



Newsletter October 2017

## *The Friends of Urrbrae House*

Urrbrae House, The University of Adelaide, Waite Campus,

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### ***President's Report***

As I sat in the Ballroom for our Twilight Concert on September 4th I felt proud of the recent improvements there supported by the Friends of Urrbrae House. These include window blinds of William Morris "Golden Lily" design and chandelier lighting. We were pleased that on this occasion Minas Berberyan (violin) was joined by Keith Crellin (viola). We are exceedingly grateful to Minas for arranging the programs and artists for the Twilight Concerts at Urrbrae House, often his associates in the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra. There were almost 90 guests at the recent concert that was a sell out, the usual case for these Twilight Concerts especially since the donation of a new Yamaha grand piano by benefactor Margaret Neate in 2014. (Full reports of recent concerts later in the Newsletter on page 5)

Two other recent contributions of the Friends to the gentler musical atmosphere of Urrbrae House are the restorations of the chiming clocks in the Main Hall and Dining Room. It is considered that the latter was manufactured in England in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century so could have been purchased by Peter Waite along with other furniture for the dining room, when the family made their first visit back to Scotland in 1876, just after their purchase of Urrbrae House.

At the recent recognition of the contribution of volunteers to Urrbrae House I was pleased to see Vada Osborn and Peggy Rowe acknowledged. Vada has served as Treasurer of the Friends of Urrbrae House for sixteen years: 1991-2003 and 2013-2017. Peggy was recognized for her contribution of twenty-six years as a volunteer in a range of activities at Urrbrae House. One role of Peggy we are especially appreciative of is taking the bookings for our Twilight Concerts and collecting the monies at the door. She also maintains our membership database.

The Friends have two more main functions this year. On Sunday afternoon 29<sup>th</sup> October the Solstice Singers will make a return visit with the title for their program 'Now you has Jazz' from a song written by Cole Porter for the 1956 film High Society. (See separate flyer for bookings). On Monday evening 4<sup>th</sup> December the joint Friends Christmas Party will be held, a good opportunity to see the recent renovations in Urrbrae House and meet up with other Friends.

I thank you for your valuable support through your continuing membership and additional donations.

*Bill Wallace*

## ***Vale Cedric Wells***

Cedric Wells, ED, OAM, MAgSc died on July 7 at the age of 91. He had a distinguished career in the CSIRO Division of Soils, Adelaide and service to the community through ex-Service, military history and religious organisations.

Recognising the importance of preserving our heritage, Cedric and his wife Marion were foundation members of the National Trust in South Australia and of the Mount Lofty Branch. He served as Chairman of the Marble Hill Committee, and as President of the National Trust from 1976-79.



Cedric and Marion became foundation members of The Friends of Urrbrae House in 1991, and continued as great supporters of the activities and functions at Urrbrae House. In the early 1990s Cedric served on the Urrbrae House Standing Committee, which played a critical role in the setting up of the historic precinct. He and Marion supported the historic refurbishment of the house, and Cedric donated scientific books and papers to the Peter Waite Library. In addition to supporting Urrbrae House, Cedric and Marion have been members of The Friends of the Waite Arboretum since 1994.

Cedric served in the armed forces for forty years, initially as a Signaller with the Naval Reserve at the end of World War 2 followed by over thirty years in the CMF with the 3/9th South Australian Mounted Rifles. His army service included an observational posting in the Vietnam War. He was later appointed commanding officer of his regiment and retired as Colonel. He joined Legacy in 1967, was appointed President in 1997 and provided many years of support to war widows as a legatee.

Cedric was a valued supporter, past President and Committee Member of Cottage Homes, Adelaide, a charitable organisation that has been providing affordable accommodation to needy older South Australians since 1872.

Cedric is survived by his wife Marion and sons Richard, Peter and Henry.

*Bill Wallace and Lynette Zeitz*

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## **Manager' Musings**

### New staff member

In August we welcomed Sally Carr to our Urrbrae House office team. Sally is our new part-time Administration Assistant taking over from Erica Osborn who left to take care of her three young children. Some Friends may have met Sally before as she has been working as one of our casual events' staff members since April. Sally works in the office on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday.



### School holidays' free puppet show

On 20 July puppeteer Sue Harris took us on an enchanting "Aussie Adventure" introducing children to the diversity of the Australian landscape and the need to care for our environment. Unfortunately we had over 20 people simply not show up for their booked seats - a pity as the show booked out quickly and others had wanted to come. However, we like to find silver linings at Urrbrae House so we invited a group of children from the Waite Campus Childcare Centre to join us at the last minute. It was lovely to see so many smiling young faces at the end of the performance.

### "Nature of My Skin" SALA Exhibition 2017

Urrbrae House was delighted to host the "Nature of My Skin" art exhibition by Jutta Fiebig as part of the South Australian Living Artists (SALA) Festival from 13-27 August 2017.

