



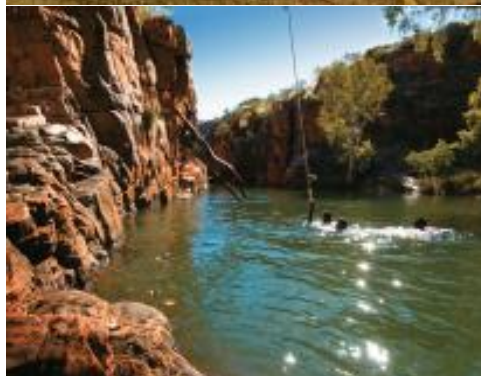
in partnership with



Department of
Sport and Recreation



Nature Play WA 2011/2012 Annual Report



Acknowledgments

This report was prepared by Nature Play WA Inc.

For more information contact:

Nature Play WA
Sports Lotteries House
Stephenson Ave, Claremont WA 6010
Telephone: (08) 9287 1006
www.natureplaywa.org.au

The recommended reference for this publication is:
Nature Play WA 2011-2012 Annual Report, Nature Play WA, 2011

Prepared August 2012
Tabled at the Annual General Meeting, 19 October 2012





Dr David Roberts

Chairman's Foreword

At the completion of our first full financial year as an incorporated association, I am pleased to report a successful year; in both the building our fledgling organisation and in promoting awareness of the benefits of unstructured play across many levels of WA society.

The Board and its subcommittees are functioning coherently and productively. We have further developed appropriate governance through the appointment of accountants and auditors. Our subcommittees have developed protocols and procedures for dealing with the many areas of the business we conduct.

We have also moved from our temporary home within Department of Sport and Recreation's Vincent Street building, to what will be our home at least for the next few years, at Sports Lotteries House, Mount Claremont, and employed new staff to meet the growing demands of our operations.

The operations of our core business have continued to improve. The passports initiative has grown beyond our expectations and forecasts. As at the end of the 2011/2012 financial year 50,000 WA children had received a Nature Play WA passport and the vast majority had been actively used in nature play activities, through our partner groups or via our online missions.

We have also been able to grow the momentum for unstructured play outdoors, and preferably in nature, through highly successful media engagement and through public speaking by the staff and Board.

I close by expressing my thanks to Griffin Longley and all the staff for their support, initiative and dedication over the past 12 months. I cannot sing their praises highly enough. In the same breath I wish to acknowledge my fellow board members, and in particular the chairmen of the subcommittees and the members of the executive.

Like all of you I look forward to the excitement and the challenge of the forthcoming year.

David Roberts
Chairman
Nature Play WA Inc



2011 TO 2012 Annual Report

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1. Financial Overview



PART 1

Nature Play WA Inc.

Nature Play WA Inc is an incorporated not-for-profit association established to increase the time Western Australian children spend in unstructured play outdoors and in nature. It is founded on the understanding that unstructured play outdoors (nature play) is fundamental to a full and healthy childhood.

Nature play is, of itself, an intrinsic good and from it flow benefits in health, cognitive, social and emotional development and in the building of resilience and creativity of children. Experience in nature as a child also leads to environmental stewardship later in life.

Nature Play WA is a collaborative organisation working with partner groups to encourage the WA community to value nature play and families to prioritise it in children's lives.

The organisations primary role is to spread the nature play message and to work to increase access to nature play resources, events and programs.

Nature Play WA began as an initiative of the Western Australian Department of Sport and Recreation and was inspired by the ideas of American writer Richard Louv and the Children and Nature Network.

Nature Play WA has a 10-member board and a Chief Executive Officer who together created its Strategic Plan, which sets forth the vision, mission, guiding principles, and strategic priorities of the organisation. This Plan was endorsed by the Board on 27 July 2011.



1. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. Strategic Priorities

- 1 **Priority One**
Increase awareness amongst all West Australian parents of the benefits of nature play.
- 2 **Priority Two**
Increase opportunities for families to participate in nature play activities.
- 3 **Priority Three**
Create new resources and promote existing resources that makes taking part in nature play easy.
- 4 **Priority Four**
Establish a broad communication network with partner groups and WA families.
- 5 **Priority Five**
Advocate the importance of nature play to government and private bodies and agencies who work with children.
- 6 **Priority Six**
Develop Nature Play WA's organisational capacity.
- 7 **Priority Seven**
Be financially independent of Government within three years (by July 2013).



PART 2

Organisational Structure

1. Background

In late 2009, the Department of Sport and Recreation (DSR) was becoming increasingly concerned that children no longer seemed to be going outside to play. Rarely were children seen roaming around their local parks and bushlands, building cubbyhouses or playing games. Their physical boundaries had shrunk and they had become confined to their lounge rooms.

A growing body of research was indicating that the lack of unstructured play outdoors was having serious impacts on child health, wellbeing and development, including rising rates of childhood obesity, childhood diabetes, behaviour disorders, depression and a diminished sense of place and community.

At the same time, research showed that participation in nature play had the ability to enhance children's cognitive flexibility and creativity, boost self-esteem, improve self-discipline, promote higher school achievement and a develop a greater sense of efficacy and reduced stress. Clearly something needed to be done.

They set to work surveying organisational models that could help foster a cultural change that would reconnect Australian children with nature. Led by DSR communications manager Charles Hayne, working in coordination with the Department of Environment and Conservation, they developed a website and DSR's Nature Play WA initiative was conceived.

They were inspired by the perspectives of Richard Louv - an internationally acclaimed author and futurist focused on family, nature and community - who coined the term 'nature deficit disorder' in his 2005 book 'Last Child in the Woods'. Louv believed that due to increased parental fears, restricted access to natural areas, and the lure of the screen, children were spending less time outdoors, resulting in a wide range of behavioral problems.

On 21 April 2010 Louv was brought to Perth by the Department of Sport and Recreation to speak to families at the Perth Concert Hall. With little more than word-of-mouth advertising, the talk attracted 1400 attendees. At the end of Louv's talk, WA Minister for Sport and Recreation, the Hon Terry Waldron, launched Nature Play WA, a movement designed to motivate families to experience nature together. Its new website (www.natureplaywa.org.au) was unveiled with resources to help facilitate nature play and encourage the creation of community based Family Nature Clubs. In May 2010, Griffin Longley was employed as project officer to further develop and grow Nature Play WA.



"Nature Play WA received \$2million in funding over four years from the Barnett Liberal government"

2. Relationship with Department of Sport and Recreation

Nature Play WA began as an initiative of the Department of Sport and Recreation, but became an independent, not-for-profit organisation in partnership with the department when it became incorporated on 12 January 2011.

Nature Play WA was wholly and generously supported by DSR until 31 August 2011, when it received \$2million in funding over four years from the Barnett Liberal government. The funding was received by Nature Play WA in the form of a grant administered by the department for the period of 1 September 2011 to 31 August 2015.

Nature Play WA continued to be accommodated within DSR's Leederville offices for the full 2011/2012 financial year and its website will continue to be hosted by DSR until the end of 2012.

3. Founding Partners

Between May and October 2010, DSR began to actively recruit a broad cross-section of organisations with strong commitments to the health and wellbeing of children and/or the environment with a view to growing Nature Play WA from an in-house initiative to an independent not-for-profit organisation.

Support for the concept was very strong and 18 organisations with a strong affinity with Nature Play WA's objective - to reinstate unstructured, outdoor play as a normal part of every WA child's daily life - committed to becoming founding partners. These include:

- Department of Sport and Recreation
- Australian Medical Association Western Australia
- Bibbulmun Track Foundation
- Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority
- Conservation Council of Western Australia
- Creating Communities
- Department of Environment and Conservation
- Healthway
- Heart Foundation
- Mentally Healthy WA:
- Outdoors WA:
- Parks and Leisure Australia WA:
- Physical Activity Taskforce:
- Playgroup WA:
- Public Health Advocacy Institute of Western Australia:
- The Royal Australasian College of Physicians:
- Western Australian Primary Principals' Association:
- Western Australian Council of State School.



