



Newsletter July 2019

The Friends of Urrbrae House

Urrbrae House, The University of Adelaide, Waite Campus,
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The President's Report

The 27th AGM was held on Monday 15th April 2019

The following members were elected:

President	Bill Wallace
Vice President	Joy Middleton
Secretary	Pauline Adams
Treasurer	Vada Osborn
Newsletter Editor	Sandra Morrison

Other committee members:

Hetty Cater, Louise Green, Margaret Neate, Ramute Stankevicius, Allan Woodman

Ex Officio: Lynette Zeitz (Manager Urrbrae House Historic Precinct)

Guest Speaker, Rick Moore, presented The "Golden Age" of Exploration

Current President of the John McDouall Stuart Society and a member of the Royal Geographical Society, Rick has travelled extensively through all the Australian deserts, run private scientific charters, conducted field trips, and featured in documentaries including contracts with BBC Television.

Rick first challenged the audience as to who the first overseas explorers were to Australia and pointed out that the Chinese had visited in 1421 having already mapped most of the world. Others including the Portuguese and British followed driven by the riches that might be discovered for their countries.



Rick Moore (centre) with Bill Wallace (President)
and Joy Middleton (Vice President)

In introducing John McDowall Stuart, who arrived in Adelaide from Dysart in 1839, Rick asked what might have influenced Stuart as well as Peter Waite (1859) and Thomas Elder (1854), from the same region of Fife in Scotland, to migrate to the Province of South Australia.

Stuart was trained as a surveyor and thus was sought after for his expertise as the new Province was opening up to the north.

Stuart made six trips north from Adelaide reaching the centre of Australia on his 4th (1860) and the north coast of Australia on his 6th (1862). He pioneered the route from Adelaide, which later

became the road from Port Augusta to Darwin (Stuart Hwy) and also the route for the Overland Telegraph (1872).

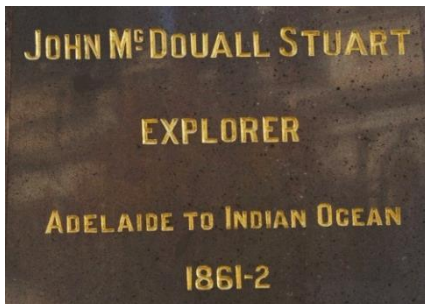


Compared to other more publicised explorers of inland Australia, Rick told us that Stuart's success was that he was a good leader and horseman, travelled light and fast with minimum supplies and a team of horses, and men he referred to as his companions. Not one person was ever lost on any of the expeditions he led. He used only a compass, watch and telescope.

Stuart sacrificed his own health in his endeavours and was carried by stretcher for 900 miles of the return from the final expedition. He knew about scurvy but ignored it. He returned to England and died in 1866 at the age of 50. He is regarded as Australia's greatest inland explorer.

Bill Wallace
President, Friends of Urrbrae House Committee

Statue of John McDouall Stuart in Adelaide.



Do you know where it is located?

Dates for your diary

Vivente Twilight Concert

Monday, 12 August: 5.30 for 6.00pm

Twilight Concert

Monday, 9 September: 5.30 for 6.00pm

Keith Conlon Trio

"Jazz up your Spring at Urrbrae House"

Sunday, 29 September: 2.30 for 3.00pm start

Manager's Musings

Waite Arboretum Wildlife Orienteering Trail launched

Following morning tea at Urrbrae House, a new discovery trail of 30 animal interpretative elements in the Waite Arboretum was launched on 12 April 2019. The trail encourages young and old to explore this wonderful collection of trees and to look at animals from a new perspective. A map and clue sheet for the trail can be downloaded at:

<https://www.adelaide.edu.au/waite-historic/arboretum/wildlife-orienteering-trail>



Volunteers Russell Cook and Terry Langham (who provided technical advice and installation of the animals), Waite Arboretum Officer, Erica Boyle (one of creators of the trail), the team from Regional Profile Cutters (responsible for the metal animal creations) and Waite Arboretum Curator, Dr Kate Delaporte (one of the creators of the trail.)

SA History Festival

We were delighted that our events during the SA History Festival were all booked out and such was the demand for free tours that we ended up running two additional tours.

During our “*The Door is Open at Urrbrae House*” event on 28 April staff and volunteers welcomed 275 visitors to the house in three hours.



