



PROVIDING PRESTIGIOUS SCHOLARSHIPS FOR HIGH-ACHIEVING SOUTH AUSTRALIANS

“Last December an inspiring presentation evening for TAFE SA horticultural and environmental students was held at the Urrbrae Campus. Five scholarships were presented to students who had done exceptionally well during their studies.”

The Hon. Dean Brown AO, Chairman



From left: Tina Zwarts, The Hon Dean Brown AO, Chairman of the Playford Trust, Jillian Sanders, Bill Hunt, Hayley Robinson, Alison Walker and Marlene Boundy (Educational Manager, TAFE SA). Photo Sam Taylor.

## Playford Trust 2012 TAFE Awards

### Alison Walker -

Environmental Management

### Bill Hunt -

Conservation and Land Management

### Hayley Robinson

Horticulture

### Jillian (Bebe) Sanders -

Environmental Monitoring & Technology

### Tina Zwarts -

Environmental Technology & Diploma In Environmental Management

Read more about these Award winners on page 4.

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## Inaugural Playford Scholars Reunion

You are warmly invited to the inaugural Reunion of the Playford Scholars Association. Come for a meal, drinks and a chat.

**Date:** Wednesday April 24th

**Time:** 7pm

**Venue:** The Corner Bistrot, Leigh St, Adelaide CBD

This is our first opportunity to get together independently of the Playford Trust, and to help build a lively and meaningful organisation of Alumni. Our catch-up will be very informal. I'm really looking forward to meeting more of you and seeing you there. I need your help to get things moving within the Association, and to generate a sense of pride and community in welcoming new Playford Scholars to our fold.

Please feel free to invite other Scholars to this event, and partners are welcome. I'll be contacting you about this event by email and hopefully snail-mail.

Please RSVP to me at: [samuel.d.taylor@gmail.com](mailto:samuel.d.taylor@gmail.com).

Sam Taylor - President Playford Scholars Association



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The Playford Memorial Trust Inc.



Sir Thomas Playford\*



The Hon. Dean Brown AO  
Chairman

contributed \$149,500 to scholarships, an increase of \$35,500 over the previous year. In total there were 39 recipients. This would not have been possible without the support the Trust receives from numerous donors, supporter and partners. A grant for scholarships from the South Australian Government and administrative support through the Department of Premier and Cabinet are vital to the expansion of the scholarship scheme.

The three South Australian universities who are strong supporters of the Trust have agreed to supplement the twelve Honours Scholarships in 2013 so that all recipients receive \$5,000 each. The Trust greatly appreciates this additional support.

A Playford Scholars Association is being established so that past and present scholarship recipients are able to assist each other and to promote the valuable work of the Trust. I thank Sam Taylor who has worked hard to establish the Association.

Last December an inspiring presentation evening for TAFE SA horticultural and environmental students was held at the Urrbrae Campus. Five scholarships were presented to students who had done exceptionally well during their studies. Some of these students were mature aged students. They proudly received their scholarships, witnessed by their families and friends who have watched them progress through their studies.

As a new year starts the Trust has selected recipients for the 2013 Scholarships. Once again, they highlight the considerable talent available in South Australia.

I wish you all a very successful year in 2013.

The Hon. Dean Brown AO  
Chairman

## A message from the Chair

It is pleasing to welcome a new partner who will sponsor scholarships in 2013 and beyond through the Playford Trust.

Parsons Brinckerhoff will provide \$5,000 per year and the Playford Trust will boost this with a further \$2,000 per year (see below).

I thank Parsons Brinckerhoff for its donation to encourage young South Australians to undertake further study and adopt skills to help the future development of the state. This company joins other companies which are already partners with the Playford Trust.

In December 2012, I presented the Annual Report of the Playford Trust. In 2011-12 the Trust and its partners

*\*Sir Thomas Playford Park, situated in Norton Summit, in the Adelaide Hills. A statue of Sir Thomas Playford takes pride of place in the town.*

## Welcome to our new partner Parsons Brinckerhoff.

The Playford Trust is delighted to announce a partnership with the global infrastructure firm Parsons Brinckerhoff.

