



The Friends of Urrbrae House

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

Editor Vicki Cheshire

Recruitment and Optimism

An important part of any committee is to recruit new members, especially talented people with wide ranging interests that appreciate the committee's aims. In the coming year you may see some 'new ticket' items added to the events held by the Friends of Urrbrae House, in conjunction with the precinct management, the Friends of the Waite Arboretum and the Friends of the Waite Conservation Reserve. It is very positive that all parties involved in the care and promotion of the precinct are active.

So it is with great pride that the committee has put forward some interesting events, in the hope of promoting the precinct to members of the public who have not visited the area before, or haven't been a part of the University community for many years. You may even see some events similar to those held in the house many years ago. In particular, there is a Colonial Tea Dance being held in the beautiful ballroom on Sunday August 25th from 2pm, supported by the Adelaide Colonial Dancers. Please see details on the back page.

You can help the committee by recommending events to your friends and family. We would also very much appreciate you inviting as many people as possible to join the **membership of the FOUH** so that they may benefit from the advance notice of upcoming events. Please phone Bill Wallace 8332 6495 for a membership form, or find it at:

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

We welcome interest from members of the FOUH and their friends to **become committee members** as there are still a few 'general membership' positions vacant. Should you not have time to be on the committee your offer of help at any event would be welcomed, please phone Vicki Cheshire 8370 0032 / 043302 2247.

Vicki Cheshire

Dates for your Diary

August 25th Colonial Tea Dance (2-5pm)
[almost sold out]

August 26th Twilight Concert (5.30 for 6)
Duelling Winds

September 23rd Twilight Concert (5.30 for 6)

October 2nd Teddy Bears' Picnic (TBA)

October 14th Twilight Concert (5.30 for 6)

October 20th Vintage Picnic (TBA)

October 31st Manager's Morning Tea (10.30)



Adelaide Colonial Dancers in Colonial dress

Guided Tours

Free guided tours of the Waite Arboretum and Urrbrae House are held on the first Sunday of the month during cooler months; upcoming dates are 1st September and 6th October at 11am (meet in front of the house) for the Gardens Tour and 2pm (meet inside) for a Tour of the House.

Manager's Musings

Treasure Trove of Photographs

In May I was delighted to receive two small packets of historic photographs originally belonging to Professor James Prescott from one of our long-standing Friends, Jo Prescott. Jo, as some of you may know, is the daughter-in-law of Professor Prescott who was the first professor appointed to the Waite Agricultural Research Institute and the Institute's second Director.

Amongst the photographs, that appear to have been taken in the 1920s and 1930s, are shots showing the construction of the John Melrose Laboratory (part of the Main Building at the Waite) including a photograph in 1927 of the excavation work for the building being undertaken by hand.

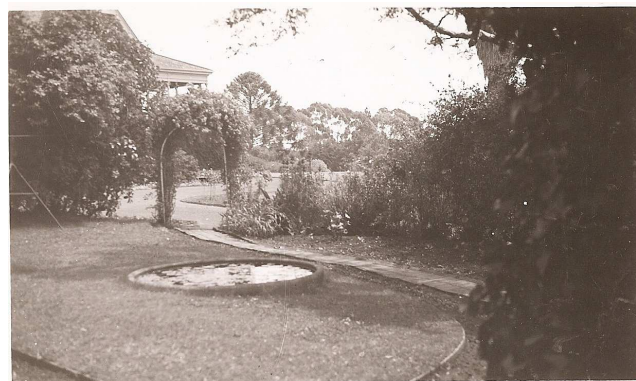
In addition I thought Friends might be interested in seeing a photograph of "Mrs Waite's Garden and Pond" presumably taken in the 1920s. The photograph shows the small garden area to the north-east of the house. Another photograph, looking south from Urrbrae House, shows the stables and Coach House from the same area.

Finally, do you recognise any of the faces of the laboratory assistants from the Waite Agricultural Research Institute in this photograph believed to have been taken in the 1940s?

