



72 With the silly season upon us and our work-life beginning to balance, we try to prove that sometimes it can be all fun and games. Upon the recent completion of the St Clair Recreation facility and the under construction Edwardstown Oval redevelopment, we reflect on our experiences with active community spaces.

Until next year, happy holidays from all of us at SPA!



St Clair Sporting Courts



Edwardstown Oval Concept Render



Edwardstown Oval Progress

So Much Room For Activities!

The most rewarding thing about creating Civic and Community spaces is that they are experienced by so many different people, under different circumstances, much of which can't be predicted in advance. It is both exciting and a bit daunting to contemplate this – our work is used by people we can never know, so our challenge is to foresee the needs these people have of the facilities we design.

We have delivered several community, civic and sporting buildings, more recent examples being the St Clair Recreation Centre, a 6-court, column-free arena with associated functions, and works for West Beach Parks, including sports fields, accommodation and clubroom facilities. In progress also is the Edwardstown Soldiers Memorial Recreation Ground, including a function centre, RSL memorial gardens, cricket practice nets and an upgrade of one of only two outdoor velodromes in Adelaide.

The reward we get from seeing a successful facility well used and enjoyed is almost unparalleled in a designer's work life. Imagine having that effect on someone who will never know you, but through your work! We've had the opportunity to design many of these buildings, and to see how they are used, sometimes by using them ourselves.

Added to the challenge is that these projects are also usually politically charged – many different stakeholders seeking different aims and ends from the outcome, all of which it is our task to reconcile into a single, unified 'singing' whole. Then there's also the building process to pull it through unscathed! Who would do it? We would, again and again if we get the chance.

Sports



St Peter's VR Night



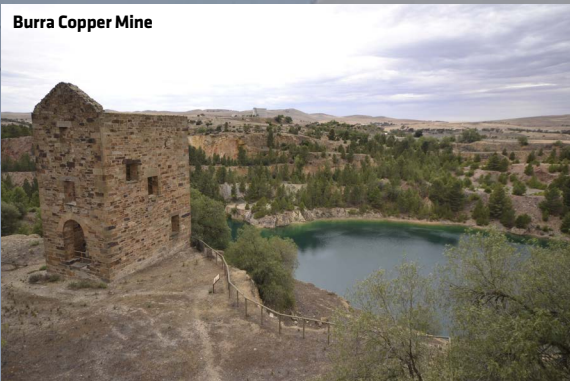
Steve, CPR Cup and Eric



James Brickworks, Beverly



New Office Progress



Burra Copper Mine

Office News

Our new office is progressing nicely with most of the cladding and glazing now installed and is looking right at home on sunny Gilbert Street. We expect to move in early next year.

To mark the start of construction of St Peter's Girls' new Science and Art Centre, we hosted an afternoon with the project team and builder Sarah Constructions. The team walked around the design in Virtual Reality, which allowed the builders to feel as if their job is done already.

From the future to the past, congratulations goes to Associate Director Andrew Klenke and the team for winning a Civic Trust Award for their James Brickworks Conservation project and an IES Lighting award for the Queen Adelaide Room Refurbishment.

SPA are delighted to celebrate their long term relationship with UniSA by offering a scholarship grant. This grant will be awarded each year to students of Architecture and Interior Design and includes paid work experience in our office. Congratulations goes to Emma Dohrmann; the inaugural winner who will be with us for 6 weeks before she returns to University.

In millennial news, scientists have discovered that too much love in the air can cause less fish in the sea. Influenced by a deluge of dating shows and a year since Hugh Grant's last film, Administration/Presentation coordinator Sophie Oakey and Interior Designer Rebecca McMillan both recently tied the knot, and Taylor Angel successfully proposed to long-term partner Jess.

While on the topic of life-partners, power duo and SPA co-founders Eric Swanbury and Steve Penglase won the CPR Engineers' Melbourne Cup Hall of Fame, which we assume will go "straight to the pool room".

Having now won more Melbourne Cup office sweeps than Makybe Diva has cups, Director Wayne Grivell took the major prize while the rest of us fought over what constitutes as last place. Having picked Cliffsofmoher, adamant Associate Director Matt Raven eventually gave in, conceding that he was flogging a dead horse.

This year we will be out of the office after Friday 21st, returning on the 2nd day of 2019. We wish you all the best for the new year!

Burra Field Trip

As part of a new Conservation Management Plan for the town of Burra, a team of our Heritage and Landscape Architects took a 5 day trip to assess existing conditions and (we assume) to bond over a common interest in old trees and buildings.

A community information night was held on the 12th November to discuss the purpose of the new plan and the process used to research and investigate the heritage sites within the town, over 50 of which were visited by the team, and over 3,000 photographs taken to document their condition.

SPA would like to thank the people of Burra for their hospitality, and the team looks forward to coming back early in the new year.



Staff Notes

Name: Simon Best

Position: Director

Current projects: Pedare Christian College, Edwardstown Oval

What inspires you? A beautiful voice & a light-filled space.

Design idol: Mies Van Der Rohe/ Frank Lloyd Wright

Fav building: Chartres Cathedral/ Robie

House - both must be seen in the flesh.

Design you wished you could take credit for: Anything by Pininfarina

Pencil vs computer (your preference): Pencil for drawing & making, Computer for internet stuff & the young guys who never knew it any differently.

Fav eatery: Estia or Chianti. Gauchos has lost it since they no longer do the goats leg.

Most treasured possession: My mind, when it behaves.

Best thing about living in Adelaide: Proximity to some of the best wine in the world

Fantasy (or next) holiday destination: Canadian ski fields one day soon, before my knees give out.

First favourite song as a kid: One Night in Bangkok by Chess. Google tells me Mike Tyson also did a version.

Currently Listening to: Muse, DJ Shadow, and always Faith No More. Plus some blues recently given to me by a very interesting client.

Motto in life: At the bottom of it all, it's only other people that count; everything else is secondary

Superpower (if you could have one): Anything 'Deadpool'

Growing up you thought you would be? The owner of a Lamborghini

Memorable SPA (by this I mean Swanbury Penglase) moment: I can't report my most memorable here.

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