

Newsletter November 2013



# 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 - Valuable Friends of Urrbrae House*

In three of our functions this year we have appreciated very much the support of other organizations: The Adelaide Colonial Dancers in the 'Tea Dance'; The Veteran Car Club, Victoriana Society and Adelaide Allsorts Harmony Chorus at the Vintage Picnic. We are looking forward to having the Solstice Singers present a selection of Christmas Music on Friday evening 13<sup>th</sup> December.

A continuing association we appreciate very much is with Minas and Erna Berbery of Vivente Music and their invaluable assistance with the arrangement of our very successful Twilight Concerts. We also enjoyed their participation in some of the concerts this year. We have also greatly appreciated the assistance of Peggy Rowe in arranging the publicity for the concerts and managing the bookings. The concert program will continue next year.

On Monday evening 2<sup>nd</sup> December we will be joining with the Friends of the Waite Arboretum and Friends of Waite Conservation Reserve for our joint Christmas Party, an opportunity to say 'Thank-you' for your support as Friends of Urrbrae House. We look forward to seeing you there.

*Bill Wallace, President, Friends of Urrbrae House*

### **Dates for your diary**

**December 2<sup>nd</sup> Urrbrae Friends' Christmas Party** (5pm tour)  
(5.30 – 7pm)

**December 13<sup>th</sup> Solstice Singers Swing into Christmas** (5.30 for 6)

Jan 6<sup>th</sup> – March 18<sup>th</sup> Urrbrae House closed for renovation



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

One of the great things about Urrbrae House is the sheer variety of activities undertaken in the house and gardens. So I thought I might just give you a snapshot of the events held at Urrbrae House over the course of one week.

### Waite Historic Precinct Thank You Event – Thursday, 17 October:

About 35 volunteers from the Urrbrae House Historic Precinct, Waite Arboretum and Waite Conservation Reserve attended a special morning tea at Urrbrae House at which those who have given 5, 10 and 15 years of service to the three areas were acknowledged. To show our appreciation of their efforts, volunteers were treated to a short, private recital by harpist and University of Adelaide graduate, Emma Horwood.



### International Students from the English Language Centre (ELC) – Friday, 18 October:

Japanese and Korean Students studying at the English Language Centre were given a specialised tour of Urrbrae House to enhance their understanding of the history of South Australia and the University of Adelaide. The visit was organised in conjunction with Carmel Nicholas, Education Program Manager from ELC.



### Vintage Picnic – Sunday, 20 October:

About 100 people explored Urrbrae House and its gardens at the Vintage Picnic organised by the Friends of Urrbrae House supported by Urrbrae House staff. Visitors were able to take free tours of the house, see a variety of historic cars and listen to acappella singing by the Adelaide Allsorts Harmony Chorus. Many of the visitors were new to the house and the event provided an opportunity for the Friends and the University to forge links with other community groups. More pictures from the day can be found on the Urrbrae House Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/urrbraehouse>

### Keith Conlon 5AA Listener Competition Tour – Monday, 21 October:

Keith Conlon recently promoted Urrbrae House on the 5AA radio station by offering to take 10 lucky listeners of the station on a private tour of Urrbrae House and its gardens. Keith led the listeners through the gardens while Lynette Zeitz provided the group with a tour of the house. The special tour concluded with morning tea in the Main Hall. Keith has included a number of tweets on Twitter about Urrbrae House in the last week: <https://twitter.com/KeithConlon>

### Food for Thought Program with Adelaide Compass – Tuesday, 22 October:

In addition to running our regular history-based Schools' Program on Wednesdays, the Urrbrae House staff have been involved in the "Food for Thought" Program run in conjunction with the Office for Future students (who run Adelaide Compass) and the School of Agriculture, Food and Wine. The program is focused on plants as food and is designed to build aspiration within selected northern suburbs' school communities by showing students that university study is possible for them. Year 5/6 students from Swallowcliffe Primary School took part in the program. More about Adelaide Compass can be found at <http://www.adelaide.edu.au/compass/about/>

### Urrbrae House Schools' Program – Wednesday, 23 October:

Year 1/2 students from the local Highgate Primary participated in our regular Schools' Program this week. Urrbrae House staff and volunteers are unable to meet the demand for this successful program, which satisfies national History Curriculum requirements for primary students. In addition to the schools who attended this year, we have 24 schools on our waiting list to participate in 2014.

### North Carolina State University visit with the Waite Research Institute – Wednesday, 23 October and Thursday, 24 October:

Urrbrae House staff facilitated a two-day visit and workshop in Urrbrae House for a high-level delegation from the North Carolina State University who were visiting the Waite Campus. The delegates were in Adelaide to develop future collaborative initiatives between staff and students of the University of Adelaide and the North Carolina State University.