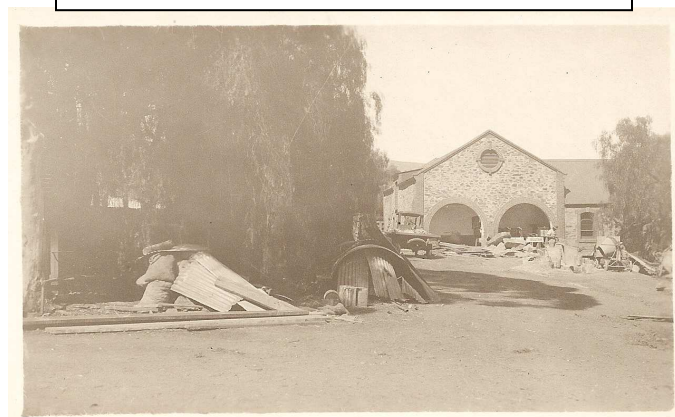
Lynette Zeitz



Excavation 1927



Mrs Waite's Garden and Pond 1920's



Stables and Coach House 1920's



Laboratory assistants
Photos courtesy of
Jo Prescott

Classy Violin – Bach, Mozart, Hyde

Highly respected violinist and teacher Wendy Heiligenberg was joined by pianist and harpsichordist Monika Laczofy playing JS Bach's Sonata in A Major and Mozart's Sonata in Bb Major [the Great Sonata] in Urrbrae House on 29 April. They were brilliantly performed.

Wendy, a graduate of the Elder Con. and of the Koeln

Music School, Germany was formerly a member of the prestigious Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra and

has been widely recorded for solo and chamber music. Monika, a graduate of Australian and Austrian universities is past President, Accompanist Guild of SA, Federal Examiner, AMEB and a member, Recitals Australia. Both currently lecture at the Elder Conservatorium.

A highlight of the concert was the performance of Miriam Hyde's tightly written and exhilarating Fantasy Trio for Violin, Violincello and Piano played by Wendy Heiligenberg, Ryan Fletcher [piano] and David Moran [cello]. Ryan is an engineering student at the University of Adelaide and David is a second year cello student. It was great to hear such young and talented musicians interacting with Wendy's experience and leadership'

Miriam Hyde OBE, AO [1913-2005] was a graduate of the Elder Conservatorium in the 1930s and went on to become one of Australia's most prolific and admired composers, a widely sought after teacher and performer and a poet. We should hear more of her music.

The concert was arranged by Vivente Music.

Hugh McClelland



Ryan Fletcher, Wendy Heiligenberg, Monika Laczofy , David Moran

All Beethoven Concert

On 17 June two of South Australia's pre-eminent musicians, David Lockett and Minas Berberyan presented two Beethoven sonatas for piano and viola including the marvellous 'Spring' sonata at a Twilight Concert in Urrbrae House.

Emeritus Professor David Lockett AM was the Director of the Elder Conservatorium for 7 years, has a Doctorate in Music and is a Patron of the Music Teachers Association of South Australia. He has performed widely internationally and is also a member of the advisory panel of the Piano Teachers Assn of Japan. David continues an active career as a pianist, teacher and researcher.



David Lockett, Minas Berberyan

Minas Berberyan was born in Bulgaria and graduated from the Sofia School of Music and the Bulgarian Sate Conservatoire before moving to South Africa as a violinist with the South African National Symphony Orchestra. In 2002 Minas migrated to Australia and joined Adelaide Symphony Orchestra. Widely sought after for chamber music recitals and for teaching at the Elder Conservatorium and privately, Minas also organises all the concerts at Urrbrae House as Principal, Vivente Music. We admire his musicianship and his invaluable and enthusiastic contribution to the life of the House.

Hugh McClelland

Fireside Chat – Dr Tony Rogers

On Wednesday evening 31st July, twenty Friends of Urrbrae House and visitors enjoyed a very interesting Fireside Chat in the Dining Room by Dr Tony Rogers.

Talking mainly about the first thirty years of the settlement of South Australia, Tony challenged us to consider the lives, hopes and fears of the early immigrants who were subjected to the puffery or spin of the South Australia Company promoting life and opportunities in the new colony. With the population of Britain increasing from 10million in 1800 to 21million in 1850 it was not surprising that emigration was being encouraged.

For the first twenty years of settlement in South Australia, mild weather was enjoyed as was promised in the promotion of the Colony, but a harsh period of drought was experienced in the late 1850's / early 1860's.

Given the passion for science in Britain in this period and the new developments in railway and telegraphy systems Tony considered how this would have influenced the approach of pioneers like Charles Todd arriving in 1855 and Peter Waite in 1859. In their new life every step was an experiment and for Peter Waite it was his approach to the above drought with fencing of land to conserve it and the building of dams.

