



Newsletter January 2017

The Friends of Urrbrae House

Urrbrae House,
The University of Adelaide, Waite Campus,
PMB#1 GLEN OSMOND, SA 5064
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President's Report

Welcome to the first newsletter from the Friends of Urrbrae House for 2017. Already I am saying how quickly the year is going.

The first Twilight concert for the year has been held and what a success it was. It was a sellout! Unfortunately there were a few people who didn't arrive, so there were a few empty seats on the night. I take this opportunity to thank Peggy Rowe for doing the publicity and then taking the bookings for the concerts. Peggy also looks after our membership data base, of which we are very appreciative.

This is the time of the year when your membership fees are due. A renewal form is included with this newsletter. We hope that you will all be able to renew your membership to the Friends of Urrbrae House to enable us to contribute to different projects within the House.

You may ask, "Why be a member of the Friends Group?" Friends receive priority notice for the Twilight Concerts and any other functions that are planned. You also receive the Newsletter which keeps you up to date with what is happening around the house as well as interesting articles about the Waite family. Modern research techniques are always helping us to find out interesting snippets of what was happening in the 1850's – 1922, the time of Peter Waite's life in South Australia. New information is always coming to our notice.

If you find that you are unable to continue as a member of the Friends group, please notify us, so that we will not send you a reminder in the future. This will also make our Treasurer, Vada Osborn's job easier as well as Peggy's job of managing the data base easier.

By renewing your membership, when you visit Urrbrae House you can think to yourself, or tell the friend that you are showing around, 'I helped to get the Hall clock fixed and chiming again', or 'look at these beautiful chandeliers in the Ballroom, I helped to fund these'. We can all be proud of the contribution our membership fees make to keep this beautiful house open and interesting for us all to enjoy.

Visitors are always welcome to have a look around the house and to also wander the beautiful gardens and Arboretum. I look forward to meeting some you in the House sometime soon!

Joy Middleton.

Manager's Musings

Retirement of Dr. Jennifer Gardner OAM

Dr. Jennifer Gardner is retiring at the end of February 2017 after more than 30 years' of service to the University of Adelaide as curator of the Waite Arboretum, and manager the Waite Conservation Reserve and the Urrbrae House Gardens. In her last curator's report in the latest Friends of the Waite Arboretum Newsletter, Jennifer has written a lovely reflection on her time in what she has called her "dream job." I would encourage you to read Jennifer's story (which will soon be available online <http://www.adelaide.edu.au/waite-historic/friends/arboretum/newsletters>) as I am unable to do it justice in the space of these musings. Jennifer's legacy goes beyond caring for and developing the Arboretum, Reserve and Gardens. She was also instrumental (with former Urrbrae House manager, Yvonne Routledge) in the opening up of Urrbrae House to the community in the early 1990s.

I was delighted that Jennifer's years of hard work, commitment and dedication to promoting the environment and conservation were acknowledged with the award of an Order of Australia Medal in the recent Australia Day Honours' List.

On a personal note, I would like to publicly thank Jennifer for her kindness, generosity and always being an attentive sounding board when I have wanted to brainstorm an idea or share an experience at the end of a long work day. I know that I am not alone in saying that Jennifer will be missed. However, we all know that for Jennifer retirement will not involve just sitting back and putting her feet up. Her energy and passion will undoubtedly be put into other projects in the future. So we look forward to hearing about those in coming days.



With Jennifer's departure, Dr. Kate Delaporte will be the Acting Curator of the Waite Arboretum. Kate has been a researcher at the Waite for many years working on ornamental eucalypts and has a long association with the Arboretum through her work.

Lyn Marlow's 90th birthday

Long serving volunteer in our Schools' Program and member of the Friends, Lyn Marlow, celebrated her 90th birthday in November 2016. Lyn is the University's second oldest volunteer – Nettie Davidson who volunteers with the Tuesday morning Urrbrae House gardens' group is the oldest by just a few months. Lyn's wonderful milestone was celebrated with a special morning tea in the Urrbrae House Dining Room.



