



URRBRAE HOUSE

The Friends of Urrbrae House

Urrbrae House, University of Adelaide, Waite Campus, PMB#1 GLEN OSMOND, SA 5064. Tel 83037497

Editor Vicki Cheshire

Dates for your Diary

May 17th
Twilight Concert -sold out
(5.30 for 6pm)

May 19th
'Ripping Bat Stories'
7.30pm (See p 7)

History Week Events
See back page

July 19th
Twilight Concert
(5.30 for 6pm)

August 9th
Twilight Concert
(5.30 for 6pm)

August 28th
Supper Dance

October 6th
Games Day - Fun in 1901



Yvonne Routledge and Bill Wallace

New Committee 2010-2011

At the 18th AGM of the Friends of Urrbrae House on Monday evening 10th May the following committee members were elected:

President – Yvonne Routledge

Vice President – Joyleen Middleton

Secretary – Bill Wallace

Treasurer – Lyn MacKay

Newsletter Editor – Vicki Cheshire

Other Members – Di Coffey, Kate Courier, Hazel Douglas, Hugh McClelland, Samantha Croser, Elma Lippett, Sally Owen.

The guest speaker at the AGM was Rose Mitchell who gave a very interesting talk on Mary Cudmore. Mary and Daniel Cudmore arrived in Adelaide in 1837 from Ireland after a year in Van Diemens Land. During the next thirty years, when Daniel took up sheep runs near Port Augusta and later along the Murray and Darling Rivers, it was a very hard life for Mary looking after the family in circumstances which included the shearing area also being used as the living quarters. What a joy it would have been for her when they bought 'Hartley Bank' at Glen Osmond in 1865, rebuilding it and renaming it 'Claremont'.

Rose also gave an interesting account of the earlier history of 'Hartley Bank' and the role of its first owner Alfred Hardy in the initial settlement of Adelaide.

Mary and Daniel lived at 'Claremont' until their deaths in the early 1890's. In 1913 Peter Waite bought the property to add it to the estate he was to leave to the University of Adelaide. Until recent, staff of the Waite and University lived at 'Claremont'. Rose finished her presentation showing pictures taken when she and Lynette Zeitz recently visited 'Claremont' and discussed the challenge ahead for some appropriate preservation of this important historical site



Lyn MacKay and Rose Mitchell



Manager's Musings ***Autumn highs and lows***

One of the very enjoyable aspects of being the Manager of Urrbrae House is that I get to welcome community groups as visitors to the house. Given Peter Waite's interest in and purchase of



early motor vehicles, I was particularly pleased to be able to talk about Peter Waite and the history of Urrbrae House at the March meeting of the Veteran Car Club of South Australia which caters for those interested in cars and motorcycles manufactured prior to January 1919. This club (whose membership co-incidentally includes Dudley Pinnock, a former professor at the Waite Agricultural Research Institute) subsequently visited Urrbrae House on 7 March on one of their monthly road runs, during which members can "stretch the legs" of their favourite veteran car or motorcycle. It was a wonderful sight to see our driveway filled with veteran cars.

As foreshadowed in the last newsletter, restoration work has been continuing in Urrbrae House. A new site manager, Evan Kellaris, was appointed in February by Built Environs to oversee this work. Evan has been extremely helpful, working with us to minimise disruption to our booked events while the restoration work is undertaken. One of the recent highs has been the completion of the conversion of the former photocopying room as a new Reception Office. Amanda will be moving into her new light-filled office this month. Additionally, repairs to the cracked ceilings and repainting of the eastern passageways on the ground floor have been completed. What a difference this has made to the aesthetics of these areas. Work is continuing on the roof and gutters on the eastern side of the house and above the Main Hall.



Unfortunately, the vagaries of our autumn weather produced one of the lows of this month. A heavy, windy downpour on 4 May resulted in water damage to two of the ceiling paper panels on the southern side of the Main Hall. Immediate action was taken to minimise the impact of the water with valuable advice being provided by heritage consultant, Kate McDougall, and Eugene Taddeo from Artlab Australia. Conservation work will be undertaken by Artlab on the ceiling papers once the current building work above the Main Hall is completed.

Friends of Urrbrae House Committee

The Friends' AGM with its election of new office bearers and committee members is always a time of mixed emotions: sadness as people leave and happy anticipation as others step forward to join the Committee. I would particularly like to acknowledge the work of Bill Wallace over the last three years as President of the FOUH. As Manager, I have found Bill's support invaluable. He has been untiring in his efforts as President and quite simply has "made things happen". Fortunately, Bill's energy and enthusiasm have not been lost to the Committee as he now takes up the position of Secretary.

