



Newsletter February 2016

The Friends of Urrbrae House

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

Editor Vicki Cheshire

President's Report

Welcome to 2016.

It is 25 years since the Friends of Urrbrae House began. During that time, many functions have been held to raise funds to contribute to furnishing the house; the children's bedroom being the latest along with the new lighting in the ballroom.

Plans are under way for the 2016 concert series. The first one is scheduled for March 7th. The concerts are always popular, so book early. These evenings are also a way to keep in touch with friends old and new.

The combined Friends of the Waite Precinct are planning another Film event in 2016, at the Capri Theatre. It raises funds for our precinct (house, gardens and reserve) and supports our local grand, historic Capri theatre. When the details are arranged we hope that you can get a team of relatives and friends to come along.

During the Fringe, Basketry SA are holding their biennial exhibition in the drawing room and hall. Come and view this exhibition of modern basketry and fibre articles and at the same time if you haven't visited the House recently, have a walk around and see what is happening. The dates for the exhibition are Feb 14th -28th.

The AGM for the Friends of Urrbrae House will soon be upon us. New members are always welcome to the Committee. This is a way to support the Friends of Urrbrae House and to have your say in what activities are planned in the future and how our funds are used within the house.

Joy Middleton.

Dates for your Diary

Monday 7 March: **Twilight Concert, 'Mastery'** 5.30 for 6.00pm

Sunday 17 April: **25th Anniversary Celebration**

Mon 18 April: **Twilight Concert** (Presented by Vivente), 5.30 for 6.00pm

Monday 2 May: **Twilight Concert**, 5.30 for 6.00pm

Monday 30th May **AGM**

Manager's Musings

Exhibition Room redevelopment and Community Museums Program Grant success

In December 2015 we received the great news that the Urrbrae House Historic Precinct had been awarded one of the largest grants in History SA's Community Museums Program (CMP) 2015-2016 round to enable us to redevelop the Peter Waite Exhibition Room. Urrbrae House was awarded nearly \$15,000 which will enable us to refresh the permanent displays and incorporate new material about the Waites unearthed through newspaper research undertaken by our volunteers. The new display room entitled "The Waites of Urrbrae House" will also have sound-boxes, a screen display that will enable visitors who cannot manage stairs to view the downstairs rooms, and improved visitor access (goodbye tripping hazards.)

Thank you to Dr Max Tate

The Waite Campus has many unsung heroes and one of these is Dr Max Tate. Max joined the Waite Agricultural Research Institute in 1964 and he is a long-time supporter of Urrbrae House. For many years Max has quietly organised a special Christmas lunch every December for retired Waite Institute staff at Urrbrae House with the proceeds from these lunches being donated to Urrbrae House. We are very grateful to Max for his many efforts and I would like to take this opportunity to thank him publicly for his kindness and generous spirit.

We're part of the School of Agriculture, Food and Wine

As some Friends may be aware, the University of Adelaide has been undergoing some restructuring. As of 1 January 2016 Urrbrae House and the Waite Arboretum are now part of the School of Agriculture, Food and Wine which is based at the Waite Campus. We are looking forward to working more closely with the Dean of the Waite, Professor Michael (Mike) Keller, and School Manager, Stuart Matthews in coming days.

Visiting students

We get many high school and tertiary student groups visiting Urrbrae House during the course of a year. Most recently, the School of Agriculture, Food and Wine has been hosting a group of 27 oenology and horticulture undergraduate students from the Northwest A&F University (Yangling, China) during February. We were delighted that the students' first day on the campus was spent exploring the Waite Arboretum with Dr Jennifer Gardner in the morning (where two local koalas obligingly made an appearance for the visitors) and learning about Urrbrae House in the afternoon. In addition to sharing our history and the early years of the Waite Agricultural Research Institute, the students were treated to an Aussie afternoon tea in the Dining Room where they got to sample Anzac biscuits, lamingtons, Tim tams and honeycomb.

