

# Playford Trust News



PROVIDING PRESTIGIOUS SCHOLARSHIPS FOR HIGH-ACHIEVING SOUTH AUSTRALIANS

“The generosity of our donors helps in providing support to an increasing number of students.”



Playford Trust members and donors visit the Laidlaw Plantation.



*Eucalyptus rhodantha.*



*Eucalyptus websteriana/  
Eucalyptus crucis (hybrid).*

## Special Morning Tea for Playford Trust Donors.

A donation to the Playford Trust is a wonderful way of investing in the future of young South Australians. The Trust is indebted to those who are able to support its work through donations and bequests. The generosity of such donors helps in providing support to an increasing number of students.

On 30th May, 2013 recent donors to the Playford Trust were invited to a Special Thankyou Morning Tea at the Waite Campus. Host for the day, Professor Mike Wilkinson head of the University of Adelaide's School of Agriculture Food and Wine, and the Hon. Dean Brown AO, Chair of the Playford Trust made presentations to guests. Professor Wilkinson described the School's commitment to horticulture and its appreciation of the Playford Trust's long association with the Waite. The Hon. Dean Brown AO outlined the current scholarships offered by the Trust and introduced the Eucalypt Program. Dr Kate Delaporte, 3rd Playford PhD Scholar and Playford Trustee, concluded with a short presentation on the Ornamental Eucalypt Development Program at the Waite Campus. The Playford Trust has been involved in the Program through Dr Delaporte's PhD and the Special Propagation Program supported by the Laidlaw Family, the Frank and Hilda Perry Trust and the SA State Government.

The donors and other guests were then invited to tour the Laidlaw Plantation, a 3 ha site on the Waite Campus established to honour the late Mr Don Laidlaw AO, Foundation Chairman of the Playford Trust. Dr Kate Delaporte led the tour and provided commentary and information about the many special and unique plants growing in the site.



Dr Kate Delaporte, (fifth left) presents eucalypts to guests at the donor morning tea.

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The Playford Memorial Trust Inc.

## A message from the Chair



*The Hon. Dean Brown AO  
Chairman*

**The range of scholarships offered by the Playford Trust continues to expand. The Board has allocated \$191,000 for scholarships in the 2013 - 2014 Budget, an increase of \$41,500 or 28% on the expenditure two years ago.**

This has been made possible through the generous support of our donors, the South Australian Government, the three South Australian Universities, and the companies that partner with the Playford Trust to provide scholarships.

However the most outstanding feature of all has been the quality and calibre of the students who receive the scholarships. They are inspirational as they discuss their fields of study and research, and talk optimistically about what they expect to achieve in the future. After all, developing these high achieving South Australians is the reason the Trust exists. Sir Thomas Playford would be so proud.

At the end of September a lunch was held at Parliament House to thank the partnership companies which sponsor scholarships in conjunction with the Playford Trust.

Certificates of Appreciation were presented to AusIMM (Adelaide Branch), Scantech Ltd., Hillgrove Resources Ltd., Parsons Brinckerhoff, Codan Ltd., Beach Energy Ltd. and St. Ann's College. In addition support is now received directly from the University of Adelaide, Flinders University and the University of South Australia, and Certificates were presented to them. The support of our partner companies and the Universities means the number of scholarships offered continues to increase.

The South Australian Government has again provided assistance through a financial grant to support the scholarship program.

The ongoing support of our many donors is vital to being able to build our investment fund to help fund new scholarships. We cherish the support provided so far.

Thank you.

The Hon. Dean Brown AO  
Chairman

## Awards Ceremony

The Annual Presentation of Scholarships to University Students was held on 8 April 2013 at Hub Central at the University of Adelaide. The Deputy Vice Chancellor of the University of Adelaide, Professor Pascale Quester welcomed guests, including Mr Steven Marshall, Leader of the Opposition, Ms Rachel Sanderson MP and Ms Gay Thompson MP, Professor Warren Lawrance of Flinders University and Dr Ian Gould from University of South Australia together with Members of the Board of the Playford Trust, Sponsors, donors, scholarship winners and their families and friends.

