

THE FRIENDS OF THE WAITE ARBORETUM INC.



WAITE
ARBORETUM

NEWSLETTER NO. 63

Autumn 2010

Secretary
Mrs Rosemary Sawley
8379 7102

Editor
Mrs Jean Bird
8276 1439

FIFTEENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Monday 12 April 2010

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

This is the 15th Annual Report of the *Friends of the Waite Arboretum* and I would like to start by thanking all of you, as members, volunteers and guides for your support. Your committee has continued to work hard to achieve the aims of fostering interest in, and raising funds for, the development of the Arboretum.

This time last year Professor John Argue spoke here about water problems in Adelaide, and that continues to be a primary concern for the Arboretum. The irrigation system for the Elm Avenue is operating within its limitations but sub-soil moisture over the whole area is very low. Our attempts to make more use of the Alverstoke bore have not been assisted by current University policy.

However I am pleased to report a continuing cooperation with the other Friends groups on the Precinct and this was reflected in another successful Christmas get-together with all our members. We have resolved to have representatives meet each November to discuss our common interests. As well as exchanging minutes and newsletters we are considering joint promotion of the 3 groups to the wider community.

We had a number of successful fund-raising ventures during the year including a poetry reading, 2 musical events and a wonderful exhibition provided by Basketry S.A. during the Fringe Festival. In addition we have become closely involved with the ever-growing Treenet Symposium and were rewarded for our efforts there.

The Director has encouraged the input of the enthusiastic Mediterranean Garden Society to the Garden of Discovery. Also in that area, a new sculpture work by Meliesa Judge has been donated by the Jenner family.

Among the groups to be involved in the Arboretum were the Tree Climbing Championships held in September.

We have recently sent out Certificates of Appreciation to our many sponsors and we are grateful for all the work and materials provided. The continuing supply of mulch will also go a long way to reducing moisture stress.

In October a number of us visited Dean Nicolle's Arboretum at Currency Creek. However, we will be seeking your views about what sort of activities you would like us to organize in the future. We also held an open forum for our volunteers to meet their needs and concerns.

Vice President Beth Johnstone has worked tirelessly to help us function better and I am especially grateful for her efforts in so many areas. Beth's husband Dr Brian Richards has also given tremendous support to the Committee and the Director. Rosemary Sawley has now put in 10 years as Secretary and has been a tower of strength on the Committee. Treasurer Peter is providing you with detailed information on our finances tonight and put in an additional coordinating role at the Treenet Symposium. Norma Lee keeping membership records, Jean Bird on the Newsletter and Lynda Yates working quietly on a number of projects deserve our heartfelt thanks. Jeanette Lord has opted not to nominate this year and we thank her for all her help so far. My special thanks too to Colin Jenner who has completed 10 years on the Committee; we will miss his thoughtful input to our meetings. Finally, a tribute to the Director, Dr. Jennifer Gardner. Despite what seems to me to be an increasing workload, Jennifer handles it all with cheerfulness and enthusiasm. Much of her out of hours input is not seen by the community, but if you need some physical evidence, cast your eyes over the Labyrinth below the rose garden. Jennifer built this during the summer break with her own hands. She would also want me to acknowledge the wonderful support she has had from Mark Ziersch. The Committee showed its gratitude with a small presentation to Mark in February. I am sure Jennifer would be happy to answer any questions you have about changes in the Arboretum over the past year. All members are kept up to date with progress and other activities through our quarterly newsletters. Please encourage others to join our ranks.

I move the adoption of this report

Bryan Milligan

The President announced the following nominations for the new Committee:

Beth Johnstone, Peter Nicholls, Jean Bird, Henry Krichauff, Norma Lee, Lynda Yates, Judy Tyler, Bryan Milligan, Marilyn Gilbertson, Kieren O'Neill, Dr. Jennifer Gardner (*ex officio*).

Following a brief meeting of the new Committee, the following office-bearers were recorded:

Henry Krichauff (President), Beth Johnstone OAM (Vice President), Norma Lee (Secretary), Peter Nicholls (Treasurer), Jean Bird (Editor), Jennifer Gardner (*ex officio*), Marilyn Gilbertson OAM, Bryan Milligan, Kieren O'Neill, Judy Tyler, Lynda Yates.

Before the President called upon the Treasurer to present his report, he presented certificates of Life Membership of The Friends of the Waite Arboretum to Rosemary Sawley and Norma Lee. Prior to the presentation, the President described the Offices which they had held on the FWA Committee and thanked them for their loyal and unflinching service.



