

URRBRAE HOUSE

The Friends of Urrbrae House

Urrbrae House, University of Adelaide, Waite Campus, PMB#1 GLEN OSMOND, SA 5064. Tel 8313 7497

Editor Vicki Cheshire

Film Fundraiser

If you are not going away this June long weekend please think of coming along with a group of family and friends to the Friends Groups of the Waite Historic Precinct fundraiser - a film at the historic (1941) Capri theatre 141 Goodwood Rd, Goodwood on Sunday 8th June.

This film "*Grace of Monaco*" was carefully chosen for its historic content and is being shown on the first weekend of its release in Australia.

It is the story of former Hollywood star Grace Kelly's marriage and life during a political dispute between Monaco's Prince Rainier III and France's Charles de Gaulle in the 1960's. Directed by Olivier Dahan, screenplay by Arash Amel. Starring Nicole Kidman as Grace Kelly, Tim Roth as Prince Rainier, this film will prove to be both enthralling and enchanting. The historic Wurlitzer Organ will be played at 3.45, doors open at 3pm for a chance to socialize and have a look at the raffle (to be drawn at 3.30).



Dates for your diary

June 8th Film 'Grace of Monaco' Capri Theatre
(3 for 3.45 seating)

June 16th FOUH Twilight Concert – Playful Clarinet
(5.30 for 6)

July 20th Adelaide Allsorts Harmony Chorus (3 pm)
Acapella at its best - fun and entertaining

July 22nd Fireside Chat Return of the 'City of Adelaide'
(5.30 for 6)

August 17th Colonial Tea Dance (2-5pm) TBA

August 25th Twilight concert TBA



For bookings and enquiries:

Bill Wallace 8332 6495, billwallace01@gmail.com

Vicki Cheshire 8370 0032, vicki.cheshire@gmail.com

Presidents Report

I had cause to reflect on my association with Urrbrae House as I put my name forward for the office of President. I came along to the house, in 2005 at the behest of a close friend Janet Miller who was helping Yvonne Routledge and Peggy Rowe set up a new 'living history' program for primary school children: *The Urrbrae House Schools Program*. I was asked to make a few rudimentary aprons for the children to wear. I then took up a volunteer role at the very first of the Schools Program sessions and although it has been many years, and many roles within the program, I still enjoy being a part of this 'living history'. I believe it is the best way to give children a taste of what life was like in the 1890's. In the process I have learned a lot about the era – and how the Waite family was an important part of those times. As many a volunteer will attest to, I find it amazing to see how my commitment at Urrbrae House has expanded since then!

I am very pleased that there are continuing collaborations between the Waite Precinct Friends groups: Friends of the Waite Arboretum, Friends of the Waite Conservation Reserve and the Friends of Urrbrae House. I look forward to our joint activities. Liaising with the Staff at Urrbrae House and the University of Adelaide North Terrace has always been a pleasure; their support and dedication is always exemplary and I hope to continue the good natured collaboration that we have established.

Management of Urrbrae House and keeping this beauty in running order cannot be taken lightly. If you have ever been on a tour of the house you will know that there are unseen areas that require constant vigilance and are just waiting for the day when they too, once restored, can become a publicly celebrated part of the house's history. Over the past few years the committee's focus has been raising funds to provide for a restoration of a children's bedroom that will become a part of the tours and programs. I hope that the bedroom will be completed this year, we all know that sensitive historical restoration takes time and when it is complete this room will provide another chapter in the story that is Urrbrae House. It will also complete a personal milestone for me; I believe that this was one of the agenda items listed as a new initiative at my first session as a committee member.

I see the current scaffolding on the front of the house with its incumbent restorations, as the University's respect for the Waite legacy. All that the Waite family gave to the University of Adelaide must be treated with respect and gratitude and this grand old home is in need of timely maintenance. I am pleased to be a part of restoring this once lovely family home and hope that with the help of the University of Adelaide we can move towards a greater pathway for community engagement and appreciation of just what the Waite family gave.

Vicki Cheshire

Manager's Musings

As many of our supporters know the scaffolding is still up and restoration work continues along the northern balcony and roof of Urrbrae House. We are continuing to work around the various logistical issues that this presents and appreciate everyone's understanding at events during this time.

