

SCANNING THE HORIZON

The latest news from around the Institute for Outdoor Learning

A word from Jo

By Jo Barnett - IOL CEO

For the IOL, October is when the Trustees gather and we review the year just gone and plan for the year ahead. During the last year we have welcomed many new members and supported the community groups as they offer networking, events and innovate in their areas of expertise. Thank you to everyone who is responding to the quick surveys in the weekly newsletter. We are collecting the responses and will publish the full survey for [#GlobalOutdoorLearningDay](#). We can reveal that, out of the responses, 70% of you were ready to champion outdoor learning with the IOL and many of you were looking for ways to help, although 25% of you were flat out with the day job and other commitments. Please do have a look at the community groups, whether geographical or sector specialist – it may be that this is a way to help and get help. If you do not see a group for you, then maybe you might want to start one... one member has done just that and is establishing an 'Arts, Creativity & Culture: in Outdoor and Residential Education Settings' Group. Other new groups this year have been: CBOL and Field Studies Group; Outdoor Learning and Youth Work; Alternative Provision; the Hong Kong Outdoor Learning

Association; and the Association for Outdoor therapy.

The IOL is also constantly collaborating with others in outdoor learning and we are proud to announce that we are now supporting the [Climate Ambassadors scheme](#). This Department for Education initiative

mobilises and supports educational settings in England to act on climate change with the help of skilled volunteers. The climate does not respect any human borders, so if you would like to get involved from other countries or in other ways the IOL is developing an [Environmental Stewardship Community of Practice and Future Footprints](#).

Climate and Biodiversity are topics at the Outdoor Learning Strategic Thinking Workshop on [#GlobalOutdoorLearningDay24](#). We are inviting you to join us in planning for the future of outdoor learning. If you accept, you will be joining others in thinking hard about the next five years or so and how outdoor learning can make its full contribution to UK society ▲



Global Outdoor Learning Day

By Jo Barnett - IOL CEO

Global Outdoor Learning Day takes place on the 21st of November every year and celebrates the powerful impact of the outdoors on education and personal development. Organised by the Institute for Outdoor Learning, Global Outdoor Learning Day promotes the belief that learning in natural environments contributes significantly to physical wellbeing, mental health, and a deeper understanding of the world around us. Global Outdoor Learning Day is an opportunity to showcase diverse outdoor learning activities, share best practices, and inspire a love for the natural world in learners of all ages. Here are some content ideas for your digital channels this [#GlobalOutdoorLearningDay](#):

- Showcase outdoor activities: Share a variety of outdoor learning activities and programmes, highlighting how they contribute to educational and personal growth.
- Benefits of outdoor learning: Post about the physical, mental and educational benefits of learning in natural settings.
- Educator stories and tips: Feature stories from outdoor educators about their experiences, challenges and the joys of teaching in nature.
- Interactive outdoor challenges: Encourage your audience to participate in outdoor learning challenges or activities, fostering engagement with nature.
- Resource sharing: Provide resources, lesson plans, and tools for educators looking to incorporate more outdoor learning into their teaching.

We are very excited to reveal our [#GlobalOutdoorLearningDay video](#) made with some of our global members – why not give outdoor learning a 'shout out' and show its value in bringing people together wherever they are! The Institute for Outdoor Learning will also be publishing 'High Quality Outdoor Learning 2024' on the 21st November via the IOL website. This will be available as a free download. Over a year in the making, we send our thanks to Dr Dave Harvey (LPIOL) and all those who have contributed over the last year.

The IOL is also hosting an Outdoor Learning Strategic Thinking Workshop to mark the day. Guest speakers will challenge our thinking and the day will pick up on the following workshop themes: proactive safety management; working with governments together; talent attraction, development and retention; climate and biodiversity; and equality, equity, diversity, inclusion and belonging. Book your spot and join us [here!](#)

For more information, check out [Global Outdoor Learning Day here](#) or search [#GlobalOutdoorLearningDay](#) on LinkedIn ▲

Barbara Humberstone Reviewer of the Year Award

The inaugural Barbara Humberstone Reviewer of the Year Award, which reflects outstanding reviewer contribution to the Journal of Adventure Education and Outdoor Learning, was awarded in September to Vinicius Zeilmann Brasil.

The award recognises both the quantity and quality of the reviews provided by Vinicius to the journal in 2023. Named after Professor Barbara Humberstone, the award is designed to celebrate the unsung work that reviewers undertake for the JAEOL. Without reviewers offering their time and critical perspectives to the manuscript review process, the journal would not be able to contribute the excellent scholarly work it has showcased for nearly twenty-five years; eighteen of which having been under Barbara Humberstone's watchful eye as Editor-in-Chief. The award recipient is determined by the editorial team, who work with Taylor and Francis (JAEOL's publishers) to collate the number of reviews completed in a given year. The timeline and relevance scores, which are given to each reviewers' feedback, were then examined by the editorial team to determine the recipient of the inaugural award.

Upon receipt of the award, Vinicius said:



“I am very happy to be part of this brilliant team and the first ever recipient of the Barbara Humberstone Reviewer of the Year Award. It is very meaningful for me to receive this award, representing South America actively collaborating with the development of JAEOL.”

Vinicius continued: “It is an honour for me to receive the award named after Professor Barbara Humberstone, knowing her brilliant contribution to JAEOL and our area of research”.

Professor Barbara Humberstone said of the award:

“It is a great honour to have this award in my name. I am delighted that JAEOL is celebrating the hard work of its reviewers - without whose in-depth and insightful reviews, the journal and its high quality could not be maintained. JAEOL is going from strength to strength, not least because of the dedication of its editors and reviewers. Congratulations to Vinicius, the first recipient of the award.”

As the current Editor-in-Chief of JAEOL, Professor Patrick Maher sees this as an exciting opportunity: “Without reviewers, our ability to provide the value of peer-reviewed research would be lost. They are the 'life-blood' of academic publishing, providing their expertise and time (free of charge) to the journal, and we need to celebrate them wherever we can”. He continued:

“We hope to announce a 2024 recipient of the award early in 2025 and every year thereafter. The next 25 years of the JAEOL look incredibly bright because of the contributions of people such as Barbara and Vinicius.”

The Journal can be fully accessed by choosing that option as part of your [IOL membership](#), or through the [Taylor and Francis website](#). Many articles are available open access, which means you can share them widely with your students or staff ▲



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