



promoting the value of play

South Australia

A message from the South Australian Chair Craig Johansen



Welcome all to a new year and a new way of life.

In this time of adjustment for all, we need to be aware of the wellbeing for the community and ourselves and not forget about the key part access to open space has in our lives. As well as the vision that we have for play for all, which has not been taken from us but rather altered our thinking as to how we go about it presently. I encourage us to not go about our normal lives, living in the freedoms that we have had to date, which can place ourselves and the broader community at risk in the current environment.

As play in public spaces in formalised ways and in large numbers is halted under the current restrictions in place, let us not forget the value of play in a child's development, as well as the break that it can provide for us as adults.

For those of us who have children at home and are working from home ourselves, please do not overlook the value of play. Consider how you can make time in your day to take time to explore and experience life as a child again in the outdoors/ local open space, take the time to be mindful of the benefits we have living in this wonderful state and country. Especially now as the trees start to take on their autumnal colours, we see a clear blue sky and are able to feel the warmth of the sun on us.

To reassure the Play Australia SA membership, we as the Committee have not forgotten about the value of play and are planning events for the future, both training and network based so that we can all share in the development of space for play and the well being of our communities.

Look beyond where we are and consider what you want the future to be. Keep safe and enjoy the outdoors in accordance with the current rulings where possible.

INCLUSIVE PLAY GUIDELINES

The South Australian Department of Human Services has released Inclusive Play: Guidelines for accessible playspaces as part of the implementation of the State Disability Inclusion Plan: Inclusive SA that was launched on 1 November 2019.

About one in ten children live with disability and may face barriers in using playgrounds and community play spaces.

The Minister for Human Services, the Hon Michelle Lensink requested the establishment of an Inclusive Play Working Group to develop guidelines for play spaces that are accessible for children with disability. A public consultation was also held to inform the development of the guidelines.

Inclusive play spaces encourage developmentally meaningful experiences for people of mixed ages and abilities and provide opportunities for structured and unstructured play activities. The best inclusive play spaces provide access, promote inclusive play between children of all abilities and foster acceptance and friendship. They can increase a child's sense of choice and control and their ability to participate in the community.

The Guidelines provide a tool for local government, schools, early childhood learning centres and other agencies to assist in planning, considering and developing play spaces that are inclusive of all children. The Guidelines encourage children to connect with place, self and each other.

For more information and to view the guidelines, [visit www.inclusive.sa.gov.au](http://www.inclusive.sa.gov.au)

The Guidelines are available in hard copy, online and easy read formats.



Event Summary: Felixstow Reserve



Our last networking event at the end of 2019 was a site tour and networking drinks at Felixstow Reserve, located at Riverside Drive, Felixstow connecting with the River Torrens Linear Park. The reserve has been fully redeveloped with Aspect Studios leading a multi-disciplinary team working with the City of Norwood Payneham and St Peters.

The redevelopment includes a new wetlands system which provides a home for birds and animals while capturing, treating and storing stormwater through an Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) scheme. The recycled stormwater will be used for irrigation purposes across the eastern region of Adelaide.

A Kaurna Interpretive Trail weaves its way through the reserve providing information on the local Kaurna culture through a series of art markers created by Paul Herzich, a Kaurna/Ngarrindjeri artist and designer.

There are lots of opportunities for families to explore and enjoy the outdoors, ride along the trails around the reserve and connect with the River Torrens Linear Park bike path, utilise recreation facilities including large open grassed areas, active play space, 3 on 3 basketball courts, netball ring, table tennis table and bocce area.

A nature play space has also been created along the lower park area adjacent the River Torrens with shelter structures for imaginative play and bamboo poles for aspiring musicians (young and old) to make beautiful music!

After a relaxing guided walk around the reserve and wetlands, we enjoyed some drinks and nibbles in the community pavilion area. This large sheltered area, including picnic tables, bbq and toilets, is perfect for community and family gatherings and is located adjacent to the active play space with great opportunities for passive supervision over play areas and open recreation areas.



Next Play Australia South Australia

Networking Event



Watch this space

Following the release of the Inclusive Play Guidelines PASA plan to hold an event in the near future showcasing inclusive play including a site visit to a recently completed inclusive playspace. We will keep you posted!

If members have any requests or suggestions for events, please contact Play Australia SA Chapter via email: play.sa@playaustralia.org.au

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.

For more information on membership services, resources, news and events, or to contact Play Australia, please visit PlayAustralia.org.au

It's still ok to
PLAY OUTSIDE!



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Play Australia recently issued a media release to provide information to the community regarding access to play spaces during COVID-19 restrictions.

Outdoor time is extremely important for all of us, particularly during this time of social distancing, working and schooling from home.

When we go outdoors we are more physically active, reduce our screen time, sleep better and our immune system is supported to become more robust and increase our defence against illness.

While access to public playgrounds is discouraged, to limit the risk of virus spread through community gathering and through contact with playground surfaces and equipment, the decision to close public playgrounds is up to each Local Council.

If your local playground is closed, most open space recreation areas are still open and provide lots of opportunities to be active outside and enjoy the benefits that sun, fresh air, autumn colours and beautiful surroundings bring to our physical and mental health.



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