Those involved with agriculture were aware of the need for soil analysis and use of appropriate fertilizer and being keen to display their produce, the first Show staged by South Australia's Agricultural Society was held in 1840, a mere 4 years after South Australia's settlement.

Tony has published three books on the influence of extreme weather on the settlement of South Australia with all profits from their sale going to the Royal Society for the Blind.

Bill Wallace

Member Profile – Judy Ferrante

Judy has had a long association with the Waite Institute as a scientist researcher, in the Agricultural and Biochemistry Department. Looking back on her time in the Waite Campus, she remembers Urrbrae House as “full of life, busy and full of people”. In particular downstairs was once a bustling Cafeteria and the billiard room was always crowded. She has fond memories of being invited to lunches in the Waite Staff club, now restored to the dining room at Urrbrae House.

Judy notes that being on the committee of the FOUH “is an opportunity to contribute to something worthwhile, whilst fostering [her] interest in history”.

With just a little reverence Judy explained that “today, as a museum, Urrbrae House feels retired from the busy life, given a chance for some less wear and tear on the old building” and hopefully through the hard work and dedication of all - restored to some of its former glory.

Along with Judy's professionalism, she has a wonderful sense of cheer and with her solid network connections from her career will be able to provide events of interest to Urrbrae House. Her ideas are to engage and entertain the members of FOUH in educational ways. Such as the recent Fireside Chat where Dr Tony Rogers entertained many with his ideas about extreme weather and how this has affected the Australian population and scientific endeavour in Australia.

Vicki Cheshire



David Waite (1875 – 1913) taken from a talk presented by Dr Bill Wallace on 28th May, the 100 year anniversary of David Waite's death, at Urrbrae House.

In the later years of his life, Peter Waite was mainly concerned with the business aspects of Elder Smith & Co. Ltd being Chairman of Directors from 1888, a position he held until a year before his death in 1922. His second son David gradually took on the role of visiting the extensive pastoral properties of the Elder Smith Company and liaising with the Managers of these properties. In July 1893, when he was 18, David visited the Beltana Pastoral Company of Cordillo Downs, almost 1000km NE of Adelaide and once Australia's largest sheep station.

In 1901 David took on the position of 'Inspector of Runs' for the Beltana Pastoral Station and also had a similar role for the Mutooroo and Momba Stations. His earlier years in this position coincided with the Federation Drought (1885 – 1903), the worst since the settlement of South Australia. After visits to these stations, the Adelaide newspapers, Advertiser, Register and Chronicle, sought David's views on the drought situation and other rural matters.

Register (p4) - Saturday 23 August 1902:

Mr. David Waite has just returned from a trip to the far north, and he describes the condition of the country as simply deplorable. His business took him along the railway line as far as Farina, in addition to which he travelled outback some 80 or 90 miles. From Terowie northwards Mr. Waite says the country was looking better five weeks ago, when there was a tinge of green, but this has gone off without giving any feed, while outside of the settled parts there is not a vestige of anything edible within reach of water. 'The only beasts' he remarked, 'in any condition are donkeys, which are now doing all the wood carting, and a lot of the wool carting, and the transport of stores'.

A year later he had more positive news:

Advertiser (p17) Wednesday 2 December 1903:

Mr. David Waite returned to Adelaide on Tuesday, after a trip from Cockburn to Yunta, through the Mutooroo run, which is 2,700 square miles in area. In a conversation with a representative of The Advertiser he said: -"The recent rains have had a cheering effect. The bush on the low-lying country is growing again, but on the high ground more rain is evidently required to start the saltbush into growth."

In an attempt to improve the of pastoral lands he had seeds of *Kochia hellegera*, belonging to the family of saltbushes, sown on a station in the River Darling country.

Register (p13) - Saturday 14 August 1909:

Mr. David Waite has just returned from a six-weeks' tour in the outlying sheep areas. He has been as far north as the Queensland border, and although he has seen and heard enough to fill an entertaining book he is not a lover of detail. Mr. Waite gets to the point quickly, and on Friday he gave to a reporter a crisp, informative interview concerning his travels.



