



The Friends of Urrbrae House

Urrbrae House, The University of Adelaide, Waite Campus,
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Newsletter November 2019

Welcome to the November newsletter with information on the recent events at Urrbrae House and important dates for your busy December diary.

The President's Report

There will be two special Christmas Functions at Urrbrae House for our Friends.

On Monday evening 2nd December we will join with the Friends of The Waite Arboretum and Friends of the Waite Conservation Reserve for our Christmas Party. The Party will be preceded by a free concert by the Vivente Music Group for The Friends Groups focussing on music of popular movies. Full details in the Newsletter and flyer for the event.

On Sunday afternoon 8th December there will be a Carol Concert by the Solstice Singers, their fourth choral concert at Urrbrae House. It will include the opportunity to join in the singing of some of the carols. See further details within the Newsletter and flyer for the function. Keep this date free and invite your friends.

When you visit Urrbrae House for the above functions have a look at the progress in the restoration and conservation of the original curtains in the Drawing Room. This is a major project funded by the Friends of Urrbrae House. See more details below in the Manager's Musings.

I would like to thank you for your continuing support of the Friends of Urrbrae House and I wish much joy at Christmas with your family and friends and good health in the year ahead.

Bill Wallace

**We are pleased to invite you to the Friends of Urrbrae House,
Friends of the Waite Arboretum and the Friends of the Waite Conservation Reserve**

Christmas Celebration

**Monday 2nd December 2019
4.45pm – 7.00pm**

featuring the Vivente Ensemble

performing the music soundtracks of popular movies

4.45pm – 5.45pm

in the Ballroom (access by stairs only)

Drinks, light refreshments and Christmas cake will be served
after the concert in the Main Hall from **5.30pm**

New members

We warmly welcome the following who have recently joined as new members:

Vreny Barry

Moira Mc Gowan

Jenny and Mark Tummel



Friends of Urrbrae House Committee present
Christmas Carol Concert
Solstice Singers

Sunday 8th December 2019

Tickets are \$20

including refreshments served in the Main Hall, 2.30 to 3pm
with the concert starting at 3pm in the Ballroom (access by stairs only)

Bookings: fouh91@gmail.com or telephone: 8271 3481

Vale Lyn Marlow

Emily Lynette (Lyn) Marlow 5.11.1926 – 14.10.2019

Lyn was born at Oakbank and she travelled down to Adelaide Girls High School. Her mother died when she was 15, and she had to cease her education and take care of the family. She had gained appreciation of the value of education, and later encouraged her family and others to make the most of education opportunities.

In later life, Lyn took many courses in WEA and worked as a physio assistant. She participated in a range of sports, played the piano and enjoyed a myriad of musical and theatrical activities. She was a great supporter of the Adelaide Independent Theatre.

The Marlow family had horses on the farm and Lyn loved riding. In later years, at Urrbrae House, I enjoyed exploring with her the history of gatherings of the Adelaide Hunt Club at Urrbrae and surrounding areas, and the support for this by Peter Waite and his son David.

Lyn was very proud of the fact that the copy of an Honour Roll from World War 1, which hangs in the Billiard Room at Urrbrae House, has on it the names of three of her uncles including Ted Matner. He was later a member and President of the Senate in the South Australian Parliament.



Lyn volunteered with the Urrbrae House Schools' Program for 10 years. In addition, if we needed extra help with refreshments at an afternoon social event of the Friends of Urrbrae House, Lyn would willingly offer to assist.

We extend our sympathy on Lyn's death to her daughter Alison, husband Ian and their sons Alistair and Lachlan.

