

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 – A Tribute to Emeritus Professor John Prescott

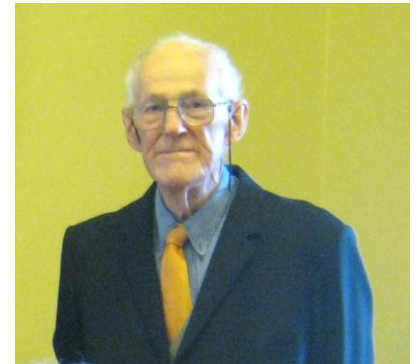
I returned to Adelaide from overseas in late October to hear the sad news of John Prescott's death.

John's contribution to Urrbrae House was outstanding so it is fitting that I devote my newsletter report to a tribute to John.

There will be much written about the fields in which John excelled not least of these being his scientific career. Others are best qualified to write about that so I will confine my words to John's role as a Friend and a personal mentor to me.

John's memories of Urrbrae House and the Waite Institute go back to the mid 1920s when John came to the Waite as a child with his parents. His father James Prescott was appointed Chair of Agricultural Chemistry and also acted as deputy to the first Director of the Waite, Professor Richardson. When Richardson left the Waite in 1938 James Prescott became Director and continued in that role until he retired in early 1956.

John lived for a period in Urrbrae House with his parents and like his father he developed an appreciation of the history of the house and the need to conserve and care for the building.



When the project to establish and develop the historic precinct was started in the early 1990s under the leadership of the then Director, Professor Harold Woolhouse, John was an early supporter.

He was a marvellous source of information about the house and the history of the Waite and was generous in giving time out of his very busy schedule to support and assist the development of the precinct. John served on the committee of the Friends of Urrbrae House with three years as President. His leadership was both dynamic and efficient. John and his wife Jo have been regular supporters of events held at the house, hardly ever missing a concert or social gathering. John's support has been expressed in a number of generous actions, some of which he was too modest to mention.

Beyond this John was a mentor and friend to me, particularly in my role as Manager of Urrbrae House from 1991 to 2008. I came to appreciate and value John's knowledge of the house, the Waite and more broadly the University. I could discuss

Dates for your Diary

December 4th
Christmas Picnic
*featuring Onkaparinga
Harmony Chorus*
(5 -7pm)

December 11th
A Mediaeval Christmas
Lumina Vocal Ensemble
(3pm in the Ballroom)
FULLY BOOKED

Continued.....

even the most sensitive issues with John and was always able to rely upon his wise advice and guidance as well as his discretion. There were a number of difficult times when John's willingness to speak up on behalf of Urrbrae House has greatly aided the continuity of our work.

Since my retirement John has encouraged me in projects to research and write about the two earliest Directors of the Waite. I am currently researching John's father, James Prescott and I am beginning to realise the environment of commitment, integrity and science in which John was raised and so reflected in his own approach. When this booklet is written I will have much pleasure in dedicating it to John.

I hope that the Friends of Urrbrae House can help establish some sort of a memorial to John's contribution in Urrbrae House. He will be sadly and deeply missed.

Yvonne Routledge. President, Friends of Urrbrae House

Manager's Musings

The Premier and the Pastoralist

A new book, *The Premier and the Pastoralist*, documenting the lives of William Morgan and Peter Waite written by their great-grandson James Waite Morgan will have its official launch at Urrbrae House on 29 November. The book is published by Wakefield Press and more information can be found on the Wakefield Press website including how to order a copy of the book.

<http://www.wakefieldpress.com.au/product.php?productid=904>

Arts Internship

This semester we have been very fortunate to have Danielle Riddiford undertake her Bachelor of Arts internship at Urrbrae House. Danielle has been completing a history research project on domestic servants in South Australia, and has been a hard-working and enthusiastic participant in our Schools' Program. The Arts Internship Scheme at the University of Adelaide allows final year students to gain hands on experience and build on knowledge that they have acquired during their studies. Students work with a host organisation and complete a 7,000 research project report on a mutually agreed topic.



Facebook

Urrbrae House has moved into twenty-first century and now has its own Facebook page. Please check out the Urrbrae House Historic Precinct page at <http://www.facebook.com/urrbraehouse> and click the "LIKE" button. Upcoming events at Urrbrae House are listed under the "Events" button and I provide information about other events on the UHHP Wall that might be of interest to Friends. In addition there are photographs on the page and general updates about the various activities at the house.



The month before Christmas (with apologies to Clement Clarke Moore)

'Twas the month before Christmas
And all through the house
The constant sound of telephones ringing
Were enough to disturb our resident mouse.*
Plans were all made with definite care
In the hope that end-of-year celebrations would soon fill the air.

Staff and students were nestled all snug in their labs
While visions of holidays danced in their heads
And Lynette busy in her office and Amanda at her best
Wanted to settle their brains for a long quiet rest.

Then out in the gardens there arose such a clatter
Lynette sprang up to see what was the matter
Away to the window she flew like a flash
Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash.

The sunlight flitted on the roses - such a magnificent show -
Giving a magical lustre to the gardens below
When, what to her wondering eyes should appear
But a mother duck and seven fluffy ducklings so dear.

