



Newsletter February 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



In November, Susan Dutch and Graeme Andrewartha unveiled a beautiful historic tapestry in the Ballroom which they had donated to Urrbrae House on behalf of the Andrewartha family. Susan and Graeme are the daughter and son of the former Waite entomologist Professor H. G. Andrewartha and biologist Vevers Andrewartha (nee Steele).

The large tapestry depicting Mary Queen of Scots was embroidered by Susan's and Graeme's great-grandmother Mrs Harriette Steele (on left) and was awarded a Bronze medal at the International and Universal Exhibition at the Crystal Palace in London in 1884. The tapestry portrays 'Mary Queen of Scots mourning over the Dying Douglas at the Battle of Langside in 1568.'

It is a great honour for Urrbrae House to have this tapestry and we could be listed with museums like the Victoria and Albert Museum in London and the Smithsonian Museum of American History that have a similar tapestry in their collections. The tapestry is also a magnificent addition to the décor of the Ballroom of Urrbrae House.

The conservation and reframing of the tapestry, medal and certificate were made possible through the support of the Friends of Urrbrae House.

It further recognition of this generous benefaction I have prepared a summary of the career of Professor Andrewartha and a historical account of the life of Mary Queen of Scots leading up to the Battle of Langside.



Bill Wallace

Manager's Musings

@Nature's Pace Exhibition – 17 February-1 March 2018

As part of the Adelaide Fringe, Basketry SA in conjunction with the Friends of the Waite Arboretum are holding an exhibition of contemporary basketry including baskets, sculptures and fibre jewellery at Urrbrae House. During the exhibition the house will have extended opening times. You can visit this free exhibition Monday – Friday 11.00am-4.00pm, and Saturday – Sunday 1.00pm – 4.00pm. One of our talented volunteer flower arrangers, Liz Yates, has works on display in the exhibition including this beautiful piece entitled “Round & Round”.



SA History Festival (now starts at the end of April)

Every year the History Festival gets bigger and better. This year the festival will start in the last weekend in April with an Open Doors weekend enabling visitors to look inside many of South Australia's buildings of unique historic and/or architectural significance. The festival will then continue for the entire month of May. Urrbrae House will again be taking part in the Open Doors event and offer additional Sunday afternoon tours during May.



While many visitors and Friends are aware that Urrbrae House was the home of Peter and Matilda Waite, some do not know that three other families lived in Urrbrae House after 1922. This year we are organizing two events focused on the 1920s and 1930s when Professor Arnold Richardson and his wife, Lillian (pictured in the Lavender Walk) lived in Urrbrae House.

On Wednesday, 16 May at 4pm I will be giving a talk on “Lillian Richardson and ‘soul culture’ at Urrbrae House 1924-1938.” In an age of elegance, singer Lillian Richardson used her position as wife of the Director of the Waite Institute at the University of Adelaide to promote the arts, education and philanthropy in South Australia. This free Cultural Conversation is being presented by Urrbrae House in conjunction with University Collections at the University of Adelaide. Refreshments will be served in the Main Hall prior to the talk.

To book please contact Anna Rivett from University Collections: phone 8313 3086 or email universitycollections@adelaide.edu.au

Then on Sunday, 27 May at 2.30pm you can get “All Jazzed Up at Urrbrae House.”

Friends Committee member, Allan Woodman, has arranged for the Keith Conlon Trio featuring Kerin Bailey to take you back to when Lillian Richardson’s music salons on Sundays at Urrbrae House (1924-1938) were must-attend events. Enjoy a swinging concert performance in the Ballroom and delve into jazz history. This concert is being presented by the Friends of Urrbrae House and the University of Adelaide. Complimentary refreshments will be provided. Access to the Ballroom is via stairs only.

As this is a special History Month event, the ticket cost is \$25 per person. I am taking bookings for this event: phone 8313 7245 or email urrbraehouse@adelaide.edu.au

Textile Conservation Roadshow with Conservator Mary Jose SA History Festival event

Don’t know how to look after that antique shawl or tapestry? Then bring your special textile object to Urrbrae House on Saturday, 19 May 2.00pm-4.30pm. Mary Jose, world-renowned textiles expert from Fabric of Life, will be available to give free advice on how best to conserve, restore and/or display your treasured heirlooms. Mary has served notable museums, galleries, private institutions and collectors in Australia, Asia and Europe. Many Friends know that Mary has been responsible for textile conservation in Urrbrae House for the past two decades. Places are strictly limited for this free event.

