



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

We seem to be in the midst of a cold and certainly wet Adelaide winter. However, not too many of our members seemed to have escaped to warmer climates as the attendance at our winter events has been good.

Firstly, some very sad news, Elma Lippett a former President, Vice President and a long serving and dedicated member of the Friends committee died in August. A celebration of her life was held in Urrbrae House. Elma will be remembered for her smile, sense of humour and her capacity to always see and bring out the best in people. On the Friends committee Elma was a great organiser and contributed many ideas for our programs. Her events were always successful because of the full commitment she gave to them. Elma continued to attend events at the house until almost the end of her life. Our sympathies are extended to all her devoted and loving family. A beautiful vase has been made and inscribed in memory of Elma and is now sitting in Urrbrae House, and as we have all said, it is almost as unique as Elma herself.

The AGM went really well with a fascinating talk by Valmai Hankel on her travels and discoveries in the outback. It is amazing what can be achieved with determination and courage which is truly demonstrated by Valmai. Her message was do not delay if you wish to do something just get on with it.

I am sorry to report that we have had to cancel the Art, Wine and Exhibition event which was scheduled for August. We hope to organise another similar event in the future.

The fireside stories which were related by Hugh McClelland, was a great success. It was fully booked with 30 people seated in the dining room with a roaring fire, nibbles and wine listening to a very entertaining speaker. Hugh has served as a diplomat and told us stories of his life in a number of countries with many amusing and

informative anecdotes. I am sure that Hugh has many more stories so we may be able to persuade him to give a second performance.

We have many events to look forward to in the final part of the year including a Lumina concert as well as our regular concert program and of course our Christmas party. For younger members the house is organising a Teddy Bears Picnic in October.

My best wishes to all our members stay warm and dry and look forward to spring.

Yvonne Routledge. President, Friends of Urrbrae House

Dates for your Diary

September 16th Students on Parade (2.45 for 3)

September 23rd Afternoon tea with Mr and Mrs Waite in 1892. (fully booked) (2.30 to 4pm)

October 3rd Teddy Bears' Picnic (11 to 1.30)

October 22nd Vivente Concert (5.30 for 6)

November 11th Lumina Vocal Ensemble (2.30 for 3)

November 15th Manager's Morning Tea (10.30 - 11.30)

December 10th Combined Christmas Event for Urrbrae Precinct

Valmai Hankel PSM at AGM

This year the Guest Speaker at our Annual General Meeting was Valmai Hankel PSM distinguished outback explorer and geographer, wine expert, horse breeder, lover of fine books and raconteur. Formerly custodian of Rare Books at the State Library she was recently awarded the John Lewis Gold Medal, Royal Geographical Society of South Australia and is currently the President of the Friends of the State Library. Valmai is a regular writer on geographic and wine subjects for the "Adelaide Review".

Valmai recounted her knowledge and experiences of outback explorers including Ernest Giles, Charles Sturt, John McDouall Stuart, William Lansborough, Burke and Wills and Sir John Forrest through her readings of their diaries and by following their trails. Her accounts were enhanced by excellent photographs taken on her travels into the outback.

Valmai's drive and enthusiasm is exemplified by her philosophy--'if you want to do it, just do it!'-- as she prepares for yet another trek into her beloved centre of Australia.

Valmai Hankel: a true icon and inspiration and her address was greatly appreciated.

Hugh McClelland.



Yvonne Routledge and Valmai Hankel

Elma Lippett - a true friend 1929 -2012

Elma's many friends at Urrbrae House were sad to learn of her death on August 1st though taking some consolation from the fact that she was no longer suffering from the cancer that regrettably had shortened her life.

Elma was very proud of her father Professor James Davidson and his role in the establishment of the discipline of entomology at the Waite Institute following his appointment from England in 1928. Regrettably he died at the early age of 60 in 1945 following a post-operation mishap. Her mother Johanna, who was Danish, served as President of the University Wives Club and was well known for the promotion of the Arts.

Elma went to the Presbyterian Girls School and later Business College before employment with Dalgety's in Adelaide and later Sydney. Returning to Adelaide she worked as Secretary to Sir Mark Mitchell and Professor Bob Morton in the Biochemistry Department followed by three years as Technical Adviser for the laboratory of the SA Brewing Company.

