



Newsletter February 2023

The Friends of Urrbrae House

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President's Report

Wishing you all best wishes for 2023 and a warm welcome to our first newsletter. The Friends' Christmas Celebration on 12th December 2022 was a wonderful opportunity to thank so many supporters of Urrbrae House, the Waite Arboretum and the Waite Conservation Reserve.

I thank you for renewing or for your continued membership to the Friends of Urrbrae House.

We can all be proud of the contribution of our membership fees to keep this beautiful house in excellent restored condition and available for us all to enjoy while at events or on guided tours. This year membership fees have increased to Individual \$20 and Family \$30, with the Friends of Urrbrae House Committee busily planning events and social occasions for your enjoyment.

It is with great pleasure that I can advise we have eight Twilight concerts this year. The first, hosted by Vivante Music, is on Monday 13th February 2023, "Pasion & Virtuosity". The next concert, hosted by The Friends of Urrbrae House, is on Monday 27th March 2023, "Meadow Mind".

I look forward to greeting you in the House sometime soon.

Lyn Mackay
President, Friends of Urrbrae House

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday evening 13th February 2023

Vivante Music presents

"Passion & Virtuosity"

Eurelia Trio

Paris Netting -violin Hamish Netting -cello Yundi Yuan - piano

Eurelia Trio is a newly established Piano Trio based in Adelaide.

The ensemble takes its name from the small town of Eurelia in the eastern Flinders Ranges - a name which translates from the local Jadliaura language as "place of the ear".

They will be performing works by Arensky, Glinka and Glière.

This is an event not to be missed!

For Bookings go to <https://www.trybooking.com/CFHVN>



Monday evening 27th March 2023

"Meadow Mind"

Allye Sinclair –cello Rob Wallace -violin Dylan Woolcock -mandolin



These musicians formed a string trio in December 2021 to play original chamber folk (largely written by Allye). Mixing this with the occasional Celtic tune, classical masterpiece or improvisation the group continue to experiment.

Their warm and intimate house concerts across Adelaide throughout 2022 gained a following and they have appeared at Wirrina Bluegrass and Roots Festival and Carrick Hill Friday nights. The sweet blend of strings delivers a fresh mix of melody and rhythmic drive with a dose of subtle humour.

Tickets for this event will be via [TryBooking](#) and open later this month.

Urrbrae House presents the following events:

- Monday 20th February - Six Strings around Italy with Lorenzo Bernardi
- Sunday 26th February -2 Violins and 8 Strings – classical music gems
- Monday 6th March -Nush Lewis - Indian Independent Showcase
- Saturday 11th March -Tim Barton, pianist - Rhapsody in Chicago Blues

Tickets and details for Urrbrae House guided tours and Urrbrae House events can also be found searching Urrbrae House or search Urrbrae House

www.adelaide.edu.au/waite-historic/whats-on

Welcome to the following new Members in 2022

Dr Kym Teh and Dr Susan Errington	Maureen and Tony Saville	Philip Henschke
Robert Dawson and Linda Nakell	Dr Leon Pitchon	Minas Berberyán
Dr Robert and Margaret Heddle	Leslie Dansie	Margaret Martin
Libby Lynch and Jack Major	Monique de Wit	Stephanie Atkinson

*We thank you for your support and membership
of the Friends of Urrbrae House*

Elizabeth Waite (Macmeikan)

Elizabeth (Lizzie) was born at Baselow Cottage, Glenelg on 17 December 1870 to coincide with a holiday of the family from their pastoral property at Paratoo in the mid north of South Australia. Elizabeth was given the Christian name of her paternal grandmother.