To book please contact Amanda Jackson: phone 8313 7497
or email urrbraehouse@adelaide.edu.au

Retirement of Professor Mike Keller

In December 2017 Professor Mike Keller (Dean of the Waite Campus, Director of the Waite Research Institute and Head of the School of Agriculture, Food and Wine) retired after working at the Waite for nearly 31 years. Mike started his career in South Australia in 1987 as a Lecturer in Entomology when, as Mike noted, *“the campus was a very different place ... Almost every academic was supported by a technician. Neither the Internet nor the RDCs (GRDC, Wine Australia and others) existed. We ate in the refectory in Urrbrae House or in the staff club that was upstairs.”* I would like to sincerely thank Mike for his long-standing support of Urrbrae House which has been greatly appreciated.



You can read Mike’s farewell message to the Waite at
<https://www.thewaite.org/farewell-message-to-the-waite-mike-keller/>

Lynette Zeitz

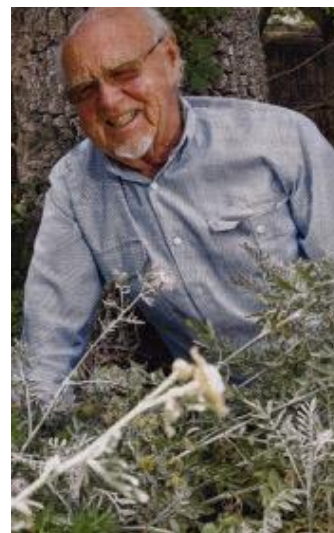
Outdoor and indoor activities of Glenn Woodward.

When Rory Hope was recently awarded a golden gnome by Unley Council, in recognition of the plant-covered verge outside his Unley Park home, he gave credit to his neighbour Glenn Woodward for creating the green oasis.

An earlier outdoor project that Glenn initiated was the plaque on a large piece of bluestone at the front of Urrbrae House, to inform the casual visitors of the significance of the building. In 2007 Glenn took this on as a Committee member of the Friends of Urrbrae House and covered the costs involved.

Glenn is an Honorary Life Member of the Friends of Urrbrae House and a tour guide of the House. He is internationally known as a tour guide of the Adelaide Town Hall where he has volunteered for the past 25 years.

Photo from Eastern Courier Messenger



Thursday 19th April 2018

6.00pm

‘The Arts and Crafts Movement of the late 19th century ‘

Helen Bulis

The above talk will be preceded by a short business meeting of the AGM
Refreshments from 5.30pm

Upcoming Events for your Diary

Monday, 19 March, 5.30pm -7.15pm	Vivente Music Concert
Thursday, 19 April, 5.30pm - 7.15pm	Friends of Urrbrae House Annual General meeting
Sunday, 29 April, 1.00pm - 4.00pm	The Door is Open at Urrbrae House
Monday, 30 April, 5.30pm -7.15pm	Friends of Urrbrae House Twilight Concert
Sunday, 6 May, 2.00pm - 3.15pm	Urrbrae House Free Guided Tour
Wednesday, 16 May, 4.00pm - 5.30pm	Lillian Richardson and “soul culture” at Urrbrae House 1924-1938
Saturday, 19 May, 2pm – 4.30pm	Textile Conservation Roadshow with Conservator Mary Jose
Sunday, 27 May, 2.30pm - 4.00pm	All Jazzed Up at Urrbrae House concert
Monday, 28 May, 5.30pm - 7.15pm	Vivente Music Concert

Urrbrae House – Twilight Concert

Arpeggione 5 February 2018

The first of the Friends' Twilight Concerts for 2018 was another sold-out performance; not surprisingly, as it featured two of Adelaide's best musicians: Imants Larsens and Michael Ierace.

The first piece was the Suite No 3 in C major by J. S. Bach, written for cello, but frequently transposed for other instruments, in this case for viola. Introducing the piece, Imants expressed his admiration for the work and the way in which Bach could create the illusion of multiple parts within a solo piece. I would add that it requires a very skilled and accomplished artist, of Imant's calibre, to realise Bach's work in performance. A great opening piece for the concert that was exciting and uplifting.

