



Newsletter July 2018

The Friends of Urrbrae House

Urrbrae House, The University of Adelaide, Waite Campus,

PMB#1 GLEN OSMOND, SA 5064

Tel 8313 7497

President's Report

26th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

At the 26th Annual General Meeting held in the Drawing Room on Thursday evening 19th April the following were elected:

President, Bill Wallace

Vice President, Joy Middleton

Secretary, Ramute Stankevicius

Treasurer, Vada Osborn

Newsletter Editor, Sandra Morrison.

Other committee members: Louise Green, Hetty Cater, Margaret Neate, Anne Rabone and Allan Woodman.

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

The Guest Speaker was Helen Bulis. Helen has an Honours degree in Sociology and a Graduate Diploma in Art History from the University of Adelaide and is a guide at the Art Gallery of South Australia and the David Roche Foundation House Museum in North Adelaide. Her topic was:

The Arts and Crafts Movement of the late 19th century

The Arts and Crafts Movement was established in Britain about 1862 by the artist William Morris (1834-96), in response to the negative social and aesthetic consequences of the Industrial Revolution. Morris championed the need to encourage individual craftsmanship and his ideas had a strong impact on numerous designers, manufacturers and practitioners of Victorian art concerned with architecture and the decorative arts, including stained glass, wallpaper, textiles, furnishings, printed fabrics, tapestry art, furniture, wood carving, metalwork, ceramics, jewellery and mosaic art.

Morris took great care of his workers, providing cottages for them and gave women equal pay. The Morris philosophy of handmade quality and a return to individual workers completing all stages of production meant that, even though William Morris was a socialist, only the very rich could afford the opulent handcrafted pieces.

The Barr Smith family of Adelaide was one of the biggest customers of the Morris Company and from 1889 to 1929 furnished seven huge homes including Torrens Park, Birksgate and Auchendarroch House almost entirely in Morris designed and handmade works.



By contrast Peter Waite chose Aldam Heaton, a contemporary of Morris, to advise on the décor and furnishings of Urrbrae House.

Helen referred to a range of particular items from The Arts and Crafts movement in the Art Gallery of South Australia including:

- ‘Cinderella and Doves Plaque’ by Alexander Fisher 1864–1936.
- ‘The Adoration of the Magi’

which forms the centrepiece of the Art Gallery of South Australia’s extensive Morris & Co. collection.

Louise Green thanked Helen for her excellent presentation and presented her with a gift.

Bill Wallace
President, Friends of Urrbrae House Committee



Helen Bulis and Louise Green with original fireplace stand tapestry in the Drawing Room

Manager’s Musings

SA History Festival

We had fantastic attendances at all of our events held in April-May 2018 as part of South Australia’s History Festival. A perfect afternoon with blue skies meant that we welcomed a record number of visitors – 350 in three hours – to look through Urrbrae House during our Open Doors event on 29 April.

I am extremely grateful to the volunteer tour guides, Schools’ Program volunteers and staff members who gave up their Sunday afternoon to make the event such a success.



Dozens of beautiful textiles from the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries were brought into Urrbrae House during the Textile Conservation Roadshow held on 19 May. Mary Jose, world-renowned textiles expert from Fabric of Life, kindly donated her time to provide free advice to members of the public on how to conserve and display their treasured heirlooms.



Textile conservator, Mary Jose from Fabric of Life (on right), examining an 1870s wedding trousseau

It was great to be able to share some of the hidden stories of Urrbrae House on 16 May when I spoke about the influence of Lilian Richardson on the arts in South Australia. For example, did you know that on 9 September 1937 Kazuko Tsurumi gave her first Australian public performance of classical Japanese dancing in the Urrbrae House Ballroom at a reception hosted by Lilian? I would like to thank my colleagues from University Collections, Mirna Heruc, Anna Rivett and Kate Davies, for their support of my Cultural Conversation. It was especially heartening to have one of Lilian's great grand-daughters, Belinda Powles, attend the talk.

