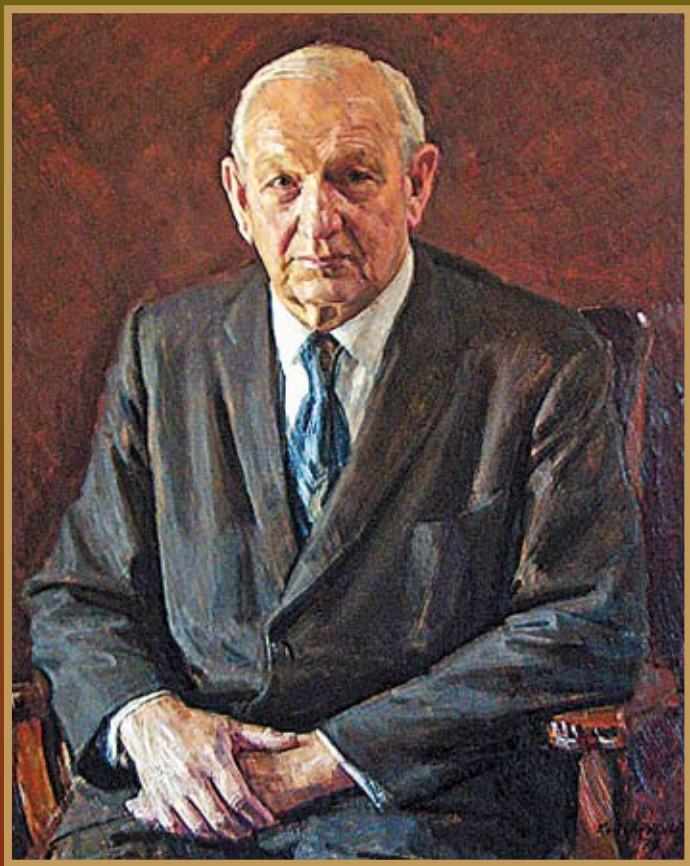
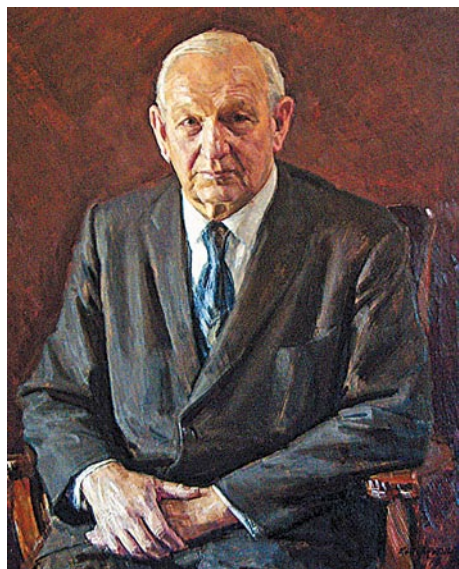


PLAYFORD
MEMORIAL TRUST

1983
25th
2008

ANNIVERSARY





Chairman's Foreword

It is a privilege for me to be Chairman of the Playford Memorial Trust in this, the year of its 25th anniversary and to follow three eminent chairs in Mr. Don Laidlaw AO (1993-1995), Hon. Jennifer Cashmore AM (1995-2002) and Mr. Dick McKay AM (2002-2003).

I offer a historical perspective of the Trust and advise of its current activities and its future directions.

Within a month of Sir Thomas Playford's death in June 1981, the Cabinet of the Tonkin Liberal Government in South Australia agreed in principle to the creation of a Trust to perpetuate his memory.

In June 1982 Cabinet resolved to create the Playford Memorial Trust, and appointed Mr. Don Laidlaw AO as the inaugural Chairman. The Hon. Des Corcoran AO was later appointed Deputy Chairman.

On the 26th August 1982, the Federal Treasurer acceded to a request to make donations to the Trust tax deductible.

The initial task of the Trust was to finalize the terms of the Trust Deed. The objects of the Trust were to establish 'a fund for research into and development of projects of practical use to South Australians in the primary, secondary and tertiary industries and mining'. It was agreed that the Trust should have the power to 'undertake' and not merely 'support' research. The Premier was



Photograph courtesy of the State Library of South Australia - B 56841 - Prime Minister Ben Chifley, Premier Sir Thomas Playford, SA Governor Sir Willoughby Norrie, 1946.

empowered to appoint the Trustees, together with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman. The Government provided initial capital of \$100,000 for the establishment of the fund with a further \$20,000 contributing to a subsequent scholarship appeal.

