



The Friends of Urrbrae House

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

Editor Vicki Cheshire

Dates for your Diary

May 29th Afternoon tea with Mr & Mrs Waite (2.30 to 4)
(Fully booked)

**May 30th Ensemble Galant
Twilight Concert (5.30 for 6)**

June 2nd Manager's Morning Tea
10.30

**July 3rd Elder Conservatorium
Concert at Urrbrae House
(3.30)**

July 31st Onkaparinga Harmony
Chorus (3 for 3.30)

**August 8th Vivente Twilight
Concert (5.30 for 6)**

August 18th Manager's Morning
Tea 10.30

**September 12th
Twilight Concert (5.30 for 6)**

**September 25th Elder
Conservatorium Concert at
Urrbrae House (3.30)**

A note from the treasurer

Please be advised that a membership renewal form is enclosed for those members whose 2011 payment is still due.

Please check closely that your contact details are correct especially telephone, address and email. Feel free to ask for more forms for anyone else who would like membership.

Lyn MacKay Ph 0412 559 626

President's Report

The Friends of Urrbrae House are celebrating twenty years this year. The current committee decided to hold a small celebration inviting former committee members to join us at Urrbrae House for drinks and refreshments on Sunday May 15th. We would have liked to invite all current and former members but as this would have been hundreds of people, space would not allow it.

It was a memorable occasion attended by a number of early members of our committees and almost all the past presidents. The Patron of Volunteers, Lindsay McWha attended and addressed the group and Lynette Zeitz, Manager of Urrbrae House said a few words. The Vice Chancellor, Professor James McWha and the Manager of Community Engagement, Mr Joe Bennink were also our guests.

I am fortunate enough and old enough to remember our first gathering in the main hall in 1991 to discuss forming a Friends of Urrbrae House group. On that evening I believe we were inspired by the vision of two men. Firstly our benefactor, Peter Waite, without his achievements, vision and legacy we would not have Urrbrae House or the Waite Research Institute. Secondly, Professor Harold Woolhouse who as the Director of the Waite Agricultural Research Institute recognised the importance of Peter Waite and the historic buildings and wished to see them rejuvenated and playing an important role in the life of the Institute.

For twenty years the Friends of Urrbrae House have played their role with great vitality and success. They have initiated and implemented a program of social, cultural and fund raising events at Urrbrae House. The funds raised have helped bring about a series of conservation and restoration projects that have transformed the rather sad and neglected building of 1991 to the vibrant University and Community asset that it is today.

Continued...

As the former manager of the house and current president of the friends I wish to thank all members for their efforts over the years and hope that we can continue our efforts in the future.

Since the beginning of this year we have enjoyed two concerts and during History month Lynette gave a fascinating talk on cereal breeding and the afternoon tea with Mr and Mrs Waite is fully booked. Certainly a good start to 2011.

I also welcome Janet Apostolopoulos as a new member of our committee. Janet has been helping Lynette with collection management at the house and I was privileged to get to know her during my period as acting manager. I have no doubt that Janet will be a great asset to our committee.

Yvonne Routledge. President, Friends of Urrbrae House



Presidents of the Friends of Urrbrae House with Professor James McWha (Vice Chancellor, University of Adelaide) and Lindsay McWha (Patron of Volunteers for the University)

Seated (from left)

Yvonne Routledge (current), Elma Lippett (2004-2007), Marion Wells (1991-1995), Gladys Hogg (1998 -2001), Lindsay McWha. Dr Bill Wallace (2007 – 2010), Professor James Mc Wha, Professor John Prescott (2001- 2004).

Dr Gillian Robertson (1995 -1998) was unable to attend.



Jo Prescott, Elma Lippett, Peggy Rowe



The Friends of Urrbrae House Annual General Meeting

New Committee 2010-2011

At the 19th AGM of the Friends of Urrbrae House on Monday evening 23rd May; the following committee members were elected:

President – Yvonne Routledge

Vice President – Joyleen Middleton

Secretary – Peggy Rowe

Treasurer – Lyn MacKay

Newsletter Editor – Vicki Cheshire

Ordinary Members – Janet Apostolopoulos, Di Coffey, Kate Currier, Hazel Douglas, Hugh McClelland, Elma Lippett, Sally Owen, Bill Wallace.

