



Newsletter February 2020

The Friends of Urrbrae House

Urrbrae House, The University of Adelaide, Waite Campus,

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President's Report

We've commenced not only a new year but also a new decade. In 2020 we will celebrate some historic events in connection with the House and in the following year the thirtieth anniversary of the founding of Friends of Urrbrae House will be marked.

As current Friends of Urrbrae House, I hope you are planning to renew your membership. The fee is the same as in recent years and we really appreciate the fact that many members include a donation along with their renewal.

Last year ended on a sad note for the Committee of the Friends of Urrbrae House with the passing of Dr. Colin Jenner in November. As you will read from his Vale in this Newsletter, Colin made a major contribution to the setting up of the Friends of Urrbrae House and in the establishment of the Waite Institute Historic Precinct. He was a great enthusiast for the recognition of the contribution made by the staff of the Waite Agricultural Research Institute.

For me, it was the loss of a former colleague at the Waite and a friend. Colin was awarded the University Scholarship of the Rothmans Endowment Fund in 1962. That brought him to the Waite. Four years later I came to the Waite on the same Post Doctoral Fellowship.

I feel honored to have known Colin.

Bill Wallace

Dates for your diary

Vivente Twilight Concert

Monday 30th March 5.30 for 6.00pm

Twilight Concert

Monday 20th April 5.30 for 6.00pm

Clara Serena Event

Sunday 17th May 2.30 for 3.00pm

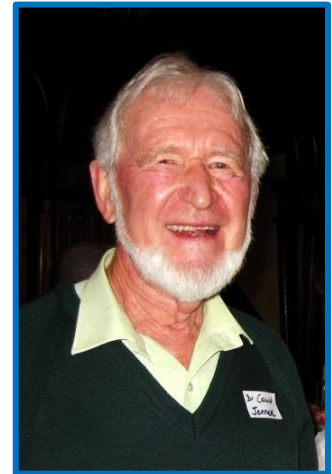
Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 26th May 5.30 for 6.00pm

VALE Colin Jenner 21.6.1936 – 9.11.2019

Colin was born in Kent, England and with a strong interest in farming took an agricultural science degree at Wye College in Kent, an agricultural college of the University of London. This was followed by a Masters degree in Agronomy at the University of Minnesota and a DPhil at the University of Oxford.

In 1962 Colin was awarded a Rothmans Post Doctoral Fellowship to continue his research at the Waite Agricultural Research Institute. His wife Norma and their young family accompanied him. This Fellowship included return expenses to the UK after two years, but he remained at the Waite to undertake a very significant research career and made major contributions to the life of the Campus.



Colin's main research program was involved with the deposition of starch and protein in the developing wheat grain. This involved detailed studies on the physiology and biochemistry of the processes and collaboration with wheat breeders and biochemists at the Waite. Following his retirement in 1996, Colin was a Visiting Research Fellow in the School of Agriculture, Food and Wine continuing his research until just before he died. He collaborated with postgraduate students, postdoctoral fellows, and international visitors to his lab. His work in this period on altered forms of starch was aimed at breeding new wheat varieties with improved health benefits for humans.

Colin was a great critical thinker and, in his teaching, aimed to inculcate similar skills in his students.

In the early 1990's, when a major restructuring of the Waite Campus occurred, Colin had a leading role of the creation of the Waite Historic Precinct and in particular the Friends of Urrbrae House and Friends of the Waite Arboretum. He was a member of the Management Committee of the Friends of Urrbrae House from 1998 -2010.

Colin's vision for the future of the Precinct included the concept for a 'Garden of Discovery' representing the past and current discoveries of the Waite Agricultural Research Institute. It is very appropriate that a feature of the Garden of Discovery is a magnificent sculpture by Meliesa Judge called 'Dance into the Light'. This depicts Ceres, the goddess of agriculture and her daughter Proserpina. This was a gift of the Jenner family to commemorate the life and career in dance education of Norma Jenner, who died in 2006.

Colin made a significant contribution to the advancement of the University of Adelaide's Alumni Relations program and in 2015 was named as an Alumni Fellow of the University of Adelaide.