The Trust Deed was executed on 26 September 1983 between the Premier and twelve Trustees, and the terms of office of the Trustees commenced from that date.

Initially the Trust met monthly, first, in the Cabinet Room and later in the Old Cabinet Room in the Treasury Building. The Government provided the services of an Executive Officer. This support was withdrawn in 1987 but later revived in 1993.

At the time of creating the Trust, Lady Playford stated that Sir Thomas had taken a great interest in the work of the Waite Institute, and to perpetuate his memory with a research project at the Waite Institute would have pleased him greatly. Late in 1986, the Trust launched its first public appeal to endow a Playford post-graduate research scholarship in horticulture with the aim of assisting the Australian native flora industry to reach its full potential. The \$160,000 raised by this appeal was invested, and so began a very profitable portfolio of stocks and shares capably managed by an Investment Sub-committee. Four postgraduate research scholarships in Horticulture offered by the Playford Trust have been granted, each with a value of \$36,000.

In recognition of the major contribution to the Trust by its foundation chairman, Mr Don Laidlaw AO, an area of eucalypts planted on the Urrbrae Campus for research purposes by Playford Horticulture Scholars, was named the “Laidlaw Plantation”.

In 1996, the centenary year of Sir Thomas Playford’s birth, the Trust launched an appeal to fund a scholarship in aquaculture. The State Government provided \$180,000 towards the appeal, which reached its goal of \$500,000. The Playford Aquaculture Scholarship was established in 1997 with the aim of developing ways of producing King George whiting fingerlings for aquaculture and / or for restocking coastal waters for recreational and commercial fishing. Four postgraduate research scholarships in Aquaculture offered by the Trust were accepted to a value of \$36,000 each over four years.



In 1999 the Playford Technical and Further Education Study Awards were established. These awards of \$2,000 each are presented annually to TAFE students to assist with fees and/or other study costs, and their value and prestige are much appreciated by TAFE staff as well as by the award recipients. Initially two awards were made annually, but this increased to five in 2006. A total of twenty-three students have now received Playford TAFE Study Awards.

A significant donation from one of our private donors has enabled the Trust to expand our involvement in a number of ways, including the funding of two indigenous TAFE students working with the Arid Lands Botanic Garden in Port Augusta.

As a result of an ongoing commitment by the State Government in 2007 to provide the Trust with \$75,000 per annum, commencing this year, our satisfactory investment success and the continuing support of our donors, the Trust has reviewed the priority areas where it wants to support scholarships of various types in the future. These include our ongoing commitments to horticulture and aquaculture along with water, energy and climate change, advanced manufacturing and new technologies, mining and resource development. These areas are currently very important to South Australia for its future development and the Trust wishes to encourage talented young people to further enhance their skills and knowledge in these important career directions. Our four most recent Playford scholars were selected in 2006.

This year twelve Honours students, four from each of our universities, will be granted a Playford Trust Honours Scholarship valued at \$1,000 each. Apart from providing encouragement to high quality students at Honours Degree level, the Trust believes that the provision of an Honours Scholarship program will broaden the field of quality students interested and eligible for Playford Trust PhD scholarships in future years.

The Trust, in its pursuit of establishing joint Playford Trust / industry scholarships has recently agreed to administer two scholarships being offered by Scantech International Limited, valued at \$5,000 each, to Honours students studying physics at any university in South Australia. These scholarships are known as the 'Scantech Playford Memorial Trust Physics Scholarships'. Scantech International Limited is the world leader in process control technologies specialising in the mineral, cement and coal industries. The Trust is very keen to build on this model of co-operative funding.

The Trust has also offered four Playford Memorial Trust Science Scholarships to support students from regional and rural areas who are enrolled to study science subjects at undergraduate level. These special scholarships, valued at \$4,000 each, are for promising students who have to overcome the practical and financial disadvantages associated with leaving their home base located in regional South Australia, to study in Adelaide.

The above is an overview of the Playford Memorial Trust's achievements and of its goals for the future. None of what has been achieved could have occurred without the strong and significant support of our valued donors. I also want to acknowledge the 32 Trustees who have served the Trust in a voluntary capacity over the first 25 years. The Trust recognizes and appreciates the bipartisan support provided by Government, and in particular the Department of Premier and Cabinet for the administrative support provided to us, through our Executive Officers. It is the wish of the Trust that this support will continue.