They will provide a scholarship for a graduate engineering student at the University of Adelaide to assist in undertaking the Masters course in Project Management and to develop skills in the mining and resource field in South Australia.

Parsons Brinckerhoff which is the professional services arm of the Balfour Beatty group of companies, employs over 12,000 staff worldwide, providing planning, environmental, engineering and project/program management for major infrastructure projects in the transport, power, energy, mining and urban infrastructure markets.

The scholarship is to be known as the:

**Parsons Brinckerhoff/Playford Global Mining Scholarship.**

# PARSONS BRINCKERHOFF

## Ryan Hayward: A trainee at the Arid Lands Botanic Gardens.

The Playford Trust recognises the importance of supporting trainees in regional Australia, and with the help of a long term donor, is pleased to be able to assist in funding a trainee at the Arid Lands Botanic Gardens in Port Augusta.

The selected trainee, Ryan Hayward, is an enthusiastic gardener who is currently studying Certificate 3 in Horticulture.

*Ryan Hayward. Photo courtesy Tania Danylycha and information courtesy Christine Nayda of Friends of the Arid Lands Botanic Gardens.*



# Congratulations to the 2013 Scholarship Winners.

Winners will be presented with their awards at a ceremony in early April 2013.

## Regional Science and Engineering Scholarships

Matthew WRIGHT	From Victor Harbor High School	Bachelor of Engineering (Mechanical and Aerospace) The University of Adelaide
Samuel BROWN	From Naracoorte High School	Civil and Environmental Engineering The University of Adelaide
Thomas MUECKE	From St Joseph's School Port Lincoln	Civil and Structural Engineering The University of Adelaide
Jordan WRAY	From Port Lincoln High School	Bachelor of Science (Honours) High Achievers Flinders University

## Playford Trust Honours Scholarships

Brett LANGE	The University of Adelaide	Animal and Veterinary Sciences
Simon BLACKET	The University of Adelaide	School of Chemistry and Physics
Talia WITTMANN	The University of Adelaide	School of Earth & Environmental Sciences
Alicia HURKMANS	The University of Adelaide	School of Chemical Engineering
Krishna-Lee CURRIE	Flinders University	School of Biological Sciences
Scott FORSYTHE	Flinders University	School of Biological Sciences
Jai STREMPEL	Flinders University	School of Biological Sciences
Luke VOLGIN	Flinders University	School of Chemical & Physical Sciences
Adrian CREEK	University of South Australia	School of Electrical & Information Engineering
Ricky MARTIN	University of South Australia	Divn of IT, Engineering & the Environment (Electronic Eng)
Phillip SKELTON	University of South Australia	Divn of IT, Engineering & the Environment (School of Eng)
Arna SMITH	University of South Australia	Natural and Built Environments

## Playford Trust PhD Scholarships

Sean CLARK	Flinders University	School of Chemical and Physical Sciences
Tiffany REEVES	Flinders University	School of Chemical and Physical Sciences
Ric PORTEOUS	The University of Adelaide	School of Mechanical Engineering

## Scantech/Playford Trust Honours Scholarships in Physics

Phong Huy NGUYEN	The University of Adelaide	Bachelor of Science – Space Science and Astrophysics
James Cheuk-Heng LAU	The University of Adelaide	Bachelor of Science – Space Science and Astrophysics

## AusIMM/Playford Trust Honours Scholarships

Naomi TUCKER	The University of Adelaide	Honours Geology
William HAGGER	The University of Adelaide	Honours Geology

## Beach Energy/St Ann's College Playford Trust Residential Scholarships

Jonty DEAR	The University of Adelaide	Fac of Engineering, Computer & Mathematical Science
Alana CUTHBERT	The University of Adelaide	Mathematical Sciences

## Hillgrove Resources/Playford Trust Honours Scholarship in Geology

To be announced shortly

# Award

## 2012 Playford TAFE Award winners - their work and aspirations.



*Tina Zwarts taken in Kuitpo Forest Reserve during the Yellow Tailed Black Cockatoo Census 2012.*

### Tina Zwarts

My name is Tina Zwarts, I live in the Fleurieu Peninsula of South Australia and I have always had a passion for the environment. I completed my first qualifications last year, as a mature age student, achieving my Diploma in Environmental Management.