Colin had a great interest in the Arts and was an enthusiastic gardener as well as fine carpenter.

For the past 12 years Colin has enjoyed the company and support of his partner Lyn, and we extend to her and to his son Mark and daughter Susan and their families, our sympathy at this time of grief.

Bill Wallace

Christmas Celebration and Vivente Quintet Concert

On Monday evening 2nd December, the Friends of Urrbrae House were joined by the Friends of the Waite Arboretum and Friends of the Waite Conservation Reserve for an end of year celebration.

The evening commenced with a free concert in the Ballroom by the Vivente Quintet. Bill Wallace welcomed the members of the Friends groups as well as a group from the Adelaide Chinese Community who were the invited guests of Vivente Music.



Vivente Quintet - Caleb Wright, Viola: Cameron Waters, Cello: Emma Perkins, Violin: Emma Berbery, Violin and Jacky Chang, Bass.

The Vivente Group has been arranging and performing concerts in Urrbrae House since 2005. Bill thanked Minas Berbery for arranging the artists and program for the very popular Twilight Concerts of the Friends of Urrbrae House and presented him with a token of appreciation. He also thanked Peggy Rowe for arranging the publicity for the concerts and overseeing the bookings.

Minas introduced the concert's program that featured popular movie music, the same program that the Vivente Quintet would take to China in January. The program included music from 'The Mission' and 'Cinema Paradiso' by Ennio Morricone; 'Bossa Nova' and 'Schindler's List' and concluded with the music from three Chinese films. He introduced and explained the background to each of the items.

Minas spoke with regret of the recent death of Dr Colin Jenner and dedicated the concert to his memory. As has been described elsewhere in this Newsletter, Colin was a Foundation Member of the Friends of Urrbrae House, served on the Management Committee and was a great supporter of the Twilight Concerts.



Lyn Mackay, partner of Dr Colin Jenner with Minas Berbery

Following the concert, about 90 members of the three Friends groups and the Chinese guests enjoyed refreshments in the Main Hall and Drawing Room provided by the Committees of the Friends of the Waite Arboretum and Friends of Urrbrae House.

A great evening, with many favorable comments expressed by those who attended.

Urrbrae House Twilight Concert Triple Treat 3rd February 2020

A great feature of the Urrbrae House concerts, as curated by Vivente Music, is the ability to witness a range of performers and performance pieces in a single year's programme. That is the chance to hear different or lesser-known pieces within an overall programme of the chamber music repertoire, and also the opportunity to experience outstanding performances of different musicians in a close, intimate setting.

So it was no surprise that the first Friends' concert for 2020 (featuring Mitch Berick and Ewen Bramble, well-known to Urrbrae House audiences, and introducing pianist Yundi Yuan) quickly sold out.

Appropriately enough in his 250th anniversary year, we were treated to two pieces by Beethoven: but with a special twist. The first was the Duo number 2, from Three Duets for Clarinet and Bassoon, but with cello instead of bassoon (and which in fact may not have been composed by Beethoven at all). The second was the popular Trio Opus 11, for clarinet, cello and piano (as opposed to the later arrangement for piano trio).



Mitch Berick (clarinet), Yundi Yuan (piano) and Ewen Bramble (cello).

In selecting the programme, Mitch Berick chose to intersperse these pieces with Francis Poulenc's Sonata for Clarinet and Piano; an interesting choice as this is a mid-twentieth century composition, commissioned by Benny Goodman. But it worked so well in this concert, and served moreover to introduce pianist Yundi Yuan to the Urrbrae House audience.

Depending on the performer, the piano can sometimes dominate the intimate space of the Urrbrae House ballroom, but Yundi Yuan found just the right balance. As to the quality of her playing, the comments I heard after the concert were: "beautiful...such precision... so expressive".



Once again we are off to a flying start for the 2020 season, thanks as usual to Vivente Music and the Friends of Urrbrae House for planning and organising these events.

Vic Rowe

Yundi with her grandparents who were her guests at this Urrbrae House event.

