



The Friends of Urrbrae House

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

Editor Vicki Cheshire

20th Annual General Meeting

Monday 8th April 2013

Yvonne Routledge in her final address as President paid tribute to five members of the Committee who were retiring: Di Coffey, Kate Currier, Hugh McClelland, Lyn McKay and Peggy Rowe. In recognition of Lyn's very valuable contribution, including ten years as Treasurer, Yvonne presented Lyn with Honorary Life Membership of the Friends of Urrbrae House.

Di Coffey had served on the Committee for nine years and appreciation was expressed of her role in the purchase and oversight of the presentation of food before the Twilight Concerts and other music functions. Yvonne presented certificates to those retiring from the Committee.

Lyn paid tribute to Yvonne and Peggy for their contribution as President and Secretary in the past three years as well as in the earlier years of the Friends of Urrbrae House.

The following were elected for 2013/14:

President – Bill Wallace

Vice-President – Vicki Cheshire

Secretary - Renee Wyatt

Newsletter Editor – Vicki Cheshire

Other members of the committee:

Hazel Douglas, Judy Ferrante, Joy Middleton, Anne Rabone

Ex Officio – Lynette Zeitz (Manager Urrbrae House
Historic Precinct)

The position of Treasurer has yet to be decided.

At the conclusion of the above business Bill Wallace and Lynette Zeitz spoke about 'The Way Ahead' for the Friends of Urrbrae House.



Please find along with this newsletter an invitation to come to the Special Manager's Morning Tea on the 7th May, this will be an event not to be missed during history month. FOUH members, past, present, and perhaps future are most welcome! Please bring a friend. Booking is not necessary as this is an informal event. Transport can be arranged, please call Bill Wallace 8332 6495 or Vicki Cheshire 8370 0032

Dates for your Diary

May 7th **Manager's Morning Tea** (10.30)

May 26th **Afternoon Tea with Mr and Mrs Waite** (2.30)
Fully booked

May 28th **David Waite – His Achievements** (5 for 5.30)
A Lecture by Dr Bill Wallace

June 17th **Twilight Concert: Spring Sonata** (5.30 for 6)

July 25th **Manager's Morning Tea** (10.30)

August 26th **Twilight Concert** (5.30 for 6)

A note from the committee

A red dot on the envelope of this mail indicates that we have not yet received your membership renewal. We do hope that you will continue to support us in 2013. Please notify us if your contact details have changed especially telephone, address and email. A membership renewal form is enclosed.

The Way Ahead for the Friends of Urrbrae House

The Friends of Urrbrae House (FOUH) was formed in 1991 and the aims as defined in the Constitution (revised in 2011) are:

- 1) To raise funds and foster the care of Urrbrae House and the Historic Precinct of the Waite Campus.
- 2) To promote the cultural and social life of the Waite Campus.

In earlier years when the Campus was much smaller and the Waite Agricultural Research Institute a more distinct entity, Urrbrae House was the centre of much of the social activity under the auspices of the then Waite Club.

This is no longer the case. The Campus is much larger and diverse and there has also been a major change in the work pattern of staff with longer spells spent in the lab or office, more shared home duties with both partners working and their social activities much less associated with the Campus.

In addition to providing for our members we believe the FOUH still has an important role in promoting the cultural life of the Campus and as well as offering options for the social life of staff and students.

For many years after its formation, FOUH was the main entity running functions in the House with the aim of raising money to assist with restoration of the House. In every main room in the House one can point to items that have been restored or provided by FOUH.

The FOUH is now only part of a broad program of cultural and social activities of the House, these including those put on by the Friends of The Waite Arboretum and an extensive program arranged by the Management of the House through its contribution to the Community Engagement of the University. There is also considerable overlap between volunteers involved with FOUH and the Community Engagement program of the University.

Thus in the planning of the FOUH program we need to keep in mind other cultural and social activities in the House and carefully select events to extend these.

The main and a regular source of the income of FOUH is the Twilight Concert Program. These concerts continue to be very successful and play a major role in attracting visitors to the House for what is a unique experience when small groups of very talented and leading musicians from Adelaide present a special program. The welcome beforehand and refreshments are also greatly appreciated.

