

# Nature Play WA Inc ANNUAL REPORT

1 July 2012 – 30 June 2013



*Nature Play*  
WA

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



Department of  
Sport and Recreation

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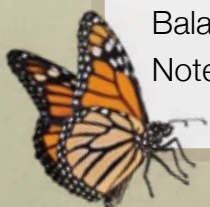
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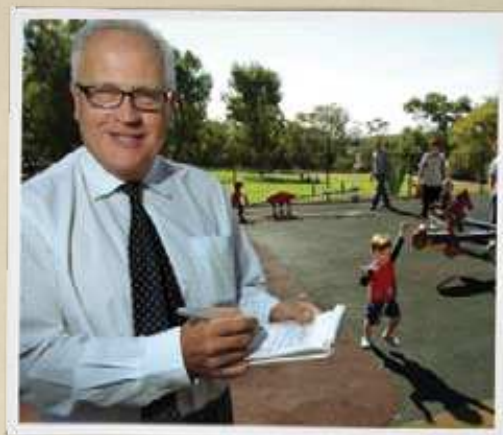
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# INTRODUCTION

## Chair of the Board Dr David Roberts



Nature Play WA was founded with the Department of Sport and Recreation's four-year grant. We are now at the midpoint of that period. The past year has, in one sense, been one of consolidation, in another it has been one of continuing rapid progress in both established programs and newly launched ones. With the growth of staff and activity, we have moved to new premises at WA Sports Lotteries House, Challenge Stadium; and have seen the need to lease additional floor space.

The growth and development of the 'Passport to an Amazing Childhood' initiative has seen 65,000 passports distributed this past year, with the expansion of missions from 10 to 120 and an upgrade to the Nature Play WA website supporting the passport interface. The Active School Diaries program has completed its pilot year, and moves onto roll out. Nature Play WA has commenced consultancy developing new play spaces. We held a second Nature Play WA function at Rottnest – a geocaching competition between schools – with plans to make it an annual event. Nature Play WA's media exposure has grown from its high base in our first year, and I here acknowledge the expertise of our CEO Griffin Longley. We sponsored the advocacy event, 'Child's Play in a Risk Averse World', presented by UK play expert Tim Gill.

I am also pleased to announce the Western Australian Governor, Mr Malcolm McCusker AC CVO QC, and his wife, Ms Tonya McCusker, came on board as Nature Play WA patrons in July 2012. We look forward to a long and supportive relationship into the future.

Speaking now at the midpoint of the term of our grant, the Board has focussed over the past year on establishing alternative funding sources to ensure our independence from government support. We have developed and pursued a number of opportunities to establish funding streams. Some are operational, such as the consultancy service. Others are not at the stage of public announcement, albeit close. As the Chairman, I hold a cautious optimism as to our financial viability independent of government support before the Department of Sport and Recreation grant expires.

The second great challenge we face has to do with positioning Nature Play WA as an organisation that will remain viable into the future. It is to this end that the Board is actively reviewing our governance. Different models are being examined to restructure the Board and membership of Nature Play WA, to bring into the organisation the expertise relevant for Nature Play WA to survive and grow as a not-for-profit organisation that is not dependent on government support.

I close by thanking a number of people; first, my fellow Board members for their support over the year, and secondly Griffin Longley and the staff for their dedication and enthusiasm. I have every confidence Nature Play WA will enjoy further success in the next year. And so, I present the Nature Play WA 2013 Annual Report.



# INTRODUCTION

## Chief Executive Officer Griffin Longley



It has been a year of growth for Nature Play WA. In the 12 months of this financial year, just our second as an independent, and funded, organisation, we have expanded our existing programs, started new ones, grown our staff, moved offices, launched events and become a feature in WA's media landscape.

Our flagship passport program has now been delivered to more than 115,000 WA children, a remarkable achievement that has led to national and international recognition and partnerships. The program has also benefited from the December launch of our new online passport interface which has increased the number of mission options from 10 to 120 missions across 17 categories, allowed children to create a digital avatar, optimised for use on mobile devices, created option to rate missions, upload photos, provide comments on the activities and suggest new mission ideas.

We also launched our Active School Diary project which saw 2000 WA kids receive a Nature Play designed diary that included outdoor play as a part of every day's homework. This pilot trial saw diaries sold on a partial cost recovery basis, with orders received from eight regional and seven metro schools.

Nature Play ran two significant events during the year. The first was a two part advocacy event, in November, with UK play expert Tim Gill. One session was run for local government and was attended by 83 representatives, including mayors, CEOs, councillors and local government staff. And the second session was held for school decision makers, and was attended by representatives from 27 schools across WA plus peak education bodies and various State Government departments.

Our second major event was the HBF Geo-Challenge which we held on Rottnest in April in partnership with the Rottnest Island Authority. The event was fully allocated with 51 teams from 31 Perth schools competing for the Geo-Challenge Cup.

Another significant development in 2012/2013 was the organisation's move into play spaces consulting and resource provision. We took our first foray into a paid consultation arrangement by assisting Rio Tinto with community consultation activities for a planned nature-based playground in Wickham, WA in November 2012. We also hired a dedicated play spaces staff member in April.

Throughout this busy year Nature Play WA has also positioned itself both as a respected commentator on news issues as well as a reliable content generator. Over the 2012/2013 financial year this unique positioning resulted in the generation of 70 media spots with a broad spread across traditional and new media.

# ABOUT US

## Vision

For unstructured, outdoor play to become a normal part of every WA child's daily life, so they can develop into resilient, healthy and creative members of the community.

## Mission

To work innovatively and collaboratively to make nature play a normal part of childhood again.

Our primary target group is families of children aged 0-12 years.

## Guiding Principles

- **Collaboration:** We will work collaboratively with our partners and stakeholders.
- **Community based:** The primary focus of our efforts will be in working directly with families and community groups.
- **Flexibility:** We will be flexible, agile and innovative in our approach.
- **Respect:** Respect for nature and others is fundamental to our mission.
- **Equity:** We will strive to service WA's diverse community equitably.



Being outside is the  
biggest determinant  
of physical activity.

James Sallis, Health Psychology, 1993



Aussie kids take 2000 fewer steps per day than required to avoid becoming overweight or obese.



Children spend more time indoors than our maximum security prisoners.

## Who we are

Nature Play WA is an incorporated not-for-profit organisation committed to helping Western Australian families make unstructured play outdoors, “nature play”, a normal part of their daily lives.

