



URRBRAE HOUSE

The Friends of Urrbrae House

Urrbrae House, University of Adelaide, Waite Campus, PMB#1 GLEN OSMOND, SA 5064. Tel 8303 7497

Editor Vicki Cheshire

Dates for your Diary

August 18th
FOWA:
Classical Guitar Duo
Alexsandr Tsiboulski &
Jacob Cordover
(6 for 6.30pm)
Tickets and Enquiries:
8303 7405

August 28th
Supper Bush Dance
(7.30 - 11pm)
Ph 8379 1905
See back page for details

September 3rd
FOWA: 'People and
Trees' Exhibition
(10am - 4pm)
Urrbrae House
Refer to flier

Sun 5th September
Guided tour of
Urrbrae House
(2pm)
Also on this day

Sun 5th September
Father's Day
Concert
Holly Bennett, Nadia
Buck & Tahlia De Corso
(3.30pm)
Refer to flier

September 20th
Twilight Concert
(5.30 for 6pm)
Refer to flier

September 21st
Book Launch
Yvonne
Routledge
(4pm)
Ph 83037497

October 6th
Games Day
(Fun in 1901)
Afternoon
Enquiries:
8370 0032

October 10 - 17th
FOWA: Beryl Martin
Exhibition. Invitations
will be sent later

October 18th
Twilight Concert
(5.30 for 6pm)

November 19th
FOWA: Meliesa
Judge
Sculpture twilight
walk and talk

November 20th
FWCR: Grass Walk
by Peter Lang
(9am - noon) free.

President's Report

I was honoured to be elected as President of the Friends of Urrbrae House at the Annual General Meeting held in May this year. I am following in a line of outstanding past presidents who all made valuable contributions to Urrbrae House. It will be an inspiring challenge to come close to matching the high standards that have been set by my predecessors in the role.

I immediately owe a debt to the past president Dr Bill Wallace and the members of the committee who are a remarkably well organised group that provide great support. I am very pleased that Bill Wallace is remaining on the committee in the active role of secretary. I will certainly be relying heavily on his advice.

I have already had the opportunity to participate in a number of events at Urrbrae House. I have always attended the twilight concerts on a fairly regular basis, but I attended my first as president on May 17th. The wonderful musical programs at the concerts are a joy and it is also interesting to meet the wide range of people who now regularly attend our concerts and make them such a success.

During History Week I was able to talk about my own pet project, researching and writing about Arnold Richardson, the founding Director of the Waite Agricultural Research Institute. I am pleased to report that the booklet is now published and a launch will be scheduled at Urrbrae House. Sales of the booklet will directly benefit the Friends of Urrbrae House. Lynette Zeitz, Manager of the Urrbrae House Historic Precinct spoke at the same event about the new history of the Waite that she is writing. This project is a mammoth task that promises to be a magnificent account of the Waite from the mid 1970s to the present day.

Continued...

Also, during History Week a ‘friends group’ visited Old Government House in Belair National Park. I had seen the building many times but never toured it before. The restoration is impressive and has been achieved by a group of dedicated volunteers. We all appreciated the effort of Vicki Cheshire in organising the visit.

This week I attended a thankyou event for volunteers at Urrbrae House, organised by Amanda Jackson, and was asked to speak. I was pleased to have the opportunity to thank and acknowledge the incredible efforts of a group of retired volunteers who worked with me on collection management at the precinct from 1991 to 2008.

Over the next two months I will be undertaking a dual role at Urrbrae House. Many of you will know that Lynette Zeitz is taking a period of leave from her position until the end of the year. Also the Acting Manager, Sally Owen, will be taking leave for seven weeks from mid August to the end of September. I will be filling in for Sally in my old role as manager whilst she is on leave as well as continuing my new role as president. I expect a hectic but enjoyable two months.

*Yvonne Routledge
President, Friends of Urrbrae House*

Manager’s Musings

Firstly may I introduce myself to those of you that I have not yet met. My name is Sally Owen and I am currently standing in as Manager at Urrbrae House whilst Lynette is on extended leave to complete writing her book.

My first affiliation with Lynette and Urrbrae House was in early 2009 when I began working for the university in the Prospective Students Office. As a result of a chance meeting I became involved with the school’s program and have spent many a happy hour making scones with the wonderful volunteers who make this program such an enjoyable and valuable experience for primary school students. I have also been able to put skills honed over 20 years teaching in the primary sector in the UK into action when called upon to deputise as governess (see picture).