Of the founding partners, all but two (Healthway and Outdoors WA) elected to become Nature Play WA members at the 2010/2011 Annual General Meeting. The Nature Play WA was Board was then drawn from these 16 member organisations, who are invited to attend and vote on issues at Nature Play WA Annual General Meetings.

Since Nature Play WA's inception, the Board and member organisations have provided strategic input into creating the Nature Play WA mission, guided the creation of a constitution.

Member organisations have also assisted Nature Play WA to spread the message of nature play in their sphere of influence.

Unfortunately in May 2012, the Physical Activity Taskforce lost its government funding and was forced to dissolve, resulting in Nature Play WA losing one member.

4. Nature Play WA Board

The makeup of the 2011/2012 Nature Play WA Board was identical in composition to the previous year's inaugural board. All ten inaugural Board members were re-elected unopposed at Nature Play WA's first annual general meeting on 26 October 2011.

Members of the Board are typically appointed for three-year terms, with the exception of the inaugural board – in which all members are appointed for one year - and the second board – in which three members are appointed for one year, four members are appointed for two years and three members are appointed for three years.

Terms of the second Board's appointments were decided at a Board meeting on 16 November 2011. All Board members nominated for their preferred terms, which were decided without need for a ballot vote.

At the same Board meeting, members were nominated and appointed (without the need for a ballot) for three Board committees – Executive, Strategic and Finance – that had been formed at a Board meeting on 27 July 2011.

The terms, Board positions and committee appointments for the 2011/2012 Board are listed in table one (following page).

The Board is required to meet at least four times each financial year.

During the current reporting period, four board meetings were held

- 27 July 2011,
- 27 September 2011,
16 November 2011 and
- 2 May 2012.

Agenda and minutes are held as records of these meetings.

Table One: Board Positions and Terms 2011/2012

Name	Job Title, Organisation	Board Position	Committee	Term of Position (years)
Dr David Roberts	Paediatric Chair, The Royal Australasian College of Physicians	Chairman	Executive	3
David Zarb	CEO, Playgroup WA	Deputy Chairman	Executive & Finance	3
Greg Allen	Manager Community Education, Department of Environment and Conservation	Board Member	Strategic	1
Stephen Breen	President, Western Australian Primary Principals' Association	Board Member	Finance	2
Charles Hayne	Department of Sport and Recreation representative	Board Member	Executive	3
Trevor Shilton	Cardiovascular Health Director, Heart Foundation	Board Member	Strategic	2
Melissa Stoneham	Senior Research Fellow, Public Health Advocacy Institute of Western Australia	Board member	Strategic	2
Allan Tranter	Director, Creating Communities	Board Member	Finance	1
Piers Verstegen	Director, Conservation Council of WA	Board Member	Strategic	2
Mike Wood	Chairman, Bibbulmun Track Foundation	Board Member	None	1

5. Operational Staff

During the reporting period, Nature Play WA had four operational staff:

- Chief Executive Officer, part-time 0.8FTE - Griffin Longley.
- Operations Manager, part-time 0.8FTE - Bethany McCorkindale, replaced in April 2012 by Kellie Shircore, full-time 1.0FTE.
- Communications Manager, part-time 0.4 FTE - Nicole Bailey.
- Program Facilitator, part-time 0.6FTE - Carina Marshall, replaced in April 2012 by Nikki Wilson-Smith, part-time 0.8FTE.

Nature Play WA also had one casual staff member between December 2011 and June 2012 who worked on graphic design on an as-needed basis.



PART 3

Report on Operations

In undertaking its operations, Nature Play WA is strongly guided by its strategic priorities and the success of each of its programs and activities is evaluated against these priorities.

To demonstrate compliance with the organisation's stated strategic priorities, a text box similar to that below has been placed at the beginning of each of the following sections, which clearly shows which priorities the initiative satisfies.

Contribution to strategic priorities:

- ☒ P1. Increase awareness amongst WA parents of the benefits of nature play.
- ☒ P2. Increase opportunities for families to participate in nature play activities.
- ☒ P3. Create new resources and promote existing resources that make taking part in nature play easy.
- ☒ P4. Establish a broad communication network with partner groups and WA families.
- ☒ P5. Advocate for the importance of nature play to government bodies and agencies who work with children.
- ☒ P6. Develop Nature Play WA's organisational capacity.
- ☒ P7. Be financially independent of government within three years (July 2014).

1. Media Highlights

Contribution to strategic priorities:

- ☑ P1. Increase awareness amongst WA parents of the benefits of nature play.
- ☑ P2. Increase opportunities for families to participate in nature play activities.
- ☑ P3. Create new resources and promote existing resources that make taking part in nature play easy.

The Nature Play WA message was strongly embraced by Western Australian media in the 2011/2012 financial year, with 55 articles/radio segments broadcast or printed.

The West Australian and ABC 720 radio were particularly strong supporters of Nature Play WA, with each accounting for about one quarter of Nature Play WA's total media coverage. Each partnered with Nature Play WA to bring special coverage to their extensive readership/audience across the State:

- **The West Australian** – promoted Nature Play WA's 'Gardens for Play' photo competition with four articles that ran between 5 – 26 May 2012.
- **ABC 720** – a weekly talk-back radio segment called 'The School Run' was initiated on 4 May 2012. The show continues to run at 3:20pm every Friday, with Griffin Longley and Russell Woolf discussing current nature play issues.

In addition to the major initiatives that ran in The West Australian and ABC 720, there were many other news outlets that wrote about or discussed Nature Play WA.

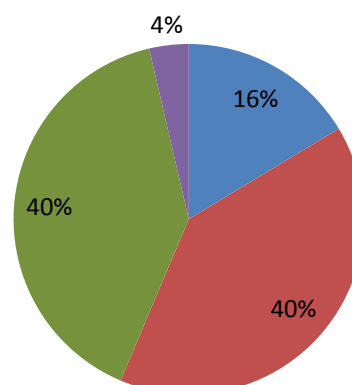
This coverage was predominantly radio and print, with television accounting for four percent of the coverage and online reports for 16 percent.

Regional reports accounted for 16 percent of Nature Play WA's total coverage.

Media Outlet	Number of Articles
6PR radio	4
94.5FM radio	1
ABC 720 radio	16
Channel 10	1
Channel 9	1
Educational magazine	1
FESA Magazine	1
Online forum/newsletter	2
Playgroup WA magazine	1
Regional papers	6
Regional radio	1
Sunday Times	4
The West Australian	14
WA Today online	2

Number of articles/radio segments broken down by media type

■ Online ■ Print ■ Radio ■ TV

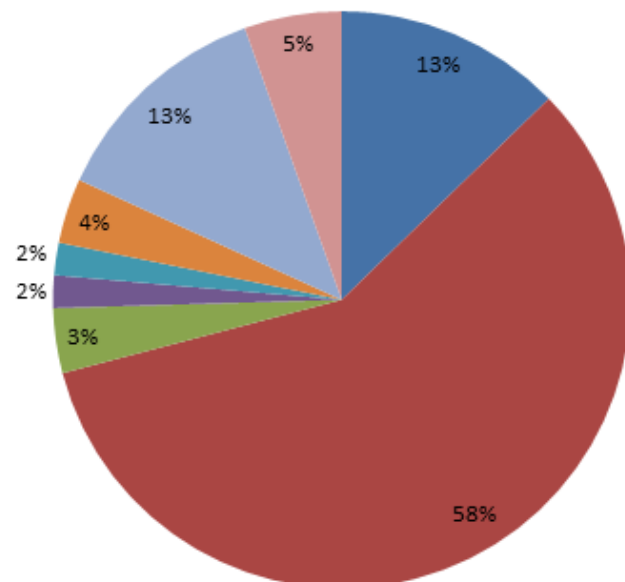


The majority of the media coverage was on general nature play messages, but creating gardens for kids and discussions about appropriate risk, also received significant coverage, as shown in the breakdown of topics graph (below).

Nature Play WA's partnership with the Department of Sport and Recreation has been reiterated at every opportunity in media articles. A number of stories went to a regional audience.