Guests were very pleased to learn about the research being undertaken by current and former Scholarship Winners: Brett Lange (2013 Honours Aquaculture), Emma Plant (2010 PhD) and Phiala Shanahan (2011 PhD) who presented on their work.



Professor Pascale Quester  
welcomes the guests  
at the Awards Ceremony.



### Our New Partner - Codan Ltd.

Codan Limited designs and manufactures a range of high value added electronics products for global government, business, aid and humanitarian, mining, and sophisticated consumer markets. Founded in 1959 and headquartered in Adelaide, the Company has grown to become an international leader in its market niches. Codan's core products include radio communications, mining technology communications, and metal detectors.

Codan Ltd has supported the Playford Trust in providing a scholarship for an undergraduate studying electronic engineering at Adelaide University.

The first recipient of this scholarship is Daniel Meixner, who comes from Whyalla. This scholarship will assist Daniel with his relocation and accommodation at St Ann's College.

*Simon Porter, Group Human Resources Manager of Codan Ltd. (left) and The Hon. Dean Brown AO (right) congratulate Daniel Meixner on receiving the inaugural Codan Ltd/Playford Residential Scholarship. (photo Susie Herzberg)*



# Playford Trust

# 2013 Scholarships

## Playford Trust Honours Scholarships



L to R - Professor Pascale Quester (Deputy Vice Chancellor, University of Adelaide), Talia Wittmann, Brett Lange, Simon Blacket, Alicia Hurkmans and Mrs Helen Nankivell (Playford Trust Board Member).



L to R - Professor Don Bursill AM (Playford Trust Board Member), Krishna-Lee Curtis, Scott Forsythe, Jai Stremple, Luke Volgin and Professor Warren Lawrance (Executive Dean, Flinders University).



L to R - Rick Martin, Adrian Creek, Philip Skelton, Arna Smith, Dr Ian Gould (Chancellor, UniSA), Mrs Susie Herzberg (Playford Trust Board Member).

## Regional Science & Engineering Scholarships



L to R - Hon. Don Hoggood AO (Playford Trust Board Member), Jordan Wray, Matthew Wright, Thomas Muecke, Mr Steven Marshall (Leader of the Opposition), Samuel Brown.

## Beach Energy/St Ann's College Scholarships



L to R - Mr Keith Yates (Playford Trust Board Member), Alana Cuthbert, Jonty Dear, Dr Rosemary Brooks (Principal, St Ann's College) (absent Mr Reg Nelson, Beach Energy).

## Scantech/Playford Honours Scholarship



L to R: Mr Peter Pedler (Chairman, Scantech), Phong Huy Nguyen, James Cheuk-Heng Lau and Mr Dean Standish (Playford Trust Board Member).

## Hillgrove Resources/Playford Scholarship



L to R: Mr Lachlan Wallace and Mr Steven Mc Clare (Hillgrove Resources) with Playford Trust Chairman the Hon. Dean Brown AO and Hillgrove Resources Scholarship winner Denis Conway in front of a Playford portrait.

## AusIMM/Playford Scholarship



L to R: Mr Ric Horne (Chairman, AusIMM Adelaide Branch), William Hagger and Mr Keith Yates (Playford Trust Board Member), (absent Naomi Tucker).

## Playford Trust PhD Scholarships



L to R - Mr Jim Hallion (Chief Executive, Dept Premier & Cabinet), Hon. Robert Lawson RFD QC (Playford Trust Board Member), Sean Clark, Tiffany Reeves, Ric Porteous, Ms Gay Thompson MP, Mr Ray Garrand (Chief Executive, DFEEST).



Sam Brown

Students from country SA face a number of challenges in coming to Adelaide for further education. Here Sam Brown, winner of a Playford Regional Science and Engineering Scholarship and Jonty Dear tell a little about their move to Adelaide and their studies.

