



The Friends of Urrbrae House

Editor Vicki Cheshire

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sat 29th August
7.30pm Bush Dance

Fri 4th September
10am to 4pm
Lee Loffler Exhibition

Mon 7th September
5.30 for 6pm
Twilight Concert

Sun 20th September
2.00pm
'Arbor Wind Quintet'

Wed 23rd September
6.00pm Guitar Concert

Thurs 8th October
1pm Games Day

Thurs 15th October
10.30am
Manager's Morning
Tea

Sun 18th October
3.00pm
Lumina Vocal
Ensemble

Mon 7th December
6.00pm
Christmas Party

See back page for details

President's Notes

In our primary school program 'A morning in 1892' we are thinking about the Waite family at the following ages and activities: James 25, working in England as an engineer; Elizabeth 22, preparing for a holiday in England; Lily 19, looking forward to the next social function; David 17, joining his father checking on the pastoral properties and Eva 12, at school in Adelaide.

Thus at the talk following our AGM in June, by Marion Wells and Peter Morgan on 'Peter Waite's family', it was very interesting to learn more about the adult life of James Waite, their grandfather and Great Aunts Lily and Eva. This contribution by Marion and Peter was greatly appreciated by those who attended the AGM and I wish also to acknowledge their assistance with the preparation of the summary of the talks included in this newsletter. We appreciate also being able to include copies of photographs provided by Marion.

At the AGM the main office bearers were elected for another year. I would like to record appreciation of two members of the committee who resigned. Verna Symons has given a long period of valuable service on the committee: from 1995 – 2000 and then from 2007 – 2009. Janet Miller joined the committee in 2007 and in the past year has introduced us to a new and expanded format for our Newsletter.

I extend a welcome to Vicki Cheshire, a former member of the committee who takes over as Newsletter Editor and to Hazel Douglas, a new member on the committee.

Bill Wallace

Manager's Musings

Volunteers

A "Volunteers Thank-you Morning Tea" was held on 16 July in Urrbrae House to acknowledge the work of long-serving volunteers who have contributed to the three areas of the Waite Historic Precinct: the Urrbrae House Historic Precinct, the Waite Arboretum and the Waite Conservation Reserve. Mrs Lindsay McWha, the patron of the University of Adelaide's volunteers, attended the morning tea and spoke of the importance of volunteers to the University. Jennifer Gardner presented certificates of appreciation and special silver pins to those volunteers who have served for 10 years or more. The unique Waite volunteer pins were designed by artist Pat Hagan, and symbolise the links between volunteers and the Waite Historic Precinct.

(Continued page 5...)

Peter Waite's family

After the AGM of the Friends of Urrbrae House on 29th June 2009, Marion Wells and her brother Peter Morgan each presented an interesting talk on Peter Waite's family. Marion spoke about her memories of her great aunts Lily and Eva and her mother Dorothy and Peter talked mainly about his grandfather James Waite, father of Dorothy.

Marion was born on 1926 and remembers visits in her childhood and early youth to her Aunt Lily and Aunt Eva's home 'Broadlees' at Crafers. When the Morgan children visited on Sundays they sat in the maid's sitting room and Marion recalls the heavy Scottish cake and the barley water drunk out of the new and 'awful' plastic cups. When as children they stayed overnight they had to remain in bed until told to get up. While waiting they were given a wheatmeal biscuit.

On every Sunday visit there was a tour of Eva's beautiful garden. Eva had been a good golfer but gave up golf to work on her garden. Lily and Eva had been actively involved in the planning and setting up of the Mount Lofty Golf Club. Mount Lofty later offered accommodation and Lily was involved with the running of the Clubhouse.

Marion disliked calling on her aunts on her birthday (1st April) as she would receive a 'Pinch and a Punch for the First of the Month' from Aunt Lily who pinched hard.

When Marion was on a trip to Europe in 1948 the Aunts purchased a bright green Hillman Minx which Marion was able to use in England before it was transported to Australia. Both sisters were generous to Marion and Peter and Lily gave Marion her wedding dress.

