



The Friends of Urrbrae House

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

Editor Vicki Cheshire

President's Notes

Looking back on 2009 it is very pleasing to recall a range of events that brought great pleasure to those who attended as well as making a very good profit. Accordingly we have been building up our finances for a major renovation project on two of the Waite family bedrooms on the lower level of Urrbrae House.

As well as our Twilight Concert Series where we enjoyed performances by some of Adelaide's best known musicians we commenced a new series of Sunday afternoon concerts this year featuring student groups from the Elder Conservatorium. Minas Berberyán who arranges the program for our Twilight Concerts commented recently that the Drawing Room in Urrbrae House is one of the best venues in Adelaide for chamber music.

Our Supper Dance this year with a Bush Dance theme and Games Day – Fun in 1901 were both fully subscribed and a lot of fun for everyone. Both are now part of our Annual Program.

To complete our program for the year we were pleased to present one of two special performances by the Lumina Vocal Ensemble on the occasion of their 10th Anniversary. The ballroom was the perfect setting for the presentation by eighteen singers of mediaeval, renaissance and Australian music. For Anna Pope (Musical Director of the Lumina Ensemble) the occasion had special significance since she is a descendant of the family of Edward Stirling whose family lived in Urrbrae House from 1855 – 1864, prior to the Waite family.

I would like to thank members of the committee for their planning and presentation of functions during the year and encouragement of guests to attend and also become new Friends of Urrbrae House. This year we had 28 new Friends join.

In particular I would like to thank our Treasurer Lyn Mackay for her thorough work in maintaining our membership list and managing our finances. As a committee we also appreciate the encouragement of Lynette Zeitz, Manager of the Urrbrae Historic Precinct.

If you would like to see the Newsletter in full colour you can now access it on the Friends section of the Urrbrae House website. If you have not done so, mark Urrbrae House as one of your 'Favourites' and check it regularly for news of forthcoming events.

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

On behalf of the Committee I would like to thank you for your support during the year and wish you a joyful Christmas and good year in 2010. We look forward to you joining us at the Christmas Party on Monday 7th December (see back page for details).

Manager's Musings

Christmas – a time of sharing

As Christmas fast approaches I thought to share with you a little Christmas story written by James Waite (1867-1954). Created for his grandchildren Marion, Peter and James Morgan, the story recounts a Christmas incident from the childhood of Mannyman (James Waite's fictional alter ego).

When Mannymankins was a very little boy, and was living at Paratoo, a wonderful Christmas came – one that he had never seen before – for – on this Christmas-day there was a huge, lovely Christmas-tree, with candies, and fairies, and little dolls and tiny toy animals, and parcels with lovely things in them for surprises to whoever got them, and last but not least there was dear old father Christmas with his long white beard, who called everyone by name, and gave them their presents.

Mannyman cannot remember all that Father Christmas gave Mannymankins, but he does remember a dear little bird made of china that lived for a long time afterwards on the mantle-piece in his bedroom. A boy called Kit, was there, and at last his turn came and Father Christmas cried out, in a deep voice, "Kit come here." So Kit went over to Father Christmas, who said to him in his deep voice: "Look at this little box; it is for you – look closely at it."

When Kit stooped over the little box to look closely at it, the lid suddenly opened, and out popped "Jack-in-the-Box" and hit poor Kit's nose! How everybody laughed – and Kit laughed too, as soon as he had recovered from the shock that "Jack" had given him.

Following his talk at this year's Annual General Meeting, Peter Morgan kindly donated to Urrbrae House a copy of various children's stories and poems written by his grandfather. Not only are the stories charming to read but they offer some wonderful insights into the everyday family life of the Waites in the Victorian era. For example, from a story called "The Six" we learn that the Waite children used to have dinner on Sundays with their parents "as a treat – instead of in their nursery" and that the Waites employed a parlourmaid named Mary. From the same story we can deduce that Matilda Waite had a great sense of humour as she colluded with her children to play a trick on her husband over dinner. If anyone is interested in reading the stories and poems please let me know. The generosity of the Waites' descendants in sharing this material is greatly appreciated.

Wanted: flower volunteers and tour guides

Anyone who has been in Urrbrae House will have undoubtedly noticed the beautiful arrangements of flowers found in the main areas of the House. Each week rostered volunteers collect flowers from the grounds and create the works of art that you have seen on display. At the beginning of 2009 we had five flower volunteers but sadly one volunteer retired and another is about to move interstate. So if you enjoy picking and arranging flowers, and could spare a few hours a month, please consider joining our team of flower volunteers.

Similarly, we have a small group of volunteer tour guides who lead the free public tours on the first Sunday of each month. Guides are rostered over the year so that each guide only needs to take a few tours per year. It would be great to have a couple of additional guides in place. Training is provided for new guides. An interest in history and the ability to work with diverse groups of people would be an advantage.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer in either capacity please contact Amanda Jackson on 83037497 for more information.