### Sam Brown

#### Regional Science and Engineering Scholarships

##### 1. Where does your family live – and where did you complete your secondary schooling?

My family lives 5km north of Padthaway in the South East of South Australia. As Padthaway does not have a secondary school, I had to take a bus to Naracoorte, 60km away.

**2. What particular challenges did you face in moving to Adelaide to study?** Money was one of the greater challenges when moving to Adelaide. Not having family in the city and having to start fresh in a new house meant the starting cost was quite significant. Not knowing many people was also hard, as there were no friends that could help bounce ideas or issues off.

### Sean Clark

#### Flinders University School of Chemical and Physical Sciences

My research involves synthesising polymers that can be used in organic photovoltaic devices, [solar cells that use organic molecules, such as polymers], to convert light into electricity. These systems have advantages over silicon based technology including the ability to be manufactured cheaply and to be made on flexible substrates. The efficiency of these devices is less than current commercial technology.

The most common active layer, which converts light to current, is a physical blend of a polymeric donor and a small molecule acceptor. The performance of these solar cells is critically dependent on the structure of this blend. Currently, the blend is treated by thermal annealing which causes the materials to rearrange into a complex two phase morphology.

This rearrangement however is not controlled and is not stable, causing the materials to gradually separate out over time, reducing the performance of the device.

**3. How did winning a Playford Trust Scholarship assist in your move to the City?** The Playford Trust Scholarship took a lot of pressure off on the money side of things and allowed me to concentrate on my study instead of having to worry about a part time job. It also helped purchase textbooks and allowed me to have the possibility of being able to afford to travel home and see my family and friends

**4. Which subjects have you found enjoyable, and what is it about these subjects which has interested you?** This semester I have really enjoyed Civil and Environmental design as it is very hands on. The subject covers different design aspects of engineering design and allows the students to attempt projects similar to what could be expected when working after our degree.

**5. Are there any other aspects of University life which you have found challenging, interesting or enjoyable?** The responsibility at University to manage my own study is a big step from secondary school and took a while to get used to, but it has been a good learning curve.

**6. What career aspirations do you have at this stage?** At this stage, I am interested in the conversion of industrial land into land for recreational use or consulting on environmental impacts and energy efficiency. I believe this is an area of work that will continue to grow and will become an even larger factor in the way we build things in the years to come.

### Jonty Dear

#### Beach Energy, St Ann's Playford Residential Scholarship

I am currently approaching the end of my first year of a Bachelor of Engineering (Mechatronics) with a Bachelor of Mathematical and Computer Sciences. My first year at University has been about setting a base knowledge for my further years of study. Learning the basics of Mechanics, Electrical & Electronics, Chemistry, Programming, and of course Mathematics has been a challenging but rewarding experience. In my coming years I hope to expand upon these interesting topics and look towards achieving honours in my final year.

Along with my studies this year I have also relocated to Adelaide, boarding at St Ann's College. This college experience has been a once in a life time opportunity through which I have established many new friendships.

I'd like to especially thank the Playford Trust, Beach Energy, and St Ann's College for their financial support over this year. It has enabled me to concentrate on my studies and achieve positive results.

The polymers that I have synthesised have the acceptors tethered to them to promote controlled phase separation from the polymeric donor to produce more ideal structures. By varying the size of the donor block with respect to the acceptor material, the morphology of the active layer can be tailored such that the arrangement and the size of the features in the layer are conducive to charge separation and transport. This controlled morphology will enhance the efficiency of the device.

Sean Clark





Simon Blackett

## Simon Blackett

**The University of Adelaide School of Chemistry and Physics**

Solar cells are unable to use the low energy light of the solar spectrum. By upconverting this light to a higher energy it may be used and so will increase the efficiency of the solar cell. An important step in this upconversion process involves the collision and interaction of "emitter" molecules in solution. To understand this interaction, computer simulations of well-known emitter molecules (rubrene and perylene) have been run. The collision-time, relative orientation of the molecules and the frequency of collisions have been investigated along with the effect of temperature on these values.