This has been a personally rewarding experience over the past three years, and has opened up many doors to further study. It has been a great honour to receive the Playford Trust Scholarship, the encouragement and recognition I have received has inspired me.

There are many areas I have enjoyed during my studies, particularly water, soil and mapping.

This year, I will be taking a six month break from studies contributing to my local environmental volunteer groups and gaining more experience in the field. Then I hope to attend university and continue my journey.

### Alison Walker

I have a health care and community development background and was last employed as a Youth Worker in rural SA. I developed my passion for native plants, weed control and minimal disturbance techniques whilst volunteering with Conservation Volunteers Australia. Now I have completed the Diploma of Environmental Management, I am currently studying the Diploma of Conservation and Land Management at Urrbrae TAFE.

We have a great responsibility as custodians of the Earth, to look after our natural resources, consider our energy needs and how we can coexist with each other and the environment. I play my part by volunteering at a Bush For Life site in Blackwood, tending to a vegetable garden at the local Buddhist Centre, recycling materials and riding my bike where possible.

Since April 2012, I have worked with Trees For Life where I enjoy caring for diverse native vegetation. Future hopes include university study, work with non-government agencies, contributing to on-ground environmental works, re-engaging young people with nature and lobbying for environmental change.



*Alison Walker with one of 6040 seedlings planted at the Monarto Planting Festival (2012).*

*Haley Robinson at work in horticulture.*



### Hayley Robinson

I am currently studying Certificate 3 Horticulture at TAFE SA Urrbrae Campus.

My time at Urrbrae has been thoroughly enjoyable, my lecturers are fantastic and I have met some great people who I'm sure will remain as contacts throughout my career. I have another six months until I complete my course and am very excited about entering into the industry.

I first became interested in Horticulture after spending time with a qualified Horticulturalist and attending a meeting about Horticulture therapy. I had recently left a highly stressful job within the refrigeration industry and the therapeutic aspect of Horticulture was very appealing. I also enjoy the physical nature of the work. Once I complete the Certificate, I hope to gain employment in the garden maintenance sector, get some experience and discover where my passion for the industry lies. I plan to continue with further studies, completing the Horticulture Diploma and possibly an Aquaculture course. I appreciate receiving a Playford Memorial Trust TAFE Award; it has added to my belief that this path has been the right one for me and has ignited my enthusiasm for learning.

## Billy Hunt

Over the past two years I have been studying Certificate 3 in Conservation and Land Management (C&LM) at Urrbrae TAFE, which I completed in January this year. I have also been working full-time completing my Environment Worker traineeship. During this time I have gained a wider knowledge of C&LM, a better understanding of plants and how to use them to protect our fragile environment, and a higher quality insight into the benefits of training to improve work performance.

I have been involved in a variety of work activities with Balanced Habitats over the last two years. We are currently focussed on works in the Aldinga Beach and Silver Sands Biodiversity Reserves, with the emphasis on control of exotic grasses and herbaceous weeds. Other projects have included fencing at Southport Dunes, revegetation in the Southern Metro' biodiversity areas, erosion control in the Fleurieu District, woody weed control on the Onkaparinga River Recreation Park and nursery maintenance.

My future career hopes are to continue to learn more about the biodiversity of the areas I work in and to promote a wider knowledge to others about our natural ecology. I have enjoyed learning from many high quality leaders. I look forward to a lengthy career with constant skills development, and the confidence gained through the Playford Trust awards will assist with that goal.

*Jillian (Babe) Sanders at Royal Botanic Gardens Kew.*



## Jillian (Babe) Sanders

I have always been interested in working with the environment and initially studied Zoology and Botany, gaining an Honours degree in Zoology. My passion is also gardening so I completed Certificates in Horticulture and Conservation & Land Management at TAFE. This led to work in a retail nursery and as a Trainer.

In 2011, I was successful in gaining an Internship at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew in London. It was an amazing experience and I was able to visit all sections of the gardens as well as Wakehurst Place home of the Millennium Seedbank and the RHS Society gardens at Wisley. My duties involved maintaining the Australian Gardens at Kew and the British Museum, and planning floral displays for the 2012 London Olympics.