Media Coverage – Broken Down by Topic

■ Gardens for kids ■ General Nature Play ■ Geocaching ■ Greenscripts
■ Nature Playgrounds ■ Passports ■ Risk ■ Talkback radio



“Nature Play WA’s partnership with the Department of Sport and Recreation has been reiterated at every opportunity”



Hon. Terry Waldron delivers the 50,000th Nature Play WA passport at Redcliffe Primary School

2. Website and Social Media

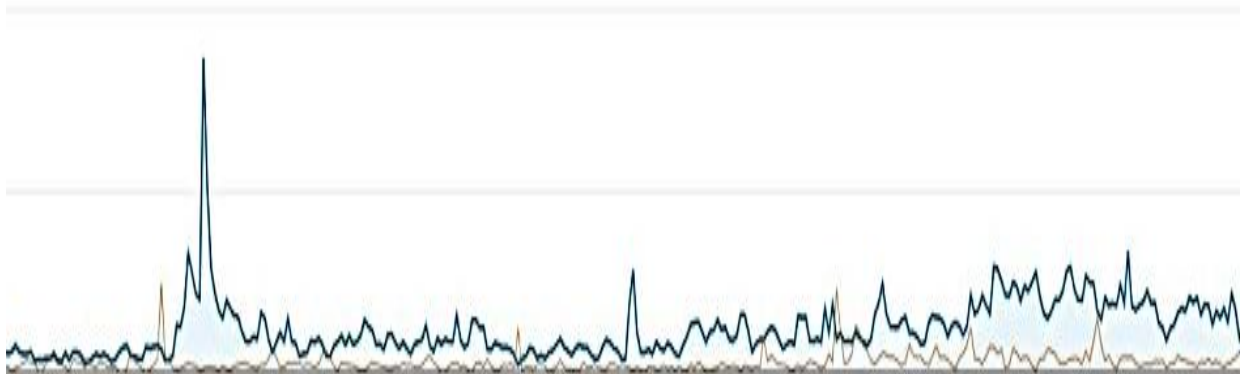
Contribution to strategic priorities:

- ☑ P1. Increase awareness amongst WA parents of the benefits of nature play.
- ☑ P2. Increase opportunities for families to participate in nature play activities.
- ☑ P3. Create new resources and promote existing resources that make taking part in nature play easy.
- ☑ P4. Establish a broad communication network with partner groups and WA families.

The Nature Play WA website (www.natureplaywa.org.au) is one of the organisation's key resources for increasing awareness - amongst WA parents, teachers and partner organisations - of the benefits of nature play and for increasing opportunities for families to participate in nature play activities.

Statistics showed that the Nature Play WA website had 25,109 unique visitors in the 2011/2012 financial year, up 267% on the previous financial year (see below graph).

Comparison of Nature Play WA Website Statistics: 01/07/2010 to 30/06/2011 (blue) versus 01/07/2011 to 30/06/2012 (orange)



2011/2012 Website statistics, as compared to 2010/2011:

- Unique visitors for 2011/2012: **25,109 (up 267%)**
- Average pages per viewed per visit for 2011/2012: **4.6 (up 36.95%)**
- Average visit duration for 2011/2012: **4.22 minutes (up 28.36%)**

These numbers were achieved during a period of significant flux in which the management of the website – along with all of the organisation's electronic records – migrated from management by the Department of Sport and Recreation's IT Division to become independently controlled by Nature Play WA as part of its transition to becoming an independent, not-for-profit organisation.

The shift necessitated a significant learning curve for staff as they learned to independently edit and manipulate the technical end of the website.



"Staff pushed ahead with the creation of two new resource pages for the website and a fun 'green time/screen time' tool for families"

Once handover was complete, an audit was conducted on current website structure and content. The result was the drafting of a website re-development brief in March 2012 that principally aimed to create:

- A fun, yet simple and intuitive interface for both adults and children.
- A usable experience for people using mobile devices as well as desktop computers.
- A Content Management System that would make it very easy for non-technical Nature Play WA staff to manage the website.
- Reporting and data management facilities needed to acquit Nature Play WA's grants and evaluate its programs.
- A website that adheres to best practice with respect to accessibility, privacy, security and standards compliance.

In April 2012, Nature Play WA applied to Lotterywest for funding to undertake this upgrade. As it was not clear when or if the funding for a total site overhaul would eventuate, it was decided to engage Key2Creative web designers to re-design the critical passport interface (see Section 3.3.1 for details on this initiative) for the site, as it was becoming increasingly problematic for both the users and the managers. This new interface is expected to be completed in the second quarter of the 2012/2013 financial year

Despite the technical transition of the site, Nature Play WA staff pushed ahead with the creation of two new resource pages for the site as well as a new tool for families – all designed to make participating in nature play easier. These included:

- A [nature playground section](#) developed with content input from Kidsafe WA. It was launched on the website and Facebook on 13 March 2012 and was created in response to a large number of queries received from schools, child care centres and children's organisations seeking advice on how to build a nature playground.
- A ['Green Time vs Screen Time'](#) tool for families developed for download from the website. Launched in April 2012, the tool is a fun way to help parents keep track of how much time their children are spending outdoors ('green time'), versus time spent indoors, watching TV or on the computer ('screen time').
- A ['Gardens for Kids'](#) section developed with content input from celebrity gardeners Sabrina Hahn and Chris Ferriera. The page was launched on the website and facebook on 4 May 2012 in conjunction with a photographic competition run in partnership with The West Australian newspaper.
- Online forms for bulk passport orders and for speaking requests.



"Nature Play WA began building a social media presence, its Facebook group growing to nearly 500 members"

Social media

Nature Play WA began building a social media presence during the 2010/2011 financial year, focusing primarily on its [Facebook group](#). This communications tool was met with much enthusiasm and grew steadily to the end of the 2011/2012 financial year, reaching nearly 500 users.

Those who have joined the Nature Play WA Facebook group have shown themselves to be active contributors who readily share their thoughts, ideas and inspiration for nature play

Nature Play WA frequently posts news of upcoming activities, pictures from recent events and nature play ideas to its Facebook group and actively promotes the group in its communications materials. The Facebook group has been found to be an effective avenue for broadening Nature Play WA's communication network with WA families and for this reason it will continue to be emphasised next financial year.

During the reporting period, Nature Play WA also hosted a Twitter feed and a Ning blog site, but these were not particularly active and a decision was made at the end of the 2011/2012 financial year to temporarily disable them until more focused attention could be given to their maintenance and development.

E-newsletters

Another means Nature Play WA used to reach a broad cross-section of Nature Play WA stakeholders in the 2011/2012 financial year was through the distribution of e-newsletters. These were sent quarterly (12 July 2011, 3 October 2011, 8 December 2011, 27 March 2012) just prior to each of the school holidays.

The e-newsletters contained information about outdoor play opportunities offered by Nature Play WA's partners during the break as well as information about any new resources developed by Nature Play WA.



"By 31 June 2012 Nature Play WA's e-newsletter subscriber list reached 1,995 people"

At the beginning of the 2011/2012 financial year, Nature Play WA's distribution lists were of uncertain size and makeup, as they had been built up over time through a combination of several distribution lists, including people who:

- registered for tickets to an April 2012 DSR nature play event (Richard Louv);
- attended the Nature Play WA Anzac Day event on Rottnest Island in April 2011;
- signed up for a newsletter subscription via the Nature Play WA website;
- are founding partners; and,
- registered their child's passport online.

During this financial year (2011/2012), these lists were amalgamated, correcting any duplicates and errors. Nature Play WA also migrated to an e-newsletter system independent of the Department of Sport and Recreation, that allowed subscribers to 'unsubscribe' from the lists if they wished. The updated distribution list sizes at end of financial year are as follows:

- e-newsletter subscribers: **1,995**
- general stakeholders: **495**

Online sign-up is offered for Nature Play WA's e-newsletter and for those who register their passport online, so these lists are continuing to grow, as does our general stakeholder list, as new partners are engaged.

3. Programs

Nature Play WA runs a number of communications tool sand programs that contribute towards the achievement of its strategic priorities.

