



EXPLORE, CREATE
AND CONNECT
WITH NATURE



CLIMBING TREE

W: www.climbingtree.com.au
E: info@climbingtree.com.au
T: 08 7230 3216





Climbing Tree is a South Australian based Nature Play Design, Construction and Events company. We are dedicated to providing opportunities for children to explore, create and reconnect with nature.

Nature + Play and Risk + Challenge

We endeavour to reconnect children with nature – to nurture rewilding of communities and spaces. On a daily basis we witness all the benefits that spending time in nature brings, the beauty of collaboration between varied ages and abilities, excitement, creativity, thoughtfulness, innovation, mindfulness, busyness, and a healthy dose of risk and challenge.

The natural environment provides ample opportunity to create your own adventures. We believe found objects and loose parts are key to a dynamic, ever-changing space and advocate, where possible, for their inclusion.

There is a compelling body of evidence which suggests contact in nature is important for the health of our children and wider communities. The opportunity for risk and challenge is abundant in nature and exposure to it ensures children develop the skills required to keep themselves as safe as possible. Contact in nature ensures children develop a love and empathy towards it and in turn develop a sense of responsibility for it.

Children's Voice

Ever wondered what our towns and cities would be like if children designed them?

Climbing Tree prides itself on engaging with children from design right through to construction. With a background in education our team is experienced in the diversity of children's language – both spoken and unspoken. We believe children's voice serves as the foundation of good design.

We consider collaboration with children a design development process in its own right. We ensure children are actively engaged and involved throughout the planning and have a chance to critically reflect on, and to form and express their own opinions about, the design.

Indigenous Connections

Climbing Tree was founded on Kurna land, we continue on our journey to walk alongside Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and explore connections with communities and gain a deeper understand of the land. With every project we endeavour to spark conversations about the projects/sites connections with local Indigenous groups and their culture, language and stories. We are lucky enough to call some very talented Aboriginal artists our friends who have contributed to bringing a deeper meaning to our collaborative projects through continued dialogue and the creation of beautiful pieces of significance.



We place strong emphasis on valuing the importance of childhood and are dedicated to creating an understanding of the meaningfulness of play and the importance of risk and challenge. We have a deep respect for the traditional owners and their connection to country. We work to highlight the importance and beauty of children's interactions with nature.

We work closely with educational centres, small businesses, and local government to bring about strong and lasting change. Our experience spans over many years and many states and countries, we deliver value to our clients by leveraging on our:

- Expertise in nature play, playspace construction and safety standards
- Expert design and consultation experience
- Track record and experience in successfully delivering a number of unique and bespoke projects
- Ability to engage with a number of different stakeholders to ensure delivery of a project which is reflective of its place and community
- Infrastructure, back end operational and program management capability and front-end capability to deliver high quality project outcomes.



Mukanthi Playspace Morialta Conservation Park

In this project our team members were engaged by the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR) and collaborated with PSLA and Allan Sumner, to develop a unique concept design for Morialta Conservation Park in South Australia. We drew inspiration from the already playful nature spaces surrounding the site and designed the site in separate 'pods' to create an explorative journey throughout the wild zones between each of the play spaces.

Climbing Tree undertook construction of the \$900,000 project and were able to deliver a quality outcome by August 2017. This project entailed a full site development with the five play nodes strategically spread within the reserve. It was set out on a gradual gradient and incorporated a natural creek bed and a range of established trees, as well as:

- A large tower structure with a slide set on top of the hill.
- A series of 3 large rock boulders.
- A large dry creek bed, tunnel and steel/wood framed snake climbing and tunnel structure.
- A series of timber nests with slide, nets, log crossings, fireman poles.
- Natural creek – introduced crossings and paths for greater accessibility, inclusion of fire pit and cubby houses.

In line with our commitment to employing local contractors, we are proud to highlight that 53 South Australian companies and sub-contractors were employed to undertake various works throughout the construction phase.