Bill Wallace
President



Manager's Musings

Vale Professor Sally Smith (1941-2019)

It is with great sadness that I share the news of the sudden death on 13 September of Professor Sally Smith, a truly inspirational woman from the Waite. The highlights of Sally's outstanding academic career are outlined on the Waite Research Precinct website <https://www.thewaite.org/vale-professor-sally-smith>

Besides her incredible intellect, what made Sally such an inspiring individual was her tenacity (for many years she carved out an impressive research career while working on short-term contracts and raising a family), her kindness, generous spirit and wonderful sense of humour. I am personally indebted to Sally because it was a conversation with her many years ago about the lack of a history of the Waite Agricultural Research Institute after 1974 that eventually led me to writing such a history and ultimately, to my current role at Urrbrae House. Sally will be very much missed and I extend my deepest condolences to her husband, Professor Andrew Smith and their daughters, Caroline and Hilary.

New Urrbrae House Co-ordinator

With Amanda Jackson's retirement in August, we have been very fortunate to welcome Barbara Wills as our new Urrbrae House Co-ordinator for the next year. Some of you will have already met Barbara as she has previously worked as part of our casual events staff team. Barbara has also been a Research and Collections volunteer working on our photographic archives since 2017. If you haven't met Barbara yet, please drop in and say hello if you are on the campus.



Saying goodbye to Urrbrae House Co-ordinator, Amanda Jackson on 5 August 2019.



SALA Exhibition

Urrbrae House was delighted to host an art exhibition by emerging artist Rebecca Read (*pictured on left with Urrbrae House Manager, Lynette Zeitz*) during the South Australian Living Artists (SALA) Festival from 11 August – 5 September.

The exhibition brought many new visitors to Urrbrae House.

Donation of historic Department of Plant Pathology Signature Tablecloth

Earlier this year Helena Stretton presented Urrbrae House with a unique "Signature Tablecloth". Cloths with finely embroidered signatures were fashionable memorabilia in the 1960s and 1970s as an aid to remembering special groups of friends.

The brown linen tablecloth given to Urrbrae House has the signatures of many of the staff and postgraduate students in the Department of Plant Pathology at the Waite Agricultural Research Institute in 1971.



The cloth was embroidered by New Zealander Vivienne Johnson (now Richmond) for her friend, Helena who worked in the Plant Pathology Department for 12 years as a student and research assistant. We are very grateful to Helena for her gift and will display the historic tablecloth during special events.

Conservation and reproduction of Drawing Room curtains

In October Mary Jose from Fabric of Life (*pictured below right*) undertook the preliminary hang of the first of new reproduction curtains constructed for the Drawing Room. Over the coming weeks we will be replacing all of the original, almost 130 year old Drawing Room curtains which (due to their age, wear and tear, and light exposure) were starting to fall apart.

A section of the original curtain fabric that provided the largest undamaged section was photographed to provide a high-resolution image to produce a digital reproduction of the original fabric. Various reproduction samples were produced until the colour and size of the repeat were as close to the original as possible. Wool pom and fringe braid was sourced from the United Kingdom to provide a similar effect to the wool braids used on the original curtains. A pom and fringe braid was hand stitched to the largest curtain and pom braid only was hand stitched to the other six curtains. Mary has constructed the reproductions with a lining and interlining of blackout fabric to help protect them from future light damage.



The original curtains will now be conserved and prepared for long term safe storage. In addition to creating these beautiful reproductions of the work of designer Aldam Heaton, Mary is carefully conserving the original curtains so that they will survive for viewing by future generations during special events.

This conservation and restoration project is being made possible thanks to the fundraising efforts of the Friends of Urrbrae House.

First Sunday of the month and school holidays free tours

Interest in our free tours of Urrbrae House has increased this year and after 180 people turned up for our first Sunday in February 2019 tour, I decided to introduce an online booking system for all of our free tours. Bookings mean that we can ensure enough guides are available to run the tours comfortably and keep group numbers manageable especially given the size of rooms such as the Library and Butler's Pantry. Since implementing the booking system I am pleased to say that our 2019 tours have been booked out. We will be opening online bookings for 2020 tours via Eventbrite in November.

Mid-winter Food Drive for FoodBank SA

Many thanks to those who contributed non-perishable items to our food drive for FoodBank SA. Hunger affects more than 134,620 South Australians every month, with one third of them being children, and donations to FoodBank are distributed to those in need.