In my future career I would like to work with greening of urban areas, landscape design and restoration of local native vegetation. I would also hope that I could return to Kew as there is so much more to learn.



*Billy Hunt at work on revegetation project.*

# Beach Energy/St. Ann's College/ Playford Trust Residential Scholarship.

## Alana Cuthbert

### Mathematical Sciences, University of Adelaide

Last year I completed a Bachelor of Mathematical Sciences and have now begun Honours to further my studies in mathematics while completing a major project and thesis. I have chosen a project in biostatistics, which involves analysing data from a study on fibromyalgia (a debilitating chronic pain condition affecting up to 1 in 20 Australians).

This disease is poorly understood and its cause unknown, so consequently, treatments are suboptimal and often ineffective. However, it is known that variability in genetics can alter the way in which pain is processed by the nervous system.

My project aims to establish a relationship between patients' genetic make up and the occurrence and severity of pain in fibromyalgia, using statistical methods. I am thoroughly enjoying working on this project so far and am excited about the year ahead. I am extremely grateful for the financial support provided by the Playford Trust, Beach Energy and St. Ann's College, which is enabling me the opportunity to undertake this extra year of study.



# PhD Scholarship Reports - our future is looking good.



Rhys Murphy Playford Trust PhD Scholarship 2010.



Bonnie Henderson Playford Trust PhD Scholarship 2011.

## Bonnie Henderson

**Playford Trust PhD Scholarship 2012**  
**Earth and Environmental Sciences,**  
**The University of Adelaide**

Over the last six months I have been very busy with my PhD project. I completed two months of field work in eastern Canada and Spain, where I obtained a large collection of samples which covered an interval of time from 1000 – 250 million years ago. In September, I attended the International Geological Conference in Brisbane, where I presented a talk on my honours work in India.

Currently I am working in the lab obtaining ages for the collected samples. I will be working with collaborators at Macquarie University in Sydney to obtain isotopic and geochemical data from the samples. We are aiming to use the isotopic, geochemical and age data from these rocks to reconstruct parts of the Appalachian Mountain Belt 500 - 300 million years ago. If all goes to plan, I should be able to write up my results for publication by mid 2013 and to present my work at an international conference in late 2013.

Peter Hardy with his OWCs



## Rhys Murphy

**Playford Trust PhD Scholarship 2010**  
**Science and Engineering, Flinders University**

My research involves the organic synthesis of artificial receptors, called molecular tweezers, with improved selectivity for binding guest molecules of a specific shape and size. Potential future applications of this work include enzyme mimics, sensors for drugs, and new agents for targeted drug delivery and controlled release. In the March 2012 newsletter, I reported on the synthesis of the first generation of the tweezer, which was found to form intra-molecular bis-porphyrin sandwich complexes with several diamino guests of varied lengths. I've presented this work at the 19th IUPAC International Conference on Organic Synthesis, held in Melbourne. My research has been accepted for publication in the European Journal of Organic Chemistry.

Recent advances have involved modifying the structure of the first generation tweezer by introducing chemical functionality to restrict bond rotation. This is expected to make the tweezer more preorganised in its geometry to suit small guests, and energetically unfavourable for the tweezer to reorganise to bind large guests. I'm currently analysing the second generation tweezer and its ability to complex small versus large guests by UV-Visible spectroscopy and Nuclear Magnetic Resonance spectroscopy. I'm also fortunate to be travelling to Arlington, Virginia, this July to present at the 8th International Symposium on Macrocyclic and Supramolecular Chemistry. I continue to very much enjoy my PhD and would like to thank the Playford Memorial Trust for their continued support.

## Bree Bennett

**Playford Trust PhD Scholarship 2011**  
**Civil, Environmental and Mining Engineering, The University of Adelaide.**

My research focuses on developing a new design flood approach for Australia incorporating spatial and climatological influences. Currently, extreme spatial rainfall intensities are estimated using extreme point rainfall which is then reduced under the assumption that the extreme intensity at a point cannot be maintained over an area. However, by always reducing the sampled extreme point rainfall the possibility that the extreme spatial rainfall event was not sampled by the gauge is ignored. The intensity of a storm varies in space; this is clearly shown by weather radar. However, there is an implicit assumption that an intense portion of the storm and not a mild portion of the storm is sampled at the gauge sites. Ultimately, this approach yields biased spatial extreme rainfall intensity estimates.

