to get quality play and learning outdoors, and how to develop dynamic environments with natural settings.

These seminars will give people working with children in Early Years services information, practical ideas and support that can be taken away and implemented immediately.

Date: **21 June 2013**

Time: **8.45am to 4pm**

Location: **Conference Room - Westerfolds Park  
Fitzsimons Lane, Templestowe, VIC 3106**

Register online at [www.playaustralia.org.au](http://www.playaustralia.org.au)



### Two Day Training Program in June

This program will provide details of amendments and changes introduced to the Standard AS4685 and key details of all other Standards pertinent to playground management.

In particular AS/NZS 4422 which deals with ground surfacing, and AS/NZS 4486; Two key documents critical to effective playground management.

Date: **26 and 27 June 2013**

Time: **9am to 4pm**

Location: **Recreation House - Westerfolds Park  
Fitzsimons Lane, Templestowe, VIC 3106**

Register online at [www.playaustralia.org.au](http://www.playaustralia.org.au)



### Local Government Play Network Casey City Council (Members Only)

In-house design, working with developers. There is no cost for this session but please register your attendance.

Date: **24 July 2013**

Time: **10am to 1pm**

Location: **Casey Fields, Berwick Cranbourne Rd,  
Cranbourne East, VIC**

To register please email [barb@playaustralia.org.au](mailto:barb@playaustralia.org.au)

## Play Australia Member Profile WHO ARE YOU?



**Introducing Joey Boothby,**  
*Senior Open Space Planner,  
Manningham City Council*

**How long have you been a Play Australia member?**

I joined as a member of PRAV in 1999. I was on the committee for a number of these years and feel very lucky to have had the opportunity to develop professionally with such a great bunch of people and gain so much personal satisfaction knowing that we were contributing to the health and wellbeing of our children and the community.

**Is there a highlight achieved within your work at Manningham Council that you could share regarding an innovation for children's outdoor play experiences?**

Coordinating the creation of Wombat Bend Playspace with a great team of Council officers has to be a highlight for me as it allowed me to direct all my passions into one space. Wombat Bend resulted from a series of partnerships with creative consultants and the community who were closely involved in the design and significant community art projects. The space now provides a canvas for nature play, creative play, physical play and socialising.

**Why is outdoor play an important issue for you?**

How much room do you have!? These days – the value of outdoor play has become a personal experience for me. Juggling work and being a mum and constantly tuned in to work and friends with my iphone, it is becoming increasingly difficult to find space to take time-out and appreciate the environment around me. Being outdoors, exercising, socialising or hanging out in natural spaces is critical as it gives me an opportunity to relax and feel more connected to the world. When applying these benefits to children, the importance of outdoor play is much more pronounced as it is an instinctive necessity that brings with it so many opportunities to learn and develop and stay healthy. Unfortunately, incidental opportunities for outdoor play seem to be diminishing, therefore creating more opportunities that fit into busy lifestyles is hugely important.

**What does Play Australia do to encourage outdoor play?**

Play Australia has and continues to do heaps of stuff to create more opportunities to play outside. The networks it helps build and maintain is possibly the most meaningful contribution as it brings people together to brainstorm, collaborate, create, promote and strengthen the message that outdoor play is important. The **'Good Play Space Guide – I can play too'** also stands out to me as an important contribution as it provides a tool to help playspace planners and designers create engaging and inclusive outdoor spaces to play.

# Presenting the new play industry MARKETPLACE

As part of the quarterly newsletter we will be introducing an advertising feature in each edition. This will provide the opportunity for Play Australia members to support each other commercially as well as professionally. We hope that this will encourage collaborations and networking between different specialist service providers who are passionate to deliver quality play experiences for our children and communities.

Play Australia members have a **unique** opportunity to advertise in this newsletter and a dedicated MARKETPLACE developed within the Play Australia website. As a service provider this gives you access to a **niche** market within the play industry.

The revenue raised through advertising will be utilised to directly support our member related activities, resources and support. So helping us to help you!

Keep your eye out for our MARKETPLACE media kit which will be sent to all Play Australia members shortly. This will give you the WHAT, WHERE, WHEN, and of course HOW MUCH for this targeted marketing and advertising feature.

Play Australia members will be *exclusively* offered the opportunity to advertise within the newsletter and online



**PLAY AUSTRALIA**  **MARKETPLACE**

## Advertise with Play Australia

Take advantage of this **UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY** and **ACCESS** a **NICHE** market within the play industry

- Newsletter advertising
- Website marketplace
- Sponsorship

For all enquiries please send an email to [info@playaustralia.org.au](mailto:info@playaustralia.org.au)



1/4 page ad:  
125mm wide  
112.5mm high

Strip ad:  
60mm wide  
225mm high



Play Australia Member Newsletter  
PO Box 2060 North Melbourne 3051  
Phone 03 8846 4111  
Email [info@playaustralia.org.au](mailto:info@playaustralia.org.au)  
ABN 5401 5468 405

For more information on membership services, resources, news and events or to contact Play Australia please visit [www.playaustralia.org.au](http://www.playaustralia.org.au)

where ARE children  
IS where they play