



*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.



To start on a good note, I'm pleased to announce that Play Australia's SA Events and Marketing Manager, Georgia McPeake had a beautiful baby girl in December 2018. We wish Georgia and her family all the best and look forward to seeing Georgia again later this year.

It is with regret that one of Play Australia's SA inaugural Committee Members, Amanda Balmer has resigned. I personally want to thank Amanda for her support of Play Australia and me on my capacity as Chair since our formation. Further details regarding Amanda's contribution to Play Australia is provided in this Newsletter.

We have some great networking events coming up, starting with a tour of the newly renovated Woodhouse Activity Centre on 15 May 2019. Details are provided in this Newsletter. This will be followed by our AGM on 28 July 2019.

Are you 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. See Play Australia Members Services page for further details.



## THANK YOU TO AMANDA BALMER

Amanda Balmer has been a leading advocate for play in South Australia well before she stepped on board the inaugural South Australian branch in early 2015. That knowledge and passion was valuable in the establishment of our states committee.

Acknowledging that we are all volunteers Amanda was always willing and eager to go the extra mile to support Play Australia with logistical help and resources and also most importantly sharing her in-depth knowledge of the play industry. As a committee we thank her deeply for her help and we know that Amanda will continue to lend her support to PASA in the coming years.

Barb Champion Executive Director of Play Australia also forwarded her thanks and recognition. "The national Board wishes to thank Amanda Balmer for her 3 years of active involvement with the Board and its activities as the co-opted member from Play Australia SA. Amanda was a most diligent Board member, an excellent attender at meetings, who always did what she said she would do, and with enormous experience and expertise which we shall miss enormously. She has set a very high benchmark for the next PASA representative and we shall look forward to appointing a replacement shortly.



## Networking Event: Christie Downs Primary School



Christie Downs Primary School warmly welcomed Play Australia members and friends to tour their new integrated special needs and mainstream indoor and outdoor learning areas on Wednesday 31st October last year; the smell of freshly cooked wood oven pizzas prepared by the students greeting us on arrival. The wood oven was built by students as a school project and is a much-loved feature of the school.

Principal Gail Evans and Deputy Principal Todd McGrath explained the educational vision for the new indoor and outdoor learning areas at Christie Downs Primary School that celebrate the School's inclusive ethos of integration of special needs and mainstream students. Tara Graham Cochrane, Landscape Architect from Designwell and Deb Aukland, Project Architect from Brown Falconer described the design intent that was born from this vision.

The landscape design is based on nature play principles, building on the School's desire to maximise the sensory and textural experiences offered by natural environments. Features include: outdoor piazza, new sculptural head for 'Lucy' the Dragon (existing sensory walk), outdoor sensory walls, sensory pathways, rock pool and dry creek bed, mud kitchen, sculpture wall, mounds and slides and paved outdoor eating area.

This project explored innovations in special needs integration, diversity and design for everyone:

- All learning spaces designed to cater for mainstream and special needs students
- Shared sensory breakout rooms between all learning areas with views out to nature
- Extensive nature play outdoor environment (650sqm)
- Secure sanctuaries for calming and transitioning to learning backyards for all abilities
- Material selection for visual and tactile sensory stimulation (rammed earth, natural timbers, sculpture walls, sensory trails, interactive fence panels)

Thanks to event sponsors for Brown Falconer and Christie Downs Primary School community for being such lovely hosts and sharing their delicious wood oven creations with us!

## Upcoming Play Australia training and professional development



### PASA Networking Event - Wednesday 15th May 2019 10:00am - 11:30am

Come and spend the morning at Woodhouse Activity Centre, a 54 hectare Adelaide Hills property owned and operated by Scouts SA who will provide a tour of the site detailing the diversity of the play and recreational activities on offer. Meet in main carpark near reception. Wear comfortable walking shoes

### Current Awards Opening

Australian Institute of Landscape Architectural awards are now open. The awards features a [Playspaces Category](#). Entries close on the Thursday 18th April 2019.

### Save the Date - PASA AGM July 2019

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on the 28th of July and is a great opportunity to learn more about Play Australia and ways to become involved in the organisation.



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## Everyone can Play in NSW

Designing play for disabilities has greatly evolved in recent years.

The approach of creating accessible playgrounds was focused on access but has now shifted to consider universal design with the understanding that children with disabilities should not be made to feel different from their peers through isolation and segregation. They should have the same opportunities to participate and experience play in an inclusive environment.

For many designers and manufacturers inclusive play design is seen as good practise but not often detailed as a key requirement of a project brief. This is starting to change with NSW state government taking a lead in creating design guidelines and policy "Everyone Can Play" released in February 2019.

Fiona Morrison Commissioner for Open Space & Parklands says the guidelines are a toolkit that will put inclusive play at the front and centre of the design process. The easy to remember overarching principles are 'can I get there, can I play, can I stay.'

Play Australia members were deeply involved in the consultation of this document with Bec Ho a Play Australia national board member, playing a pivotal role on the Advocacy Group representing Touched By Olivia. Touched by Olivia was a key partner in South Australia's very first Inclusive playspace at the City of Marion.

The momentum continues as Adelaide City Council and State Government have recently announced that an Inclusive playspace is to be built in the Adelaide Parklands commemorating the legacy of disability advocate, actor and film maker Quentin Kenihan who also supported the City of Marion project.

PASA will continue to advocate to local and state government in further developing strategies that can support inclusive play in South Australia; and we welcome support from our members in doing so.



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