Introducing Pauline Adams, Secretary for The Friends of Urrbrae House

I grew up on a farm on Yorke Peninsula. I became a teacher and lived in various country towns before settling in Adelaide, where I spent the next 19 years as a school assistant at Annesley College. My jobs were many and varied and I eventually became the assistant to the Deputy Principal. From there I moved to a law firm to try something different and I still work there a few hours a week.

I was asked by Hetty Cater if I would be interested in becoming the Secretary for the Friends of Urrbrae House. I have visited Urrbrae often enjoying many walks in the gardens and surrounding grounds and also attending numerous concerts so I felt that this would be an opportunity to give something in return for the pleasure it has given to me.



Manager's Musings

Vale Dr Colin Jenner (1936-2019)

I want to add a few words to Bill's obituary about Dr Colin Jenner whose death on 9 November 2019 filled many of us with great sadness.

I am personally indebted to Colin for his unwavering support during the research and writing of *The Waite: a social and scientific history of the Waite Agricultural Research Institute*. In fact, without Colin this project would have never happened. It was Colin who was the instigator and driver of history project because he was passionate about documenting staff recollections of their time working at the Waite for the benefit of future generations.



"Dance into the Light"
Meliesa Judge and Colin at the unveiling

Colin had a major impact on the historical heart of the Waite campus through his support for the Urrbrae House Historic Precinct and the Waite Arboretum. He was instrumental in pushing for the restoration of Urrbrae House and gardens from the late 1980s onwards and in having the first Curator of Urrbrae House appointed in 1991. In the second half of the 1990s he worked quietly but forcefully behind the scenes to ensure that the Waite Arboretum was protected (in line with Peter Waite's *Deed of Gift*) from building development.

The gardens also benefitted from Colin's generosity: his donation of the "Dance into the Light" sculpture by Meliesa Judge provides a wonderful centerpiece to the Garden of Discovery that is regularly admired by visitors. In the last decade Colin repeatedly provided me with much encouragement in my current role at Urrbrae House.

Colin's life was devoted to his family, science and the arts. He was a true scholar and gentleman. Despite being internationally recognized by his scientific colleagues for his research on starch synthesis in cereal crops, Colin was very modest about himself and his work. It was only by talking to other scientists that I learnt just how highly regarded he was

as a scientist. I will miss Colin's kindness and humour, and extend my sincere condolences to Colin's partner, Lyn, his daughter Susan and son Mark, and Colin's extended family.

Waite family descendants gather at Urrbrae House

On 6 December 2019 the descendants of Peter and Matilda Waite (including their great-great-great-great grandchildren) gathered at Urrbrae House for a special family Christmas celebration. During the evening as I was showing some family members through Eva Waite's restored bedroom, two of Eva's great-great nieces revealed that they were both wearing inscribed gold bangles that had belonged to Eva. It was a lovely moment of serendipity.



Coach House Garden launch

In December 2019 the Coach House Garden was officially opened by Mrs Jeanette "Nettie" Davidson at a special morning tea. The Davidson family has been connected with the Waite campus since 1928 when Nettie's father-in-law, James Davidson, was appointed Head of Entomology at the Waite Agricultural Research Institute. Nettie is a regular volunteer in the gardens.



The garden was redeveloped by two volunteers, Tomei and Laurel (seen here with Nettie in the centre) who have dedicated their time and passion over the past nine years to enhance the original site. The garden surrounds Peter Waite's Coach House which was built in the early 1880s and the plants featured in this garden were fashionable in South Australia at that time.

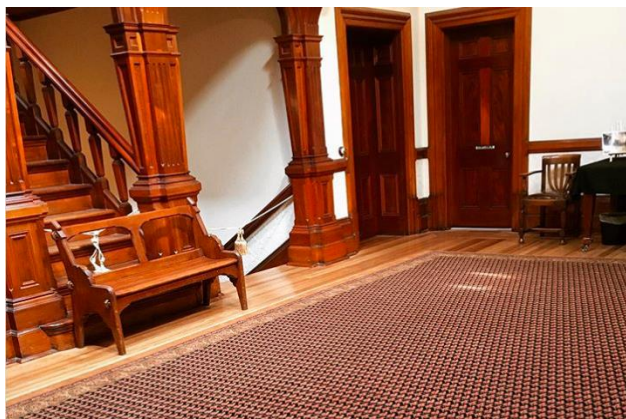
Sensory Garden activity signs

Visitors are often unaware that the hidden garden behind the olive hedge (that runs from Urrbrae House to the Coach House) is a Sensory Garden. So late last year I arranged for some small signs in the garden to let people know how they might like to interact with some of the plants and the space. For example, visitors often don't notice the fruits on trees (like the persimmons) or forget to stop to look up into the canopy of the trees like the maple and jacaranda. The callistemons in the garden are a favourite with the