The results obtained to date show that rubrene molecules have a much longer collision-time than perylene, but that they collide less frequently. At higher temperatures, collisions have been shown to occur more frequently. The colliding molecules come together at specific orientations and with this understanding we may aid the design of these devices to improve their performance.

## Krishna Lee Curtis

**Flinders University, School of Biological Sciences**

Gut Transit Time and Nutrient Digestibility in Greenlip Abalone, *Haliotis laevis*.

My research has enabled the establishment of a reliable method for determining gut transit time in greenlip abalone, where few reliable methods previously existed. This also allows a direct method for the determination of nutrient digestibility, rather than the commonly used indirect methods in abalone.

The overall gut transit time of abalone increased with decreasing water temperature and increasing animal age. Gut transit time information from this study can be used to establish purging times on abalone farms, for both chemical withholding periods and sand and diet voiding periods prior to harvest. Results also indicate that examining feeding frequency in abalone, (an area in which little information currently exists), may be a beneficial endeavour which has the ability to reduce feed and feeding cost. Using a method correlating nutrient digestibility and gut transit time enables more cost-effective management, by formulating diets which cause optimal gut transit times that obtain the best nutrient digestibility for feed ingredients used.



Scott Forsythe

## Scott Forsythe

**Flinders University, School of Biological Sciences**

Trials for cannibalism reduction in juvenile barramundi (*Lates calcarifer*) have gone well with significant results for both cannibalism reduction and growth rate improvements. The initial trial tested the effects of 5 colours (red, blue, green, yellow, control) on cannibalism reduction with results showing both positive and negative effects depending on the wavelengths absorbed by the colours.

Following on from the initial trial the best colour was then tested against a known technique, of using size dependent refuges, to reduce cannibalism with promising results in favour of colour for cannibalism, growth rate, fish dispersal and refuge use. The best combinations were then retested in a large scale to better represent the conditions found in the industry, again with positive significant results for both cannibalism and growth rate. These trials have the potential for significant cost saving improvements to the entire aquaculture industry.

Krishna Lee Curtis





Rick Martin

## Rick Martin

**University of South Australia, Divn of IT, Engineering and the Environment (Electronic Eng)**

My final year project is to create a ball maze solving robot platform. The platform is to have the ability to be solved and completed by a user (manual operation) and also have the ability for the onboard Central Processing Unit (CPU) to solve and complete the maze itself autonomously, i.e. with no user input.

So far manual control has been implemented and has been achieved with the maze plate movement mimicked by a user operating an Android tablet. Image processing has been completed and the CPU can observe, capture and solve the maze layout. The remaining work is to program the CPU to move the ball from the start to the end point using the maze solution.

Producing such a platform can be used to promote engineering to students and the public, showing what can be achieved, the fun that can be had undertaking projects and the versatility of engineering.



Arna Smith

## Arna Smith

**University of South Australia, Bachelor of Engineering (Civil) (Honours)**

Many communities in developing countries do not have access to a potable water supply and lack an effective sanitation system. Research, evaluation and field work were undertaken to develop an integrated potable water supply and wastewater management scheme for a proposed community-based ecotourism resort

at Port Resolution, Tanna, Vanuatu. An additional objective of the project was to generate income to support the education of young people in Port Resolution.

Two weeks were spent on site in Vanuatu in July, 2013. Surveying, site observations and various field tests were undertaken to gain the data needed to design a low maintenance and cost-effective system. Typical daily water usage and peak flow rates were used to determine the required sizes of the supply and wastewater management schemes. The scheme is expected to be installed by the community and the facilities operational for tourists to Port Resolution in late 2014. The Playford Trust Honours Scholarship has supported this Honours Project and my experience in this aid project would not be possible without it.