Friends of Urrbrae House Committee

Finally, I would like to thank the members of the Friends of Urrbrae House Committee whose hard work has made all the events held in 2009 such a success. Well done everyone! On a more personal note, I would like to acknowledge the support of Bill Wallace and Lyn Mackay whose assistance at Urrbrae House when I was recently laid low with pneumonia went above and beyond what might be expected of a President and Treasurer. Many thanks to you both.

Lynette Zeitz

Unique Roof of Urrbrae House

Urrbrae House's distinctive roof has been one reason for it being identified with the flamboyant residential architecture associated with the period leading up to and immediately after the Federation of the Australian Colonies in 1901. The swing was away from the grey roofs of the Italianate to the picturesque of the so-called Queen Anne style where red brick and terra cotta were called for.

Sir Edward Morgan (1974)* in his recollection of the 'The Waites' wrote: "The new house was built of stone, and its roof was of those small red quarry tiles which were most effective. I think that the house was the first house in South Australia to have a red tiled roof; earlier houses had slate roofs or roofs of iron. The Urrbrae tiles were specially imported from Marseilles and many were broken in transport. Not enough of the tiles remained and parts of the roof not ordinarily visible were of galvanized iron painted red; the broken fragments were used as a form of gravel on the drive".

In the review undertaken for the Urrbrae House Conservation Management (2007) it is recorded that 'the plain burnt clay tiles used for the roof were manufactured by RK Cooper and Sons of Pinkneys Green near Maidenhead, England. While a common material in the south of England such tiles never found a place as part of Australian buildings. While slates had been commonly reported from Wales into Australia, it was probably the additional weight and general fragility of the burnt clay tiles which made their importation uneconomic'.

Professor Miles Lewis*, Professor in the Faculty of Architecture, Building & Planning at the University of Melbourne in an article on the Marseilles roof tiles wrote: 'In 1888 the Marseilles tile proper was shown at the Centennial International Exhibition in Melbourne by the Société Anonyme des Tuileries et Produits Céramiques of Marseille. Immediately the tiles began to appear on some substantial local buildings. In 1890 they were used on 'Urrbrae House' at Netherby, South Australia, designed by C H Marryat and E J Woods. The distinctive feature of the Marseilles tile is the overlocking ribs and grooves which seal one tile against the next'. *<http://mileslewis.net/australian-building/pdfs/bricks-tiles/marseilles-tile.pdf>



Thus the roof tiles of Urrbrae House appear to be of the Marseilles style and were either made by RK Cooper and Sons in England or imported via them from France. Decorative crested profiles on the end of the ridge capping were supplied by RK Cooper and Sons.

Bill Wallace

*Morgan, E (1974) Unpublished notes: Urrbrae House Archives

Profile Interview — Jenny Goodfellow

Jenny has been a volunteer at Urrbrae House since 2007. She is actively involved with the Schools' Program. It is with care and attention that she helps the children in the Kitchen area playing the roles of stern Housekeeper "Mrs Farqueson" or ever pleasant Kitchen-maid "Miss Jenny".

Jenny enjoys attending the Music events at Urrbrae House. She is an invaluable volunteer at the Games Day events (see photo of Jenny in costume, explaining blow-football to an enthusiastic family). "The attraction of coming to Urrbrae House is not only the people you meet, but also having interaction with the children visiting from schools" she said. "The school's program is just so much fun and it is so delightful to be able to make it up as you go along". Modest as ever, but we all know that she works very hard in these roles; all of the team appreciate how much her sunny nature adds cheer to the program.



Vicki Cheshire

VIVACIOUS VIOLA CONCERT 10th August

Swiss born Australian violist and violinist Imants Larsen performed with pianist Nerissa Pearce at a twilight concert at Urrbrae House.

Imants who began playing the violin at age 3 trained in Adelaide and Switzerland is the Associate Principal Viola with the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra and has performed widely internationally. Nerissa has been a freelance pianist and accompanist for the past fifteen years working for numerous productions of Opera SA and Opera Queensland. Under numerous awards including a Churchill Fellowship she has trained in London and New York.

The programme opened with masterful renditions of Johannes Brahms' Sonata in E flat op. 120 for Viola and Piano followed by Robert Schumann's Maerchenbilder [Fairy Tales] op.113 for Viola and Piano.

Imants then switched to violin for a stunning performance of rarely heard Belgian composer Eugene Ysaie's [1858-1931] Poeme Elegiaque op.12. This engaging and technically complex piece allowed Imants to display his complete mastery of the instrument. Ysaie should be heard more often. And we certainly hope to hear Imants and Nerissa more often.