Staff and volunteers at The Door is Open at Urrbrae



It was also great to see family groups take up the opportunity to explore the Sensory Garden and learn some Victorian era plant-based craft activities in our “*Senses and Sensibility*” sessions. In addition to our planned activities, the crunching of autumn leaves underfoot proved to be a fun impromptu experience with young visitors.

“Mrs Waite” (Lyn MacKay) with one of the participants in the “*Senses and Sensibility: plants and Victorian crafts*” workshops

Many thanks to our many volunteers without whose assistance I could not have offered such a variety of events. I would also especially like to thank Tate Hancox from the School of Agriculture, Food and Wine and Maria Zagala, Associate Curator of Prints, Drawings and Photographs at the Art Gallery of South Australia for providing fascinating public talks on the history of roses and South Australian photographer Keith Phillips.

Peter Waite Day



Associate Professor Chris Ford, Interim Dean of the Waite Campus and Dr Heather Holmes-Ross, Mayor of Mitcham with the “Macramé Owls”

The Waite Research Institute hosted its annual Peter Waite Day at Urrbrae House on Friday, 10 May. This event is held on the Friday closest to Peter Waite’s birthday (9 May) and enables people from across the campus to celebrate being part of the Waite community. It was great to also have Ian Reed and David Price from Urrbrae Agricultural High School and Greg Rolton from Unley High School attend the celebrations. The land on which both schools are situated is part of Peter Waite’s bequest to the State Government and they are very much a part of the Waite community.

This year 12 teams fought for the hotly contested Peter Waite Bocce Trophy. Victory went to the Macramé Owls from the Australian Plant Phenomics Facility and Dr Heather Holmes-Ross, Mayor of the City of Mitcham, was on-hand to present the winners with their trophy.

Jo Davidson Exhibition

Throughout June Urrbrae House was delighted to host “The Light and Breath of Trees” art exhibition by Jo Davidson. This exhibition featured landscape inspired paintings and included canvases and works on paper that visually articulated an inner archetypal journey, using elements from homeland forest and river as a source for symbolic reference.

Jo Davidson began painting in her early teens with renowned South Australian artist Ruth Tuck. She attended the SA School of Art in the mid-1970s, and with her artist partner Stephen Killick, spent three years exploring European treasure troves and completed various residencies. They converted an old bush school on Forbes River in New South Wales into Outer Magnolia studios, garden and residency, where they raised both children, now artists in Melbourne with artist partners. From 18 solos and innumerable group exhibitions, Jo's work is held in Australian State and private collections. She taught Art at Mid North Coast TAFE's in New South Wales for 15 years and, since 2004, has been lead artist/project coordinator for Beyond Empathy's Aboriginal Maternal Arts and Health Sea of Bellies project.

Jo also has a family connection to the Waite Agricultural Research Institute as her grandfather, Professor James Davidson was the Foundation Professor of Entomology at the Waite. In addition her mother Nettie Davidson is one of the regular Urrbrae House garden volunteers and holds the distinction of being the University of Adelaide's oldest volunteer.



Nettie Davidson with her daughter artist, Jo Davidson

It was wonderful to have Davidson family members at the exhibition launch on 3 June and our sincere thanks to the Mayor of Mitcham Dr Heather Holmes-Ross, for officially opening the exhibition.



Urrbrae House Manager, Lynette Zeitz, artist Jo Davidson and Mayor of the City of Mitcham, Dr Heather Holmes-Ross at the launch of the “Light and Breath of Trees” exhibition

Endeavour Tours visits

Throughout June we have welcomed 18 different tour groups who have come to Urrbrae House as part of Endeavour Tours excursions. Many of these visitors were previously unaware of Urrbrae House, the gardens and the Waite Arboretum but are now spreading the word about how much there is to see and do here.

Peggy Rowe featured in University's National Volunteer Week stories

It was great to see one of our long-serving Friends of Urrbrae House, Peggy Rowe (who also volunteers with the Freemasons Foundation) featured in volunteer stories shared by the University of Adelaide Alumni as part of National Volunteer Week. You can read more about Peggy's enduring connection to the University at:

<https://www.adelaide.edu.au/alumni/news/list/2019/06/06/national-volunteer-week-peggys-story>

1999-2003 Roseworthy and Waite Reunion Alumni dinner

Did you graduate from the Roseworthy or Waite campuses between 1999-2003?

