



Newsletter June 2015

# *The Friends of Urrbrae House*

Urrbrae House, University of Adelaide, Waite Campus, PMB#1 GLEN OSMOND, SA 5064. Tel 8303 7497

Editor Vicki Cheshire

## ***Introducing the new committee –***

On 31<sup>st</sup> May 2015 the 23<sup>rd</sup> AGM of the Friends of Urrbrae House was held.

Voted in without contention were the following

### **Committee office holders:**

President: Joy Middleton  
Vice President: Anne Rabone  
Secretary: Bill Wallace  
Treasurer: Vada Osborn  
Newsletter Editor: Vicki Cheshire

### **General Committee members:**

Hetty Cater  
Judy Ferrante  
Louise Green  
Margaret Neate  
Sandra Morrison  
Ramute Stankevicius  
Allan Woodman

**Ex Officio:** Lynette Zeitz

The committee will continue their good work throughout 2015 -16.

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

Thank you to the members who attended the AGM and the unveiling of the refurbished Child's bedroom. I hope that many more Friends will be able to visit the house and see the bedroom soon. The film afternoon was a great success with quite a buzz in the foyer of the Capri cinema prior to the screening of "The Woman in Gold". Seeing and listening to the Wurlitzer Organ is always enjoyed by the audience. After the film screening again there was a buzz of how great the film choice was; an excellent choice by the organizing committee. The management of the Capri was very generous in donating part of their bar takings to the Friends Groups.

The next function is a Twilight Concert planned for June 29<sup>th</sup> in the Ballroom. We have welcomed several new members to the Friends of Urrbrae House.

*Joy Middleton.*

## **Opening of the 1890's Child's Bedroom**

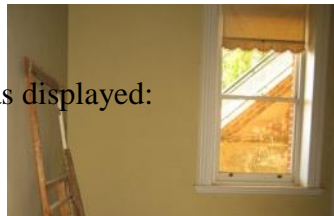
The Friends of Urrbrae House were proud and pleased to have the public opening of the Urrbrae House child's bedroom included at our 2015 AGM. As the retiring President, I was so pleased to see this project completed.

Many years ago, the then new manager, Lynette Zeitz proposed that a bedroom setup in the style of the 1890's would be a good project for the committee to support. I was just a new member on the committee at this time, the vision of a child's bedroom being a part of the tours and an integral part of the school's program excited me.

It has been a great project as this room was previously used by the University as a filing storage area, the refurbishment had to be done in carefully planned stages. Much planning had to be done; Lynette Zeitz showed her professionalism in choosing historically correct décor. This required many, many hours of painstaking research by Lynette. I am sure you can understand that these domestic details were not written about and photos never taken. Along with heritage consultant Kate McDougall the little-known world of the Victorian era's Australian children's bedrooms has been recreated. Lynette, as the project manager has managed a monumental task with a few set backs needing expert advice before work could resume. Compactuses were removed, the floor refinished to its original glory, painting in historically exacting colours and furniture sourced. In the past the wardrobes had been removed and 'stored' in the backrooms of the Waite Precinct and to the great credit of all involved, were found in bits and assembled like a jigsaw puzzle.

Many thanks go to those who donated items that have been included in the bedroom. I will let the following pictures show just some of the hard work involved.

Some photos during the renovations:



And now the final room as displayed:

*Vicki Cheshire*

## **Manager's Musings**

I share the Friends' excitement at being able to show visitors our beautifully restored "Eva's Bedroom" in Urrbrae House. Apart from the genuine antiques from 1890-1918 (built-in wardrobes, bed, cot, stereoscope viewer, greeting cards, brushes, christening gowns and Victoria Carlsbad dressing table set) on display in the room, many visitors have noted the beautiful quilt that adorns the cot. This reproduction quilt was hand-made by our talented volunteer and Friends' Committee member, Anne Rabone.

We have been delighted to receive two wonderful donations of antique furniture this year. Firstly, Maggie Moore donated 6 Edwardian chairs that are a perfect match to the existing chairs in the "Butler's Pantry."

Then Margaret (Meg) Butler, on behalf of the Butler family, donated a blackwood bookcase with glass doors, c. 1890, believed to have been manufactured by James Marshall & Son. The bookcase was originally owned by Caroline Sells, Meg's great-aunt, and is now on display in the Schoolroom. Caroline Sells was senior mistress of Adelaide [Girls] High School from 1917-1928. The bookcase was restored in 2014-2015 by Andrew Roberts of Antique Restorations.

