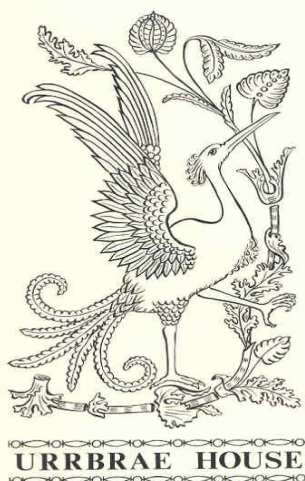


Newsletter August 2014



# 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**

An important gift has been donated to Urrbrae House. I will let Margaret Neate write about her donation that will support music in Urrbrae House for many decades to come; please see article that follows. I must say that this has given the precinct quite a boost and we are all walking on air at the future prospects this gift provides.

I am very pleased to note that the Film Event at the Capri theatre was a great success, thank you all for attending – or buying tickets if you could not be there on the day in order to support our cause. It is important that co-operative events held by the Waite Precinct groups combined (ie: the Friends of Urrbrae House, the Precinct Management, the Friends of the Waite Arboretum and the Friends of the Waite Conservation Reserve) have a supportive following from all general memberships. It was not easy finding a suitable film, time and venue. I thank all there on the day as well as the organising committee for their hard work and diligence, especially Judy Ferrante and Hazel Douglas who initiated the Capri booking. I believe we will be looking for another film at the Capri next year; if you have any suggestions how we can make the experience good for you please email [vicki.cheshire@gmail.com](mailto:vicki.cheshire@gmail.com) .

You, personally, can help the committee in its aims to support Urrbrae House in a few ways:

1. Becoming a member, if you are not already.
2. Introducing others to our membership and inviting them to events.
3. Helping at events. Sometimes “many hands on deck” are needed. It would be very helpful if you could volunteer to give an hour of your time BEFORE an event at Urrbrae House to help prepare nibbles or serve wine – you may already be attending and a little help beforehand goes a LONG way.
4. Please phone Vicki Cheshire 043302 2247 or Bill Wallace 8332 6495 should you see your way to help. Membership forms can also be found at:

[http://www.waite.adelaide.edu.au/urrbraehouse/friends/FOUH\\_Membership\\_Application\\_Form.pdf](http://www.waite.adelaide.edu.au/urrbraehouse/friends/FOUH_Membership_Application_Form.pdf)

### **Dates for your Diary**

**August 25<sup>th</sup> Twilight Concert** Vivente(5.30 for 6) Tryptich – violin flute piano *Some seats available*

**September 29<sup>th</sup> Twilight Concert** A special concert to showcase the new piano (5.30 for 6)

**October 1<sup>st</sup> Teddy Bears' Picnic** (TBA)

**October 20<sup>th</sup> Twilight Concert** (TBA)

**November 9<sup>th</sup> Spring Concert** (5.30 for 6) *Solstice Singers*

Vicki Cheshire

### **Guided Tours**

Free guided tours of the Waite Arboretum and Urrbrae House are held on the first Sunday of the month during cooler months; upcoming dates are 7<sup>th</sup> September and 5<sup>th</sup> October at 11am (meet in front of the house) for the Gardens Tour and 2pm (meet inside) for a Tour of the House.



## ***Important gift for Urrbrae House***

### **The New Piano: How it happened**

Until now at Urrbrae House we have had:

One drawing room with a beautiful-looking old piano no longer capable of good sound

One superb musician organising concerts within restrictions imposed by the relatively small drawing room plus the old Steinway

One underused ballroom with music performance potential but no piano

One Manager who understands both the drawing room limits and the ballroom potential, charming, creative, patient with persistent piano freaks, congenial, professional and a delight to work with

One Friends committee, suffering long-term piano-problem-induced frustration

One old duck, addicted from birth to fine music, having attended Vivente concerts for years, greedily wanting a more varied programme in a better space, which she knows could result from the addition of a decent piano to the ballroom.

### **Recent Developments**

Old duck, frustrated once too often by the drawing room, decides to take drastic action. She accosts the congenial Manager without warning with the radical offer of funds for a piano for the ballroom. The somewhat dazed Manager raises no objection, the old duck transfers funds, sits back all warm and selfish and wallows in the excitement she has clearly aroused. Like an overfed cat she now contemplates, licking her lips, the expansion of music in her little part of the world.

