



*promoting the value of play*

## South Australia

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



Welcome to the Autumn Edition of the Play Australia – SA Branch (PASA) Newsletter.

I'm pleased to announce that there are currently 41 members of Play Australia in South Australia.

Our members come from all fields of the industry, including designers, landscape architects, suppliers, auditors, safety inspectors, architects, health services, contractors, child care sector, education sector, local government and state government.

On 15 February 2018 PASA co-hosted an event with the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects – SA Division (AILA SA) at the Morialta Conservation Park Nature Playspace. This was a great event and another successful collaboration with AILA SA.

Speaking of collaboration, I represented PASA late last year at 'Building a Greener, More Liveable Adelaide' event hosted by AILA SA and Heyne's Wholesale Nursery. At this event each group shared our key messages focusing on building stronger, healthier communities in SA. The evening provided all with opportunities to connect, better align and collaborate into the future. It was a great opportunity to show case Play Australia.

PASA Committee Member and National Board representative, Amanda Balmer recently joined other Board Members in reviewing Play Australia's Strategic Plan. The outcomes of this review will be published shortly.

It is with great pride that late last year I was awarded life membership of Play Australia.

I'd like to thank everyone for their support, and there were a lot of people over the period, both in South Australia and interstate. To be a life member of any organisation is a great thing, but to be a life member of Play Australia is special. When I look through the list of my fellow life members it highlights the wonderful contributions these people have made to Play Australia over the past 103 years. I am indeed privileged to join this elite membership category. I have been a strong advocate for Play Australia for many years and look forward to continuing this relationship for many more to come.

I wish you a successful and safe 2018 and look forward to working with you.



## WENDY RUSSELL - THINKING DIFFERENTLY ABOUT PLAY

On 27 November 2017 we were fortunate enough to have Dr Wendy Russell, a Senior Educator and consultant from the University of Gloucestershire, facilitate a workshop on Thinking Differently about Play – How it matters and Why it is Everybody's Business.

Wendy started the session by reviewing the rhetoric of play both modern and ancient and how these shape our perception of what play is. Wendy then challenged us to move beyond the questions of "what" and "why" play is to "how" play happens. She asked us to think about how play might emerge from current conditions and to pay attention to these conditions in our planning around play and play spaces as these are inseparable.

In the afternoon we looked at how play spaces are included in the UN Convention to the Right of the Child and that as planners and designers of play spaces it is our responsibility to continually scrutinise habits and routines by asking ourselves "what if" and "what more" when thinking about play spaces. By creating even minor distributions to habitual routines a major change may take place.

We would like to thank the City of Charles Sturt for providing the venue for this event.



## Networking Event: Morialta Nature Playspace

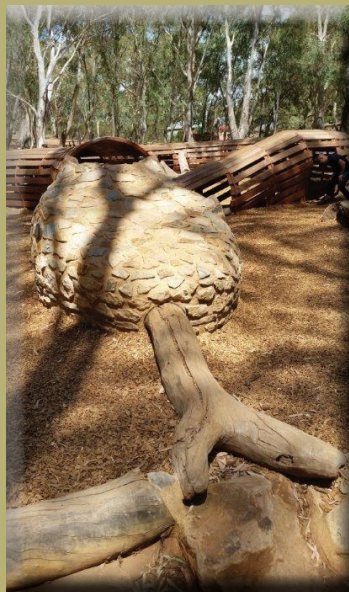


The first event for 2018 was hosted in association with Australian Institute of Landscape Architects (AILA) SA Chapter. This saw 29 interested people go to the Morialta Conservation Park, to see the Nature Playspace delivered by DEWNR as part of the 2014 State election commitment to connect more people with parks.

The group heard from Peter Semple, of Peter Semple Landscape Architects (PSLA) and Simon Hutchinson of Climbing Tree on the collaborative approach that the design went through, involving the Kurna community, DEWNR staff, local residents and stakeholders as well as school children the end user. The site is separated into themed areas (Kookaburra, Red Belly Black Snake, Frog Island, Eagles Nest, and Boulders) making the best use of the sites character and features such as the stream bed, higher slope areas which were underutilised. The design, with its activity pods allows for graduated play experience across the site, as well as incorporating the landscapes that are between the pods with sculpture and other simple play features.

The new playspace is spread across the landscape for a distance of 200 metres to develop a play experience rather than a destination. Providing users of the space the opportunity to engage with the locality and the indigenous culture meaning of the space through the interpretive signage across the site and the themed areas.

The certification of this nature playspace was a good case test against the new Section 0:2017 of the Australian Standard AS4685 which considers the risk benefit and learning that the extension of challenge provides to the user of these play elements and spaces.



A huge thank you to Climbing Tree for sponsoring and preparing a barbeque lunch on the day. It was very much appreciated to all those that attended.

## Upcoming Play Australia training and professional development



We would like to invite our membership to nominate play and recreational projects that showcase best practice in design, supply, advocacy, pedagogical practise, maintenance, management and planning. Our next event will be held in April/May. All suggestions will be considered on merit and if selected will become nominated as potential future events including networking and professional development. PASA value shared knowledge in our fields of expertise to continue to grow and advocate for play within SA.

### PASA AGM - July 2018

Our Annual General Meeting will be held in July and is a great opportunity to learn more about Play Australia and ways to become involved in the organisation. The AGM will be teamed with a networking event - watch this space!

### PASA Networking Event - October 2018

**Date to be confirmed - Event hosted by Brown Falconer**  
Come and visit Christie Downs Primary School's new integrated nature playspace for mainstream and special needs primary school children. Elizabeth Rd, Christie Downs.

Register online for these events [playaustralia.org.au](http://playaustralia.org.au)

For more information please contact Deb Aukland

## Welcome to our newest SA member + City of Prospect



### Life Membership

Congratulations to Play Australia SA Chapter Chairperson Simon Bradley on his award of Life Membership with Play Australia.

Simon has been an active member of Play Australia for many years and has made an enormous contribution to the promotion and development of play in South Australia.

Simon's work as the Project Manager for the Burnside Adventure Park in 2005 was outstanding. This playspace has won numerous national Awards including the prestigious PRAV/PLA Award in 2005 for Innovation in playspace design. Since then he has supported play projects in his General Management positions at the Rural City of Murray Bridge and now at the City of Prospect.

Simon has developed special expertise in the design of children's playspaces particularly designed to enable access of all children to the playspace within the most beautiful natural environments. Simon has a particular expertise in blending the play needs of children and the natural environment.

He is highly regarded in the industry and has been the Chairperson of Play Australia SA since 2015 and the Board of Play Australia is thrilled to award Simon with a Life Membership of Play Australia.