Norma Lee, Rosemary Sawley, Bryan Milligan

Photo: Brian Richards

TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT

An audited Statement of Receipts and Payments for 2009 was sent out with the Notice of the Annual General Meeting to all current members and which I trust you have all taken the opportunity to read.

The financial highlights for the past year have been: -

The strong support of the Arboretum of all members by continuing their membership and by their Tax Deductible donations is much appreciated.

The considerable donation from TreeNet Inc for the support members gave them during their annual symposium. The symposium has now gained sufficient prominence to attract attendees from overseas as well as most Australian States. Your committee wishes to thank the members for their support of these activities.

The Aleksandr Tsiboulski Guitar concert and Poetry Reading afternoon by David and Judy Symon. These events have been well supported and continue to attract members. We are delighted that Aleksandr Tsiboulski enjoys playing the guitar at Urrbrae House. He and Jacob Condover, another guitarist, will be giving a concert here on 18th August this year. Please note that the cost of tickets will be higher than usual as you will be listening to two world class guitarists and their fees are commensurate with their status.

The successful application and receipt a grant of \$500 from the City of Mitcham to assist with the promotion of the Basketry Exhibition "Warp on the Wild Side". This exhibition was a fringe festival event and attracted a considerable number of visitors to Urrbrae House.

Dr Jennifer Gardner and I have been discussing how to use the accumulated funds. She wishes to utilize her existing operating budget from the University before drawing down on the Arboretum Donation Account to which we have contributed generously in the past. We have in mind several potential projects including one in the Elm Avenue. Once the committee receives a concrete request from the Director we will transfer the funds to the University. This is the reason for the "\$0" on the financial statement.

Early last year we closed our Macquarie Investment Management Ltd - Cash Management Trust and transferred the balance to a Macquarie Bank Cash Manager Account. The new account has all the functionality of the former account, but additionally it is covered by the Commonwealth guarantee and pays interest at the current Reserve Bank cash rate, monthly.

The committee is investigating the appropriateness of making available Credit Card facilities for major events such as the forthcoming Beryl Martin Art Exhibition in October. We observed that the availability of a Credit Card facility enabled more sales to be made at the recent Basketry SA Exhibition.

The committee is also considering the purchase of recording equipment to record talks given by speakers, the Arboretum Guides talks as they take visitors through the arboretum and to record promotional presentations.

Finally I wish to thank members of the committee and friends especially Norma Lee who has taken on the role of being Membership Secretary.

Peter B. Nicholls PhD
Treasurer, Friends of the Waite Arboretum Inc.

Dear valued member

Please note that if you have a RED DOT on the front of your latest newsletter, this is to alert you to the inclusion of a Reminder Notice of your overdue membership subscription and a Membership Renewal Form for 2010.

Please send us your membership subscription as soon as possible, so that you will continue to receive your Newsletter, or advise us that you do not wish to renew your membership of the Friends of The Waite Arboretum.

Yours, Peter Nicholls Hon. Treasurer FWA

GUEST SPEAKER

At the conclusion of the AGM, the President introduced our Guest Speaker, David Lawry OAM, with a brief summary of David's career and his involvement in TREENET. After some computer glitches, David began his very well illustrated and extremely interesting talk entitled INNOVATIONS IN URBAN FORESTRY – JUST BETWEEN FRIENDS.

He defined innovation as (1) An act of something new (2) Something newly introduced and pointed out that by these definitions, TREENET is certainly an innovation. He showed examples of innovations with some beautiful pictures of trees in small spaces such as the *Jacaranda* sp. depicted below.



David pointed out some of the problems of urban forestry e.g. less and less space to accommodate trees. He defined an 'Urban Forest' as 'Trees to 30m with a projected foliage cover of 30% or more' and said that although in 1990 there were 6.15 % of these in the metropolitan area, by 2000 the number had been reduced to 5.7%. 'An Urban Woodland' has trees and large shrubs with a foliage cover of 20-30% and these had increased in the metropolitan area from 11.58% in 1990 to 14.72% in 2000. 'Urban Open Woodland' consists of trees and large shrubs with a foliage cover of up to 20%. The most significant components of the Urban Forest are trees growing in the verge. The verge is the driest part of the urban environment; the gutter is the wettest part.

Tree roots at right angles to infrastructure lead to unsafe footpaths, damaged kerbs, unhealthy trees and road damage whereas tree roots parallel to infrastructure lead to safe footpaths, undamaged kerbs and healthy trees.