[Shanghai Jiao Tong University Delegation Visit](#) We were delighted to welcome visiting delegates from the leading Chinese research institution, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, for a special lunch in the dining room of Urrbrae House on 1 May. The Shanghai Jiao Tong University is one of the oldest and most prestigious universities in China. The University of Adelaide has signed a new Memorandum of Understanding with Shanghai Jiao Tong to work together to improve the agriculture and health of the two countries. For more information about the significance of this visit please see <http://www.adelaide.edu.au/news/news70222.html>

["About Time" History Month](#) May is the "About Time" History Month in South Australia. Various festival events have and are being held at Urrbrae House, and at the University's Waite and North Terrace campuses. Information can be found in the University's "Life in Adelaide News" web page: <http://blogs.adelaide.edu.au/isc/2014/05/06/about-time-history-festival/>

The Friends Of Urrbrae House

History Month “Open Doors” About 200 visitors came through the doors of Urrbrae House in three hours on Sunday, 4 May as part of the Open House Adelaide weekend. Staff and volunteers, dressed in period costume, were on-hand to answer questions and chat with visitors. We will have another “Open Door” afternoon at Urrbrae House on Sunday, 25 May from 1.00pm-4.00pm.



Bill Wallace entertains visitors to Urrbrae House in May – history Month

Self-guided walk of the western side of the Waite Campus I have been working with Susanne Layton, a volunteer from the University’s Art & Heritage Collections, on developing a new walking guide for visitors to the heritage sites on the western half of the Waite Campus. The new A4 walking guide with map, which is designed for self-guided walks, was launched by Art & Heritage Collections on 8 May with a special tour of the campus as part of History Month. Copies of the free guide are available in Urrbrae House or from Art & Heritage Collections.

“The Waite: a social and scientific history of the Waite Agricultural Research Institute” – book launch



The Hon. Martin Hamilton-Smith, MP, Member for Waite; author Lynette Zeitz; Professor Geoff Fincher; Dr Colin Jenner with Vice-Chancellor and President Professor Warren Bebbington (background)

I was delighted that the Hon. Martin Hamilton-Smith, MP, Member for Waite, kindly agreed to officially launch my new history book about “The Waite” on 12 May on the lawns of Urrbrae House. It was great to see so many friends, colleagues and former Waite staff members at the launch. Many thanks to everyone who made it such a special occasion.

During May the University of Adelaide Press is offering the book at the special launch price of \$44 (normal RRP \$55). The history can be purchased online from the University of Adelaide website

<http://www.adelaide.edu.au/press> The book is also available at Dymocks bookstore at 135 Rundle Mall, Adelaide.

It has been exciting to find some media interest in the new history. On 12 May I was interviewed by Nikolai Beilharz for the ABC Radio’s

Country Hour. An excerpt of the interview can be found at <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-05-12/waite-book-history/5447316> I have been asked to talk about the history on “Mornings with Ian Henschke” on ABC Radio 891 on Monday, 26 May while the local Hills and Mitcham Messenger newspaper plans to include a story about the history in the last week of May.

Donations of Treasures Monica Renwick, a long-time supporter of the Waite Arboretum, recently donated a beautiful Persian carpet to Urrbrae House. The carpet will be used in the downstairs hall once we have new edgings put on it: the carpet’s current tasselled ends could be a tripping hazard so we will have them modified. We are now also able to display a working 1890s harmonium to visitors thanks to the generosity of Ilonka and Malcolm McInnes. Ilonka, who works at Urrbrae House part-time, purchased the instrument at a recent antiques’ auction to specifically donate it to the house. I would like to thank Monica, Ilonka and Malcolm for their generosity.



New President of the Friends of Urrbrae House I would like to congratulate Vicki Cheshire on being elected as the President of the Friends of Urrbrae House and to thank Bill Wallace for all of his hard work in the last year as President. I am pleased to say that Bill is continuing on the Friends of Urrbrae House Committee as its new Secretary. I would also like to thank Hazel Douglas for her efforts and support over many years. Hazel retired from the committee and is having a “seachange” by moving down to the south coast but we hope she will drop in for a cup of tea whenever she is up north.