Tours for Community Groups:

In addition to casual visitors coming into the museum rooms, booked tours during the week were provided by Urrbrae House staff to the Salisbury Garden Club, the Adelaide Women's Auxiliary of the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy, and the Aberfoyle Park Social Club.

We certainly never get bored at Urrbrae House and it is wonderful to be able to share this unique place with such a diversity of people.

We have been assisting our colleagues in the University Engagement Branch with the logistics and planning of the Vice-Chancellor's Waite Centennial Dinner which will be held at Urrbrae House and its gardens on 6 November. This dinner will celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Peter Waite's decision to leave his estate, including Urrbrae House, to the University of Adelaide.

I am pleased to let you know that much needed restoration work on the northern balcony of Urrbrae House is going to be undertaken from 6 January – 18 March 2014. There will be scaffolding across the front of the house and Urrbrae House will not be open to visitors during that period. However, there will be public access to the house during a Basketry SA exhibition which is being undertaken as part of the Adelaide Fringe activities in February. While we prefer not to have to close the house for such a period of time, we know that the Friends of Urrbrae House will understand why such work is so important for the future of the house.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone for their support to myself, Amanda and Ilonka during 2013 and wish all Friends a beautiful and joyous Christmas.

*Lynette Zeitz*

***Colonial Tea Dance***

The Urrbrae House Ballroom was a wonderful setting for a Colonial Tea Dance on August 25<sup>th</sup>. The Colonial Dancers of Adelaide provided dance expertise as well as colour and musical support for this event. Dance expertise was not necessary as each dance was introduced with clear instructions; most people became familiar with the dance steps as the afternoon continued. It was a pleasure to see the house resplendent with period clothes and beautiful gowns. Guests enjoyed afternoon tea in the elegant drawing room. With such an enthusiastic response from the colonial dancers we hope to have more dances at Urrbrae House into the future.

*Vicki Cheshire*



### ***Rich Baroque Music***

Adelaide's Ensemble Galante comprising Tim Nott [baroque flute], Brendan O'Donnell [recorders] and Glenys March [harpisichord] gave a marvellous concert of works by Bach, Spadi, Castello, Dornell and Quantz, all 17th century composers, in the Urrbrae House ballroom on 26 August.

Founded by Tim Nott in 2011 the Ensemble Galante is dedicated to performing music of the late baroque, galante and classical styles of the 18th century.

The highlight of the concert was the Trio Sonata in C Major by Johann Joachim Quantz [1697-1793]. A German composer Quantz was regarded as the finest flautist of his day in Europe and rose to be a celebrated musician in the courts of Frederick Augustus II of Poland and Frederick the Great of Prussia. Not only did he compose over 300 flute concertos and 200 sonatas he was an innovative designer of flutes, features of which brought the instrument to its forefront in the musical repertoire.

Tim, Brendan and Glenys gave an exhilarating account of the music of the period: Pure magic.

The concert was arranged by Vivente Music on behalf of the Friends of Urrbrae House.

*Hugh McClelland*



Glenys March, Tim Nott, Brendan O'Donnell

### ***Twilight Concert***

An almost full Ballroom at Urrbrae House hosted a wonderful concert given by the Vivente Quartet on the 23<sup>rd</sup> September. The quartet stepped in at the last moment and we were thankful that they did.



Minas Berberyan, Erna Berberyan, Michael Robertson, Gemma Phillips

The audience were given a splendiferous 'Around the world tour' of many differing genres; perhaps visiting Austria whilst listening to W.A. Mozart's Divertimento B-flat Major, K137 (adante, Allegro di molto and Allegro assai). Then we were swept away to Germany as we heard the beautiful and poignant Beethoven's Cavatina. This was contrasted sharply by Stephen Whittington's 'Windmill' – obviously coming to Australia as this skilled quartet emulated squeaky country windmills. The upbeat Percy Grainger's 'Molly on the shore' an ode to Irish folk music, had us smiling and nodding along. Gilles Apap's "Looking for a title' shone with gypsy Eastern European melodies and a superb 'knee slapping' beat. To finish with a wonderful rendition of Astor Piazzolla's 'Tango Ballet' the Vivente Quartet took us to sultry, sexy Argentina. It is no wonder that the audience applauded loudly at such an enchanting evening enjoying music from around the world, and heartfelt thanks from the Friends of Urrbrae House committee go to the quartet: Minas Berberyan, Erna Berberyan, Michael Robertson and Gemma Phillips for coming along at such short notice and performing with such verve and professionalism.