I am sure that many members of the Friends will share my delight in welcoming Yvonne Routledge as the new President of Friends of Urrbrae House. For newer members who may not know Yvonne, from 1991 to early 2008 she was the curator/manager of Urrbrae House. Yvonne was responsible for overseeing the establishment and development of the house as a museum and through her efforts Urrbrae House received full museum accreditation in 2007 with the then History Trust of South Australia (now History SA). Yvonne's wealth of experience is accompanied by a great love of Urrbrae House and I trust she will enjoy her new role as President.

Address at AGM by Dr Bill Wallace, President 2007 – 2010.

In the mid 1960's, as a student in plant physiology at Queen's University in Belfast I read frequently about research work at the Waite Agricultural Research Institute, in particular the work of Arthur Petrie, Les Paleg and Lance May. Fortunately I was later able to gain a Post Doctoral Fellowship and subsequently a lectureship in the Department of Agricultural Biochemistry at the Waite.

Coming from the green hills of Ireland I have still to find the 'Glen' in Glen Osmond but have been very privileged to be part of the broad range of research on Agricultural Science on the Campus and enjoy the friendly camaraderie between staff and students, with many of the graduate students coming from a broad range of overseas countries.

When a PhD student at Queen's and attending conferences in England I met Harold Woolhouse and was challenged by his penetrating questions on the validity and significance of the papers that students like myself were presenting. Since we had a similar research interest, Harold became a close friend and I was very pleased when he accepted the position of Director of the Waite Institute in 1990.

I admired Harold for the way he refocused the vision of the Waite Institute within the funding limitations of the period and national reorganisation of the University structures that was occurring. As Friends of Urrbrae House we will forever be grateful to Harold for designating the Urrbrae House Precinct and setting in motion procedures for appointment of Curators of the House and Arboretum and gardens as well as setting up Friends Groups.

Thus set against the initial vision of Peter Waite, his very generous benefaction to establish the Waite Agricultural Research Institute, the privilege of spending most of my career at the Institute plus the new challenges Harold Woolhouse gave us I have been keen to make the best contribution possible in the past three years as President of the Friends of Urrbrae House.

We are very fortunate to have such a unique venue for our functions and whether it be the Twilight Concert Series, a bush dance or a games day for children and their families a key part for all who attend is the enjoyment of being in such a magnificent mansion. Those performing at our concerts comment very favourably on the acoustics and ambience of the Drawing Room and the appreciation expressed for their performance by the audience.

In October we had a musical afternoon treat in the Ballroom when the Lumina Vocal Ensemble, an a cappella choir treated us, with one of the two concerts to celebrate their 10th anniversary; a performance of mediaeval, early renaissance and contemporary repertoire.

The past year has been very successful one with most of our events booked to capacity and I would like to acknowledge the willing work of all the committee members in the planning of these and ensuring they run smoothly. There is a great atmosphere in the Entrance Hall before the Twilight Concerts and an important contributing factor to this is the welcome from members of the Committee and refreshments provided.

From the profit of our events we have been building up reserves for a major project in the planning; the renovation of two of the bedrooms in the lower level; one of these as a bedroom of a 12 year old in 1892, the age that Eva the youngest Waite child was in that year. Meantime we have contributed funds to the restoration of the bell system and colour reproductions of the original elevation drawings for Urrbrae House.

During the year we were greatly saddened by the sudden death of our Committee Secretary Graham Campbell. We greatly miss his carefully considered opinions, wisdom and humour. I would like to thank Joy Middleton for taking over as acting Secretary.

I also wish to acknowledge the support and encouragement I had from Elma Lippett as Vice President, the thorough work Lyn MacKay does as Treasurer and the creativity of Vicki Cheshire in making our Newsletter interesting.

As we move to elect our committee for the year ahead I wish to acknowledge the valued service of two of our members who have indicated they are not available for re-election:

David Bailey has been a member of the committee since 2003 during which time he was a very willing helper at social events and doing so in style at the drinks table.

Colin Jenner has been a member of the committee since 1998 and prior to that a member of the Urrbrae House Management Committee that set up the new structures for the use of Urrbrae House. Colin's extensive link with Urrbrae House as well as his continuing link with the Faculty meant he could maintain a good overview of the work of the Committee with respect to the Faculty and University.