Lynette Zeitz

22nd Annual General Meeting Held on Monday 5th May 2014

The meeting was preceded with refreshments and a good time of interaction between Friends and guests. Thirty-five attended.

Bill Wallace (President) welcomed everyone and reported a very successful year as gauged from functions well supported, increase in membership and feedback from members.

The Twilight Concerts remain very popular with most selling out early. In these we are greatly indebted to Minas Berberyan of Vivente Music for arranging the excellent programs and for Peggy Rowe's continuing role in arranging the publicity and bookings.

It was very gratifying that we attracted 20 new memberships during the year, most dual or family members. Thanks were also expressed to our continuing members and in particular those who included a donation with their subscription.

Bill acknowledged the contribution of Hazel Douglas who was retiring from the committee after five very valuable years of service including Secretary in the past year. He also thanked Lynette Zeitz, Manager of the Urrbrae House Historic Precinct for her support and guidance to the Committee, especially with regard to restoration projects in the House that the Friends could support.

The following main points of the Treasurer's report were drawn attention to:

- a net income for the year of \$6200.
- membership subscriptions \$2095 (21% increase from the previous year) and donations \$600.
- function income \$7975 (increase of 55% from the previous year).
- \$8381 provided for the current restoration of Eva Waite's -1892 bedroom.

The following were elected to the Committee for 2014/15.

President – Vicki Cheshire

Vice President – Joy Middleton

Secretary – Bill Wallace

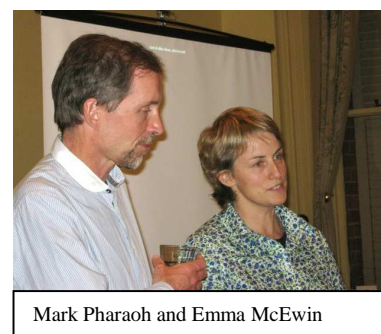
Treasurer – Vada Osborn

Newsletter Editor – Vicki Cheshire

Continuing members – Judy Ferrante and Anne Rabone

New members – Louise Green and Sandra Morrison

Ex officio – Lynette Zeitz (Manager of the Urrbrae House Historic Precinct).



The guest speakers were Emma McEwin and Mark Pharaoh who gave a very interesting presentation titled **'Reflection on the Mawson Legacy'**.

Emma who is the great-granddaughter of Sir Douglas Mawson is currently undertaking a PhD on creative writing with the topic for her thesis being a biographical history of the Mawson family. In her talk she analysed the personality of Douglas Mawson and took a critical look at the range of pictures of her great-grandfather on display at the North Terrace Campus where she is writing her thesis.

Mark is Manager of the Australian Polar Collections at the Adelaide Museum and has been involved with several exhibitions on Mawson including the current exhibition at the Museum 'In the Footsteps of Sir Douglas Mawson'. The main emphasis of his talk was the broad contribution of Douglas Mawson, not only in extensive exploration of Antarctica but in Geology and other aspects of science including forestry. As a strong leader he inspired and mentored many others especially if they had his work ethic. A reflection of his legacy was the extensive range of reports and publications he contributed to.

Bill Wallace

Please note that there are still vacancies for General Members of the committee. If you have an interest in the Waite Campus and/or Urrbrae House, have attended events here, been a helper or volunteer - please let us encourage you to apply to be on the committee. The task is not onerous, with only five meetings each year and assistance with some functions. New members are not asked to take on any of the administrative roles.

Please contact Vicki Cheshire 8370 0032 or Bill Wallace 8332 6495.

Sparkling Music Season Opening: Fairy Tales

In welcoming a capacity audience to the Urrbrae House Drawing Room on 24 March, Minas Berberyan, Vivente Music remarked that this was the ninth year of his collaboration with the Friends of Urrbrae House and what a pleasure it was for him to arrange concerts for such appreciative fine music supporters. Certainly the Urrbrae House concerts are now firmly established in the Adelaide music scene.



Imants Larsens, viola; Mitchell Berick, clarinet; Michael Lerace, piano.