In 1966 Elma married Dr Richard (Dick) Lippett, a GP who spent some time in the Army Reserve including six months duty in Vietnam. They had two daughters Kirsten and Elissa and unfortunately Dick died suddenly in 1986 when they were still at school.

Elma served on the Committee of The Friends of Urrbrae House from 1996 – 2012, was President from 2004 – 2007 and Vice President in 2003/4 and 2007 – 2010.

Elma not only showed very positive leadership but gave encouragement to others through her 'can do' attitude. She was a great source of information on resources to use in support of functions. This ranged from a network of crafts people who formed the basis of a morning event on arts and crafts to finding horse saddles and stable lamps for decoration at the bush dance. Her family and friends were often recruited when numbers for a function needed bolstering and in one case she got together most of the participants for a bridge morning.



Elma participated in a broad range of other organizations including the Nature Foundation of SA, Anthropological Society and Club de Petanque D'Adelaide. She was a great supporter of the Arts being a Friend of SA Opera, of the Festival of Arts and the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra.

After Elma retired from the Committee of the Friends of Urrbrae House in May this year, the Committee decided to purchase an item for Urrbrae House in recognition of Elma's contribution. A vase from the Outback Series of Eamonn Vereker was selected and appropriately engraved.

We extend our sympathy to her daughters Kirsten and Elissa and her brothers John, Torben and Duncan and their partners and families.

We have all been very grateful for knowing Elma, a caring and true friend. The fact that her light has gone out won't dim the memories.

Bill Wallace



Music from the Court of Frederick the Great

To celebrate the music and times of King Frederick II [the Great] of Prussia [1740-1786] the Ensemble Galante played to a capacity audience in the courtly Ballroom of Urrbrae House on 18 June.

Statesman, military leader, man of letters and an accomplished musician, Frederick was a major sponsor of baroque composers and in his court maintained an orchestra, a ballet troupe and an Italian opera company.

The Urrbrae House concert comprised works by J S Bach, C P E Bach, J J Quantz, J G Graun, J P Kirnberger and by Frederick himself. The music was interspersed by readings from the Memoirs of Frederick's sister Wilhemina and excerpts from JS Bach's Musical Offering written on a theme of Frederick's own devising.

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



Glenys March [harpsichord] Graham Strahle [viola da gamba]
Anna Web [baroque viola] Tim Nott [baroque flute] Suzanne
Strahle [narrator] In front: Nora Strahle and friend

Hugh McClelland.

New Committee 2012 – 2013

At the 20th AGM of the Friends of Urrbrae House the following committee members were elected:

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| President | Yvonne Routledge |
| Vice President | Joyleen Middleton |
| Secretary | Peggy Rowe |
| Treasurer | Lyn MacKay |
| Newsletter Editor | Vicki Cheshire |
| Ordinary Members | Di Coffey, Kate Currier, Hazel Douglas, Hugh McClelland, Sally Owen, Bill Wallace. |

Lynette Zeitz (Manager Urrbrae House Historic Precinct) will continue **Ex Officio**.

Fireside Chat – Hugh McClelland

An informal setting in the Dining Room at Urrbrae House proved ideal for the Fireside Chat by Hugh McClelland on Monday 16th July. Thirty Friends of the House attended, the limit set for the occasion.

Hugh recounted his childhood years in the Victorian Mallee followed by High School in Melbourne and then a Commerce degree and Teacher Training at Melbourne University. While teaching at Warrnambool High School he was petitioned by his students to marry a teacher colleague.

In 1969 Hugh got a position in Canberra as a Trainee Trade Commissioner. As a required second language he learnt Indonesian but was surprised to find that his first overseas posting in 1971 was to Paris! Hugh had interesting experiences to recount about his work in Paris and life there for his wife during which their two children were born. One assignment he had in France was to check up on the condition of a shipment of live sheep that had been landed at Bordeaux. His report ‘no dags, scours or staggers evident’ puzzled the French authorities but Hugh knew it would be fully understood in Australia.

After three years in Paris, Hugh was posted to the Australian High Commission in Fiji where from his work there and in the neighboring Pacific Islands he had interesting observations on the transition of these countries to independence as well as meeting with their leaders and islander people.

