



*promoting the value of play*

## South Australia

### A message from the South Australian Chair Simon Bradley



Welcome to 2017 and the Summer edition of the Play Australia – SA Branch (PASA) Newsletter. The PASA Committee has nearly completed its inaugural draft Strategic Plan for the period 2017-2020. This Strategic Plan will be PASA's process of defining our direction and making decisions on allocating our limited resources to pursue this Strategy. It will also extend to mechanisms for guiding the implementation of the Strategy. This draft Strategic Plan will be available for comment in early 2017 with the intention to launch the Plan at our AGM in July 2017. We look forward to your comments. Amanda Balmer continues to represent South Australia with expertise and proficiency on the National Board of Play Australia. Please go to the Play Australia website for further information on the National Board.

In 2017 PASA will continue to be the conduit between various allied professional/ industry associations and groups. In today's working environment of competing time and budget restraints, PASA believes that it is strategically important to ensure that such associations and groups work together to provide networking opportunities and support innovation in our respective fields.

We are continually discussing and implementing new and innovative methods of engaging with our members and would love to hear your ideas. Please contact us if you have a great idea for an event, networking or marketing concept. If you are not already, I would encourage you to become a member of Play Australia. Play Australia is the only membership organisation of its kind in Australia. It provides members a unique opportunity to access specific information in relation to playgrounds and play experiences for children, families and the community.

I wish you a successful and safe 2017 and look forward to working with you.

## Briefing and Workshop - New Playground Standards Part 0-AS4685-2014

Managing risk is the key issue for everyone committed to improving the health and well-being of our community, especially our children and young people. Part 0 has been developed recently by the Australian Playgrounds Standards Committee and deals with all matters related to the Development, Design and Maintenance of playgrounds in Australia. Play Australia SA invites you to attend a briefing on the new Playground Standard Part 0, AS4685-2014 followed by discussion on how best to use this new Standard, applying the principles of "Getting the Balance Right", our recently launched Guide on Risk Management in playspaces throughout South Australia.

This session will provide detailed information to all participants on this new and important Playground Standard which will be invaluable in assisting you and your workplaces to become familiar with the details of the new Standard to better manage the risks involved in outdoor play, and to bring greater confidence to all staff involved in this important activity.

This session will also facilitate discussion on Case Studies documented in Getting the Balance Right – Risk Management for Play, a Play Australia publication published in 2016 with capacity to consider participant's real life case studies in SA.

The presenters for the day are Elizabeth Cummins of Bricolage Design and Rob Hamilton of Park and Playspace.

Elizabeth is a qualified landscape architect and educator. She has spent many years working in private design practice, local government and education. A passionate advocate for free play, Elizabeth is a founding coordinator of the Creative Cubby Project, a regional play initiative. In 2015 Elizabeth co-authored Getting the Balance Right – Risk Management for Play for Play Australia. She has most recently been a contributing editor for the international publication How To Grow A Playspace; Design and Development due to be published by Routledge Publishers UK in 2017. She speaks and blogs regularly on play and projects for children at [www.bricolagedesign.com.au](http://www.bricolagedesign.com.au).

Rob is a Landscape Architect who has worked for local government for several years and now works independently in playspace development and design. Rob's award-winning playspaces include Yarra Glen Adventure Playground and Zina Grove Reserve (Mooroolbark). His design philosophy is centred on the creation of attractive, landscaped spaces that maximise play value, are easy to maintain, and include lots of rocks! Rob works in partnership with Fern (7) and Griffin (5), who insist on being allowed to test drive all his playspace projects.

This session is being held at the London Road Depot, Adelaide City Council, 10-24 London Road Mile End and is free for all Play Australia Members or \$180.00 for non-members. Registration for this event can be made online at [www.playaustralia.org.au](http://www.playaustralia.org.au).

## November Networking Event @ Anderson Court Outback Adventure Playspace & Campbelltown Preschool

A jammed pack tour of Campbelltown showcased several key initiatives that recognised children as important members of the local community. Campbelltown City has shown great leadership in this field and has been recognised by UNICEF as a child friendly city in 2015.