For the first concert for the 2014 music season we were treated to sparkling music played by three of Adelaide's finest musicians, Imants Larsens [viola], Mitchell Berick [clarinet] and Michael Lerace [piano]. They performed major works by Robert Schumann and the prolific but little known French composer Jean-Rene Francaix [1912-1997]. Both works were beguiling and performed with panache by the three obviously enthusiastic and highly disciplined musicians - each in their own way bringing out their individual talents.

As an encore and a real bonus we heard a marvellous excerpt from a trio by Max Bruch in which Mitchell Berick's clarinet soared. It was a very satisfying highlight of a sparkling concert to open our 2014 season.

Hugh McClelland

Arpeggione – a Vivente Music Concert

On the 19th May the capacity crowd in the drawing room at Urrbrae House were treated to a special performance by associate principal cellist of the ASO, Ewen Bramble, and Melbourne based pianist Amir Farid.

Bach's 2nd cello suite BWV 1008 was introduced by Ewen Bramble as a manuscript attributed to Bach that was possibly intended to be a series of exercises or studies for the Cello. These suites had been first recorded in the 1930's as performance pieces in their own rites. The term 'Practice pieces' never entered our thoughts as he kept us in awe with his skill and prodigious talent as the suite unfolded.

Ewen Bramble then explained that Schubert's 'Arpeggione Sonata' for cello and piano was done for the 6 string instrument similar to a guitar – an Arpeggione. This sonata was published after Schubert's death. He also explained that it was written at a time when Schubert was an ill man and echoed in the piece is music going from sorrowful to light and cheery and returning; the performance by Ewan and Amir was outstanding. The combination of piano and cello was expertly balanced as the piece unfolded with the witty, sometimes playful and jaunty, sometimes sorrowful and heart-breaking beauty that is Schubert.

Both Amir and Ewen are members of the renowned Benaud trio. If you would like to see these performers again visit: <http://www.benaudtrio.com/adelaideconcerts.html>

Many thanks to Vivente Music for presenting this concert.



Amir Farid, piano; Ewan Bramble, cello.

Vicki Cheshire

Clipper ship 'City of Adelaide' celebrations

The clipper ship 'City of Adelaide' was launched on 7th May 1864 in Sunderland and celebrations have been held recently in Adelaide to celebrate her 150th birthday. She was constructed specifically for the South Australian trade.

The maiden voyage to Adelaide started from London on 6th August 1864 and one of the 14 cabins in Saloon Class was assigned to Matilda Methuen from Edinburgh. She was on her way to marry Peter Waite whom she had been engaged to before he left for Australia, five years earlier in 1859. Matilda who was 28 brought with her a harmonium and enjoyed the company of Janet Bruce (23), daughter of the captain. They clipper arrived in Adelaide on 7th November after a voyage of 93 days.

The 'City of Adelaide' was one of the fastest clippers doing a later record run in 65 days. When I first came to Adelaide from London in 1966 on the P&O Arcadia the journey was 21 days. One-stop flights today from London to Adelaide take 21 hours! Consider also that with the clipper ships the arrival time could only be guessed at.

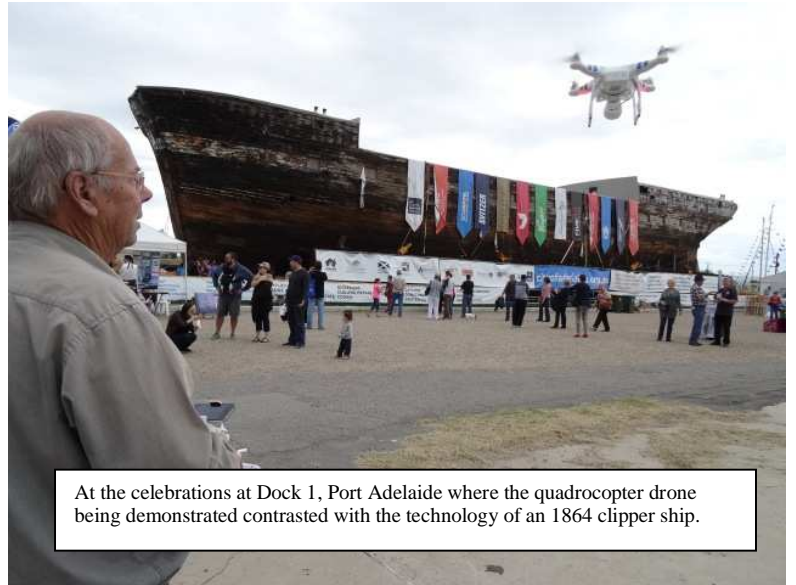
On 3rd February this year the hull of the 'City of Adelaide' returned to Adelaide on board a heavy lift cargo ship. This followed a 14-year campaign by maritime historians, enthusiasts and descendants of the original passengers to save it. Symptomatic of this support was the effort of ten engineering firms in Adelaide who jointly contributed to the construction of a steel cradle, which allowed the ship to be lifted and moved safely from the Scottish Maritime Museum at Irvine where it had been since 1992.

