

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

What is a shade audit? Why should you do one?



Kidsafe NSW Top Tips for Shade in Playspaces
Natural Shade



Kidsafe 2010 National Playspace Design Award Winners



Playspace Picks—George Gregan
Playground Sydney Children's Hospital

What is a shade audit? Why should you do one?

John Greenwood, Architect—WebShade Pty. Ltd.

A shade audit is an essential step to ensure your site has adequate shade to protect children and adults from over-exposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation.

Cancer Council New South Wales The Shade Handbook specifically recommends that a shade audit be undertaken to assess existing shade and identify additional shade requirements as part of best practice planning for outdoor locations that cater primarily for children such as children's services, schools, playgrounds and theme parks.

A shade audit assesses the quality, location and amount of existing shade and compares that with the usage patterns at an outdoor site (the timing, duration and location of outdoor activities). It determines whether some activities could put people at risk of over-exposure to UV radiation and proposes ways in which any risk can be reduced.

By considering the specific needs of your site, a shade audit will allow you to ensure that children using your outdoor spaces are appropriately and cost-effectively protected from UV radiation by:

- changing the way your site is used by rescheduling and/or relocating activities;
- making better use of your existing shade;
- only creating new shade if it is really necessary;





What is a shade audit? Why should you do one?

Continued from previous page

- locating shade structures and trees where they are really needed; and
- creating effective shade that really works.

Your shade audit can assist you to:

- demonstrate the need to improve the level of UV protection;
- seek support and funding to carry out a shade project;
- plan long-term landscaping and capital works to achieve improved shade; and
- prepare a development application, if required.



You can conduct a shade audit of your site using such guides as the [*Cancer Council NSW Undercover: Guidelines for shade planning and design*](#). Alternatively, you can engage a professional shade planner or purchase shade audit software.

The purpose of having shade in children's play areas is twofold - to create comfortable spaces and to reduce the risk of skin cancer, by avoiding over-exposure to UV radiation. Shade that does not achieve both of these objectives is not only a waste of money - it means that we are failing to meet our duty of care to those children.

The challenge of shade provision is to be effective *and* economical.

Comfortable and effectively shaded play areas promote physical activity and can contribute to long term benefits in addressing a range of important health issues, including both skin cancer prevention **and** engagement in vigorous activity.

Most people recognise that there are clear legal and

ethical reasons for the owners of playgrounds and other outdoor spaces to adequately protect the children using their facilities from over-exposure to UV radiation. The challenge to shade provision is to be effective and economical.

The *Cancer Council* in each state can provide good information on shade design. Shade consultants offer independent and professional shade consulting services.

WebShade Pty Ltd is a shade planning consultancy and the developer of shade auditing and planning software.'

MUST DO's for successful shade outcomes:

DO a shade audit—make sure your shade is really needed and is in the correct position.

DO consider whether trees or a built structure will give you the best result.

DO make sure the shade will fall where and when you need it by mapping the shadow projections of the proposed shade structure.

DO ensure that the shading material used offers a minimum 94% UV blockout.

DO think of ways to reduce indirect UV radiation — reducing reflectivity or increasing the shaded area are both good strategies.

DO consider how comfortable your area will be in the cooler months and whether you need to consider 'warm' shade.

IMPORTANT: Kidsafe NSW Top Tips for Shade in Playspaces

- ⇒ Maintain required fall zones for play equipment.
- ⇒ Keep circulation paths through the playspace open and clear.
- ⇒ Avoid introducing potential unintended access to/ or from other features/components within your playspace.
- ⇒ Consider ongoing maintenance requirements when selecting construction materials for shade structures.
- ⇒ Seek documented evidence of structural integrity of shade structures and local council compliance as appropriate.
- ⇒ Inspect and maintain all shade provisions on a regular basis.

SHADE and PLAY.... Be Kidsafe.

KIDSAFE 2010 NATIONAL PLAYSPACE DESIGN AWARDS

The Kidsafe 2010 National Playspace Design Awards recognise excellence and innovation in the provision of safe, creative playspaces across Australia.

With over 50 entries submitted, the quality of entries for 2010 was extremely high. The entries reflected the ability of designers to showcase their talents through creative design.