On 14 April about 80 international students had a special day on the Waite Campus visiting Urrbrae House, undertaking a scavenger hunt in the gardens, and then enjoying a BBQ on the McLeod Square lawns outside the Waite Hub. This fun event was organised with the University's International Student Centre. A number of the younger visitors told us that they would be bringing their parents to see Urrbrae House when they came to Adelaide.

A special farewell event was held at Urrbrae House on Wednesday, 29 April for the staff and clients of Waite Analytical Services who celebrated the laboratory's achievements over more than two decades. Waite Analytical Services was established in 1993 by Professor Robin Graham.



About 85 visitors came through the "Open Door" of Urrbrae House in three hours on Sunday, 3 May as part of the South Australian History Month Festival. Staff and volunteers, dressed in period costume, were on-hand to answer questions and chat with visitors. On 6 May David Lawry, OAM, and Glenn Williams from TREENET spoke in a "Cultural Conversation" organised in conjunction with University Collections at Urrbrae House.

David and Glenn gave an inspiring presentation about their project which aims to commemorate Australia's fallen service personnel with living trees. More about the Avenues of Honour project can be found at: <http://www.avenuesofhonour.org> A very successful tour of Urrbrae House with afternoon tea and a guided walk around other Waite Campus heritage buildings on 12 May was organised in conjunction with Susanne Layton, a volunteer from University Collections. ■

Recent visitors to the house and gardens will have noticed the temporary closure of the Andrewartha Gate on Claremont Avenue, various pieces of digging equipment in operation, and workmen pulling up and replacing paving. This activity has been due to the University's installation of new lighting along the pathway that runs through the rose arbour from Urrbrae House to Claremont Avenue. We have appreciated the public's understanding of the temporary inconvenience. It will be great to have lights along this pathway as it is much used by members of the local community.

We are now running extra free tours of the house during the school holidays on Mondays (except public holidays) and Thursdays at 11am. For more information please see <http://www.adelaide.edu.au/waite-historic/whatson/tours/>

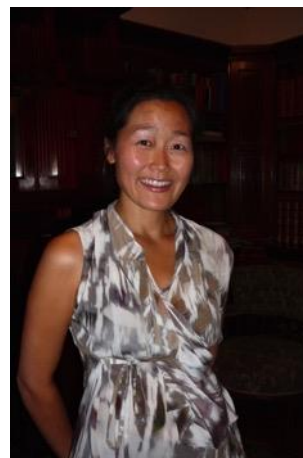
Within the University of Adelaide, Urrbrae House is part of the University Engagement Branch. Our Chief Engagement Officer, Kate Robertson, will be taking up the role of Chief Advancement Officer at St Peters College from early July. With Kate's departure, Leah Grantham who is currently the Director of Stakeholder Relations will be the Acting Chief Engagement Officer for three months. Grega Vrettis, Industry Relations Manager, will in turn become the Acting Director of Stakeholder Relations.

It is great to see new and old faces on the 2015 Friends' Committee and I look forward to working with such a great group of supporters. I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank Vicki Cheshire for all of her hard work as President of the Friends. Vicki has carried the load of two Committee positions simultaneously (President and Newsletter Editor) while also volunteering in our Schools' Program. Her commitment, generous spirit, organisational skills and good cheer have been greatly valued by all. We are very fortunate that Vicki has agreed to continue as Newsletter Editor so will still be with us in the days ahead.

*Lynette Zeitz*

## **Dazzling Concert**

Natsuko Yoshimoto, Concertmaster, Adelaide Symphony Orchestra opened the 2015 concert season in Urrbrae House on 23 February with a dazzling display of virtuosity, technical skill and sheer musicality. She played three pieces for solo violin commencing with the beautiful and technically challenging Partita No 1 by JS Bach which she played from memory. Quite an achievement.



Natsuko then played 8 contrasting short vignettes by the contemporary composer Gyorgy Kurtag. The concert concluded with Eugene Ysaye's vigorous and exhilarating Sonata No 3, "Ballade". At the peak of her powers, Natsuko played brilliantly. Truly a world-class performance from a world-class musician.

The concert was arranged by Vivente Music.

*Hugh McClelland*

### **Bravura Bassoon**

In a highly varied and dazzling display of the wonders of the bassoon Mark Gaydon, Principal Bassoonist, Adelaide Symphony Orchestra beguiled a capacity audience at Urrbrae House on 23 March. Accompanied by Adelaide based national and international award winning pianist Michael Ierace they played works by Telemann, Ralph Vaughan Williams, Schubert [the lyrical Impromptu in G flat major for solo piano], Schumann and an evocative and astonishing solo for bassoon. Fragments from within written by Mark Gaydon himself.