On Tuesday evening 22nd July (5.30pm) we will have a guest at Urrbrae House from the 'The City of Adelaide Preservation Trust' who will review the effort it was to have the clipper returned to Adelaide and the plans for its future.

To learn more about the history of the 'City of Adelaide' and how you can help with its preservation see:

<http://cityofadelaide.org.au/>

Bill Wallace



At the celebrations at Dock 1, Port Adelaide where the quadcopter drone being demonstrated contrasted with the technology of an 1864 clipper ship.



1938 John Alcott 'City of Adelaide'

Photo courtesy of Adelaide Preservation Trust

<http://community.history.sa.gov.au/city-adelaide-preservation-trust>

Urrbrae House is appealing for Donations for the Child's Bedroom that is about to be furnished.

If you have any items relevant to the 1892 era (small or large) that you can donate please contact Lynette Zeitz 8313 7425.

Adelaide Hunt Club

The meet of the hounds which took place on Saturday June 19, may be regarded as a model one, or at least the committee have a desire that in some respects it may serve as a model for many of the meets of the present season. Mr. Peter Waite very kindly invited the club to his residence (Urrbrae), situated alongside Sir Thomas Elder's estate at Glen Osmond. The situation is one of the most picturesque of the many pleasing positions so occupied by wealthy residents at the foot of the hills, and the beautiful park-like country that stretches away below and to the right and left of Urrbrae makes it eminently suitable for hunting purposes. It is well enough known that Mr. Peter Waite would entertain the Hunt Club in the most sumptuous manner if it were deemed desirable, but there has been a growing feeling for some time past that the weekly meets of the club should not be made a tax on their patrons.

The hunting men are very grateful for the kindness that is extended to them by those who permit them to hunt over their properties, and though recognising the eclat that attached to the great gatherings of former seasons, when very costly spreads have been provided for the members, they are desirous of "meeting the times" this season, and where luncheon is prepared trust that it will be of a more simple character.

Mr. Peter Waite resolved to set an example in this respect, and when the members arrived at Urrbrae at half-past 1 they found a plain but substantial luncheon spread on trestle tables on the lawn. The joints were fresh, and corned beef and a saddle of mutton with salad, and bread and cheese, and a keg of beer and some whisky, and cigars for the smokers. There was plenty and to spare for everyone, and the repast was voted to be appropriate and ample for the occasion.

One or two light showers fell before the throw off, which occurred at half-past 2, when there was a good muster of riding men and spectators. The drag was laid by Martin on Nigger, and the scent was keen when the hounds went away in full cry, taking the field over a double from Urrbrae, and a stone wall into Sir Thomas Elder's, thence away to the right through Dodd's and Mrs. Cudmore's property, thence through Mr. Price's and Mr. Baker's to Mr. Hardy's, where there was a check. When they had found again the route was through Mitcham, across the Fullarton-road, then back in Indian file through Mr. Lugg's wheat, then Mr. Hall's, and up again into the beautiful grounds of Urrbrae, where a stiff double was taken at the finish, and the kill was in the rear of the stables.

The run was a spirited affair, with the usual spill or two, the master himself coming to earth once through his horse getting into the wires, but he was soon up again at the head of affaire. Mr. J. Barker got a nasty fall through some one before him knocking out a top rail and his horse striking the wire. He was picked up and carried in, but it is hoped is not seriously hurt.

When partaking of a stirrup cup the master proposed the health of Mr. Waite, coupled with the other landowners. He said they had enjoyed a capital run, and the club were thankful to all who had permitted them so kindly to go over their properties, and in Mr. Lugg's case a young crop, through which he was pleased to see the members rode in Indian file to do as little damage as possible.