These include the:

- 'Passports to an Amazing Childhood' initiative;
- Family Nature Clubs;
- Geocaching;
- research projects; and,
- Green Scripts.

Each of these is outlined in 3.1 to 3.4.

3.1 Passport to an Amazing Childhood

Contribution to strategic priorities:

- ☑ P1. Increase awareness amongst WA parents of the benefits of nature play.
- ☑ P2. Increase opportunities for families to participate in nature play activities.
- ☑ P3. Create new resources and promote existing resources that make taking part in nature play easy.
- ☑ P4. Establish a broad communication network with partner groups and WA families.
- ☑ P5. Advocate for the importance of nature play to government bodies and agencies who work with children.

The Nature Play 'Passport to an Amazing Childhood' initiative was originally developed as part of Nature Play WA's Anzac Day event on Rottnest Island in April 2011. Children were encouraged to complete outdoor activities, termed "missions" and earned a stamp in their passport on completion of each task. Children were asked to take these passports home and register them online where they could access ten additional missions that they could complete in their free time.

The do-at-home 'missions' were all simple, fun, low (or no) cost, age-appropriate outdoor activities like 'climb a tree', 'build a cubby' or 'ride your bike'. The passports contained stickers, which could be placed in the passport once a mission was completed. The passports also contained a checklist of 15 things every kid should do before they're twelve - like 'camp out under the stars', 'learn to swim' or 'play in the bush'.

The passport concept proved very popular and was subsequently nominated under Nature Play WA's funding grant agreement with the Department of Sport and Recreation, as its major child and parent engagement initiative. The grant specified that 40,000 passports be distributed to children by 31 August 2012. Nature Play WA far surpassed this milestone - distributing 50,000 passports by the end of the 2011/2012 financial year.

This success was achieved through extensive networking and support from Nature Play WA's partner organisations.

Seven organisations offered to act as public distribution points for passports:

- [Herdsman Wildlife Centre \(WA Gould League\)](#)
- [Perth City Farm](#)
- [Perth Zoo](#)
- [Rio Tinto Naturescape Kings Park](#)
- [The Perth Hills Centre](#)
- [Whiteman Park](#)
- [Yanchep National Park](#)



“A specific regional passport was developed in early 2012 containing activities that are relevant regional areas”

Passports were also distributed at a number of children’s events throughout the state, including NAIDOC week events in Bunbury, the World’s Biggest Playgroup Day and Children’s Week events (Whiteman Park), the Harvey and Manjimup Play Expos and the Tree Planting Festival in Ellenbrook.

A specific regional passport was developed in early 2012 that contained suggested activities more relevant to regional areas. In total, 4000 were printed and all were distributed - primarily through Auskick Pilbara and the remainder through bulk school orders.

Due to the popularity of this initiative, Nature Play WA began to investigate ways to make the tool more accessible, exciting and varied. To this end, an audit of the online passport registration system was undertaken and the existing store of missions was assessed. A contract to re-vamp the online registration system was awarded to Key2Creative in June 2012, with work due to be completed in second quarter of the 2012/2013 financial year.

In preparation for the completion of the new system, more than 300 new missions (each adapted to be age-specific for 3 – 5 year olds, 6 – 9 year olds and 10 – 12+ year olds) have been written and will be offered to give children significantly more choices when the new system is up and running.

It should be noted that the passports program objectives extend beyond just getting kids to register on our website and complete the online missions. They include:

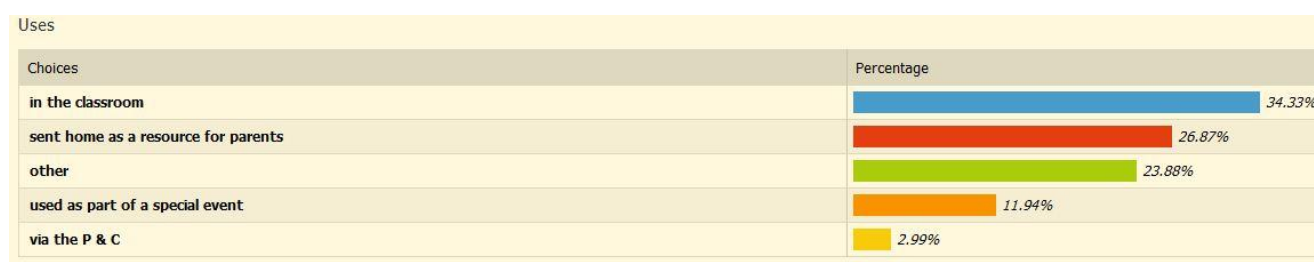
- Raising awareness of the importance of, and to encourage increased participation in, unstructured play outside;
- Building links with WA families, schools and organisations;
- Providing tangible evidence of the level of interest in Nature Play through passport orders;
- Delivering suggestions on places to go, and things to do that relate to nature play to Western Australian families, schools and community organisations;
- Garnering interest and support from media, government and corporate circles.

Feedback and evaluation reports show that the passports are being used by a range of groups and organisations in a variety of ways.

In addition to schools, sporting and recreation groups and play groups, the passports have been ordered and used by more diverse sources such as play therapists, doctors and even a children’s refuge in Broome. It is also noted that the passports are regularly being used by teachers in the classroom, as shown in the following graph.

In the majority of cases the passports have been used in direct nature play activities and have helped to raise awareness of the benefits of nature play.

The following graph shows how the Nature Play WA passports are being used



The following comment about the passports was posted on Nature Play WA's facebook group by a counselor at Embely House Counselling for children:

"For a child's mental health development, I cannot stress enough the benefits of grounding activities, non-structured play and the family playing together. Of course, this is not the complete answer, but it is something that everyone can work on to give their children a good foundation. This is why I am very pleased with the support that Nature Play WA offers families. A lot of children no longer engage in the activities that Nature Play WA promotes. They and their families will benefit from using the Nature Play WA Passports and this is why I want to encourage the parents of my clients to support their children using them. I might add that it was one of the parents who introduced me to the passports,"

- *Embely House Counselling for children*

3.2 Family Nature Clubs

Contribution to strategic priorities:

- ☑ P1. Increase awareness amongst WA parents of the benefits of nature play.
- ☑ P2. Increase opportunities for families to participate in nature play activities.
- ☑ P3. Create new resources and promote existing resources that make taking part in nature play easy.
- ☑ P4. Establish a broad communication network with partner groups and WA families.

'Family Nature Clubs' are informal groups of families and friends who make the commitment to meet regularly for a date in nature. It is a simple yet effective concept borrowed (with permission) from the Children and Nature Network, the American counterpart of Nature Play WA, and developed with the help of the Department of Sport and Recreation and the Department of Environment and Conservation. These organisations collaborated to develop a Family Nature Club 'tool kit' in 2010 to provide inspiration, information, tips and resources for people interested in creating a Family Nature Club.



The Family Nature Club concept grew considerably in the 2011/2012 financial year, from two to 18 clubs over the 12 month period, one of which was in a regional area. This far surpassed Nature Play WA's Department of Sport and Recreation grant requirement to see to the creation of one regional and two metropolitan Family Nature Clubs in the first year of operation. The significant growth in clubs is due, in part, in to a special Family Nature Club recruitment promotion launched in the December 2011 e-newsletter, which offered all new Family Nature Clubs a free group surfing lesson with Surfing WA.

In addition, special Nature Play WA backpacks were created and offered in a February 2012 promotion to any Family Nature Clubs that wrote in with their tales of adventure while on Family Nature Club outings.

3.3 Geocaching

Contribution to strategic priorities:

- ☑ P2. Increase opportunities for families to participate in nature play activities.
- ☑ P3. Create new resources and promote existing resources that make taking part in nature play easy.
- ☑ P5. Advocate for the importance of nature play to government bodies and agencies who work with children.

Geocaching is a high-tech treasure hunting game that is played worldwide by adventure seekers who use a GPS or Smartphone to locate a hidden container – called a geocache – which often contain toys and trinkets that can be traded when the container is found. The locations of the geocaches are stored online and can be accessed for free at www.geocaching.com.