Peter Waite Day

On Friday 11 May, the Waite Research Institute hosted "Peter Waite Day" at Urrbrae House. Held each year since 2011 on the Friday closest to Peter Waite's Birthday (9 May) the afternoon is an opportunity for people from across the campus organisations to come together over a few drinks and celebrate being part of the Waite community. Every year a fiercely-contested bocce tournament is held during the afternoon. This year the tournament winners were "Fermtastic Four" from the ARC Training Centre for Innovative Wine Production. You can see photographs from the event at:

<https://www.thewaite.org/campus-celebrates-at-peter-waite-day-2018/>

SA Agricultural Food & Wine Showcase

Urrbrae House often provides the perfect venue for events that enable the University and other organisations to promote South Australian agriculture, food and wine to the world. On 15 June we welcomed international visitors to Urrbrae House as part of the 2018 SA Agricultural Food & Wine Showcase hosted by the Adelaide Convention Bureau and the Waite Research Institute. I was particularly delighted to be able to give a talk to the attendees about the history of the Waite.

Waite Historic Precinct Photography Group

Do you enjoy photography? Want to share this interest while taking photographs in a setting that combines the beauty of nature and an elegant historic built environment? Then you might like to join the new Waite Historic Precinct Photography Group which meets on the fourth Sunday of the month at Urrbrae House at 10am. The group is for photographers who would like to practice their art photographing the Waite Campus of the University of Adelaide. Members are encouraged to focus their lens on Urrbrae House, the Urrbrae House gardens, the Waite Arboretum and Waite Conservation Reserve.



New members are welcome and if you would like to know more about the group please contact Paul by email - pstokes028@gmail.com

The group also has a Facebook page where you can see some of their beautiful photographs:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/623017208033955/>

Members of the Waite Historic Precinct

Photography Group, Andrew Thompson, Paul Stokes and Maggie Jackson, practising their macro-photography skills in the Drawing Room.

Tours during the school holidays

Looking for something to do with children that is free during the South Australian school holidays? Staff and volunteers are providing free tours of Urrbrae House on Tuesdays and Thursdays during the July school holidays at 11am. A tour takes about 75 minutes and younger visitors get to try their hand at writing with ink and nib pens in our recreated Victorian schoolroom. Children must be accompanied by an adult when visiting Urrbrae House. Just turn up at our front door - no bookings are necessary.

Our volunteers and the *Impact of Giving*

It was wonderful to see two of our inspirational, long-serving volunteers, Dr Bill Wallace and Lyn Mackay, featured in the 2018 edition of the University of Adelaide's "Impact of Giving." You can see an online version of the article, "Celebrating our volunteers" at https://issuu.com/uniofadelaide/docs/uoa_impact_of_giving_2018/12

Deathcap mushrooms in the Waite Arboretum

While we love the rain for the plants in the gardens and Waite Arboretum, the recent damp conditions have also heralded the annual arrival of some unwelcome mushrooms in the Waite Arboretum. Deathcap mushrooms (which are poisonous) have been found in the Arboretum so please do not touch or eat any mushrooms that you might find on the Waite Campus.

Lynette Zeitz
 Manager, Urrbrae House Historic Precinct

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### ***"All Jazzed Up" at Urrbrae House***

Held on Sunday afternoon 27<sup>th</sup> May, this event was organised by Allan Woodman and Lynette Zeitz as part of the SA History Festival events at Urrbrae House and was fully booked out two weeks before the function.

To fit with the 1920/30's theme, Allan arranged a fine collection of champagne and other drinks served in vintage champagne 'saucers', and Joy Middleton had researched accompanying food delicacies that had us remembering earlier times with pleasure.



*Joy Middleton, "All Jazzed Up"*

Committee members, with a few extra helpers, all appeared to have stepped straight out of the era with their delightful costumes. Having made the preparations, they were very busy waiting on the large gathering in the Main Hall and Drawing Room. The generous hospitality certainly got the afternoon off to an excellent start.

In the ballroom, the 'All Jazzed Up' program was presented by the Keith Conlon Trio with Keith on drums accompanied by Kerin Bailey on piano and Peter Dowdall on bass - all very experienced musicians. Their delightful program included amongst others - 'Ain't She Sweet', 'Night and Day', 'Making Whoopee', 'I'm Gonna Sit Right Down and Write Myself a Letter' and the 'Jitterbug Waltz'.