The programme was arranged by Vivente Music.

Hugh McClelland



Photo: Nerissa Pearce, Imants Larsen

Bush Dance 29th August

This year's dance evening was themed an Aussie Bush Dance, with music performed by "the Offsiders" it was a most enjoyable evening and many tables of guests enjoyed dancing the night away whilst in the best company – close friends. The dances were well explained and called by Cliff Milne leader of the band. The ambience of the ballroom was indeed very 'country' with hay bales, a saddle or two and hurricane lamps complementing the gum-leaves, stockman's swag and billy. The event was so successful the FOUH has requested that it occur again in 2010, so mark your diaries for 28th of August, 2010.

Many thanks go to the volunteers who decorated the rooms, arranged beautiful native flowers from the grounds and provided tea and coffee for the guests. A special mention goes to Bill Wallace for smoothly convening the event.

Vicki Cheshire



Lyn MacKay and Colin Jenner with others



Bill and Jenny Wallace

Lest we forget

On display in the Billiard Room at Urrbrae House is an Honour Roll of the 18th Battery / 6th Field Artillery of the Second Division of the Australian Commonwealth Military Forces. It was drawn and designed in the field by Gunner PR Wightman in France: October 1916.

Lyn Marlow, a Friend of Urrbrae House, recently enquired about the circumstances whereby the Honour Roll was on display and what links Peter Waite might have had with this military brigade. Lyn had noted the names of three of three of her Uncles on the Honour Roll.

Yvonne Routledge has informed me that the Honour Roll was found in the Urrbrae House Library and Richard Wells organized to have it framed and put it the library.

Sir Edward Morgan (1974)* wrote as follows:

‘During the First World War, Peter Waite was still serving on the Board of Elder Smith and Company and continued to go to his office where he said himself that his function was to keep everybody cheerful. He paid for a fine bronze memorial to the members of the staff who served in the armed forces’.

This fine memorial is in the reception area of the Elder’s Building in Currie St.

In July 1915 the 2nd Division, A.I.F., 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 with Edwin Theyer (E.T.) Dean as the commanding office. Prior to earlier military service he worked in his family’s stock and station agency.

On 20 October 1915, E.T Dean was appointed to the A.I.F. as a major and left soon after with 6th Field Artillery Brigade for Egypt.

In the first year of service, which the Honour Roll in Urrbrae House refers to, the Artillery Unit was in action at Ypres in Belgium and in France at the Somme and Pozieres in particular.

The relatives Lyn Marlow drew attention to were EW Mattner, PTM Morcombe and WJF Sage. In later years Ted Mattner was selected as a Liberal Senator from 1944–6, 1950–68 while Phil Morcombe and Jim Sage continued with their farming work. Jim and Ted served in World War II.

There is also a photograph of the 18th Battery/6th Brigade in the Billiard Room which was taken in November 1915 and has the following handwritten note on it.

To Peter Waite Esq from the Officers of the 18th Battery /6th Brigade. A small token of appreciation and esteem.

One is still guessing at the association Peter Waite had with 18th Battery / 6th Field Artillery: perhaps he was friendly with the Dean family through their stock and station activities, perhaps it was in appreciation of staff from Elders whom he encouraged and supported. The display of this Honour Roll in Urrbrae House is a link with a significant aspect of the history of South Australia.

Bill Wallace

* ‘The Waites’ Unpublished notes: Urrbrae House Archives.



SOLO VIRTUOSO 7th September

Natsuko Yoshimoto, Concertmaster, Adelaide Symphony Orchestra and internationally acclaimed violinist performed in a solo recital at Urrbrae House on 7 September. She opened the recital with JS Bach's lengthy and technically demanding Partita No 2 in D Minor which she played to perfection and which had the audience spellbound. Ms Yoshimoto then followed with M Hindson's short but lyrical "Song of Life" which displayed her complete mastery of the upper registers of the violin. The concert concluded with Ysaye's beautiful Sonata No 4 in E Minor in 3 parts, the last of which particularly left the audience in awe of the soloist's talents.



Until 2008 Ms Yoshimoto was the leader of the internationally applauded Australian String Quartet [which incidentally has just left on another European tour]. In great demand as a soloist she has appeared with the London, Philharmonia [London], Halle, Odense [Denmark], Tokyo and Hong Kong symphony orchestra and this year she will appear in concert in Germany, Hong Kong and Japan and with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra.

Ms Yoshimoto began playing the violin at the age of three and trained in England and the USA including under the direct guidance of Yehudi Menuhin and Wen Zhou Li. She has championed Australian composers by world premieres and has recorded extensively on ABC Classics, Virgin Classics, Melba Records and Tall Poppies.