In the 2010/2011 financial year Nature Play WA recognised geocaching as a great opportunity to harness the power of technology to get children outside. To promote the initiative, Nature Play WA hid three kid-friendly geocaches in the Perth metropolitan area - in Kings Park, North Perth and Woodman Point.

The Nature Play WA geocaches proved so popular that Nature Play WA and the Department of Sport and Recreation partnered with Department for Communities to host a family geocaching event during Families Week on 12 May 2012.

The event was attended by 50 families, with many reporting they enjoyed the experience and would continue to geocache with their family and friends.

Nature Play WA plans to place more geocaches in the Perth metro area and is planning a much larger geocaching event in the 2012/2013 financial year.

3.4 Research

Contribution to strategic priorities:

- ☒ P1. Increase awareness amongst WA parents of the benefits of nature play.
- ☒ P2. Increase opportunities for families to participate in nature play activities.
- ☒ P5. Advocate for the importance of nature play to government bodies and agencies who work with children.

Two research projects have been initiated (in the 2011/2012 financial year) that will benefit Nature Play WA.

The first is a classroom research project that begun in May 2012 by Year 7 students involved with the North Metro Primary Extension and Challenge (PEAC) – an extension program for gifted and talented students from approximately 20 North Metropolitan schools.

As part of this project, students will use geographical information systems (GIS) to identify optimal geocache sites for Nature Play WA that will help to communicate the organisations message and philosophy. The students will then promote the use of these geocaches throughout their peers. The project will be documented as an entry in the *Spatial Technologies in Schools Competition 2012* (www.stis.org.au).

The acquisition of data within this partnership will be two-way, as PEAC will look to Nature Play WA as a source of information/data and Nature Play WA will collect data on prime geocaching locations from PEAC. The project will be completed next financial year.

The second research project will be undertaken by Lisa Wood, Associate Professor at the Centre for the Built Environment and Health, University of Western Australia in partnership with Department of Sport and Recreation's South West Regional office and Nature Play WA. The project is scheduled to begin next financial year and will investigate the relationship between poor AEDI (Australian Early Development Index) scores in some of Western Australia's South West towns and time spent by children in unstructured play outdoors.

The AEDI is a national collection of information on young children's development. Data is collected every three years and the results provide a snapshot of how our children are developing.

3.4 Green Scripts

Contribution to strategic priorities:

- ☒ P3. Create new resources and promote existing resources that make taking part in nature play easy.
- ☒ P5. Advocate for the importance of nature play to government bodies and agencies who work with children.

A “Green Script” is a health professional's written advice to a patient to be physically active outdoors as part of the patient's overall health management.

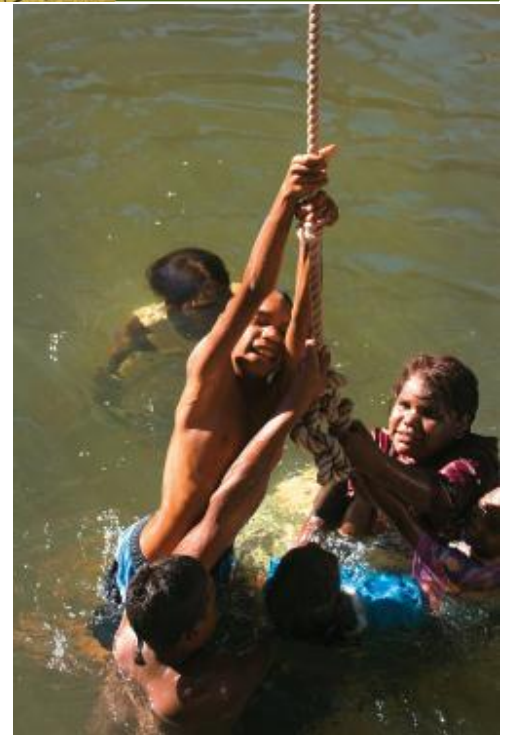
Green Script programs are currently in use in New Zealand, as well as parts of the United States and Sweden. They are a means to combat obesity and mental health disorders including depression and ADHD.

In the 2010/2011 financial year, Nature Play WA recognised the potential of the Green Script concept to be used as a new resource to get more children – especially those at risk of mental health issues or obesity-related disease – playing outdoors. Nature Play WA wrote a briefing paper investigating the existing global Green Script models and conceptualised several options for delivery of a similar program in Western Australia.

This briefing paper was presented to representatives of the Australian Medical Association and the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) in a meeting in June 2011 hosted by Nature Play WA, led by Chairman Dr David Roberts. Both organisations expressed an interest in the idea and it was agreed that development of the concept would continue in the 2011/2012 financial year.

A series of meetings were held between Nature Play WA, the AMA and the Physical Activity Taskforce (a founding partner at the time of the agreement) in July and August 2012. These meetings culminated in the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to jointly pursue the establishment of a Green Scripts pilot program in Western Australia.

Momentum for the concept declined in the second quarter of the financial year, when key MOU signatory, the Physical Activity Taskforce, was dissolved after its government funding was withdrawn. Nature Play WA lacked the staff and monetary resources to spearhead the initiative and its focus on organisational development took precedence. The Green Script concept will be re-assessed in the 2012/2013 financial year to determine whether it can be progressed.



“The Green Script concept will be re-assessed in the 2012/2013 financial year to determine whether it can be progressed.”



4. Partnerships

Contribution to strategic priorities:

- ☑ P1. Increase awareness amongst WA parents of the benefits of nature play.
- ☑ P2. Increase opportunities for families to participate in nature play activities.
- ☑ P3. Create new resources and promote existing resources that make taking part in nature play easy.
- ☑ P4. Establish a broad communication network with partner groups and WA families.
- ☑ P5. Advocate for the importance of nature play to government bodies and agencies who work with children.

At its core, Nature Play WA is an awareness-raising organisation and understands the importance of developing relationships with partner groups to help spread its nature play message to WA parents, government bodies and agencies who work with children.

To that end, Nature Play WA has focused strongly in the 2011/2012 financial year on building relationships with organisations with an interest in encouraging children's participation in unstructured outdoor play. Nature Play WA has developed relationships with 43 partner organisations, either as founding partners, through its passport program or through general interest as summarised below:

Partner Organisation	Relationship
Act Belong Commit – Mentally Healthy WA	Founding partner
Active After School	Passport distribution through its after-school program.
Australian Medical Association	Founding partner
Auskick	Tailored passport missions and passport distribution to membership in Swan Districts and North West.
Bibbulmun Track Foundation	Founding partner and passport distribution.
Conservation Council of WA	Founding partner
Creating Communities	Founding partner
Department for Communities	Partner for geocache event for Families Week in May 2012.
Department of Environment and Conservation	Founding partner and passport distribution/cross promotion through Yanchep National Park, Hills Discovery Centre and Nearer2 Nature program.
Department of Sport and Recreation	Founding partner and major in-kind supporter through accommodation, web hosting and administrative functions. Alliance through DSRs Sport4All program*.
Department of Transportation	Distributing passports through its Travel Smart to School program, sponsoring printing costs for 10,000 passports plus developing tailored missions.
Great Gardens	Discussed possible partnership with River Guardians program as well as tailored water wise missions and trial of passports in the North West.