I would like to thank Lynette Zeitz, Manager of the Urrbrae House Historic Precinct for her contribution to the work of the Committee as an ex officio member and overall encouragement of our activities. We also appreciate the assistance of Amanda Jackson (Urrbrae House Coordinator) with event bookings and overseeing the set up of furniture etc for events.

Finally I would like to thank you all as Friends of Urrbrae House for your valuable support with your membership payments and additional donations as well as your attendance and appreciation of the functions we have arranged. Your committee is always open to suggestions and ideas from members for new events to extend our program and cater for as broad a range of interests as possible.

Bill Wallace

An experience as a volunteer (or from aprons to newsletters)

Please allow me to introduce myself, Vicki Cheshire, the current Newsletter editor for FOUH. I came to be involved in volunteering at Urrbrae House through a friend (Janet Miller) who spoke about setting up the Schools' program. In 2006 she asked me in if I could sew a few aprons for the school children who would be visiting Urrbrae House, I can sew rudimentary items and thought a few barbeque-type aprons for 10year olds would not be too hard to do. So, long story made short: I have since helped make or buy most of the Victorian-era clothes that are worn by the volunteers, staff and children in the schools' program. I first had to do considerable research looking at styles and fabrics used; all of this was very new to me I am not a 'history person'. After agreement with Yvonne Routledge as to the dress of the era (1892 Australia) I was advised by Alison Stephenson that the State Opera was having a sale of their theatrical costumes and we both went along. It was quite a day, unbeknownst to us we had to battle with many traders who were there buying for stalls and costume shops. Our genteel nature at the beginning of the day was overridden by the other buyers who reminded me of the opening day of the January sales in Rundle Mall! (Let me tell you that I do NOT partake in the January sales — just the thought of battling elbows at sales tables sends me into apoplexy). So there we were, hanging onto extremely voluminous garments with one arm, whilst searching through racks with costumes from Carmen, the Marriage of Figaro, the Barber of Seville, but to name a few, all the while warding off glances from nearby shoppers! Needless to say, we returned triumphant, with some beautiful garments.

Little did I know that this experience would lead me to become a member for The Friends or Urrbrae House and now a part the executive committee as the Newsletter Editor. As with many volunteering experiences, your commitment goes beyond what you first volunteered for. I thoroughly enjoy being the Newsletter Editor as many of the committee write their articles and layout is a task I enjoy. Bill Wallace writes many articles and proofreads. Hugh McClelland supplies articles and photos about the concerts. Besides the Manager's Musings, I can always count on help and last-minute photos from Lynette Zeitz, and Amanda Jackson facilitates putting it onto the Urrbrae House website. Thank you to all who complemented the last issue; having it printed in colour gives an added level of professionalism. I am proud to be elected for another year in this executive role and hope that you continue to enjoy the Friends of Urrbrae House Newsletter.

Vicki Cheshire



Vicki as Governess for the school's program in a "Victorian era costume" from the State Opera

Use of the Urrbrae Estate by the 28th Battery of the 6th Field Artillery Brigade in 1915

In the November Newsletter (2009) we posed the question as to why an Honor Roll for the 18th Battery of the 6th Field Artillery Brigade was on display in the Billiard Room at Urrbrae House.

In July 1915 the 2nd Division of the Australian Imperial Forces was being formed in Egypt and required an artillery component.

A battery, to be known as the 18th Battery / 6th Field Artillery Brigade, was formed in South Australia. This was the first and only complete Field Artillery Battery to go on active service from South Australia.

Lt Col David Brook, who has studied the history of the above artillery unit, has now provided us with the following information on Peter Waite's early association with it.

“Mitcham Camp site, now the suburb of Colonel Light Gardens was established soon after the outbreak of World War 1 and extended quite a way to the east, particularly the training area as distinct from the accommodation site. When the 18th Battery was formed, it required a larger area because of the need for horse lines and stabling, a gun park and manoeuvre area apart from the normal troop tent lines, kitchens, messes, latrines and ablution blocks. Initially the battery was located in the SE section of the camp but on 3rd September 1915 it moved to Peter Waite's property. The unit history just states that it moved to Glen Osmond and quarters were in the old stables, coach houses and the lofts.”