It added great interest to the program that, interspersed between numbers, Keith read extracts from early newspapers of similar social functions held in Urrbrae House hosted by Matilda Waite around 1910 and Lilian Richardson (wife of the first Director of the Waite Agricultural Research Institute) in the mid-1930s.

Throughout the performance there was much foot tapping accompanied by many smiles of enjoyment in the audience. It was obvious that everyone there really enjoyed the very special afternoon's entertainment!

*Bill Wallace*



*Lynette Zeitz and Allan Woodman (Allan's cigarette was a prop)*



*Bill and Jenny Wallace*

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Diary date, book your tickets!

Monday 20 August 5.30 pm for 6.00 pm

Twilight Concert at Urrbrae House

"Grand Duo"

Ji Won Kim – violin

Caleb Wright – viola

Two exceptional musicians with vast international experience will debut at Urrbrae House. This exciting program will include works by Haydn, Mozart and others.

Please note this concert will be held in the Ballroom with access via stairs only.

Booking: 82966851 or viventemusic@yahoo.com.au

Welcome to our new members

We welcome the following new members:

Robyn Clapham	Christina Hagger
Vincent Lombardo	Deanna Temme
Ken and Joy Shepherd	Janet Tanner
Sue Rogers and David Furner	

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### ***Urrbrae House Twilight Concert – 30 April 2018***

#### ***“Brahms Beloved”***

Janis Laurs – cello

Michael Ierace - piano

Brahms: Sonata № 1 in E minor op 38

Mendelssohn: Sonata № 2 in D major op 58

Mendelssohn: Song Without Words for cello & piano in D major op 109

The Monday evening concert on 30<sup>th</sup> April, could easily have been named for Mendelssohn, but the first piece certainly exemplified the idea of *Brahms Beloved*. Originally entitled “a sonata for piano and cello”, Brahms insisted that the instruments should be treated as partners. And so it proved in this performance, from the deep, opening tones of Janis Laurs’ cello partnered by the meticulous playing of Michael Ierace. A beautiful, moving and interesting piece.

Mendelssohn Sonata No 2 for cello and piano was next. Introducing the piece, Janis Laurs light-heartedly said that in rehearsal they had decided to interpret the direction ‘allegro e vivace’ in the last movement to mean ‘play it as fast as possible’. Following such a comment, I guess we could have expected a technical, whizz-bang rendering of the whole piece; so it was a pleasant surprise when Janis and Michael presented a lyrical reading of the score, albeit with plenty of restrained energy: which was released in a burst of exuberance in the finale.

The audience response was exuberant too – with the result that we were treated to an encore: Mendelssohn’s Song without Words, for cello and piano. An exquisite ending to the concert.

It still astonishes me that, month after month, we can enjoy such a high standard of performance in the intimate space of the ballroom at Urrbrae House. The number of new audience members at the April concert is testament to the reputation of the Vivente/Friends concerts, which sell out very quickly – so don’t be slow to book for the next one!



*Vic Rowe*



## ***“The Voice and the Violin”***

On Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> June, those attending the Twilight Concert in the Ballroom heard a delightful program entitled ‘The Voice and the Violin’, given by Minas Berberyan, violin, Erna Berberyan, soprano, and Mark Sandon, piano.

In a masterful performance Minas and Mark expressed both the depressed mood of Mozart at the age of 22 when he composed the Sonata for violin and piano No. 21 in E minor, K304, and the anger of Schumann when in three days he wrote the Sonata for violin and piano No. 1 in A minor, Op. 105.

Erna, having grown up with opera singing parents in South Africa, only recently began to develop her classical voice in addition to her other musical accomplishments.