Marion's and Peter's mother Dorothy was a good seamstress and on one occasion knitted a jumper for Peter in about one day. She also made an evening dress for Marion from furnishing material which during the war was 'coupon free'. She did beautiful embroidery all her life. Dorothy played the piano and cello and as a child living in Redcar she travelled alone by train to Middlesbrough for cello lessons. She was about to leave for Germany in 1914 to study the piano there when war broke out. She lived during the war in Redcar and, it seems, also in Sheffield. In later years she had problems with her feet apparently from standing on damp cement floors in canteens in which she worked in during the war.

Speaking of his grandfather, Peter said he was "highly intelligent precise and industrious as well as being good natured and loyal". Going to England at the age of 17 he trained as an engineer. He worked as an inspector of steel products and later with the brothers Sanberg on a process for hardening rails *in situ*. He was awarded MBE for work in the UK during 1914-1918 war on "prematures", shells that exploded prematurely. In later visits to see his parents at Urrbrae he included business calls in other Australian cities and in New Zealand as well as visiting the USA. James was a keen photographer and he and his wife Louie enjoyed trips to the Lake District.

Peter recalled how his grandfather tried to assist him with his algebra. He also wrote amusing stories and poems about his childhood experiences for his grandchildren. Peter read one at the meeting, a story and about a donkey race which appears below.

After Louie died in 1943, James returned to Adelaide in 1944 to live with his daughter Dorothy and her family. He kept himself busy with carpentry, making tables and traymobiles in a convenient shed. He attempted without much success to teach Peter how to use very fast glass plates for photography, an art at which James Waite was highly skilled. James Waite died in 1954 at the age of 87.

Peter's and Marion's mother Dorothy lived until 1987 when she was almost 90 and had 11 grandchildren.

Lily and Eva lived happily at 'Broadlees' until Lily's sudden death in 1953. Eva then gave the house to Marion who had married Cedric Wells. Eva bought a house in Walkerville

Peter Waite's family continued

living there until her death in 1971, aged 91. She developed a fine garden there. Marion recalled how Aunt Eva liked to drive up to 'Broadlees' for afternoon tea to visit her and her three boys. Aunt Eva always brought a cake from the 'Lavender Gardens' shop in James Place. Her activities however were quite restricted after breaking her thigh in a fall in 1963.

Memory of Lily and Eva is preserved in Adelaide by the footbridge over the River Torrens which gives access to students and staff of the University of Adelaide to residential colleges and playing fields across the river. The bridge was built in 1937 and paid for by Lily and Eva.

We thank Kate Currier for taking the initial notes for this report.

A copy of the full talk by Peter Morgan can be borrowed from Urrbrae House.

Peter Waite died in April 1922, aged 88 years, and his wife Matilda died in November of the same year aged 86. Their daughters Lily (49) and Eva (42) handed over the Urrbrae property to the University of Adelaide on 3rd February 1923 pursuant to a deed of settlement negotiated in 1913. Lily and Eva then left Adelaide to travel overseas. After their return in 1925 they went to live on Waverley Ridge, Crafers in a house built by them which they called 'Broadlees'. Their elder sister Lizzie had married in 1915 and was living in Melbourne. Their brother James (56) who went to England in 1885 had worked there as an engineer and he and wife Louisa (Louie) had one child, a daughter Dorothy. During a visit to Adelaide in 1921 with her parents Dorothy became engaged to Edward Morgan (whose father had many years before lived in Netherby House). Dorothy and Edward were married in 1924 and they had three children, Marion, Peter and James



Dorothy Millar Waite



Eva Waite



Lily Waite

A Donkey Race - a story by James Waite

From "True stories for Little People" by Mannyman. These stories were sent in the 1930's from England by James Waite to his grandchildren Marion, Peter and James Morgan. James Waite used the name "Mannyman" because that is what Marion called him. As a little girl she called men "Manny" but as her grandfather was a special man, she called him Mannyman.

In this story James writes about a Donkey Race at Paratoo arranged by his father Peter Waite. This would probably have occurred before 1875, when the Waite family left Paratoo to live in Adelaide. James was then seven. Kit Wade was a son of Christopher Wade the head stockmen at Paratoo. In this story James refers to himself as "Mannymankins".

