

RESEARCH CONNECTIONS

AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

PLANNING FOR OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION (2020)

Author A J Veal

Abstract Recent decades have seen efforts by open space/recreation planners to provide an alternative to traditional population-ratio and area-percentage planning standards. Traditional standards have been criticised for their 'one-size-fits-all' approach and their failure to take account of increasing residential densities. This paper evaluates two of the alternatives which have emerged: the catchment access based standard (CABS) and demand-based planning. The CABS is found to be just a variation on traditional standards. Published demand-based approaches are found to lack methodological detail and are based on a relatively passive policy stance. In contrast, state and federal governments have begun to adopt a more active stance in setting targets to increase community sport/recreation participation levels, based particularly on health-based criteria. It is argued that participation targets could also form the focus of local planning, especially in the context of a proposed coordinated local-state-federal planning framework.

Published *Australian Planner*, 56:1, p37-47
Download doi.org/10.1080/07293682.2020.1739091

Cost \$45(USD)

MOVING FORWARD: BUSINESS MODEL SOLUTIONS FOR AMATEUR SPORT CLUBS (2020)

Authors Trish Bradbury, Roger Mitchell & Kaye Thorn

Abstract *Rationale/Purpose:* The survival of New Zealand's amateur sport clubs is threatened by a range of factors. This study investigated how club partnerships may address sustainability concerns brought about through sport environmental changes. *Design/Methodology/Approach:* Semi-structured interviews with representatives from five sport clubs explored how partnerships could alter sport clubs' business models for long-term viability.

Findings: Partnerships enabled clubs' governing bodies to appeal to a wider cross-section of society through improved strategic focus, direction and resource use. This led to membership growth and diversity, enhanced financial viability, improved governance, greater community connection and improved HRM functions. *Practical Implications:* The study suggests the RCOV model and RDT helped clubs' pre-partnership sustainability issues. Partnerships created larger clubs, enabling financial stability, retention of members, and resource management to overcome environmental challenges.

Research Contribution: This study offers perceptions of club partnership outcomes. Critical success factors are presented as a guide of best practice.

Published *Managing Sport and Leisure*, March 2020 (online)

Download doi.org/10.1080/23750472.2020.1734479

Cost \$45(USD)

RAIL TRAILS LITERATURE: CURRENT STATUS AND FUTURE RESEARCH (2021)

Authors Pascal Scherrer, Kay Dimmock, Matthew Lamont & Laura Ripoll González

Abstract Rail trail developments involve converting disused railway corridors into multi-use spaces for leisure, tourism, and sustainable mobility. The transformation of disused railway corridors into successful rail trail developments in the United States, New Zealand and the United Kingdom has contributed to a resurgence in community, government and business interest in developing rail trails in other countries. As evident from several jurisdictions, rail trail development has the potential to spark debates around fundamental issues related to prudent use of dormant public assets, namely railway corridors. This exploratory systematic review examined peer-reviewed studies of rail trails published in English language academic journals to examine the substance, extent and research gaps of this distinct subset of the broader literature on trails. A fledgling, fragmented body of

knowledge was identified, spanning themes from planning, management and user experience to social, economic and environmental impacts of rail trails. Directions for future research are provided.

Published: *Journal of Leisure Research*, 52:1, p97-119

Download doi.org/10.1080/00222216.2020.1746937

Cost \$45(USD)

IS THERE ENOUGH LEISURE TIME? LEISURE STUDIES, WORK-LIFE BALANCE, THE REALM OF NECESSITY AND THE REALM OF FREEDOM (2020)

Authors A J Veal

Abstract In economically advanced countries in recent years, working hours of many full-time employees have been static or increasing and there has been talk of people suffering from a "time squeeze". Researchers in the field of leisure studies have not featured strongly in debates surrounding this issue, having generally shown little interest in the work-leisure time relationships since the 1970s, being preoccupied instead with leisure activity, meaning and experience. However, calls for reduced working hours have been forthcoming from other sources, such as feminists, economists, critical theorists and environmentalists. In this paper it is proposed that leisure studies scholars re-engage with this issue using the Marxian concepts of the "realm of necessity" and the "realm of freedom" as an analytical device.

Published *World Leisure Journal*, 62:2, p89-113

Download doi.org/10.1080/16078055.2019.1667423

Cost \$45(USD)

COMMUNITY SPORTS FIELDS AND ATMOSPHERIC CLIMATE IMPACTS: AUSTRALIAN AND CANADIAN PERSPECTIVES (2020)

Authors Greg Dingle & Cheryl Mallen

Abstract *Purpose:* This paper presents a study of atmospheric climate impacts on community-level sports clubs' (CLSC) in Australia and Canada, their vulnerability and resilience, and organisational

responses. *Design/Methods*: A qualitative methodology was used with a multiple case research design. Data (interviews, documents) was collected from a sample of 23 CLSC organisations managing grass turf sport fields exposed to climatic extremes in temperate regions of both countries. *Findings*: CLSCs in both nations experienced vulnerability to climate impacts. Direct damage to playing fields resulted from extreme climate events. Indirect impacts include higher injury risks, interrupted and/or cancelled competitions, insurance risks, plus higher operating and capital costs. Adapted management was evident for water resources, playing turf, and organisational policies. *Practical Implications*: Provides insights into the changing practice of sport management at the community-level. *Research Contribution*: The results challenge the assumption that climate is a static and benign resource for sport. This study demonstrates impacts of climate extremes on sport in the northern and southern hemispheres, the potential for adapting sport management practices, and developing resilience.

