

Newsletter November 2010

# The Friends of Urrbrae House

Urrbrae House, University of Adelaide, Waite Campus, PMB#1 GLEN OSMOND, SA 5064. Tel 8303 7497

Editor Vicki Cheshire



Yvonne Routledge, Keith Conlon  
Lynette MacKay, Kate Currier

## President's Report

During August and September I returned to my role as Manager, Urrbrae House in an acting capacity whilst Sally Owen was on leave.

It was an interesting seven weeks that began with a filming of a Postcards segment at the house. I was joined by Lyn McKay, Lyn Marlow, Vicki Cheshire and Kate Currier in repeating some of the schools program segments with the host of Postcards Keith Conlon taking the role of "Master Cedric". The crew of Postcards put us all at our ease and brought out some excellent acting skills in our group. The program was broadcast on October 31<sup>st</sup> and I hope that many of our members had the opportunity to see it.

Mary Jose, textile conservator at the "Fabric of Life", returned the restored verandah chair to Urrbrae House. Mary has done a magnificent job which was funded by a donation from the Urrbrae House snooker group led by Richard Wells. The Friends of Urrbrae House committee has agreed to fund the conservation of the second verandah chair which is now being undertaken by Mary Jose. Mary has done some excellent conservation work for the house over the years, which has included tub chairs in the library and curtains in the drawing room.

Since Sally's return I have concentrated mainly on my duties as President. A number of successful events have taken place including concerts, a bush dance and a games day. I wish to thank the committee members involved in organising these events. On October 26<sup>th</sup> we held a joint meeting with representatives from the Friends of the Waite Arboretum and Friends of the Conservation Reserve. We discussed possible future joint events and the development of a power point presentation and flier templates for promotion; the meeting ended with wine, cheese and socialising. We all hope that this will lead to more collaboration between the friends groups in 2011.

## Dates for your Diary

**December 6<sup>th</sup>**  
**Christmas Celebration**  
(6.00pm)

See back page for details

*Continued....*

On October 28<sup>th</sup> there was a Manager's morning tea held at the house. These occasions are informal and give members an opportunity to catch up on Urrbrae House news and meet other members. Sally Owen gave a talk on happenings at the house and I gave a short account of Friends events. After morning tea the group went on a tour of the Plant Accelerator. This represents the latest in technology at the Waite and involves a fully automated system for the study of numerous factors on plant growth and development. It is fascinating and it is possible for us to organise a FOUH tour of the facility in 2011. Members should let us know if they are interested.

As usual it has been a very busy year which will culminate in our joint Christmas party on Monday December 6<sup>th</sup>. One of our committee members Samantha Croser is organising a silent auction and we hope that many of our members will join us.

I will take this opportunity to thank all our committee members for their hard work during the year and wish all members and their families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

*Yvonne Routledge President, Friends of Urrbrae House*

The postcards session can be viewed at:

[http://www.postcards-sa.com.au/features\\_videos\\_pages/features2010/urrbrae\\_house.html](http://www.postcards-sa.com.au/features_videos_pages/features2010/urrbrae_house.html)

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

Early November must offer one of the true highlights of this job- the view from the manager's office window over the rose garden in full bloom! Yet another perk to working in such beautiful surroundings!

It was also a great pleasure to see the House in a starring role on Channel 9's 'Postcards' on October 31<sup>st</sup>. It was hard to



decide which star most deserved headline billing- Urrbrae House itself or one of our fabulous cast of volunteers! Truly an Oscar winning performance all round!

Late October brought the Manager's Morning Tea, attended by some 20 friends. After an informal chat over tea and cake in the dining room, we made our way up the hill, in delightful spring weather, to enjoy a guided tour of the University's new 'super greenhouse'- the Plant Accelerator. Once again, Robin Hosking did a brilliant job explaining the intricacies of the plant, equipment and processes to both the very knowledgeable and the very interested! I have toured the facility many times as part of the Primary Horizons Program with Year 7 students, and never fail to be amazed by it. I am sure that Peter Waite would have been immensely pleased, given his love of cutting edge technology, to have this world-class research facility housed on the land he so generously gifted to the university.

As my temporary tenure as manager here at Urrbrae House draws to a close, I would like to extend a big 'thank you' to all who have made the experience so enjoyable- Amanda, Jennifer and all the wonderful volunteers, but not least to Urrbrae House itself, truly a jewel in the university's crown.

*Sally Owen*



## Bush Dance

The 2010 FOUH Bush Dance on the 28<sup>th</sup> August was another evening of fun, exercise and merriment at Urrbrae House.

The Insiders performed spectacularly throughout the evening, guiding us through the steps and keeping the dances appropriate to the skill levels of the dancers – most were novices.

As you can see from the faces in the photos we all had a grand time, laughing, dancing, and socialising.



Going through the arches



Socialising over supper



Dancing the right hand star

## *Silent Auction at the Christmas party*

We are calling for donation of goods to be used in a Silent Auction to be held at the Christmas Party on the 6<sup>th</sup> December 2010 with funds to support FOUH projects for Urrbrae House.

