

Newsletter October 2018



The Friends of Urrbrae House

Urrbrae House, The University of Adelaide, Waite Campus,

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President's Report

As extensive areas of Eastern Australia cope with extended drought, one recalls the experience of Peter Waite and the 1864-65 drought. This was five years after he arrived in South Australia to take up a pastoral lease in the mid north of the Colony.

Peter arranged for 12,000 of his sheep to be agisted on common land in the southeast of the Colony during the worst of the drought at a cost of £600, including the use of a shearing shed. Despite this initiative, his losses of other sheep meant an overall loss of £15,200, which he reported to a Drought Commission in 1867 (a loss equivalent to \$250,000 today).

Following this drought experience, Peter set out on a process of dam building to ensure reserves of water for future drought spells. Importing 265 tons of iron wire from England, he also embarked on an extensive fencing program so that grazing of sheep on the saltbush could be restricted to smaller paddocks with easy access to water and grazing of the paddocks rotated to 'spell the country after it had been stocked for a time'.

It was through such foresight and initiative that Peter Waite went on to establish himself as a renowned manager of the pastoral country of Southern Australia.

Approaching the end of his life, whilst acknowledging the achievements of agriculturalists and pastoralists, Peter Waite could see the need for more input from scientific research. Hence, in the gift of his estate to the University of Adelaide in 1913, the main aim was to establish a centre to support research and teaching of agricultural science.

Since the Waite Agricultural Research Institute was established in 1924, major contributions have been made to the further development of agricultural practices in Southern Australia and beyond. A relevant example is a current and major project aimed at improving heat and drought tolerance in wheat.

Bill Wallace
President

Manager's Musings

Waite in the Spotlight

Why should we preserve trees in our cities and towns? Can we grow healthy crops in sandy soils? How important are insects to agriculture? Does the yeast a winemaker chooses really affect the wine produced? Can we really turn food waste into usable new products?

To find out the answers to these questions come along to this year's "Waite in the Spotlight" event on 1 November 2018 at 2.45pm-5.30pm at the Lirra Lirra café on the Waite Campus. The event is free but bookings are necessary. <https://www.thewaite.org/waite-in-the-spotlight-2018/>

Waite in the Spotlight is an annual shared campus event featuring short, TEDx-style talks celebrating the diversity of research at the Waite. This year's featured speakers are:

- Dr Kate Delaporte, the Waite Arboretum and School of Agriculture, Food and Wine, University of Adelaide
"Why should we preserve trees in our cities and towns?"
- Dr Therese McBeath, CSIRO Agriculture and Food
"Can we grow healthy crops in sandy soils?"
- Dr Katja Hogendoorn, School of Agriculture, Food and Wine, University of Adelaide
"What's the buzz about insects in agriculture?"
- Dr Simon Schmidt, Australian Wine Research Institute
"Spoiled for choice – how choosing the right yeast can make the difference when making wine"
- Dr Steven Lapidge, Fight Food Waste CRC
"Why do we waste food and what can we do about it?"

Concerts and safety on the stairs

I know there is always an air of excitement and anticipation as people gather in the Main Hall for refreshments before any of our Twilight concerts. Perhaps it is this anticipation that has led to people rushing to the stairs when it is announced the Ballroom doors have been opened at recent concerts. This rush has led to a few "near misses" as some individuals have been jostled on the stairs. I hope that in future all concert goers will take care going down the stairs and follow the instructions from the Urrbrae House staff on duty who try to ensure a smooth flow of traffic. Please be patient if you have to wait a few minutes for those who are less steady on their feet to make their way downstairs. As we all know, the intimate space and wonderful acoustics in the Ballroom mean that there are no bad seats for our Twilight concerts!

Off on leave

This is a brief Manager's Musings as I am just about to head overseas on long service leave. I will be away from Urrbrae House from 10 October to 23 November. During my absence Amanda Jackson will be Acting Manager. I look forward to seeing many of you on my return at this year's Friends' Christmas together.

Lynette Zeitz

Manager, Urrbrae House Historic Precinct

Upcoming Events for your Diary

“Friends Christmas Party”
Urrbrae House
Monday 3rd December 2018
5.30 - 7.00pm

Carols from around the World

Kapelle Singers

Urrbrae House Ballroom

3.00pm, Sunday 9th December 2018

Refreshments will be served 2.30pm to 2.55pm

(see enclosed Flyer)

Concert program 2019

We are delighted that we will be continuing our Twilight Concert Program in 2019, in association with Vivente Music.

In recognition of the calibre of the performers who entertain us, there will be an increase in the Honorarium given to them and a corresponding increase in admission charge to \$25. (This was last adjusted in 2013).

