

## **Joan Matheson Distinguished Service Award winner November 2014**

### **Mary Jeavons**

#### **DIRECTOR**

B. App Sci (Ecology/Geography) Canberra College of Advanced Education 1977

M.Landscape Architecture, University of Melbourne 1986

Registered Landscape Architect, Fellow, AILA

Mary Jeavons is a Registered Landscape Architect with over 25 years' experience specialising in the planning and design of children's spaces of all kinds.

As the director of Mary Jeavons Landscape Architects (MJLA), Mary and her firm have developed a core of expertise in the design and documentation of outdoor play areas in early childhood and early intervention centres, schools and special school grounds, public parks and gardens, therapeutic environments and the design of play and recreation spaces which are accessible to children and adults with disabilities. MJLA works with architects, local government and parents and staff in individual centres', to help them achieve their goals for their outdoor learning environments.

Mary is the PRAV, soon to be Play Australia, representative on the Australian Standards committee CS-05 for playgrounds, and has an extensive and thorough understanding of the practical implications of safety standards for the design of children's spaces. She is particularly interested in the relationships between space and behaviour, the importance of quality outdoor play settings, and the application of child development and education principles to landscape design, especially in early childhood settings.

**1982/82**      ***Office Manager***  
***"Mary Jeavons has kept the office functioning, during some very torrid times"***

**1983**      ***began Landscape Architecture***

**1989**      ***Mary presented at the Creating Natural Playspaces Conference in Adelaide and the following extract is form that conference material.***

***"Mary is a Landscape Architect with a great deal of expertise and direct involvement in play area standards and development. She is a consultant to PRAV and is well known for her input onto Australian Playgrounds Standards."***

**1992**      ***"Let's do something on the UN Declaration on the Rights of the Child"***

"An outstanding idea to recognise Mary Jeavon's service to PA in this way. What a deserving recipient! Mary has served the organisation in so many ways over so many years and has never lost her belief in the necessity of an organisation promoting the child's right to play. I was particularly impressed with Mary's contribution at the International Council of Children's Play conference in Estonia in 2013, where she spoke about the significant contributions Australia makes on the international playspace design scene. She wowed the crowd! She is definitely a great ambassador for children's play"

Barb Chancellor, Board member