lorikeets who we often see and hear in the trees. Some of the plants in the garden have been planted so you can feel different leaf textures such as Lamb's ears and the Sandpaper fig tree. In addition, visitors may gently touch plants like the lemon-scented pelargonium and curry plant to experience the wonderful perfumes that leaves can hold. Many thanks to Shelagh Smith from Garden Activity Signs for supplying the new signs. We are hoping that visitors of all ages will be encouraged to actively explore this lovely garden which is also wheelchair accessible.

Reproduction of 1890s carpet in the Main Hall



Thanks to the University of Adelaide's Infrastructure Branch and the work of heritage consultant Andrew Klenke from Swanbury Penglase, the old green carpet in the Main Hall has been replaced with a reproduction of the original carpet from when the Waite family lived in Urrbrae House.

Adelaide Fringe 2020

Urrbrae House is delighted to be part of the Adelaide Fringe and the "Tracks Through Weaving" exhibition by Basketry

SA will be held in the house from 15-27 February 2020. We are also the venue for performances of:

- "An Austen Affair" by acclaimed Adelaide harpist and soprano Emma Horwood on 5, 13 and 15 March.
- "You've Got a Friend - Stories of Carole King's Tapestry" by Victoria Traeger's five-piece band on 7 and 8 March.
- "Jazz Classical Blues" by pianist Tim Barton on 14 March.

Fringe booking can be made online at <https://adelaidefringe.com.au/fringetix>

History Festival 2020

We will be holding an Open Doors afternoon on Sunday, 3 May from 1pm-4pm and additional free tours will be run during the SA History Festival. Tour details will be found in the Festival program released in April.

A new exhibition "Echoes: six visual artists respond to the rich history of Urrbrae House" will be open to visitors during the Open Doors afternoon and on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 10am-4pm throughout May. Six visual artists working across a range of media are responding to the rich history of Urrbrae House. Their exhibition is inspired by the patterns and textures of the house and gardens, family traditions and personal stories of the Waite family in colonial South Australia. The artists' practices include painting, drawing, tapestry weaving and ceramics. A passionate regard for the many reverberations of history in our contemporary world has provided fertile ground for individualised research and artists' responses. This exhibition promises a rare treat for the SA History Festival. Exhibiting artists are Michelle Driver, Yasmin Grass, Bruce Nuske, Abram Phillips, Maureen Prichard and Julie Strawinski.

In addition, I am organizing a special free event, "Clara Serena: celebrating a life in music" supported by the Friends of Urrbrae House and the University of Adelaide on Sunday, 17 May at 2.30pm. Clara Serena Kleinschmidt was born in Lobethal in 1890. At the age of 14,

her singing ability was recognized by Peter Waite who established a trust for her musical education. Clara lived at Urrbrae House while she studied at the Elder Conservatorium of Music. Following the donation of artefacts by her great-nieces Naomi Jolly and Helen Paton last year, we will be developing a new display about Clara Serena in the hallway outside the Ballroom of Urrbrae House.

Please come along on 17 May to see the new display about this illustrious contralto (who was befriended by Dame Nellie Melba and Ada Crossley). I will also provide a talk on Clara's life and there will be a short musical program in the Ballroom. Complimentary refreshments will be served in the Main Hall prior to the talk, display launch and music which will be held in the Ballroom. Please note that due to the heritage nature of the building, the Ballroom is accessible by stairs only. Bookings for this event are via Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/clara-serena-celebrating-a-life-in-music-sa-history-festival-tickets-91266641983?aff=ebdssbeac>

“The Waites of Urrbrae House” exhibition redevelopment

Due to multiple unexpected circumstances the redevelopment of our main exhibition room has suffered several delays but “The Waites of Urrbrae House” display will be completed this year supported by the Friends, the University of Adelaide and the History Trust of SA.