I thank Professor Howell for writing the biography of Sir Thomas Playford and I recommend it to you.

David Wotton

Chairman

12th March 2008



Photograph courtesy of the State Library of South Australia - B 10376 - Luncheon at Parliament House, 1940 - (left to right) - R.S. Richards, Sir Richard Butler, L.L. Hill, Sir Henry Barwell, T. Playford.

Sir Thomas Playford



*Photograph courtesy of the State Library of South Australia - B 7756
- Sir Thomas Playford, 1938.*

25



SIR THOMAS PLAYFORD, GCMG

(1896-1981)

P.A. Howell

Sir Thomas Playford was one of the greatest of all South Australians. As Premier from November 1938 until March 1965, he dominated the state, as well as its Parliament, as no one else has done. That unbroken period of more than twenty-six years remains an all-time record for an Australian head of government. Yet his contribution to South Australia was only partly due to

the length of his service in high office. It was also the product of his vision, his success in finding and following good advice, his tremendous energy, and his unceasing efforts to advance the state and the prosperity of its people. Furthermore, unlike most political leaders, he could see and correct mistakes he had made.

Playford was born into a family of fruitgrowing smallholders at Norton Summit in the Adelaide Hills on 5 July 1896. A grandfather, known for his integrity as ‘Honest Tom’ Playford, had been Premier and Treasurer of South Australia in 1887-89 and 1890-92 and one of the more significant ‘Fathers of Federation’. He was later a Senator in the first Commonwealth Parliaments, and federal Minister of Defence in 1905-07.

1. Associate Professor Peter Howell is a former head of the History Department at Flinders University, where he taught from 1968 until 2000.

Young Tom attended the Norton Summit primary school. He left at the age of 13 to take over management of his father's orchard and the marketing of its produce. At 18 he enlisted to fight in World War I. Posted to the first 27th Battalion, he served at Gallipoli and in France, was severely wounded, and was promoted to first lieutenant. On his discharge, he returned to fruitgrowing. Though he had ceased worshipping with his Baptist parents, he became an active member of the Producers' Fellowship Lodge of Freemasons, at Ashton. Thereafter, Masonry and its ritual provided him with a substitute for churchmanship, support for his moral principles, and contacts with many leading citizens. In 1928 he married Lorna Clark of Reade Park. They had two daughters and a son.

In 1932, at the height of the Great Depression, dissatisfaction with Labor's economic policies prompted Liberal Federation and Country Party politicians to merge, for State purposes, forming the Liberal and Country League (LCL). In 1933 Playford agreed to stand for the House of Assembly and was elected when the new party won power under the leadership of R.L. (later Sir Richard) Butler. Playford quickly established himself as the scourge of statutory boards, inefficiencies in country hospitals and the police force, any bureaucrat who seemed to lack a sense of fair play, and ministers who played the parish-pump or procrastinated in answering parliamentary questions. When he agreed with government initiatives, he proved a valuable ally in debate, for he was an effective, though not a polished, speaker.



In April 1938, Butler calmed his most troublesome backbencher by inviting him to join the ministry. Seven months later, Butler resigned to contest a federal seat. The LCL elected Playford as its new leader, and he became Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Immigration on 5 November.

At that time, most of the State's wealth was still generated by its farmers and graziers. Grain, wool and meat were the principal exports. Prosperity fluctuated in accordance with the vagaries of the world trade-cycle. It could also fall dramatically in times of drought, or whenever locusts or feral rabbits reached plague proportions. Adelaide was not an industrial city but a commercial one, servicing the rural industries. In 1935, keen to stem the flow of people to permanent jobs in Melbourne and Sydney, Butler had accepted advice from Auditor-General John Wainwright that the economy could be improved by a substantial increase in manufacturing. To attract industrialists from interstate and overseas, Butler lowered company tax. He defeated the New South Wales government's efforts to have the Port Pirie smelters relocated to Newcastle, and Victoria's attempts to filch a section of the motor-body industry. He secured the establishment of alkali works at Port Adelaide, a cardboard factory in the south-east, and, while forcing a doubling of the royalties BHP paid the state for each ton of iron ore it mined in the Middleback Ranges, passed legislation (1937) ratifying a deal under which that company had agreed to build a blast furnace at Whyalla.

