



promoting the value of play

## South Australia

### From the Committee

The Play Australia SA Branch is still here!

We received great feedback from all who attended the Inclusive Play Forum last October; yes that is nearly 12 months ago.

At the beginning of this year we saw a number of members of the committee stand down so we have been light on numbers and re-adapting to the new COVID normal. We hope that you have been enjoying the newsletters as they come out from Play Australia about the training and online events that are occurring for members.

We have had a new face join the Committee and you can read his profile in this issue. We always welcome members of the broader play community to be part of the Committee. If interested please reach out.

We have plans over the remainder of this year to have a number of face to face networking events; watch this space!

For more information on membership services, resources, news and events, or to contact Play Australia, please visit [PlayAustralia.org.au](https://playaustralia.org.au)

**Craig Johansen, PASA Chair**

### Upcoming PlayAustralia SA Events



#### Lumination Learning Lab

35-37 Stirling Street Thebarton.

Wednesday 21 September 4:00pm - 5:00pm.

Networking drinks at Brightstar Brewing next door from 5:00pm

Play Australia SA Chapter is hosting an immersive virtual reality experience at the Lumination Learning Lab in Thebarton.

Come and explore virtual outdoor environments and see the opportunities for this technology as a design and visualisation tool for consultation and engagement, an education and training tool, as well as potential applications to provide 'outdoor' play and learning experiences for those who may not have access to the outdoors due to health, quarantine or incarceration.

**RSVP to attend this event to [play.sa@playaustralia.org.au](mailto:play.sa@playaustralia.org.au)**

### Meet the Committee |

#### Mason Willis

**Place of Work:** City of Mitcham

I'm the Manager Open Space at the City of Mitcham in SA and have been part of the Mitcham team for 2 and a half years. The Open Space team have proudly renewed 10 playgrounds across the City in that time. The team is a diverse group of generalists and specialists including arborists, a trail officer, volunteer coordinator, native vegetation expert and 2 open space asset deliverers. Our mission statement is 'To work with our community to deliver the best open space experience, for a better life, for every person'. We have 945 hectares of open space and 63 playgrounds, over 75,000 trees and over 40km of mixed use trails for cycling and walking. It's a joy to work in the City of Mitcham and I'm always open to learning about ways to improve our play and recreation experiences.



#### What prompted you to join Play Australia?

I attended the Play SA Inclusive Playspace conference in Adelaide in October 2021 and was blown away by the breadth of expertise and knowledge in the room. The innovation, research and consideration being invested in the playgrounds and play spaces that were presented was both amazing and incredibly encouraging. In addition to this, a presentation by Helen Connolly, SA's first commissioner for Children and Young People was enlightening as it showed me there is a whole industry behind making the lives of children and young people better - something we are striving towards in the Open Space team. After the Play SA conference I really felt that if I could get involved and in some small way make a positive contribution, that would be a success.

#### Why is being a member of Play Australia important to you as a professional in the sector?

The opportunity to make a positive difference is a core driver for me. But on a more personal level, being a proud father of a 5 year old and 1 year old, I have a captive test audience for things that do and don't work in the world of play! I love learning about innovations and, importantly, the ongoing research about how children learn through play and the most effective ways. Play is a universal right and shapes futures. If I can learn how to do it better through working with Play SA, that will be fantastic.

#### Can you tell us about what you hope to do for play in SA?

The City of Mitcham has a strong strategic focus on sustainability and I am keen to further drive the understanding of the circular economy with regards to playgrounds and playspaces. A lot of the playgrounds we are renewing have withstood the test of time in terms of durability but are largely made from un-recyclable materials. Let's start to consider the whole asset lifecycle for a greener future.