SA History Festival

Urrbrae House is again be taking part in the South Australian History Festival during May. "The Door is Open at Urrbrae House" will enable visitors to explore the house at their leisure on Sunday, 1 May from 1pm-4pm. Historic Waite Campus (including Urrbrae House) tours will be offered on Thursday, 12 May and Tuesday, 31 May at 10am-12noon to give the public a greater understanding of the Waite's unique history and heritage.

Many people have heard about Goyder's line but lesser known is George Goyder's role in forestry innovation in Australia. Dr Lizzie Summerfield will speak at Urrbrae House on Wednesday, 11 May at 4pm-5.30pm about Goyder's leadership and skills in forestry management, and their relevance to tackling complex environmental problems today. This free Cultural Conversation is being presented by University Collections in conjunction with Urrbrae House.

Carol Concert Vocalize Choir

On Sunday afternoon 29th November, the Ballroom of Urrbrae House was well filled for a very interesting program of Christmas Carols by the Vocalize Choir. This Community Choir from the Marion area was formed in 2012 under the direction of Kerrie Polkinghorne.



Sandra Morrison who is a member of our Committee participated in the above event with thirty other of her fellow choir members.



After enjoying refreshments in the Main Hall the concert opened with a quartet singing the 'Coventry Carol' in the Minstrels' gallery and the full choir joining in later from the Ballroom area below. The audience then took their seats in the Ballroom for the remainder of the concert.

In addition to well-known traditional Carols the program included 'Iona', a song that pays homage to the worst Viking attack on this Scottish Isle on Christmas night in 806AD when 68 monks were killed. 'African Alleluia' was accompanied with bongo and hand drum.

There were two solo performances including 'Ave Maria' performed by Kerrie Polkinghorne and Heidi Schultz on saxophone and piano.

Proceeds from the Concert were shared between the Vocalize Choir and the Friends of Urrbrae House. The members of the Vocalize Choir and their family and friends were delighted with the atmosphere of Urrbrae House and many are intending to return for a tour.



Bill Wallace

Schools Program Anniversary - recollections

The Schools program celebrates 10 years later this year (if you count the pilot program). I am lucky to be a founding member: I participated in the pilot program in 2005. Yvonne Routledge and Peggy Rowe recruited St Joseph's school to help assess the validity of a 'living history' program; Janet Miller was invaluable in planning. The students found it worthwhile, entertaining, and historically sound; the teachers were amazed how much history their children remembered from the two hours experience. As the program progressed into 2006 I helped sew a few aprons and pinafores for the students to wear. We dressed in gowns that were suitable yet rudimentary. Volunteers were few.

Over the years this program has gone from strength to strength... there is an ever-growing waiting list for schools wanting to attend, and there are many volunteers who absolutely love participating and wearing the clothes of the era. I admit that it is the highlight of my week; I love seeing the children's expressions as they spend two hours living in 1892 (when the house was just one year old). Students imbibe history by interacting with the volunteers and staff who explain about and immerse them in the daily life and etiquette of the times. Because the children are separated into 3 groups: servants, visiting students from families with social standing in the community, and wealthy landowner guests of Mr and Mrs Waite, they have a differing experience. They then return to the classroom to compare their morning. The well-chosen activities (separate to each group) are appropriate for their place in the hierarchy of a grand home in 1892. Lynette Zeitz, Amanda Jackson and Ilonka McInnes have added their own interpretations to this program, all to good effect. I am still here ten years later and hope to be here in another ten years.

Vicki Cheshire

Combined Christmas for the Friends of the Waite Precinct

Those who gathered at Urrbrae House for the Christmas Party on Monday evening 7th December had a very pleasant time. With the maximum temperature being 38.5C that day it was not surprising that the attendance was smaller than usual.

