



Newsletter September 2016

The Friends of Urrbrae House

Urrbrae House, The University of Adelaide, Waite Campus,

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Editor: Sandra Morrison

President's Report

Spring is in the air! What better time to visit Urrbrae House and gardens. Very soon the gardens will be in full bloom and the perfume of all the roses will be amazing. Make that visit on a Monday, Tuesday or Thursday, between 10.00am and 4.00pm for the opportunity to walk around the display rooms of the house at the same time that you are visiting the gardens. The floral arrangements within the house are stunning, with flowers collected from the gardens and Arboretum. These arrangements are the work of volunteers and add to the community aspect of Urrbrae House.

The last twilight concert to be hosted by the Friends of Urrbrae House this year will be held on Monday October 10th. Please note the change of booking details on the flyer. The twilight concerts are major fund raising, events and contributes to some of the restoration that is carried out in the house.

The Peter Waite exhibition room is being upgraded this year as the result of gaining a grant and some contribution from fundraising and membership of the Friends of Urrbrae House. The Main Hall clock has now returned home after being expertly repaired by Adelaide Hills Clock Workshop. I have missed its lovely chime.

In 1990 Professor Harold Woolhouse had been appointed the Director of the Waite Campus and under his supervision many changes were made. One of the changes to take place was to have renovations done to Urrbrae House and to have it open to the public. We are the beneficiaries of his foresight, so let us keep it alive, visit the house, attend functions and consider joining the committee so that you can have your say about how we care for this beautiful house.

Joy Middleton

President, Friends of Urrbrae House

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 10th October, 5.30 for 6.00pm: *Intimate Piano* - FOUH Twilight concert in conjunction with Vivente Music

Sunday 16th October, 3.00 for 3.30pm: *Playing it forward* - Concert No. 2 Margaret Neate concert series. Proceeds to student scholarships

Sunday 13th November, 3.00 for 3.30pm: *Playing it forward* - Concert No. 3 Margaret Neate concert series. Proceeds to student scholarships

Sunday 20th November, 3.00 for 3.30pm: *FOUH Sunday choral concert*

Monday 5th December, 5.30pm – 7.00pm: *Combined Friends Christmas party*

Cultural Talk at AGM, Monday 30th May 2016

“Postcards from the Edge of the City”

The guest speaker at this year's AGM was Tony Kanellos, Cultural Collections Manager at the Botanic Gardens of South Australia and Curator of the Santos Museum of Economic Botany. Tony began his talk outlining the fascinating history of the Museum of Economic Botany which was opened in 1881. Its first display of papier-mâché fruit models was used to educate farmers on establishing horticultural and other crops.



FOUH President Joy Middleton with guest speaker Tony Kanellos

A recent project undertaken by Tony was the arrangement of a display of postcards of the Edwardian-era (1901-1914) with unique representations of the Botanic Gardens and hand-written messages on the back of the cards that provide a glimpse into everyday life from 100 years ago.

The messages were often short. One example shown from someone referring to arrangements for an evening function. With postal delivery up to five times a day at the beginning of the twentieth century, the messages served a role like that of the text messages today.

Tony had prepared a beautiful book *Out of the past: views of Adelaide Botanic Garden* containing reproductions of 300 postcards and presented a copy to Lynette for the Urrbrae House Library.

The interest of the audience in the presentation was reflected in the number of questions and comments that followed.

Article by
Bill Wallace and
Lynette Zeitz



Twilight Concert, Monday 8th August 2016

“Romantic Piano”



Marija Bajalica

International award winning Belgrade born pianist Marija Bajalica once again treated us to a marvellous Recital. Marija started with Robert Schumann's, *Kinderszenen Op 15 (Scenes from Childhood)*. This set of 13 pieces was composed in 1838. The German born composer's (1810-1856) personality and career exemplify musical Romanticism.

The second piece was *Rhapsody Op 79* by Johannes Brahms (1833-1897). He was a German composer, arranger and pianist. Born in Hamburg into a Lutheran family, he spent much of his professional life in Vienna, Austria. In the late 1870s, he adopted the habit of spending the summers in the Austrian country side at Portschach at Lake Worther in Carinthia, where he completed this Rhapsody.

The last 2 pieces played by Marija were composed by Alexander Scriabin. Scriabin was born in Moscow in 1872 and died in 1915, aged 43. He was one of the most innovative and most controversial of early modern composers. Both *Preludes Op 16* and *Sonata No 5 Op 53* were composed in his “second period”. Scriabin was sent to Europe by philanthropist Belyayev on a tour playing his own music in 1903 returning to Russia in 1908. His works combine an acute awareness of sensuality and colour in music influenced by mysticism and visual stimulation.

We thank Marija for performing a delightful recital.

