

Newsletter November 2012



The Friends of Urrbrae House

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

Editor Vicki Cheshire

President's Report

The Friends of Urrbrae held a new event in September for Young Performers. The event was organized by Diana Coffey and Hugh McClelland. School students gave musical recitals at the house for an audience of teachers, parents and of course members of the Friends. The feedback on the event was very positive and we hope to repeat it next year.

The teddy bears picnic, a house event, was held in October with the considerable assistance of Vicki Cheshire, Lyn MacKay and other volunteers from our group. It is a wonderful fun event that targets young children and of course their parents and grandparents. There was face painting and health checks for bears in the dining room and a number of outdoor activities.

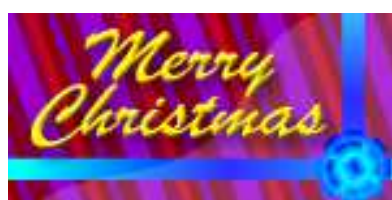
On Sunday November 11th we joined with Lumina for another concert of medieval music. Our thanks to Bill Wallace for liaising with Lumina for this event.

On November 15th, the Manager of the house, Lynette Zeitz, organized a manager's morning tea. These are regular events which enable people to meet others and catch up with events at the house whilst enjoying morning tea. This morning tea included the unveiling of a photograph of an event held in the ballroom at Urrbrae House in 1947. The late Jean Waterhouse donated the photograph to the house and helped organize people to identify those featured. In accordance with Jean's wishes the photograph will be placed in the drawing room. The Friends of Urrbrae House along with Lynette have organized for the photograph to be framed in memory of Jean. Jean made a magnificent contribution to the house over many years both as a member of the Collections Management team and a member of the Friends committee. We were all pleased that members of Jean's family were able to join us at the morning tea.

Dates for your Diary

December 10th
Combined Friends of the
Waite Historic Precinct
**Christmas Celebrations
in the House**
(5 -7pm)

The year is coming quickly to a close but we do urge our members to join us for our Christmas party on December 10th. It is a lovely way to end a busy year and to catch up with members of the Friends of the Arboretum and the Conservation Reserve.



I take this opportunity to wish all members and their families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Yvonne Routledge. President, Friends of Urrbrae House

Manager's Musings

"A Merry Christmas!"

The season in which the sweet music of the words suffuses the air and falls pleasingly upon the ear has again come round. Who does not acknowledge the magic of the greeting? Who does not recognise its heart kindling influence?

"Sentiment— pure, undiluted sentiment," says the cynic....But the truth is the expression will stand a severe analytical test. A usage which has borne the brunt of ages and has lost none of its potency or charm has clear claims to rank among things which cannot die. Were this one but an empty meaningless thing it would not have maintained its hold as it has done....

To us, as it was to generations dead and gone, the season is still essentially a season of family reunions; a season of peacemaking, wherein as a rule a truce is declared to bickerings, wranglings, and the personal quarrels and contests of life; a season of festivity and a period in which, the streams of hospitality and charity flow unrestrained. It is the time when all like to gather round them those whom they love and cherish or whom they particularly respect or admire. It is the time when those who are more or less fortunate in the possession of this world's goods are exceptionally ready to help to make brighter the lot of others less fortunate. Adelaide, never behind-hand where deeds of charity or acts of tangible goodwill are concerned, has this year exemplified this benevolent spirit in an especial degree. The record of its munificence in this way is not an easy, though it is a pleasing, one to sum up. Through the liberal response made to the renewed appeal to provide Christmas cheer for our poorer children and for the inmates of our charitable institutions...a period of genuine pleasure will be given to thousands in our midst. Already the ladies and gentlemen entrusted with the task of distributing the benefits of the Christmas Cheer Fund have carried out some of their work....

"A Merry Christmas." We have said the sound of the words pervades the air. The sight of the thing itself is in the streets. The shops are gay and rich with the commodities which, for a host of people, go to make the season bright and gladsome. A mere glance at them is sufficient to testify to the enterprise of our traders. Nor judging by the business which has been done during the past few days, has it been unrewarded enterprise....We like to see this kind of thing, not merely because it is good for trade as the phrase runs, but because it is an unmistakable sign of fairly general prosperity....People still adhere to the time-honoured custom of sending gifts or greetings to their friends. But these less frequently now take the form of hampers of game or other substantial than they did of yore. The presents exchanged are those which appeal rather to the eye or intellect than to the palate. What is more, judging by the demand for productions of higher class art, the aesthetic sense of the nation has appreciably improved....