Brett Lange

## Brett Lange

**The University of Adelaide, Animal and Veterinary Sciences**  
**Effects of antioxidants on survival of greenlip abalone at high water temperature.**

Summer mortality occurs on land-based abalone farms, when large numbers of stock die from the stress associated with the seasonal increase in water temperature.

My project involved researching 'summer mortality' of abalone and testing possible solutions to treat the issue. In March, we started an experiment at SARDI West Beach to test novel formulated diets at 26°C and study the effects those diets had on survival and enzyme activity of the abalone. The experimental trial ran for 6 weeks and concluded mid April. Haemolymph samples taken from the animals were analysed for various antioxidant enzymes, and their antioxidant potential. Water samples were also checked for bacterial content. All the data has been collected and I am currently in the process of statistically analysing the data, and writing my thesis.

## Luke Volgin

**Flinders University, School of Chemical and Physical Sciences**

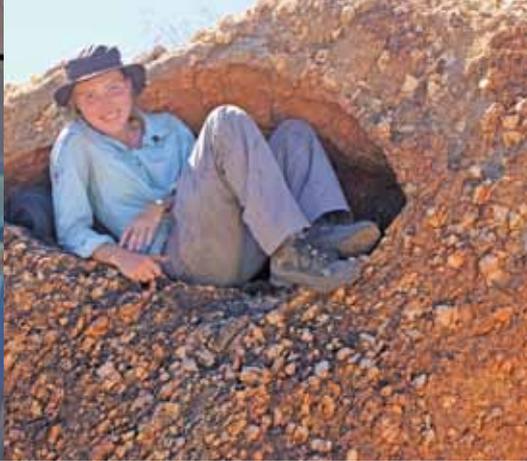
**Validation of PowerPlex® Y23 for the Forensic Analysis of DNA**

Y-chromosome specific markers are highly beneficial in forensic casework, as they only target DNA originating from males. This is an excellent tool for sexual assault cases. The PowerPlex® Y23 system contains completely novel DNA markers that have shown high potential. The New system must be verified, optimised and validated prior to the analysis of real casework at Forensic Science South Australia (FSSA). PowerPlex® Y23, like all DNA analysis systems, requires amplification through the Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR). This effectively copies the DNA repeatedly, through a number of cycles, above a detectable limit. Through my research, this cycle number has been optimised for DNA on storage cards as well as DNA that requires extraction from the cells. The validation process has been investigated through PCR optimisation, sensitivity, accuracy, mock casework (hair roots/ toothbrush/ fingernail scrapings/ mobile phone swabs/ tape lifts from clothing) and DNA mixtures with multiple males plus female DNA for specificity. Complete DNA profiles were observed as low as 31.25 pg (1 picogram is 10<sup>-12</sup> of a gram) - the amount of DNA that equates to only 5 cells.

I am currently verifying data between laboratories through an international collaboration with the forensic laboratory in Auckland, New Zealand. My final studies will investigate the limits of detection and the stability of DNA when exposed to sunlight for given time periods, as this can be expected at crime scenes, which can potentially inhibit PCR efficiency.



Luke Volgin



Naomi Tucker - Geological field work in the Harts Range, central Australia, April 2013.



William Hagger

## Naomi Tucker

### The University of Adelaide, Honours Geology

I am currently undertaking Honours in Geology at the University of Adelaide. My project focuses on the possibility of high-temperature, moderately high-pressure (granulite facies) metamorphism occurring at mid-to lower-crustal depths (~25-30 km) in a super-deep rift basin, using the Harts Range, central Australia, as a case study. Earlier this year in April, I undertook 3 weeks field work in the Harts Range which included structural and lithological field mapping. I am now nearing completion of several months of lab work which has involved geochemical, Lu-Hf-isotopic and geochronological analyses and subsequent work to investigate the provenance and pressure-temperature evolution of the rocks of the Harts Range region. I have found my research highly interesting and have enjoyed the opportunity to have undertaken both field work and a variety of different forms of lab work to investigate this issue.