TREENET is, among other things, investigating technology for diverting storm water from gutters, etc and David showed photos of some of the techniques being trialled. TREENET is also designing cities for the 1 in a 100-year flood to protect the marine environment. Currently, 160 gigalitres of storm water and effluent flow into Gulf St Vincent annually and the nutrients

and sediment need to be reduced by 75% to protect the marine environment but, since 280ha of wetlands in the northern suburbs of Adelaide will only remove 10 gigalitres p.a. by 2020, wetlands are really not as effective in dealing with storm water as might be thought. However, wetlands do have some advantages in that they remove nutrients and sediments, detain run off and provide an aquatic environment for ducks etc. They have, however, the limitations of (1) the need for large areas of land (2) they are expensive (3) they require energy to recharge the aquifers. On the other hand, verge lands have the advantages that they (1) remove the first flush of storm water (2) have great potential to biosequester the majority of nutrients and heavy metals (3) the pumps are trees and hence use solar energy (4) the land is free (5) the soil can store 300-400 litres/m³ (6) there is no need for the construction of ponds (7) infrastructure will benefit (8) trees will be saved. David then showed pictures of some TREENET innovations e.g. various devices in streets, the elm roots in the Arboretum with surface drips. He showed a diagram of the 'Black Hole' detention cistern and explained how it works and then went on to talk about recycled water issues and the factors which need to be considered, namely water quality, soil characteristics, sensitivity of plants, the irrigation method and frequency, the ongoing monitoring and maintenance capability.

The 158 trees on Greenhill Road were assessed and TREENET looked at how to irrigate them. They suggested infiltration pits with water pumped from the Showgrounds using wind or solar energy.

Before he concluded his most interesting talk, David posed the question 'Why save street trees'? His answers were (1) Trees transpire, cooling the city (2) They detain rainfall, mitigating floods (3) They are CO₂ sinks (4) They provide shade. David also spoke of his involvement in The Avenues of Honour project and showed a photo of the Avenue of Honour in Rose Park. His final photo was a delightful one of the result of deforestation – one dog lifting its leg at a solitary tree with a line of dogs waiting their turn! Indeed, 'A city without trees is not fit for a dog'!

Jean Bird

POT POURRI

Below are copies of two recently received letters which we thought might interest you.

20 Parley Street
South Yarra, Vic 3141
18th February 2010

The Secretary, Friends of the Waite Arboretum Inc.

Dear Mrs Sawley

Please accept the enclosed cheque as a subscription to the Friends of the Waite, with a small donation included.

On frequent visits to Adelaide, we have often enjoyed spending time in the Gardens and under the beautiful tree overlooking what is now the Labyrinth.

We would like to add our support to the excellent work being done.

Yours sincerely,

John & Peggy Langdon.

346 Canterbury Road
Ringwood Vic 3134
6 February 2010

The Secretary
Friends of the Waite Arboretum Inc.
Waite Institute
Glen Osmond SA

Dear Mrs Sawley,

My connection with the Waite Institute goes back a long way. In 1931 my father, A.H.K. Petrie, became the first plant physiologist at the Waite and worked there until his death at the age of 38 in 1942. His ashes were scattered in the grounds of the Arboretum and there is now a seat dedicated to his memory by the watercourse.

But from the latest Friends' Newsletter I have discovered another small connection with the Arboretum. In the article by Diarshul Sandhu on the Triangle Palm of Madagascar I was thrilled to see that the Arboretum has amongst its palms from Madagascar a *Dypsis baronii*.

Dypsis baronii was named after my maternal grandfather. Rev. Richard Baron, F.L.S., F.G.S, a missionary with the London Missionary Society in Madagascar from 1872 until 1907, Richard Baron was interested in much more than missionary work, particularly in natural history, and he became a recognized expert on the botany as well as the geology of Madagascar. As he travelled widely around the island he collected thousands of plant specimens, many of them previously unknown, which he sent to Kew for study. He also sent many rock specimens to the Natural History Museum in London. Fluent in the Malagasy language. Baron wrote the first textbooks in Malagasy on botany (1882) and geology (1896). Amongst other things he contributed extensive botanical notes to Richardson's *A new Malagasy Dictionary* (1885) and compiled the first catalogue of the Malagasy flora, *Compendium des plantes Malgaches*, (1900-06). He was the first Vice-President of the Academie Malgache. Richard Baron is still well remembered in Madagascar for both his missionary and his scientific achievements.

I have seen other plants named after my grandfather, in Madagascar and elsewhere, but I did not realize that the Arboretum had any specimens and I look forward to seeing it next time I visit Adelaide. Until then please take special care of *Dypsis baronii*!