A Donkey Race

Once upon a time when Mannymankins lived at Paratoo, his Daddy said: - "I will give a prize for a donkey-race. The race will start here, at the house and you must all ride your donkeys away over there to wind-mill, and then turn and come back again. There must be no saddles and bridles; it will be much more fun to see what you can do without them".

There was Mannymankin, who rode on a dear old donkey called "Solomon", and there was Kit Wade — the boy whose nose got hit with the Jack-in-the-box off the Christmas-tree — and there was a black-boy called Harry-boy, and another boy whose name is forgotten, each with his donkey for the race.

When everyone was ready Mr. Daddy said:- "Now One, Two - Three -OFF!" Harry-boy's donkey set off at quite a good pace, but dear old Solomon did not want to leave the house! He wanted to stay there, in the hope that someone would bring him some bread-and-butter—or perhaps even some cake!

Mannymankins dug his little heels into Solomon and whacked him with a little stick, but Solomon did not mind that, and would only go a step or two — and then turn back again. But it was all in vain, for no one brought him any refreshments.

Another donkey that did not want to win the prize, just said "Hee-Haw", and then lay down on the ground!

Kit Wade's donkey was quite young, and had not been ridden very much, but he was such a pretty little fellow, and very lively.

A poem By James Waite for his grandchildren

To accompany Little Picture No 6

Look at Mannymankins
In a donkey-race
His old donkey's lazy
And only home will face.

Another stubborn donkey
Lies down on the ground
But one boy with his donkey
A clever dodge has found.

He has put some pebbles
In a little tin
How his donkey gallops
When they make a din!

This dear little donkey
Goes at such a pace
That he and his master
Now have won the race.

Now Kit Wade had made up his mind to win the prize, so what do you think he did? He got a little tin can, and put three or four tiny pebbles into it, and then put the lid on, and put it in his pocket until it would be wanted. As soon as Mr. Daddy said "Off!" Kit Wade took the little tin out of his pocket and rattled it behind the donkey's ears.

The little donkey was not accustomed to that sort of thing, and was really a little afraid of such a queer noise right in his ears —so away he went, ever so fast. If he wanted to turn one side Kit Wade just shook the tin near his ear on that side, enough to make him go straight again. Kit Wade and his donkey soon reached the wind-mill where they turned around, and they were back at the house again before anyone else had started—and so they won the prize, but don't you think they deserved it?



James Waite from Marion Wells

Manager's Musings continued from Page 1

The volunteers who have contributed 10 or more years of service acknowledged at the morning tea were Gillian Briggs, Marilyn Gilbertson, Peter Nicholls, Rosemary Sawley, Judy Tyler and Lynda Yates. The wonderful efforts of Una Wagner, who has been involved in the work of the Precinct for 15 years (and who had previously received a 10-year pin), were acknowledged with a certificate and a cyclamen.

As I mentioned at the Morning Tea, without volunteers the Waite Historic Precinct would be a rather lifeless place. We are very fortunate at Urrbrae House to have extremely dedicated volunteers and also to have a great mix of long-serving and newly arrived volunteers who work exceptionally well together. Our longer serving volunteers have a wonderful knack of quickly making their newer colleagues feel "at home". Sincere thanks goes to our Urrbrae House Co-ordinator, Amanda Jackson, and her team of volunteers who organised and cleaned up after the morning tea.

(continued page 7)



Volunteers "Thank you" Morning Tea

World Premier at Urrbrae House

The highlight of Emma Harwood's twilight concert at Urrbrae House on 15 June was the world premiere of a suite of songs of the words of JRR Tolkien's Songs of the Middle Earth set to the music of Adelaide composer Helen Cartridge who was at the concert.

Accompanying herself on the harp, soprano Emma enchanted an overflow audience with a wide range of traditional and contemporary songs. The combination of voice and harp was sheer magic.

A graduate of the University of Adelaide in music and education, Emma is a leading soprano soloist and ensemble singer and recently toured Canada, USA

and the UK with The Adelaide Chamber Singers. She has performed live on ABC Classic FM and was featured as one of its Rising Stars in 2006. Emma has recorded two solo CDs, Night Dreams and Vox Angelica.