Expenses for the presentation of concerts and events by the FOUH have increased over the last decade. Lyn MacKay in presenting her final Treasurer's Report to the recent AGM showed that between 2000 and 2012 the profit on FOUH Fund-raising events was gradually decreasing from over 80% in 2003/4 to about 40% in the last two years. From 2013 onwards there will also be increased costs associated with meeting insurance and event safety risk management requirements of the University.

Fortunately we have built up good reserves for some major projects such as the restoration of a children's (1892) bedroom and we have a healthy financial membership and receive generous additional donations.

I am looking forward to working with the new committee to respond to the above challenges. A sub committee that met recently has several events to put forward to the full committee for consideration.

We look forward to contact with our members at functions in the unique setting of Urrbrae House and would welcome comment on our program.

We still have some vacancies on the committee and would also welcome assistance with particular events. Please contact me if you would like more information on these.

Bill Wallace

Manager's Musings

Work around the Urrbrae House Historic Precinct

I often think that heritage buildings are a little like the family home: there is always something that needs to be done. Currently work is being undertaken to upgrade and re-site the main electrical switchboard that supplies power to Urrbrae House, the Coach House and Southern Barns. The outdated switchboard and related panelling is being removed from the Battery House. Lucid Consulting, the University's Heritage consultant Kate McDougall and I have been working closely to ensure that all changes are appropriate to the heritage of our site while ensuring necessary upgrading is undertaken.



Resiting of the electrical switchboard from the battery house

In addition, Kolen Carpentry has been working in one of the former bedrooms downstairs reassembling the original built-in wardrobe, drawers and mantle-piece. The room (which we are recreating as Eva Waite's bedroom in 1892) was used for many years as a store-room in which there was a concrete-based filing compactus. Thankfully when the original built in features were taken apart to accommodate the compactus the various pieces of wood were stored in the house. So for the carpenters today it is a bit like putting together a jigsaw puzzle without having an original picture to work from.



Carpentry work begins in the bedroom

This week's rain has been a reminder of the challenges that damp presents to buildings like Urrbrae House. In the 2000s the University spent more than \$2 million on salt-damp remediation at the house and in 2010 roof and guttering repairs, and related falling damp work cost the University about \$300,000. Still other damp issues have arisen which are impacting on the balcony woodwork and around the downstairs light-well area. If you were wondering about the scaffolding on the front balcony this week, the University's Property Services have been investigating ways to ameliorate the damp impact on the northern balcony.



Investigating the falling damp on the northern balcony

"A Celtic Journey" by Emma Horwood – Sold Out Fringe concerts at Urrbrae House

The weather was not kind to harpist and soprano Emma Horwood and Adelaide Symphony Orchestra principal percussionist Steven Peterka during their four sold-out concerts at Urrbrae House during the Fringe Festival in February. However, undaunted by the searing temperatures, Emma and Steven presented a beautiful repertoire of Celtic music across the ages. Not only were Emma's vocals wonderfully expressive but her skill at playing two harps at the same time was simply awe-inspiring. The instrumental seascapes created by Steven were highly evocative and listeners were transported far away from the confines of the Urrbrae House ballroom.



Emma Horwood, Steven Peterka

SA History "About Time" Festival and Manager's Morning Tea

May is History Month in South Australia. Various festival events are being held at Urrbrae House, and at the University's Waite and North Terrace campuses. For information please see the University's webpage: <http://www.adelaide.edu.au/sa-history-festival/> Just a reminder that there is a free Manager's Morning Tea on Tuesday, 7 May at 10.30am during History Month at which I intend to share some historic photographs of the Waite.

Continued...

Urrbrae House in The Adelaidean

It was great to see Urrbrae House featured in the April 2013 edition of *The Adelaidean* on pages 12-15 under the title "History Repeats at Urrbrae House." <http://www.adelaide.edu.au/adelaidean/>

Organisational changes within the University

The University of Adelaide has recently restructured its engagement activities and on 1 March the Office for Community Engagement (including the Urrbrae House Historic Precinct, Waite Arboretum and Waite Conservation Reserve) became part of a new branch entitled "University Engagement." The branch is part of the Vice-Chancellor's Office and is the result of a merger between Development and Alumni, and the Office for Community Engagement. For Urrbrae House all of our programs are continuing this year while we develop closer ties with new colleagues who work with the University's alumni.