We may...throw ourselves into the engagements of the season with a light heart. A genial climate makes a lot of the trappings of an English Christmas celebration out of place and to some extent impossible with us. But with the spirit of the season upon us suitable means for giving expression to it are never wanting. They are certainly not absent this year, and it is under the influence of this conviction that we wish our readers one and all — "A MERRY XMAS."

Source: *The South Australian Register*, 24 December 1892, p. 4.

In keeping with the sentiments of the past, I would like to wish all of our Friends, volunteers and supporters a very "Merry Christmas."

Lynette Zeitz



Great Tribute to Sinatra

On September 10th we were treated to the unique genius of Frank Sinatra by the vocals and trumpet of Mark Phillipson and Dave McEvoy on piano.

Martin, Associate Principal Trumpet, Adelaide Symphony Orchestra, a founding member of the Australian Brass Quintet studied in Sydney and Germany and has performed widely with symphony orchestras and jazz bands in Europe, Asia and Australia. He also developed vocal skills in the interpretation of Frank Sinatra.

Dave McEvoy was a music scholar at Marryatville High School and went on to study jazz piano at the Elder Conservatorium graduating with first class honours and taking out the prize as the best undergraduate jazz student. He is in wide demand across Australia as a jazz pianist, has featured in many CDs and currently teaches at the Elder Conservatorium.



Dave McEvoy, Mark Phillipson.

In a highly animated and enthusiastic concert Martin and Dave gave a program of 14 Sinatra favourites including "I've got you under my skin", "Smoke gets in your eyes" and "Fly me to the moon". The concert was arranged by Vivente Music for the Friends of Urrbrae House.

Hugh McClelland.

Students on Parade

By invitation of the Friends of Urrbrae House Committee students of Concordia and Mercedes Colleges gave a marvellous presentation of their musical skills at a mid afternoon concert at Urrbrae House on Sunday 16th September.

The Concordia segment included a cello solo played by William Raftery, a Bach violin solo and the popular "Jealousy" gypsy tango played by Samuel Blanchard-Jackson and three suites played by the Concordia String Quartet.



Mercedes College students

We were then entertained by the Mercedes Senior Vocal Ensemble with "Fool on the Hill" and the Beatles hit "Long and Winding Road". This segment was recorded for the ensemble's final year assessment. Renee Taylor played Rachmaninoff's "Vocalise" on trumpet, a vocal solo by Damien Quick, Thomas Rogers on piano with "Golliwogs Cakewalk" and finally Lincoln Bennett and Harry Baulderstone [guitar and vocals] with the Simon and Garfunkel favourite, 'I am a Rock'.



Samuel Blanchard-Jackson, Concordia College.

Apart from the obvious talents of all the students a feature of the concert was the sheer enthusiasm and enjoyment of the students-- the latter being reciprocated by an appreciative audience. More than once we heard; "Can we do it again next year?"

Special thanks must go to Diana Coffey who came up with the idea for the concert and whose hard work made it happen.

Hugh McClelland.

Baroque and Beyond

The last Vivente Music concert of the year on 22nd October saw Celia Craig, Principal Oboe, Adelaide Symphony Orchestra and Glenys March, harpsichord give a stunning performance of suites by Bach, Handel and Telemann, a harpsichord solo by Purcell and a highly demanding and brilliantly executed oboe solo of Benjamin Britten.

Celia was formerly Principal Cor Anglais, BBC Symphony Orchestra, soloist BBC Proms at the Royal Albert Hall, London and a judge for the BBC 'Young Musician of the Year'.

We are so lucky she moved to Australia with her family in 2006. We were also pleased to welcome Glenys March back to Urrbrae House. Glenys is one of Australia's most talented harpsichordists, has an encyclopedic knowledge of baroque music and is a highly respected teacher. And she plays on an Australian made harpsichord!



Glenys March: Celia Craig

The Friends of Urrbrae House Committee thanks Minas Berberyán, Vivente Music for the outstanding music season in Urrbrae House this year and looks forward to working with him in 2013.

Hugh McClelland

Love and Other Surprises

The Lumina Vocal Ensemble made a welcome return to Urrbrae House on 11th November. An appreciative audience was treated to a beautiful Sunday afternoon concert based around the theme of "Love."

Lumina performed unaccompanied and their eclectic program included madrigals, traditional folk songs and new works. Their haunting rendition of "She Moved Through the Fair" was one of many wonderful demonstrations of the vocal skill of the singers. The romantic repertoire was a perfect fit for the Ballroom setting.

Founded in 1999, Lumina specialises in discovering and performing music that is rarely heard. This includes works from the mediaeval and Renaissance periods, and contemporary compositions.