### **Seriously, from the Old Duck**

Music is a powerful force for good. It enhances people's lives, expressing their every emotion from extreme happiness to the utmost despair. I believe it can refine human character, purely by sound and also by the application of self-discipline necessary to reach performance standard. Performing music, especially with others, brings the deepest satisfaction, and for the listener it can transform experience from the ordinary to the sublime. For me music has always been an essential component of life. To be able to increase the opportunities for musicians and listeners in this small way is more personally rewarding than I can say.

At present we have a fortuitous alignment of stars at Urrbrae House, which augurs brightly for our musical future. I offer my deepest thanks to all who are enthusiastic about our new prospects including the Friends committee, and in particular to Lynette Zeitz and the wonderful Minas Berberyan, under whose skilled direction our musical future is assured.

*Margaret Neate*

## ***Manager's Musings***

### **Benefactors make a great difference**

As you will have seen elsewhere in this newsletter, we have all been thrilled by Margaret Neate's donation of \$46,450 to the University to enable the purchase of a new grand piano for Urrbrae House. We have been doubly fortunate that Winston Music has recently had a Yamaha C7X grand piano (which normally retails for about \$75,000) on sale and it is this instrument that we are now able to purchase thanks to Margaret's generosity. The link below will enable you to see the instrument in question.

[http://www.winstonmusic.com.au/index.php?route=product/product&path=20\\_227&product\\_id=159](http://www.winstonmusic.com.au/index.php?route=product/product&path=20_227&product_id=159)

As some of the regular concert-goers are aware, the historic Steinway piano gifted to the University for Urrbrae House by the grandchildren of Beatrice Michell is a beautiful historical piece but has some limitations for classical concert performances. The new Yamaha piano, which will be located in the Ballroom, will give talented pianists the opportunity to perform on an instrument that compliments their skills. Our Steinway piano will remain in the Drawing Room where it aids the historical interpretation of the house in the late nineteenth century and is regularly viewed by the general public. By locating the new Yamaha piano in the Ballroom we can increase the number of seats at future piano concerts. Margaret and I have also discussed ways that the new piano might open up exciting pathways of engagement with the Elder Conservatorium and local high schools.

Margaret has been a volunteer at Urrbrae House since 2008. She originally volunteered in our Schools' Program but when she found that too physically demanding she continued to volunteer playing the piano at our free public tours. Then Margaret turned her attention to assisting with historical research on the Waite family. She has spent many hours researching old newspapers for references to the Waites and past activities in Urrbrae House using the National Library's Trove database. As a member of the Friends of Urrbrae House and a music lover, Margaret has been regular attendee of the Friends' Twilight concert series for many years. Margaret's "how can I help" and "can do" attitude is truly inspiring. I would like to publicly thank her not only for her generous financial gift but also for the gifts of her time and continuing support.

*Lynette Zeitz*

### ***Playful Clarinet***

On 16 June a capacity audience in the Urrbrae House Drawing Room resounded to an exhilarating concert of clarinet, piano and violin music by Darius Milhaud, Aram Kattchaturian and renowned living legend Australian composer Peter Sculthorpe.

Peter Handsworth, clarinet is currently at the Elder Conservatorium and is internationally renowned as a performer and teacher. He has held the position of Professor of Clarinet at Karlsruhe, Germany, Head of Music, Monash University and has performed and recorded worldwide including as Principal Clarinet of orchestras in Germany and Spain.

Gabriella Smart, piano teaches part-time at the Elder Conservatorium. In 2009 she won a Helpmann Award and has performed widely in Australia and internationally including in France, UK and China. She is a passionate exponent of contemporary music and has premiered many modern works. She is also Artistic Director of the Soundstream: Adelaide New Music Festival.

Minas Berberyan, violin is well known to Urrbrae House audiences both as a highly talented and enthusiastic performer but as Principal, Vivente Music. A graduate of the Bulgarian State Conservatoire Minas moved to South Africa in 1994 where he played with the South African National Symphony Orchestra. In 2002 he joined the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra. An avid teacher Minas also teaches at the Elder Conservatorium and privately.

The concert was arranged by Vivente Music.