Thus we can assume that the Honor Roll for the first year in service of the 18th Battery / 6th Field Artillery Brigade in Europe was presented to Peter Waite in appreciation of the use of his estate. There is also a photograph of the artillery unit on display in the Billiard Room. When David Brook and his wife Jan recently visited Urrbrae House he told us the photograph, one he had not seen, was taken prior to the Artillery Unit leaving for Egypt from Melbourne on 22nd November 1915.

In the earlier Newsletter item on the Honor Roll it should have been acknowledged that Richard Wells framed it so it could be displayed in Urrbrae House.

Bill Wallace



Oscar Jones: 1928 - 2010

Oscar Jones who died on 5th April, aged 82, was the Chief Administrative Officer of the Waite Agricultural Research Institute from 1971 until the merger with Roseworthy Agricultural College in 1991. He then served as the Registrar of the Waite and Roseworthy Campuses until his retirement in 1993.

Oscar spent his childhood at Harrow, Middlesex in England and won a scholarship to Oxford graduating in 1949 with a BA (Honours Mathematics) and then an MA in 1953. He had a long and distinguished career in the educational section of the Royal Navy between 1949 and 1967 rising to the rank of Commander. As a former Friend of Urrbrae House, Oscar's piano playing at functions is recalled with much pleasure.

We extend our sympathy to his wife Barbara and their family.

As Time Goes By

The 2010 Urrbrae House concert season opened splendidly on 15th March with a programme performed by a quartet comprising Minas and Erna Berberyan [violins], Michael Robertson [viola] and Cameron Waters [cello], all members of the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra.

The first half of the concert was a performance of Mozart's String Quartet No 15 in d minor and was followed two wonderfully lyrical short pieces by Boccherini, Massenet's haunting Meditation from the opera, Thais, Saint Saens' wickedly entertaining Danse Macabre and the jaunty Suite Irish Sherry by O'Carolan.

It was a well balanced and very satisfying programme. It was fitting that the first concert of the year was by these highly talented players as the Berberyan's are the principals of Vivente Music which arranges many of the annual concerts on behalf of the Friends of Urrbrae House Committee. They are indeed most valued collaborators.



Erna Berberyan, Minas Berberyan, Michael Robertson, Cameron Waters

HughMcClelland.

Handel At Urrbrae

If ever there is an instrument that so suits the ambience of Urrbrae House it is the harp.

At the Twilight Concert on 19th April, American trained Suzanne Handel, Principal Harpist, Adelaide Symphony Orchestra was joined by Elder Conservatorium flautist, Assoc Prof Elizabeth Koch OAM and ASO violinist, Minas Berberyan for an enchanting programme of mainly French chamber music.



Minas Berberyan, Elizabeth Koch, Suzanne Handel.

The programme comprised Jacques Ibert's [1890-1962] "Deux interludes", the " L'enfance du Christ" by prolific composer, writer and atheist, Hector Berlioz [1803-69] who once said of equally prolific Camille Saint-Saens [1835-1921] 'He knows everything, but lacks inexperience'. Minas and Suzanne gave a marvellous rendition of Saint-Saens' "Fantaisie in A for violin and harp Op. 124" which was followed by the ensemble playing "Morceau de Concours" by Gabriel Faure [1845-1924]. Faure had been an organ student of Saint-Saens and like his master was a composer, organist, pianist and teacher.

The concert concluded with a tour de force, the "Suite for flute, violin and harp, Op.6" by Sir Eugene Goossens [1893- 1962]. Goossens was born into a distinguished European musical family, both his father and grandfather having been composers and conductors. Goossens came to Australia in 1947 after much success conducting US orchestra. He was appointed Principal Conductor, Sydney Symphony Orchestra and was concurrently Director, NSW Conservatorium of Music. he was involved in the early planning of the Sydney Opera house insisting that it be sited at Bennelong Point. Following a major personal scandal he resigned his positions and returned to England in 1956. Nevertheless, in recognition of his major contribution to music in Australia the ABC named its concert hall and recording facility in Sydney, the 'Eugene Goossens Hall' Concerts on ABC Classic FM are frequently broadcast from the hall. Goossens left a major legacy of fine music making in Australia.

The concert was arranged and presented by Vivente Music of which Minas Berberyan is the principal.