Photograph of David Waite
courtesy of Marion Wells

In later years he travelled by motorbike:

Barrier Miner (Broken Hill) (p7) - 6 September 1909:

Mr Waite made the trip from Broken Hill to Momba Station and back, a distance of 140 miles on a motor cycle, and before reaching Broken Hill on his return he had covered 422 miles on the machine. The roads of course, are unmade, but were in good condition for cycling, and he saw numerous shearers cycling to sheds.

The following was reported in 'A history of the Beltana Pastoral Property' (1965):

There was a note of quiet triumph in David Waite's report to the Director in 1912: 'For some years the Beltana Stations have had an uphill battle against drought, wild dogs and rabbits; my recent trip has been the first since my appointment as Inspector that I have seen daylight ahead, fair to good feed, water and other improvements in hand and vermin fences proving to be effective. At shearing time there were 122,000 sheep and lambs on the runs'.

David Waite was against a bounty being paid for dingoes shot on pastoral properties arguing instead that the money would be better spent on a targeted poisoning strategy, a view subsequently shown to be supported by science. Further he also considered that it was the responsibility of those who leased pastoral land to control the number of dingoes and other vermin pests.

He served on the local and national Pastoral Association and was Vice President of the latter in 1912. He represented these associations in several hearings on the working conditions of shearers as well in legal cases associated with the introduction of mechanical shears. Presidents of the above associations paid the following tributes to him:

Chronicle (p11) – Saturday 23 September 1911:

'I should like to place on record my appreciation of the great services rendered to this association (as well as to the other associations) by Mr. David Waite, who has most ably represented us throughout the hearing of the case, and at the conference, at great personal inconvenience. Both our counsel and solicitors have made frequent mention of Mr. Waite's assistance, and I consider we were exceedingly fortunate in our choice of him as a delegate'.

Burra Record (p3) – 11 June 1913:

The President in paying tribute to David Waite noted for 63 days Mr. Waite had watched the pastoralists' case in the Arbitration, Court and never lost a point.

Chronicle (p10) - Saturday 20 September 1913:

'Mr. David Waite, who was one of the vice-presidents of the association rendered yeoman services particularly during the shearers' case of 1911'.

David Waite was best known by the general public for his horse riding skills winning many Championships at Spring and Autumn events of the Royal Show between 1903 -1906, especially on the great horse Dimboola that he trained.

Chronicle (p52) - Saturday 23 September 1905:

In all the riders at the shows, year in and year out, no one makes so good a figure on horseback as Mr. David Waite; he looks so well, and rides so splendidly, it is a treat to watch him.

He also competed successfully for the Adelaide Polo Club and when he could fit it in with his Station work rode with the Adelaide Hunt Club.

Chronicle (p51) - Saturday 25 August 1906:

Mr. Peter Waite entertained the members of the club at a hunt, breakfast at Urrbrae on Saturday morning after the hunt. Mr. David Waite was away on Mutooroo, and returned to the city that morning, but too late for the hunt. He is one of the keenest of the Adelaide hunting men. His presence or his absence always makes itself felt.

Chronicle (p51) - Saturday 28 July 1906:

It was most interesting to watch the different riders, few of them go like Mr. David Waite; most of them race, dashing at the jumps like a bull at a gate; but Mr Waite takes the run easily, steadily, saving his horse till it comes to a jump, then sailing over it in clean-cut flight. 'He hunts like an Englishman', said an English woman, which is the rosiest bouquet one can throw at a huntsman.

Sir Edward Morgan (1984) writing about the Waite Family (he married Peter and Matilda Waite's only granddaughter, a niece of David Waite) refers to David experiencing some mental derangement from 1910 perhaps linked to an accident on a motorbike.

It does appear that he continued to lead an active public life from 1910 -1912

Register (p14) - Saturday 30 March 1912:

Mr. W.F.W. Hood (President of the United Pastoralists Association of Queensland) was elected president, and Mr. David Waite, of South Australia, Vice-President.

Mr. Waite (S.A.) extended an invitation to the council to hold the next convention in Adelaide.

David took part in polo match at Burra in April 1912 but it seems that at least towards the end of 1912 he had a health issue.

Advertiser (p10) - Friday 17 January 1913:

Mr. David Waite, who is recovering from a recent illness, left for Melbourne by the express on Wednesday. He intends joining the steamer Demosthenes on a health trip to South Africa.