Picture: Minas Berberyan [violin], Peter Handsworth [clarinet], Gabriella Smart [piano]

*Hugh McClelland*

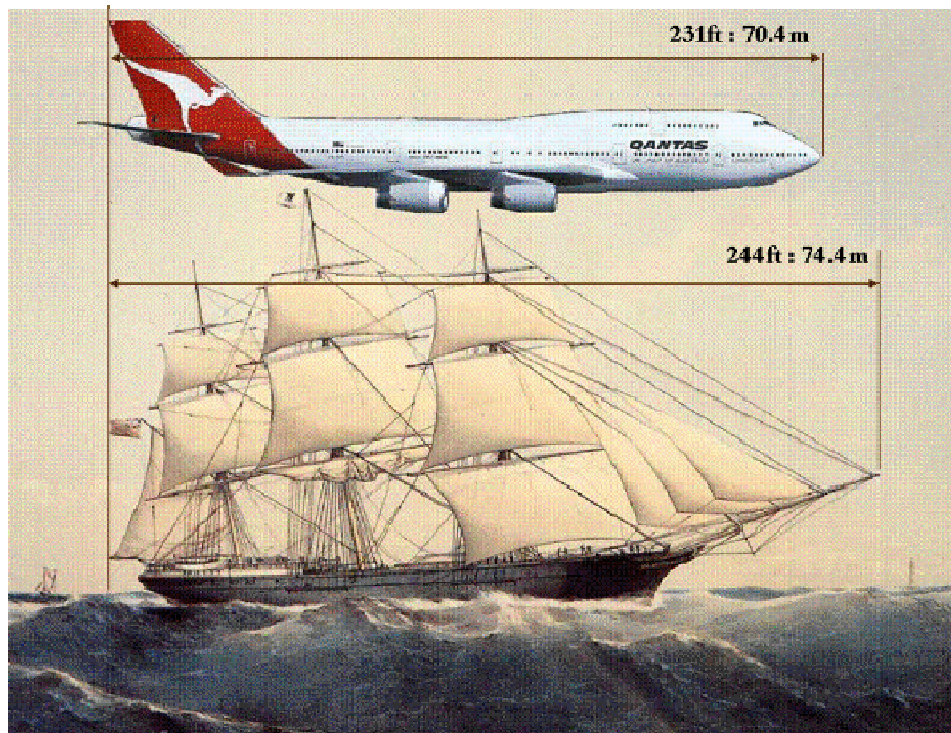
## ***Fireside Chat – Return of the clipper ‘City of Adelaide’ - Mark Gilbert***

Our guest speaker at the Fireside Chat on July 22<sup>nd</sup> was Mark Gilbert and 35 members and visitors enjoyed the atmosphere in the Dining Room for the occasion.

Mark, who is a consulting engineer with particular expertise in heavy lifting and marine haulage of marine structures, had a major role in the planning of the return of the hull of the clipper ship to Adelaide.



To illustrate the size of the clipper, Mark showed a comparison of it with Qantas 747 ‘City of Adelaide’:

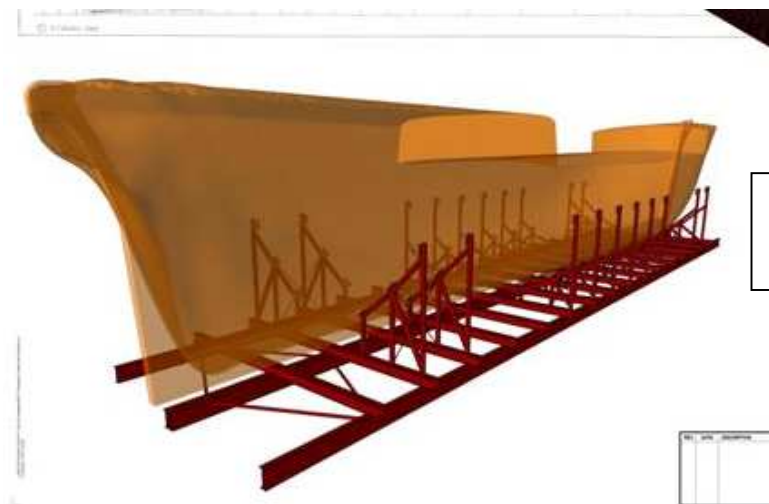


Two generations of the City of Adelaide - separated by one and a half centuries.

<http://cityofadelaide.org.au/history/clipper-s-history/1864-conception.html>

Mark emphasized the historical significance of the clipper that was built in 1864, five years earlier than the Cutty Sark and was the only purpose built passenger sailing ship. It has a composite construction, with wooden planking on iron frames. He considered this was still in very good condition especially considering the more general use the ship had after steamships took over passenger travel and the lack of care of it in recent years.

The main task in moving the clipper was the construction of a cradle to support the hull as it was lifted from a disused slipway at Irvine in Scotland and moved onto a barge for transfer to a deep port and onward transport to Australia on an ocean-going ship.



Aztec Analysis  
<http://cityofadelaide.org.au/the-project/cradle.html>

The 100-tonne steel cradle was by designed by Aztec Analysis in Adelaide, a division of Wallbridge & Gilbert Consulting Engineers, and prefabricated in sections with the engineering support from over a dozen Adelaide and regional South Australian firms. Valued at \$1 million, the cradle was contributed by the local engineers donating their time and labour.