Article by
Hetty Cater



A touch of spring inside Urrbrae House thanks to the skills of volunteer flower arranger and FOUH Committee member Allan Woodman

Vivente Music Concert, Sunday 11th September 2016

"Intimate letters"

This was an afternoon of love, passion and a little humour as Vivente Music introduced the audience to the unusual love affair between Czech composer, Leoš Janáček and Kamila Stösslová. In 1917 Janáček met Stösslová while on holiday at Luhacovice, a spa resort in Moravia. He was 63 and had been unhappily married. She was 25 and apparently dully, indifferently married. His infatuation was immediate, had a profound influence on his work and continued unabated until his death 11 years later. Janáček's obsession with Stösslová was also reflected in an intense correspondence of over 700 letters.

To set the romantic scene, the program began with *Three songs for soprano and string quartet Op. 26* by English composer, Eugene Goossens featuring acclaimed soprano Emma Horwood. Emma is no stranger to Urrbrae House and once again her beautiful, ethereal vocals transported the audience. The songs, *The Appeal*, *Philomel* and *Melancholy* (based on poems by Thomas Wyatt, Richard Barnefield and John Fletcher written four centuries ago), spoke of the timelessness of passionate infatuation.

Then the audience was able to experience some of Janáček innermost thoughts as narrator Grant Sheridan read a selection of Janáček's love letters written to the beloved Kamila. These readings were interspersed between the four movements of the *String Quartet No. 2 "Intimate Letters"* beautifully performed by Michael Robertson on viola, Minas Berberyan on violin, Erna Berberyan on violin and Cameron Waters on cello. *"Intimate Letters"* was composed in 1928 and is often referred to as Janacek's "manifesto on love". The readings and sensitive performance gave the audience a new understanding of this rarely performed work.

Article by
Lynette Zeitz

The magnificent Callery pear trees in bloom in early September





After its chimes stopped working our beautiful Main Hall clock needed some tender loving care off-site at Adelaide Hills Clock Workshop. Back above the fireplace, the fusee clock is again chiming beautifully every quarter hour. The repairs to the clock have been funded by the Friends of Urrbrae House.

Manager's Musings

2016 FOUH Committee

I would like to extend my congratulations and thanks to the following Friends who were elected unopposed to this year's Committee:

President: Joy Middleton,
Vice President: Bill Wallace
Secretary: Ramute Stankevicius
Treasurer: Vada Osborn
Newsletter Editor: Sandra Morrison.

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

Shaggy Dog Tales

In May I was delighted to be a guest speaker at a unique event "Bar Yarns: Shaggy Dog Stories" organised by History SA during the SA History Festival. Held at the historic Stanley Bridge Tavern in Verdun, the event focused on the role of dogs in history from the mid-nineteenth century to the present. I was able to share stories about Peter Waite's dog, Shrimp, and other doggy tales on the Urrbrae estate. Other guest speakers included Tony Stinson, (SA Boer War Association); Moana Colmer (National Railway Museum) and Olwyn Parker (author *The Railway Dog: The True Story of An Outback Dog*.) A guest barker, Gunner Murray, Operation K9 Assistance Dog, 16 ALR, Woodside also joined the event while his handler explained the role of military assistance dogs.

30th anniversary – Curator of the Waite Arboretum

A special celebration was held in Urrbrae House in May for Dr Jennifer Gardner to mark her 30th anniversary as Curator of the Waite Arboretum. Not only has Jennifer dedicated her working life to the Waite Arboretum, Waite Conservation Reserve and the Urrbrae House gardens but she was one of the driving forces behind opening the house to the public in the 1990s.



Dr Jennifer Gardner

New website for the Waite

A new website for the entire Waite Campus was launched at

Urrbrae House in May. <http://www.thewaite.org/> The website is designed to be the go-to place for news, events and activities on the campus.

New staff member and changes in the office

With Ilonka McInnes leaving us to take up more work at Carrick Hill, we have been pleased to welcome Erica Osborn to the Urrbrae House team as our new part-time Administrative Assistant. Erica works on Monday and Tuesday mornings, and on Thursday. Our Urrbrae House Co-ordinator, Amanda Jackson, has also changed her work hours and now works Monday-Wednesday. In addition, the Waite Arboretum has a new part-time staff member, Erica Boyle, who is based in Urrbrae House on Tuesday and Friday.

Goyder and the development of Australian forestry

Dr Lizzie Summerfield gave a fascinating cultural oration at Urrbrae House on 11 May about the role of Surveyor-General George W. Goyder in the development of Australian forestry. The event was organized by University Collections in conjunction with Urrbrae House. Did you know that Goyder was appointed Chairman of the first Forestry Board in South Australia in the 1870s prior to the establishment of the Woods and Forests Department in 1882?



Garden ponds

This autumn the ponds in the Urrbrae House gardens had a beautiful refurbishment with the addition of decorative grills created by Silvio Apponyi. The new grills were funded by the Friends of the Waite Arboretum and the Rose Society of South Australia (photographs thanks to Erica Boyle).

Cheque presentation

At a special lunch on 20 May the Hon. Martin Hamilton-Smith MP (Member for Waite) presented me with a competitive grant cheque for over \$16,000 awarded from History SA's

Community Museums Program. The grant will be used to revitalise one of our exhibition rooms to better tell the story of "The Waites of Urrbrae House."