Playford had been critical of these initiatives, being more concerned to revive primary production and deregulate transport – so that farmers could get their produce to market more cheaply. He even suggested that provision in the BHP Indenture Act for piping Murray water to Whyalla was a fantasy that should be ‘totally ruled out’. On becoming Premier, he soon established good working relations with the top civil servants and the captains of industry, began to appreciate the merits of Butler’s policy, and made further industrialisation his main objective. Thirty years later, he claimed that the challenges posed by World War II allowed him to achieve in a short time development that normally would have taken twenty-five years. But his vast correspondence with successive Prime Ministers shows that he had to work hard for this, often writing to Canberra several times a week.

In 1940-41, Playford regularly complained that South Australia, with nearly 9 per cent of the nation’s population, was receiving less than 0.1 per cent of the additional millions of wartime defence expenditure, nearly all of which was being directed to Victoria and New South Wales. His constant lobbying finally yielded results. Munitions works were established at Hendon, Finsbury, Salisbury and country centres, notably Peterborough, Gladstone, Naracoorte, Tailem Bend and Murray Bridge. Adelaide’s motor-body works, which had been shedding staff as car sales fell, began receiving contracts to make parts for RAAF planes. Australia’s first high quality metrology centre (producing machine tools) was established in the railway workshops at Islington.



Meanwhile, the negotiations Butler had begun with British Tube Mills, to set up their Australian plant in Adelaide, and for Humes to build a new pipe-making plant at Port Pirie, were brought to a successful outcome. Factories making clothing for the armed forces were established at Wallaroo, Clare, Port Pirie, Mount Gambier and Lobethal, and flax-mills were built in Morphett Vale and the mid-north. The ACTIL factory at Woodville (1942) made garments in cotton-drill, and the twilled cloth we now call denim. Thousands of women gained paid employment, either in factories, or in government, semi-government or private jobs previously held by men who had enlisted.

The advent of heavy industry at Whyalla afforded many men more secure and better-paid work. The first blast furnace was capable of producing more than 200,000 tons of pig-iron a year. Before it was ready for operation, BHP had begun building ships there. By the end of the war, ten vessels, with a total deadweight tonnage of 54,324, had been launched. The town's population grew from 1,100 in 1939 to 8,000 in 1945. It rose further after the company began building bigger ships, including oil-tankers and iron-ore carriers, and finally agreed to proceed with the construction of a steel mill. By 1965 Whyalla had 20,000 people. Large-scale coal-mining at Leigh Creek had commenced in 1942. Use of that coal on the railways, and at a new power-station at Port Augusta, diminished dependence upon imported fuels. This proved especially valuable during the protracted Newcastle coal-strikes of the late 1940s.

Playford had opposed Butler's legislation establishing the Housing Trust. He soon realized that this too merited expansion, because access to cheap and decent accommodation was essential for industrial growth and would help keep workers in South Australia. In 1940 he broadened the Trust's brief so that it could accommodate pensioners and other very poor people as well as wage-earners. This was the first of several pieces of legislation that dismayed conservative members of the LCL but passed with support from the Labor Opposition. In Butler's last year in office the Trust had built 84 houses. By the mid-1950s, it was completing 3,200 a year.

A key component of the LCL's formation had been an undertaking, by all members of the merging parties, to entrench, in the Electoral and Constitution Acts, at least a 2:1 ratio of rural to metropolitan seats, even though, at that time, Adelaide and its suburbs already contained more than half the state's population. The change had become law in 1936. Playford was its chief beneficiary. It enabled him to retain office even after some elections in which Labor won a majority of the total votes cast.

Playford did not relax after the war. In 1945, the federal government legislated to make the Commonwealth Bank the nation's central bank. Playford saved the largest local bank, the Savings Bank of South Australia – a statutory institution managed by trustees – from having to lodge £8,000,000 as a non-interest-bearing statutory reserve deposit with the enhanced Commonwealth Bank, by making the SBSA a state-owned bank.



