

Newsletter February 2015



The Friends of Urrbrae House

Urrbrae House, University of Adelaide, Waite Campus, PMB#1 GLEN OSMOND, SA 5064. Tel 8313 7497

Editor Vicki Cheshire

President's Report

There have been many opportunities during 2014 for our members to join us in supporting Urrbrae House and have some fun and entertainment along the way. Thank you to all for your continued support and dedication. Let's do it all again this year!

As President I have been rewarded with a dedicated group of talented people on the committee and I thank them all. The success of our fundraisers over many years has meant that we are able to commit to restoration projects throughout the house, for this I thank past members of the FOUH committee and, of course, our members for their support. It is a real joy to be able to help financially with restoration.

2015 Membership forms are included with this newsletter, we hope you will continue as Friends of Urrbrae House and make your contribution promptly. Please recommend friends and family who would like to also become members. You can ask for a form at the next event or they can be found online at: http://www.adelaide.edu.au/waite-historic/friends/urrbraehouse/pdf/fouh_membership_application.pdf

We endeavour to keep the costs of functions as low as possible but expenses increasingly eat into our profits, if we have to raise attendance fees at events it will be to offset these.

Please consider becoming an active member **on the committee** during 2015-16. I know that in the 21st Century all committees are having trouble recruiting new members. In the past, the usual pool for volunteer recruitment mainly came from retirees. Nowadays both women and men retire later. Retirees often have extended family duties and, thankfully, accumulated wealth that allows us to travel - a luxury that we all deserve but which eats into our available time in which to volunteer. At present, the FOUH have a *minimum number* around our meeting table and **cannot continue after the AGM this year without extra help**. There are vacancies NOW so we would be very pleased to hear from YOU.

Dates for your diary

Feb 23rd **Twilight Concert** Vivente (5.30 for 6)

March 23rd **Twilight Concert** FOUH (5.30 for 6)

April 27th **Twilight Concert** FOUH **A Special Performance** (5.30 for 6)

May 18th **Twilight Concert** Vivente (5.30 for 6)

So what are the commitments entailed in becoming a FOUH committee member? Our committee holds meetings to discuss events and issues from 5pm to 6.30 four or five times a year in the dining room at Urrbrae House. Dates for 2015 are: 3rd Feb, May AGM (TBA), 2nd June, 13th October. Our program this year includes five Twilight Concerts where we serve refreshments, a fundraiser movie event and Christmas end of year celebration. As you can see it's not an onerous task and as a volunteer you are not expected to be in attendance at all of these anyway. Please note that new

members to the committee are NOT asked to hold executive positions which require a little more time than this.

The present committee is comprised of people with excellent skills, who work harmoniously with respect, there's a true sense of camaraderie – and quite a few laughs. I sincerely invite you to join us.

Should you have any enquiries please contact Vicki Cheshire 04 3302 2247 or Bill Wallace 8332 6495

We are again very indebted to Minas and Erna Berberyan (Vivente music) who arrange our wonderful twilight concerts as they do so much work behind the scenes. Please continue to support them by attending their Vivente Twilight concerts at Urrbrae House.

Vicki Cheshire

Manager's Musings

Ballroom Transformation The transformation of the Ballroom downstairs continues (Please see FOUH article to follow). In addition to the blinds provided by the Friends of Urrbrae House, Anne Rabone's family firm De Lights on Anzac Highway has kindly donated a new heritage-inspired lamp to provide additional lighting for musicians when performing in the Ballroom.

Women, Science and the Waite About 45 people attended a cultural conversation organised by University Collections on "Women, Science and the Waite" at the Charles Hawker Conference Centre on 30 October 2014. Cultural heritage historian Denise Schumann, Professor Eileen Scott from the School of Agriculture, Food and Wine, and myself spoke on the achievements of and challenges faced by female scientists at the Waite from the 1920s through to the present day.