25th Anniversary of the Friends of the Waite Arboretum

On 24 October 2019 the Friends of the Waite Arboretum celebrated their 25th anniversary and a special morning tea was held in Urrbrae House to mark the occasion. The Friends foster interest in the care and use of the Arboretum, and raise funds for its development and promotion.



20th Annual Treenet Symposium

The sky was grey and the wind was cold on 6 September but that did not deter the delegates of the 20th National Treenet Symposium from a great day of information sharing. The Urrbrae House Gardens were hub central for the Symposium while multiple sessions were held in the Waite Arboretum, the Coach House, the Charles Hawker Building and Beltana cafe at Lirra Lirra. More than 200 “urban forest huggers” attended the Symposium. Urban trees are and will continue to be essential parts of city infrastructure; robust, urban forests sustain the liveability of our towns and cities. The Treenet Symposium brought together individuals and organisations who ensure our leafy streets are fit for purpose and sustainable.

Annual Volunteer Thank You Celebration

Our volunteers are an integral part of our programs and community outreach activities, and we have seven volunteer roles at Urrbrae House as:

- a. Schools' Program volunteers
- b. Tour guides
- c. Flower arrangers
- d. Research and Collections assistants
- e. Community events volunteers
- f. Engineering support (keeping our Servants' Bell system operational)
- g. Friends of Urrbrae House Committee members



Barbara Wills and Allan Woodman

On 29 October Urrbrae House staff joined with our colleagues from the Waite Arboretum to thank all of our volunteers in the Waite Historic Precinct for the wonderful work they do throughout the year. In the beautiful setting of the Sensory Garden with bees buzzing amongst the flowers, we celebrated our volunteers with morning tea and certificates were presented to those who had given 5, 10, 15, 20 and 25 years' of service.



Amongst the Urrbrae House volunteers, Marylou Davenport and Rosie Lees received certificates for five years of service. Lyn Marlow, who will be sorely missed from our Schools' Program, had been a volunteer with us for 10 years before her recent death and we have forwarded her certificate of recognition to her family.

Marylou Davenport and Rosie Lees

Costa Georgiadis' visit to the Waite Arboretum and Urrbrae House Gardens

Costa Georgiadis from the ABC's *Gardening Australia* program joined the Urrbrae House Garden volunteers for morning tea on 1 October 2019 and then joined Erica Boyle, the Waite Arboretum Officer who co-ordinates the garden volunteers, for an exploration of the gardens and the Arboretum.

Video of the visit can be viewed at:

https://www.facebook.com/CostasWorld/videos/391837304827400/?eid=ARctXOkNG7X-bw6gon6RFj7-ggyhl1MWKJyqE9Sav28avcU9-2sN56WNISD7yj6JFe1c3YuP9gX_CghF



Clara Serena

During October Naomi Jolly and Helen Paton, two great-nieces of contralto Clara Serena (1890-1972) contacted me about donating some artefacts that belonged to Serena for display and preservation at Urrbrae House. Clara Serena's early singing career was sponsored by Peter Waite. She lived at Urrbrae House when she studied at the Elder Conservatorium and became a life-long friend of Elizabeth Waite. Clara had an internationally renowned singing career, and was befriended by Dame Nellie Melba and Ada Crossley.

You can read an overview of Clara's biography at: <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/serena-clara-13191>

In 1917 Clara married her piano accompanist, Roy Mellish, and many years later Clara's and Roy's ashes were placed together in the Urrbrae House gardens. Amongst the donated treasures from Helen Paton (*pictured right*) is a beautiful portrait of a young Clara Serena commissioned by Peter Waite which we will display in the house in the future. We extend our sincere thanks to Naomi and Helen for their generosity.



Next year we plan to mount a new display about Clara outside the Ballroom and hold some special events to share the story of this talented singer who was a graduate of the University of Adelaide and who was part of the history of 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.