Queen Adelaide Club visit

We were delighted to have members of the Queen Adelaide Club visit Urrbrae House on 16 February 2017 and be able to share our history with them.

Historic Tapestry

In November Urrbrae House was given a beautiful historic tapestry by Susan Dutch, the daughter of Waite entomologist Professor H. G. Andrewartha and biologist Vevers Andrewartha (nee Steele). The Andrewartha Gate on Claremont Avenue that opens into our gardens is named in honour of Professor Andrewartha.



The large tapestry depicting Mary Queen of Scots was embroidered by Susan's great-grandmother, Mrs. Samuel Steele, and was awarded a Bronze medal at the International and Universal Exhibition at the Crystal Palace in London in 1884.

The Friends of Urrbrae House are supporting the conservation work by Mary Jose and reframing. The tapestry will go on display in Urrbrae House later this year.

A special wedding gift

Sometimes treasures are found in the most unexpected of places. An observant technical staff member on the Waite Campus spotted an interesting plaque on a cabinet in a Vinnies Op Shop late last year and contacted me to alert me to his find. The cabinet turned out to be a 1934 wedding gift to Kenneth Pike, who worked as the Waite Farm Manager from 1926-1972, from the Director and staff of the Waite Agricultural Research Institute. The cabinet, after some minor restoration work, will have a new home in one of the downstairs rooms that we hope to renovate towards the end of the year.

The Smith Family Christmas Toy and Book Appeal

Thank you to those Waite Campus staff, students, volunteers and members of the FOUH who put 21 toys and 13 books under our Christmas tree for The Smith Family to distribute to families in need.

Urrbrae House and Gardens in the media

In October-December 2016 Urrbrae House and its gardens were featured in various film and photography shoots. Andrew Costello (“Cosi”) and his team visited the Waite Campus in October to film a segment on the campus for his *South Aussie with Cosi* program which will go to air in the first half of this year. It was wonderful to see that Cosi mentioned Urrbrae House on social media saying that “*This is my favourite house in Adelaide!!*” Channel 7 News shot one of its weather segments from the gardens in November’. *The Advertiser* newspaper used the house and grounds for background in the “12 Sports Stars of Christmas” feature in December.

Social media

In addition to our Facebook account, Urrbrae House now has an Instagram account. Erica and myself regularly post to both of those sites about happenings during the week and put up some “Throwback Thursdays” where we occasionally share lovely photographs from the archives.

So if you haven’t done so already, you might like to “Follow” us on Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/urrbraehouse>

and/or “Like” us on Facebook. <https://www.facebook.com/urrbraehouse>

History Month in South Australia

Urrbrae House will once again be taking part in the month-long History Festival promoted by the History Trust of South Australia during May. Events offered to the public by Urrbrae House include:

- *Historic Waite Campus Tour* (including Urrbrae House) on Tuesday, 2 May, 10am-12pm.
- “*The Door is Open at Urrbrae House*” on Sunday, 7 May, 1-4pm. This is a free open house opportunity for visitors to wander around the house at their leisure.
- Photo Scavenger Hunt at Urrbrae House and Gardens on Sunday, 22 May, 2-4pm.
- Science and history talk, “*Old trees, New Landscapes: Developing Ornamental Eucalypts*” by Dr. Kate Delaporte on Wednesday, 24 May, 4-5.30pm.
- Barbershop Harmonies - *Old and New: Concert with the Adelaide Allsorts* on Sunday, 28 May, 2-3.30pm. This a appella concert will feature songs from the nineteenth century to the present day. The concert will be presented by the Friends of Urrbrae House.

Booking details will be available in the History Festival brochure but you might like to hold the dates in your diaries.

Lynette Zeitz
Manager, Urrbrae House Historic Precinct

Vale Dr. Max Tate
(19.9.1932 – 16.10.1916)

The Waite Community of past and present staff and students were greatly saddened by the death on 16th October of Dr Max Tate. Max recently achieved his 84th birthday having in the past year bravely undertaken an intensive program of immunotherapy and chemotherapy under trial for melanoma.

