



Swanbury Penglase

Sitespotter



Central skylight



Official opening of Woodcroft College ELC



Dinizens of the learning zone!



Outdoor learning area and twig 'nest'

#79 We've settled back into our office 'home' and are reflecting on the outdoors with a feature project that focuses on outdoor learning environments for little people. We hope you enjoy the smell of spring in the air and as always, happy reading...

Woodcroft College New ELC

One of the delights of our profession is encountering unique qualities of individual sites that can deliver surprise benefits. One such opportunity emerged in the master planning stage of a new Early Learning Centre at Woodcroft College.

The best location for a new ELC coincided with an existing stormwater swale. One approach would have been to install a giant underground pipe and forever bury this vital function. Straight away however we wondered – what if we could integrate this feature into the learning landscape? The possibilities were very exciting – not only would it provide interesting topography to inspire and challenge young minds and bodies, it would also provide first-hand experience of water behaviour in the landscape and be highly complementary to the Reggio Emilia design principles guiding the project.

Safety always remains the overriding criterion in any human environment and detailed investigation by our civil engineers, FMG, revealed that the swale could be designed so that all the educational and experiential benefits of water in the landscape could be experienced in absolute safety.

The school and the design team visited several sites in Adelaide to experience built examples of nature play environments and confirm the philosophy of managed “risk” to maximize educational and developmental value. The environment is graduated – it starts out neat, controlled and ordered, and as children develop abilities and confidence, the landscape allows for adventure and more challenging opportunities.

The landscape is quite sculptural in form. The dry creek bed has stepping stones, water play zones that cascade to the “creek” and an island with a large sculptural twig “nest”. The outdoor play area provides a wealth of other experience beyond the creek bed including withdrawal spaces, fairy gardens, sand pits, rain bowls (water play), a climbing net, a digging pit, mud kitchen, bridge and a cubby.

The unique character of the site has allowed us to deliver an outdoor learning environment of richness, variety and opportunity that is seldom achievable in “normal” settings.

Staff Notes



Name: Rebecca Hewett

Position: Interior Designer

Current projects: Norwood Morialta High School, Women's Memorial Playing Fields

What inspires you?: Nature

Design you wished you could take credit for: Jay Shafer's Tumbleweed Tiny Houses, small spaces really highlight the importance of considered interior design

Pencil vs computer (your preference): Computer

Fav eatery: Cafe Troppo

Most treasured possession: My Papillion puppy Torah

Best thing about living in Adelaide: Being so close to family and friends

Fantasy (or next) holiday destination: Spending time on my new farm on the Fleurieu

First favourite song as a kid: Spice Girls "Wannabe"

Currently listening to: Scrubs Podcast Fake Doctors Real Friends

Life motto: Things turn out best for people who make the best of how things turn out

Superpower (if you could have one): Read minds

Growing up you thought you would be: A psychologist or a journalist

Memorable SP (Swanbury Penglase) moment: Every Christmas party!!

Office News

We've returned to working from our office on Gilbert Street and while things are quieter in Office News owing to COVID, action continues on various projects.

Completed in April, Walford Parks Pavilion had to wait until September for it's first function - the official opening. The pavilion was opened by dual Olympic marathon runner Jessica Stenson, attended by Director Andrew Phillips and Architect Ted Bouchier and the event was concluded with the inaugural running of the Parks Medal 200m sprint.

In other educational news, Swanbury Penglase were the main sponsors for the recent St Peter's Girls' Long Lunch with funds raised going towards the upcoming masterplan projects.

In early September, the new Aquinas Centre for Blackfriars Priory School reached practical completion. Featuring tertiary style STEM orientated learning spaces and a highly articulated external form, it is a new prominent feature on Prospect Road.

Another project milestone was the official sod turning ceremony at Norwood Morialta High School.

Despite travel bans, we are also completing several projects in Western Australia including Servite College and Stirling Dialysis Clinic.

We're proud to announce that our work at Edwardstown Soldiers Memorial Recreation Ground was recently awarded 2020 Parks and Leisure Australia 'Community Facility of the Year'. One year after completion, the centre, velodrome and RSL gardens are settling in well, are extensively used, and very well-known through the Edwardstown community and broader state cycling, football, bowling and cricket communities.

After the long indoor months of winter it's Corporate Cup time again! Can Senior Interior Designer Jasmine, reigning female champion, go back-to-back or will newcomer Architect Lauren Jeans steal her crown? Regardless of the winner, we have an outstanding level of participation with Swanbury Penglase entering three teams this year.

With Port grabbing the minor premier spot (much to Nathan M's delight), the footy tipping season has come to an end with Associate Paul Rawinski sneaking in to win on margin while Graduate of Architecture Nick Bartholomaeus was the proud recipient of the perpetual wooden spoon. This coveted award will be ceremoniously handed over by Landscape Architect Lana Greer (who together with Landscape Architect Marguerite Bartolo is currently treating a chronic and potentially incurable case of itchy feet with some self-prescribed sun in Cairns).

Thanks for spending some time with us here and we hope you enjoy the surrounding snapshots of some of the pets, places and plants from our time spent working from home.

