



*promoting the value of play*

## South Australia

### A message from the South Australian Chair Craig Johansen



With the clocks now wound back and the season of sunshine and warmth becoming a distant memory we need to remind ourselves that the potential to play does not stop, it just provides different opportunities.

As we start to see the vegetation change colour and the leaves fall we are offered engaging opportunities to play in nature. It is a great time to explore sensory play with our environment as we venture out into South Australia's extensive open spaces.

This change in season also reminds those of us who manage/operate playspaces that we need to consider all weather conditions and how our communities engage in our open spaces. We need to ensure that our spaces are accessible and provide for all.

Play Australia has great resources available on their website for members and non-members, one of which was the recent on-line training event "Nature Play: What is it and What it Isn't".

I attended this on-line event and it was a great presentation that challenged my thoughts in the area of nature play. Some of my take away points were the consideration of how playspaces can engage with nature in a manner that does not create a hazard to users of the space (such as dew and insects), the best location of nature playspaces and, in particular, the consideration of the playspace 'WHY' rather than the how or what.

Considering why the playspace is being developed (life long learning across the senses) is critical to matching the built and non-built elements of a playspace. So I challenge you to think about the Why in what you do.



### Highlight Project: Central Avenue Reserve Playground, City of Marion

The local level play area at Central Avenue Reserve was in need of redevelopment, with tired equipment, lack of facilities and uninspired landscaping. The surrounding community rallied to have the service levels upgraded from local to neighbourhood which would see more facilities at the reserve. As a result, Community consultation was at the core of the design plans for the reserve. Locals indicated that they wanted a range of play opportunities balancing and climbing equipment, basketball and netball court, as well as traditional swings and slides.

The result was a thoughtfully designed play space with a host of different features, created in a bright colour palette giving a very funky, modern look. The central multi-play unit has different challenging climbing activities leading to a 3m high tunnel slide. A 25m Flying Fox is the most popular piece enjoyed by kids and adults alike. The little ones can enjoy swings, sandpit and water play along with a balancing beam piece. There is also a loop path around the equipment's designed to be a bike/ trike track with gentle bumps for extra fun. The older kids and families can also enjoy 3-on-3 basketball and netball court.



## Meet the Committee |

## Anthea Perkas

**Member Name:** Anthea Perkas

**Occupation:** Architect

**Place of Work:** Studio Nine Architects

**About Me:** Specialist in Educational Architecture - Early Learning, Co Founder - ArchiEd (Architects in Schools Program), Dance Teacher

### What does Play mean to you?

Imagination, curiosity and connection.

### What do you hope to achieve through committee involvement?

To help provide more events that highlight exciting new play spaces within our community and celebrate the teams involved in bringing these projects to life.

I would like to also create a strong social media platform for PASA SA that connects well with PASA nationally but also shares news from other states.

### Why did you become a member of Play Australia?

To meet like minded people who have a passion for play spaces and to be connected with current information, standards and projects that are shaping what play spaces mean for SA.



## Inclusive Playspace Forum

Thursday 29 July 2021, 1-5pm. Registration from 12:15-12:55pm

This is a free event and will include:

- Keynote address by Helen Connolly the SA Commissioner of Children and Young People.
- Presentation of the Inclusive Play Guidelines developed by the Department of Human Services.
- Presentations on Inclusion and Inclusive Design Principles including a case study.
- A site tour of the Quentin Kenihan Inclusive Play Space in Rymill Park / Murlawirrapurka.

Registration is from 12:15pm to 12:55pm for coffee and networking, with a prompt start at 1pm.

Afternoon tea will be provided following the keynote speakers and case study presentations at 3:30pm.



There will also be the opportunity for networking, drinks and a social game of bowls (both at own cost) after the formal proceedings.

Register quickly to secure your place at this event as numbers will be limited to venue capacity. Please also indicate your interest in networking and bowls after the event to assist the organising committee in booking the greens.

Play Australia is enormously thankful to the generous sponsors which have enabled our first SA Special Event to be free for participants. With thanks to, Early Childhood Australia SA Branch, A-Space, Kompan, Outfront Concepts, Proludic and Surfacing Contractors Australia.

Play Australia (South Australia) looks forward to welcoming you on the day.



## 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](https://PlayAustralia.org.au)

## Welcome to our new SA members

Elissa Pearson	City of Onkaparinga
Weathersafe Shades	Parkitect
Dirtwork Landscapes	Adelaide Hills Council
Surfacing Contractors Australia	City of Marion



Play Australia offers three types of on-line sessions, accessed via the Play Australia website: <https://www.playaustralia.org.au/online-learning-series>



Open to Play Australia Members only. Join with experts globally to hear them informally discuss topical issues in play, risk and play space development



Available to Full Benefits Members only. Join with our panel of experts to discuss the latest Australian Standards and topical issues in risk management of play spaces.



Open to the General Public - Members and Non-members. Our Special Events respond to the needs of the day, particularly to build our play advocacy.



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