If so, University of Adelaide Alumni invites you and your partner to join them for a reunion dinner on 3 August 2019 at the National Wine Centre. The dinner is for alumni who studied at Roseworthy and Waite in the following disciplines: Agricultural Production, Farm Management, Agriculture, Agriculture Business, Agricultural Science, Natural Resource Management, Environmental Management, Horse Husbandry Management and Agronomy and Farm Systems. It consists of all undergraduate and honours studies including: Associate Diplomas, Diplomas, Bachelors, Graduate Certificates, Graduate Diplomas and Honours.

To book for this event:

<https://www.adelaide.edu.au/alumni/reunions-upcoming-class-reunions/1999-2003-roseworthy-and-waite-reunion>

New Director of the Waite Research Institute

Professor Mike Brooks, Provost & Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) at the University of Adelaide, recently announced Professor Matthew Gilliam as the new Director of the Waite Research Institute.

Since joining the University in 2006 as a Senior Research Fellow, Professor Gilliam's roles have included program leader in the ARC Centre of Excellence in Plant Energy Biology, Chief Investigator on the ARC Training Centre for Innovative Wine Production, Deputy Head (Research) for the School of Agriculture, Food and Wine, and Deputy Director of the Waite Research Institute.

Professor Gilliam's research has focused on crop plant nutrition and salinity tolerance, stress signalling and membrane transport. He is an editor of the journal *Plant Physiology*.

The Waite Research Institute will also reposition itself to align with the vision of the University's new Strategic Plan, *Future Making* – in which agrifood and wine play a very prominent role. The institute will pursue fundamental research at the cutting edge and place greater priority on interdisciplinary agricultural research and cross-faculty collaboration spanning the University's wider fields of expertise.



Professor Matthew Gilliam

SALA Exhibition

During this year's South Australian Living Artist festival, Urrbrae House will be hosting an art exhibition by emerging artist Rebecca Read.

The exhibition will have its launch on Saturday, 10 August at 2.30pm. The exhibition will then be open free to the public from 11 August – 5 September on Sunday-Thursday at 11am - 5pm.

Saying farewell to Amanda

It is with both sad and happy hearts that we will be saying farewell to Amanda Jackson who is retiring from the Waite Historic Precinct. Amanda's last day in the office will be on Wednesday, 7 August 2019.



Amanda was appointed as the Urrbrae House Co-ordinator in 2007. Since that time, she has often been the first point of contact for visitors to the house who are always greeted with a welcoming smile. Amanda's calm professional manner has enabled her to juggle the multitude of tasks that come with the variety of events and programs held at Urrbrae House while always being available to support our volunteers as the Volunteer Co-ordinator.

On a personal note, I want to thank Amanda for her all of her hard work and kindness over many years.

We know that Amanda has many new adventures ahead and wish her all the best. A farewell morning tea will be held at Urrbrae House on Monday, 5 August at 10.30am. If you would like to join us for morning tea, please let us know by email urrbraehouse@adelaide.edu.au or phone Sally on 83137110 by Tuesday, 30 July (so that we make sure we have enough cake for everyone.)

Lynette Zeitz
Manager, Urrbrae House Historic Precinct

Nordic Winds Grainger Wind Quintet

The first of the Twilight Concerts for 2019 was titled *Nordic Winds*, in reference to the main work: the Wind Quintet by Danish composer Carl Nielsen. But on such a beautiful summer's evening, the mood was anything but Nordic as we enjoyed three works presented by the Grainger Wind Quintet with Sabine Daniels (flute), Renae Stavely (oboe), Mitchell Berick (clarinet), Adrian Uren (horn) and Mark Gaydon (bassoon).

At a previous concert featuring Mark Gaydon, I commented on how much the Urrbrae House Ballroom acoustics suit the bassoon (well to my ears anyway). This was exemplified again, as the rich notes of the bassoon and horn provided the ground on which the flute and clarinet introduced themselves before the oboe joined in the opening theme of Samuel Barber's *Summer Music*, which conjures the changing moods of a Northern Hemisphere summer's day.

This was followed by Ross Edwards *Maninya III*, one of the composer's "dance-chant" series of compositions, inspired by the sounds of the Australian bush. Altogether a bright and evocative piece.

Finally back to a more classical form with Nielsen's *Wind Quintet* in three movements. Opening again with the bassoon, this is a beautiful, fluid piece intended to showcase the individual members of the ensemble, particularly in the last movement.