They were all much pleased with their luncheon, and he hoped other patrons of the club would follow Mr. Waite's good example. The toast was drunk with hearty cheers for the host and Mrs. Waite, and in a brief reply Mr. Waite said he had taken upon himself to set an example of the kind of lunch that many people could afford to give without touching their pockets deeply or upsetting their household arrangements. He thought that kind of a spread would be appreciated by sportsmen, and he would like to have seen double the number present.

Events to look forward to:

Sunday 8th June **Film Event** *“Grace of Monaco”* **3.00 for 3.45pm seating** - in the historic Capri Theatre 141 Goodwood Rd, Goodwood. The story of former Hollywood star Grace Kelly’s marriage and life during a political dispute between Monaco’s Prince Rainier III and France’s Charles de Gaulle in the 1960’s. Directed by Olivier Dahan, screenplay by Arash Amel. Starring Nicole Kidman as Grace Kelly, Tim Roth as Prince Rainier. The historic Wurlitzer Organ will be played at 3.45. This is a joint fundraising event for the Urrbrae House Precinct.

THIS WILL BE A FABULOUS AFTERNOON, PLEASE ORGANIZE A GROUP BOOKING OF FAMILY & FRIENDS. \$15.00 per ticket. Tickets and information from Bill Wallace 8332 6495, billwallace01@gmail.com or Vicki Cheshire 8370 0032, vicki.cheshire@gmail.com

Monday 16th June **Twilight Concert** *‘Playful Clarinet’* **5.30 for 6pm** Music from Darius Milhaud - Suite Op 157b. written in 1936 otherwise known as ‘le Voyageur sans baggage’ (the traveler without luggage) and also from Aram Khachaturian - Clarinet trio. Performers will be Peter Handsworth clarinet, Minas Berberyan violin, and Gabriella Smart Piano.

To book: email peggyrowel@bigpond.com (please note email change) or phone 8277 1426

Sunday 20th July **Adelaide Allsorts Harmony Choir** **3-4pm** Seen at last year’s Vintage Picnic, this choir brings fun to vocal harmony. From a selection of 4 part Harmony, Barbershop, Gospel, Jazz and Doo-wop these singers will keep you amused and have your toes tapping! Please watch for the notice closer to the date.

Tuesday 22nd July **Fireside chat** *Return of the ‘City of Adelaide’* **5.30 for 6pm** in the beautiful dining room of Urrbrae House. A guest speaker from ‘The City of Adelaide Preservation Trust’ will review the effort it was to have the clipper returned to Adelaide and the plans for its future. Cost \$15. Please watch for the notice closer to the date.

Bookings are essential as there are limited places: Bill Wallace **8332 6495**, billwallace01@gmail.com

***Sunday 27th July** **National Tree Day** **Free Guided walk** by the FWA **11-12.30** *‘Remarkable Trees of the Waite Arboretum’* and also at **2-4pm** FWA **Presentation** by Charlie Buttigieg *‘The Heritage Trees of Anlaby – Listening to the forgotten stories from our past’* *

Sunday 17th August **Colonial Tea Dance** **2-5pm** Put this date in your diary! This very popular event is being repeated this year; arrange to bring a group and have a really fun afternoon. Please watch for the notice closer to the date.

Monday 25th August **Twilight Concert** Program to be advised closer to the date.

* *Friends of the Waite Arboretum event*

We welcome the following members who have recently joined as Friends:

Sandra Morrison
Alyson Pulbrook
Elizabeth Rogers
Victor Sheftel
Walter Silzer

We wish to acknowledge the continuing support of our Honorary Life Members:

Bernard Arnold
Lyn MacKay
Dr Max Tate
Glen Woodward

You can view this newsletter online at:

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

Here is a link to the ‘Urrbrae House - what’s on’ website, you are sure to find something there of interest:

<http://waite.adelaide.edu.au/urrbraehouse/whatson/>

Friends of Urrbrae House Membership forms may be downloaded from:

http://www.waite.adelaide.edu.au/urrbraehouse/friends/FOUH_Membership_Application_Form.pdf