

Newsletter November 2015



The Friends of Urrbrae House

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Editor Vicki Cheshire

President's Report

Since the last newsletter the Friends of Urrbrae House have hosted two very successful Twilight Concerts. Reports of these concerts appear later in the Newsletter. The new lights for the Ballroom have been purchased and are waiting to be installed – hopefully over the Christmas holidays. There have been some extra things added to the collection in the children's bedroom on the lower ground floor. (As a friend, have you been to see this lovely room?) We thank our Vice President, Anne Rabone, for making the lovely quilts on the cot and bed. The furnishings in this room have been paid for by the Friends of Urrbrae House.

In April 2016, it will be 25 years since the Friends of Urrbrae House was formed. During that time the Friends, through fundraising, have contributed to replacing leather on the chairs in the Dining Room, Conservation and rehangng of the Drawing Room curtains, Conservation of the verandah chairs, Restoration of the bell system including Leclanche battery cells and Annunciator, the Roman blinds in the ballroom and refurbishment of a bedroom on the lower floor. These are just some of the areas that we have contributed to; we are looking forward to seeing new light fittings provided by the Friends of Urrbrae House (with collaboration from DeLights) installed in the Ballroom over the next few months when there is a lull in events using the room. If you are not familiar with some of these projects and where they are in the house, come and visit. Details of when the house is open are on the Urrbrae House website.

The next fundraising event is on Sunday November 29th. This is a shared event with Vocalize Choir. Sandra Morrison, one of our Committee members is also a member of this Choir. Come and enjoy the singing in the Ballroom and have a walk around the garden.

The final event for this year will be the combined Christmas party with the Friends of the Arboretum and the Conservation Park on the 7th December. Come and enjoy drinks and nibbles with people who care about the Waite Historic Precinct and want to help to preserve it. Come and rekindle friendships and make some new ones.

Dates for your Diary

Nov 29th Christmas Carols
Vocalise Choir (2.30 for 3)

December 7th Friends' Christmas
Party (5.30 for 6)

Wishing everyone a safe and Happy Christmas and may the New Year hold all that you wish for.

We look forward to seeing you in the new year at Urrbrae House.

Joy Middleton.

Manager's Musings

Building Restoration Restoration work, including repairs to the roof and guttering, continues on the western and southern sides of Urrbrae House and on the Coach House. The current work is scheduled to be completed in February 2016. I am pleased to report that the asbestos roof on the Volunteers' Room/Facilities block was replaced in October and the Peter Waite Garage is looking great with its new coat of paint. We appreciate everyone's understanding as the University undertakes this important work to maintain its important heritage.



Reproduction Heritage Quilt for "Eva's bed" Our talented volunteer and Friends' Committee member, Anne Rabone, has been busy again creating a beautiful new quilt for the girl's bed in our display bedroom. The quilt complements a costumed doll that Anne had previously dressed for the room.



Scottish Diaspora Tapestry Festival Burnside Civic Centre Gallery will host the Scottish Diaspora Tapestry from 28 November - 13 December 2015. The Tapestry, created by communities around the world, documents the impact of Scottish migration in an artwork of more than 300 embroidered panels. We are delighted that Peter Waite features on one of the panels and encourage you to see this unique creation while it is in Adelaide before it heads to Hobart and later New Zealand. For more information about the Tapestry see <http://www.scottishdiasporatapestry.org/background>

Rosemary McKay, The Scottish Diaspora Tapestry Coordinator for Adelaide, South Australia, has organised a festival of events around the display. As part of this festival I will be speaking on "Transforming agricultural science and giving to the community: the legacy of Scottish migrants, Peter and Matilda Waite" at Burnside Library on Thursday, 3 December at 2pm. In addition we will be holding a special tour event on Wednesday, 9 December at 4pm-6pm entitled "Inside Urrbrae House: from the Waite family home to community museum at the University of Adelaide." Visitors are invited to enjoy some complimentary seasonal refreshments before being taken on a free guided tour of the house and learn about its history. Bookings can be made via Eventbrite: <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/inside-urrbrae-house-from-the-waite-family-home-to-community-museum-at-the-university-of-adelaide-tickets-19354652286>

Basketry SA Exhibition during the Adelaide Fringe Basketry SA will again be holding its biennial exhibition at Urrbrae House with support from the Friends of the Waite Arboretum as part of the Adelaide Fringe from 14-28 February 2016. The free exhibition "ASSEMBLAGE" will be open Monday-Friday 11am-4pm, and Saturday-Sunday 1pm-4pm.