In response to these issues I developed a technique to estimate extreme spatial rainfall directly, without the need to relate extreme spatial rainfall to point rainfall. I presented this work at the 2012 Hydrology and Water Resources Symposium held in Sydney. The next stage of my research involves modelling the flood response to potential future climate scenarios by applying projected climate information, including rainfall and temperature, to case study catchments.

## Peter Hardy

**Playford Trust PhD Scholarship 2012**  
**School of Mechanical Engineering, The University of Adelaide**

My research is in the field of ocean wave energy conversion with my project focusing on improving the efficiency of oscillating water columns (OWCs) by developing control algorithms for a high speed bi-directional air turbine.

I have designed a small scale OWC experimental rig, currently being manufactured, which I'm going to use in a wave tank to test my control algorithms. My small scale rig has been designed to replicate the air compressibility effects of a full scale OWC system, an important aspect which is typically neglected in small scale testing of wave energy converters. I intend to start experiments in April and present my results at the World Renewable Energy Congress in Perth in July.

At the moment I'm putting the finishing touches on a progress report required for my Major Review in March. Then I will be extending my OWC mathematical model and preparing for my experiments. On a lighter note, I took a break over Christmas to go eel fishing in Victoria and I've been valiantly using my warrior like skills to fend off the ants apparently intent on conquering my desk.

# “The Scholarship Committee has dedicated many hours coordinating with the universities in assessing applications for Playford Scholarships.”

Scholarship Chairman, Professor Don Bursill

Professor Don Bursill reports that there was a very strong field of nominations for all the scholarships. “This makes selection quite a tough process, but it ensures that the investment made in these young people is likely to be very worthwhile for the future of South Australia. The strong competition for scholarships maintains the high standard of the Alumni of the Trust. It also encourages us to seek more funding and more industry partners as there are so many outstanding young people who could be assisted and encouraged through support and association with the Trust.”



Front row: Professor David Day, Mr Keith Yates, Chairman Professor Don Bursill AM, Back row: Dr Kate Delaporte and Mrs Helen Nankivell Absent: The Hon Don Hoggood AO.

## Who's Who on the Scholarship Committee

### Professor Don Bursill AM (Chairman)

Don retired as Chief Scientist for SA Water in 2005. He led a team that established the Federal Government's Cooperative Research Centre for water research and was the CEO of that centre.

Don is currently the Chief Scientist for South Australia; an independent advisory role to the SA Government on science, research and innovation. This role has postponed Don's plans for more fishing and camping, however it does complement his Trust activities through enhanced links with research and academic institutions.

### The Hon DON HOPGOOD AO (Deputy Chair of the Playford Trust)

After a career as a teacher, Don Hoggood spent twenty three years in State Parliament including seven years as Deputy Premier. He then had two years as Moderator of the South Australian Synod of the Uniting Church.

Don has a range of community interests including chairing both the Board of the Eleanora Centre and the SA Jazz Archive. Don runs courses for the University of the Third Age and is in demand as a speaker for Probus Clubs. He plays cornet with the Onkaparinga City Concert Band and his own Jazz Bandits and is a compulsive walker.

### David Day

David Day is the Deputy Vice Chancellor and Vice President (Research) at Flinders University. David received his PhD from the University of Adelaide and did postdoctoral training in the USA before returning to CSIRO in Canberra as a Queen Elizabeth II Fellow. Subsequent posts include professorial roles at ANU, the University of W.A. and the University of Sydney. David's research interests are in plant biochemistry and molecular biology, focusing on energy metabolism, oxidative stress and nutrient acquisition in plants. David represents the South Australian universities on the Trust.

### Dr Kate Delaporte

In 1996, I became the 3rd Playford PhD Scholar in Horticulture and embarked on what has become my career and passion: the development of the Australian plant genus *Eucalyptus* for ornamental horticulture; home gardens, urban plantings, and cut flowers. I continue to be involved in research and development of *Eucalyptus* trees, through a Horticulture Australia fellowship at the University of Adelaide.

