



promoting the value of play

South Australia



A message from the South Australian Chair Craig Johansen



Welcome to 2021, hoping that the year has commenced with less confusion than 2020. We are 12 months on from the World's introduction to Covid19 and it is now a changed place, but play is still an important part of life for young and old, for our continued health and learning. Having seen the importance of this over the last 12 months I encourage you to look at the Play Australia website <https://www.playaustralia.org.au/play-today-covid19> to see the importance of play through the pandemic.

It has been a great start to the year for Play Australia and the South Australian Branch. Play Australia released its Strategic Plan 2020-2025 last year. A summary version is available here <https://www.playaustralia.org.au/sites/default/files/PLAYAUS-Strategy-Summary-2020.pdf> and I encourage you to have a look at this.

1000 Play Streets arrived to the state in 2020 and a workshop was held in February 2021 to bring interested stakeholders together. The workshop allowed interested parties to hear the learnings from those that have activated streets here locally for play and be informed of the State Government's interest in supporting this initiative, more on this further in the newsletter.

Last year saw the continued development of new playspaces across the State and it is the committees desire to get out this year and have networking events at some of these spaces. The committee would like to hear your ideas around future networking events. Please follow this link to provide your suggestions in a short survey <https://forms.gle/G1C8R386zaM4XPjH9>

It was great for us here in South Australia that the Children's Commissioner for South Australia, Helen Connelly was a special guest at the Play Australia AGM held late February. This is encouraging for us to have an advocate for play within the State Government. Our CEO and committee members have been in continued conversation with the commissioner over the last number of years, with particular note to the transition of year 7 to High School and the importance of play within the learning environment of High School.

South Australian Commissioner for Children and Young People



As South Australia's Commissioner for Children and Young People, Helen Connelly's mandate is to promote the rights, interests and wellbeing of all children and young people living in SA. She is one of the most prominent advocates of play in our state. Her recent report entitled "[Press Play](#)" shows that young people in SA are experiencing a number of fundamental barriers to play. The report provides three recommendations: 1) Master planners, transport and urban designers incorporate strategies to address barriers to play for 13-18-year olds. 2) Public and environmental health bodies work with local communities to raise awareness of the links between play and wellbeing 3) Local Councils engage young people to provide input on how to increase health and wellbeing outcomes through play.

It is clear that we need to know more about how to promote play opportunities for older children and with this front of mind The Commissioner, University of South Australia and Play Australia have come together to collaborate in a project looking at play at school for children aged 11 to 13 years, investigating how play in early adolescence changes as children transition from primary school to high school www.unisa.edu.au/play-in-early-adolescence. Helen's commitment to play is vital for changes in attitude, action, and policy within our state





1000 Playstreets - SA Network Workshop

On Thursday 18 February, the South Australia PlayStreets Network was launched at a workshop hosted by Campbelltown City Council. 8 local council's and 2 state government departments were represented. There were also University researchers and staff from Play Australia in attendance.

Inspiring presentations from 3 councils on their neighbourhood development work included.

Street Meets: **Sarah Maddock, Place Leader – Urban Projects, City of Charles Sturt**

Street Gatherings: **Chris Martin, Acting Team Leader, Community Connections Team, City of Onkaparinga.**

Street Play: **Tracy Johnstone, Manager Community Services & Social Development, Campbelltown City Council.**

It was clear from the presentations that we have a core network who understand the benefits and importance of creating liveable streets for community connection and children's outdoor play. The case studies give us a solid foundation to build on to achieve a target of 80 PlayStreets in South Australia by 2025.

The next step is to build the network - interested councils are encouraged to join. Together we can do more to support community connection and children's play through 1000PlayStreets.

Want to know more about how to get involved, please contact Gavin Fairbrother, 1000 PlayStreets Project Manager. Phone 0437 111 291 or email gavin@playaustralia.org.au



RESEARCH AND PLAYFUL LINKS

Industry Awards

Australian Institute of Landscape Architects and Parks and Leisure Australia are both taking submissions for their 2021 Awards. Please follow the links below to find out more.

Australian Institute Landscape Architects SA State Award

Entries Close 24th March 2021

https://www.aila.org.au/AILAWeb/AILA_Awards/2021_Awards/2021_SA_Awards.aspx

Parks and Leisure Australia

Entries Close 26th March 2021

<https://www.parksleisure.com.au/awards/awards-of-excellence/about/how-to-enter>

Inclusive Play Forum - Mid 2021

Watch this space!! PASA is planning a mid year forum on Inclusive play design. A subcommittee is in the early stages of planning and is seeking EOI from our members who have ideas and suggestions on content and who also have expertise in this field that they wish to share. Please email Deb.Aukland@sa.gov.au to discuss further.

Future Networking Events

PASA are calling for Expressions of Interest from members through a short survey for ideas and suggestions for future locations for networking events. Typically these are show and tell experiences highlighting what worked well and lessons learnt.

Please fill in the online survey at this location <https://forms.gle/G1C8R386zaM4XPjH9>



"Play Strategy"

Join us for a conversation with Liz Cummins Director of Bricolage Design, on developing Play Strategy for Local Government Authorities in Australia

Thursday 11th March, 10.30am - 11.30am

Panel Discussion

Join with Andrew Reedy, Mary Jeavons, and Rob Hamilton to discuss the latest Australian Standards and topical issues in risk management of play spaces – obtain advice, support others and build professional networks.

Thursday 18th March, 10.30am - 11.30am



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

Welcome to our new SA members

Elissa Pearson

City of Onkaparinga

Weathersafe Shades

Parkitect

Dirtwork Landscapes

Adelaide Hills Council



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