Cross pollination of policies and projects highlighted on the tour showed the reward of community partnerships. OPAL in collaboration with the council and the Department of Education have worked seamlessly together to ensure that children and families have a true sense of belonging and place.



Our first port of call was Campbelltown Preschool where Site Leader Jasmine Milbanks provided insight into the Nature Play makeover that occurred in 2015 as part of a DECD demonstration site. The key objective was to provide enhanced opportunities for play based learning in a nature inspired setting. The outdoor learning area provides a flexible and challenging play experience and provides a diversity of sensory and social play destinations. Children's voice and connection with the wider community was highly regarded in the design to create a place to connect and belong.



Within a stones throw we made our way to the revamped and award winning public playspace Anderson Court Outback Adventure Playspace. Erica Vidinis council's Landscape Architect provided an insightful background to the creation of a dynamic and educational community playspace. The playspace on plan view may feel compact but from a child's eye provides a maze of opportunities to explore and discover native animals in a sculptural form. Once again children's voice was actively consulted utilising established partnership relationships thus providing a popular destination for future generations

Last but not least Gavin Fairbrother from OPAL and Community Development Officer Tracey Nelder closed the morning session with an overview of a global community and play initiative known as Street Play. OPAL Campbelltown has successfully empowered and supported local neighborhood road closures to provide a safe place to play and socialise as was common prior to the domination of the motor car. OPAL has created a suite of documents that cuts the red tape ensuring that once again local kids can play together and make friends on their doorstep.

Thanks once again to all our hosts for their time and insight into the possibilities of community partnerships in enhancing play environments in an urban setting.

## Upcoming PlayAustralia training and professional development



**New Playground Standard Briefing Part 0-AS4685-2014 - including Discussion of Case Studies presented by Elizabeth Cummins (Bricolage Design) and Rob Hamilton (Park and Playspace)**

**Thursday 23rd February Adelaide City Council London Road Depot 9.30am to 1.00 pm:** This session will provide detailed information to all participants on this new and important Playground Standard which will be invaluable in assisting you and your workplaces to become familiar with the details of the new Standard, and to better manage the risks involved in outdoor play. This session will also facilitate discussion on Case Studies documented in Getting the Balance Right – Risk Management for Play, a Play Australia publication published in 2016 with capacity to consider participants real life case studies in SA.

Register on line at [playaustralia.org.au](http://playaustralia.org.au)

### PASA - Networking Event

**Friday 28th April Event hosted by City of Onkaparinga- 9:30am**  
Further details to be provided closer to the date

### Stuart Lester and Wendy Hamilton (UK) Seminar

**Monday 5th June: City of Charles Sturt Woodville :** Stuart and Wendy are both senior lecturers in Play and Playwork at the University of Gloucestershire, each with over 30 years' experience in the playwork sector. We are excited to have them come and visit Adelaide and share their experiences and knowledge with us.

### PASA - Networking Event and AGM

**27th July 4.00pm at The Ranges Early Learning and Care Centre 137 Mt Barker Road, Stirling.**

The Ranges ELC undertook an extensive redesign of their outdoor space to better utilise the natural environment for the children who attend this centre. Working in conjunction with one of their parents from Brown Falconer the new playspace provides plenty of opportunities for open ended play.



### Considering becoming a member

Play Australia is the national peak membership play organisation in Australia. It provides members a unique opportunity to access specific information in relation to playgrounds and play experiences for children, families and the community. Play Australia members come from all different walks of life. Many are involved in the development of playgrounds, equipment or just the love of play for children.

**Discounted membership available to new South Australian members, \$100 for the first 12 months!!!**

For more information on membership services resources, news and events, or to contact Play Australia, please visit [PlayAustralia.org.au](http://PlayAustralia.org.au)



Please pass this newsletter on to a colleague or a friend who is interested in play!