Mark, who was in Scotland to see the cradle assembled, described how perfectly the separate sections fitted together when assembled. Important in this was the detailed analysis and draftsmanship that had been undertaken on the structure of the hull also on a voluntary capacity. A big expense was the cleaning and fumigation of the hull to comply with Australia's biosecurity conditions.

Mark, who is a Director of the City of Adelaide Preservation Trust, also talked about the plans for the preservation of the 'City of Adelaide' with it being the centerpiece of a Seaport Village at Port Adelaide. He encouraged people to go and see the 'City of Adelaide' close up at its current location in Dock 1.

Judging on the questions and discussion following Mark's presentation it was greatly appreciated. The Friends of Urrbrae House presented Mark with a donation of \$500 for the ongoing preservation of the clipper. Individual donations can be made via the very informative and interesting 'City of Adelaide' website.

<http://cityofadelaide.org.au/>

*Bill Wallace*



*From the Friends of the Waite Arboretum*  
Upcoming special event:  
Classical Guitar Concert – Urrbrae House  
Jacob Cordover & Rupert Boyd  
6.30 pm Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November.  
Fliers will be circulated closer to the time  
or contact Jennifer Gardner 8313 7405

*Picture: Vicki Cheshire (President) making a presentation to Mark Gilbert on behalf of the Friends of Urrbrae House*

## *Events to look forward to:*

### **August 25<sup>th</sup> Twilight Concert (Vivente Music) 5.30 for 6 Tryptic Some seats available**

Triptych is a type of a multi panel work of art, where each panel has an equal importance.

In this programme you can expect a unique “musical triptych” presented by three distinguished Adelaide musicians: Wendy Heiligenberg – Violin; Linda Pirie – Flute; Monika Laczofy – Piano. They will be performing works by Brahms, Doppler and Miriam Hyde.

Bookings: [viventemusic@yahoo.com.au](mailto:viventemusic@yahoo.com.au) or 8296 6851 / 0401 021 065

### **September 29<sup>th</sup> Twilight Concert 5.30 for 6 Special Piano Performance**

Enjoy the musical excellence of the Ballroom and a very special performance from a virtuoso pianist from the Elder Conservatorium of Music at our first concert featuring the newly donated Yamaha Grand Piano.

Cost including refreshments: \$20

Bookings: Peggy Rowe 8277 1426 (leave a message) or [peggy.rowe@bigpond.com](mailto:peggy.rowe@bigpond.com)

Bookings are essential as we usually have a waiting list, **please advise of cancellations.**

**Please note that this event is to be held DOWNSTAIRS in the Ballroom; disability access is limited so you must be able to manage the stairs.**



### **October 1<sup>st</sup> Teddy Bears' Picnic\* 11am – 1pm A favourite FREE event for the little ones during the spring school holidays. B.Y.O. picnic lunch. There will be a Teddy Bear Hospital for wellness checks and minor repairs supported by Mitcham's Gallery One Teddy makers groups under the guidance of Kay Schulz, so bring along your teddy. The much acclaimed team from 'Splodge' will be present to paint faces; other fun activities for children will be arranged.**



If the weather is inclement, only 70 people will be allowed in the house for a 'rainy day indoor picnic' so please book with Amanda Jackson 8313 7497. You will be told if you are in the first 70 and therefore eligible. Let's hope for Sunny weather!

### **October 20<sup>th</sup> Twilight Concert (Vivente Music) 5.30 for 6 Bach's Goldberg Variations Details to be advised closer to the date.**

### **November 9<sup>th</sup> Spring Concert The Solstice Singers Details to be advised closer to the date.**

### **November 17<sup>th</sup> Concert with a Christmas Theme 5.30 for 6 Details to be advised closer to the date.**

*\*Event provided by Urrbrae House Precinct Management*

Here is a link to the 'Urrbrae House - what's on' website, you are sure to find something there of interest:

<http://waite.adelaide.edu.au/urrbraehouse/whatson/>

Friends of Urrbrae House Membership forms may be downloaded from:

[http://www.waite.adelaide.edu.au/urrbraehouse/friends/FOUH\\_Membership\\_Application\\_Form.pdf](http://www.waite.adelaide.edu.au/urrbraehouse/friends/FOUH_Membership_Application_Form.pdf)

You can view this newsletter online at:

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

We welcome the following members who have recently joined as Friends:

Una Spiers

Patricia and Bruce Hemer