

1 July, Winchester University
The World Outside the Classroom
.....an international event exploring school grounds



BIOGRAPHIES

Catherine Andrews, Chief Executive, LTL

Catherine Andrews is Chief Executive of Learning through Landscapes. Having graduated from University College London with a degree in Geography, Catherine started her career as a Sailing Instructor along the south coast before taking a post as a Development Worker with Hammersmith and Fulham Mind in 1983. Addressing the challenge of mental health issues and services played a prominent role in Catherine's career for the next 13 years where she had roles in both local and national organisations, working on issues as broad as women's mental health, user involvement, work and worklessness and developing community mental health services. Her final mental health role was a Director of Mind in Haringey where she worked with the Health Authority and Social Services to develop strong service partnerships.

In 1996 Catherine accepted the position of Executive Director of Groundwork Camden & Islington. As an environmental regeneration agency, working with Groundwork gave Catherine an opportunity to revisit her interest in natural environments and the relationship between people and the places they live in. In her nine years with Groundwork she re-established a failed organisation, building from zero to a team of 30 with a turnover of £3m.

Joining Learning through Landscapes in 2005 was another opportunity to explore an important issue in more depth. As the national school grounds charity, LTL helps schools and early years settings make the most of their outdoor spaces for learning and play. Catherine has joined a team of educationalists and designers, and our ambition is that every child will enjoy and benefit from well designed, managed and used grounds.

Catherine is a keen cyclist and sailor. Though living in central London she has a thriving allotment, and has recently accepted the challenge of learning about beekeeping by hosting a friends' beehive under the pear and plum trees on her plot!

Petter Åkerblom, Movium, Centre for the Urban Environment

Since 2006 Movium has the official mission from the Swedish Government to collect and spread knowledge about urban outdoor environments for children and young people in cities. Movium has, since the early 1990s, been engaged in school ground issues making handbooks, reports, annual conferences and study tours inspiring thousands of teachers and planners in Sweden.

Petter is co-ordinating Movium's work on children's outdoors, including strategic planning, projects, education activities and continuous reporting. He is a landscape architect and has a PhD in Landscape Architecture on the theme 'Learning by Gardening'.

www.sol.slu.se/la/staff/akerblom.asp

Ko Senda PhD, Landscape Architect, Environmental Design Institute, Tokyo, Japan

Please see enclosed sheet.....



Marianne van Lier and Willy Leufgen, Stichting Oase & Springzaad, the Netherlands

Marianne studied Biology (in Holland) and Willy, Social Pedagogy (in Germany). We met in Ireland in 1974. Since 1976 we have been living & working together. In September 1993, we brought all our experiences and knowledge from different projects together (with children and with nature) and initiated *Stichting Oase*. Nature gardening was the main topic. Since 1925, this type of gardening has a long tradition in Holland. There are more than 100 public nature gardens where environmental education (wildlife education) plays an important role. By the end of the last century, we saw that it was very important to look for new possibilities to bring nature closer to children. We visited schools in Switzerland and Germany, observing an interesting development - to green the schoolyards. In the UK, we closely followed the work of LTL, an interesting organisation with informative & innovative publications. In 2001 we founded (with other people who were working in this field) an 'open network' called Springzaad. This is the Dutch name of the Balsamines, plants that are interesting for children and also symbolic for the way we want to work.

2007 we published a book called 'Vrij Spel voor natuur en Kinderen'. (Free play for nature and children). Susan Humphries of Coombes School was one of our guests, which we valued highly. The Springzaad network have enjoyed many interesting excursions to Berlin plus locations in the Netherlands & Belgium. We also organise workshops and other events to bring people together and to work and learn together. For further information, please refer to www.springzaad.nl (partly in English language).

Helen Tyas Tunggal

Described as a 'path cutter' in Environmental Education, Helen has presented workshops at a variety of national and international conferences.

During her 10 years as a Principal of Harwood Island Primary School, she facilitated the development of programs providing "learning with a purpose, using the students' daily existence in their environment as the medium", and the school operated as a Centre of Excellence for Environmental Education.

Since then Helen has personally assisted more than 300 Australian school communities develop their grounds as "learnsapes". In 1999 she received the prestigious Gold Banksia Award for her work depicting "the importance of empowering future generations to become competent and involved caretakers of the planet for the next millennium."

In 2007 Helen received the NSW Environmental Educator of the Year, an award which recognises individuals in NSW who show "outstanding abilities to raise the level of environmental awareness in the community and who provide leadership, innovation and inspiration to others thus contributing to quality environmental education."

As well as her Learnsapes Planning and Design projects, Helen has been working in schools across Australia to implement KidsGrow, an initiative of the Australian Nursery and Garden Industry Association, which she has co-developed and written based on the learnsapes process.

Australian Learnsapes for Authentic Learning

The Learnsapes Planning and Design process is an innovative and holistic approach to education for sustainability.

The Learnsapes program aims to provide meaningful student learning opportunities efficiently and effectively, while also improving the look, function and use of the school grounds for all living things. More than twenty years of action research and planning has resulted in the evolution of a participatory learning process that can be undertaken by any school.



The presentation will explore a rich sample of school case studies and design projects developed in a wide variety of Australian schools over the past decade.

Jenny Cater, Space 2 Play

www.space2play.co.uk

Jenny is Landscape Designer who has a passion for developing outdoor learning spaces with children and for children - engaging the next generation in their sustainable environments. She has a strong belief in the influence of natural spaces on our well being. Working in landscape design, conservation and environmental organisations for some decades, Jenny also has a Primary teaching degree.

Space 2 Play works with you to create sustainable outdoor learning environments for School Grounds and Early Years settings to provide exciting and stimulating opportunities to learn and play outside the classroom. Based in Dorset and Bristol, Jenny works throughout the South West of England. Space 2 Play can support your school in a participatory and holistic approach from working with your ideas, creating vision plans, offering workshops and training in learning outside, to managing your project and making it happen. Jenny has recently travelled to New Zealand, is writing in various publications and is interested in global garden concepts.

Sharon Danks

Sharon Gamson Danks is an environmental planner and co-founder of Bay Tree Design, inc. in Berkeley, California in the United States. Sharon's work focuses on urban sustainability, ecological design, edible landscapes, and public participation in planning and design. For the last ten years, she has applied these interests to her research and work in the field of schoolyard ecology, helping schools to transform their grounds from ordinary asphalt into vibrant ecosystems for learning and play. Sharon and Bay Tree Design have helped to shape and facilitate the schoolyard master planning process for more than two dozen schools in the San Francisco Bay Area.

As an independent researcher, Sharon has visited and documented over 175 green schoolyard projects in North America, Europe, and Japan over the last ten years, informing her work as an author and schoolyard designer. Sharon's forthcoming book, *Asphalt to Ecosystems: Design Ideas for Schoolyard Transformation* (New Village Press, September 2010), presents a diverse range of green schoolyard examples from schools in the United States and around the world.

Sharon serves on the board of directors for the local non-profit (charity) San Francisco Green Schoolyard Alliance, and has directed three school ground-related conferences for them over the years. She also serves on the board of directors for the (national non-profit) Community Built Association.

In addition to master's degrees in landscape architecture and city planning (MLA-MCP) from the University of California, Berkeley, Sharon holds a Professional Certificate in Natural Resource Management from UC San Diego Extension and a BA from Princeton University.

Sharon is also the mother of two expert playground testers, ages 7 and 9.