Beth Johnstone, the President of the Friends of the Waite Arboretum welcomed all and especially thanked the volunteers from all groups who put in many hours of hard work and dedication. You may recognize a few well-known people in the following photos:



Lynette Zeitz, Glen Woodward



Allan Woodman



Lyn MacKay, Anthony Cheshire

Vicki Cheshire

Volunteer profiles: Ramute Stankevicius

Ramute is a recent addition to the Urrbrae House Committee; as a general member she had the good grace to come forward when further committee members were requested. We are pleased that she did. She has owned her own successful accounting business “I Clean up your Paperwork” for over twenty years, and brings some special skills to the Committee.

You may have guessed from her name that Ramute comes from a Lithuanian heritage. After becoming involved with the Baltic States community in Adelaide she has been on several committees and is currently on the board of ‘Amber Aged Care’, a facility providing high quality aged care to the South Australian community who work to provide their residents with a culturally diverse and meaningful environment and especially to those with an Estonian, Latvian or Lithuanian heritage.



Ramute regards Urrbrae House as a “wonderful facility that needs to be treasured and kept for South Australia”. As a proud member of the wider community around Adelaide she is interested to see who attends the functions. She said that: “life can be so insular, with a small circle of family and friends. It is good to be a part of the wider community”.

Her aim is to continue being wholeheartedly involved with Urrbrae House functions for the Committee.

She is a great asset to the Urrbrae House committee – her hard work and attention to detail is always accompanied by a beaming smile and good-natured attitude.

Vicki Cheshire

Contact with members – postal delivery or email?

With the recent increase in postal charges and extended delivery period we would prefer to have contact with members, where appropriate, **by email**. Many of you are already receiving notices and the newsletter via email and we thank you. Those who are still receiving via Australia Post, we request that you consider email as a mode of receiving messages from us.

We fully appreciate that many of our members prefer contact **by post** and we will be pleased to continue mailing to you.

In some cases members are happy to receive notices by email but get a paper copy of the Newsletter or vice versa. On the Membership Renewal Form you will see that you have the option to choose, please tick the boxes accordingly. It is also a great time for us to correctly update your details.

Anyone can access past and current Newsletters at:

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

You can also pay your memberships online using bank transfer; BSB details are on the form. Please don't forget to identify yourself by NAME when doing this transfer.

If you have further enquiries on this matter contact either:

Peggy Rowe 8277 1426 peggy.rowe1@bigpond.com

Bill Wallace 8332 6495 billwallace01@gmail.com

Friends of Urrbrae House AGM

On Monday 30th May the Friends of Urrbrae House will be hosting the 2016 AGM. Before this you will receive a nomination form inviting you to put forward your name to become a member of the committee. Our aim is to support Urrbrae House via community engagement and raising funds to assist in restoration and development of this wonderful home of the Waite family.

Concerts in the Ballroom – procedural matters

The grand Ballroom will be the venue for most of our concerts again this year. This location, whilst one of the best rooms in the house comes with issues and some 'housekeeping' needs to be done.

Food and drink are not permitted in the lower floor.

There is no disabled access to the lower floor; the only way to and from the concert area is via the main staircase.

Children under 5 years of age are not permitted due to exiting via the main stairs where noise will carry in to the performance.

Access to the stairs and the lower area of the house before the concert will be restricted to musicians and event coordinators.

Prior to each concert we will invite the elderly and those needing assistance to move down the stairs first. Aabled people will NOT be permitted to follow until these persons are in the ballroom.

Our concerts are usually booked out - a waiting list is setup, please contact the person listed on the promotional material if you cannot attend. This way we can provide your seat to someone wishing to attend.

We know that you will respect our new guidelines in order to keep everyone safe, and continue to enjoy our concerts utilizing the beautiful grand piano and the extra space for performers in the magnificent Ballroom at Urrbrae House.

Scottish Diaspora Tapestry

This is a project to involve communities around the world in celebration of Scottish heritage and culture and the people and places that connect Scotland in its global diaspora.