The Smith Family and Christmas Greetings From 10 November until 14 December the Christmas Tree in the Main Hall of Urrbrae House will again be a collection point for The Smith Family's Toy and Book Appeal. The gift of a new toy or book will bring a smile to a disadvantaged child's face this Christmas. If you can donate a new toy or book please ensure that it is not wrapped and is no larger than a school backpack. Please ensure that batteries are included if they are needed to operate a toy. There is a significant shortage of gifts for children 9-12 years of age so please consider putting something under the tree suitable for those children.

On behalf of Amanda, Ilonka and myself, and our casual staff members Lyn, Natalie and Graham we would like to wish all of the Friends a wonderful Christmas and thank you for your continuing support.

Lynette Zeitz

Concert – “Felix”

This concert on June 29th featuring well-known performers to the Adelaide public was predictably a great success.

With a filled to capacity Ballroom at Urrbrae House, the concert opened with the elegant Piano Trio No.2 in G major Op.1 by Beethoven and was followed by Mendelssohn’s D minor piano trio Op.49 which is quintessential to piano trio repertoire.



Through skillful playing, well chosen tempi and tasteful interpretation, the musicians: **Michael Ierace** (piano), **Imants Larsens** (violin), and **Gemma Phillips** (cello) captured the attention of the audience from beginning to end for which they received a well-deserved and appreciative ovation.

Minas Berberyan, Vivente Music

Romeo & Juliette

International award winning Belgrade born pianist **Marija Bajalica** gave a recital at Urrbrae House on 17 August. She opened the concert with the popular Mozart Sonata in B Flat Major and followed with Prokofiev’s colourful Ten Pieces for Piano.

After 10 years at the University of Pretoria, South Africa Marija joined the Elder Conservatorium in 2003. She is widely sought as a recitalist including on ABC Classic FM, 5MBS, and Radio Adelaide.

It was a wonderful concert.



Hugh McClelland

The Trout Quintet

Surely the greatest quintet ever written was Schubert’s “Trout” Piano Quintet in A Major.

On 13 September we were treated to a lively and colourful rendition of the work by **Mark Sandon** [piano], **Minas Berberyan** [violin], **Imants Larsens** [viola], **Harley Gray** [bass]] and **Cameron Waters** [cello].

This monumental work was preceded by Two Thracian Dances by Petko Stoyanov.

Hugh McClelland



Brahms to Bernstein

The Brahms *Sonata No 1* requires an intense collaboration between piano and clarinet, and this was brilliantly fulfilled by **Michael Ierace** and **Dean Newcomb**, respectively, in the Urrbrae House ballroom concert on 12 October.

When introducing the piece, Dean Newcomb explained that he loved Brahms, but that he would probably need a 5-minute break after playing the sonata. Michael Ierace must also love the piece, since he had already performed the piano and viola version, in concert earlier that day! Needless to say, the resulting performance was stunning.



To complete the programme, Michael and Dean played the *Dance Preludes* by Lutoslawski and Bernstein's *Clarinet Sonata*. The pieces were composed within 12 years of each other but under markedly different social and political regimes. Lutoslawski was constrained by Polish Communist Party pressure to only produce works that were "accessible", in contrast Bernstein was able to display his remarkable eclecticism in what was his first published work.

The two pieces complemented the Brahms to produce such an interesting programme, distinguished by breathtaking performances sincerely applauded by the capacity audience.

Vic Rowe

Harp and Voice

In the beautiful Ballroom on the 9th November at Urrbrae House **Emma Horwood** delighted the audience with a stunning programme of music to welcome the festive season. Emma entered singing from the downstairs hall, entralling us with a medieval chant, believed to be the first ever documented 'Christmas Carol' that was written by Hildegard of Bingen.

The program took us all around the world and included a 14th Century lullaby, some Scottish carols including the poetry of Robert Burns, villancicos from the Spanish Renaissance, Baroque masterpieces, a few contemporary works including one by Arvo Part and finished with the classic Christmas Carol: Silent Night. Emma's silvery soprano voice and her accompaniment on pedal harp was a truly heavenly performance that brought to life centuries of beautiful music.



