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Summer Edition Newsletter No.2

Summer is a good time to review and update some past posts. This week the topic is play, recreation and leisure.

Not just accessible, but inclusive playgrounds

An accessible playground is good, but better if it is also inclusive. Having a continuous path of travel is a good start, but what if the child cannot leave the path to join in the activities? Four playgrounds in Turkey are the subject of a research report, which provides good recommendations and the reasons behind them. It shows how to ...

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Barriers to participation in sport

Professor Simon Darcy has co-authored a paper on the barriers to participation in sport. While the article is somewhat technical with statistical analyses, the methodology is a valuable model for researching the barriers encountered by people with disability in other contexts. Needless to say, the barriers were found to be complex, but where physical access is available, the efforts must now ...

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Inclusive leisure facilities: A design guide

A design guide for inclusive leisure facilities is an excellent resource for designers, policy makers and municipal authorities. Lots of drawings and graphics provide design guidance and highlight the key points. Using the principles of universal design means

that it is not a standardised design template. Privacy and comfort for all users is one of the key elements. Mixed gender ...

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Playspaces: What children said

The voices of children are rarely heard in research literature. So the Launceston Children's Views of Play Spaces report is good to see. The researchers believe that children are competent social beings and have a right to be heard. The report's findings detail what the children wanted from a playspace. Socialisation was a key theme. Children wanted activities they could ...

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Thrills, spills and inclusion

Theme park rides often have rules about who can ride based on body size, health conditions and ability. But these rules are sometimes needlessly excluding. Ride manufacturers' produce a manual for the park owners with very broad references to disability. These rules are set with the idea of protecting riders. But are these needed? With enough information most people would ...

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Transgender, recreation and inclusion

People who identify as transgender are often concerned about their safety in public recreation situations. Dreaming About Access: The Experiences of Transgender Individuals in Public Recreation is a report of the qualitative research undertaken by Linda Oakleaf and Laurel P. Richmond. Designing for the inclusion of people who identify as transgender is not just about participation. It also affirms their worth and dignity. ...

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Inclusive play spaces: Yes I can.

The arrival of Liberty Swing showed that children with disability should be considered in play spaces. But play space design has come a long way since their introduction. To help people with the design of inclusive play spaces, NSW Government has devised Everyone Can Play guideline. This document takes inclusive thinking a step further and considers parents and grandparents. Convenience for ...

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Placemaking Toolkit

Designing public space is seen as something for trained professionals. But the Placemaking Toolkit shows how community groups and residents can do their own place make-over. The Guide is for community-driven, low-cost public space transformation. With the support of local government anyone can change a neglected space in their neighbourhood into a clean and safe play area or park. This ...

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Let's go to the park

The design of parks and playgrounds are often considered from the perspective of children and younger adults. But what about older adults? An Australian study by Stephen Gibson looked at this issue and found that the motivations to visit parks differed between older and younger adults. Natural environment, and park amenity was the strongest predictor of encouraging older adults to ...

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Playgrounds and mental health

Access to play spaces can improve mental well-being as children grow up according to an article by Alice Covatta . She argues that there is a connection between lack of play and the rise of mental health conditions. The way we design our urban areas has an impact on play in outdoor locations and this in turn either encourages or discourages play. The ...

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Conferences and calls for papers

4th Australian Universal Design Conference. Early announcement of Keynote speakers: James Thurston from 3Gitc, the Global Initiative for Inclusive ICTs, will talk about smart cities. Philip Taylor will share his passion about older people and workforce issues. The conference will be held 12-13 May 2020 at Melbourne Showground's brand new Victoria Pavilion. The theme is Thriving with Universal Design: Everyone, ...

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