Lynette Zeitz

Teddy Bears' Picnic

Even though this Schools' Holiday event in October has now become a community engagement event provided by the management of the house and the University of Adelaide, members of FOUH were proud to be on the planning committee.

Luckily our wishes for a warm and dry picnic day were answered this year. It was a very pleasant day with many families enjoying activities designed for under 8's. Face painting was expertly provided by Splodge. Teddy Bear makers (from Gallery One's teddy and doll making class at Mitcham under the tutelage of Kay Schulz) issued health checks, many teddies had repairs and were issued Teddy Bear Doctor's instructions for hugs, cuddles and bed-rest after their busy day.



Besides enjoying a lovely picnic in the glorious surrounds of Urrbrae House, children played many organised outdoor games, had fun with bubbles, enjoyed the Goldilocks and the three bears hunt in the Sensory Garden and finished the day with a Teddy Bear Parade.

Many thanks go to all the tireless volunteers and workers who made this a wonderful community event. I am sure many Mummies and Daddies (Grannies and Grandies) had many tired little teddy bears after such a delightful fun-filled day.

Vicki Cheshire

Sir Walter James Young, 1882 - 1940

Did you know that Walter Young Avenue is the name of the main driveway to Urrbrae House? At the North Terrace Campus of the University there is also a Walter Young Garden located outside the Lower Napier Building.

Walter Young was born in Moonta in 1872 and was educated at Whinham College in North Adelaide one of the leading schools in Adelaide and with a particular reputation for the preparation of students for University or Civil Service Examinations.

At the age of 15 in 1887, Walter got a job at Elder Smith & Co and became Assistant Manager by 1906, General Manager in 1912 and Managing Director in 1929. Through most of his career with this company, Walter would have had a close association with Peter Waite who was Chairman of the Directors from 1888 – 1921.



After Peter Waite's death in 1922 Walter Young had an important role in the establishment of the Waite Agricultural Research Institute in that he was one of two representatives of the Elders Trustee Company involved with the Waite Benefaction as the Institute was established*.

Walter Young was a member of the Council of the University of Adelaide from 1924 -1937 and Chair of the Finance Committee from 1927 -1935. In this role he guided the use of benefactions in a major expansion of the University and the establishment of the foundation research buildings at the Waite Institute.

Walter Young also contributed his commercial and financial expertise to the benefit of the State and Commonwealth Government. During the 1914-18 war he was a member of the Commonwealth Shipping Board. In 1920 he was chairman of the London committee that carried out negotiations with the British government relating to Australian wool carry-over, and he was also a member of the advisory committee of the Australian Wheat Board. In 1923 he again went to London for the Imperial Conference as an advisor to Prime Minister Stanley Bruce and a representative on the committee on intra-Imperial exchanges at the Conference. He was chairman of a special committee appointed by the South Australian government in 1927 to advise on the state finances and again in 1930 chaired an advisory committee to advise further at the time of the depression.

Walter Young was awarded the CBE in 1918 and Knighted in 1932. Regrettably his life was cut short due to ill health and he died at the age of 68 in 1940.

“A quiet, modest, kindly man much interested in his garden and in books, and never seeking notice, Young did great work for his state and Australia. His devotion to the public good lifted him far above party politics, and during the difficult times arising out of the 1914-18 war and the world-wide depression which began some 10 years later, his country owed much to his knowledge and his wise and far-seeing mind”.

Searle, P (1949) *Dictionary of Australian Biography*.

*Edgeloe, V.A. (1984) *The Waite Agricultural Institute. The First Fifty Years, 1924 -1974*

Bill Wallace



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 may be arranged.

For information please contact Lynette Zeitz 8303 7425



Events to look forward to:

Monday December 10th 5 – 7pm Combined Friends of the Waite Historic Precinct Christmas event at Urrbrae House. Join us for drinks and a taste of Christmas cake in the Main Hall of Urrbrae House.

Sunday December 16th 2 – 4pm Friends Of the Waite Arboretum event: **A Flute Concert** by Jane MacKenzie, flute, and Leigh Harrold, piano. Tickets \$15 Please contact Marilyn for enquiries and bookings: ph 82716112 marilyng@adam.com.au

We leave you with some pictures of events throughout this year:



*We wish you a very merry
Christmas and a safe and
happy Holiday Season*

*Thank you to all our supporters during 2012,
we look forward to your company in 2013*

You can view this newsletter online at:
<http://www.waite.adelaide.edu.au/urrbraehouse/friends/>

We welcome the following new FOUH members:
Cliff & Jenny Mayer,
Anne Rabone and Charles Dean,
Eleftheria Hossiotis and Jack Brennan.