It was reported in the Advertiser on 14 April that David returned to Adelaide from Melbourne on the Express Train.

Soon after that he presumably departed from Adelaide for London on the steamer Wiltshire, the Wiltshire arriving in London on 5 June 1913 at the end of a voyage which lists passengers embarking from Adelaide, Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane.

Advertiser (p14) - Wednesday 28 May 1913:

Tragic cable from Captain of SS Wiltshire

News has been received in Adelaide by cable from the captain of the steamer Wiltshire that Mr. David Waite is missing from the steamer, and the Captain fears that he fell overboard in the Gulf of Suez.

This would have been a very sad time for Peter and Matilda and their three daughters Elizabeth, Lily and Eva as well as James who was living in England with his wife Louisa and daughter Dorothy.

On 3rd October 1913, having discussed the situation with his family, Peter wrote to the Premier of South Australia and Chancellor of the University of Adelaide, informing them that subject to his own and his wife's life interests, he intended presenting Urrbrae House and associated property to the University for agricultural and kindred studies, with the western half to be a public park under University control. He also intended handing over to the Government an area for an agricultural high school.

It was a great loss that David Waite should lose his life under very sad circumstances at the age of 38 but there can be satisfaction that what he contributed added to the legacy of the Waite Family from which South Australia has benefited greatly.

References:

Morgan, Sir Edward (1974) The Waites. Unpublished manuscript held in the Archives of the Urrbrae House Historic Precinct.

A History of the Beltana Pastoral Company Limited (1965) Gillingham Printers.

Material from digitized versions of newspapers was located through The National Library website Trove. <http://trove.nla.gov.au/>

Bill Wallace

Events to look forward to:

August 25th **Colonial Tea Dance 2 – 5** come and spend a pleasant afternoon in the magnificent Ballroom at Urrbrae House. This will be a fun afternoon of dancing with music and introduction to the dances by The Adelaide Colonial Dancers. No dance experience necessary, colonial dress is welcome, but not essential. Please wear firm fitting shoes without heels, please no stilettos! Cost including afternoon tea: **\$15 Only a few tickets left.**

Bookings: Bill Wallace 8332 6495, billwallace01@gmail.com



August 26th **Twilight Concert 5.30 for 6 Duelling Winds** Enjoy the purity and the intimacy of this baroque concert exploring the music of the time that saw the rise of the flute over the recorder, including some rare works where they were heard together. A very warm welcome to Urrbrae House to Brendan O'Donnell, who is currently doing post graduate study in Salzburg on recorder as well as to two well known baroque experts Tim Nott on Baroque Flute and Glenys March on Harpsichord.

Cost including refreshments: \$20 Bookings: Peggy Rowe 82771426, peggy.rowe@bigpond.com

Bookings are essential as seats are limited; as we usually have a waiting list, please advise of cancellations.

September 23rd **Twilight Concert 5.30 for 6** Details to be advised closer to the date.

October 2nd **Teddy Bears' Picnic*** A favourite event for the little ones during the spring holidays. BYO picnic lunch; there will be a Teddy Bear Hospital for minor repairs supported by the Gallery One Teddies group under the guidance of Kay Schulz, so bring along your teddy; other fun activities for children will be arranged.

Details to be advised closer to the date.



October 14th **Twilight Concert (Vivente Music) 5.30 for 6** Details to be advised.

October 20th **Vintage Picnic 11.30 - 3** A family event BYO picnic, see organised displays including vintage cars, have a tour of Urrbrae House. Afternoon tea and coffee, cold drinks available for purchase. Details to be advised closer to the date.

October 31st **Manager's Morning Tea* 10.30 – 11.30 “Spring in the Gardens”** Morning tea in the beautiful dining room to welcome all members (new, old and prospective) of the Friends of Urrbrae House for a chat and a cuppa, discussion will focus on events and projects in the House this year. There will be an opportunity to view photographs showing the transformation of our gardens over the past 20 years and (for those interested) to enjoy a garden walk after morning tea. No bookings necessary. Free for the Friends of Urrbrae House, invited guests, and supporters. No bookings necessary.

Transport can be arranged through Bill Wallace 8332 6495 or Vicki Cheshire 8370 0032.

**Event provided by University Engagement*

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

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

Hetty Cater

Barbara Hunt

Margie John

Sue McArthur

Meredyth Geary

You can view this newsletter online at:

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