This was followed by five years in Canberra before a posting to Algiers. Both from Algeria and Tunisia Hugh had interesting observations to recount and though it was a difficult environment in which to establish trade connections with Australia, Hugh was pleased that in his four years in Algiers imports from Australia increased ten fold to \$50 million.

Joy Middleton congratulated and thanked Hugh for the interest and humour in his talk.

Hugh is a member of the Committee of the Friends of Urrbrae House and we acknowledge his generosity in providing the savoury items for the occasion and thank Di Coffey for the additional cheese and fruit selection.

Bill Wallace



Hugh Mc Clelland and Di Coffey

“Sunday A Cappella” concert by the Onkaparinga Harmony Chorus

An entertaining afternoon of songs from the 1920s through to the 1980s was provided by the Onkaparinga Harmony Chorus in the elegant setting of the Urrbrae House Ballroom on 29 July. The 24 member Chorus performed a variety of jazz numbers, musical hits and modern ballads in 4-part a cappella (unaccompanied) harmony.

Onkaparinga Harmony Chorus is a member of Sweet Adelines International, a worldwide organisation whose mission is to advance the art form of a cappella harmony through education, performance and competition.

The concert was arranged by Lynette Zeitz on behalf of the Friends of Urrbrae House.

Lynette Zeitz



Manager's Musings

Community Engagement

As a Friend of Urrbrae House you will be quite familiar with events organised by the Friends but you may be less familiar with some of the educational and community activities that are organised by myself and Amanda as part of the University's Office for Community Engagement.

Urrbrae House Schools' Program

This weekly program, where we recreate the world of 1892, enables primary school children to experience an interactive history lesson about the late Victorian era in South Australia. A team of 14 University volunteers assist with this program taking on various historical roles such as Peter and Matilda Waite, Mr Adamson, governesses and servants. In addition resources for teachers are made available on our website so that schools can build on their experiences at Urrbrae House. The original program is aimed mainly at students in Years 4-6 but I have also developed a modified version of the program suitable for Years 1-2 in response to teacher requests. With changes in the National History Curriculum, demand for the modified version of our program has increased this year. The success of the program is seen in the fact that it is booked out each year and about 800 children attend annually.

Urrbrae House Secondary School Tours

We try not to forget older students as well and run group tours on demand for secondary schools. For example, on 29 August volunteer guide Bill Wallace and I had a great time taking Year 8 students from Urrbrae Agricultural High School through Urrbrae House and introducing them to the history of this site and of their school's benefactor, Peter Waite.

Adelaide Compass Program

In Term 4 we will again be working with Sally Owen from the University's Office for Future Students to run "Plants and Science" sessions for primary school children in Urrbrae House, the Coach House and the Waite Arboretum as part of the Adelaide Compass Program. This program promotes access to higher education for low socio-economic and other traditionally disadvantaged students. Adelaide Compass is supported through the Federal Government's Higher Education Participation and Partnerships Program (HEPPP).

School Holiday Events

Knowing that school holidays can be a tough time on family budgets as parents and grandparents look to keep children entertained, we organise a free event for families each school holidays. In April puppeteer and ventriloquist, Lindi Jane, provided a performance of "Snap Kakadu's Club." Various characters such as the cheeky crocodile, Snap, made the audience laugh but also encouraged children to feel good about themselves, use old-fashioned manners and show respect to others. In July puppeteer and storyteller, Sue Harris, introduced us to different puppet types in an entertaining and informative way in "Puppet Stuff". Sue has many years of experience as an educator and it was fascinating to learn about puppets from around the world such as shadow puppets, marionettes and Japanese bunraku puppets.

In the upcoming school holidays we will be holding a free Teddy Bears' Picnic in the gardens of Urrbrae House on 3 October from 11.00am – 1.30pm which will include a Teddy Hospital (for those minor teddy repairs and teddy wellness checks.)