We are a collaborative organisation with 18 founding Western Australian partner groups from across a diverse range of sectors including health, environment, education and sport.

Nature Play WA strives to develop novel initiatives and resources that inspire children to play, learn and be physically active in nature while raising awareness of the importance of unstructured outdoor play on children’s health, wellbeing and resilience.

Our core objectives are to:

- Increase awareness among all Western Australian parents of the benefits of nature play.
- Increase opportunities for families to participate in nature play activities.
- Create new resources and promote existing resources that make nature play easy and accessible.
- Establish a broad communication network with partner groups and WA families.
- Advocate for the importance of nature play to government and private bodies and agencies who work with children.

# PROGRAMS

## ‘Passport to an Amazing Childhood’ Initiative

The ‘Passport to an Amazing Childhood’ program is Nature Play WA’s flagship child engagement initiative designed to get kids (3 - 12+) playing in nature by completing fun, outdoor ‘missions’.

The missions are typically easy, low (or no) cost activities like ‘climb a tree’, ‘build a cubby’ or ‘ride your bike’ and can be accessed online through the Nature Play WA website.

The online interface is accompanied by an optional hardcopy passport, provided free to Western Australians. These include suggestions on great places to go and things to do outdoors in our beautiful State along with a list of 15 things every kid should do before they’re twelve.



### Passport benefits

- Provides an easy, fun introduction to outdoor play for those with little experience.
- Distribution through educational institutions validates the importance of nature play in child development for parents.
- Provides educators with opportunities to incorporate nature play into the curriculum.



## All aboard!

The passport initiative has been met with extraordinary enthusiasm from WA schools, families and children. More than 115,000 passports have been distributed through schools, community groups, counselling services, childcare providers, parent groups and events since the program began in April 2011, with 65,000 of these distributed this financial year.

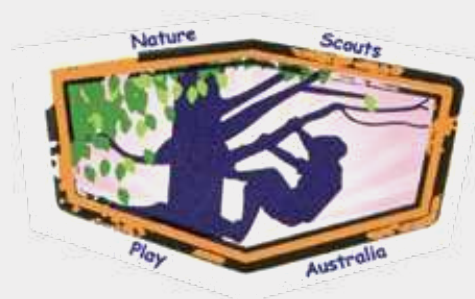
## Major Passport Partners

Nature Play WA worked with a number of significant community and government organisations to increase the reach of the passport program. These partners distributed passports at events or as a resource for families.

Organisation	Passport Orders (2012/13)
Scouts WA	3,420
Department of Sports and Recreation	3,200
Perth Zoo	3,150
Auskick (Subiaco & South Fremantle)	2,700
City of Bunbury	2,475
Water Corporation	2,450
Department of Transport	1,750
Rio Tinto Naturescape Kings Park	1,050
Elite Family Day Care Scheme	1,050
Meerilinga Young Children's Foundation Inc.	1,000
City of Mandurah	1,100
Shire of Donnybrook Balingup	850
WA Gould League	700

## Scouts WA

In September, Scouts WA launched a 'Nature Play' badge at the Perth Royal Show.



The badge can be earned by any Joey or Cub Scout who completes a series of nature play activities and outings based on 'missions' in the Nature Play WA passport.

As part of this partnership, Nature Play WA sponsored various events within the Scouts Pavillion at the Royal Show, including the inflatable race. It also donated 3,420 passports to Scouts WA and individual scouting groups throughout the State during the 2012/13 financial year.





## New online passport interface launched

In December 2012 the online passport interface was completely re-vamped to make it simpler and more functional.

The number of mission options increased from 10 to 120 missions across 17 categories, including beach missions, garden missions, camping missions and more.



The new system allows children to create a digital avatar, like in a computer game, but they have to do real life outdoor 'missions' to get their avatar points and win it accessories.

Other upgrades include:

- Optimisation for use on mobile devices as well as desktop computers.
- Option for children to skip missions they don't like.
- Adult access to a "Mission control" account that allows them to filter missions and select only those appropriate for each child they have registered.
- Option to rate missions, upload photos, provide comments on the activities and suggest new mission ideas.
- Mission sets can be downloaded as a PDF document that can be saved electronically or printed.
- Leader board for families, classes or organisations to compete against each other.



In the six months since the launch, the new passport interface has had an average of 602 visitors per month (533 unique visitors per month).

[Parents] loved the passports...  
They were a great way to get  
the whole family outside together.

Sal Bellanger, Spirit of Play Community School



## MISSION

### Build a fire

#### 3 points

Building a fire is a great part of camping. Where else are you going to cook your dinner and roast marshmallows? Building a fire can be dangerous so it's very important that you only do it with an adult and you follow their instructions carefully. Remember to: always check if there are any fire bans in place (contact FESA and Department of Environment and Conservation); use a designated firepit and to bring your own firewood.

**ACCEPT MISSION** or skip mission

### Comments

Willow

★★★★★

It was SO fun! We roasted marshmallows and apples and all that sort of stuff.

Llewellyn

★★★★★

Dad and I went fishing at Coodamarrup Beach and we caught lots of fish. We also toasted Marshmallows and slept in the back of the ute.

Edmund

★★★★★

We got the fire going but then it started pouring down with rain so we got an umbrella and put it over the fire so the wood didn't get wet. Then the rain stopped and we cooked cheese toasters with our

Use of the passports led to more  
perseverance and risk taking  
during challenging tasks.

Michelle Russo, Sparkly Elephant Home School





## Active School Diaries 2013

A major focus for July – September 2012 was the design, development and marketing of Nature Play WA's newest child engagement initiative; Active School Diaries.

The diaries aim to increase active, outdoor play in schools that adopt them by including a printed line of homework on each weekday that says, 'Go outside and play for 30 minutes'. There is also an outdoor activity idea included for each weekend and fun holiday suggestions.



Active School Diaries represent an exciting opportunity to effect real behaviour change.

Schools that adopt them convey to parents that nature play is an important aspect of their child's development, health and well-being.

The concept was met with enthusiastic support from WA media and a broad cross section of education associations including the:

- WA Primary Principal's Association;
- WA Council of State School Organisations;
- Independent Public School Heads Association, and
- The Catholic Primary Principals Association WA.

In the initiative's inaugural year, 2,060 diaries were sold on a partial cost recovery basis to eight regional and seven metro schools. Department of Transport also ordered diaries for their TravelSmart to School program and booklist providers, Office Max and Campion, promoted and sold the school diaries on behalf of Nature Play WA.