Many visitors commented on how perfectly Jutta's beautiful depictions of trees as landscapes and nature portraits fitted with the surrounding views of the Waite Arboretum. Arrangements of flowers and materials from the Arboretum created by Allan Woodman complemented Jutta's artwork during the exhibition.

Many thanks go to long-standing Friend of Urrbrae House and the Member for Waite, Martin Hamilton-Smith MP who officially launched the exhibition on 13 August.



*Artist Jutta Fiebig with Urrbrae House Manager Lynette Zeitz at the launch of the SALA exhibition.*



I would also like to thank Julian Tremayne from University Collections for expertly hanging the artworks and all of the Urrbrae House volunteers who generously gave their time to greet visitors to the exhibition.



Volunteers Judith Bampton and Anne Rabone on the Visitors desk during the SALA exhibition



## Treenet

On 8 September we welcomed over 200 delegates attending the 18th National Treenet Symposium to Urrbrae House and the Waite Arboretum. Treenet's annual conference for environmental and urban planning professionals is the largest street tree symposium in Australia. The Waite Arboretum provided a wonderful setting for the symposium's practical sessions while interactive forums were held in the Urrbrae House gardens.

## Volunteer Thank You Event

Volunteers are the lifeblood of so many of the activities held here at Urrbrae House. On 11 September, with our colleagues from the Waite Arboretum, we hosted a twilight "Thank You" event for our volunteers who work in Urrbrae House, the Waite Arboretum and the Waite Conservation Reserve.



A highlight of the evening was a recital by Minas, Erna and Lara Berberyan (the Vivente Music trio) who generously donated their time to entertain our volunteers.

I was particularly pleased to have the opportunity at the event to acknowledge the contribution of a foundation member of the Friends of Urrbrae House, Dr Colin Jenner. In the late 1980s and 1990s Colin played a key role, through the Urrbrae House Standing Committee, in ensuring that Urrbrae House's unique heritage would be preserved. He was a driving force behind the establishment of Urrbrae House as a historic museum precinct. Colin has continued to support the house in many ways, volunteering here for over 20 years.



Certificates of appreciation were presented to our volunteers who have contributed 5, 10, 15 and 20+ years of service to Urrbrae House. From left to right: Sandra Morrison, Dr Colin Jenner, Lyn MacKay, Peggy Rowe, Bernard Arnold, Jen Goodfellow, Deane Kemp, Anne Rabone, Allan Woodman.

### Unveiling of "Mary Queen of Scots" tapestry

We are planning on having a special twilight event on Monday, 13 November 2017 to unveil a nineteenth century tapestry which has been kindly donated to Urrbrae House by FOUH member Susan Dutch. The tapestry depicts "Mary Queen of Scots Mourning over the dying Douglas at the Battle of Langside."

The tapestry embroidered by Mrs Harriet Steele won the Bronze Prize at the International and Universal Exhibition, London at the Crystal Palace in 1884.

Harriet Steele was the grandmother of Harriette Vevers Andrewartha. Vevers was the wife of Professor Herbert George Andrewartha, entomologist appointed to the Waite Agricultural Research Institute in 1935. Vevers also worked for a short time at the Waite Institute assisting her husband with work on thrips.

According to Susan Dutch the tapestry was brought to Melbourne in 1889 by the then widowed Mrs Steele and her son Charles (Vevers's father). Later H. G. "Andy" and Vevers Andrewartha brought the tapestry to Adelaide in 1935.

More details about the event on 13 November will be distributed to Friends in due course.

Lynette Zeitz  
Manager, Urrbrae House Historic Precinct

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### ***Upcoming Events for your Diary***

**Monday, 16th October, 5:30 for 6.00 pm**

## **"Night & Dreams"**

It was Franz Schubert who bridged the worlds of Classical and Romantic music, noted for the melody and harmony in his songs (lieder) and chamber works.

Experience the thrill of some of Schubert's best loved lieder for voice and piano, performed by the fine Adelaide lyric tenor Tasso Bouyessis, accompanied by the pianist Larissa Schneider. Also in the program- Franz Schubert piano sonata in B-Flat major.

**Bookings (\$20): [viventemusic@yahoo.com.au](mailto:viventemusic@yahoo.com.au) or 8296 6851**

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**Sunday 29th October 2017  
2.30 for 3pm**

## **Solstice Singers 'Now you has Jazz'**

**Cost - \$15**

**Refreshments included.**

**BOOKINGS 8277 1426**

[peggy.rowe1@bigpond.com](mailto:peggy.rowe1@bigpond.com)

**Payment at the door**

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**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2017**

**5.30 – 7.00pm**

## **Combined Friends Christmas Party**



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### **'Sublimity'**

The Friends' Twilight Concert on 26 June 2017, provided a rare opportunity to hear piano, clarinet and bassoon in consort; played by Kristian Chong, Mitchell Berick and Mark Gaydon respectively.