*Vicki Cheshire*

### ***Teddy Bears' Picnic***



Members of the FOUH were proud to be a part of this Schools' Holiday event on October 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Although the day was teeming with rain, many families enjoyed activities designed for under 8's. Face painting was expertly provided by Splodge in the main hall. The dining room became a Teddy Hospital. Teddy Bear makers (from Gallery One's teddy and doll making class at Mitcham under the tutelage of Kay Schulz) issued health checks, many



teddies had repairs and were issued Teddy Bear Doctor's instructions for hugs, cuddles and bed-rest after their busy day. Besides enjoying an indoor picnic in the drawing room and a teddy bear picnic in the Waite room, children played indoor games in the Ballroom, enjoyed the Goldilocks and the three bears hunt downstairs, and did some colouring-in at the schoolroom tables.



Many thanks go to all the tireless workers and volunteers who made this a wonderful community event. I am sure many Mummies and Daddies (Grannies and Grandies) had many tired little teddy bears after such a delightful fun-filled day.

*Vicki Cheshire*

### ***Latin Flair Concert***

In an enthralling concert at Urrbrae House on October 14<sup>th</sup> Oliver Fartach-Naini [guitar] and Minas Berberyan [violin] played a medley of music with a Latin American flavour including modern works by Australian composers Stephen Wittington and Richard Charlton. A highlight was the colourful and evocative suite Histoire du Tango by the illustrious South American composer, Astor Piazzolla regarded as the originator of modern tango music.

Oliver, now based in Adelaide is an internationally recognised interpreter of classical, contemporary and oriental guitar music and has been recorded many times including on the German Deutsche Grammophon label. A graduate of music schools in Berlin and Leipzig Oliver is known as a highly motivational teacher and leader of master classes. He is now a member of the adjunct teaching staff of the Elder Conservatorium.

Minas Berberyan is well known to Urrbrae House audiences as Principal, Vivente Music.



Minas Berberyan; Oliver Fartach-Naini

*Hugh McClelland*

### ***Vintage Picnic***

As dedicated members of the FOUH well know, the grounds and house at Urrbrae are a sheer delight in the springtime. On 20<sup>th</sup> October the FOUH and prospective friends were invited to a Vintage Picnic. The weather forecast gave some concerns as thunderstorms were expected. Thanks to a delay in the cold front, it turned out to be perfect picnic weather, and every turn was a photo opportunity with the roses in their first-bloom splendour.

Many graceful older cars adorned the circular end to Walter Young Avenue and provide a perfect setting for the picnic. Some people came in costumes, notably some of the Victorian Society of South Australia looking resplendent in their period dress.

Outdoor entertainment was kindly provided by the Adelaide Allsorts Harmony Choir whose Acapella singing stole the show; you may see Lynette Zeitz the Manger of Urrbrae House in the line-up. Music accompanying tours of the house was performed by volunteer pianists Margaret Neate and Alison Stephenson.

Tours of the house were well attended and much enjoyed. Floral posies and corsages, made of donations from people’s gardens, were a highlight of the day thanks to Hazel Douglas, Sandra Morrison, Judy Ferrante and Anne Rabone. Many thanks go to all who made this day run smoothly and congratulations to all for a successful outcome engaging the general public, most of whom were first time visitors to Urrbrae House.



*Vicki Cheshire*

### ***Urrbrae Agricultural High School – a vision realized***

When Peter Waite wrote to the Premier of South Australia, Hon. A. H. Peake, and the Chancellor of the University of Adelaide, the Rt. Hon. Sir Samuel Way, in October 1913, informing them that subject to his own and his wife’s life interests, he intended presenting the Urrbrae property of 134 acres to the University for scientific studies related to agriculture and a public park, he also advised his intention to provide 112 acres, adjoining Urrbrae, to the Government of South Australia for the purpose of establishing an agricultural high school.

In October 1915, When the Premier (Hon. C. Vaughan), accompanied by the Director of Education (Mr. M. M. Maughan) and the Director of Agriculture (Professor Perkins) met with Peter Waite to review the generous bequest Peter commented as follows:

Continued...

*'My particular concern in the matter was of course, the proposed agricultural high school, and I am quite convinced that no better site could be found for such an establishment, as after all it will be the city boys whom we will have to draw upon mainly for new settlement.'*

(Register (p4) Tuesday 19 October 1915)

The Government subsequently purchased Woodside House, on the corner of Fullarton Road and Cross Road, to augment the bequest of Peter Waite.