An evaluation of the program was completed in June 2013, which indicated that:

- 60% of schools currently using the diaries said they will order again for 2014;
- 100% of teachers would recommend the diary for use in other classes or schools, and
- 92% of teachers thought the diaries were good value.

Based on these results, Nature Play WA is moving ahead with plans to sell Active School Diaries for the 2014 school year.

## Family Nature Clubs

Family Nature Clubs are informal groups of families and friends who make a commitment to meet regularly for a date in nature.

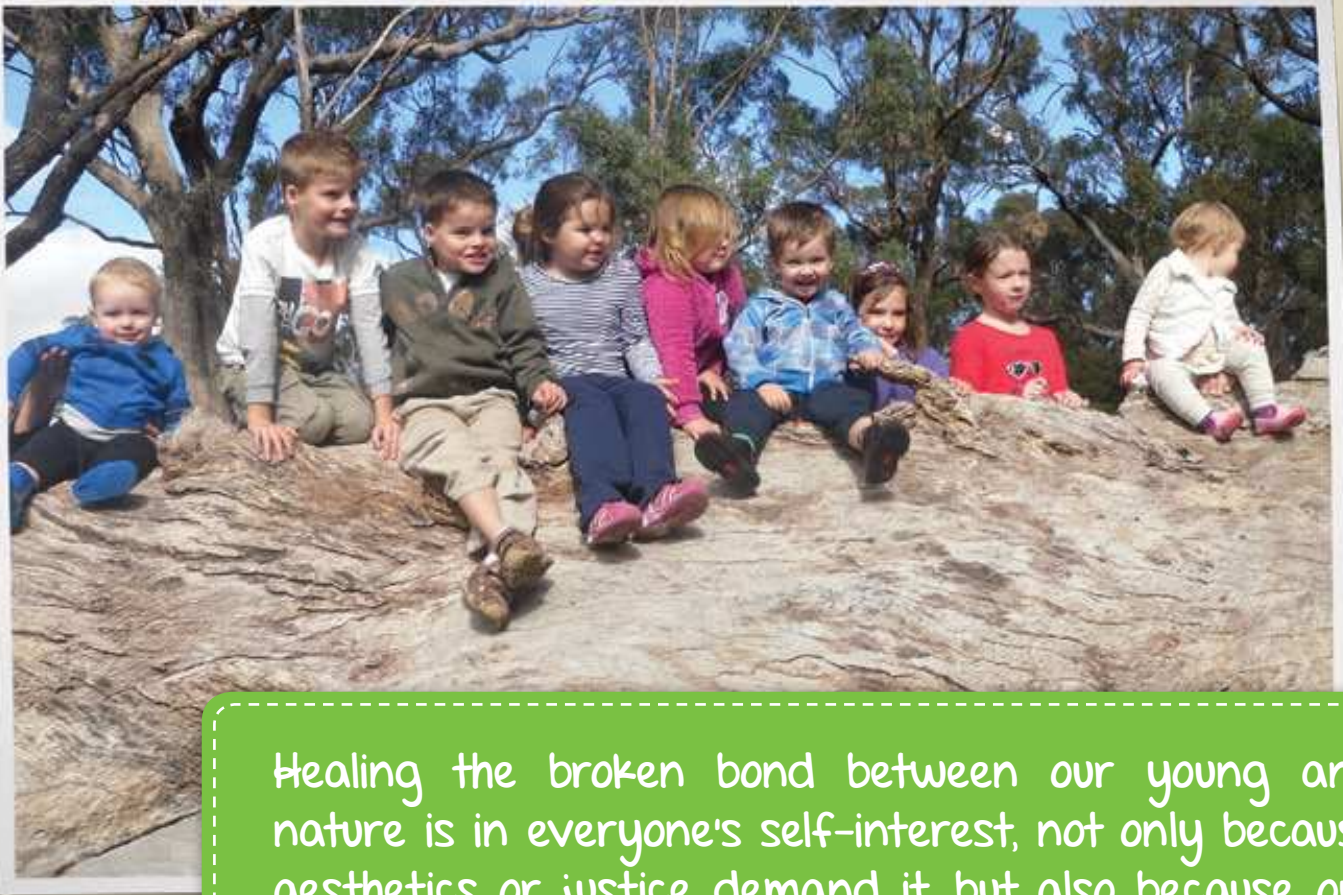
Outings may range from a picnic at a local park to an overnight bushwalk. Whatever their form, all clubs share the same goal to get outside in nature on a regular basis to experience the benefits of time spent together outside.

Nature Play WA encourages family nature clubs to form and self-manage as a grassroots means of building the children and nature movement in Western Australia.

As at 30 June 2013 there were a total of 19 active Family Nature Clubs: 17 in the Perth metro area and two in regional Western Australia (Geraldton and Albany).

Some of the resources that exist for Family Nature Clubs include:

- family Nature Club toolkit;
- sample Family Nature Club session plans, and
- online club and participant registration forms.



Healing the broken bond between our young and nature is in everyone's self-interest, not only because aesthetics or justice demand it, but also because our mental, physical and spiritual health depend on it.

Richard Louv, Author, *Last Child in the Woods*



## Family Nature Club evaluation

Nature Play WA undertook an evaluation of the Family Nature Club program in June 2012 and found club leaders to be highly passionate about the nature play cause.

Club leaders indicated that Family Nature Clubs are a great way to connect with like-minded parents and with nature and that children loved having the opportunity to get outside and explore. However they also identified some challenges in relation to recruiting new members, and sharing the workload within the group.

In response to this feedback, Nature Play WA will implement some changes in 2013/2014 to better support Family Nature Clubs including:

- A quarterly Family Nature Club newsletter to connect clubs and provide them with inspiration.
- A re-vamp of the online Family Nature Club section of the website – making it more interactive and dynamic place for clubs to connect with each and with interested families.

The children are very enthusiastic about going on nature adventures and developing observation skills...

Ciara Beard, Creation Appreciation Club



The children love meeting and being able to run and explore together.

Renee Butterworth, Backyard Bandits

## Geocaching

Geocaching is a high-tech treasure hunting game played throughout the world using GPS-enabled devices to navigate to hidden containers called geocaches. Often these containers are filled with small toys and trinkets that children can swap. They then record their comments and observations online at [www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com).

The game has proven to be a fantastic way to bridge the gap between technology and active play. Best of all, it is free, easy and fun. It can be combined with virtually any outdoor activity and can be enjoyed by people of all ages, shapes, sizes and abilities.