Michael Ierace, piano; Mark Gaydon, bassoon

If anyone wondered about the mysteries of the bassoon often buried in the background of a large orchestra this concert brought out the sounds and range of this instrument played by a true master and a highly talented accompanist. It was a truly instructive and thoroughly enjoyable concert arranged by Vivente Music on behalf of the Friends of Urrbrae House.

*Hugh McClelland*



### **Eloquence**

On 27<sup>th</sup> April Friends and guests were delighted to attend a piano concert by the world renowned Kristian Chong.

The long anticipated recital of Kristian Chong filled the ballroom at Urrbrae House to its limits and showcased the new grand piano to the enjoyment of the public.

The concert opened with MOZART – Fantasie in D minor K397, where Kristian immediately captured the attention of the listeners with the purity and the refinement of his tone. The delightful short piece for left hand by Miriam

HYDE/Noreen STOKES, cleared the palettes of the listeners for the main piece in the programme - SCHUBERT'S monumental sonata in Bb D 960. This forty minute Sonata is overwhelmingly recognised as one of the greatest works for the piano.

As a true musician by heart with an impeccable technique, Kristian Chong made the new piano "sing" under his fingers. What a delightful evening!

*Minas Berberyan, Vivente music*

### **Blockbuster Concert**

A blockbuster concert resonated in the Urrbrae House Ballroom on 18 May. A group comprising Peter Handsworth, clarinet and conductor, Adelaide Wind Orchestra; Minas and Erna Berberyan, violinists, ASO; Shirin Lim, Principal 1st violinist, ASO; Linda Garrett, viola. ASO. and Janis Laurs, internationally renowned cellist began the concert with a challenging Septet by Alfred Uhl [1909-1992].



The highlight of the concert was the lyrical Clarinet Quintet in B Minor by Johannes Brahms played with passion and precision by the artists. Composed late in life this piece brought together Brahms' masterly gifts of instrumental harmony and intertwining tunes to produce a true masterpiece of chamber music. It was superbly played by masters in their own individual fields. We are so lucky to have such world-class musicians in Adelaide.

*Hugh McClelland*

### **Film Event: Woman in Gold**

On 31<sup>st</sup> May the combined groups of the Waite Precinct - the Friends of Urrbrae House and the Friends of the Waite Arboretum held a very successful fundraising event at the Capri Theatre. It was a great afternoon; the Capri welcomed us with their usual panache, putting on a display of the famous Theatre organ before the film. The raffles were greatly supported, and winners were very pleased with their prizes. The film *Woman in Gold* was a great historic tale of loss and triumph; many exclaimed it as 'a really wonderful day' one patron said: "The film was excellent - a well-written story based on sobering fact, impeccably acted and directed". Thank you to all who supported this endeavour.

### **Lifetime Membership Awards**

At the recent AGM, two Lifetime membership awards were given to well deserving members. It was a great pleasure to recognise such devotion and dedication to our committee and their commitment to Urrbrae House.

**Bill Wallace** has been on the committee for many years, an executive member in differing roles. His commitment to research into Peter and Matilda Waite's History is unearthing many hitherto unknown facets. He has worked to improve Community Engagement, History, Music and the Arts in Urrbrae House. Bill has been a wonderful mentor to many on the committee. His support is endless. He continues as Secretary this year.



**Peggy Rowe** has continued to support music at Urrbrae House after her retirement from Urrbrae House management in 2007. Although Peggy is not 'on the committee' she has taken bookings, fielded enquiries, written up flyers and programs for the concerts in conjunction with Minas Berbery. She is often at the front-of house table. She has kept the membership database up to date and assists with promotions. She never asks for thanks and so it was fitting that we honored her with this award.

### **AGM talk by Denise Chapman**

It was the Friends' great pleasure to have Denise Chapman from the State Library talk enthusiastically about the Children's Literature Research Collection with a focus on treasures from the 1880s and 1890s at our recent AGM. The collection consists of 65,000 items, mostly children's books from Australia, UK and USA enhanced by donations from families in South Australia, reflecting the interests of children from the early days of settlement until now. A recent acquisition of great interest is a spectacular Vojtěch Kubašta pop up book of Noah's Ark. This Czech children's illustrator, paper engineer, and author is regarded as one of the twentieth century's most imaginative and remarkable artists. We were delighted by her talk and it was timely at the opening of the 1890's Child's bedroom. There is to be a special exhibition of the collection at the Library later in the year.