### WOODSIDE HOUSE

#### 80-year-old Landmark Demolished

*The demolition this week of Woodside House at the Government Orchard, Fullarton road, adjoining Urrbrae removes another old landmark. It was built more than 80 years ago.*

*The Government purchased the 20-acre block of land, on which the house stands 15 years, ago from Mr. Dridan to establish an agricultural high school, the late Mr. Peter Waite having given the adjoining 114 acres to the Government to be used by the Education Department for the same purpose.*

*Mr Waite said on many occasions that Australia needed men with a knowledge of farming and dairying, and of how to mend all farming machinery, shoe a horse, and drove cattle and sheep, in preference to educated professional men for whom there was no opening in business.*

(The Mail (Adelaide) (p3) Saturday 10 January 1931)

*In the current issue of the 'Education Gazette' appears the following, dealing with the Urrbrae Agricultural High School: — It is proposed to establish a boarding school to provide an education suitable for boys who desire to make farming their life's work. The curriculum will include English, history, mathematics, and geography, with special attention to science, and the development of scientific methods in agriculture. The course will be arranged with the two-fold object of affording general culture, and a knowledge of the theory and practice of the various branches of agriculture carried on in this State. It will extend over a period of four years, and will prepare lads to proceed either to Roseworthy Agricultural College or to the University for the further study of agriculture, if they so desire.*

(The Advertiser (p14) Thursday 29 August 1929)

Urrbrae Agricultural High School was the first agricultural high school in South Australia. Building work commenced in 1930 but the effects of the Depression meant that further work was suspended in 1931, as loan funds were unavailable to continue the building. The first headmaster, Mr A R Hilton, urged that the school open in these limited quarters, and it did so on 2 February 1932 with 60 students. Due to the limitation in building funds plans to operate as a boarding school were not proceeded with.

The Depression also meant that the supply of materials to schools was curtailed, so the Director of the Botanic Gardens, Mr Bailey, and the Director of the Waite Research Institute, Dr A.E.V. Richardson, both volunteered to provide equipment and materials to assist in practical training for students at Urrbrae. Although this training was limited at first, headmaster Hilton arranged visits to factories, farms and orchards around Adelaide and the school gradually began to make small profits from its produce. School records show that the average number of students from 1932 to 1948 was 82, but this had increased to over 300 by 1954 and over 500 in 1964.

Until 1966 the Waite Agricultural Research Institute rented most of the School's 134 acres to conduct field experiments.

In 1972, the first female students were enrolled and there are currently about equal number of boys and girls in just under 1000 students in five-year levels. Today the school is highly regarded not only for its comprehensive courses in Agriculture and Horticulture but excellent science and technical facilities.

*Bill Wallace*



## *Events to look forward to:*

**Monday December 2nd** (5pm tour) **5.30 – 7pm** *Combined Friends of the Waite Historic Precinct Christmas Event* with a pre-celebration **tour at 5pm** featuring “History of the Billiard Room and School Room”. Join us for drinks, nibbles and Christmas cake in the Main Hall of Urrbrae House and enjoy some Christmas Carols at the piano in the Drawing room.

**Friday December 13<sup>th</sup> 5:30 for 6pm** *Swing into Christmas at Urrbrae House with the Solstice Singers*  
Solstice is a small vocal swing group performing a range of swing/jazz (Gershwin, Porter, Rogers and Hart) and popular (Sondheim, Lennon & McCartney) songs, with music director Ian Boath and accompanist Angela Turner. Please join us as they ‘sing in’ the Christmas season at Urrbrae House with a light-hearted mix of new and well-loved Christmas songs and special guests brandishing flutes, piccolo and bass flute. This will be a truly enjoyable way to ‘swing’ into the Christmas season.

Payment to be made at the door: \$20 includes refreshments.

**BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL** Email: **billwallace01@gmail.com** or phone **8332 6495** and if necessary leave a message. Bookings are essential as we usually have a waiting list, **please advise of cancellations**.

Please note that the concert will be held in the Ballroom and due to the heritage nature of the house, concert attendees must be able to manage stairs.



Anne Rabone; Sandra Morrison

***We wish you a very merry  
Christmas and a safe and  
happy Holiday Season***

***Thank you to all our supporters during 2013,  
we look forward to your company in 2014.***

**We welcome the following  
new FOUH members:**

Esther Caprez  
Leonne Charles  
Elizabeth Copley  
Patricia Dixon  
Louise Green  
Professor Warren Jones and  
Dr Elizabeth Hobbin  
Maxine Connor Lange  
Rodica Simos and Helen Simos  
Ronda Smart

You can view this newsletter online at:

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