Lynette and I have subsequently worked together on a second program for older primary students, with a focus on plants, the Arboretum, Peter Waite’s legacy and the new Plant Accelerator. Through this continuing association, I was keen to take on the role as manager in Lynette’s absence.

My first few weeks have been hectic. The roof works appear to be coming to an end, the scaffolding should be disappearing in the next couple of weeks and the repairs to the water damaged ceiling papers will take place later in August. Dino and his team of students from TAFE have restored the tables in the main hall to their former glory, and he is to return soon to complete a similar transformation to the bench top in Servery.

Amanda (pictured left) is now resident in her new office. The insulating effects of the powder blue carpet have been very welcome during the recent cold spell! Her former office is now being used by events staff.

Thursday 29th July saw the annual ‘thank you’ morning tea for volunteers of the Waite Historic Precinct. Approximately 50 guests attended and we were able to celebrate the great work and unstinting dedication of the volunteers who make the Waite Historic Precinct such a warm and welcoming place.

History Week Talks

Talks given by Yvonne Routledge and Lynette Zeitz on Monday 24th May in the drawing room at Urrbrae House were entertaining and enthralling.

Yvonne Routledge, in her talk entitled “*The Waite Agricultural Research Institute: Realising Waite’s Vision*” spoke about Arnold Richardson, the first Director of the Institute.

She outlined how Richardson’s leadership skills, sincerity, enthusiasm and communication skills encouraged pastoralists, businesses and scientists to build ‘from the ground up’ the Waite Agricultural Institute. Yvonne noted that Richardson was interested in applied science - a science that appealed to broader rural communities and echoed the sentiments of Peter Waite.

Yvonne’s book is scheduled for launch at an event to be hosted by the Friends of Urrbrae House on Tuesday 21st September at 4pm. Please phone Amanda Jackson Ph 8303 7497 to register for this free event.

Lynette Zeitz spoke on “*The history of ‘The Waite’ - 1960’s to now*”. Her talk covered many of the ‘interesting’ times that the Waite Institute has been through over the past 50 years. From the ‘enchanted’ time of James Melville (1956-1974) through the cutbacks during James Quirk’s era (1974-89) to the restructuring era of Harold Woolhouse (1990 – 1995) and beyond [Malcolm Oades and Geoff Fincher (1996-2005), Simon Maddocks, Edwina Cornish in the new Millenium].

Her talk also explained how the character of the directors and staff formed the basis for how the Waite coped in times of boom and cutbacks. Outlining that she had interviewed 60 staff and former staff, Lynette hinted at the affection that people have for working at ‘the Waite’. She said that cross disciplinary collaboration had been one of the best factors of the Waite Institute. It seems a mammoth task, to put the results of these interviews into a book. We wish Lynette well in her leave from the house, and if the riveting talk is anything to go by, we should all look forward to the finished product.

Vicki Cheshire

Volunteer Profile — Hugh McClelland

Hugh McClelland joined the University of Adelaide in 1996 as Head, Department of Agricultural Business and subsequently was the Director, Graduate School of Management and the University's Manager, International Relations. Prior to his ten years at the University Hugh had been State Manager, Australian Trade Commission [Austrade] and then held various executive roles in the SA Departments of State Development and Agriculture mainly in international trade and development. He was a member of many industry committees including the China and Arab Chambers of Commerce and for 6 years was Secretary of the Rhodes Scholarship Selection Committee. Before coming to Adelaide in 1983 Hugh had had Trade Commissioner postings to Paris [3 years], Fiji [3 years], Algiers [4 years] and Canberra [6 years].



A graduate [B.Com.], University of Melbourne he began his career in 1967 as a teacher of economics at Warrnambool High School, Victoria where he was also Secretary of the Framlingham Aboriginal Settlement Committee. Originally from a family Mallee farm at Sea Lake, Victoria Hugh says he always particularly enjoyed working in the University of Adelaide's Faculty of Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences at the Waite and Roseworthy Campuses. “The University has one of the best centres of excellence in agricultural research and teaching in the world and I was proud to have been part of it” Hugh said, “I also greatly enjoy continuing my association as a member of the Friends of Urrbrae House Committee and in particular to indulging my passion for fine music by helping organise the music recitals in historic Urrbrae House.” In his retirement Hugh likes visiting his son and daughter and 5 grandchildren in Melbourne and Hobart and mentors Iranian migrants and Indian students in Adelaide.