Since 2011, Nature Play WA has placed eight kid-friendly geocaches in the Perth metro area, including three new ones this financial year:

- **Forrestfield:** Who's the king of animals in Africa?
- **Perth:** It's rude to Point, Fraser!
- **Curtin University, Bentley campus:** Pretty maids all in a row.

Over 1,100 groups of geocachers have left comments online after searching for the Nature Play WA geocaches since July 2011.

Found it, added a star  
and my sister took a  
butterfly sticker. TFTC!

amelie005 - 19 July 2013



This park was so cool, we  
ran over to the island and  
had heaps of goes on the  
slide... Thanks for the cache.

justintime13 - 19 July 2013



# *hbf* Geo-Challenge

## ROTTNEST 2013



### HBF Geo-Challenge

Recognising the potential for geocaching to encourage children and their families to get involved in unstructured outdoor play, Nature Play WA created a new event in the 2012/2013 financial year called the HBF Geo-Challenge.

The inaugural HBF Geo-Challenge event was a GPS-based strategy game held on 17 April 2013 on Rottnest Island for teams of Years 6 students and their teachers. The event was fully allocated with 51 teams from 31 Perth schools competing for the perennial HBF Geo-Challenge Cup. It was made possible through the generous support of HBF and a strong partnership with the Rottnest Island Authority.

Teams traversed Rottnest Island on bikes using GPS units, maps, and written clues in search of 47 hidden geocaches. In the process the teams learnt about the Island's unique heritage and discovered how geocaching can help them be active outdoors and connect to the world around them.



## Evaluation

Every participating teacher completed an evaluation and all were extremely positive with 89% giving it the highest possible overall event rating of 'excellent' and the remaining 11% giving it the second highest rating of 'very good'. All of the teams (100%) said they would attend the event again next year. 97% of the teachers who attended the event indicated they were now likely to incorporate geocaching into their classroom.



The communication between group, whilst exercising both our bodies and our brains in a challenging context, was great to see!

— Teacher

[The event] introduced us to a great outdoor activity that we can expand in the classroom anytime.

— Teacher



The organisation was magnificent; it was a great challenging experience.

— Teacher





We have started... [geocaching] at school and many of our families are also getting out on weekends.

—Teacher

In support of the HBF Geo-Challenge, Nature Play WA ran two professional development seminars for teachers to help them incorporate geocaching in their classrooms.

Three geocaching lesson plans were also developed linking geocaching with the year six Australian curriculum including:

- Lesson 1: An Introduction to Geocaching.
- Lesson 2: Get Geocaching!
- Lesson 3: We're Going on a Treasure Hunt.
- Geocaching and the Australian Curriculum.

These are now available as a teaching resource on the Nature Play WA website.

Nature Play WA also purchased 60 Magellan eXplorist 110 GPS units which have been available for hire since October 2012 for Western Australian organisations that want to run geocaching events for children and families.

I liked riding the bike and seeing the Island. I think this event should carry on all through school.

Student, Guildford Grammar School



Are you likely to go geocaching again?

Yes. Because it's a fun, exciting and enjoyable game packed with surprises.

Student, Connolly Primary School



Are you likely to go geocaching again?

Yes. Because it is great exercise and you really have to use your brain and teamwork skills.

Student, Aveley Primary School





## Advocacy Event with Tim Gill

### 'Child's play in a risk-averse world'

In November 2012 Nature Play WA partnered with the Department of Sport and Recreation to run two advocacy events featuring UK play expert, Tim Gill with the theme, 'Child's play in a risk-averse world'. One session was run for local government and the other for school decision makers.

Tim is one of the UK's leading thinkers on childhood, whose work has focused on the changing nature of childhood, children's play and free time, and their evolving relationships with the people and places around them.



### Local government presentation

The local government session was held on 5 November 2012 and was attended by 83 representatives, including mayors, CEOs, councilors and local government staff.

Attendees had the opportunity to raise concerns and question experts on the implications of managing spaces where children play.



Having an international speaker to offer advice on how things could be approached in Australia was very refreshing.

Attendee, local government presentation

## Schools presentation and workshop

The schools event was held the following day and was attended by representatives from 27 schools across WA and from peak education bodies and related State government departments. Following Tim's presentation, attendees broke into groups to identify barriers schools face in allowing unstructured outdoor play and to workshop ideas for overcoming these obstacles.



The presentation gave our school community a bit of confidence about the type of play we have in our school grounds and also gave us some ideas about where we may take further developments.

Attendee, school presentation





# NATURE PLAY SPACES

## Nature Play Spaces

Late in the 2011/2012 financial year, a nature playground resource page was created on the Nature Play WA website in response to a growing number of contacts from schools, child care centres and children's organisations seeking advice on how to build a nature playground.

However, rather than reducing the number of queries in relation to nature play space development, this resource served to pique even more interest. To handle the increased demand and to nurture this enthusiasm, Nature Play WA hired Debra Langridge to fill a newly-created 'Play Space and Partnerships Coordinator' role in April 2013.

Debra previously worked with the community-based non-government organisation, Healthy Cities Illawarra, where she planned and coordinated the 'Child Friendly by Design' Project at a local and state level. She has worked in close partnership with the NSW Commission for Children and Young People and local governments to give children, young people and families a voice on outdoor places and spaces.

In addition to handling daily enquiries from schools, child care centres, designers and local councils regarding nature play spaces, in her short time with the organisation she:

- Developed Nature Play WA's 'Play Space Strategy', which details the organisational plan for working with multiple community sectors (school, child care, local government and private) over the next five years to create inspiring and functional outdoor nature spaces.
- Drafted a 'Regional Nature Play Space Strategy Proposal' for the Gascoyne Department of Sport and Recreation/Regional Development Australia.
- Organised a series of nature play space development workshops and information sessions to be launched early next financial year.
- Joined the All Abilities Play Space project team in partnership with the City of Nedlands, Inclusion WA and Rotary Clubs of Nedlands, Subiaco and West Perth.
- Nurtured partnerships with organisations interested in developing nature play spaces, including Active Living WA, National Heart Foundation, WA Commission for Children and Young People, Kidsafe WA, Department of Sport and Recreation, WA Local Government Association, Ngala, Western Australian Primary Principals' Association, UWA Centre for Built Environment and Health, Parks and Leisure Australia, Department of Parks and Wildlife.