The *Sonata for Clarinet and Piano* was one of the last pieces of chamber music from Johannes Brahms, who had "retired" from composing. He was inspired to write the two pieces, Op 120 Nos 1 & 2, after hearing the clarinetist Richard Mühlfeld, with whom he premiered the works two years before his death.

The two instruments have equal prominence in the piece, in which Kristian and Mitchell combined to fully realise the atmosphere and emotion of the music. Interestingly, we last

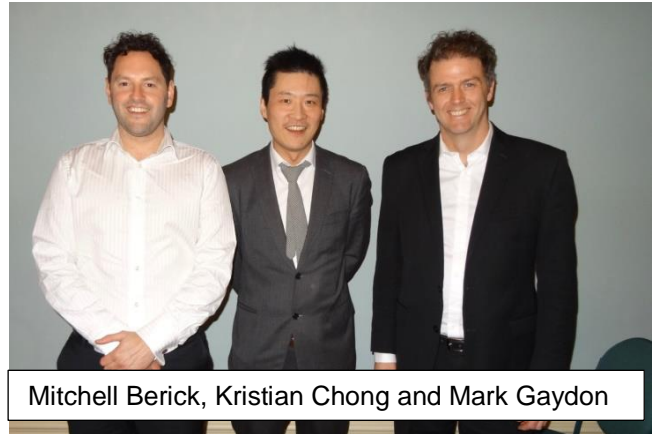


heard this piece at Urrbrae House in 2015, played then by Michael Ierace and Dean Newcomb.

A change of style came with Francis Poulenc's *Sonata for Clarinet and Bassoon*. Despite being a brief work of three movements, it has enough complexity to showcase the two instruments, and despite its overall impish quality still evokes an emotional response.

The concert finished with the *Concert Piece: clarinet, bassoon and piano No 1 in F major, Op 113* by Felix Mendelssohn.

When the musicians were practising this piece before the performance, the dominant sound coming up through the floor (from the ballroom below) was the nut-brown tone of the bassoon, with ornamentation from the other instruments. But once in performance, in the ballroom, all three instruments contributed with equal force and clarity, with the piano establishing the overall dynamics, coloured by the wind instruments. To use Glen Woodward's words, the players developed a dazzling conversation between their instruments in presenting this remarkable work.



Mitchell Berick, Kristian Chong and Mark Gaydon

The concert was titled "Sublimity" which occasioned some discussion, as to whether it is really a word in English! I interpret it as meaning *that quality in the music which invokes the Sublime* which the three pieces, in the hands of three excellent performers, truly achieved.

Vic Rowe

## Duology

Performance in the Ballroom  
on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2017

Minas Berberyan – violin  
Keith Crellin - viola

### Michael Haydn

Duo for violin and viola No 3 in E major,  
MH 337 (P 129)

1. *Allegretto*
2. *Adagio*
3. *Rondo allegro*

### Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Duo for violin and viola No 1 in G major,  
K423

1. *Allegro*
2. *Adagio*
3. *Rondeau allegro*

### Bohuslav Martinů

Three Madrigals for violin and viola (Duo No1), H 313

1. *Poco Allegro*
2. *Poco andante*
3. *Allegro*



Minas Berberyan and Keith Crellin



The pieces by Mozart and Martinů, in this programme, are among the most widely performed compositions for violin and viola. It was fascinating, therefore, to hear them performed by artists of the calibre of Minas Berberyan and Keith Crellin, together with an example of the works that, in a way, led to their creation.

In 1783, Michael Haydn had been commissioned to write six duos for violin and viola, but became ill after completing the fourth. Since Mozart was visiting Salzburg at the time, he offered to compose the remaining two duos for Haydn, his friend and mentor.

Over 160 years later, in 1947, Martinů heard the second of these Mozart duos performed by Joseph and Lillian Fuchs. He was so inspired by their playing that he quickly composed the *Three Madrigals*, which they premiered later that year.

This was the chain of connection which led to the three works being chosen for this Twilight Concert.

The first piece by Haydn, is a really pleasing work, and was beautifully performed. The second duo, although ostensibly written in the style of Haydn, soon displays the characteristic Mozart touch: as if Mozart were saying “oh if you can do this, then why don’t we do it like this and this and this...” to create a more ornate and challenging work.

Keith Crellin used the word “virtuosic” when introducing the final piece, and such it was. Inspired by Martinů’s love of English madrigals, incorporating influences from Czech folk music, with an underlying sensibility of mid twentieth century music – and written to showcase the abilities of both instruments: this was a markedly different work, vividly played by Minas and Keith.



What a year we have had in the Urrbrae House concerts! We are amazingly lucky to have such an intimate venue, so well suited to chamber music, in which to showcase the wonderful musicians who perform for us.

There is one more Vivente concert this year, don’t miss it.

*Vic Rowe*

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