We are reluctant to engage a booking agency with advance payment for attendance at the concerts but are disappointed when up to ten people who have booked, do not attend. Except where there are medical or other exceptional circumstances, it would be reasonable to expect an appropriate donation from such people, especially considering others on a waiting list have been denied the opportunity to attend.

Bill Wallace

Urrbrae House – Twilight Concert Solo Virtuoso 17 September 2018

Natsuko Yoshimoto – violin

Attending classical music performances can be such a serious business. How refreshing it is just to loosen some of those conventions a little. To be part of a small group of people in a pleasant venue, to be joined by a performer who wants to share two pieces of music with us. To have the selected pieces briefly described, without condescension, to understand why they were chosen, and to be told that the performer has “always wanted to learn the Bartok piece” as if she were thanking us for the opportunity!



And then to be treated to a recital of two of the most challenging works in the repertoire, played (from memory) by the incomparable Natsuko Yoshimoto.

Firstly, the Sonata No 3 in C major by J. S. Bach, a densely layered piece whose beautiful third movement *Largo* is perhaps the most familiar to us. The fugue, based on one of Bach’s earlier choral works, progresses through a number of variations, including a complete inversion of the subject.

Secondly, the Sonata for solo violin by Béla Bartók. Impressed by the playing of Yehudi Menuhin, Bartok accepted a commission from the young virtuoso, and composed this sonata for him in 1943-1944. As Natsuko pointed out, Bartok intended to challenge the player with many technical difficulties, including left-hand pizzicato played simultaneously with a bowed melody.

These comments may make the concert seem highly technical and demanding, but that is misleading. It was simply amazing! And for me, opened up the music of Bartok in a new way.

Thank you Natsuko.

Thanks also to Vivente Music and the Friends of Urrbrae House for the gift of such musical experiences throughout the year.

Vic Rowe

Welcome to our new members

Pauline and Graham Chilman

Jan and Professor Peter Veitch

Michael Critchley

Vale James Waite Morgan (9.10.1932 – 18.7.2018)

James Waite Morgan who died in July at the age of 86 was the great-grandson of Peter Waite and youngest son of Dorothy (Waite) Morgan. Growing up in Adelaide he attended St Peter's College in Adelaide followed by five years at Magdalen College, Oxford and the Middle Temple, Inns of Court in London.

On return to Australia, James took up underdeveloped land just over the Victorian border and for over thirty-five years ran seven properties including being the Managing Director of the Mutooroo Pastoral Company from 1970 -1985.

In 1990, he retired from farming and moved to Melbourne, where he took up writing, contributing many columns and essays as well as publishing four novels.



In 2011, James published 'The Premier and the Pastoralist', a comprehensive and interesting account of the lives of his two Great Grandfathers: William Morgan and Peter Waite both of whom made major contributions to the development of South Australia.

James' older brother Peter died in March this year and he is survived by his older sister Marion.

We extend our sympathy to the family of James and also to Marion, an esteemed Friend of Urrbrae House.

Bill Wallace

Vale Hugh McClelland (24.12.1942 – 29.7.2018)

Hugh was a member of the Friends of Urrbrae House Committee from 2008-2012 and had a particular interest in arranging functions to promote young musicians from the Elder Conservatorium and schools in the area of Urrbrae House.



Hugh grew up in the Victorian Mallee and graduated from the University of Melbourne with a B.Com degree. In 1979 he took up a position in Canberra as a Trainee Trade Commissioner leading to Trade Commissioner postings to Paris (3 years), Fiji (3 years), Algiers (4 years) and back in Canberra (6 years).

Later, while living in Adelaide with his late wife Robin, Hugh was State Manager, Australian Trade Commission (Austrade) and held various executive roles in the SA Departments of State Development and Agriculture, mainly in international trade and development.

In 1996, Hugh joined the University of Adelaide as Head of the Department of Agricultural Business and subsequently became the Director of the Graduate School of Management and the University's Manager of International Relations. He was also Secretary of the Rhodes Scholarship Selection Committee for six years.

We extend our sympathy to his daughter Margaret, son Andrew and their families.

Bill Wallace

University of Adelaide footbridge

News (Adelaide) (p5) Monday 9 August 1937

UNIVERSITY BRIDGE OPENING

Governor Officiates

The new footbridge across the Torrens, which links the University with the University Oval, was opened by the Governor (Sir Winston Dugan) this afternoon. Misses Lily and Eva Waite, who as a centenary gift to the University, made a donation that enabled the bridge to be built, were thanked for their generosity by the President of the University Sports Association (Dr. C. B. Sangster) and the Chairman of the University Union (Mr. G. S. Bridgland). Painted grey and with four wrought iron lamp standards, two at each approach and wrought-iron hand rails in position, the arched bridge fits in with the natural beauty of the Torrens.



On the State Heritage Register, the footbridge has a dedication plaque to Lilly and Eva Waite, have a look when you next stroll the banks of the Torrens.