Lynette Zeitz (Manager Urrbrae House Historic Precinct) will continue **Ex Officio**.

The guest speaker at the AGM was Professor Roger Leigh, Director of the Waite Institute who gave a very interesting talk on meeting the Challenge of Food Security. He outlined the challenges facing the world with an expected population of 9 billion by 2050. Land availability, climate change, dietary changes, crop use for biofuels, resources of energy and water would *all* affect food production. He spoke about the recent decline in the growth of agricultural productivity, how low investment into agricultural research during the 1970's has had an effect on farming today. Lag times from discovery to application in farming practices means agriculture today needs more scientific research.

Professor Leigh spoke about how the Waite Research Institute was encouraging new initiatives whilst maintaining world class research facilities and how students were encouraged to take up undergraduate and post-graduate research. "Australia has a need for approximately 5000 agricultural scientists per year but there are only 800 graduates" he said. Within his speech and during question time he outlined what a unique research institute the Waite proved to be – incorporating collaboration with many industry partners over the years, all under the Waite banner yet maintaining their separate identities. "The Waite Institute is well respected worldwide" Professor Leigh said "The Waite is the biggest brand that we have".

The talk was followed by supper.

Manager's Musings

History and more history

It's May and not only have the May showers arrived but so has About Time: South Australia's History Festival. Every year History Week is held in May in this state. However, because 2011 marks the 175th anniversary of the foundation of South Australia, activities are being throughout May rather than usual one week of events. I am delighted to report that our house tours and our Afternoon Tea with Mr. and Mrs. Waite in 1892 event organised as part of the festival booked out very quickly. At the time of writing a new garden tour, 'Recreating the gardens of Urrbrae House', offered by David Bailey on 15 May is nearly booked out. It was also very heartening to have members of the farming community, and current and retired Waite staff members at my talk, A grand renaissance: A history of breeding new cereals and legumes at the Waite, 1955-2005 on 2 May.



On 12 May Primary Industries and Resources SA (PIRSA) launched their website, The History of Agriculture in South Australia at Urrbrae House. This website has been a work in progress over many years. It is made up of valuable content about the history of agriculture in South Australia as well as transcripts of interviews with former staff from the Department of Agriculture and a photographic collection. If you haven't already seen this website, it can be found at <http://www.pir.sa.gov.au/aghistory>. PIRSA welcomes further photographs, recollections and stories for possible inclusion on the site. If you are interested in contributing you can contact PIRSA by email: pirsa.aghistory@sa.gov.au or go directly to the website and use the top right hand button "make a contribution" to submit your information.

Peter Waite Day

This May also saw the first annual celebration of Peter Waite Day for staff, postgraduates and volunteers on the Waite Campus organised by the Waite Research Institute (WRI) and the University's School of Agriculture, Food and Wine. The Waite Research Institute is led by Professor Roger Leigh was the guest speaker at this year's Friends of Urrbrae House AGM. The Waite Research Institute brings together researchers from a range of disciplines including plant biology, genetics, soil sciences, agronomy, clinical nutrition and agricultural economics.

The Peter Waite Day celebration was held on 6 May (the closest Friday to Peter Waite's birthday on 9 May) on the lawns outside the Lirra Lirra café and our Urrbrae House bocce team of Kate Currier, Jen Goodfellow, Vicki Cheshire and Bill Wallace narrowly missed out on being the inaugural bocce tournament champions.

Waite Research Institute

Events including public lectures held by the Waite Research Institute can be found on their blog at: <http://www.adelaide.edu.au/wri/news>. On their website you can also listen to recordings from the Waite Distinguished Guest Lecture Series online including Professor Geoff Fincher's inaugural Peter Waite Lecture.

Manager's Morning Teas

The Manager's Morning Teas provide the Friends of Urrbrae House with the opportunity to catch up with each other, some of the FOUH Committee members and myself over a cup of tea or coffee. This year the morning teas will be held in Urrbrae House on: Thursday, 2 June at 10.30am; Thursday, 18 Aug at 10.30am; and Tuesday, 18 Oct at 10.30am. The morning teas are informal and all Friends are welcome to attend.