Vicki Cheshire

All of the concerts were brought to you in conjunction with Vivente Music. The Friends of Urrbrae House thank Minas and Erna Berberyan for their hard work and careful planning to assist our fundraising and community engagement.

We also thank all the performers throughout the year; their support has allowed us to have a truly memorable series of Twilight Concerts.

Alumni Fellow 2015

We congratulate **Dr Colin Jenner** on being nominated as an Alumni Fellow of the University of Adelaide. This award recognises members of the University who have made a significant contribution to the advancement of the University of Adelaide's Alumni Relations program.

Colin was a founding member of the Friends of Urrbrae House, a member of the Committee from 1998-2010 and continues to support the activities of Urrbrae House.

As a Visiting Research Fellow in the School of Agriculture, Food and Wine, Colin's research is aimed at improving the nutritional value of wheat with regard to its carbohydrate composition.

Bill Wallace



A devoted Friend of Urrbrae House

Dr Gillian Robertson served on the Committee of the Friends of Urrbrae House for 15 years, being President from 1995-1998 and Newsletter Editor from 2002-2008.

We have recently become aware that in her pottery hobby, Gillian incorporated the Friends of Urrbrae House logo in items she created.

The logo was inspired by one of the panels in the ceiling paper above the Minstrels Gallery in the Entrance Hall of Urrbrae House.

Recently when Gillian moved to a nursing home, her daughter Meg contacted us with the invitation to the Friends of Urrbrae House to choose some of Gillian's pottery items. Gillian's family was aware of the importance of the activities at Urrbrae House in Gillian's life. She was a Foundation Member of the Friends of Urrbrae House.



As you will see from the picture we have already found an appropriate use for one of the larger containers and will display the plaques and other items on special occasions.

Bill Wallace



Vale – Dr Jenny Barker

We were very sorry to learn of the recent death of Jenny Barker in Perth. Jenny was a Foundation Member of the Friends of Urrbrae House and a member of the Committee from 1995 – 2003, including four years as Vice President. With Gillian Robertson she was also part of a group that worked with Yvonne Routledge on the historic scientific collection of the Urrbrae House Precinct.

Ten years ago Jenny returned to live in Perth and be closer to her family but continued her membership as a Friend of Urrbrae House.

We have expressed our sympathy on the death of Jenny to her daughter Susan and son Andrew and their families. Susan was a colleague of mine at the Waite from 1992 -1998.

Susan has provided us with an abstract of material presented at her mother's funeral.

Bill Wallace



Photo taken March 31 2015; Jenny dressed up in academic regalia in the hospital to celebrate her oldest grandchild's (Stephanie – also in photo) graduation (BA, UWA).

Jenny retained very strong memories of her time and involvement at Urrbrae House and in her heart never really left Adelaide. Her involvement with the Mawson collection project in particular, and the close friendships she developed through that time, was a source of considerable satisfaction to her. Therefore it is a measure of Jenny's greatest joy, which was the arrival of grandchildren, that she moved from Adelaide to Perth in 2004 to live the remainder of her life close by her children's families. She followed their progress with much pride and genuine interests, delighting in watching them reach their milestones and developing their own personalities.

In 2010, Jenny, not wanting to disappoint all six grandchildren, who were awaiting her arrival at a restaurant dinner to celebrate her 80th birthday, went despite the fact that she realised she had suffered a minor stroke. After the subsequent long weekend she got to her GP who promptly admitted her to hospital. Although recovering from that set back, Jenny suffered more ill health and a knee replacement operation over the next four years, and her capacity to maintain her physical activity levels declined.

In her final months, which were largely spent in hospital, a calm acceptance descended upon Jenny. She took a genuine interest in those caring for her, remembering their names and their place of birth and introduced each of them whenever they coincided with a visitor. She accepted her situation, the treatments and their lack of success with grace and dignity, welcoming many visitors to her bedside and enjoying laughter and reminiscent dialogue. Jenny died peacefully in Hollywood Hospital in Perth on October 15th 2015 having had time to say her goodbyes to loved ones and dear friends before passing away with her children by her side.