Partner Organisation	Relationship
Healthway	Founding partner
Heart Foundation	Founding partner
Josh Byrne & Associates	Cross promotion and events.
Kings Park Botanic Gardens Authority	Founding partner and passport distribution point through its Rio Tinto Naturescape.
Meerlinga	Event partner.
Netball WA	Passport distribution and tailored missions through its 'Net Set Go!' program.
Ngala	Key partner in Nature Play WA's early years strategy.
North Metro Primary Extension and Challenge (PEAC)	Undertaking a research project for Nature Play WA.
Outdoors WA	Founding partner and cross promotion.
Parks and Leisure Australia	Founding partner
Perth City Farm	Passport distribution point and cross promotion.
Perth Zoo	Cross promotion, passport distribution point and potential new family nature club organisation.
Playgroup WA	Founding partner and special projects*
Protective Behaviours WA	Possible new founding partner.
Public Health Advocacy Institute	Founding partner
Rottneest Island Authority	Major nature play event host in 2011.
Royal Australasian College of Physicians	Founding partner
Sabrina Hahn	Partner on various gardening initiatives.
Scouts WA	Working on creating a 'Nature Play' badge, created tailored passport missions, discussed contributing to Scouts' stall at Perth Royal Show in October 2012.
Surfing WA	Project partner on Family Nature Clubs surf promotion.
The Greening Project	Cross promotion and passport distribution at its tree planting festivals.
The Heart Foundation	Founding partner
Therapy Focus	Discussed development of tailored passport missions.
The West Australian	Partner in the 'Gardens for Play' photo competition in May 2012.
Tourism WA	Passport distribution point through Perth Tourism Centre in Forrest Place, plus tailored passport missions under development for various regional centres.
WA Gould League	Passport distribution point, plus activity discounts.
Western Australian Council of State Schools Organisation (WACSSO)	Founding partner
Western Australian Primary Principals' Association (WAPPA)	Founding partner
Water Corporation	Investigating cross promotion options between Nature Play WA and its Waterwise school program.
WA Young Naturalists	Cross-promotion
Whiteman Park	Passport distribution point & tailored missions.

***Sport for All**

Nature Play WA's funding is administered through a grant managed by the Department of Sport and Recreation under its *Sport for All* initiative. The initiative includes three of the department's internal programs – KidSport, Community Volunteer Project and Club Talk – as well as Nature Play WA.

Under Nature Play WA's funding arrangement, it must evaluate its program. This financial year, Nature Play WA was offered the opportunity to take part in the overarching *Sport for All* evaluation (to be undertaken over four years) rather than opting for an independently sourced evaluation. This evaluation proposal was tabled at a Board meeting on 16 November 2011 and adopted by unanimous resolution of the Board. An initial meeting to discuss the *Sport for All* evaluation was held between the Department of Sport and Recreation, the evaluation consultant 'Research Solutions', and Nature Play WA on 9 May 2012. Work on evaluating the program will begin in the 2012/2013 financial year.

****Playgroup WA**

During the 2011/2012 financial year, Nature Play WA had special partnership support from Playgroup WA as a result of an arrangement between Playgroup WA and DSR. As a result of this arrangement, Playgroup WA:

- Conducted six nature-based play days; four in regional areas (one each in Boyup Brook, Pegs Creek, Pannawonica and Wickham) and two in metro areas (Mundaring and Peppermint Grove). A total of 121 adults and 170 children attended the six play days.
- Ran two nature play articles in its Totline magazine (August 2011 and November 2011), which is distributed to its 17,000 playgroup members.
- Promoted nature play and nature-based missions in two articles in its e-news (7 December 2011 and 22 March 2012), which has a 20,000 person distribution list.
- Distributed a number of nature play kits as part of Playgroup WA's registration packets that included information to help playgroups set up nature-based family clubs and incorporate nature play into playgroups.
- Included nature play activities at its annual fun day on 15 November 2011, including distribution of Nature Play WA passports with five tailored missions (sand play, water play, animal farm, etc).
- Developed a flier in collaboration with Nature Play WA which was distributed at Playgroup WA events in 2012, such as its nature play days, World's Biggest Play Day and Canning's Harmony Week event.

In addition, to the partners listed above, there are also a number of organisations that offer activities or services to encourage children to play outside that were advertised in Nature Play WA's school holiday e-newsletters. These include:

- [Adventure Out](#)
- [Bold Park \(Botanic Gardens & Parks Authority\)](#)
- [Canoeing WA](#)
- [Donnelly Village](#)
- [Leave No Trace Australia](#)
- [Orienteering WA](#)
- [Pemberton Discovery Tours](#)
- [Schwheels](#)
- [Spring Valley Orchard](#)

5. Speaking Engagements

Contribution to strategic priorities:

- ☑ P1. Increase awareness amongst WA parents of the benefits of nature play.
- ☑ P2. Increase opportunities for families to participate in nature play activities.
- ☑ P3. Create new resources and promote existing resources that make taking part in nature play easy.
- ☑ P4. Establish a broad communication network with partner groups and WA families.
- ☑ P5. Advocate for the importance of nature play to government bodies and agencies who work with children.

During the 2011/2012 financial year, Nature Play WA sent representatives to six major events and CEO Griffin Longley delivered 45 presentations to a variety of school groups, parent groups, government departments and children's organisations.

These presentations focused on raising awareness of the benefits of nature play and discussing ways to increase participation. They also served as an ideal means of promoting new and existing nature play resources. The complete list of speaking engagements and events are listed below:

Date	Organisation	Format
1 July 2011	Department for Communities - Middle Years Forum	Presentation/panel representative/workshop coordinator
2 August 2011	WA Healthy Schools Staff Seminar	Presentation
3 August 2011	Parenting WA staff	MC
5 August 2011	Kidsafe Forum	Presentation
17 August 2011	Independent schools association seminar at Wesley College	Presentation
17 August 2011	Australian Medical Association Council of GPs	Presentation
30 August 2011	Edith Curtin University	Lecture
10 September 2011	Early years in Education Society (EYES) Conference	Keynote speaker
13 September 2011	Active Smart event - Geraldton	Presentation
15 September 2011	Physical Activity Taskforce, Move More Outdoors seminar	Presentation

Date	Organisation	Format
16 September 2011	Forum Advocating Cultural & Eco Tourism (FACET) Conference	Keynote speaker
26 Sept 2011	Town of Vincent Community Presentation	Presentation
29 September 2011	Bunbury Kidsfest	Event
17 October 2011	Hale School	Presentation
19 October 2011	WA Football Commission Management Team	Presentation
23 October 2011	Children's Week Event at Whiteman Park	Event
26 October 2011	Parenting WA Staff	Presentation
29 October 2011	Awe and Wonder Conference, Denmark WA	Presentation
10 November 2011	Greenwood area school principals and PE teachers	Presentation
10 November 2011	Scotch College and PLC parents and teachers	Presentation
12 November 2011	Ranford Primary School fathers	Presentation
25 November 2011	Newman College parents and teachers	Presentation
28 November 2011	ACHPER conference -health/physical and outdoor education teachers	Keynote speaker
30 November 2011	Parenting WA conference	Speaker
6 February 2012	Hale School	Presentation
12 March 2012	Great Southern Grammar (Albany)	Presentation
17 March 2012	Riverton-Willeton Kindergarten	Presentation
18 March 2012	City of South Perth	Event
20 March 2012	Promoting Eating and Activity for Children's Health (PEACH)	Presentation
23 March 2012	Edith Cowan University (Bunbury campus)	Presentation
30 March 2012	Manjimup Family Centre play expo	Presentation/event
3 April 2012	Department of Sport and Recreation Regional Managers update	Presentation
16 April 2012	AusKick	Presentation

Date	Organisation	Format
20 April 2012	Catholic Education Office - Early Learning and Care seminar	Presentation
23 April 2012	Council of Educational Facility Planning International Playground Seminar	Presentation
23 April 2012	Guildford Grammar School Staff	Presentation
29 April 2012	Carine Junior Football Club players and parents	Presentation
12 May 2012	Department for Communities and Department for Sport and Recreation - Geocaching event	Event
17 May 2012	Rotary Club of West Perth	Presentation
25 May 2012	WA Trails Conference	Presentation
15 June 2012	Harvey Play Expo Community Event	Presentation/event
20 June 2012	WA Primary Principals Association conference	Presentation
27 June 2012	Department of Sport and Recreation Public Open Space Forum	Panel discussion
29 June 2012	South West Recreation Network members	Presentation

Griffin Longley, CEO, delivering a Nature Play WA presentation



"Nature Play WA made three submissions in relation to proposed changes to public policy that could affect children's opportunities for unstructured play outdoors"



6. Advocacy

Contribution to strategic priorities:

- ☒ P5. Advocate for the importance of nature play to government bodies and agencies who work with children.