The creation of the tapestry was coordinated by the Prestoungrange Arts Festival Trust. Prestoungrange is a small town ten miles east of Edinburgh on the East Lothian coastline. Their earlier Battle of Prestonpans Tapestry depicts part of Jacobite campaign of 1745 and was inspired by the Norman Bayeux Tapestry.

Based on the stories supplied of the lives of Scots, who had emigrated to all parts of the world, outline designs were provided by Prestoungrange Arts Festival Trust. Volunteer stitchers then completed the panels in their local communities. This approach ensured an artistic consistency to the overall project although individual interpretation was encouraged in the use of stitches and colours, to reflect local traditions. Rosemary McKay coordinated the South Australian input including the original suggestion of panels and oversight of the stitch work.

Each panel is 50 x 50cm and the display of 305 panels extends 160 metres. The panels portray the ventures of Scots in twenty-five countries. Of the forty-one panels contributed by Australia twelve are from South Australia. Three of these in a group featured John Mc Douall Stuart, Thomas Elder and Peter Waite all of whom came from Kirkcaldy.



The other three in the same group featured Scots who had a major role in the settlement of the Goolwa and Murray River area. Panels also portrayed Catherine Helen Spence, Mary MacKillop and Eric Bogle.

The tapestry was on display in the foyer of Burnside Library in the first two weeks of December and was opened by the Governor, the Honourable Hieu Van Le AO.

The diaspora tapestry has already toured Scotland, Scandinavia, The Netherlands, France and Italy is now continuing its tour of Australia and New Zealand before going to North America later in the year.



You can view the tapestry and look up the story for each panel at:

www.scottishdiasporatapestry.org/thetapestry

Bill Wallace

Restructuring within the University.

Within the University, Urrbrae House has been transferred to the School of Agriculture Food and Wine in the Waite Campus of the University of Adelaide. <http://www.agwine.adelaide.edu.au> Although you may not see much change in the programs of the Friends groups, we see this as a great opportunity to encourage more involvement from those on the Waite Campus. Any members of the campus are welcome to ask about activities at Urrbrae House.

Events to look forward to:

March 7th Twilight Concert 'Mastery' 5.30 for 6pm Elizabeth Layton (Violin) Konstantin Shamray (Piano) will perform *Pierre de Brèveville Violin Sonata No1 in C# minor* in the magnificent Urrbrae House Ballroom (access via stairs only, children under 5 not permitted). Refreshments served prior. Cost \$20 refreshments included. Bookings reservation: Peggy Rowe 8277 1426 peggy.rowe1@bigpond.com leave a message including your name and phone 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**.

April 17th Sunday FOUH 25th Anniversary Celebration 4-6pm The Friends of Urrbrae House invite you to celebrate this milestone. What a journey it has been, creating our own part of the history for the Waite Precinct! A flyer outlining details will be sent to you closer to the date.

April 18th Monday Twilight Concert presented by Vivente Music **5.30 for 6pm** TBA

May 2nd Twilight Concert **5.30 for 6pm** TBA

May 30th FOUH AGM Guest speaker and a celebration of the past year. TBA



Did you know that an informal book club is held in the beautiful dining room at Urrbrae House once a month? Usually the third 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

Position vacant: Nominations requested

Vicki Cheshire is retiring from editing this newsletter after 7 years in the position. We are hoping for a volunteer to assist in producing the other three newsletters for this year. There is a template to use, and it is a relatively simple word document; or you can create your own style.

Articles are provided from various members on the committee. Help with photocopying and emailing is provided by staff and members of the committee. Can you help?

Please phone Joy Middleton (8277 1868) or Vicki Cheshire (8370 0032) to discuss.

We welcome people who wish to become members of the Friends of Urrbrae House. Could you please recommend us to your friends, neighbours and family?

More forms can be found at:
http://www.adelaide.edu.au/waite-historic/friends/urrbraehouse/pdf/fou_h_membership_application.pdf

This newsletter can be found at
<http://www.adelaide.edu.au/waite-historic/friends/urrbraehouse/newsletters/>