

play
AUSTRALIA

Member
eNews

Autumn



Member Profile

Introducing Dr Jane Webb-Williams

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Can you tell us about yourself and the work you do?

I have worked in the education sector for over 25 years. I was a teacher then Deputy Principal before I went on to complete a PhD. I am currently a research and teaching academic at University of South Australia. I run a very large undergraduate course called “Learning Through Play” with over 600 students. As a passionate advocate of play I enjoy this role as I teach the teachers of the future about play and research play. My current project examines Play in Early Adolescence.

What prompted you to join Play Australia?

My passion for play began when I was completing my teacher training back in the 1990’s. I had been given the responsibility for a particularly difficult class and I was struggling to find a way to manage the children’s behaviour. It was then that I saw firsthand the power of play - if children are intrinsically motivated, choosing freely to engage in activities and enjoying themselves then their behaviour improves! From that day to this, I haven’t stopped advocating for play and thus being part of Play Australia was a natural progression.

Is being a Play Australia member important to you as a professional in the sector?

For me, being a member of Play Australia is vital as a professional in the sector as I get to share ideas, hear what others are doing outside of my field of education, collaborate, network, attend events and join together to promote play in the community.

Can you tell us about the SA Branch and what you hope to do for play in your state?

I am a member of the SA Branch and I serve on the National Board [of Play Australia]. We are fortunate in SA to have an active committee made up of people from diverse fields including Architecture, Local Council and Department of Education. Having people from a range of professions come together to discuss play has many benefits, not least as it makes you see things from different perspectives and helps you to think differently. We have lots going on in SA, which is exciting, for example we are currently organising an Inclusive Play Forum with guest speakers and a panel discussion.

How do you PLAY?

I view play as something that we all should engage in, not just when we are young but across our lifespan. I live on a small farm in the Adelaide Hills – that’s my play! Some may see it as work, but it is my enjoyment in doing it that makes me call it play.



Proudly promoting the value of play and supporting all Australians to play every day

www.playaustralia.org.au