## Talia Wittmann

### The University of Adelaide, Southern Seas Ecology Laboratories, School of Earth and Environmental Sciences

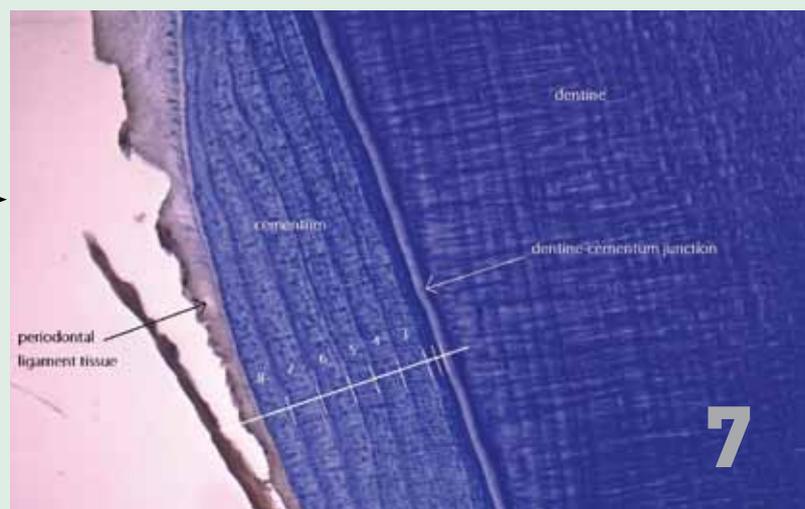
The calcified structures of aquatic organisms (e.g. otoliths, vertebrae and teeth) form growth increments analogous to tree-rings. Growth increments have the potential to provide a powerful tool for examining relations between organismal growth and aquatic habitats.

My research has focused on quantifying the inter-annual patterns of increment growth in the teeth of Australian sea lions and New Zealand fur seals. Using a novel mixed-modelling approach, currently I am comparing the increment growth chronologies to both local and broad scale climatic indices (e.g. sea surface temperature, El Nino Southern Oscillation Index). Marine mammal teeth offer a unique tool for investigating climate-growth relations.

Only recently have researchers started using mixed-modelling type approaches for marine mammals in the Southern Hemisphere, with only one other known study on pinnipeds.

I am extremely honoured to be a Playford Honours Scholar and I would like to extend my thank you to the Playford Trust for their generous support.

*Decalcified, stained, thin-section of a New Zealand fur seal (A. forsteri) post-canine. Growth increments were measured in the cementum and numbers indicate age of the animal at each increment.*



## William Hagger

### The University of Adelaide, Honours Geology

My honours project examines the relationship between the structure and age of the Alpine Schist in the Central Southern Alps of New Zealand. My project began with field work surrounding the Franz Josef area involving the collection of structural data and samples for subsequent elemental age analysis.

The project has progressed down a new pathway as the initial minerals targeted for the project were not present within the rock units. The project now involves separated muscovite for Argon/Argon dating at the Argon Isotope Facility in Perth and separated zircons for Uranium/Lead dating at Adelaide Microscopy.

The structural analysis has revealed some interesting features of the units within the Alpine Schist that will be further examined with the geochronological data from the muscovite and zircon.

Throughout the year there have also been two brilliant short courses from those run by the Minerals Tertiary Education Council. I participated in Mineral Exploration Undercover held at Arkaroola in South Australia and Ore Textures and Breccia Styles held at James Cook University in Townsville. These courses are of great benefit to developing skills for application in the minerals industry.