Accompanied by violin and piano, she delighted the audience with her warm soprano voice and four songs:

“Erbarme dich, mein Gott”

- aria from St. Matthew passion (J.S.Bach)

“Laudate Dominum”

- aria from Vesperae Solennes de  
Confessore (W.A.Mozart)

“Morgen” from “Vier Lieder” ,  
Op 27 (R. Strauss)

“Krunk” (Komitas)



*Mark Sandon, Minas Berberyan and Erna Berberyan*

Erna gave an interesting explanation for each of the four solos and in particular that for “Krunk”. Komitas survived the tragic persecution of Armenians in 1915 and went on to honour the dead with the composition of choral works and songs of great significance for Armenian people. Krunk (*crane* in English) is always dreaming of flying back and building a nest at home.

The audience's appreciation of the performance was indicated by prolonged applause after each item and at the end of the concert. Erna's rendition of ‘Krun’ was a moving experience.

*Bill Wallace*



‘Autumn leaves on the Gallery pear trees and red roses in bloom in the Urrbrae House gardens in the middle of winter!

The poor plants in our gardens are a bit confused by the unseasonal weather this year’.

Facebook [Urrbrae House Historic Precinct](https://www.facebook.com/UrrbraeHouseHistoricPrecinct/).

***Tours, events and information – something for everyone!***

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

## Vale - Peter Morgan (1928 -2018)

Peter Ranembe Morgan who died on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2018, in his ninetieth year, was a greatly valued Friend of Urrbrae House.

Peter was born in 1928 in North Adelaide and was proud of his second Christian name Ranembe, the name of an aboriginal who rescued his great grandfather Sir William Morgan from hostile Aborigines by carrying him across the River Murray.

Peter's mother Dorothy was Peter Waite's only granddaughter who married Edward Morgan in 1924.

After his education at St Peter's College, Peter studied at Magdalene College Oxford from 1946 reading History and Modern History, later qualifying as lawyer in London in 1951.

On return to Australia and working as a solicitor Peter's involvement in the family owned Mutooroo Pastoral Company increased. This was the largest and best managed pastoral companies of the Thomas Elder and Peter Waite partnership. In the mid 1980's Peter and his sister Marion Wells bought out all the other shareholders in the company and Peter took over the task of running the business until his son, James Morgan, became Managing Director.

Peter made a major voluntary commitment to the Friends of the State Library being Chairman of the Committee from 1978-1985 and continuing as Vice-President until 1999.

Peter was an enthusiastic supporter of activities of the Friends of Urrbrae House and with his sister Marion spoke of their memories of the Waite Family following the AGM in 2009. Peter was very proud of the achievements of his grandfather James Waite who was a successful engineer in England.

*Bill Wallace*

*President, Friends of Urrbrae House Committee*



### ~~~~~ **A glimpse into Urrbrae, 1907**

The National Library's online database "Trove" provides a treasure-trove of historical information including insights into the lives of the Waite family at Urrbrae House. The following newspaper article was sourced from National Library of Australia, [www.trove.nla.gov.au](http://www.trove.nla.gov.au) newspaper

*Observer (Adelaide, SA : 1905 - 1931), Saturday 3 August 1907, page 33*

#### **ADELAIDE. Wednesday. 31<sup>st</sup> July 1907**

The hospitable doors of Urrbrae, Glen Osmond, were again thrown open on Monday evening, when Mr. and Mrs. Peter Waite gave a small and most enjoyable dance in honour of Mr. and Mrs. James Waite and their small daughter, who are in Adelaide on a visit from the old country. Urrbrae wants no decorating. It is an ideal house for a dance, having plenty of cosy corners for sitting out, a beautiful ballroom for dancing, and plenty of room for supper in the large dining room. Many young folk were invited for Miss Dorothy Waite, and it's quite refreshing to see all these quite young people so eager to get their programmes filled up and dance away from start to finish. Mr. and Mrs. Waite received at the entrance of the ballroom, the hostess being gowned in black velvet with white Brussels lace. Mrs. James Waite wore cream silk with a full plain skirt and full bodice with lace spangled with gold. Miss Waite's cream silk had an overskirt of spotted net; the bodice was trimmed with lace and pink roses. Miss Dorothy Waite wore a lovely little frock of accordion-pleated silk with lace and pale-blue ribbon in her hair.