As such, the Constitution of the Commonwealth gave it exemption from federal law. But Playford's price was that it had to lend the £8,000,000 to the Housing Trust at a mere one per cent. When the Adelaide Electric Supply Company proved resistant to pressure to extend its servicing of country districts and to use local brown-coal instead of imported black-coal as fuel to power its turbines, he compulsorily acquired its assets, transferring them to a new statutory authority, the Electricity Trust. Several LCL members in each House voted against the legislation, but, again with Labor support, it passed (1946). Other 'socialist' measures included compulsory acquisition of land for soldier-settlements and for drainage, and development of government-run enterprises such as the uranium mine at Radium Hill (1954-61), a uranium processing plant at Port Pirie, and a huge state-sawmill at Mount Gambier (1957).

Playford had an unusually friendly relationship with Mick O'Halloran, Leader of the Opposition from 1949 until 1960. Cosy private deals negotiated between them covered matters both great and small. O'Halloran once publicly described Playford as 'the best Labor Premier South Australia ever had', because he knew that Playford could, with Labor's help, enact measures that a Labor government could never get through the Legislative Council. Parliament's upper house was always dominated by conservatives because, in that era, it was elected by citizens who could satisfy a property qualification.



Photograph courtesy of the State Library of South Australia - B 7755 - Cabinet Members, 1938, (left to right) - A.B. Blesing, J.R. Ruddall, Sir George Ritchie, T. Playford, S. Jeffries, M. McIntosh.

The Premier worked effectively to ensure that South Australia received a good proportion of the migrants and refugees arriving from Europe. He successfully created the satellite-city of Elizabeth. He maintained price controls (initially intended to prevent wartime profiteering) on rents and basic foodstuffs for years after all other states had abolished them, so that workers would be content with the slightly lower wages that were an attraction to those able to establish new industries. This was a factor in persuading, for example, the electronics firm Phillips Industries to relocate from New South Wales in 1947, and General Motors to give South Australia a share in the production of ‘Australia’s own car’, the Holden. The level of industrial disputes leading to loss of production remained far lower than in the neighbouring states. In the 1950s, it assisted in South Australia gaining predominance in the manufacture of white goods and television sets. Playford gave every encouragement to Santos in its quest to find commercial deposits of oil and natural gas.

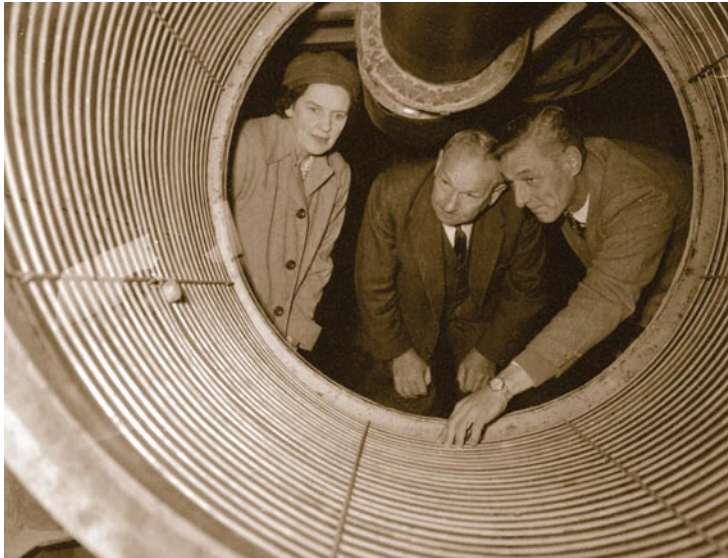


In his obsession with development, Playford spent proportionately less on libraries, hospitals, education and social welfare than did the governments in other states. He believed that prosperity encouraged philanthropy and enabled most individuals to make personal contributions towards the cost of services they required. Usually genial in manner, he could resort to bluff and bullying if charm alone could not secure his objectives. He established good relations with Labor Prime Minister Chifley who, for example, to keep Adelaide's gas-works operating during the NSW strikes, gave him a special permit to import 56,000 tons of black-coal from South Africa. He

had more fruitful dealings with Menzies, after 1949, than he had had during the latter's first Prime Ministership (1939-41).

Playford often complained about the centralization of power in Canberra, especially after its acquisition of a monopoly of the right to tax incomes (1942) increased its capacity for directing how public money should be spent. Yet he also developed the blame-the-Commonwealth syndrome that his successors have continued to practise, in preference to exercising greater responsibility in spending those funds that remain under the full control of the state government.