In the 2011/2012 financial year, Nature Play WA made three submissions in relation to proposed changes to public policy that could affect children's opportunities for unstructured play outdoors. These included:

Organisation	Public Policy Document	Issue	Date of Submission	Outcome
Institute of Public Works Engineering Australia (IPWEA)	<u>Local Government Guidelines for Subdivisional Development, 2011</u>	Argued for inclusion of option for natural playground elements in public open spaces.*	September 2011	Unsuccessful
Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA)	<u>Draft Shape of the Australian Curriculum: Health and Physical Education, March 2012</u>	Argued for greater emphasis in school curriculum on importance of nature play, outdoor education and greener school grounds for children's development. **	March 2012	Final not yet released - outcome unknown.
Department of Health (WA)	<u>WA Health Promotion Strategic Framework 2012 - 2016</u>	Argued for strong emphasis within this health policy framework to support unstructured outdoor play.***	May 2012	Final not yet released - outcome unknown.

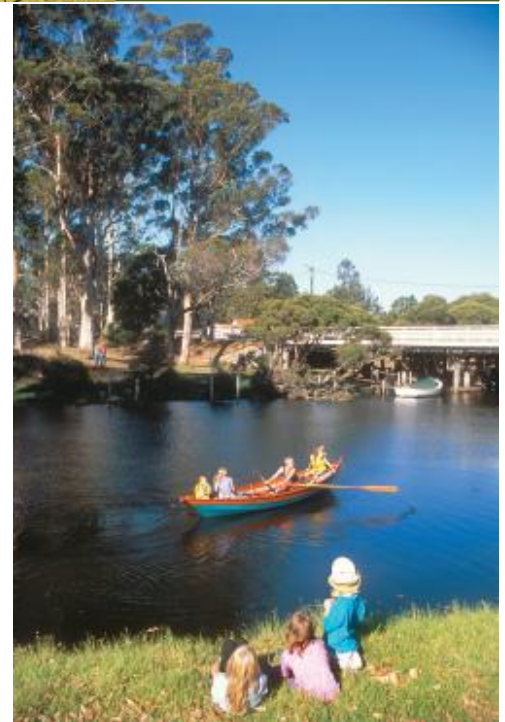
* Nature Play WA's submission to IPWEA on its [Local Government Guidelines for Subdivisional Development, 2011](#) suggested a change to its guidance on playground equipment, which recommended the provision of modular units in public open spaces. Nature Play WA suggested that restricting playground equipment options to modular playground units may be too limiting and that this line should either be removed completely, to allow an opportunity to broaden the options for playspaces, or should be expanded to encourage the use of natural elements (eg: wet/dry creek beds, mounds/ slopes, sand/ mud pits, sensory plants and trees to swing or climb).

Unfortunately these changes were not adopted in the final version that was released in late 2011. No formal feedback was given, but an informal discussion indicated that IPWEA believed the use of natural elements could pose a fire risk, might be more dangerous than modular units (specifically in the case of the use of water bodies like streams) and would require more money and time to maintain.

While these guidelines do not constitute formal subdivisional engineering regulations, they are intended to guide local government and the development industry through subdivision approval. The guidelines are updated approximately every two years. Nature Play WA will make another submission at this stage.

**Nature Play WA's submission on ACARA's draft Shape of the *Australian Curriculum: Health and Physical Education*, argued for a greater emphasis on raising awareness of the importance of nature play, outdoor education and greener school grounds for children's physical, mental, cognitive and behavioural development. It also noted that parents will play a key role in enabling their children to participate in unstructured outdoor play and will need to be engaged in this aspect of the curriculum.

***Nature Play WA's submission to Department of Health on its *WA Health Promotion Strategic Framework 2012 – 2016* was made in relation to the 'More Active WA' section. Specifically, Nature Play WA encouraged the development of policies, legislation and regulation, supportive environments and economic interventions that will encourage children to participate in unstructured outdoor play.



7. Administration

Contribution to strategic priorities:

- ☒ P6. Develop Nature Play WA's organisational capacity.

Key administrative milestones during the 2011/2012 financial year included:

Date	Milestone
27 July 2012	First Nature Play WA Board meeting of the 2011/2012 financial year.
	Final Nature Play WA Strategic Plan formally adopted by Board.
	Establishment of three Board committees - Executive Committee, Finance Committee and Strategies Committee - endorsed by Board. Risk Management Committee abolished, with its responsibilities given to Executive Committee.
	'CEO Delegation' and 'Matters Reserved for the Board' documents endorsed by the Board.
26 August 2011	DSR grant agreement governing the allocation of \$2million in State funding over four years through its Sport 4 All program signed by Nature Play WA CEO Griffin Longley.
1 September 2011	DSR grant agreement takes effect for the period of 1 September 2011 to 31 August 2015.
27 September 2011	Second Nature Play WA Board meeting of the 2011/2012 financial year.
	Operational plan tabled and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board with specific amendments.
	Budget tabled and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board.
26 October 2011	Entire 10-member inaugural Nature Play WA Board re-elected un-opposed for 2011/2012 financial year at Nature Play WA AGM.
	Annual report tabled.
16 November 2011	Third Board meeting of the 2011/2012 financial year.
	Financial statements tabled and adopted by unanimous resolution of the Board.
	David Roberts elected as Chair and David Zarb as Deputy Chair by unanimous resolution of the Board.
	Board members nominated for their preferred length of term (either one, two or three years) and were decided without need for a ballot vote.
	Executive Committee charter tabled and adopted by unanimous resolution of the Board with amendments.
	Finance Committee charter tabled and adopted by unanimous resolution of the Board.
	Strategic Committee Charter tabled but Board moved for it to be re-drawn.
	Members nominated and appointed to Executive, Finance and Strategic committees without need for a ballot vote.
	Evaluation proposal tabled and adopted under conditions outlined in Executive Committee recommendations by unanimous resolution of the Board.
	Need for a sponsorship policy tabled. Board suggested ad hoc committee be created to address sponsorship issues, which was agreed by common assent.

Date	Milestone
23 November 2011	Nature Play WA policy on Promotion of Religious and Political Content completed.
December 2011	Nature Play WA internal communications plan finalised.
	Completed transition of IT services from DSR management to private company, iQuest.
2 May 2012	Fourth Board meeting of the 2011/2012 financial year.
	Board alerted to July 2012 office move from DSR's Leederville offices to WA Sports Lotteries House in Claremont.
	Sponsorship policy tabled and accepted in its current form by unanimous vote of the Board. It was agreed the policy be reviewed in 18 months.
	Australian Nature Play Network plan tabled but it was decided there was more work to be done before it was necessary to vote on adoption of any particular policy in this regard.
	Preliminary 'Board and CEO review' presented. Board suggested that the Board and CEO reviews be separated, that no external party be included and that a matrix model be used. All suggestions were met by general assent of the Board.
14 May 2012	Nature Play WA Procurement policy drafted.

8. Sponsorship

Contribution to strategic priorities:

- ☒ P3. Create new resources and promote existing resources that make taking part in nature play easy.
- ☒ P7. Be financially independent of government within three years (September 2014).

A major focus for Nature Play WA in the 2011/2012 financial year was building its organisational capacity, while advancing its existing resources and programs. As a result, seeking sponsorship opportunities did not feature strongly in Nature Play WA's priorities until the last quarter of the reporting period, when a sponsorship policy was drafted. This policy was tabled at a Board meeting on 2 May 2011, accepted by unanimous vote of the Board and will guide sponsorship recruitment efforts next financial year. Following the adoption of this policy several sponsorship opportunities were investigated and one finalised arrangement was struck in May 2012:

Organisation	Date agreement finalised	Financial Contribution	Benefits to Nature Play WA
WA Department of Transport	8 May 2012	\$10,000	Contribution to costs of Nature Play WA's passports program.

Next financial year, Nature Play WA's organisational capacity will be significantly developed, allowing a greater emphasis to be placed on developing sponsorship arrangements and plans.

9. External Enquiries about Nature Play WA

Contribution to strategic priorities:

- ☒ P4. Establish a broad communication network with partner groups and WA families.
- ☒ P5. Advocate for the importance of nature play to government bodies and agencies who work with children.