Filming – Children's Program

Lindi Jane was so impressed by her experience at Urrbrae House and by our Schools' Program that she asked us to be involved in filming a short segment for an independent children's program for Channel 44. Without a script Amanda Jackson, Vicki Cheshire and Bill Wallace did a wonderful job of ad-libbing and engaging the "Snap Kakadu Club" members in our recreated schoolroom of 1892. A promotional video of this event can be viewed at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pZjnk2BkJKw>

The University of Adelaide Council

On 20 August Urrbrae House volunteers, and staff and students from the Waite Campus were able to meet the University of Adelaide's Council members over a light lunch in the Main Hall of Urrbrae House before the Council held its official meeting in the Ballroom downstairs. It was a great opportunity for us to inform Council members of the work we do in Urrbrae House, the Waite Arboretum and the Waite Conservation Reserve.

Manager's Morning Teas

The Manager's Morning Teas are provided as an opportunity for Friends to catch up over a cup of tea/coffee and hear about what has been happening in the house. Torrential rain and cold conditions possibly deterred many from venturing out, but it was great to have some hardy souls attend the free Morning Teas on 24 May and 30 August. The smaller number of attendees made for intimate gatherings around the fire in the Dining Room.

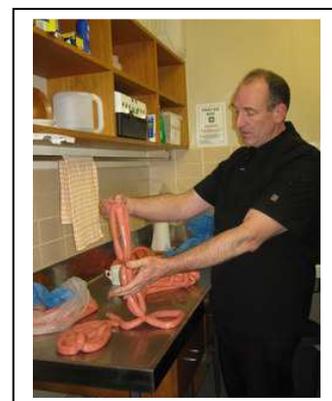
Afternoon Tea with Mr and Mrs Waite in 1892

After this historical recreation event was booked out when offered as part of the South Australia's "About Time" History Month, we decided to offer a repeat performance on 23 September. This second event also booked out quickly. I am grateful to members of our Schools' Program volunteer group who give additional time to run these ad hoc historical events.

The Varied and the Wonderful

Space limits me from outlining all of the events and activities by on-campus and outside community groups that we help facilitate at the house. To give you a small taste of the variety of these events in the last couple of months: 6th International Forum of the Academic Consortium 21, National Trust Significant Tree Forum, Wine Alumni Network Launch, Friends of Waite Arboretum Gala Truffle Dinner, Treenet Symposium, FoodPlus Research Centre International Students Event and Working Yoga. On 9 August the University's Office for Community Engagement and the Office of Senator Sean Edwards, Senator for South Australia, held a forum for agricultural leaders on "Agriculture and Farming in SA" in Urrbrae House designed to improve research translation to the small business sector of the agricultural industry.

One of the more unusual events held on 23 August involved professional development training for secondary school home economics teachers on the theme of "Paddock to Plate", organised by the Council of Australian Secondary Tourism Teachers (SA Chapter). Paul Sandercock from the Australia meat Industry council gave an interesting presentation in the Drawing Room on the meat industry and then it was a hands-on learning experience of sausage making in the Urrbrae House kitchen with award-winning butcher Trevor Hill from Bruce's Meats at Mitcham.



Urrbrae House Book Club

The Urrbrae House Book Club meets once a month at lunch time in the Dining Room of Urrbrae House. Members BYO lunch, and free tea and coffee is provided. Books are borrowed for the group by one of the members from the Burnside Library (the library charges a modest annual fee for this service). Books are collected and returned at the monthly meetings.

Volunteer Thank You Event

It was decided to hold our annual Volunteer Thank You event in spring this year and we are looking forward to acknowledging all of our hard-working volunteers at a morning tea on 13 September.

House Tours

As most will be aware, Urrbrae House volunteer tour guides provide free public tours of the house on the first Sunday of each month from February to November. However, booked tours for groups (for which a charge applies) have been increasingly popular this year and it has been wonderful to welcome diverse groups such as the Adelaide Antique Automobile Club and Probus Clubs to Urrbrae House.

Peter Waite's Books Return to Urrbrae House

Urrbrae House was very fortunate in August to receive 28 volumes of Lord Lytton novels originally owned by Peter Waite. The books were generously donated to Urrbrae House by Waite's great-granddaughter, Marion Wells. These beautifully bound volumes are once more sitting on the shelves in Peter Waite's library.

Restoration Work

A1 Flooring will be starting restoration work on the floor of one of the downstairs bedrooms next week as part our project of recreating Eva Waite's bedroom in 1892. Furthermore, restoration work will be undertaken on the floors in the Drawing Room and the Main Hall from 20 November – 5 December. During that time Urrbrae House will be closed.