Concert Fundraiser for the "Flutes of Adelaide" On 13 November 2014 a wonderful evening fundraising concert was held in the Urrbrae House Ballroom to support four outstanding young musicians from the Elder Conservatorium to undertake an international study trip in 2015. Flautists Andrew Baird, Jennifer Bird, Kelsey Robinson and Alessandra Woods (who received the Governor's International Student Award for Excellence in the Arts last year) will be travelling to London and Paris this year for a series of intensive masterclasses. Associate Professor Elizabeth Koch OAM has been in touch with her network of highly esteemed international colleagues to organise the masterclasses for the young musicians. According to Associate Professor Koch the 2015 Flutes of Adelaide Study trip "will create opportunities for life changing experiences and provide exposure to knowledge in a unique professional environment unprecedented in Australia." Benefactor Margaret Neate attended the concert and was delighted to be able to talk to the young musicians about their music after the concert.



Waite Historic Precinct Thank You Morning Tea On 18 November 2014 more than 50 volunteers who work in Urrbrae House, the gardens, Waite Arboretum and Waite Conservation Reserve attended our annual Waite Historic Precinct Volunteer Thank You Event. Long serving volunteers who have contributed 5, 10 and 15 years of service were formally recognised at the event. As the picture of Dr Peter Nicholls (15 year volunteer and retired University staff member) shows, the volunteers were also pleased to receive a copy of the Augustus Short history from the University's Chief Engagement Officer, Kate Robertson, along with their recognition certificates. A special highlight of the morning was a mini-recital given by Associate Professor Elizabeth Koch and flautist Jennifer Bird just for our volunteers.



Building work and painting The University is continuing with the painting and woodwork restoration of the balcony and front stairs that commenced last year. We hope that disruptions to our regular activities will be minimal.

First Sunday of the Month tours and free tours during the school holidays This year we will be running our free public tours on the first Sunday of the month at 2pm in autumn and spring only (except Easter Sunday). We have found in recent years that we get very few attendees for these tours in summer and winter. However, in 2015 we are going to trial giving the public more opportunities to attend free tours by running additional tours during the school holidays. Days and times can be found on our 'What's On' page on the web: <http://www.adelaide.edu.au/waite-historic/whatson/tours/>

The Smith Family Toy and Book Appeal Many thanks to those who put a toy or book under our Christmas Tree in the Main Hall of Urrbrae House at the end of last year to support The Smith Family's Toy and Book Appeal.

Lynette Zeitz

Wonderful Ballroom

As I mentioned on page one it is my greatest delight to see FOUH funds go to restoration and improvements around Urrbrae House. It was with great joy that I saw the Ballroom painted in heritage colours by the University of Adelaide after the wonderful donation of the Grand Piano by Margaret Neate. When the manager Lynette Zeitz suggested that the FOUH compliment the restoration of the room with blinds for the windows the committee agreed wholeheartedly. Lynette has sourced a pattern by William Morris: "Golden Lily". She said that "While the original soft furnishings in Urrbrae House were designed by Morris's contemporary, Aldam Heaton, we were unable to purchase Heaton designed material. In choosing the new pattern we have tried to reflect the elegance of Urrbrae House in past times".



You will note that the new piano lamp and lampshade has been chosen to compliment the gold in the ornate cornice at the ceiling. This lamp was kindly donated by Anne Rabone's family (Anne is a member of the committee). Her family firm is De Lights on Anzac Highway. Please think of them when purchasing lighting yourself, after all, one good turn deserves another.

Vicki Cheshire



Friends' Christmas Party 2014



Louise Green, Anne Rabone serving

It was good to see a large group of Friends of the Waite Precinct join together on Monday evening 2nd December. Refreshments were arranged and served by members of the Committees of Friends of Urrbrae House, Friends of the Waite Arboretum and Friends of the Waite Conservation Reserve.