Association with the Playford Trust has provided many opportunities to meet some wonderful South Australians. Now, as a Board member and a member of the Playford Scholars Alumni, I am able to help young South Australians to realise their career aspirations.

### Helen Nankivell

For many years I pursued an artistic career then in a significant career change I became involved and later owned a regional manufacturing business. I am interested in business, the opportunities it creates and the flow on effects to the community. I value the contribution that technology and innovation can make to the success of a business and the State.

Scholarship Committee members have the opportunity to read the extremely high standard applications and to gain an insight into the diversity and depth of talent we have here in S.A.

### Keith Yates

Keith Yates is a geologist who moved into semi-retirement in 2007 after many years of experience in minerals exploration and mine development. Keith is currently Chairman of the Resources Industry Development Board which advises the S.A. Government. Keith is passionate about promoting the study of a wide spectrum of scientific disciplines at the tertiary level. He firmly believes that the support and encouragement the Playford Trust and its partners provide to scholarship recipients will benefit South Australia in both industry and research. Keith is working with the Chairman of the Playford Trust to encourage companies in the mining industry to become partners of the Playford Trust.

## The Playford Years – Fragments from the past.

# The Coming of GMH to Elizabeth.

Stewart Cockburn in his 1991 biography *Playford - Benevolent Despot* reports that the story of how General Motors Holden got its land to develop a second South Australian factory in the then fledgling township area of Elizabeth in the mid-1950s ... is a lovely illustration of Playford's inimitable style."

"In late 1955, the President of General Motors in Detroit, Fred G Donner came to South Australia with a £30m expansion plan in his brief case. He lunched with the Premier who persuaded him that any new GMH factory should be sited at Elizabeth where there would be an assured supply of labour.

"Housing Trust General Manager Alex Ramsay was immediately deputed to escort Donner to the area and sell him whatever land he liked. Ramsay returned to the city with the news that he had sold GMH 324 acres."

**Cockburn reports that Playford recalled:** "But the land he'd sold didn't actually belong to us.



1951 FH Holden ute.

It was owned by a farmer who refused to part with it. And it was the only site GMH was interested in.

Alex Ramsay approached the farmer after milking time the next morning and after two or three hours managed to establish good relations and was invited inside for a cup of tea. They were interrupted by an officer of the Salisbury Council claiming that the farmer's dog was not registered and threatening to call the police, whereupon Ramsay paid the registration fee. The farmer promised to repay this".

**Playford continued:** "Before he left, Ramsay learned that the farmer would be making a rare trip to Adelaide the following Tuesday to collect a load of barley milling waste from the Kent Town Malthouse. Ramsay expressed a great interest in the operation and offered to meet the farmer and help him load his truck.

"Tuesday proved to be a very hot day. The farmer was elderly and Alex was not himself robust. However, between them they got the ancient truck loaded. Refreshments were then much needed. ... The farmer shouted the first drink, Alex the next and so on for several rounds. Then in a benign frame of mind, the farmer said: "Ramsay, I'd sell you the land you want but I don't want to handle all that money. What do I do?"

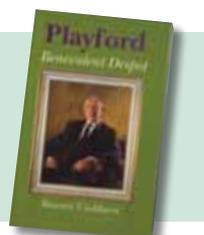
"Ramsay told him to hang on while he rang the Premier for advice. I told him to tell the farmer that I would authorise the head of the Housing Trust to become his unpaid attorney.

"Alex would take charge of the money, invest it wisely. And that's what happened. Alex Ramsay looked after the farmer's money until he died and the old boy and his beneficiaries did extremely well out of it".

In later years, Playford would boast that Elizabeth was established at no cost to the tax payer "because we got back the whole original cost of the land by re-selling it at better prices to GMH, SA Brewing and other commercial and industrial clients".

## Copies of Stewart Cockburn's book - 'Playford, Benevolent Despot'

are available from the Playford Trust Administration Officer, The Playford Memorial Trust Inc., GPO Box 2343, Adelaide, SA 5001.



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Editorial Team: Susie Herzberg, Robyn Shilcock, Kate Delaporte.  
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