The Hon. Martin Hamilton-Smith MP speaking at Urrbrae House together with Professor Mike Keller, Dean of the Waite Campus (centre), and Waite descendants/family members (left to right), Cedric Wells, Richard Wells and Marion Wells.

Urrbrae House in *Building Ideas* on Channel 9

On 17 July Urrbrae House was one of the houses featured in Channel 9's "Building Ideas" program. If you missed the program, you can now view the segment online. The segment on Urrbrae House begins at about the 15 minute mark.

<https://www.9now.com.au/building-ideas/2016/episode-4>

Australian Academy of Science Fellows

Waite Campus researcher and long-time supporter of Urrbrae House, Emeritus Professor Geoff Fincher (University of Adelaide's School of Agriculture, Food and Wine, and ARC Centre of Excellence in Plant Cell Walls) was elected as a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science earlier this year. Dr Anna Koltunow from CSIRO based at the Waite Campus was also elected to the Academy for her work on plant reproduction. An interview about her work was recorded at Urrbrae House and can be seen online at: <https://www.science.org.au/fellowship/fellows/dr-anna-mg-koltunow>



Masters Builders' Association filming at Urrbrae House on 9 June 2016 for the "Building Ideas" program

Weather, climate and future prosperity

On 24 August University Collections and Urrbrae House hosted a scientific oration on "Weather, climate and future prosperity" with guest speakers John Nairn, Regional Director, South Australian Bureau of Meteorology and Beth Walton, President, Australian Meteorological Association. Beth described how South Australia's early development coincided with major advances in meteorology world-wide while John then spoke on the history of forecasting from the Bureau and Meteorology's perspective. John provided wonderful insights into how technological changes have influenced forecasting in the last half century.

17th National Treenet Symposium

We again welcomed Treenet delegates to Urrbrae House on 2 September for their 17th Annual Symposium. Treenet, whose office is based in the Coach House and who collaborated closely with the Waite Arboretum, are a not-for-profit organization dedicated to improving the urban forest.

City of Mitcham

The City of Mitcham held their September Council Briefing meeting at Urrbrae House on 20 September. Before the meeting I was able to give Mayor Glenn Spear and the City of Mitcham councillors a tour of the house and share our history. With the commencement of formal proceedings Professor Mike Keller briefed the Council about the Waite and the scientific work on the campus. We would also like to extend our congratulations to Jane Bange on her recent election as councillor for The Park Ward in the City of Mitcham. Jane is a regular volunteer with the Urrbrae House Schools' Program.

"Playing it forward" Sunday afternoon concerts – 16 October and 18 November 2016

Some of the best young performers from the Elder Conservatorium under the guidance of Associate Professor Elizabeth Koch AM are performing at Urrbrae House on 16 October and 13 November 2016. These talented musicians are donating their time and talent, not for their own reward, but to raise funds to go towards scholarships for future students in the Elder Conservatorium and at the Waite. I hope that as supporters of Urrbrae House and the Waite legacy the Friends will get behind these concerts named in honour of Margaret Neate who donated the Yamaha grand piano to us in 2014. Please consider buying a ticket, tell family and friends, and support the young performers' generosity. The cost per concert is \$25 full price and \$20 for concession/students.

Bookings via Eventbrite.
Concert 2: Sunday, 16 October

http://playing_it_forward_concertno_2_16oct2016.eventbrite.com.au

Concert 3: Sunday, 13 November

http://playing_it_forward_concertno_3_13nov2016.eventbrite.com.au

Lynette Zeitz
Manager, Urrbrae House
Historic Precinct



Playing it forward

*The Margaret Neate concert series at Urrbrae House
in association with the Elder Conservatorium*

16 October and 13 November 2016
at 3.00pm for 3.30pm start

Urrbrae House Ballroom
Waite Campus
The University of Adelaide
Urrbrae (off Fullarton Road)

Young stars of the Elder Conservatorium are "Playing it forward" – donating their performances to raise scholarship funds to benefit future students ...

Book quickly for these special Sunday afternoon concerts.

All proceeds will go to the Elder Conservatorium Scholarship Fund and the Peter Waite Centenary Scholarship for Agricultural Excellence.



Mason Stanton



Imala Konyon



Kelsey Robinson with Jamie Cock on piano



Jade Paterson



Simon Pazos Quintana

Concert 2 will include works by Felix Mendelssohn, Robert Schumann and Marcial del Adalid.

Concert 3 will include works by Lowell Liebermann, Carl Reinecke, Claude Debussy and Franz Schubert.



Cost: \$25 (incl. GST)
\$20 (incl. GST) Concession/Student per concert

Bookings via Eventbrite

Concert 2: Sunday, 16 October
http://playing_it_forward_concertno_2_16oct2016.eventbrite.com.au

Concert 3: Sunday, 13 November
http://playing_it_forward_concertno_3_13nov2016.eventbrite.com.au

adelaide.edu.au

seekLIGHT



We welcome the following new members to the Friends:

Lois Harverson
Christine & Peter Monk

To access previous FOUH newsletters please use the link below:

<http://www.adelaide.edu.au/waite-historic/friends/urrbraehouse/newsletters>