

Play Notes

The Organisational Newsletter
for the IPA World Council

21 December 2012

Postcard from the President

What Is Ahead?

January 2013	<i>Play Notes</i> content due
February 2013	<i>Play Notes</i> released
February 2013	GC article 31 announcement
30th March 2013	Letters of Interest due to host 20th Triennial IPA World Conference
May 2013	<i>PlayRights</i> magazine mailed
May 2013	IPA Board Meeting Istanbul
20-23 May 2014	19 th Triennial World Conference, Istanbul

PlayNotes has been introduced as a speedier way to provide IPA updates in addition to *PlayRights* magazine. It's primarily for the IPA Council but we've asked Council members to pass this issue of *PlayNotes* to all members in their country.

We are looking back on 2012 with a mixture of amazement and sadness. Throughout 2012 we have worked incredibly hard to bring together the international structure to support the drafting of the UN General Comment on article 31. You will see below, that we near completion, bang on target and proud of many aspects of this piece of work.

For IPA, 2012 has also been difficult in many ways as ill health and bereavement have been rather close. In our last *PlayNotes* we informed you of the retirement due to ill health of Vice President Valerie Fronczek. Valerie has greatly appreciated the messages you have sent.

The Board appointed Robyn Monro-Miller from Australia to take up the role of Vice President. We are more than delighted she accepted this role, a decision which was greeted with warm words of welcome from Council members.

As we near the end of 2012 and celebrate winter and summer festivals in our corners of the globe, on behalf of the IPA Board, may I wish you a peaceful, healthy and play-filled 2013.

Theresa (Theresa Casey, IPA President)



The next *Play Notes* is scheduled for 10 February 2013.
The deadline for submissions is 25 January 2013.

Please send submissions to Cynthia Gentry at
Communications@IPAWorld.org

IPA's Three Country Projects

With the support of the Bernard van Leer Foundation, IPA was able to provide a small amount of funds to partners in three countries to provide case studies on introducing the General Comment. Our partners are: IPA member Mine Göl-Güven in Turkey; Marilena Flores Martins, IPA Brasil; and Yolanda Corona in Mexico. Each introduction is different and responds to national context. Look for the case studies and project outcomes in future IPA communications.

Postcard from the Vice President

I have been working with children and communities for the past 20 years in a range of capacities. My current work in Australia is with an NGO called Network of Community Activities and we have as one of our constitutional objectives supporting and promoting Article 31, particularly in regards to children 5-14 years old.

It has been a great honour to be asked to step into the shoes of Valerie, for whom I have enormous respect. Unfortunately that honour is also tinged with great sadness and I, like all the Board, will miss her wise counsel and friendship very much. I am looking forward to working with the Board in continuing her work and am excited to see the General Comment on its way to fruition. My other passion is in assisting the Board with the development of new and improved communication processes. The formation of a Group site for our Council is currently underway after a successful trial with the Board. We hope this will provide a platform for enhanced communication between Council members and in turn assist with developing the IPA Branches.

Thank you all for your support and the kind words in hearing of my nomination. It sometimes

feels that Australia is a long way away, however, with today's technology my work with the IPA Board means that distance is generally not a problem. I must admit that time zones often result in me waking up to a huge amount of emails full of work generated from other board members while I was blissfully sleeping!!

My very best wishes to you all. I am sure we are all looking forward to a fantastic 2013!

Robyn (Robyn Monro-Miller, IPA Vice President)



Robyn & Theresa at the UN in Geneva

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UN General Comment on Article 31 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child

Adoption of the General Comment on Article 31 is Imminent

Get ready to celebrate the General Comment on article 31 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)! Following meetings of the international Working Group in Geneva during 2012 we are on course for the GC to be adopted by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child in their **January/February session 2013**.

At that point IPA will have achieved a major objective in highlighting play as a right of every child and increasing understanding of the obligations of States Parties (governments) around the world.

The General Comment (GC) reflects the view that article 31 can be understood holistically, both in terms of its constituent parts (rest, play, recreation, leisure, culture and arts), and also in its relationship with the Convention as a whole. Each element of article 31 links with, enriches and reinforces the others, and adds to the quality of the life of children. Realisation of article 31 rights contributes to children's entitlement to optimum development, to the promotion of resilience and to the realisation of other rights.