Yours sincerely,
Gillian Moore
(Mrs J.D. S. Moore)

INTRODUCING THE FRIENDS OF WAITE CONSERVATION RESERVE

Don't know where Waite Conservation Reserve is? Come on, I'll show you. Climb with me up on to the Urrbrae House roof, face Waite Road, then turn 45 degrees towards the hills. There it is – those wooded foothills immediately beyond the campus buildings. For a closer look simply drive up Hartley Grove as far as you can, enter through the gate and follow the walking trail up Wild Dogs Glen into the heart of the Reserve. Walk 5 minutes and you have amazing views back over the city; walk 10 and the city disappears with nothing to indicate there are a million people living just back over the hill.

The reserve is 147 hectares of mostly Grey Box woodland punctuated with Blue Gum and Drooping Sheoak and dissected by Red Gum creek valleys.

Grey Box is a threatened vegetation community in Australia and Waite Conservation Reserve has pretty much the biggest and best slab of it left in South Australia, of which we are all very proud!

Under the open canopy of *Eucalyptus* trees, the Reserve supports a fabulous abundance of native species of shrubs, ground covers and grasses. Many of these may be known to you ... Christmas bush, golden wattle, chocolate lily, native lilac, native *Ranunculus* and kangaroo grass, to name just a few. Many others are less well known, but are ecologically important.

Along with Friends of Urrbrae House and Friends of Waite Arboretum, the Friends of Waite Conservation Reserve make up a triumvirate of Friendly groups on the University of Adelaide's Waite campus.

The FWCR are a bunch of good-looking, healthy outdoorsy types fit from climbing hills to control weeds, plant trees and conduct other environmental restoration works. *We warmly invite you to join us* on our fortnightly working bees *from 9am-12 noon* on the first Saturday and third Sunday of each month or at other events – either as a “hands on” visitor, or, if you prefer, as a quiet observer. If you care to phone Meg Byrt [8274 1154] or Joe Haslam [8271 2660], they will be happy to arrange to meet and welcome you on arrival, so you don't have to front up alone.

This year's AGM on 19 May 2010 will feature Terry Reardon who will speak on the bats of the Reserve. See our website for more details at: <http://www.waite.adelaide.edu.au/reserve/friends/>

Peter Bird
President Elect, Friends of Waite Conservation Reserve

NEW MEMBERS

We warmly welcome the following new members: Ms Margaret (Meg) Butler, Unley; John & Peggy Langdon, South Yarra, Vic.; Ms Cheryl Housego, Upper Sturt; Mrs Moira Page. Urrbrae; Mr D. Giersch, Norwood.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Sunday 16 May 2 - 4 p.m.:

Talk by Sophie Thomson. ‘From the Ground Up – the Basics of Climate Compatible Gardening’: Cost \$15 Refreshments will be served. Bookings are essential (8303 6818). Pay at the door.

6.30 pm Wednesday 18 August:

Classical Guitar concert by Aleksandr Tsiboulski and Jacob Cordover. The program will include works by Scarlatti, Bach, Leo Brouwer, Enrique Granados. Cost \$25 (conc. \$20). Bookings essential and payment must be made to secure a seat. See booking form below.

Thursday 2 September and Friday 3 September:**

11th National TREENET SYMPOSIUM.

Sunday 10 – Sunday 17 October:

Exhibition of watercolours by Beryl Martin

Friday 19 November:

Talk and twilight walk by Meliesa Judge, sculptor.

****HELP.** The Committee is calling for Volunteers to help with the Treenet Symposium. We need the following help.

- **Monday 30 August at 10 a.m.** – packing satchels in the Coachhouse
- **Wednesday 1 September** – afternoon set up in the National Wine Centre
- **Thursday 2 September 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.** – Registration Desk in the National Wine Centre
- **Friday 3 September 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.** (in shifts) – assisting with food and guiding at Urrbrae House.

If you can commit to any of these times we shall be extremely grateful. Please Contact Jennifer 8303 7405.

**Booking form for Aleksandr Tsiboulski & Jacob Cordover Classical Guitar Concert
6.30 pm Wednesday 18 August 2010**

Name:.....
 Address:.....
Postcode:.....

No. tickets @ \$25 ea.....\$
 No. Tickets @ \$20 ea\$
 (Pension / student Card No(s) must be provided for concession) TOTAL*: \$.....

*Make cheques payable to: “Friends of the Waite Arboretum Inc.”, c/o Waite Arboretum, University of Adelaide – Waite Campus, PMB 1, Glen Osmond SA 5065