



*promoting the value of play*

## South Australia

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



Welcome to the Spring Edition of the Play Australia – SA Branch (PASA) Newsletter.

I write this message as the incoming Chair for the SA Branch and would like to thank Simon Bradley for his time in the Chair position since the establishment of the Play Australia – SA Branch. He has done a great job and has placed South Australia in a position to benefit from the Play Australia network. As there is now greater conversation about play in our communities and every day lives. As we all know you are never too old to play, with play only bound by your imagination.

At the AGM held late August, 2 new committee members (David Cooney, Mount Barker Council and Anthea Perkas, Brown Falconer) were elected to the committee and 2 sitting members were re-elected (Jane Barret, Proludic and Deb Aukland, DECD). I would like to thank those who have departed from the PASA committee over the last 12 months, Amanda Balmer, Wax Design and Alicia Clutterham, Cricket Australia both who have been part of PASA since its inception. Thank you for your time and efforts which places PASA where it is currently, we know will see you again in the world of play in the future.

Since the last newsletter we held a training day at Unley Council in mid- September which was a great success. Which looked at the design, operation and management of play equipment and playspaces. Which had an audience of local and state government and private practice representatives. This was great to see all come together to hear from experts, Play Australia member Rob Hamilton and Play Australia Executive Director Barbara Champion, in the field of play and the Australian Standards on Play Equipment.

The committee is planning a number of networking events in the next 12 months with the first proposed for November, more details to come soon. Please watch out for this in the coming weeks.

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,



## PLAY AUSTRALIA TRAINING

Play Australia recently ran a one day training session on September 11 at the City of Unley; venue kindly offered free of charge by Council for the day. We had a great turn-out with attendees ranging from landscape architects, contractors, Council maintenance staff, risk assessors and educators.

A range of topics were discussed to suit the diverse audience. Rob Hamilton gave an engaging presentation on designing for outdoor play and key considerations from the playground standards, drawing from his wealth of experience in landscape design and project delivery. Rob also presented a session prepared by Paul Grover who could not be with us on the day on current playground standards and managing risks in natural environments. Greg Keep finished the presentations with examples of common hazards found through his risk assessments of Council and education facility play areas.

The content of the one day sessions was condensed from the usual two day training offered interstate and Play Australia will take on board valued feedback regarding needing more time to discuss issues and more detail on playground installation.





**Event Summary:  
West Torrens Memorial Playspace**



On the 28th of August we were able to combine our latest networking and playspace tour with the PASA AGM held at the Hamra Library, West Torrens. Hilton Memorial Gardens Playspace has recently been awarded an AILA SA 2019 Landscape Architecture Award in the playspaces category. Amanda Balmer from WAX and City of West Torrens Council staff were able to share with us their insider knowledge on the design and delivery of this 'bursting at the seams' pocket park play provision.

Labelled a district playspace due to its proximity to key council facilities including the Heritage Memorial Gardens, Library and Civic Centre its footprint was limited but its impact has been positively felt. The designers wanted to provide a vertical presence to act like a gateway and draw people towards the space. A rope bridge is suspended over a primary path allowing young and old to interact and feel part of the play experience. The timber terracing provides scaling challenge and informal seating.

A wide access slide allows for a quick decent from this lofty position. The designers pushed the standards interpretation in providing non-impact surfacing on either side of the slide which was approved by council's and the designer's auditor.

Gross motor experiences were provided with timber rope play. Multi-sensory and inclusive elements were considered with the selection of a rotating witch's hat and basket swing. Creative play was provided in the form of sand and water play with an accessible ramp; and for the musically inspired you can drum up a beat with the Cajon drums.



The playspace ticks a lot of boxes and provides a great facility for a quick after school play or a lazy afternoon experience. Thanks again to our tour reps for your open and insightful story into its creation, construction and maintenance.

Date: Friday 22nd November at 2:30-4:30pm  
Location: Melville Grove Reserve, Hectorville.

Our November event is to Melville Grove Reserve in Hectorville. This newly redeveloped 'farm themed' play space and reserve had extensive community involvement, including murals painted by community members along the laneway connecting the reserve from Hectorville Road Reserve and the Red Mill Bakery. Community members worked with local artist James Parker over a two day workshop at the Campbelltown ArtHouse in April 2019. James Parker also painted the laneway path hopscotch and rock art was commissioned by ceramic artist Tania Kunze.

Register online for these events [playaustralia.org.au](http://playaustralia.org.au)

For more information please contact Deb Aukland [Deb.Aukland@sa.gov.au](mailto:Deb.Aukland@sa.gov.au)

**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](http://PlayAustralia.org.au)



**Upcoming Play Australia Training and Professional Development**

Inclusive Play Guidelines are being developed by the Disability Inclusion section of the Department of Human Services (DHS). Currently in the consultant phase, DHS have run an on-line survey to seek feedback on how children and families are interacting with existing playspaces, what barriers may exist and what would encourage participation for children, parents and carers with disability.

A meeting was held between PASA Committee members and DHS Disability Inclusion to review the contribution we can make and we will be providing further feedback as the draft guidelines are developed. It is anticipated the guidelines will be available at the end of this year.

PASA will continue to advocate 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.