Then in March, we will be the venue for performances of "An Austen Affair" by acclaimed Adelaide harpist and soprano Emma Horwood. Emma, who is no stranger to Urrbrae House, will provide a recital of music from period dramas with readings from classic literature. The concerts will feature songs from screen adaptations of Jane Austen novels and other costume drama soundtracks including "Poldark", "Outlander", "North & South" and "Miss Potter."

After a sold-out season at Adelaide Fringe 2019, Victoria Traeger's five piece band will be presenting "You've Got a Friend - Stories of Carole King's Tapestry" in the Urrbrae House Ballroom next year. Paying homage to King, Traeger's band will be performing "Tapestry" cover to cover, with peoples' stories of how King's songs have accompanied them through life.

Jazz pianist Tim Barton will also be returning to Urrbrae House during the Fringe when he will present new original compositions, ragtime piano, Chicago blues/boogie and contemporary classical works. Tim will be performing music from Australia, Spain, France and USA along with Tim's favourite piece, "Rhapsody in Blue."

Information about these concerts and booking details will be in the Fringe program released on 28 November.

The Smith Family and Christmas Greetings

From 11 November until 14 December 2019 the Christmas Tree in the Main Hall of Urrbrae House will again be a collection point for The Smith Family's *Toy and Book Appeal*. The gift of a new toy or book will bring a smile to a disadvantaged child's face this Christmas. Last year 23,126 children living in disadvantage across Australia received Toy and Book packs thanks to donations.

If you can donate a **new** toy or book please ensure that it is **unwrapped** and is no larger than a school backpack. There is a significant shortage of gifts for children 8-12 years of age so please consider putting something under the tree suitable for those children. Gifts such as board games, STEM and activity-based toys are always well-received. Your gift should be ready to read or play with as soon as it's opened on Christmas morning. When you're deciding what to give, remember to include batteries if needed and colouring pencils for colouring-in books. Having assisted in the past with the delivery of donated books and toys to homes prior to Christmas, I can attest to the joy that these gifts bring to families whose children might not otherwise have a gift to open on Christmas morning.

On behalf of Barbara, Sally and myself, I would like to wish all of the Friends a wonderful Christmas and thank you for your continuing support.

Lynette Zeitz

Manager, Urrbrae House Historic Precinct



Urrbrae House concert – A Musical Poet –

9 September 2019

For the September Urrbrae House concert, Vivente Music presented “A Musical Poet” a program of works by Robert Schumann. The three works featured pianist Stephen van der Hoek, the principal organist at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Adelaide.

The first piece, a love poem in musical form Arabesque for solo piano in C maj, Op 18, was no doubt written by Schumann with his beloved Clara

in mind during their forced separation. The swirling figures of this beautiful piece served as a perfect introduction to the evening. The second piece was literally poetic, being settings from von Chamisso's poem cycle Frauen-Liebe und Leben (A Woman's Love and Life) for voice and piano Op 42. Here soprano Erna Berberyán beautifully captured the lyrical sweetness of a young woman's first love (No 1) and her wedding day (No 4), the mature woman's reflection on motherhood (No 7) and the loss and grief of bereavement (No 8).

For the third piece, Sonata for violin and piano Op 121, Stephen van der Hoek was joined by Minas Berberyán. Another piece written for Clara, although later in their life together. This sonata combines drama with exuberance and can be a challenging piece for both instruments. Stephen and Minas addressed it with elan, leaving their audience, and themselves, clearly elated!

Vic Rowe

“Jazz up your Spring” concert - Keith Conlon Trio

Held on Sunday afternoon, 29th September, Keith on drums, Kerin Bailey on piano and Peter Dowdall on bass. The trio kept the audience tapping toes and enjoying the popular, classic and modern jazz, with Keith's witty introductions and adaptations of lyrics to the theme of Spring. The Ballroom windows were wide open to let in the Spring air, with walkers outside enjoying the garden and the music drifting up from the Ballroom. It was an excellent afternoon enjoyed by all.