Emma performs regularly as a harpist and vocalist, conducts the female choir Bella Voce at the University of Adelaide and teaches harp and voice privately.

The concert was arranged in conjunction with Vivente Music.

Hugh McClelland.



Emma Harwood and Helen Cartridge

All that Jazz!

Ed Heddle [piano], Anna Butterss [bass] and Kevin van der Zwaag [drums] beguiled a capacity audience in the Drawing Room of Urrbrae House on 5 July with a concert of modern jazz.

All students at the University of Adelaide the standard of playing revealed disciplined classical training, natural synergy and feeling for the music. The combo, was perfect for the music chosen and the ambience in the Drawing Room could not have been more harmonious between the players and the appreciative audience.

Ed, the Elder jazz pianist

undergraduate of the year in 2008 was trained initially in classical music. He already has an honours degree in pure mathematics and is currently completing a Bachelor of Jazz performance. Anna [18] who went to Maryatville High School has already established herself as one of Adelaide's leading double bass players. Kevin has completed a science degree and is currently also studying jazz at the Elder Conservatorium. He is regarded as one of Adelaide's best groove drummers. The three have been playing as a group since November, 2008.



The concert was arranged with the assistance of Bruce Hancock, Head of Jazz, Elder Conservatorium.

Hugh McClelland

Ed Heddle,
Anna Butterss and
Kevin van der Zwaag

News of Friends

From Jenny Barker, now living in Perth. Jenny was a member of the Committee from 1994-2003 and was also part of the scientific archive group for the same period:

"Since moving to Perth at the end of 2003, being without my Adelaide friends and activities I've engaged in a number of interests as well as kept I touch with various of my numerous relations and a few friends of old.

I've subscribed to a series of morning symphony concerts. I joined The Friends of Kings Park and am one of a small group who meet monthly to mail our newsletters etc. Those of you who are not familiar with Perth may be interested to know that the Park is now a semi-native scrub on a hill overlooking the city and Swan estuary, which includes the Botanic Gardens as well as a variety of recreational areas and Honour Avenues. It is much frequented by the general populace. There are about 100 Friends and volunteers to assist paid staff in many ways, including growing native plants for sale, weeding, bushland regeneration and at the quarterly plant sales. They also 'man the barricades' on Australia Day (I've done that only once- it was 42°C when people flood to the Park to picnic and vie for the best spots to view the evening fireworks display below I've also joined the Volunteer Schools Program through which people are trained as mentors to spend time in schools helping children with special needs. This is my second year as a mentor and I've found it very rewarding work I've also taken up bridge and go to classes on Monday mornings. The game is enjoyable, but a great test of my elderly memory. I also have time for books and radio and a bit of TV

Most importantly I engage in grandmotherly practices with great pleasure, having six avenues of interest for these.

Greetings and best wishes to all my FOH friends. Jenny Barker"

Sympathy We extend our sympathy to the family and friends of Margaret Kain who died on 17th May

Manager's Musings continued

Conservation Work and Office Refit

As mentioned previously, this year the University is funding some major conservation work at Urrbrae House. This work includes repairs to the roof and gutters, ceiling repairs and replacement of the kitchen floor. To enable this work to be undertaken Urrbrae House will be closed for three months from 19 November 2009. This year's annual Christmas party of the three Friends groups of the Waite Historic Precinct will be held in the gardens and Coach House.

In addition to the conservation work, the Division of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Vice-President (Research) is funding the conversion of the current Photocopying Room on the ground floor of the house into a more spacious Reception/Front Office for Amanda. The conversion will take place at the end of this year and will provide a far more comfortable and safe working space for Amanda. It will also allow those coming to discuss matters with Amanda to sit down in more spacious surroundings than is possible in our current "more than cosy" Front Office.

Lynette Zeitz



Volunteers "Thank you" Morning Tea

Profile interview — Joy Middleton

Joy first came to Urrbrae House through her connections with Volunteering SA in 2005. She heard that flower arrangers were needed in Urrbrae House and her commitment to the house has 'blossomed' from then. You may have seen many of her arrangements throughout the house over the years. Joy said that she finds it "a privilege to wander into the lovely gardens at Urrbrae House and collect the flowers to arrange".

