

ENABLING RISKY PLAY OUTDOORS

Strategies for developing competence not avoidance

A ONE DAY SEMINAR - FRIDAY 29TH MAY 2026
IN PERSON & ONLINE



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

6 hours of Professional Learning Certificate provided for Attendees.

Teachers - contributes to the Domain of Professional Practice - create and maintain supportive and safe learning environments.

Landscape Architects - Approved 6 AILA CPD points.

Architects - informal CPD. Category: Events, tours and conferences. Description: Attending design lectures and seminars.

BOOK TICKETS THROUGH EVENTBRITE

A forum for discussion and education, in a wonderful venue, with good company and great food. Topics will cover:

- The value and benefits of risky and challenging play
- Practical application of theories about play
- Strategies for children and adults to engage with risk through play
- Review of case studies and past projects

CITY OF MELBOURNE BOWLS CLUB, FLAGSTAFF GARDENS,
WEST MELBOURNE & ONLINE

PROGRAM

REGISTRATION TEA & COFFEE 8:30-9:00 AM

Bruce Grillmeier
Director -
Jeavons Landscape
Architects

A Brief Welcome (and MC for the day) 9:00-9:15 AM

- Introduction
- Housekeeping

Daniel Burton
CEO and Co-Founder -
Educated by Nature

**Children as Dynamic Risk Managers:
Nervous Systems, Nature and the
Design of Developmental Risk** 9:15-10:15 AM

- Shifting the paradigm from 'how to make children safe', to learning to manage risk
- Establishing trust and relationships for adults who don't feel comfortable with risk

MORNING TEA 10:15-10:45 AM

Dr Barbara Chancellor
Associate Professor -
Federation University

**Facilitating Risky Play: Influencing
factors on adult attitudes** 10:45-11:45 AM

- What the research tells us
- Links between theory and practice
- Shifting from an adult's to a child's perspective of challenge and risk
- Barriers in professional practice
- Exploring children's perspectives
- Building confidence to advocate

David Kutcher
Children and Youth
Advocate & Honorary
Principal -
The Venny,
Vice Chair - Play Australia

**Is the road to resilience paved with
risk?** 11:45-12:45 PM

- Risk taking play - why we value it
- Providing a full play diet
- Risk versus safety
- Early intervention approach
- What the children tell us
- Why we do it

LUNCH 12:45-1:45 PM

Mike Hewson
Artist / Designer -
Hewson Industries

Can't we just txt the builder a sketch? 1:45-2:45 PM

- Summary of projects
- How entrenched tender processes separate designers from builders
- Preventing entrenched processes from blocking innovation
- Hybrid risk models for grey area 'non-playground' bits

Daniel Burton
Dr Barbara Chancellor
David Kutcher
Mike Hewson

Panel Discussion 2:45-3:15 PM

Discussion and questions facilitated by Mary Jeavons.

TEA & COFFEE 3:15-3:45 PM

Drinks and Networking 3:15-3:45 PM

PLENARY / CLOSE 3:45-4:00 PM



PRESENTERS



DANIEL BURTON

Chief Executive Officer and Co-Founder - Educated by Nature

Daniel is the CEO and co-founder of Educated by Nature, a world leader in play-based nature education since its establishment in 2014. With a background as a qualified primary school teacher, education consultant, rites of passage facilitator, musical theatre artist and passionate nature connection mentor, Daniel plays a pivotal role in shaping the organisation's vision and initiatives. Drawing from over ten years of experience working with thousands of Australian children, Educated by Nature has developed a suite of research-based pedagogies aimed at bringing education outdoors and has gained international acclaim for its innovative approach to outdoor learning.



DR BARBARA CHANCELLOR

Associate Professor - Federation University

Barbara is an academic at Federation University. Her research interests centre around children's outdoor play in early childhood settings, schools and public open spaces. Over recent years she has collaborated on research in Nature Immersive Play Programs, Intergenerational perceptions on outdoor play opportunities for children today and early childhood education with an environmental sustainability focus.



DAVID KUTCHER

Children and Youth Advocate & Honorary Principal - The Venny
Vice Chair - Play Australia

David is the longest serving GM and Board member in The Venny's history. He has completed well over 10,000 hours of play work practice. Some highlights of David's years include, an exemplary child safety record including winning an award for The Venny from the National Award for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect. David has a proven track record of building risk competency and play sufficiency and putting children and young people front and centre of all decision making and play practice.



MIKE HEWSON

Artist / Designer - Hewson Industries

Mike Hewson is a visual artist with a background in structural engineering and heavy-civil construction. His award-winning projects pioneer new ways to merge conceptual art projects into the public realm. Hewson works to prove we can, in fact, do things that are considered untenable in a public setting. Each project aims to catalyse fresh conversation about how the bureaucratic and managerial aspects of power are shaping our public lives, asking if we like that shape or if we'd like to explore other freer options.



MARY JEAVONS

Founder - Jeavons Landscape Architects

Mary Jeavons is a Registered Landscape Architect with over 30 years' experience in landscape planning and design and the design of play spaces. She is a Fellow of the Institute of Landscape Architects. Mary is a representative on the AS Standards Committee CS5 for playground safety, and has a sophisticated understanding of the practical implications of safety standards on children's play environments. She is a regular speaker at conferences and seminars both within Australia and overseas.

TICKETS & REGISTRATION

In person and online attendance available.

BOOK TICKETS THROUGH EVENTBRITE

EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT TICKETS \$290

Ends 1/05/2026

GENERAL ADMISSION \$360

Ends 22/05/2026

LIVE ONLINE ADMISSION \$125

Ends 28/05/2026

STUDENT ADMISSION \$50 (Limited places available)

Ends 22/05/2026

All ticket types will have access to recordings from each session.

If you have any questions please contact our event organiser

Bruce Grillmeier: events@jeavons.net.au



Jeavons
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS



Australian Institute of
Landscape Architects

We are proud to have this seminar supported by the
Australian Institute of Landscape Architects
www.aila.org.au



We are proud to have this seminar supported by
Play Australia
www.playaustralia.org.au