This month we also said goodbye to our Director of Community Engagement, Martyn Evans, who left the University to take up the position of Science Adviser to the Federal Minister for Science & Research. Martyn has been a wonderful supporter of Urrbrae House since his appointment in July 2007. Joe Bennink is currently Acting Director of "Partnerships and Projects" (formerly the Office for Community Engagement).

Retirement of members of the Friends of Urrbrae House Committee

In the last newsletter I mentioned that Yvonne Routledge was completing her term as President of the Friends of Urrbrae House. In addition I would like to acknowledge the work of the members of the FOUH Committee who retired at the last AGM: Diana Coffey, Kate Currier, Lyn MacKay, Hugh McClelland and Peggy Rowe. All have made their own unique contributions to supporting Urrbrae House and I would like to thank them for their efforts. In particular I would like to acknowledge Lyn MacKay's long service as Treasurer: Lyn undertook this role with dedication and good cheer for 10 years. While Lyn has stepped down as the Friends' Treasurer, we are very fortunate that Lyn will still take on various roles at Urrbrae House in the Schools' Program, tour-guiding and at events.

Lynette Zeitz

Immortal and Beloved Letters

Ask most classical music lovers who their favourite composers are the guess is they would be Beethoven and Mozart. And so on 25th February in the first concert of the year in Urrbrae House we were treated to Beethoven's Quartet in F minor and Mozart's Quartet in Bb major brilliantly played by the Vivente Ensemble led by Minas Berberyan. The precise and passionate playing resonated beautifully in the fine acoustics of the Urrbrae House Ballroom to a capacity audience.



Vivente Ensemble: Imants Larsens, viola; Cameron Waters, cello; Erna Berberyan, violin; Minas Berberyan, violin. Vic Rowe, narrator.

Each piece was preceded by readings from intimate letters by the composers to their respective wives read feelingly by Vic Rowe, guest narrator. The contents of one of Mozart's letters to his beloved wife cannot be repeated in this august newsletter, suffice to say that his absence from her in another city made his heart grow very much [in fact extremely] fonder. I guess neither composer ever imagined that their personal intimacies would ever be revealed in Urrbrae House on the other side of the world nearly three centuries after they were written!

Hugh McClelland

Would you like to join the **Urrbrae House Book Club**? Meetings are held at 1pm on the fourth Monday of the month, for an hour. It is a great way to keep your 'popular reading' updated! Books are provided from Burnside Library at a minimal yearly fee. Books are given to you at the meeting and returned for you. **New members are most welcome.** Discussions are informal, transport can be arranged. For information please contact Lynette Zeitz 8313 7425

Kegelstatt

On the 18th March, the Drawing Room at Urrbrae House resounded to the marvellous talents of Imants Larsens [viola], Mitch Berick [clarinet] and Mark Sandon [piano] playing Mozart's Kegelstatt Trio Op. 498. This beautiful trio was a warm up for Max Bruch's 8 pieces for clarinet, viola and piano Op. 83. Played for the first time in Adelaide [another first for Urrbrae House!] this suite enthralled the audience by its rustic and gypsy like overtones so brilliantly and enthusiastically interpreted by three dedicated musicians-- all leading players on their instruments in their own right. It is hoped that this colourful suite may again be heard in Urrbrae House.



Mitch Berick clarinet; Imants Larsens viola; Mark Sandon piano.

The concert was arranged by Vivente Musi33c on behalf of the Friends of Urrbrae House in memory and recognition of the late Professor John Prescott former resident of the House and valued member of the Committee. The proceeds were contributed for the encouragement of science in schools. We were particularly pleased to welcome Mrs. Jo Prescott and daughter Ann to the concert.