Singing Christmas Carols in the Drawing Room

Vicki Cheshire (President FOUH) spoke to the group on behalf of all, and took the opportunity to congratulate all the Friends groups on the broad range of functions and projects undertaken in 2014, thanking all for working so hard. Vicki stressed that volunteers of all the friends groups collaborate well between the groups as well as with the University of Adelaide, Urrbrae House and Waite Arboretum staff for the good of the Waite Precinct.

The evening concluded with carol singing in the drawing room; Alison Stephenson leading the singing.

Retirement of Professor Geoff Fincher

On the evening of December 1st, a cocktail celebration was held in Ayers House Ballroom to Honour Professor Geoff Fincher on his retirement from the University of Adelaide. The occasion was convened by Professor Bob Hill, Executive Dean, Faculty of Sciences with those paying tribute to Geoff including Professor Warren Bebbington (Vice Chancellor), Mr. Martin Hamilton Smith MHR for Waite and Professor Roger Leigh, Director Waite Research Institute.

Geoff was appointed as the Professorial Head of the Department of Plant Science in 1993 and had a key role with Peter Langridge in the award of the Centre in Plant Functional Genomics in 2002 to the Waite Campus. In 2011 he had the lead role in the award of the ARC Centre of Excellence in Plant Cell Walls being appointed as Director.



Professor Geoff Fincher with framed picture of the Waite Campus presented by Professor Warren Bebbington, Vice Chancellor, University of Adelaide

Geoff has published over 300 papers in International Journals with 58 having a high citation index. In October last year he was elected as Fellow of the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering (ATSE) – one of the highest honours available in this area in Australia.

As a former Director of the Waite Agricultural Institute, from 2003-2007, Geoff had oversight over the development of more than \$100 million of state-of-the-art research facilities at the campus including the Australian Plant Phenomics Facility (the Plant Accelerator).

As Director he was also very supportive of activities of the Waite Historic Precinct.

Geoff will be continuing an association with his current research interests, both in Australia and overseas, as well as consultancy work related to this.

Bill Wallace

Role of the Bushmen's Corps in the Boer War (1899 -1902) and contribution of Peter Waite

The military history of Australia during the Boer War is complex, and includes a period in which the six formerly autonomous British Australian colonies federated to become the Commonwealth of Australia. At the outbreak of the Second Boer War, each of these separate colonies maintained their own, independent military forces.

Ten contingents departed from South Australia. The 1st and 2nd Contingents were financed by the SA Government, the 3rd (Bushmen's) was privately financed and the remaining Contingents were financed by Britain.

The Bushmen's Contingent of six officers and ninety-three men served from June 1900 to April 1901.

The South Australian Bushmen's Corps took pride of place amongst the South Australian contingents. It was funded by public subscription and the philanthropy of wealthy individuals. Its most prominent supporter was Adelaide businessman and parliamentarian Sir George Brookman who donated £1000. The contribution of Peter Waite can be seen from the report below.

Observer 17/2/1900, 8e-9a.

BUSHMEN'S CORPS. Meeting of the Executive.

A meeting of the Executive Committee was held in the Mayor's Parlour, Town Hall, on Thursday, February 8. The Mayor, Mr A. W. Ware, occupied the chair.

*The Secretary, Mr E.G. Blackmore, reported that since Tuesday £913 5s.10d. had been banked, and the total credit balance was now £5,167 15s. 9d. Owing to the small number of the volunteers over the age of 25 fit to be selected the committee proposed to examine applicants 23 years over, and who are able to produce first-class testimonials. The cooking and mess utensils and all requisites for the camp would have to be supplied. Mr Peter Waite had offered seven or eight horses from *Blanchewater and if not approved by the Selection Committee they were to be sold and the proceeds go to the fund.*

Mr N.W. Stirling ♦ suggested that it would be advisable to remove the encampment away from the city, and stated that Mr Peter Waite had kindly placed his land at Urrbrae at the disposal of the contingent, or they may even go to Marino.