Max was born in Brisbane and developed a strong interest in chemistry through his BSc and Masters degree at the University of Sydney and focusing on the carbohydrate myo-inositol for his Doctorate at the University of New South Wales.

After two years of post-doctoral work in Canada from 1960, Max returned to Australia to face the challenge of getting a University position in competition with a surplus of organic chemists at that time.

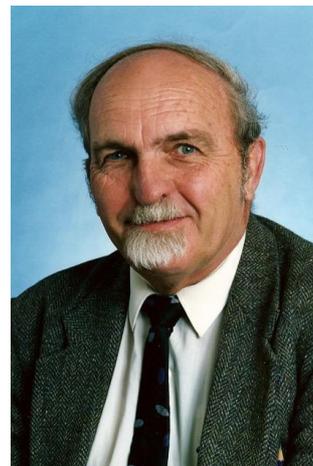
In 1964, Max got a position at the Waite in Virology in the Department of Agricultural Chemistry and Soil Science and was soon collaborating with several of his new colleagues on aspects of carbohydrate chemistry related to their research.

One of the most profitable collaborations was with Professor Allen Kerr on the biological control of crown gall in fruit trees. Allen and his students established that there was a chemical involved in the prevention of the pathogenicity of the soil bacterium *Agrobacterium*, which caused the crown gall, and named it Agrocin 84. Max and his students isolated and identified the unique structure of Agrocin 84 and Allen credited Max with being “by far the most important influence on his scientific career.” Subsequent work in Allen’s laboratory on the genetic background of the production of Agrociiin 84 led to the registration of NOGALL in 1987, the first live genetically engineered organism in the world eventually approved to be sold to the public. It is considered that this biological control of crown gall contributes \$100 million annually to the Australian economy, largely through the protection of almond and other fruit trees.

Based on the above study, and the importance the new methodologies of molecular biological utilized, Max and Allen lobbied for new staff appointments at the Waite with this expertise, resulting in several major new research initiatives on the Campus in the early 1990’s.

Another topic that Max applied his chemical knowledge too was that of the non-wetting sands that detracted from their use for agriculture in several areas of Australia. Professor James Prescott and CS Piper at the Waite first reported on the issue in 1932. In 1981, Dr Malcolm Oades encouraged Max to apply his chemical knowledge to the problem. A study by a postgraduate student from Indonesia, working in Max’s lab, led to the identification of the causal agent of non-wetting sands being a wax like material of plant origin. Working further with Malcolm they established that addition of clay could overcome the water repellency. As the work was completed it was learnt that Clem Obst, a farmer near Bordertown, had indeed solved the practical issue of the non-wetting sands by adding clay.

In the early 1990’s Max became aware of a practice in South Australia where seeds from a vetch crop were being marketed as the more lucrative lentil. Max knew that this vetch contained a neurotoxin and thus was unsuitable for human consumption. After attempting unsuccessfully to warn the farming community of this serious issue, it took a publication in an international science journal by Max and his student Dirk Enneking to get in a ban on the practice. Max retired in 1998 but as a Visiting Scientist at the Waite set up a successful breeding program to reduce the toxin level in the vetch. He continued with this, being in his lab seven days a week, until his battle with lymphoma interfered with this only a month or so ago.



As well as being a very supportive and encouraging supervisor of post graduate students, Max played a very valuable role as the post graduate coordinator in which he would regularly interview all postgraduate students in the Department and review their progress. When Roseworthy Agricultural College joined with the University of Adelaide I had the pleasure of sharing the first year teaching of chemistry there with Max.

Max was Head of the Department of Agricultural Biochemistry for the last three years of its existence from 1987 – 1990 and had a great working relationship with the Departmental Secretary Gladys Hogg. When the Waite Departments were reorganized in 1991 Max became a member of the Department of Plant Science.