Susan Barker



Did you know that an informal book club is held in the beautiful dining room at Urrbrae House once a month? Usually the fourth Monday from 1-2pm. Burnside Library books are delivered to Urrbrae House and returned for you. There is a small yearly fee to the Library for assisting us. At present there are a few places vacant, come along - bring a friend!
Please contact Lynette Zeitz on 8313 7425

Volunteer profiles:**Hetty Cater**

Hetty came to Adelaide during the mid 1990's on a scuba-diving holiday and fell in love with this city: the Culture and the ease of getting around woo'd her to return again some day.



Although born in Holland, Hetty spent many of her adult years in England where she and her husband raised their children. Hetty qualified as an accountant and subsequently became a Fellow of the Chartered and Certified Accountants in England.

After the death of her husband Hetty decided to return to Adelaide to live in retirement – and 14 years later she is still here enjoying the splendour. She has a long history of volunteering in different capacities in Adelaide. As a devoted music lover - she has followed the ASQ, ASO, Elder Conservatorium Concerts at Elder Hall and was delighted to come to Urrbrae House to the Twilight Concerts.

Most of all Hetty enjoys the ambience at the house during concerts. We are glad that enjoying fine music in such a wonderful setting she sees as a privilege. To this aim, she wants to 'give back' by serving as a committee member.

As a fairly new member of the Friends of Urrbrae House Committee her wish is to support enhancements that appeal to musical audiences, such as refurbishments in the Ballroom. She is a strong advocate of keeping prices reasonable and wishes to encourage younger people (in their 40's & 50's) into the house to enjoy the concerts.

Vicki Cheshire

**Allan Woodman**

I was born in Melbourne, and moved to Adelaide aged 20, started work at David Jones in visual merchandising (after an apprenticeship at Myer Melbourne, no other references seemed necessary). I progressed from window dresser and merchandise coordinator to buyer of young-fashion sportswear. After leaving DJ's with good basic training, I then took up buying for a chain of jean shops in Adelaide (denim was very "in"). I was managing and buying for seven shops in Adelaide and suburbs: looking after stock, staff and most importantly customers! I guess the people-thing has been with me for a very long time.

When I got a bit tired of the rag trade I took time off to work at home for twelve months making curtains and pelmets for friends and clients. During that time (1980) some very good friends opened Lunch Plus on Unley Rd; it took-off immediately and they asked me if I would come and work for them, my first venture into hospitality! After working on Unley Rd for 5 years the opportunity arose to start my own business, "Lunch on The Parade" at Norwood where I could at last do my own thing.

Lunch on the Parade became the major part of life for my partner Bob and me. Along with my fabulous staff we created a meeting place for many, many regular customers, and over the twenty-five years I catered for and hosted 21sts, engagements, weddings, and all types of themed parties both at the restaurant and off-site.

Since selling the business in 2011 I have enjoyed a quieter life. I joined Urrbrae volunteer group to give something back to the community and have since come to really enjoy my times there in many capacities.

I like most music, both modern and classical, with a leaning toward ballet and opera. I like to travel and have been to Thailand and Vietnam many times for the food and the people, and after 30 years in the food business I am again enjoying the more exotic flavours (one's taste buds turn back to more basic flavours after so long in the industry).

I look forward to many years of sharing my talents at Urrbrae.

Allan Woodman



Events to look forward to:

Nov 29th (Sunday Afternoon) **“Christmas Carols in the Ballroom”** **2.30 for 3pm** *Vocalize Choir* in conjunction with the Friends of Urrbrae House. Enter into the spirit of Christmas, with favourite Carols performed by this talented group in the magnificent Urrbrae House Ballroom (access via stairs only, children under 5 not permitted). Refreshments served prior.

Cost \$20 refreshments included. Bookings reservation: Bill Wallace 8332 6495 leave a message including your name and Ph number: Tickets at the door on the afternoon.

You will only be notified if seats are NOT available. As our events include a waitlist **please phone if you cannot attend.**

December 7th **Waite Precinct Friends Combined Christmas** **5.30 for 6pm** Friends of Urrbrae House, Waite Arboretum and Waite Conservation Reserve are invited to attend a celebration of the year, to share some Christmas cake and good cheer with friends.

***Wishing you a Merry Christmas,
a safe and Happy Holiday Season
and a Very Happy New Year.
We look forward to seeing you in
2016.***



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

Roz and Ian Backler
Beverley Emerson
Ms Libby Lynch and Mr Jack Major
Delwyn Porter
Steve Smith and Elizabeth Gellert
Em Prof Ted Van Steveninck
and Dr Margaret Van Steveninck