### **Leonie Woolhouse 1937 to 2014**

Many Friends of Urrbrae House would have been saddened to hear about the sudden death of Leonie Woolhouse in December last year.

I was privileged to know Leonie and count her as a friend. As the wife of the late Professor Harold Woolhouse, Director of the Waite Institute from 1990 to 1995 she was part of a partnership that made a great impact upon the Waite.

However, some people may not be aware of Leonie's personal association and contribution to Urrbrae House. Leonie spent part of her childhood living in the former "bachelor's quarters" at the rear of Urrbrae House. Her mother was housekeeper to the then Director of the Waite Institute, Professor James Prescott and Mrs Prescott. Leonie recalled often going into the drawing room to wish Professor and Mrs Prescott goodnight before she went to bed. She also recalled their kindness towards her.



Later, Leonie met Harold Woolhouse whilst he was undertaking postgraduate work at the Botany Department at the University of Adelaide. They married, moved to England and raised three children, Hannah, Matthew and Arthur.

When Harold was appointed Director, Leonie began to make regular visits and took a deep interest in the work at Urrbrae House. She became a member of the Friends of Urrbrae House and a friend and supporter to both me and Jennifer Gardner in our roles.

Leonie was delighted that remnant parts of the original wallpapers had been found when the drawing room space was restored. The remnant papers are the only examples of the work of decorator Aldam Heaton and they date back to the early 1890s.

Leonie's work and passion was as an artist and it was in this capacity that she made her own special contribution to Urrbrae House. In late 1994 she became our artist in residence. She ordered blank top quality wallpaper from England and recreated the part of the stencil above the picture rail that had been lost. Leonie employed the stencil techniques used by Heaton when he first created the papers. Leonie was happy to demonstrate and talk about her work with visitors. Leonie completed her work in early 1995 despite struggling with the serious diagnosis of Harold's terminal illness.



It was most fitting that the project again brought Leonie into close collaboration with the Prescott family. The late Professor John Prescott, the son of Professor James Prescott, was devoted to the house and the Friends group and was a sponsor of the project. He formally "opened" the completed work in April 1995.

After Harold's death Leonie continued to visit Adelaide and Urrbrae House. I will always remember her vitality, interesting conversation on a wide variety of subjects and most all her friendship and support.

**Ian Ridgway 21.5.1930 - 25.4.2015**

Ian, who passed away recently, was just over a month short of his 85<sup>th</sup> birthday. Through his work at the 'Waite' he was well known, indeed a friend to many of his colleagues as well as postgraduate and undergraduate students. Equally through his farming ventures near Bordertown he was a local identity in the community there and known more widely throughout Australia by his regular appearances on the 'Australia All Over' program hosted by Ian McNamara

Ian was a 'Friend of Urrbrae House' and had a great interest in its preservation as well as in the work of the Arboretum. Ian grew up on a family farm in the Bordertown District and did his senior schooling at Norwood and Unley High Schools, returning to work on the farm to avoid becoming a teacher.

Ian joined the 'Waite' in 1961 as a technical assistant in the Department of Agronomy mainly working in the Pasture Utilisation Group, supporting the research of Ted Carter, Adrian Egan and Bill Alden. He also assisted in the Agronomy workshop designing equipment to assist with the harvesting of cereal and legume seeds. Arising from this was the development by Ian in 1980 of a Resilient Tapered Thresher for use in Third World countries.

While working at the 'Waite', Ian volunteered to look after the catering arrangements for the three annual tours undertaken by the final year students in the BAgrSc course to different agricultural regions of South Australia.

Ian usually went to Bordertown on the weekends to work on the family farm. When he returned on Monday morning and parked his truck outside his home in Grandview Avenue, it was well loaded with items such as bags of wool and chopped wood. During the week this was gradually replaced with new tractor tyres and other farm requirements such as bags of fertilizer.

Following a Committee of Enquiry into Animal Sciences at the Waite Agricultural Institute in 1980, a new Department of Animal Sciences was formed in 1982 and Ian transferred to it from Agronomy with some other staff. Ian continued to work with Dr Adrian Egan on the digestive system of sheep and with Dr Barbara Radcliffe on the value of Triticale and other food sources for sheep.

Later in the 1980's, Ian resigned from the 'Waite' to work full time on his farm. Here he paid particular attention to a sustainable approach in the cultivation of his land for cropping. He also developed a small vineyard and apple orchard generously sharing the wine and cider he produced with his colleagues, especially those who joined him to assist with the pruning etc. In later years he made his vineyard and orchard available to the agriculture students at Bordertown High School for practical work. His farm dam was well stocked with yabbies; submerged old car tyres giving them protection from the cormorants.