WITH THANKS TO  
**Kidsafe**  
Western Australia



## Nature Play Space Consultation

Nature Play WA also undertook its first formal consultation role towards the development of a nature play space in November 2012, when CEO Griffin Longley was contracted by Rio Tinto to act as their community engagement consultant for the development of a nature play space at Saylor Park in Wickham, WA.

Planning is underway and the play space is expected to be completed in mid-2014.



Children who play in natural settings play in more diverse, imaginative and creative ways and show improved language and collaboration skills.

—Kidsafe WA



# ENGAGEMENT

## Spreading the word

At its core, Nature Play WA is an awareness raising organisation. We work collaboratively with partner organisations and the media to remind Western Australians of the benefits of unstructured outdoor play.

Nature Play WA has consistently punched well above its weight in the media by positioning itself both as a respected commentator on news issues as well as a reliable content generator.

As a commentator Nature Play WA has quickly assumed a position in the media landscape as a 'go to' on a range of issues from urban planning, health and well-being to the rise of the digital device.

Over the 2012/2013 financial year this unique positioning resulted in the generation of 70 media spots with a broad spread across traditional and new media.

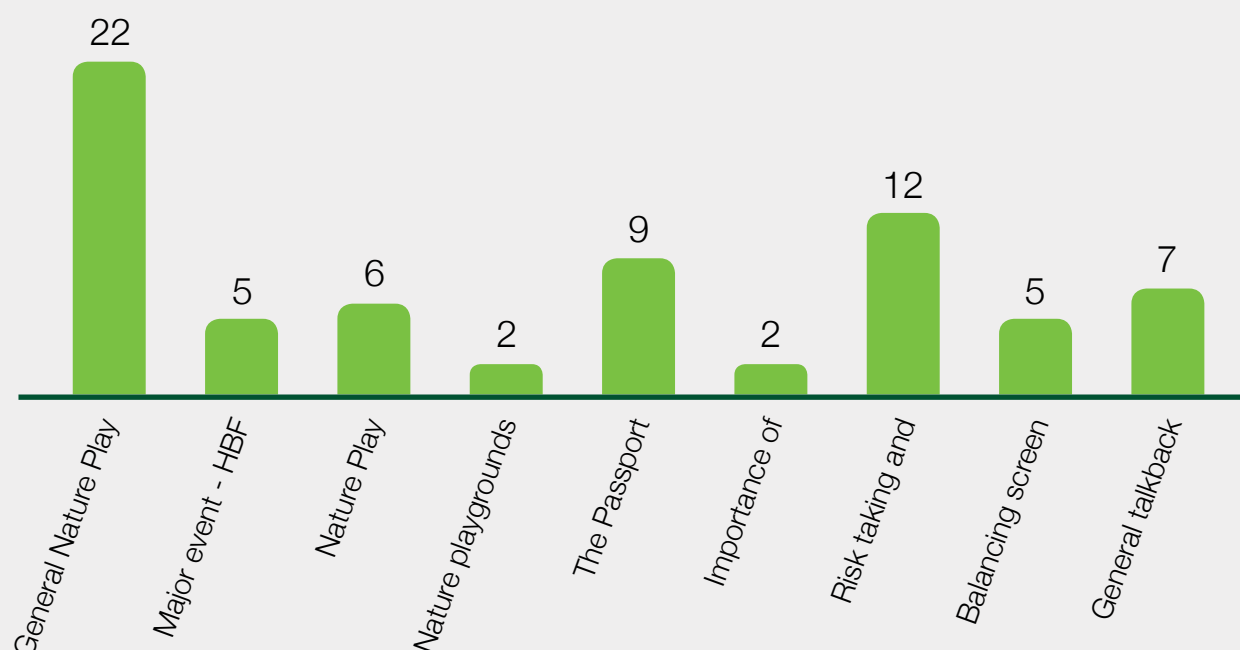
These opportunities were relatively evenly spaced over print, radio, TV and on-line with a particularly strong showing on ABC metropolitan radio and in the West Australian Newspaper; the two key news drivers in the State.

Social media has also played an important role in spreading the word about the importance of nurturing nature play.

The Nature Play WA website recorded a 53 per cent increase in unique visitors during 2012/13, representing more than 700 unique visitors each week for a total of more than 38,000 unique visitors annually.

The Nature Play WA Facebook group represents a far more targeted new media destination and attracted over 900 members by the end of the 2012/2013 financial year.

### Breakdown of media articles by topic





# Get your children moving!

Youngsters want to exercise, say the experts. Emma Chitty discovers how to get them active.

On any given day the statistics about children's health are depressing. We're told obesity rates amongst kids are increasing, their exercise levels are decreasing and many would much rather have a couch with a computer game than get outside and sweat a bit.

We are constantly bombarded with messages about kids being stuck inside addicted to their computer games.

According to Nature Play, the child exercise specialists, the solution is not that difficult. Get them outside and the kids will take care of the rest.

"When kids are outside they're healthy and when they're outside they're active. It's that simple," the author of the book says.



Nature Play's Griffin Longley and Thomas Cooper, from left.

**CHILD-FRIENDLY OUTDOOR SPACE**

Parents are advised to encourage their children to play outdoors by providing a safe and accessible space.

It's important to ensure the space is safe and accessible, with no sharp edges or dangerous structures.

Children are naturally inclined to play outdoors. Encouraging them to do so can help them develop physical and mental health.

Parents should encourage their children to play outdoors by providing a safe and accessible space.

Children are naturally inclined to play outdoors. Encouraging them to do so can help them develop physical and mental health.

## Schools back outdoor push

Parents breaking news go to... swimmers... suggest a variety of outdoor activities...

## Play also vital to learning

Griffin Longley... Comment...

A nightly hour of homework should be compulsory for every parent. But I think we can all agree that extending the work day into our home life would certainly take us a long way down the path to requiring whisky on our wheateas.

And, sure as a very sure thing, it would leave many of us considering the merits of abandoning our jobs, car and our pet insurance in favour of a life of 1000 doing a...

Some kids benefit from the right kind of homework. Others find it hard enough to keep from climbing the school walls without being made to sit down, be quiet and spell garrigue at home.

What the research is clear on, though, is that all kids need play in balance with instruction and study. Active outdoor play is almost as important to our kids as food and sleep. It is how they exercise, socialise, imagine and engage with the big world around them.

And research shows that the physical activity component of play alone helps improve our kids' health, cognitive function and memory and, according to one Canberra study last year, even helps...

There is limited research on the benefits of outdoor play for children's health and learning.

Children who play outdoors are more likely to be physically active and have better mental health.