Mitcham Reserve

Mitcham Reserve is the Council's premier park and has historical significance to the area. Climbing Tree was engaged to develop a series of play space products to both capture the history of the area and enhance the aesthetic of the park. Climbing Tree was able to design a bespoke custom tower in the style of historical buildings in the area, historical cart with carved wooden horse, and Kaurna themed rope traverse and carved bench. We worked closely with Allan Sumner, a Kaurna artist, for the cultural elements.



Our Projects

Our team strives to challenge the traditional playgrounds available to children, often negotiating a sometimes complex and unique design brief.

Some of our unique projects have been recognised in South Australian and interstate awards:

2018 AILA SA Landscape Architect Award- Parks and Open Space – Mukanthi Playspace

2018 AILA SA Award of Excellence – Playspaces – Mukanthi Playspace

2018 MLSA Awards of Excellence – Joe Wells Reserve



Naracoorte Caves Fossil Hunters Playground

Climbing Tree was engaged to design and construct a playspace that was sympathetic to the World Heritage listed Caves National Park. The project was funded as part of the State Government *Fund My Neighbourhood* initiative and received a grant for \$150,000 for the project.

Climbing Tree used consultation conducted by local school students to develop a concept which consisted of a sink hole, cave system, climbing structure, swing and slide. School students were involved all the way through the project making suggestions and changes and were the first to test the play space when it had opened.

Community was a strong focus throughout the project with Climbing Tree engaging local trades and expertise to allow for community ownership of the project. We also utilised in-kind donations of materials to extend the project scope and deliver a play space that far exceeded the community's expectations.

Climbing Tree used our educational expertise to ensure the play space was not only challenging and fun but also delivers educational messages about DEWNR Naracoorte Caves



“the children and nature movement is fuelled by this fundamental idea; the children in nature is an endangered species, and the health of children and the health of the Earth are inseparable”
Richard Louv



All Saints Catholic College

We enhanced the traditional playground space of the school and included a dry creek bed into the existing sandpit. Included in the project scope was a log scramble, mud kitchen area and seating area. In addition we incorporated the planting of established trees and native grasses.

Our team for this job comprised of three employees and three subcontractors. We overcame procurement strategies to ensure we procured locally where possible and took a flexible approach when discovering old utilities and equipment to ensure we delivered the project on time and on budget

Our Team

For over 15 years our team has had extensive experience in the construction of play spaces, playground products and other hard landscaping as well as in the realm of education. Our team are specialists in their field, dedicated to transforming the physical landscapes into something that sparks both awe and wonder.

Our team are versatile and creative, with a deep understanding of play and proficiency in landscape construction and carpentry. Our dedicated warehouse crew enable us to construct many elements offsite, increasing productivity and efficiency. In addition to our niche team, we have access to a large workforce of dedicated subcontractors who have been working with us for some years now and share our vision.

In 2018, Climbing Tree were awarded winner for the MLSA - Landscape Business Operating for Less than 3 Years (Design or Construction).



SIMON HUTCHINSON

Director

Simon is a qualified primary school teacher with over 10 year's experience working in primary schools in both Adelaide and London. His passion is children's learning and their experience of learning through their environment, through play, and through discovery.

He is heavily involved in pushing the children and nature movement in South Australia, using his wealth of knowledge and experience in how children learn to guide his play space design and construction. He is driven by the idea of sustainable pedagogical change, where the transformation in the physical landscape becomes the platform for a shift in how educators approach modern learning. He has also delivered over 80 presentations and workshops to various education sites and partnerships both in South Australia, nationally and overseas.

Simon has project managed a number of unique projects from design to construction and has is a qualified Level 3 Playground Auditor with a strong understand of Risk Management in both public and educational settings.



SHAH MANNING

Director

Shah is a trade qualified landscape construction professional with over 15 years hands on experience delivering contracts to the government and private sector. He has a Certificate 3 in Horticulture Landscape Construction, and is known for the professional approach he takes to all projects as well as his positive and considered attitude.

He has managed multiple commercial and residential projects successfully to deadline, winning the KJM Pond Landscape Award for Excellence in 2013. He has a track record of high retainment of employees and has employed a number of apprentices through his trade.