Meantime Ian was continuing to work on the development of his new concept for a grain harvester. Based on an internal pneumatic transfer system, airflow was used to transport the cereal heads from the stripping header to the thresher and for the removal of dust, chaff and straw from the grain. He undertook some of the final engineering work in the workshop of the Department of Agronomy and Farming Systems at the Roseworthy Campus with Paul Harris.

Ian was awarded a Master of Applied Science from the University of Adelaide in 2002 for a thesis on the development of the harvester. A unique aspect of Ian's Master's degree was that he did not have a primary degree.

Based on Ian's initial harvester, design advice from David Cooper and engineering input from James Irvine, a new harvester for trial plots was developed. This proved of great assistance to the plant breeders, especially for the long-awned durum wheat. Reflecting on this in 1999, Tony Rathjen said: 'Overall, the Ridgway-Irvine-Pneuflo is the most significant development in cereal breeding machinery in the past twenty years and it provides us with an opportunity to move forwards from the 1950's and 1960's technology of the current machines'.

Ian served on the Tatiara District Council from 2003 - 2005 and had a particular interest in the drainage schemes of the South East of the State for the control of salinity. He also served on the Dog and Cat Management Board of South Australia as the local government representative.

*Continued..*

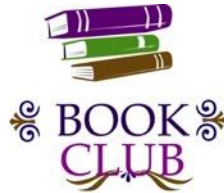


Following the death of his wife Lenore in 2002, Ian sold the farm at Bordertown in 2007 and moved to a new home in Mira Monte at Urrbrae. Coinciding with this move, Ian bought a Rolls Royce engaging former colleagues as chauffeurs for long distance trips.

In recent years Ian's focus was the compilation of his family history as well as arranging his large collection of memorabilia from the Waite and his many overseas travels.

(I wish to acknowledge Lynette Zeitz for the portrait of Ian and some of the information on his career gained from her book 'The Waite' (2014))

*Bill Wallace*



Did you know that an informal book club is held in the beautiful dining room at Urrbrae House once a month? Usually the third Monday from 1-2pm. Burnside Library books are delivered to Urrbrae House and returned for you. There is a small yearly fee to the Library for assisting us. At present there are a few places vacant, come along - bring a friend! Please contact Lynette Zeitz on 8313 7425

### *Events to look forward to:*

**June 29<sup>th</sup> Twilight Concert 5.30 for 6pm *Felix* FULLY BOOKED – Wait listings taken**  
Mendelssohn was named Felix which is Latin for happy. Three prominent Adelaide musicians: Michael Ierace piano; Imants Larsens violin; Gemma Philips cello will delight you with one of the most loved chamber works: Felix Mendelssohn's piano trio op.49, No1 in D minor in the magnificent Urrbrae House Ballroom (access via stairs only, children under 5 not permitted).  
Cost \$20 refreshments included. Bookings essential: email [peggy.rowel@bigpond.com](mailto:peggy.rowel@bigpond.com) or phone 8277 1426

**\*July 6<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> Free Guided Tour of Urrbrae House\* 11am - 12.15pm** Scheduled Tours are provided by the University of Adelaide Volunteers and staff on Mondays (except public holidays) and Thursdays during the school holidays. The tour takes about 75 mins. Please note that disabled access is only available on the top floor of the house only.  
Bookings are not necessary for individuals or small groups; for large group bookings, please phone 8313 7497.

**August 17<sup>th</sup> Twilight Concert 5.30 for 6pm *To be advised closer to the date***  
Enquiries: [peggy.rowel@bigpond.com](mailto:peggy.rowel@bigpond.com) 8277 1426

**September 13<sup>th</sup> Vivente Sunday afternoon Concert *To be advised closer to the date***  
Enquiries: Vivente Music, 8296 6851; 0401 021 065 [viventemusic@yahoo.com.au](mailto:viventemusic@yahoo.com.au)

We welcome the following members who have recently joined as Friends:  
Jenny Brown  
Dr. Kerrie Davies  
Patrick & Janet Forbes  
Rosie Lees  
Don Redman  
Brian & Caroline Smith  
Allan Woodman  
Hon & Mrs. David Wotton

- Event organised by the University of Adelaide Waite Precinct

This newsletter can be found at  
<http://www.adelaide.edu.au/waite-historic/friends/urrbraehouse/newsletters/>