



promoting the value of play

South Australia

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A message from the South Australian Interim Chair Greg Keep



When considering what to write in a newsletter it needs to be of interest and topical and when I picked up a copy of our Advertiser newspaper the answer was obvious. The last 2 or 3 years has seen a huge increase in SA media around children's play, health & safety, education, play equipment, nature play, parenting, and everything else you can think of including letters to the editor. In fact most editions of the Advertiser, Sunday Mail, or the local papers such as the Messenger have extensive articles on many of these topics. The good news is, 3 years ago it was full of negatives and cotton balling our children, 2 years ago we were seeking change and today we have unlimited opportunity.

"Play Australia, promoting the value of play" we get people together to learn from their successes but also their failures. Whatever form play may take there is no real wrong way, some may be just a little better than others.

2014 was a big year for Play Australia, which saw it celebrate 100 years being based in Victoria with a membership covering every state. For us here in South Australia, July saw a meeting of members and interested parties in the formation of a South Australian branch which we now referred to as PASA for short.

The meeting was typical of a Play Australia gathering as we don't focus on any one area of play, so we had a cross section of people from local councils, education, health & safety, early learning, landscape architects and suppliers. Healthy open discussion by everyone was very heartening and it became very obvious that there was sufficient interest for the SA branch of Play Australia to be born. Our Interim Committee was voted in and it was agreed that

the Interim Committee needed to be representative of all sectors of play. This Interim Committee will continue until Play Australia has finalised the new Rules to apply to the establishment of state Branches when an election will be held for all positions.

Interim Committee members:

Chair	- Greg Keep,
Keep-Safe Pty Ltd	
Secretary	- Alicia Clutterham,
City of Marion	
Industry Rep Design	- Amanda Balmer,
Wax Design Pty Ltd	
Industry Rep Supplier	- Callum Anderson,
Forpark Australia	
Industry Rep Council	- Simon Bradley,
City of Murray Bridge	
Industry Rep Education	- Mandy Richardson,
OSHCSA	
Industry Rep General	- Peter Semple,
City of Marion	

The Interim Committee looks forward to working with everyone interested in the promotion of play for all children in South Australia.

Lift off for Play Australia SA Network

On a beautiful summer morning in late February Play Australia South Australia or PASA as we are soon to be commonly known, held its first ever networking event hosted by the City of Marion.

We had a fantastic turnout of like-minded people including designers, risk consultants, planners, manufacturers and providers; all with the passion for learning and supporting play in SA. Barb Champion Executive Director of Play Australia attended to support our inaugural networking event and to see the great play spaces that South Australia has to offer.

After an informal meet and greet at the Marion Council Chambers the group headed out to the first of two distinctly different playspaces. Brett

Grimm Landscape Architect at the City of Marion presented a neighbourhood level playspace known as Kenton Reserve.

He demonstrated the design intent of creating a playspace that integrates with its natural surrounding and recognising its sense of place, connecting strongly with the dried up river bed with a maze of magnification gums tree.

The playspace also incorporate a variety of equipment that facilitates for sensory experiences including water play and sound tubes. A conscious effort was to provide for inclusive play equipment which was highlighted as a real local need from the community during the consultation process. Well done to the City



Kenton Reserve, City of Marion



Kenton Reserve,
City of Marion

of Marion for really challenging what a public playspace can be. Next on the morning trip was to the award winning Suneden Special School. The Suneden Sensory Playspace won a Parks and Leisure Australia national award in 2014. Warwick Keates from WAX design led the eager listeners through the design process including the challenges and wins that have been experienced from concept to reality.

The playspace caters for children with special needs and required a close relationship with staff to ensure the outcomes met the required stimulation for challenges, refuge and sensory experiences. The end result has been amazing especially when you consider what has been achieved on such a small budget.

The innovation of reinventing low cost materials including asphalt and concrete pipe has really allowed the school to achieve an outcome well beyond what initially could have been envisaged. It was great to see at first hand how the



Suneden Special School
WAX Design

children interacted with the space when we first arrived and also listening to the staff speak passionately about how the space helps cater for healing, learning and development really underpinned the success of the playspace.

The combination of two distinctly different play spaces each with wins and lessons learnt was a great way to launch the start of PASA networking events. Sign up for membership or registrar your interest to be kept informed of our next networking event on the 27th May 2015, we look forward to seeing you there!!!!

Upcoming PlayAustralia training and professional development



**Playspace development:
design, management, maintenance**
South Australia • May 5, 2015

PASA Networking -Venue TBC
South Australia • May 27, 2015

Outdoor Play in the Early Years
South Australia • September 15/16, 2015

For further information contact Ellen Regos, Training and Development Coordinator at ellen@playaustralia.org.au

or Tel. 0438 856 322



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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.

Discounted membership available to new South Australia members, \$100 for the first 12 months!!!

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



Suneden Special School
WAX Design



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