In 1957, on the recommendation of Menzies, Playford was appointed a Knight Grand Cross of the Order of St Michael and St George, the highest-ranking knighthood ever conferred on a South Australian. It was a happy choice because that order's motto, *Auspicium melioris aevi*, means 'Token of a better age'. A steady drift of people to Adelaide that resulted from the consolidation of rural properties, the influx of working-class migrants, and a consequent trebling of the number of people employed in factories, shipyards and mines that occurred during Playford's premiership, eventually impacted on ballot boxes. Despite Butler's electoral malapportionment, Labor won office in 1965 and Playford became Leader of the Opposition. He retired from Parliament on the eve of the 1968 elections. In 1969-78, he served on the board of the Electricity Trust.



Revered for his personal integrity as much as for his public achievements, Sir Thomas died on 16 June 1981.

Photograph courtesy of the State Library of South Australia - BRG 347/1730 - Premier's Visit, 1962.

Acknowledgements



*Photograph courtesy of the State Library of South Australia - B 7756
- Sir Thomas Playford, 1938.*

Past and Serving Members of the Playford Memorial Trust

Douglas Bishop, OAM

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Professor Don Bursill, AM

Hon Jennifer Cashmore, AM

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Mr John Sutton

Miss Mary Walters

Mr Lawrence Wood

Mr Roy Woodall, AO

Hon David Wotton

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*Thomas Playford, Premier of
South Australia circa 1959.
Australia's First Century
Historical. OldPic:Ref:
07638865 OldPic:Cat:
History.*

*Photo supplied courtesy of
News Ltd.*



Bennan Chen

Alumni of the Playford Memorial Trust

The Playford Memorial Trust PhD Scholarship in Horticulture

Alison Fuss PhD 1987-91

Mary Rieger PhD 1991-96

Kate Delaporte PhD 1996-00

Kirsty Neaylon BAgSc (Hort) (Hons) 2000-03



Craig Meakin

The Playford Memorial Trust PhD Scholarship in Aquaculture

Amanda Caughey BSc (Hons) 1997

Bennan Chen MSc 2002-05

Craig Meakin BTech (Aqua) (Hons) 2006-09

Anthony Conallin BSc (Hons) 2006-09



Anthony Conallin

The Playford Memorial Trust PhD Scholarship in Environment

Marcus Boyd BEng (Hons) 2006-09

Susan Lee BE (Hons) BEnvMngt (Hons) 2006-07



Susan Lee



Kain Gardner



Photo by Matthew Hands

The Playford TAFE Study Awards

Su' Tillet

(Horticulture) 1999

Jamieson Crawford

(Aquaculture) 1999

Philippa Cox

(Horticulture) 2000

Con Karaberidis

(Aquaculture) 2000

Kerrie Griffin-Moore

(Horticulture) 2001

Robert Hunter

(Aquaculture) 2001

Rosemarie Eardley

(Horticulture) 2002

John Light

(Aquaculture) 2002

Matthew Hands

(Aquaculture) 2003

Lisa Carr

(Aquaculture) 2004

Kain Gardner

(Horticulture) 2004

Nick Sladden

(Aquaculture) 2005



Photo of Glycine latrobeana (Clover Glycine) by Robert Lawrence and Paul Cooke

Renee Kingston-Mayne

(Aquaculture) 2005

Derek Sandow

(Environmental Management) 2006

Peter Lucantoni

(Conservation, Land Management and Horticulture) 2006

Robert Lawrence

(Horticulture) 2006

Jason Bird

(Horticulture) 2006

Paul Cooke

(Conservation, Land Management) 2006

Rhys Filmer

(Food Science) 2007

Louise Pollard

(Food Science) 2007

Elizabeth Ninnis

(Horticulture/Conservation & Land Management) 2007

Daniel White

(Horticulture) 2007

Thomas Evans

(Horticulture) 2007



Kate Delaporte



Marcus Boyd



The Scantech Playford Memorial Trust Honours Physics Scholarship

Donna Krupke 2008

Jared Thiele 2008

The Playford Memorial Trust Honours Scholarship

Tina Law 2008

Julian Strudwick 2008

Nathan Valente 2008

David White 2008

Jeffrey Newman 2008

Richard Miegel 2008

Stefan Caddy-Retalic 2008

Penny Miller 2008

Anna Siedel 2008

The Playford Memorial Trust Science Scholarship Regional Support Program

Mark Turner 2008

Ka Wu 2008



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