*Blanchewater Station (later called Murnpeowie), a lease once held by Thomas Elder, Peter Waite and Nathaniel Phillipson, was a reputed source of horses for the Indian Army, Cobb and Co. and other commercial and domestic stables. Over four thousand Blanchewater brood mares and horses were advertised for sale in 1891.

♦Norman William Stirling was a son Edward Stirling and the youngest brother of Lancelot Stirling.

Bill Wallace

Volunteer Profile – Louise Green

Louise Green started volunteering at Urrbrae House after the program Delta Dogs a dog safety program presented for children in schools came to an end. Louise discovered and pursued further volunteering opportunities via a network of friends.

Her commitments since then have widened to include playing numerous roles in the Schools' program, joining the friends of Urrbrae House and becoming a member of the committee. Louise has been a valuable participant in events such as FOUH Twilight Concerts, Teddy Bears' picnic, Dances and Guest Lecture presentations. She also continues to volunteer at Monrieth Residential Care Facility along with her dog Fubar heading up their Pet Therapy program and assisting as an extra carer for their various excursions and activities. Following a successful senior management career with BHP and various Medical distributors, her versatility allowed her to cover a wide range of duties. Louise brings to Urrbrae House all of these skills and experience which she has developed during her working life.

Louise has a love of reading, attending the gym and bush walking and has travelled extensively including hiking in various locations throughout Patagonia, Italy, Turkey, Poland, Spain, and Slovenia. She recently completed the Coast to Coast walk across the north of England.

Louise always has a smile on her face, her enthusiasm and good humour allow her to work well with the committee and her tireless attitude to helping out is a great asset to Urrbrae House.

***Events to look forward to:***

Monday 23rd February Vivente Twilight Concert *Going Solo* 5.30 for 6pm The acclaimed violinist and concertmaster of the ASO, Natsuko Yoshimoto will be back performing at the historic Urrbrae House with its superb acoustic and ambience. In a daring program she will perform the unique Violin Partita No.1 in B minor, BWV 1002 by J.S. Bach as well as works by the Belgian composer Eugène Ysaÿe and others. In great demand as a soloist, she has appeared with many orchestras including the London Symphony Orchestra, Philharmonia (London), Halle Orchestra, Odense Symphony (Denmark), Tokyo Symphony Orchestra, Tokyo Philharmonic, Orchestra Ensemble Kanazawa, Hong Kong Sinfonietta Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, Jenaer Philharmonic (Germany) Orchestra Ensemble Kanazawa and Adelaide Symphony Orchestra. This is an event not to be missed! *Please note as this will be held in the downstairs Ballroom, you must be able to manage stairs.*

Bookings enquiries: Vivente Music, call **8296 6851; 04 0102 1065** or email viventemusic@yahoo.com.au

Monday 23rd March FOUH Twilight Concert (please see upcoming flyer) 5.30 for 6pm TBA.

Monday 27th April FOUH Twilight Concert – Kristian Chong A Special Event 5:30 for 6pm The FOUH are pleased to announce a special performance in the Ballroom by one of Australia's leading pianists, Kristian Chong. He has appeared with the Adelaide, Canberra, Melbourne, Queensland, Sydney and Tasmanian Symphony Orchestras, the Australian Doctors Orchestra and orchestras in the UK and China under conductors such as Werner Andreas Albert, Andrey Boreyko, Nicholas Braithwaite, Roy Goodman, Sebastian Lang-Lessing, Nicholas Milton, Tuomas Ollila, Marcus Stenz, Arvo Volmer and Marco Zuccarini. This concert will sell out quickly. Please watch out for the flyer closer to the date. *Please note as this will be held in the downstairs Ballroom, you must be able to manage stairs.*

Monday 18th May Vivente Concert 5.30 for 6pm TBA

**We welcome the following
new FOUH members:**

Maxwell Ewer

Anne Lewis

Deidre McKay

Amanda Shepherd

You can view this newsletter online at:

<http://www.adelaide.edu.au/waite-historic/friends/urrbraehouse/newsletters/>