Urrbrae House On-line

We have introduced a new Google-based calendar on our Urrbrae House webpage to keep you up to date with events that are open to the public at Urrbrae House, the Waite Arboretum and the Waite Conservation Reserve. <http://www.waite.adelaide.edu.au/urrbraehouse/whatson/>

Urrbrae House also has a Facebook page which I encourage you to check out. I regularly put photographs from events on this page and include information on a variety of events/activities both here at Urrbrae House and in the community that I think might be of interest to our supporters.

<http://www.facebook.com/urrbraehouse>

Elma

Sometimes we are very fortunate to meet truly inspirational people in our lives. They inspire us by their kindness, generosity and hard-work. One such person was Elma Lippett. Like others, I was inspired by her positive spirit, beautiful smile and "roll-up your sleeves and get to work" attitude. No-one who met Elma could remain unaffected by her infectious good cheer.

With Elma's daughters Kirsten and Elissa, her brothers John, Torben and Duncan, and many family and friends, we bid farewell to Elma in style on 10 August at Urrbrae House. We hope that Elma would have approved of her wake. It was a grand celebration of her life with champagne, fond memories, laughter, singing and a few tears.

Lynette Zeitz



Events to look forward to:

Sunday September 16th Students on Parade 2.45 for 3pm. A beautiful afternoon of music in the Drawing Room. Concordia and Mercedes Colleges present talented students giving a variety of vocal and instrumental performances. \$15 per person.
Email: peggy.rowe@bigpond.com Telephone: Peggy on 82771426.



Sunday September 23rd Afternoon tea with Mr and Mrs Waite in 1892. (fully booked) 2.30 to 4pm. An interactive tour as guests of Peter and Matilda Waite before adjourning for afternoon tea in the Dining Room. Due to the heritage nature of the house, attendees must be able to manage stairs for this event. Bookings contact: Amanda Jackson ph 83137497 or email amanda.jackson@adelaide.edu.au

Wednesday October 3rd Teddy Bears' Picnic 11am – 1.30pm in the beautiful gardens. BYO picnic lunch and enjoy some activities designed for under 8 yr olds. Featuring a Teddy Bear Hospital where a health assessment of your teddy and minor repairs can be made. This is a Free Urrbrae House Event (The Office for Community Engagement) with the assistance of volunteers. Should the weather be bad, indoor activities will be provided for limited numbers so please phone Amanda Jackson 83137497 or email amanda.jackson@adelaide.edu.au to book. Don't forget your Teddy Bear!



Monday October 22nd Vivente Twilight concert 'The Artist and the Oboe' 5.30 for 6pm
Celia Craig- oboe (Principal Adelaide Symphony Orchestra); Glenys March – harpsichord. Celia Craig is one of the Australia's premier oboists. She was Principal Cor Anglais of the BBC Symphony Orchestra, soloist at the Royal Albert Hall for the BBC Proms, judge for the BBC 'Young Musician of the Year' competition and a regular Guest Principal with most of the Symphony Orchestras in the UK before moving to Australia with her family in late 2006. In this concert Celia will join forces with the baroque expert Glenys March in a program exploring gems from the Baroque Era by Bach, Handel and Telemann. This event is not to be missed!
Enquiries and bookings to viventemusic@yahoo.com.au or phone 82966851 / 0401021065

Sunday Nov 11th LuminaVocal Ensemble concert 'Love and other Surprises' 2.30 for 3pm
For anyone who's ever loved...from madrigals to brand new works, it's all about love! Attendees must be able to manage stairs to access the Ballroom. Tickets - \$25 full price. \$15 Friends of Urrbrae House / Concession. \$10 Child. For enquiries and advance booking contact Bill Wallace 8332 6495 or billwallace01@gmail.com

Thursday November 15th 10:30 – 11:30am

Members of the Friends of Urrbrae House are invited to join the Manager and other Friends for morning tea or coffee in the Dining Room at Urrbrae House. No bookings necessary as these get-togethers are informal. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided.

Monday December 10th 5 – 7pm Combined Friends of the Waite Historic Precinct Christmas event.
At Urrbrae House, details to be advised closer to the date.

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

We welcome the following new FOUH members:

Eileen Scott