HughMcClelland

Introducing the Friends of the Waite Conservation Reserve

Don't know where Waite Conservation Reserve is? Come on, I'll show you. Climb with me up onto the Urrbrae House roof, face Waite Road, then turn 45 degrees towards the hills. There it is – those wooded foothills immediately beyond the campus buildings. For a closer look simply drive up Hartley Grove as far as you can, enter through the gate and follow the walking trail up Wild Dogs Glen into the heart of the Reserve. Walk 5 minutes and you have amazing views back over the city; walk 10 and the city disappears with nothing to indicate there are a million people living just back over the hill.

The reserve is 147 hectares of mostly Grey Box woodland punctuated with Blue Gum and Drooping Sheoak and dissected by Red Gum creek valleys.

Grey Box is a threatened vegetation community in Australia and Waite Conservation Reserve has pretty much the biggest and best slab of it left in South Australia, of which we are all very proud!

Under the open canopy of Eucalyptus trees, the Reserve supports a fabulous abundance of native species of shrubs, ground covers and grasses. Many of these may be known to you ... Christmas bush, golden wattle, chocolate lily, native lilac, native ranunculus and kangaroo grass, to name just a few. Many others are less well known, but are ecologically important.

Along with Friends of Urrbrae House and Friends of Waite Arboretum, the Friends of Waite Conservation Reserve make up a triumvirate of Friendly groups on the University of Adelaide's Waite campus.

The FWCR are a bunch of good-looking, healthy outdoorsy types fit from climbing hills to control weeds, plant trees and conduct other environmental restoration works.

We warmly invite you to join us on our fortnightly working bees from 9am-12 noon on the first Saturday and third Sunday of each month or at other events – either as a “hands on” visitor, or, if you prefer, as a quiet observer. If you care to phone Meg Byrt [8274 1154] or Joe Haslam [8271 2660], they will be happy to arrange to meet and welcome you on arrival, so you don't have to front up alone.

This year's AGM on 19 May 2010 will feature Terry Reardon who will speak on the bats of the Reserve.

See our website for more details at:

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

Peter Bird, President Elect, Friends of Waite Conservation Reserve



Errol Mizon: 1916 - 2010

Errol died on 12th April 2010 in his 94th year. He spent his career in meteorology including using this expertise when serving with the Royal Australian Air Force in World War II. On resuming his duties with the Bureau of Meteorology after the war he took a BSc at the University of Adelaide majoring in mathematics and physics. From 1970 until his retirement in 1976 he was Director of the Bureau of Meteorology in Melbourne. In recent years we enjoyed Errol's company as a Friend of Urrbrae House. We extend our sympathy to his family.

History Week Events at Urrbrae House and beyond

Sunday, 23rd May, 2.30pm-4.00pm: “*Afternoon tea with Mr. and Mrs. Waite in 1892*” is fully booked, we hope you enjoy this event.

Monday, 24th May, 5.00pm for 5.30pm start: “*The Waite Agricultural Research Institute: Realising Waite’s Vision*”. Yvonne Routledge will speak about the impact of Arnold Richardson, the first Director of the Institute, on the early development of the Institute. Lynette Zeitz will talk on the history of “The Waite” in the last 50 years. Please contact Amanda Jackson 83037497.

Wednesday 26th May Outing to Old Government House Belair A personal tour for Friends of Urrbrae House and invited guests. 2pm at Queens Jubilee Drive, Belair National Park. Cost: \$5 per person. Please contact Vicki Cheshire 8370 0032 for details

Sunday, 30th May, 2.00pm: “*Free Guided Tour of Urrbrae House*”. There is no charge for the tour but gold coin donations will be appreciated. Please book with Amanda Jackson 83037497

Urrbrae House has a Book Club which 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 Lynette Zeitz if you are interested 8303 7425.



A word from the Treasurer

If there is a red spot by the address on your envelope it indicates we have not yet received your membership renewal for 2010. Trusting you will wish to continue as a Friend of Urrbrae House a membership renewal form is enclosed. Lyn MacKay
Ph 0412 559 626



Newsletter Archives Wanted:

I am attempting to put together a complete collection of the Newsletters of the Friends of Urrbrae House which will be kept in Urrbrae House. We are missing Newsletters for the period 1998 -2001 and the collection for earlier years may be incomplete. If you have any of these earlier Newsletters I would like to make a copy for the collection.

Bill Wallace (8379 1905)

We welcome the following who have joined as Friends since January 2010:

Nan Goode
Margaret and Neville Martin
Daniella Marschall
Valda Muller
Sally Owen
Alison Stephenson

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