Imants introduced the second work, Schubert's Arpeggione Sonata, as "for an instrument that no longer exists"! The arpeggione was a fretted string instrument, which had been invented only a year or so before Schubert's composition. Apparently, the arpeggione was also known as the "guitarre d'amour" and the piece indeed proved emotive.

For the Arpeggione item, pianist Michael Ierace, a brilliant accompanist who is popular with audiences at Urrbrae House, joined Imants. Michael is the complete antithesis of the ostentatious performer, projecting an image of calm and concentration, while saying everything through the music. Seeing him quietly take the stage, and hearing him mesh so perfectly with Imants' performance in the last two pieces, it was hard to believe that he had spent the day in rehearsal for Hamlet, dashed across town, and arrived at the very last minute before the performance.

After the Schubert item, Imants and Michael moved into the 20th century to play *Concertstück* by George Enescu. Imants explained that it was written as a competition piece in 1906, and is accordingly technically and musically challenging. They performed it with flair and versatility. This was good ending to a magnificent concert, which was a great opening for the 2018 Twilight series.

Vic Rowe



Imants Larsens and Michael Ierace

Welcome to our new members

Christopher Gellie
Rosemary and Peter Hanisch
Helen and Mark Randell
Dianne and Roger Thomas
Dr Christina Hagger

Richard Fishlock and Julie Hockey
Shelley Pezy
Kerrie and Roger Sexton
Sandra Wells

Clippings from a flower volunteer

Hello Friends

I have been inspired to write another article for the Friends Newsletter after the incredibly hot weekend we experienced at the end of January.

On the Monday after that weekend I was rostered on to do my voluntary flower arranging in "The House", I was dreading to think how the garden would have suffered through the heat.

The first thing that caught my eye when I arrived on campus were the amazing quince trees behind the Coach House laden with semi ripe fruit. I had previously used the blossom from these beautiful trees in Spring and now with them bearing fruit my mind conjured up motion images of Cezanne and Manet still life paintings. My fears of not being able to bring the House to life were allayed and thoughts of fresh flowers gave way to visions of greenery and fruit.



It was then that I realised how lucky we are, as flower arrangers, to have at our disposal the most amazing array of flora to select from. My thanks go to our wonderful gardening team, both staff and volunteers, for efforts and dedication in creating a most beautiful environment in which we can all work and play!

Allan Woodman

Siobhán Owen

After the unveiling of the 'Mary Queen of Scots' tapestry on 13th November, the ninety guests who attended were delighted with a recital by Siobhán Owen. Born in Wales, Siobhán moved to Australia with her family in 1995. In 2017 she was chosen 'Female Artist of the Year' at the Australian Celtic Music Awards.

Playing her harp, Siobhán sang a range of songs in Scottish, Welsh and Irish languages.

She commissioned South Australian harp maker Tim Guster to make her 36-string Celtic harp with special carving.



The tapestry ‘Mary Queen of Scots mourning over the Dying Douglas at the Battle of Langside in 1568.’

The history leading to the Battle of Langside

Mary, Queen of Scots was only six days old when she succeeded her father (James V of Scotland) who died in 1542 following defeat by the English in a major battle.

Mary's mother, who was French, acted as her regent and at the age of five sent Mary to France, where she grew up in the luxurious French court. In 1558 she married Francis, the eldest son of French King Henry II and Catherine de Medicis. Unfortunately, Francis died from an ear infection, the year after he ascended to the throne, leaving Mary a widow at 18.

Following her husband's death, Mary returned to Scotland. By the time of her return in 1561, John Knox's influence had changed Scotland's official religion from Catholicism to Protestantism. As a Roman Catholic raised in France, Mary found herself an outsider. However with help from her illegitimate half-brother James, Earl of Moray, Mary managed to rule while creating an atmosphere of religious tolerance.

In 1565, Mary (23) gave into infatuation and married her cousin, Henry Stewart, Earl of Darnley. This proved an unhappy marriage for Mary, especially at the time she was bearing her son James (James VI of Scotland and later James I of England). The marriage also turned Mary's half-brother James against her.