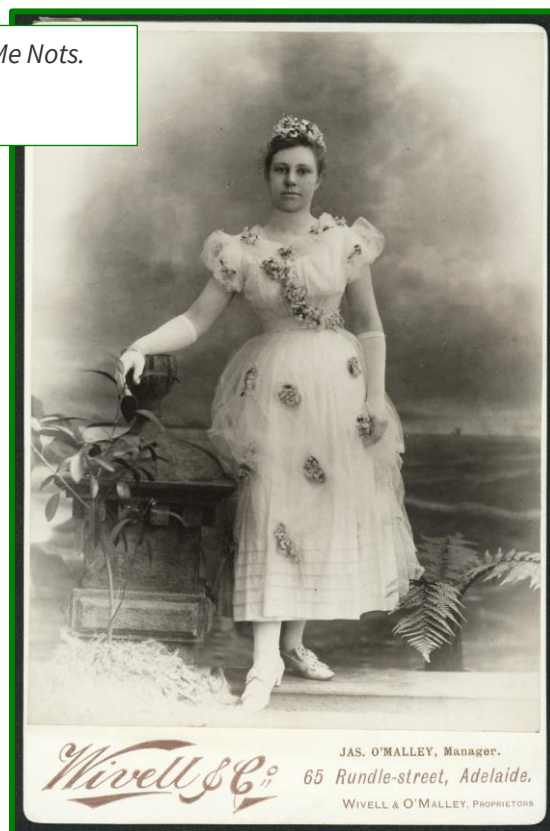
From 1889 -1890, while Urrbrae House was being extended, Peter and Matilda Waite and their family lived in Cheltenham, England. Elizabeth was 19 when they arrived in England and appears to have developed a love for life there and made several later visits. On such occasions she could also visit her older brother James who had immigrated to England in 1885.

*Lizzie Waite aged 16 years old, dressed as Forget Me Nots.
Photo courtesy of State Library of South Australia,
Children's Fancy Dress Ball, 1887collection*

In June 1906, on a return trip from England, she brought her brother James's daughter Dorothy with her so she could visit her grandparents at Urrbrae House.

Elizabeth was thus a very capable chaperone to accompany Clara Kleinschmidt, when she departed for London on February 4th 1909, to take up her Elder Scholarship at the London College of Music and further her career as a contralto singer. Under the patronage of Peter Waite and while living at Urrbrae House Clara, who was originally from Lobethal, had completed three years of study at the Elder Conservatorium.

On arrival in Europe, Elizabeth took Clara on a tour to attend performances in several cities and hear famous singers in roles Clara might aspire and including Bayreuth in Bavaria where she heard Wagner's 'Ring Series' of music-dramas.



Clara did not return to Australia until November 1914 after the outbreak of World War 1. It is not known when Elizabeth returned but perhaps a couple of years earlier since her younger brother David was seriously ill and Lizzie is reported to have cared for him (David had recovered sufficiently by May 1913 and was on his way to England when he died in tragic circumstances.)

In January 1915 the engagement of Elizabeth to James Macmeikan from Melbourne was announced. The deceased wife of James was a good friend of Elizabeth and travelling companion.

Elizabeth and James were married just a few weeks after their engagement was announced. No guests were present at the ceremony and Mr and Mrs Waite afterwards entertained a few intimate friends at a wedding tea at "Urrbrae." Elizabeth was 44 and James 58.

When Clara (Serena) Kleinschmidt announced her intention to marry her accompanist Roy Mellish in 1917, Peter Waite was strongly opposed and instructed his family to have no more contact with Clara. Elizabeth now married and living in Melbourne continued her friendship.



*Elizabeth Macmeikan in 1930,
with signed inscription
“To Serena from her Lovey”*

Unfortunately, Elizabeth died on 5 April 1931 after a long struggle with leukaemia. Her husband James died in 1924. After Clara and Roy returned to England in 1922, Elizabeth visited them three times and had planned to go again in 1931.

Elizabeth was privately cremated at Melbourne Crematorium on the 6th April 1931 and her ashes interred in the Waite family grave at Mitcham Anglican Cemetery.

Elizabeth left a substantial estate including property of £72,000 (equivalent to over \$7 million in 2023). This included bequests to Clara and Roy as well as several of members of her husband’s family.

The residue of the estate went to Adelaide University to promote the study of agriculture, botany, zoology, veterinary science, entomology, horticulture and forestry.

Bill Wallace