Nature Play WA has been approached by a number of government organisations in other states that are interested in adopting Nature Play WA's passport initiative and, in some cases, in developing programs similar to Nature Play WA in their own states.

The following table summarises the queries Nature Play WA has received from government organisations in other states within Australia, as well as from other countries, including America and Singapore:

State	Organisation	Enquiry
ACT	ACT Health	Interested in adopting a similar passport initiative.
NSW	Wild Walks	Interested in starting a nature play network in NSW.
NSW	Gosford City Council	Started Family Nature Clubs based on ideas from Nature Play WA's Family Nature Club toolkit.
NT	Parks and Wildlife Commission	Interested in passport concept and Nature Play WA generally.
QLD	Department of Communities	Investigating development of a play and physical activity passport.
SA	Department of Environment and Rural Services	Interested in setting up a similar program to NPWA.
VIC	Parks Victoria	Asked to be put on our distribution list for nature play articles and publications.
VIC	www.naturedkids.com	Interested in passport concept and Nature Play WA generally.
Country	Organisation	Enquiry
America	Children and Nature Network	Interested in adopting a similar passport initiative.
Singapore	National government	Requested information on nature play through DSR.

In response to these queries, an Australian Nature Play Network plan was tabled at a Board meeting on 2 May 2012. It was decided that there was more work to be done before it was necessary to vote on the adoption of any particular policy in this regard.

PART 4

Financial Matters

The following section provides a copy of Nature Play WA's audit opinion and financial statements for the 2011/2012 financial year.



Grant Thornton Audit Pty Ltd
ACN 130 913 594

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
W www.grantthornton.com.au

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

We have audited the accompanying financial report of Nature Play WA Inc (the "Association"), which comprises the balance sheet as at 30 June 2012, and 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 Executives.

Responsibility of the Executives for the financial report

The Executives 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 Executives 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 reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the Executives, 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.

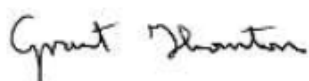
In conducting our audit, we have complied with the applicable independence requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board.

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 2012 and of its performance for the year then ended.

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 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, 19 October 2012

Nature Play WA Inc

FINANCIAL REPORT

FOR THE PERIOD 1 SEPTEMBER 2011 TO 30 JUNE 2012

Nature Play WA Inc

PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT
FOR THE PERIOD 1 SEPTEMBER 2011 TO 30 JUNE 2012

	Note	2012 \$
INCOME		
Grant Income - DSR		500,000
	2	<u>500,000</u>
LESS EXPENDITURE		
Accountancy		1,450
Bank Charges		68
Bookkeeping		2,580
Conferences, Seminars		1,075
Computer Support		5,922
Depreciation		1,340
Employees' Amenities		147
Evaluation		5,000
General Expenses		139
Graphic Design		10,299
Insurance		4,580
Interest Paid		1,362
MV Depreciation		3,287
MV Fuel		1,099
MV Parking		28
MV Rego & Ins		1,178
Postage		1,404
Printing		37,963
Office Supplies & Stationery		2,856
Recruitment		1,253
Rent		4,000
Secondment Fees		40,017
Subscriptions		142
Superannuation		11,514
Telephone		1,434
Travelling Expenses		887
Wages		140,824
Website		598
Workcover Ins		<u>1830</u>
		<u>284,276</u>
NET INCOME		<u><u>215,724</u></u>

Nature Play WA Inc

**BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 30 JUNE 2012**

	Note	2012 \$
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash at Bank		219,877
Petty Cash		636
GST Receivable	3	8,713
Other Debtors		-
		<u>229,226</u>
FIXED ASSETS		
Plant and Equipment	4	15,045
Motor Vehicles		35,522
		<u>50,567</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>279,793</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Trade Creditors		6,557
Withholding Taxes Payable		4,234
Employee Provisions		3,693
Accrued Employee Wages		8,151
Super Payable		5,032
		<u>27,668</u>
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		
HP Loan liability		47,931
Less Unexpired Interest		(11,530)
		<u>36,401</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES		<u>64,069</u>
NET ASSETS		<u><u>215,724</u></u>
		\$
EQUITY		
Issued Capital		-
Retained Profits		215,724
TOTAL EQUITY		<u><u>215,724</u></u>

Nature Play WA Inc

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD 1 SEPTEMBER 2011 TO 30 JUNE 2012****1 Statement of Significant Accounting Policies**

The financial statements are a special purpose report prepared for use by directors and the member. The directors have determined that the company 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.

No Australian Accounting Standards, Australian Accounting Interpretations Views or other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board have been intentionally applied.

2 Grant Expenditure Report:**Grants**

DSR Grant	500,000
-----------	---------

Less Expenditure	284,276
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Net Income	215,724
-------------------	----------------

3 GST on Acquisitions:

GST on Acquisitions	8,713
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8,713

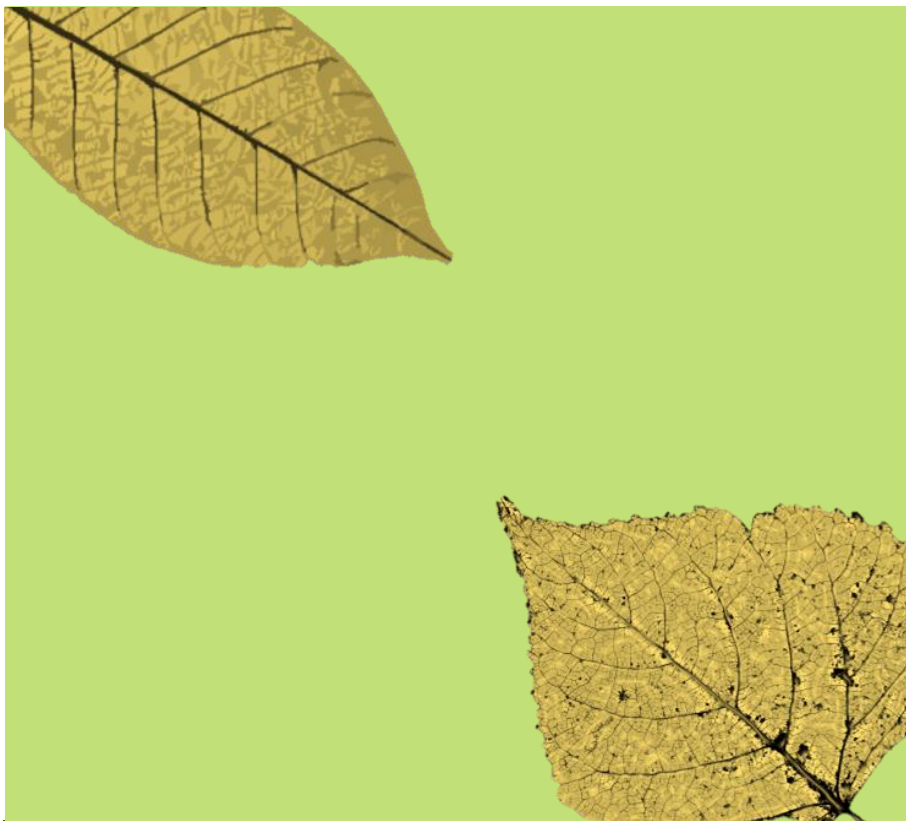
Nature Play WA Inc

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD 1 SEPTEMBER 2011 TO 30 JUNE 2012**

	2012 \$
4 Plant and Equipment:	
Plant and Equipment	16,385
Less Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(1,340)</u>
Total Plant and Equipment:	<u><u>15,045</u></u>
 Motor Vehicles:	
Motor Vehicles	38,809
Less Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(3,287)</u>
Total Motor Vehicles:	<u><u>35,522</u></u>

5 Going Concern

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.



Nature Play WA Annual Report

2011 to 2012



Nature Play WA

Sports Lotteries House
Stephenson Ave
Mount Claremont WA 6010
PO Box 57, Claremont WA 6010
Phone: 08 9287 1006
info@natureplaywa.org.au

in partnership with



Department of
Sport and Recreation