She is a dedicated member of the School's program team, has played the roles of Matilda Waite and Mrs Henrietta Reynell in the dining room; a Governess in the schoolroom and a Kitchen maid. She is rarely absent from the program, enjoying the interaction with the year 5's as much as the camaraderie with the rest of the volunteers and staff.

As a committee member of the Friends of Urrbrae House, Joy is invaluable as she is always ready to give a helping hand, no matter what the occasion.

We all value her skills, calm nature and sense of humour — see inset photo of the dressing room 'conga line' as we prepare each other's dress for the School's Program; Joy is 'Mrs Reynell' and first in line.

"It came as a surprise to me that Urrbrae House has helped me; volunteering is supposed to be you helping others" Joy said to me at the close of this interview. We both smiled knowingly.

Vicki Cheshire

School's program volunteers (in order) Joy, Vicki, Janet, Lyn, Kate



The Back Page — Upcoming events

- ♦ **Sat 29th August – 7.30pm Bush Dance** We are very pleased to announce that this event is a sell out. We are sure that all participants will enjoy the evening and thank all who have booked early.
- ♦ **Friday 4th Sept – 10 am – 4 pm. Exhibition** There will be a **one day** exhibition in the Drawing Room of Urrbrae House, featuring the exquisite hand carved silhouettes of trees by Les Loffler. Many of the timbers have come from the Arboretum and the silhouette matches the species of timber from which it was carved. All items will be for sale. Shop early for a unique Christmas gift, or buy yourself a special present! (Friends of the Arboretum).
- ♦ **Mon 7th September – 5.30 for 6pm Twilight Concert Solo Virtuoso** A solo recital by the acclaimed violinist Natsuko Yoshimoto concertmaster of the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra. In a daring program in the tradition of the great violin virtuosos from the 19th and the 20th century she will perform solo works by Bach and Ysaÿe. Cost including refreshments: \$15. Please telephone 8303 7497 or email bill.wallace@adelaide.edu.au to make a booking.
- ♦ **Sun 20th September – 2pm Arbor Wind Quintet** tickets \$15 .00 Bookings to Beth: 8357 1679 bgrich@ozemail.com.au (Friends of Waite Arboretum)
- ♦ **Wed 23rd September – 6pm Guitar concert** featuring Aleksandr Tsiboulski starting promptly at 6pm for an hour. Bookings with Jennifer Gardner at Urrbrae House Phone 8303-7405, email: jennifer.gardner@adelaide.edu.au (Friends of Waite Arboretum)
- ♦ **Thur 8th October – 1pm –4 Games Day (Fun in 1901)** A fun afternoon for school children aged 7-13 showcasing games from the past, a Punch and Judy Puppet Show in the Ballroom, and afternoon tea. Tickets are limited, we recommend that you book early. Enquiries to Vicki Cheshire 8370 0032.
- ♦ **Thurs 15th October – 10.30am Manager's Morning Tea** Friends of Urrbrae House (past and present) and others are invited for an informal chat and a catch-up with what's going on at Urrbrae House. Transport can be arranged, please call Bill Wallace 83791905.
- ♦ **Sun 18th October—3.00pm Lumina Vocal Ensemble** Lumina is an a cappella vocal ensemble which is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year with a performance of "Choice Morsels", a selection of pieces voted as the favourites of their fans. The current group of 16 singers comprises experienced early music performers specializing in mediaeval, early renaissance and contemporary repertoire.

Lumina will be presenting their 10th Anniversary concert "Choice Morsels" at the Crafters Church of the Epiphany on Sunday 11th October and will present a similar concert at Urrbrae House on Sunday 18th October at 3pm.

Anna Pope who is the Director of Lumina and composer of some of their works is also the historian for the family of Edward Stirling who leased the Urrbrae Estate from 1855 to 1864. <http://lumina.homeip.net/>
- ♦ **Mon 7th December – 6.00pm Christmas Party**

New Members

We welcome the following new members since May:

Ann and Mark Arens, Sally M.Aurich and Barbara Rose Auricht,
Margaret and Richard Butters, Warren Flavel, Nicolle Holmes, Anke Vorbach