Outdoor play can help children develop social skills and learn to work with others.

Parents should encourage their children to play outdoors by providing a safe and accessible space.

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## Play first, then homework

West Australian (http://au.news.yahoo.com) Thursday 23rd August, 2012

School principals are urging children to go outside and play instead of doing hours of homework or sitting in front of a computer after school. Principals' associations from public, Catholic and independent schools have backed the release of "active" diaries that mandate half an hour of outdoor play every day for primary school-aged children. Each day in the diaries, developed by Nature Play WA, includes the line "go outside and play for 30 min..."



Sisters: The Russo girls catching tadpoles. Picture: Michelle Russo

## EXPLORING NATURE

Nature Play WA is a not-for-profit organisation in partnership with the WA Department of Sport and Recreation. It educates people on the benefits of unstructured, outdoor play and designs programs to make it easier for parents and educators to implement these with young people.

Michelle Russo's three daughters, Chloe, five, Skye, six, and Ziana, 12, completed hundreds of missions in Nature Play WA's Passport to an Amazing Childhood program during the school holidays. To access these, each child was given a passport booklet and registered online, and for each completed activity, they received a sticker for their passport.

The children used the internet to complete the missions.

"It's a great way to link children's internet time to physical activity," program facilitator Nikki Wilson-Smith said. "The program encourages active, research-based learning."

## Study reveals playing field shortage

Suburban Perth has a big shortage of playing fields that could be used for sports, a new study has found.

The government-funded study by Curtin University sport, recreation and leisure studies professor, Dr. David Hackett, found that the shortage of playing fields is a major problem for the region.

This report to 22 Australian Rules clubs in the Perth area found that the shortage of playing fields is a major problem for the region.

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## Strategy and smarts wins Geo Cup



Cody Hawksley, Caleb Hall and John Guinea challenge Cup, with deputy...

SCARBOROUGH Primary School students have taken the top prize in the inaugural HBF Geo Challenge held on island.

Competing 51 teams of Year 5 students from 30 schools, the team played a winning strategy of smart smarts to seal HBF Geo-Challenge in April.

Deputy principal Middelton said the students had a solid ball of event was easily enjoyable.

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## 12 NEWS

AFTER-SCHOOL MESSAGE

## Play outside then do the homework

By Anthony Watt, Education Editor

School principals are urging children to go outside and play instead of doing hours of homework or sitting in front of a computer after school.

Principals' associations from public, Catholic and independent schools have backed the release of "active" diaries that mandate half an hour of outdoor play every day for primary school-aged children.

Each day in the diaries, developed by Nature Play WA, includes the line "go outside and play for 30 minutes". The diaries also contain ideas for outdoor activities.

Nature Play WA's director, Griffin Longley, said the fact that principals had endorsed an initiative to make play and physical activity part of WA schools' after-school schedule had the potential to...

...to make play and physical activity part of WA schools' after-school schedule had the potential to... to make play and physical activity part of WA schools' after-school schedule had the potential to...

...to make play and physical activity part of WA schools' after-school schedule had the potential to... to make play and physical activity part of WA schools' after-school schedule had the potential to...

## Call for help with nature playground



With CEO Griffin Longley and...

It is a call for help with the nature playground. The playground is a call for help with the nature playground.

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## Expanding our reach

Nature Play WA is committed to establishing a broad communication network with partner groups to help increase awareness of the benefits of unstructured outdoor play and to increase opportunities for families to participate in nature play activities.

It has nurtured relationships with a number of community and government organisations in the 2012/2013 financial year that have expanded the reach of our messages from exclusively state-wide to nationally and internationally.

### South Australian Government

In December 2012, Nature Play WA's CEO and Board Chairman met with the South Australian Minister for Environment, Water and Recreation and some key staff to discuss partnership arrangements for the creation of both a South Australian nature play organisation and an overarching nature play Australia network.

The result was a funded commitment from the SA government to establish Nature Play SA through shared resource arrangements and co-branding. Further discussions and developments are planned for 2013/2014.

### Islandwood

Islandwood is a not-for-profit organisation based in Seattle USA that runs a unique 255-acre outdoor learning center that provides environmental learning experiences and inspires community stewardship.

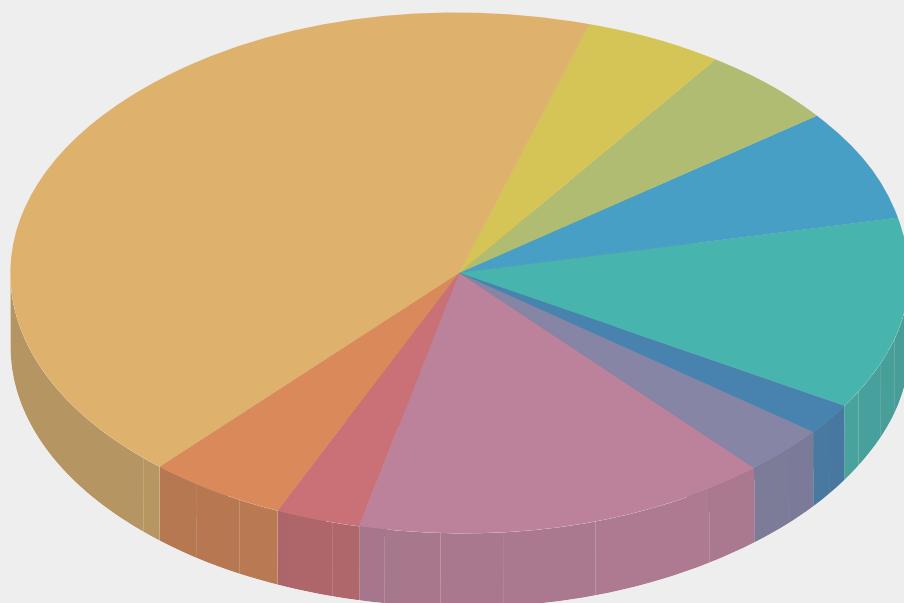
In mid-2012 Nature Play WA was approached by Islandwood asking if it could licence the content of one of Nature Play WA's major child engagement initiatives. An agreement was reached in this regard and the two not-for-profits will make a joint announcement about the project when arrangements are finalised next financial year.



## Speaking Engagements

Nature Play WA CEO Griffin Longley had a full schedule in the 2012/2013 financial year, with 40 speaking engagements over that period.