Vic Rowe

Twilight Concert – 29 April 2019

Haydn's Trio

Haydn's Trio: three piano trios in a concert of crystalline clarity!

When introducing the concert pieces, Michael Ierace noted that whereas Mozart developed the trio form to create a balanced partnership between the three instruments, Haydn's piano trios still adhered to an earlier convention where the violin strengthened the melody and the cello doubled the bass line: the strings effectively supporting the piano part.

Given the greater power and sonority of today's pianos over those of Haydn's time, it's possible that the piano could simply overwhelm the other instruments in these pieces, but not when played with such sensitivity and clarity by Michael Ierace, piano, Alison Heike, violin and Ewen Bramble, cello.

A beautiful selection of music perfectly suited to the intimate ambience of the Urrbrae House Ballroom.

Vic Rowe

Romance and Glamour

Michael Ierace (Piano)

The Twilight Concert held on June 17th was enjoyed by the capacity audience.

The playing of A.Berg - Sonata op.1 by Michael kept everyone enthralled and was met with thunderous applause. E.Grieg Lyric Pieces followed this: six pieces that varied in length, with butterflies dancing over the keyboard and Dwarfs marching softly as well as quite thunderously. The last section comprised three quite different pieces by M. Glinka – The Lark (Arr.Balakirev), F. Kreisler – Liebeslied (Arr. Rachmaninoff) and A.Grundfeld – Soiree de Vienne op.56 (Concert paraphrase on Johann Strauss's Waltz – motives from Die Fledermaus).

Each piece deserved the applause it was given as well as the long and loud applause at the conclusion of another evening of the inspiring piano playing of a very talented Musician.

Joy Middleton



Ages of Jazz

On Sunday afternoon 19th May, the Ballroom was packed to capacity for a return concert by the Keith Conlon Trio. Keith on drums was accompanied by Kerin Bailey on piano and Peter Dowdall on base.

Planned as part of the History Month activities at Urrbrae House, Keith introduced items of the jazz scene from the 1920s until today. Not only was the individual brilliance of each musician appreciated but also the interaction between them enjoyed.

The program commenced with two songs by Fats Waller from the 1920s: 'Ain't Misbehavin' and 'Honeysuckle Rose'. This was followed by 'Ain't She Sweet' from Tin Pan Alley (1927). 'Boogie Woogie' got toes tapping.

Moving on into the 1930s we were entertained with 'Sweet Lorraine', which was made popular by Nat King Cole and later in the swing era 'Satin Doll' by Duke Ellington. Keith reminded us that at the first Adelaide Festival of Arts in 1960, Dave Brubeck and his quartet performed his song 'The Duke' as a tribute to the jazz legend.

Other jazz items enjoyed included 'Lullaby of Birdland' by George Shering, 'Tenderly' (Oscar Peterson), the Brazilian bossa nova song 'The Girl from Ipanema'. The program was concluded with 'I Got Rhythm' by George Gershwin.

Keith informed the audience how much his trio enjoyed performing for the Friends of Urrbrae House and this in turn was greatly appreciated by the audience.

Bill Wallace



**We are delighted that Keith Conlon Trio
will present another Jazz Concert at Urrbrae House
“Jazz up your Spring at Urrbrae House”
Sunday 29th September 2019, 2.30pm for 3.00pm start**



Members of the Friends of Urrbrae House Committee arranged and served refreshments before the concert.

From left:

Pauline Adams, Allan Woodman, Hetty Cater,
Vada Osborn, Joy Middleton, Sandra Morrison

Vale - Dr Gillian Robertson



Gillian who was in her 94th year died on 16th April. Born in Dandenong, Victoria she obtained a BSc and MSc (1949) at the University of Melbourne followed by a Doctorate at the University of London in 1955. She was later to use her training in science and specialization in physics in Melbourne and radioisotopes in London to advantage in several major research projects.

In 1967, and with care arranged for her children, Gillian resumed her research career. Working with Professor Tom Browning at the Waite Institute, she used radioisotopes to monitor the spread of the citrus pest, red scale. This was followed by a three year Fellowship in the Unit of Human Morphology at the Medical School of Flinders University with

Professor A.W. Rogers. Here she used autoradiography to search for evidence of radioactive particles in the lungs of cigarette smokers.