Peter and Matilda Waite – early years at the Paratoo Station

Peter Waite arrived in Australia in July 1859 and joined his brother James at Pandappa Station, near Terowie. In 1862 with the financial assistance of Thomas Elder, Peter took over the adjoining Paratoo Station. In March 1863, Peter's brother James was drowned while attempting to cross a flooded creek on horseback and Peter took over Pandappa Station. Peter's fiancée Matilda Methuen arrived in Adelaide in November 1864 and after their marriage on 21st November they journeyed to Paratoo. Their first child Agnes was born in January 1866 followed by James in September 1867. Three years of drought in the region from 1864 -1866 was one of the worst ever recorded in South Australia. Late in 1865, at the height of the drought, George Goyder (Surveyor General) travelled more than 5000km on horseback in the north of the Colony. He made notes as to the type of vegetation and condition of the soils and defined a line on the map beyond which he considered the land unsuitable for cropping.

A RUN UP TO THE DRY COUNTRY

Extracts from an item in a supplement to the Adelaide Observer – June 1867.

'On Saturday June 22nd 1867 I was somewhat unexpectedly to make a journey into the dry country of the North-East. A meeting of the settlers to discuss their grievances was to be held at Tetulpa and I was deputed by the proprietors of the *Register* and *Observer* to attend the meeting and report on the proceedings. The only means by which I could reach the station in time for the meeting was to leave town by the early train and join the North -Eastern mail at Kapunda.

About 10 o'clock the coach with a full compliment of passengers started for Burra. This road is well known and I need not describe it here. In fact it is better known than liked by those who have to travel on it. After the heavy rains it was sloppy and sticky. The Burra was reached in good time, and I was soon comfortably housed in Lamb's Hotel and enjoying the ample provision which the thoughtful landlady had made for weary, cold and hungry wayfarer.'

The next morning the coach departed at 5am, breakfast was taken at the Mount Bryan Inn and then the horses were changed seven miles further on. Horses were changed again at Gottlieb's Wells and then at Parnaroo where lunch was taken.

'From Parnaroo to Paratoo is the last stage in the day's journey, and it is a long one of 30 miles. With a fine team of horses we started about 10'clock and soon reached the saltbush country with a little green herbage here and there. Whole miles of countryside were covered with dead saltbush, the result of the long-continued drought. Happily however, it is springing up afresh and bids fair to be plentiful this year. Its presence is a singular provision of nature. Without the saltbush in that dry country it would be impossible to carry on pastoral operations. However much grass there might be in the winter the fierce heat of the winter soon withers it, and it crumbles away to dust. It is then that the saltbush comes in useful. The sheep eat it heartily, and when good water is available they thrive on it moderately well. As we travelled on I soon saw what difficulties the squatters in such a country have to contend with even in favourable seasons.

About 5 o'clock we came in sight of Paratoo the head station of the Pandappa and Paratoo runs where Mr Peter Waite, the proprietor of the runs resides. The homestead is a comfortable one, pleasantly situated between two hills, and consists of the usual buildings to be found on a head station – the woolshed, as a matter of course being the most imposing edifice of the whole. Here I received a hearty welcome from the proprietor and his excellent wife, who by their kindness made me feel at home at once. The house though comfortable, and with a certain air of refinement and elegance about it, which suggested the presence of a lady, was small and would have been larger and better, as I was told, had it not been for Goyder's valuations, and the fact there was no security that the settlers would be allowed to purchase the freehold of the head stations at the expiry of their leases; and they didn't care about spending money on improvements for which there is no prospect of their being paid when their leases run out.

Continued...

The next day we rode over several miles of the run, visiting some of the flocks and seeing what were the best parts of the country; and bad was the best. I found it utterly impossible to approach with many degrees the pitch of enthusiasm with which Mr. Waite spoke of the improved state of the run since the previous year. To me it seemed a country miserable beyond description but Mr. Waite saw it in other eyes. He knew what I did not know – how it had looked during the last two years, and out of the gladness of his heart he spoke of it’.

Text item sourced by Bernard Arnold and prepared for the Newsletter by Bill Wallace.