### Breakdown of Nature Play WA speaking engagements



- School presentations to teachers/parents
- Recreation industry meetings
- Planner, developer, landscaper conference
- Local government forums/conferences
- International conferences
- Health industry presentation
- Education industry forums/conferences
- Early years industry conferences
- Sport and recreation conferences
- Community group presentations

#### Target audiences reached in presentations

- 590 early childhood educators/staff
- 290 primary school educators/staff
- 107 School Principals/Deputy Principals
- 338 Government and local government staff and councillors
- 185 recreation industry professionals
- 100 planners & developers
- 26 rotary club members
- 20 health professionals
- 105 primary school students
- 100 secondary school students
- 50 university students
- 985 parents and teachers



# OPERATIONS

## Founding Partners

Nature Play WA has a supportive and dynamic group of 18 founding partners who work collaboratively to help ensure our vision of making nature play a normal part of childhood again becomes a reality. These partners have come from a broad cross-section of organisations with strong commitments to the health and well-being of children and/or the environment.

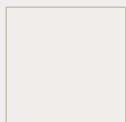


# Nature Play WA Board

## 2012/2013 Board Members



Dr David Roberts (Chairman)  
Paediatric Chair, The Royal Australasian College of Physicians



Mr Greg Allen  
Manager Community Education, Department of Environment and Conservation  
(Resigned June 2013)



Mr Stephen Breen  
President, Western Australian Primary Principals' Association



Dr May Carter  
Member, Parks and Leisure Australia



Mr Charles Hayne  
Communications Manager, Department of Sport and Recreation



Mr Trevor Shilton  
Cardiovascular Health Director, Heart Foundation



Dr Melissa Stoneham  
Senior Research Fellow, Public Health Advocacy Institute of Western Australia



Mr Allan Tranter  
Director, Creating Communities



Mr Piers Verstegen  
Director, Conservation Council of WA



Mr David Zarb  
CEO, Playgroup WA  
(Resigned June 2013)

## Past Board Members



Mr Mike Wood  
Chairman, Bibbulmun Track Foundation  
Term expired October 2012



## Operational Staff

Nature Play WA is proud of its small, but dedicated team of employees. Their skill sets and training vary greatly, but they are united by their passion for promoting outdoor play for children.

### Staff



**Griffin Longley**  
Chief Executive Officer



**Kellie Shircore**  
Operations Manager



**Nicole Bailey**  
Communications Manager



**Deb Langridge**  
Play Spaces and Partnerships



**Gyano Tabeshfar**  
Passports and Partnerships



**Suzanne Hibbert**  
Finance and Administration



**Nikki Wilson-Smith**  
Passports and Partnerships

### Contractors

**Helen Corker**  
Graphic Designer

### Volunteers

**Ann Grace**  
Teacher





## Get involved!

At home:

- Allocate specific time during the day or week for nature play; incorporate 'nature hour' each day, when children know this is a time for them to be outside.

At school:

- Incorporate the natural environment into the design of children's outdoor spaces; use vegetation and the landscape as the playground not the background.
- Incorporate nature play into outdoor education and make it part of the curriculum.
- Incorporate the 'walking school bus' program into school and neighbourhood groups – use this time to integrate children with nature learning and interaction.

In the community:

- Support organisations both at a local and national level that are driving programs and initiatives to get children outdoors.
- Protect open spaces and natural bush areas and encourage people to use and interact with it.
- Incorporate natural spaces into urban designs and plans.
- Create neighbourhood watch groups that watch over children but don't interfere or dictate children's play or interaction with nature.

At a government level:

- Advocate for nature play.
- Support organisations that facilitate nature play.
- Facilitate research into the importance of nature for children's development.
- Create legislation that supports children's nature play in both urban design and education.
- Educate parents on the importance of children's interaction with nature, provide support to those who are interested in nature activities and subsidise equipment that will help promote nature play.



## Acknowledgement

Nature Play WA acknowledges our special partnership with the Department of Sport and Recreation.

Nature Play WA started its life as a program within this department, and is now wholly funded by a grant administered through it. We are grateful for the department's generous monetary, in-kind and moral support.

Huge thanks are extended to the Western Australian State government for their foresight and commitment in fully funding Nature Play WA for four years to July 2015.

## Nature Play WA Patrons

Nature Play WA would also like to thank Western Australian Governor, Mr Malcolm McCusker AC CVO QC, and his wife, Ms Tonya McCusker, pictured below with their children, who came on board as Nature Play WA patrons in July 2012.

## Sponsorship and promotions

Nature Play WA is a dynamic organisation that is continually evolving and seeking new ways to engage families in unstructured outdoor activity. We are brimming with great ideas we plan to implement, many of which will generate cash flow and help us realise our dream of becoming a fully self-supporting not-for-profit within two years.

However, in order to kick-start new initiatives and expand the reach of existing programs, we welcome financial or in-kind support from businesses and philanthropists in the form of donations, sponsorship or advertising.

By getting involved you will be helping to improve our children's cognitive, emotional and physical development and to build the resilience and imagination that are so important to a fulfilling and productive life.

If you or your organisation would like to be part of this amazing and important nature play movement, please contact our office.

## Contact us

Nature Play WA Inc.

**Address** Sports Lotteries House  
Stephenson Avenue  
Mount Claremont WA 6010

**Postal** PO Box 57  
Claremont WA 6910

**Telephone** (08) 9287 1006

**Email** [info@natureplaywa.org.au](mailto:info@natureplaywa.org.au)

**Web** [www.natureplaywa.org.au](http://www.natureplaywa.org.au)



# FINANCIAL MATTERS

The following section provides a copy of Nature Play WA's audit opinion and financial statements for the 2012/2013 financial year.