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Download doi.org/10.1080/23750472.2020.1766375

Cost \$45(USD)

WELLBEING, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC VALUE OF AQUATIC AND LEISURE CENTRES: A HOLISTIC MODEL (2020)

Authors Alicia R Stanway, R Powell, L Fradd & R Sibson

Abstract Aquatic and leisure centres (ALCs) are important community spaces that contribute to the health and wellbeing of users, and to the economy, yet the actual value of the facilities and services provided is difficult to measure. In order to quantify the value of ALCs, the authors developed a well-being (reduced risk of chronic disease, mental illness and drowning, and improved productivity), social (educational uplift and volunteer hours supported) and economic (Gross Value Add and employment) value model. Using a sample of Western Australian ALCs, the wellbeing and social value component of the model indicates that, on average, an ALC provides \$1.79m in overall wellbeing and social value; while from an economic perspective, generates \$1.03m in direct GVA and 34 direct jobs. As key players in planning for healthier and happier communities, the current model empowers ALC practitioners to articulate the holistic value of an individual ALC.

Published Annals of Leisure Research. Published online

Download doi.org/10.1080/11745398.2020.1787183

Cost \$45(USD)

EXERCISE MOTIVATORS, BARRIERS, HABITS AND ENVIRONMENT AT AN INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY FACILITY (2020)

Authors Rona Macniven & Tuguy Esgin

Abstract *Purpose/Rationale*: Increasing exercise participation is key to improving Indigenous health. The cultural relevance of exercise facilities impacts participation. We examined exercise motivators, barriers, habits, and environments experienced by Indigenous community exercise facility members. *Design/Methodology/Approach*: An existing Indigenous exercise questionnaire was adapted by Indigenous and non-Indigenous researchers and exercise facility staff. Members were invited to complete the study questionnaire online. Data were analysed through descriptive statistics. *Findings*: A total of 167 adults (45 Indigenous) completed the questionnaire. The main barriers were exercising with injury, finding time to exercise with family/caring commitments and exercising outside of the gym. The main reasons for membership were to improve health and fitness and for Indigenous participants, having a culturally appropriate facility. *Research contribution*: New knowledge on exercise barriers, habits and environment experienced by Indigenous peoples. *Practical implications*: Findings provide formative data to design culturally relevant exercise programs. *Originality/Value*: Culturally appropriate exercise facilities are important to Indigenous peoples and may increase participation. **Published** Managing Sport and Leisure. Published online.

Download doi.org/10.1080/23750472.2020.1810108

Cost \$44(USD)

INTERNATIONAL

THE FIT FAMILY CHALLENGE: A COUNTY-WIDE, WEB-BASED PHYSICAL ACTIVITY INITIATIVE (2020)

Authors Stephanie R McWilliams, Sean Bulger, Adam Keath & Eloise Elliott

Abstract The Fit Family Challenge, a web-based healthy lifestyle program, was developed to motivate families to participate in more physical activity by tracking their behaviours and by providing them with educational materials and community events to attend with their families. This article is an account of

the steps taken and the efforts needed to make a county-wide family physical activity initiative such as the Fit Family Challenge successful.

Published Journal of Physical Education, Recreation & Dance, 91:3, p35-39

Download doi.org/10.1080/07303084.2019.1705212

Cost \$45(USD)

COVID-19, NETWORKS AND SPORT (2020)

Authors Daniel Parnell, Paul Widdop, Alex Bond & Rob Wilson

Abstract This commentary serves to provide a rapid analysis of the impact of coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) on sporting mass gatherings. The focus of this commentary surrounds sporting mass gatherings and strategies to mitigate the spread of Covid-19, with a particular focus on the UEFA EURO 2020 competition. Further references to the 2020 Olympic Games, and community recreational football are made. The intention is to stimulate discussion, analysis, interest and research on what the initial impact of Covid-19 has on sport. Covid-19 could fundamentally change the way sport operates in the future and requires further analysis. We hope this commentary provides an interesting record and reference point for future research and practice of those operating in sporting organisations. Learning lesson from this crisis, must ensure sport managers and practitioners are better prepared in sport and society for similar events in the future.

Published Managing Sport And Leisure. Published online.

Download doi.org/10.1080/23750472.2020.1750100

Cost FREE

CALL FOR ARTICLE ABSTRACTS

Abstracts of research projects of interest to PLA members are always welcomed on forthcoming themes, in particular, for the 2021 Spring edition, research relating to:

- Parks and gardens
- Horticulture
- Arboriculture
- Climate change and the effect on our parks
- Sustainable environments
- State and national parks
- Water efficiency usage systems
- Cemetery open space management

Abstracts are required by 1 June 2021. Please forward material or enquiries to John Wood at jwcs@bigpond.net.au