Proposed upgrade of Fullarton Road and Cross Road intersection

The SA Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure (DPTI) are planning a major upgrade of the Fullarton Road and Cross Road Intersection which may impact on trees in the Waite Arboretum and on the heritage-listed Lodge (or Gatehouse) that was constructed in 1883 for Peter Waite. Details on the exact amount of encroachment on land surrounding the intersection were not made public when DPTI undertook community and stakeholder consultation about the upgrade in January. Dr Kate Delaporte (as Curator of the Waite Arboretum) and myself met with DPTI's stakeholder consultation representatives last month and outlined the environmental, historical, cultural and public safety reasons why the significant trees and historic Lodge should be protected in any redevelopment of the area.

Facebook and Instagram accounts

I maintain two social media accounts for the Urrbrae House Historic Precinct; please “Like” us on Facebook or “Follow” us on Instagram if you use these social media. In addition to regular event updates, I have started a couple of regular series of posts that might be of interest to Friends' members.

On Facebook I have created a “Portraits from the past” series of posts displaying unidentified photographs from our archival collection in the hope that members of the community can assist the Research and Collections volunteers with identifying individuals. See <https://www.facebook.com/urrbraehouse>

Each week on Instagram I also post a photograph of a “Rose of the Week” from our Twentieth Century Rose Garden with a little historical information about the rose.

<https://www.instagram.com/urrbraehouse>

Waite Arboretum office move to the Coach House

Dr Kate Delaporte (Curator, Waite Arboretum) and Erica Boyle (Waite Arboretum Officer) now have their offices in the Coach House. With this move, the Coach House will provide a focused space for the Waite Arboretum while Urrbrae House archival and collection

materials will still be housed in the Coach House loft and compactus room. Going forward with support from the Friends of Urrbrae House, I hope to be able to develop a new small meeting space and exhibition about the early years of the Waite Agricultural Research Institute in the former Arboretum office in Urrbrae House.

Continued support of the Friends

After the University of Adelaide has paid for the ongoing maintenance and operational costs of Urrbrae House, it is the membership fees and fundraising efforts of the Friends that allow me to undertake projects to enhance the visitor and interpretative experience of Urrbrae House. Thank you for your continuing support and please encourage others to become members to help us continue to preserve and interpret this unique place in South Australian history.

Lynette Zeitz

Manager, Urrbrae House Historic Precinct

9 February 2020



Book club

Did you know that an informal book club is held in the beautiful dining room at Urrbrae House once a month? The group usually meets on the third Monday of the month 12.30 to 1.30pm. Burnside Library books are delivered to Urrbrae House and returned for you. Please contact the staff at Urrbrae House, telephone 8313 7497 or email

urrbraehouse@adelaide.edu.au

Solstice Singers “Being Together”

Solstice Singers is a small vocal swing group of eclectic singers who love the lively rhythms and harmonies of the swing style. The choir with Music Director Eliza Dickinson and accompanist Angela Turner delighted the audience with their Christmas program at the performance on the 8th December 2019.

The Christmas selection was brought together under the title “Being Together” and was a delightful blend of classic carols; O Come All Ye Faithful, Coventry Carol, The First Noel – Pachelbel’s Canon, with contemporary songs of Ain’t Misbehavin’, We Need a Little Christmas, Let’s Fall in Love and many more familiar songs performed with the Solstice charm.



Thank you

to those who have already renewed your membership to the
Friends of Urrbrae House for 2020

Please contact Urrbrae House for a membership form or download a membership form

https://www.adelaide.edu.au/waite-historic/friends/urrbraehouse/pdf/fouh_membership_application.pdf

To access previous Friends of Urrbrae House newsletters please use the link below:

<http://www.adelaide.edu.au/waite-historic/friends/urrbraehouse/newsletters/newsletters/>



FOUH Committee members Allan, Louise, Sandra, Ramute, Vada and Joy at the end of the night at the Combined Friends Christmas Celebration on 2 December 2019.