Winds at Urrbrae House

It was indeed a Pleasant Sunday Afternoon on 2 May when we were entertained by six students and recent graduates of the Elder Conservatorium of Music. Flautists Anna Cooper and Nicole Pearce were joined by the recently formed The Eclectic Trio, clarinetists Charise Altmann, Anna Coleman and Amanda Lovelock and by pianist Larissa Schneider. Once again the excellence of the Elder Con. was on show with a widely diverse range of music which included works by Bach, Bizet, Widor Hindemith, Carulli. A highlight was the intriguing 'B-bouncing for Three Clarinets' by Andrew Shultz and a stunning performance by Anna Cooper of Bach's Partita in A minor. We are most grateful to Anna Cooper, Principal Flautist of the Adelaide Youth Orchestra and the Elder Conservatorium Orchestra for arranging the programme.



Anna Coleman, Charise Altmann, Amanda Lovelock, Anna Cooper, Nicole Pearce, Larissa Schneider

Hugh McClelland.

Songs of Life and Love

In a most welcome return to Urrbrae House at the Twilight Concert on 17 May, renowned soprano Emma Horwood was joined by equally acclaimed guitarist Aleksandr Tsiboulski in a stunning programme of contemporary and renaissance music. In an added dimension to the concert Emma had provided the words of most of songs for the audience to follow. Highlights were marvellous French folksongs [sung in impeccable French!] arranged by Mattyas Seybar and extremely beautiful English folksongs by John Dowland and Robert Johnson. Aleksandr, demonstrating his complete mastery of the classical guitar mesmerised the audience with his playing of John Dowland's 'Lachrymae Pavan'. The concert concluded with the two performers in complete harmony with Manuel de Falla's Seven Spanish Folksongs.



Aleksandr Tsiboulski Emma Horwood

For those wanting to continue to enjoy these musicians they have released a CD 'Songs of Life and Love' and other CDs separately-- available through good music stores. The concert was arranged by our collaborator, Vivente Music.

Hugh McClelland.

Vivente Music Concert

Performing at a Vivente Music twilight concert on 21 June were ASO Principal Clarinetist Dean Newcomb, ASO violinist Alison Heike and pianist, Kristian Chong in an enthralling programme of works by Stravinsky, Chopin, Mozart and Bartok. These highly acclaimed musicians delighted a capacity audience in the Urrbrae House Drawing Room.

Hugh McClelland



Dean Newcomb, Alison Heike, Kristian Chong



The Book Club at Urrbrae House generally meets at lunchtime on the last Monday of the month.

New members are welcome.

Books are provided from Burnside Library, and discussions are informal.

Please contact Sally Owen if you are interested 8303 7425.

Can you help? Fundraising: This is a preliminary notice,

We are calling for intentions to donate goods to be used in a Silent Auction to be held later this year or in 2011; funds go to FOUH projects for Urrbrae House. Gifts may be art works, hand crafted items, donation of goods (wine is always a favorite), or a business donation - a 'service' that your business can provide (e.g. a mowing voucher from your gardening business, or a free night at your bed and breakfast). All donations will be acknowledged.

For enquiries please contact Samantha Crozer 04 1048 7668

Events to Look Forward to:

Saturday, 28th August, 7.30pm to 11pm: Supper Dance at Urrbrae House

7.30 pm - 11.00 pm **Tickets still available - selling fast!**

Music by 'The Offsiders' **with** easy to follow dances with instruction provided. Make up a group (6-10) or join a group. BYO supper and drinks. Tea and coffee supplied. Casual clothes - No stilettos please.

Admission Adults \$25 Students/Children \$15 (Children 8+ years only)

Bookings essential: please call 8379 1905 or email bill.wallace@adelaide.edu.au

Wednesday, 6th October (Afternoon) Games Day – Fun in 1901 Come and enjoy games from bygone eras; indoor and outdoor games that will have your children amazed at how much fun 'hands on history' can be.

This program during the Spring school holidays is always a sellout.

Please contact Vicki Cheshire 8370 0032 for details, or for pre-booking.

We welcome the following who have joined as Friends since May :

**Kerry Bills
Valma Carty
Bernadette Leach
Paul Lindner, Karen Simpson and
Alexander Lindner**

You can now view this newsletter online at:
<http://www.waite.adelaide.edu.au/urrbraehouse/friends/>