The concert was arranged in conjunction with Vivente Music.

Hugh McClelland

Photo: Natsuko Yoshimoto

Profile Interview — Kate Currier

Kate came to visit Australia in 1979 and loved it so much she stayed, spending some time at the Blackall Range on the Sunshine coast and subsequently in Adelaide.

A couple of years ago Kate came to a concert at Urrbrae House, joined the Friends and has enjoyed many musical concerts since. Both Elma Lippett and Lyn MacKay convinced Kate to join the School's program and she has been an integral member of the team in the kitchen (see photo as Kate shows the children how to serve tea).

Growing up in La Jolla California, Kate went to a Christian Girl's School in the Mid-west. Her career has been varied: working in Stockbrokerage, Hallmark Cards, Real Estate, Wedgewood China and Glassware, and owned a popcorn business in Hahndorf. In March this year she retired from Aged Care Diversional Therapy.

"The best thing about Urrbrae House is the camaraderie and friendly atmosphere. The way the people are hospitable and so nice." she said. Regarding the school's program, she values the way the volunteers have many interest in common: "talking is easy as so many people are well travelled and have a broad outlook on life".

Kate recently joined the Friends of Urrbrae House Committee as a member and we look forward to her continued support.

Vicki Cheshire



It was with much relief that the weather cleared to blue skies just a few days before the Games Day event (Fun in 1901) this year. This was the first time that I have convened an event at Urrbrae House; being a member of the committee I have helped at quite a few events over the past year and a half. Fortunately as I took over the Games Day from the most capable Janet Miller, most of the activities for the day were easy to arrange. A lively team of 20 volunteers helped make the day a success. Thank you to all.

The event is geared to provide entertainment for children aged 7-13 yrs of age, and aims to be as historically accurate as possible, being set in the Victorian era of 1901. Many parlour games were enjoyed in the drawing room, including tiddley-winks, blow football and kucklebones (with real bones). Participants were assured that these parlour games were indeed played by adults in those times. Outdoor games were well attended on the Pear tree lawn and the Croquet lawn. One of the favourite games of the day besides the ever popular Croquet was 'Splat-the-Rat', a game where children are encouraged to hit a rat (a stuffed grey sock) as it exits a drain pipe on a board. Killing rats being quite topical for the 1901 era with Bubonic plague still terrifying populations around the world.



Martin Miller helping to Splat the Rat



Keith Preston delighted children and adults alike with two performances of the traditional Punch and Judy show, complete with baby, crocodile devil and policeman! Keith gave an explanation of the show, noting that the content of the show was merely good fun for all peoples of the 1800's, adults in particular. He noted that although our entertainment has changed today some things are perennial. He explained that Punch and Judy became street theatre for the masses, with mobile carts recognizable by their red and white stripes. Judging by the reaction of the audience Mr. Preston is a consummate Punch Professor, engaging the audience with shock and laughter.

This year participants were encouraged to dress 'Victorian' style and it was delightful to see many people came in costume. At this stage we are expecting the event to continue next year, on Wednesday the 6th October 2010. Please phone Vicki on 8370 0032 to request an early notice during 2010.

Vicki Cheshire

Elizabeth Koch and Friends 26th October

To cap a year of marvelous music making, Assoc Prof Elizabeth Koch [flute] joined with Minas Berberyian [violin], Rosalind Martin [voice], Diana Weekes [piano] and Sebastian Tonkin [cello] for a twilight concert at



Urrbrae House, 26 October. The programme comprised short pieces by Handel, Saint Saens, Grieg, Ibert and P. Gaubert. The performances were of an extremely high standard and the pieces well suited to the ambience of the Drawing Room. Throughout the year, Minas, a First Violin with the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra assisted the Friends of Urrbrae House Committee arrange concerts through Vivente Music of which he is principal. Similarly, earlier this year, Elizabeth helped arrange concerts by students of the Elder Conservatorium. The Committee greatly values the collaboration with Minas and Elizabeth which will continue in 2010.

Hugh McClelland

Photo: Minas Berberyian, Sebastian Tonkin, Rosalind Martin, Elizabeth Koch and Diana Weekes

We welcome the following who have joined as Friends since August:

Meg Butler
John and Jenny Goodwin
Sue and Michael Heathcote
Sue Nudi
Elizabeth Puddy
Sandra Sebelis
Margaret Whelan



Christmas Party



Joint gathering of the Friends of Urrbrae House, Friends of Waite Arboretum and Friends of the Waite Conservation Reserve.



Monday 7th December 2009 at 6pm.

Coach House area of Urrbrae House Gardens.

Drinks and light refreshments provided.

At 5.30pm Dr Jennifer Gardner will lead a tour of the new Heritage Rose Parterre and new plantings in the Garden of Discovery.