Her final and major research work was with Professor John Prescott in his Archaeometry Group at the University of Adelaide. Working as a Research Officer she used her expertise in the dating of archaeological and geological materials in South Australia, Northern Territory and Thailand.

In her retirement Gillian made a major contribution to the establishment of the Urrbrae House Historic Precinct. Contributing fifteen years on the committee of the Friends of Urrbrae House she served as President for three years, Vice President for two years and six years as Newsletter Editor.

Through her hobby of pottery we have a memory of Gillian in Urrbrae House in the selection of her ornate containers presented to us by her family in 2015. These feature the mythical creature, the Liver Bird, the emblem of the Friends of Urrbrae House, one of the creatures illustrated on the Main Hall ceiling.

We extend to Meg, Susan, David and Ian and their families our sympathy on the passing of a greatly loved mother. Three of her grandchildren are studying Physics and Mathematics at University.

Bill Wallace
President



Dr Gillian Robertson

Tribute by Yvonne Routledge
Curator and Manager, Urrbrae House Historic Precinct (1991 to 2008).

Dr Allen Jennings collected a range of scientific instruments and documents relating to the history of the Waite Institute before he retired at the end of 1991. From early 1992, Dr Jennings and his wife Helen offered to assist me as Curator of Urrbrae House with documenting, describing, listing and storing this valuable collection. Dr Gillian Robertson joined the group in 1993. Later we were joined by Dr Jenny Barker and Mrs Jean Waterhouse, along with others who helped from time to time. They were known as the Wednesday group and continued with their work until the end of 2007.

As a historian and museum professional I was qualified in my field but had little scientific knowledge. Gillian and the other members of the group had knowledge of the items in the collection and the work at the Waite in which they were used.

They patiently explained the complexities of the work to me so that I could understand it as lay person and was therefore able explain it in any displays or writings that were required. This, along with the documenting of the collection, would have been impossible without their work.

For a time we looked after the Mawson Collection and the Wednesday group also assisted with that work. I enjoyed my Wednesdays with Gillian and the group as we discussed the history of the Waite along with many other topics of mutual interest.

I also appreciated Gillian's role on the Friends of Urrbrae House committee particularly during her time as President. She chaired meetings with great skill and sensitivity always giving members the opportunity to contribute. As a committee member she also produced the newsletter and was always a willing worker at events.

I came to know Gillian as a friend and colleague. She was always available to give wise advice and encouragement to me, especially when problems arose and she gave extensive time to supporting the development of both the Urrbrae House Historic Precinct and the Friends group.

Gillian's work along with the others in the Wednesday group cannot be overestimated. As a result of this work the Waite Scientific Collection continues to be held at the Coach House and the Mawson Collection is now secure at the Museum of South Australia.

Much is owed to Gillian, I hope this small tribute will add to many others from people who were fortunate to have had the opportunity to know and work with her.



The Coach House was built in the early 1880s and originally incorporated an open courtyard, stables and a hayloft.

The names of some of the horses are still affixed to the northern side of the building.

Just outside the Coach House is the original Garage, built for Peter Waite's vehicle - the second registered automobile in South Australia.

The first laboratory of the Waite Agricultural Research Institute was established in the Coach House when the estate passed to the University of Adelaide.

Groundbreaking work in investigation of deficiencies in trace elements in South Australian soils was conducted here in the 1920s and 1930s.

<https://www.adelaide.edu.au/waite-historic/urrbraehouse/coachhouse/>

AgriFutures Australia SA Rural Women's Award 2019 at Urrbrae House

Our congratulations to Deanna Lush, Palmer farmer and co-director of AgCommunicators, who was named the South Australian winner of the 2019 AgriFutures Rural Women's Award at a ceremony held at Urrbrae House on 28 March. Deanna was one of four finalists vying for the award including Di Thornton, Michelle Verco and Natalie Sommerville.

Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development Tim Whetstone presented Deanna with her award and emphasised the contributions of women to the development of primary industries and regional South Australia.



Deanna will vie for the national title in September against other state/territory winners at the 2019 National Gala Dinner to be held in Canberra.

Some of the visitors from the Children's University who recently undertook Victorian era craft activities in the Coach House organised by Urrbrae House Manager, Lynette Zeitz. Urrbrae House has been delighted to work with the Children's University Australasia for many years, helping to provide children aged 7-14 with access to learning activities outside their normal school environment.