*The photo above (right) shows Associate Professor Dr Alan Collins (my supervisor) and I, by a sluice diverting the Tatare Stream within my field area of the Alpine Schist, near the town of Franz Josef, New Zealand.*

*The sluice was historically used to divert water for early gold mining practices along the Waiho River Terraces.*

## Committees of the Playford Trust

**Playford Trust Board members volunteer their time and expertise in a number of ways. This month we introduce the Investment and Finance Committees.**

**Both Committees meet bi-monthly prior to the full Trust meeting. The Investment Committee under the Chairmanship of Danny Watson, monitors the investments of the Trust and, as "Trustees" of these funds has adopted an Investment Policy to guide the management of investments in accordance with the requirements of the Trustee Act, for both income and capital growth.**

**The Finance Committee under the Chairmanship of Dean Standish establishes and monitors the Trust Budgets and prepares the Financial Statements for the Trust while also overseeing compliance with a number of commercial and legal obligations.**

**Mr Danny Watson Chair of Investment Committee** Danny Watson who chairs the Playford Trust Investment Committee, is a retired Sharebroker and was Chairman of Day Cutten Ltd prior to its acquisition by The Macquarie Bank Group Ltd. He is Chairman of The Mary Potter Foundation, and is a member of the investment committee of Minda Inc as well as being on the Board of Advice for a number of Family Groups, specialising in Asset Allocation. Danny is a member of a number of industry bodies and has previously served as a Trustee/Director of NGS Super and as a panel member of the Disciplinary Tribunal of The Australian Securities Exchange.

**Mr Dean Standish - Chair of the Finance Committee** Dean Standish is a member of The Institute of Chartered Accountants in Australia. In a career spanning 45 years he has focused primarily on small business and audit. He currently works as a consultant with HLB Mann Judd (SA). Dean has been a member of the Rotary Club of Mitcham for more than 20 years, and has held a variety of positions at both Club and District level.

As Chair of the Finance Committee, Dean's role includes liaising with the external accountant in regard to Annual Financials, bi monthly reports and income tax obligations.

**Hon. Dean Brown AO (CHAIRMAN Playford Memorial Trust)** Dean Brown is a former Premier of South Australia. He was in Parliament for 27 years and held numerous ministerial portfolios. Dean's education and background is in agricultural research, Government and corporate management. Dean is Chairman of Hillgrove Resources Ltd, a Director of Scantech Ltd., Mission Australia, and Foodbank SA, and the Heritage Foundation of the University of Adelaide.



*Playford Trust Investment & Finance Committee members from left, Hon. Robert Lawson RFD QC, Mrs Susie Herzberg, Mr Danny Watson, The Hon. Dean Brown AO, Mr Dean Standish. (Photo Peter Davis DFEEST).*

Previously Dean has been the Premier's Special Advisor on Drought and the River Murray Community Liaison Manager. He was also Chairman of InterMet Ltd., a Director of the National Youth Mental Health Advisory Board, and a Director of Australian Agricultural Consulting and Management Company. He is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

**Hon. Robert Lawson RFD QC** Robert Lawson graduated in Arts and Law. Appointed Queen's Counsel in 1988, he is a former President of the S.A. Bar Association. Robert was a member of the Legislative Council in the South Australian Parliament until 2010. He held a number of ministries in the Brown/Olsen/Kerin governments. He is a member of the board of the Law Foundation of South Australia and is Chairman of the Carrick Hill Development Foundation. Before entering Parliament, Robert served in the RAAF Specialist Reserve with the rank of Wing Commander. Robert is committed to the ideals of the Playford Trust and to encouraging young South Australians to pursue their studies.

**Mrs Susie Herzberg** Susie Herzberg has worked as an urban, environmental and strategic planner in the private sector, with government and the University of Adelaide. Susie is a past Chairman of the Board of the Botanic Gardens and State Herbarium, and has served on a number of Boards including the South Australian Housing Trust, Patawalonga Catchment Management Board, KESAB, and State Cycling Council. Susie is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. Currently Susie manages Manyara Vineyard, is a director of Bomlitz P/L and Nature Foundation SA. In addition to serving on the Investment and Finance Committees Susie edits the Playford Newsletter and the Website.

### Sponsors



**Please contact** The Playford Memorial Trust Inc, GPO Box 2343 Adelaide SA 5001 T: 08 8226 3627 E: admin@playfordtrust.com.au

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