Max was a very generous person and for the past 15 years has entertained about 40 of his colleagues to a lunch prior to Christmas in Urrbrae House. Those attending made a corresponding contribution to Urrbrae House, the renovation and restoration of which Max had a high regard for. In recognition of this Max was made the first Honorary Friend of Urrbrae House.

In her book, 'The Waite'* , Lynette Zeitz wrote 'With a career spanning over half a century, Max Tate represented the best of the Waite's collaborative research effort'.

Max is survived by his sons Marcus, Nicholas and Duncan and their partners. His wife Elizabeth died in 2009. Max concluded his eulogy for Elizabeth as follows:

"It is sometimes said that we all die twice. Once when our body physically fails us and the second time only, when the last person who knew you, or someone who read and approved of you or your exploits physically dies".

Based on the large attendance of past and present staff and students at the funeral of Max on 21st October, he will long be remembered.

Bill Wallace

(Colleague and friend of Max for 50 years).

I wish to acknowledge the helpfulness of the following text in the preparation of the research component for the above:

** Zeitz, Lynette D. (2014) The Waite. Barr Smith Press, The University of Adelaide*

“A United Kingdom”

On Sunday 23rd January a successful fundraising event was held at the Capri cinema, Goodwood. Refreshments in the foyer were enjoyed before the screening of the movie “A United Kingdom”. This combined event successfully supported the Friends of Urrbrae House, the Friends of the Waite Arboretum and the Friends of the Waite Conservation Reserve.

The Capri Cinema is an independent not-for-profit cinema run by a network of generous volunteers. Profits from ticket sales support restoration of this iconic South Australian building and the Wurlitzer organ.

We welcome the following members who have recently joined as

Friends:

Beryl Morcom

Lois Harveson

Robyn Baker

'Enescu in Paris'

Our first concert on the 6th February 2017, 'Enescu in Paris' was well attended and a dazzling start to the year.

Both Elizabeth Layton (violin) and Michael Ierace (piano) have frequently performed at Urrbrae House. We were privileged again to enjoy their display of virtuosity, technical skills and sheer musicality.

The first part of the concert was the Sonata no 1 Op 12 in G major by Andre Gedalge (1856-1926). He was an influential French composer and teacher of the Romantic period. After a career in book selling and publishing he entered the Paris Conservatory at age 28. Although not well known for his performances as a musician, he became the favourite teacher of counterpart and fugue of his time.

This Sonata no 1 Op 12 in G major by was published in 1897 and was dedicated to his student George Enescu. He described George as one of the greatest geniuses of modern music.

The second part of the concert was the Violin Sonata no 2 in F minor by the Romanian born George Enescu born (1881-1955). George was regarded as the greatest musical phenomenon since Mozart. He was a child prodigy on violin and piano and entered the Vienna Conservatory at age 7 and graduated at 13. He continued his studies at the Paris Conservatory and became a violin virtuoso and teacher of violin. He also devoted himself to composing and although he wrote in virtually every genre, much of his work was influenced by Romanian folk music.

In the finale of the Sonata (Vif) we heard several motifs used to interlinked dances. This highly original work was much darker than the Sonata by Andre Gedalge.

Both Sonatas' were brilliantly performed by Elizabeth and Michael.

Hetty Cater

Dates for your Diary

VIVENTE MUSIC presents

" Mark & friends"

Monday, 27th March, 5:30 for 6.00 pm.

Booking form and details attached

May History Month events, detailed in the Managers Musings

Annual General Meeting

Monday 22nd May

With Guest Speaker

5.30 for 6.00pm

Saturday 4 October 1930. The Advertiser (p17)

Urrbrae Fete Bridge Party

Lady Mawson, who has charge of the arrangements for the bridge party at Urrbrae this evening, has already booked scores of tables. Professor and Mrs. A. E. V. Richardson have generously given over the whole house for the afternoon and evening, and from the billiard-room to the gallery there will be one vast party. In view of the fact that many more people wanted to book tables Mrs. Richardson decided yesterday that, the music salon should be thrown open, and this makes room for twelve more tables, which may be booked on application to Lady Mawson at Urrbrae during the day.