When Darnley was mysteriously killed following an explosion near Edinburgh in February 1567, foul play was suspected. Mary's involvement is unclear, but she consented to marry the main suspect in her husband's murder, James Hepburn, Earl of Bothwell.

Their scandalous union only three months after the murder in May 1567 made the Scottish nobility rise against Mary and she was imprisoned on Loch Leven, under its Laird, Sir William Douglas.

George Douglas, younger brother of the Laird, aided Mary in her escape from Loch Leven on 2nd May 1568. He had been determined to help the Queen after witnessing her forced abdication.

This was followed two weeks later by the Battle of Langside (south side of modern Glasgow) between the forces of Mary and those of her half-brother.

In a very short battle, Mary's forces were heavily defeated and she fled to England believing that Queen Elizabeth I would support her cause, but instead she was kept in captivity for 19 years leading to her execution in February 1587, at the age of 44.

In a note on a print of the Battle of Langside in the British Museum Collection (1) the dying soldier is named George Douglas. Was this the young George Douglas who aided the Queen's escape from Loch Leven?

It has been claimed that Douglas did not actually die at the Battle of Langside. Charles Landseer who did the original painting about 1837 based many of his paintings on the novels of Sir Walter Scott and in the book entitled 'The Abbott', Douglas does die at the Battle of Langside. Scott however was writing historical fiction and so he could have Douglas die whenever and wherever he wanted him to. (2)

The young George Douglas continued in Mary's employ during her English captivity although he did not succeed in winning the hand of the Queen he loved (3).

(1) http://www.britishmuseum.org/research/collection_online/collection_object_details.aspx?objectId=1617832&partId=

(2) http://americanhistory.si.edu/collections/search/object/nmah_1148277

(3) Fraser, A (1969) Mary Queen of Scots. Wiedenfeld & Nicholson

Professor Andrewartha

Herbert George ('Andy') Andrewartha (1907-1992) graduated with a BSc in agriculture from the University of Western Australia (1929) and followed this with an MSc at the University of Melbourne (1932). Returning to Perth, he was employed as a scientific officer with the Western Australian Department of Agriculture before taking up a position as an entomologist on a major project on Apple Thrips involving the Waite Agricultural Research Institute and the University of Melbourne.

In 1935, following his marriage to Hattie Vevers Steele, also a biologist, they moved to Adelaide where Andrewartha was appointed as entomologist at the Waite Agricultural Research Institute. He continued to study apple thrips, but was primarily responsible for research on the plague grasshopper. Vevers worked with her husband, spending many weeks as his assistant in outback Australia.

Andrewartha was awarded a Doctorate of Science by the University of Adelaide in 1946. He later moved to work in the Department of Zoology at North Terrace and was appointed Professor there in 1962.

His studies with Charles Birch demonstrated strong connections between physiology, population levels, and other environmental factors and this led to the publication of two major books, *The Distribution and Abundance of Animals* (1954) and *The Ecological Web* (1984). For this work, a new paradigm in population ecology, Andrewartha and Birch earned the Eminent Ecologist Award from the Ecological Society of America (1988).

Throughout his career Andrewartha played an influential role in agricultural and biological circles in South Australia. He was a member of the Australian Institute of Agricultural Science and served as president of its South Australian branch (1946). He was President of the Royal Society of South Australia (1952) and the Nature Conservation Society of South Australia, and Chairman of the National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council of South Australia.

Retiring as Emeritus Professor in 1972, Andrewartha returned to the Waite Institute as a visiting research fellow.

Dr Tom White who studied for his PhD with Professor Andrewartha concluded his tribute to him (Australian Dictionary Of Biography*) as follows:

'A meticulous, demanding, but inspirational academic leader, Andrewartha's graduate students and colleagues knew his sincerity, humour, and kind attention. Unlike many scientists he did not claim co-authorship of PhD students' publications. Predeceased by his wife and survived by their daughter and son, he died on 27 January 1992 at Glen Osmond. The University of Adelaide honoured his memory in 1993 with a memorial gate on Claremont Avenue, opening to the rose garden of Urrbrae House in which he studied thrips, and through which he walked to work.'

* <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/andrewartha-herbert-george-andy-15425>