A moment of wonder at the end of a long day;
A reminder to stop and enjoy the small marvels that are sent our way!

**A final point of clarification: the mouse was a fictional creation by Amanda to liven up the discussion amongst the children attending one of our regular Schools' Program mornings. As far as we know, we have no resident rodents*

As the busy Christmas and New Year holidays approach I wish all the Friends of Urrbrae House moments of wonder and the time to enjoy them.

Lynette Zeitz, Manager Urrbrae House



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 8303 7425.

Singing Along the Field

On 12 September the Drawing Room of Urrbrae House was the venue for a song recital by Rosalind Martin supported by Diana Weekes [piano], Erna Berberyán [violin] and Sebastian Tonkin [cello]. The music ranged from Handel to Vaughan Williams and included the marvellous 'Erhame dich' from Bach's St Matthew Passion, normally sung by a tenor but feelingly sung by Rosalind.



Two special highlights were 'L'amoro' from Mozart's seldom heard opera "Il le pastore" and the highly evocative 'Song of the Watchman' by Joachim Nin.

Erna Berberyán, Rosalind Martin, Diana Weekes

The concert was arranged in conjunction with Vivente Music.

Hugh McClelland

Violin and Piano Sonatas

The Urrbrae House concert on 24 October featured our collaborator and friend, violinist Minas Berberbeyán [ASO and Principal, Vivente Music] and David Lockett, award winning pianist and former Director, Elder Conservatorium of Music.

The program comprised Beethoven's Sonata Opus 12 No 1 and Johannes Brahms' Sonata No 1 in G Opus 78. It was the latter that was particularly compelling and demonstrated the mastery of Brahms of the sonata form.



Minas and David played this colourful romantic sonata in perfect synergy and balance.

David Lockett, Minas Berberyán

This was the last Vivente Music concert for the year and we look forward to working with Minas again in 2012.

Hugh McClelland



Teddy Bears' Picnic

It was a wet 5th October for the children's school holidays event this year. I was pleased to help co-ordinate it with the Lynette Zeitz and Marilyn Gilbertson (FOWA). The free Teddy Bears' Picnic was held to encourage people into the gardens of Urrbrae House to enjoy a lovely lunch-time with their young children during the school holidays. Unfortunately it was forecast to rain all week. So we went into 'plan B' and held a modified program inside the house. As a venue not ideal for under 8's we did rather well with an empty Drawing Room as the picnic venue, face-painting in the Main Hall, a teddy hospital in the Dining Room and downstairs a Goldilocks Hunt in the Library and Billiard Room and more boisterous activities in the Ballroom.

Many thanks to all the dedicated volunteers who helped make the day a success. A special thank-you to Adelaide University's Office of Community Engagement for coming along to help, hiring the play-equipment and professional face-painters. My loudest thanks go to the team of Teddy Bear makers (from Gallery One's teddy and doll making class at Mitcham Institute) who under the tutelage of Kay Schulz made the teddy hospital a real treat for young and old. Many teddies had repairs and were issued Teddy Bear Doctor's instructions for hugs, cuddles and bed-rest with their owners.

As this community event was very well received by all, I am hopeful that this will continue next year; let's hope for fine weather too!



(Back) Vicki, Leonie, Anke, Wendy
(Front) Kay and Wilbur

Vicki Cheshire



Volunteer Profile: Sally Owen

My involvement at Urrbrae House began with a fortuitous meeting with Lynette whilst on a tour of the Waite campus as a newly employed member of the university staff. I was delighted to discover that the beautiful heritage buildings were accessible to school students in such an enjoyable and interactive program and was very keen to be involved. My twenty years as a primary school teacher in the UK, and a whole lifetime as a would-be Judy Dench, have been endlessly useful! I love the interaction with the children, and their enthusiasm for learning through role play is heart warming. Working with the other volunteers is always a joy, and I love the camaraderie within the team that allows me to take my method acting approach to the Housekeeper's role to a whole new level! Those scullery maids certainly earn their sixpence when I am in charge!!



Sally Owen

Of late, I have been unable to spend as much time as I would like at Urrbrae, but I am hoping that I can get more involved again in 2012. It is really great to be involved in programs that make the University and its fabulous resources available to all members of the wider community.

URRBRAE HOUSE events to look forward to:

December 4th **Christmas Picnic** 5-7pm in the beautiful gardens of Urrbrae House featuring carols performed by the Onkaparinga Harmony Chorus from 5.30. Please BYO Picnic: blanket/chairs, food and drink.

In the event of rain, Friends only (FOWA, FOUH, FOWCR) will be invited to a sherry and Christmas cake in the house.

December 11th **A Mediaeval Christmas** performed by Lumina Vocal Ensemble. Be seated by 3pm in the Ballroom at Urrbrae House. An afternoon of musical and literary indulgence featuring songs from the medieval period (Dufay, Dunstable & Ockegham) and recent settings of medieval texts (Sag and Holst). Readings will be performed by Professor Tom Burton.

Please note that this event is **fully booked**; enquiries to peggy.rowe@bigpond.com or phone 8277 1426

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



*Thank you to all our supporters during 2011,
we look forward to your company in 2012*

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

Karyn and Derek Sprod,
Rosslyn Wheaton,
Helen and Bruce Martin.