Mrs. B. Wells has donated two fine pictures of historical interest for sale during the fete. One of these is a black and white of the Discovery and the other is a reproduction in watercolors of the old tollgate at Glen Osmond. All the stalls are well stocked. There could be no better setting for an open-air fete than Urrbrae, with its beautiful grounds and shady walks and arbors. No matter now the clerk of the weather may treat the conveners of this elaborate fete on behalf of the Mothers and Babies' Health Association, the success of the day is assured for the wide verandahs of Urrbrae are like the deep cloisters of a Californian mission, and there is room for all the stalls there if it rains, with shelter for several hundred people.

The Christmas gift stall will attract those who look ahead, for it is stocked with novelties, which are most economically priced. This is a rule that has been rigidly adhered to on every stall, so that there is no hint of extravagance in helping this deserving cause.

Contributions to the pets stall range from goldfish to tortoises and white mice to a loose fox terrier, who has been christened Michael Angelo.

The Margate donkey will be a great attraction for the youngsters, and their elders will find fresh charm at every trip and turn of the beautifully laid out garden, where clock golf will be the order of the day, or at any rate of the afternoon.

Sourced from the National Library of Australia and corrected by Bill Wallace

Newsletters can be found online at

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

Urrbrae House

www.adelaide.edu.au/waite-historic/urrbraehouse/

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

VIVENTE MUSIC
presents
" Mark & friends "

TWILIGHT CONCERT AT URRBRAE HOUSE

Monday, 27th March
5:30 for 6.00 pm

Refreshments will be served prior to the concert

Mark Gaydon – bassoon **Imants Larsens - viola**
Natsuko Yoshimoto - violin **Ewen Bramble - cello**
Alison Heike – violin

Enjoy an evening of music for bassoon and strings, hand-picked to suit your mood.
Adelaide's premier bassoonist Mark Gaydon makes a very welcome return to Urrbrae House. He will be joined by a group of outstanding musicians from the ranks of the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra.

The program will include works by Mozart, Devienne and Gordon Jacob.
A concert not to be missed!

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**Seats are limited. To confirm your booking,
please complete and return the form below**

or e-mail your details to viventemusic@yahoo.com.au
or phone 08 82966851

Name: _____

Contact number: _____

E-mail: _____

Number of seats required _____ @ \$20 per person (PAYMENT AT THE DOOR)

*** KINDLY GIVE ADVANCE NOTICE IN CASE OF CANCELLATIONS**

Return to: Vivente Music, PO Box 8079, Station Arcade, Adelaide, 5000 Tel:08 82966851



THE FRIENDS OF URBRAE HOUSE

Urrbrae House
The University of Adelaide
Waite Campus

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL 2017	
\$15 Individual membership	\$
\$25 Family membership (two or more people)	\$
*Donation (non tax deductible)	\$
TOTAL	\$

Methods of payment

1. Cheque or cash

Please print & fill in this form and send it with payment to The Treasurer, The Friends of Urrbrae House, Urrbrae House, Waite Campus, PMB#1, GLEN OSMOND, SA 5064

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

2. On Line Bank transfer

Account name -The Friends of Urrbrae House Inc

BSB - 065125

Account -10013345

Reference: 'Surname Initials Sub'

*In addition to your membership you may wish to make an extra donation. If you include this with your membership fee it will be credited directly to the funds of the Friends of Urrbrae House. In this case your donation is not tax deductible.

If you wish to make a tax deductible donation there is a separate procedure to follow, details of which can be obtained from either Lynette Zeitz, (Manager, Urrbrae House Historic Precinct : 8313 7425) or Amanda Jackson (Urrbrae House Coordinator : 8313 7497).

Preferred way to receive notices

EMAIL or MAIL

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