Hugh McClelland

Road Accident Report 1906

The Register (p7)

Saturday 1 December 1906

Shortly before 6 o'clock on Friday afternoon a collision occurred in Gawler Place between a dog cart, owned and driven by Mr. Albert Hawker, tailor, of Gawler Place, and a silky, owned and driven by Mr. David Waite, clerk in the employ of Elder, Smith & Co., Limited. Mr. Hawkes was approaching Rundle Street when the impact occurred, and the result was that the silky was capsized. Both shafts were broken, and Mr. Waite was thrown out, but he escaped without injury. Mr. Hawker's turnout sustained no damage. F.C. Long in reporting the occurrence to the Adelaide Watch House stated that Mr. Waite, who had just turned from Rundle Street into Gawler Place was driving at a trot.

“David Waite – His Achievements” a free public lecture by Dr. Bill Wallace, President of the Friends of Urrbrae House



David Waite, the youngest son of Peter and Matilda Waite, died tragically at sea in May 1913. He was 38 years old. Known as a successful horse-rider, his contributions to the pastoral industry and society in general are well known. From newspaper reports, Bill concludes that David Waite's achievements were significant and worth recounting at this time, the centenary of his death.

Tuesday 28th May 5 - 6.30pm with talk commencing at 5.30 preceded with refreshments.

Free of cost, bookings via Amanda Jackson: 83137497 or email:
amanda.jackson@adelaide.ade.au

Events to look forward to:

May 5th **“Open House Adelaide” at Urrbrae*** **1 – 4** No bookings necessary, a gold coin donation would be appreciated. Bring your family, friends, neighbours!

May 7th **Manager’s Morning Tea*** *“About Time” – It’s History Month* **10.30 – 11.30** A special tea during History Month incorporating historic photographs (pre-World War II) related to Urrbrae House and the Waite Agricultural Research Institute. *This event is not to be missed.* No bookings necessary, transport can be arranged through Bill Wallace 8332 6495 or Vicki Cheshire 8370 0032

May 25th **Scottish Stories from Oral Traditions at Urrbrae House*** **2.00 – 4.15** Scotland has a rich tradition of oral stories. Nineteenth century Scottish emigrants, including members of the Waite family, absorbed and brought some of these tales to Australia. Who knows what stories they heard? Storyteller Graham Ross and others from the Storytelling Guild of Australia (SA) will enchant and engage you, and set you wondering. Suitable for over 12 years. Two sessions are available: 2.00 - 2.45 and 3.30 - 4.15. Cost: \$7.70
Please contact Amanda Jackson ph 8313 7497, email: amanda.jackson@adelaide.edu.au

May 26th **Afternoon Tea with Mr. and Mrs. Waite in 1892*** **Fully Booked 2.30 – 4**

May 28th **David Waite – His Achievements*** **5 - 6.30** Talk commencing at 5.30pm preceded with refreshments: A lecture by Dr Bill Wallace, President of the Friends of Urrbrae House outlining the achievements of Peter and Matilda Waite’s youngest son. Please contact Amanda Jackson ph 8313 7497, email: amanda.jackson@adelaide.edu.au

June 17th **Twilight Concert** *“Spring Sonata”* **5.30 for 6** As winter approaches, take time to recall the fancies of spring from Beethoven’s op.23 & 24 in the magnificent drawing room of Urrbrae House. The music will be performed by celebrated pianist David Lockett with ASO violinist Minas Berberyan.
Please contact Peggy Rowe on 82771426 or peggy.rowe@bigpond.com

July 25th **Manager’s Morning Tea*** *“Bring a friend for Devonshire Tea”* **10.30 – 11.30** An opportunity to bring a friend along for a relaxed hour having morning tea with scones in the beautiful dining room of Urrbrae House. FOUH committee members will be on hand with information about events and upcoming activities. Free to the Friends of Urrbrae House and supporters. For catering purposes please book with Amanda Jackson ph 83137497 or email amanda.jackson@adelaide.edu.au
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



Yvonne Routledge, presenting the Lifetime membership award to Lyn MacKay with Peggy Rowe at the recent AGM of the FOUH

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

Reg and Amanda Bettesworth
Judy Ferrante
Merry Wickes
Renee Wyatt and Alan Milne

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/>