Congratulations to the WINNERS

Children's Services—Safe and Challenging Playground—Battery Point Child Centre entered by Lady Gowrie Tasmania

Public Playspaces—District Playspaces—Pirrama Park, Pyrmont entered by ASPECT Studios in collaboration with Fiona Robbé Landscape Architects

Public Playspaces—Regional Parks—Safari Park, Taronga Western Plains Zoo entered by Spackman Mossop Michaels

Public Playspaces—Urban Precincts—'The Backyard' Rouse Hill Town Centre entered by Oculus Landscape Architecture Urban Design Pty Ltd

Innovative Design Elements—Orphan School Creek Playground—Sandpit and Cover entered by Fiona Robbé Landscape Architects with Phillips Marler Architects/Landscape Architects

Highly Commended Awards were given to:

Children's Services—St George Bank Child Care Centre Kogarah Landscape Works entered by Sydney Organic Gardens Pty Ltd.

District Playspaces—Brelsford Park, Coffs Harbour entered by Geolink Landscape Architects, Fiona Robbé Landscape Architects and Coffs Harbour City Council

Regional Parks—Bathurst Adventure Park entered by Bathurst City Council

Regional Parks—All Abilities Playground, Riverway entered by Townsville City Council

Innovative Design Elements—'Dharawal Dreaming'—Traditional Artwork entered by The Point Preschool Oyster Bay



Natural shade

The use of natural shade can be one of the most effective and aesthetically appealing ways of providing shade. Vegetation offers seasonal variations in perfume, colour and sounds. Many species produce colourful flowers or have attractive foliage or bark, some make good habitats for wildlife and many species can be used to screen unwanted views, provide wind protection and provide privacy.

Other materials cannot accomplish these things as well as vegetation can. The use of vegetation for shade also has a number of environmental benefits including:

- ⊗ less need to use non-renewable resources (used in many building materials)
- ⊗ energy saved in comparison with built shade systems, which often have high embodied energy (this is the sum of all energy used to produce a material, product or structure including extraction and processing of raw materials, manufacturing, assembly and transportation)
- ⊗ fewer disposal problems as plants generally act as nutrients during decomposition.

Other environmental benefits can be gained by using indigenous (or local native) plants for natural shade. Their use is important for flora, habitat and genetic conservation. Local native plants are also suited to local conditions and therefore require less maintenance. If non-local or overseas plants are used then care must be taken to ensure they will not become environmental weeds.

Excerpt taken from Greenwood et al (2000) *Under Cover: Guidelines for shade planning and design (amended for use in South Australia)*. Updated version, The Cancer Council South Australia





Educational Experience



Play Solutions that get everyone's approval!



Made from 25mm diameter tubing with long lasting electrostatic powder coating. Manufactured in accordance with AS4685:1 Australian standards for playground equipment.

SPECIAL OFFER
338434 Little People Kit
\$2195.00 +\$219.50GST
SAVE \$300.00
 All items are 50cm or lower - no certified under surfacing required.

Contact us for your playground solutions
www.edex.com.au 1300 134 211



GEORGE GREGAN PLAYGROUND: Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick

Sydney Children's Hospital is one of Australia's leading children's hospitals. The all-access playground provided by the George Gregan Foundation has been created as a superb example of the fusion of natural areas with beautiful plants, children's play equipment and a treasure trove of games and creatures to explore.

The major focus of the playground is an incredible diorama wall which features many hidden spaces and surprise elements for children to enjoy.

PLAYSPACE PICKS



KIDSAFE NSW PLAYGROUND ADVISORY UNIT

Services include:

- Phone Advisory Service
- Comprehensive Inspection Service
- Onsite Verbal Consultation Service
- Review of Playspace Plans
- Design Advice
- Fact sheets

- Playground Safety, Maintenance and Design Workshops
- Publications including:
 - Resource Directory
 - Concept Designs
 - Plants for Playspaces
 - 'Plan It' Design Guidelines



Visit the website for more information— kidsafensw.org



Are your mailing details correct?

Please notify us if any of the details including the contact person on the mailing label are incorrect. Contact Kidsafe NSW on 02 9845 0890 or email kidsafe@chw.edu.au

SPONSOR PLAYGROUND NEWS?

- The Playground News would not happen if it were not for the quarterly sponsors. Kidsafe NSW seeks to recover printing and postage costs for Playground News each quarter.
- Sponsorship of Playground News indicates your support of the philosophy and services of the Playground Advisory Unit, Kidsafe NSW.
- Playground News is distributed directly to the playground industry, children's services, community health providers, local government, government departments, schools, landscapers and designers.
- Sponsors are offered the opportunity to submit an article on a topic of their choice and specialisation.

Call Kay Lockhart on 02 9845 0890 if you would like to sponsor a future issue.