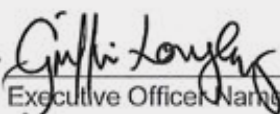
## DECLARATION

The board declares that the incorporated association is not a reporting entity. The board have determined that these special purpose financial statements should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

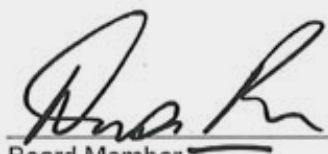
The board of the Incorporated association declare that:

1. the financial statements and notes which comprise the balance sheet as at 30 June 2013, the profit and loss statement, for the year then ended, a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes presents fairly the company's financial position as at 30 June 2013 and its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements;
2. in the executive officers' opinion there are reasonable grounds to believe that the company will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

Executive Officer

  
Executive Officer Name

Board Member

  
Board Member

Dated: 23 / 10 / 13



**PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT  
FOR THE PERIOD 1 JULY 2012 TO 30 JUNE 2013**

	Note	2013 \$	2012 \$
<b>INCOME</b>			
Grant Income - DSR		500,000	500,000
Lotterywest		23,994	-
Dept Transport		9,091	-
Watercorp		9,091	-
Other Income		40,867	-
	<b>2</b>	<b>583,043</b>	<b>500,000</b>
<b>LESS EXPENDITURE</b>			
Accountancy		350	1,450
Advertising & Promotion		31,252	-
Bank Charges		49	68
Bookkeeping		5,846	2,580
Conferences, Seminars		236	1,075
Contractors & Consultants		12,231	-
Computer Support		7,892	5,922
Depreciation		7,145	1,340
Employees' Amenities		5,013	147
Evaluation		5,000	5,000
Event Expenses		19,517	-
General Expenses		1,675	139
Graphic Design		14,820	10,299
Insurance		6,134	4,580
Interest Paid		3,772	1,362
MV Depreciation		8,881	3,287
MV Fuel		3,056	1,099
MV Parking		615	28
MV Rego & Ins		1,922	1,178
MV Repairs & Maint		768	-
Postage		6,438	1,404
Printing		95,036	37,963
Office Supplies & Stationery		8,838	2,856
Recruitment		1,166	1,253
Rent		8,055	4,000
Secondment Fees		-	40,017
Subscriptions		2,983	142
Superannuation		24,220	11,514
Technology Purchases		12,544	-
Telephone		8,578	1,434
Training		1,843	-
Travelling Expenses		12,689	887
Utilities		2,095	-
Wages		275,771	140,824
Website		28,010	598
Workcover Ins		2,325	1,830
		<b>626,765</b>	<b>284,276</b>
<b>NET (LOSS)/PROFIT</b>		<b>(43,722)</b>	<b>215,724</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

**BALANCE SHEET  
AS AT 30 JUNE 2013**

	Note	2013 \$	2012 \$
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Cash at Bank		50,943	219,877
Interest Account		119,294	-
Debit Cards		4,890	-
Paypal Account		602	-
Petty Cash		355	636
GST Receivable		-	8,713
Deposits Paid		200	-
Other Debtors		519	-
Prepayments		13,014	-
		<u>189,816</u>	<u>229,226</u>
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>			
Plant and Equipment	3	15,857	15,045
Motor Vehicles		26,641	35,522
		<u>42,499</u>	<u>50,567</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<u>232,314</u>	<u>279,793</u>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Trade Creditors		1,607	6,557
GST Payable		1,002	-
Withholding Taxes Payable		3,640	4,234
Super Payable		1,988	5,032
Provision for Annual Leave		8,934	3,693
Provision for Fringe Benefits Tax		3,616	-
Accrued Employee Wages		7,726	8,151
		<u>28,513</u>	<u>27,668</u>
<b>NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
HP Loan liability		39,558	47,931
Less Unexpired Interest		<u>(7,759)</u>	<u>(11,530)</u>
		31,799	36,401
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<u>60,311</u>	<u>64,069</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<u>172,003</u>	<u>215,725</u>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Issued Capital		-	-
Retained Profits		215,725	-
Current Year (Loss)/Profit		<u>(43,722)</u>	<u>215,725</u>
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>		<u>172,003</u>	<u>215,725</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

These statements should be read in conjunction with the attached compilation report.



**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE PERIOD 1 JULY 2012 TO 30 JUNE 2013**

	2013 \$	2012 \$
<b>1 Statement of Significant Accounting Policies</b>		
The financial statements are a special purpose report prepared for use by directors and the member. The directors have determined that the entity is not a reporting entity.		
The statements are prepared on an accruals basis. They are based on historic costs and do not take into account changing money values or, except where specifically stated, current valuations of non-current assets. Assets are depreciated over their expected useful life. Grant Income is recognized when the entity obtains control of the funds.		
No Australian Accounting Standards, Australian Accounting Interpretations Views or other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board have been intentionally applied.		
<b>2 Grant Expenditure Report:</b>		
<b>Grants</b>		
DSR Grant	500,000	500,000
Other Income & Grants	<u>83,043</u>	<u>-</u>
Less Expenditure	<u>626,765</u>	<u>284,276</u>
<b>Net Income</b>	<u>(43,722)</u>	<u>215,724</u>
<b>3 Plant and Equipment:</b>		
Plant and Equipment	24,342	16,385
Less Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(8,485)</u>	<u>(1,340)</u>
<b>Total Plant and Equipment:</b>	<u>15,857</u>	<u>15,045</u>
<b>Motor Vehicles:</b>		
Motor Vehicles	38,809	38,809
Less Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(12,168)</u>	<u>(3,287)</u>
<b>Total Motor Vehicles:</b>	<u>26,641</u>	<u>35,522</u>
<b>4 Going Concern</b>		
The financial statements are prepared on the going concern basis. Nature Play WA expects to receive the annual grant from Department of Sports and Recreation for approximately the same amount till 2015.		



# Grant Thornton

## **Independent Auditor's Report To the Members of Nature Play WA Inc**

10 Kings Park Road  
West Perth WA 6005  
PO Box 570  
West Perth WA 6872  
T +61 8 9480 2000  
F +61 8 9322 7787  
E [info.wa@au.gt.com](mailto:info.wa@au.gt.com)  
W [www.grantthornton.com.au](http://www.grantthornton.com.au)

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of Nature Play WA Inc (the "Association"), which comprises the balance sheet as at 30 June 2013, the profit and loss statement, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information to the financial report and the statement by the Directors.

### **Responsibility of the Directors for the financial report**

The Directors of the Association are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report and have determined that the accounting policies used and described in Note 1 to the financial report, which form part of the financial report, are appropriate to meet the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act 1987 (WA) and the needs of the Members. This responsibility includes such internal controls as the Directors determine are necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report to be free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

### **Auditor's responsibility**

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards which require us to comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error.

In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the Association's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Association's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the

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reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the Directors, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

**Independence**

In conducting our audit, we have complied with the applicable independence requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board.

**Auditor's Opinion**

In our opinion, the financial report of Nature Play WA Inc presents fairly, in all material respects, the Association's financial position as at 30 June 2013 and of its performance for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1.

**Basis of accounting**

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for the purpose of Nature Play WA Inc board members. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.



GRANT THORNTON AUDIT PTY LTD  
Chartered Accountants



P W Warr  
Partner - Audit & Assurance

Perth, 23 October 2013