The GC will be directed at Governments, providing them with interpretation of the provisions of article 31, and therefore their obligations in relation to article 31. It provides guidance on the measures governments should take in order to progressively realise children's rights.

It's not too soon for IPA members to be considering how to maximise the benefit of the GC for children in their countries - while the GC is directed at Governments, we know that they often benefit from encouragement, reminders and advice from civil society to act on their obligations.

Maximising the benefit of the GC will remain an IPA theme in coming years as we share experience, outcomes and examples of change. It is of vital importance that the General Comment is used effectively by all of us in IPA and our networks and partners in order that the potential for children's play is unlocked.

Article 31

1. States Parties recognize the right of the child to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts.
2. States Parties shall respect and promote the right of the child to participate fully in cultural and artistic life and shall encourage the provision of appropriate and equal opportunities for cultural, artistic, recreational and leisure activity.

2017 Triennial IPA World Conference

Invite the world to your door by hosting the 20th Triennial IPA World Conference in 2017!

For any IPA Branch, group or member organisation that would like to be considered as organisers of the IPA World Conference in 2017 the first step is an expression of interest to the IPA Secretary.

Important dates:

30 March 2013: The deadline for expressions of interest (*extended from 30th January*).

April 2013: Information packets containing conference guidelines, a statement of intent form, application guidelines and an application form will be circulated to those interested in hosting the conference.

30th June 2013: A statement of intention to bid to be the conference host should be lodged with the Secretary (*extended from 30th April*).

30 November 2013: Full applications and any supporting materials must be in the hands of the Secretary no later than **12 noon**.

Please note that groups or organisations wishing to apply to host the conference should have the backing of their national IPA Branch, if one exists.

For more information contact Margaret Westwood at Secretary@IPAWorld.org.

Council Meeting

The new Constitution requires an annual Council meeting. This need not take place in person (other than on the years of the IPA World Conference), and so the challenge is to create an engaging and meaningful forum for Council in the 'virtual world'. Our new Vice President Robyn Monro-Miller has been rising to this challenge and has established an IPA Council web-based forum using Groupsite. The next step for the Council will be to meet on-line using virtual technology.

If you have any ideas for the 'virtual' Council meeting or would be interesting in helping, please contact Robyn Monro-Miller or Margaret Westwood.

IPA Board 2014-2017

It's time to start thinking ahead to the 2014-17 term and the elections for the next IPA Board. The elections of 2014 will be the first wholly under the new constitution. The Board will consist of President, Vice President(s), Secretary, Treasurer, Communications Officer, Membership Officer and Development Officer (Finance and Fundraising).

The intention is to maintain some continuity with a number of the current Board remaining, while other posts are newly filled. In this way we will create a 'rolling' pattern of Board membership.

Being part of the Board is a responsibility and requires the ability to commit time and energy on a regular basis. It also offers a great opportunity to gain insight into children's play rights worldwide and to contribute to IPA's purpose and goals. Descriptions of the roles and responsibilities of all Board positions have been developed and are available for anyone considering putting themselves forward for election, or nominating someone else.

2014 Triennial IPA World Conference

20-23 May 2014 – Istanbul, Turkey

We are very excited to report the latest news on the IPA Conference 2014 in Istanbul. Our conference support group had an extremely productive meeting with the Active Living Association (ALA) in London in December 2012. The Board will meet in Istanbul in May 2013 to further plans and visit venues.

The ALA conference organising team have been very responsive to the input and advice from IPA and pro-active in their planning of the many aspects of an IPA conference. This includes development of conference themes, pre- and post-conference tours, how to include children's voices, identifying desired outcomes and engaging with key partners. The Istanbul conference promises to be rich and vibrant, breaking new ground (for IPA) in the use of social media. It promises to leave a number of play legacies in Turkey, promote children's right to play and enrich the IPA family with the establishment of a new Branch.

We're sure the meeting of western and eastern cultures, the history of the city and the vibrancy of modern life will combine in a fantastic conference for IPA members old and new. We look forward to continuing our close links and discussions leading up to the 19th Triennial World Conference in Istanbul.



Yasemen, Pinar & Gizem, (ALA); Margaret, Theresa & Mike (IPA)



The *Play Notes* newsletter is published three or four times a year. To submit information for a future issue, please contact Cynthia Gentry, IPA Communications Officer at Communications@IPAWorld.org.