Gifts may be art works, hand crafted items, donation of goods; wine and antique items are always favorites or a business donation - a 'service' that your business can provide (e.g. a mowing voucher from your gardening business, or a 'two for one' offer at your bed and breakfast).

All donations will be acknowledged.

Be prepared to bid on a bargain at the Christmas Party!

Please contact Samantha Croser ph: 0410 487 668 or email: [samantha.croser@unisa.edu.au](mailto:samantha.croser@unisa.edu.au)

## Games Day

Another successful event for the FOUH and the house was held on October 6<sup>th</sup>. Parents, Grandparents and children had a fun time exploring games of yesteryear.

Games were played on the croquet lawns, drawing room, billiard room as well as history activities in the library and the schoolroom.

In the ballroom we played group games such as 'Charades', and 'Signalman' - a game much like musical chairs using a train signal as an indicator to find your seat.

Afternoon tea in the dining room was a very social affair, many children made friends with people they had never met before!

All who attended thought this a very special day.



Hugh McClelland helping a participant 'splat a rat'



Signalman last four children – only two chairs!



"Miss Amanda" in the schoolroom



Afternoon tea - all the 'maids in a row'

Would you like to join the **Urrbrae House Book Club**?

We meet at 1pm on the last Monday of the month.

**New members are welcome.**

Books are provided from Burnside Library

Discussions are informal.

Please contact the Urrbrae House Manager if you are interested 8303 7425.



Kate Currier and Jen Goodfellow playing knucklebones



## ***Passacaglia***

Natsuko Yoshimoto, Concertmaster, Adelaide Symphony Orchestra and Imants Larsen, Associate Principal Viola, ASO gave an outstanding concert in Urrbrae House on 9 August.

Ms Yoshimoto opened the concert with a brilliant performance of Bach's 7 part Partita No 3 in E major. A technical test for any violinist [and often used as an audition test], we were treated to a flawless and exiting rendition in which the lyrical gavotte en rondeau stood out.

The two musicians then combined for Mozart's richly beautiful String Duo No 2 in B flat and concluded the concert with Havorsen's Passacaglia for Violin and Viola in G minor, an arrangement of Handel's music. Rich music, richly played by two world class masters of their instruments.

This was a very well balanced concert, recorded by 5 MBS and arranged by our collaborators Vivente Music.

*Hugh McClelland*



Imants Larsen, Natsuko Yoshimoto.



Holly Bennett, Nadia Buck, Tahlia De Corso

## ***Father's Day Concert***

Holly Bennett (Violin) Nadia Buck (Violin) Tahlia De Corso (Piano) treated the Father's Day (5<sup>th</sup> September) audience to music from Prokofiev, Stravinsky and Brahms.

The programme was a delightful mix of interesting musical themes of Prokofiev and Stravinsky; finishing with the transfixing melodies and grace of Brahms.

Many in the audience took their fathers to a very special outing at Urrbrae House; the professionalism and choice of music from the trio was much appreciated.

*Vicki Cheshire*

## ***Czechmate Concert***

Recent newcomers to Australia from South Africa were highly accomplished musicians Robin Finlay [trumpet] and his wife Jacqui Finlay [cello] at the Vivente Music twilight concert at Urrbrae House on 20 September. They were joined by Erna Berberyán [violin] and Irina Lioubimova [piano] in a beautiful and well balanced programme of works by JBG Neruda, Beethoven and Dvorak.



Irina Lioubimova, Erna Berberyán, Jacqui Finlay, Robin Finlay

*Hugh McClelland.*

## ***Songs of Italy***

Tasso Bouyessis, award winning Australian operatic tenor delighted a Twilight Concert audience on 18 October with songs by Scarlatti, Bellini, Tosti, Toselli and Puccini.

Accompanied by Russian trained and Elder Conservatorium piano teacher Irina Lioubimova, Tasso filled the Drawing Room of Urrbrae House with beautiful and impeccably delivered songs from the Golden Age of Italian opera. His obvious love of the songs was infectiously delivered to an audience wanting more.

It was a most wonderful concert recorded by 5 MBS and arranged by Vivente Music.

*Hugh McClelland*



Irina Lioubimova, Tasso Bouyessis

### **Lumina Vocal Ensemble**

## ***A Mediaeval Celebration***

**Urrbrae House - Sunday afternoon 27<sup>th</sup> February 2011 (3pm)**

In this mediaeval celebration the Lumina Vocal Ensemble will be joined by instrumentalists from the Lyrebird consort to present music spanning several hundred years, and moving from courtly dances and love songs to meditative music from the monasteries.

The event will utilize several areas of Urrbrae House and will be part of the Adelaide Festival Fringe 2011.

***Mark this date in your 2011 diary***



## **Christmas Party**



*There will be a joint gathering of the  
Friends of Urrbrae House, Friends of Waite Arboretum  
and Friends of the Waite Conservation Reserve  
Monday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2010 at 6pm*

*Drinks and light refreshments provided*

***Merry  
Christmas***

***HAPPY NEW YEAR***