Lynette Zeitz

Peter Waite Day

On the recent occasion of Peter Waite's birthday, Professor Roger Leigh (Director of the Waite Research Institute) welcomed staff and associates of the Waite Campus to an afternoon function, the inaugural Peter Waite Day. Held on the lawns in front of Lirra Lirra, it was a fun afternoon of Bocce, nibbles, wine and entertaining speeches.

You will be pleased to know that the "Friends" team lost to the winners of the tournament in the second round. As most were complete novices of the game we thought it a great effort. If laughter was scored, our team would have won hands down! Congratulations and thanks to the organisers for providing a great afternoon's cross-disciplinary event.



Friends of Urrbrae House bocce team members: Vicki Cheshire, Jen Goodfellow, Kate Currier, Bill Wallace

Sounds of Brass

The 2011 music year blasted off on 7 February to the sounds of brass. Playing on original and restored instruments from the 1870s the Cornopean Company led by founder Nigel Davies and Tim Keenihan, David Kafaghi and Andrew Ey gave a splendid program highlighting the characteristics of each instrument and their synergy in ensemble playing. A highlight of the concert was the narrative provided by Nigel of the history and evolution of brass instruments from valveless to modern valved instruments.



Tim Keenihan, Nigel Davies, David Kafaghi

Hugh McClelland.



Would you like to join the **Urrbrae House Book Club?**

We generally meet at 1pm on the last Monday of the month, and finish at 2.

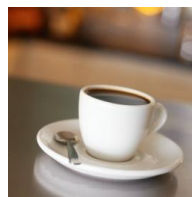
One book is allocated per month.

New members are most welcome.

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)
Discussions are informal.

For information please contact Lynette Zeitz 8303 7425.



You are invited to the
Manager's Morning Tea

June 2nd 10.30am

Travel can be arranged

Please contact

Lynette Zeitz

8303 7425

A Medieval Celebration

As part of Adelaide's Fringe Festival, Urrbrae House resounded to medieval songs and dances on 27 February. Performed by the Lumina Vocal Ensemble, the Lyrebyrd Consort and the Tudor Rose Dance Ensemble the capacity audience was transported back to renaissance Merrie England and Ancien Regime France in a highly colourful and varied program of secular and religious music.

As guests arrived, musicians from the The Lyrebird Consort were performing from the Minstrels' Gallery and the Tudor Rose Dance Ensemble, wearing magnificent costumes, were performing. The main program commenced in the Drawing Room with items celebrating some of the enabling emotions of chivalry performed by the fourteen singers of the Lumina Vocal Ensemble, some of them also participating in the Lyrebird Consort where the instruments included the rebec and viola da gamba. Singers performed from various parts of the Drawing Room and Tudor Rose presented a further range of dances from Mediaeval to Colonial Australia.



Then the music and singing moved to the Main Hall with the narrator Keith Hempton leading the audience down the stairs to the Ballroom for the final part of the program. This involved the Lumina Vocal Ensemble alone and a particular highlight for the audience in the Ballroom was the singing of the group as they came down the stairs, the ladies first and then the male singers later. The first bracket in the Ballroom or metaphorical chapel titled 'Christmas Fare' illustrated how much of the finest mediaeval music was



inspired by the birth of Christ. The final section in the program revisited the concepts of chivalry and explored the overlapping poetic and musical ideas between religious fervour and courtly love.

Urrbrae House with its amazing acoustics was the perfect venue for the concert which was recorded for broadcast on radio 5MBS.

Anna Pope, the Musical Director of Lumina Vocal Ensemble, is to be congratulated for planning and arranging a magnificent event.

You can listen to Lumina at:
<http://www.youtube.com/user/LuminaVocalEnsemble>



SONGS OF MIDDLE-EARTH

In an intriguing and colorful program, renowned harpist and soprano presented extracts from JRR Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings* and *The Hobbit* on 7 March.

With readings from the trilogy, *The Fellowship of the Ring*, *The Two Towers* and *The Return of the King*, Emma drew on the music of 6 composers including Carl Crossin OAM, Director, Elder Conservatorium to bring to life in music and song the voyage through the Middle Earth.

Premiered at Adelaide's 2011 Fringe Festival Emma said that Tolkien's words are "glimpse into an innately English bygone world, full of romance. The author's language is in turns poetic, humorous, evocative and moving". Having been chronically ill as a teenager Emma found strength, inspiration and comfort in the story which aided her in her health battle which eventually she won.

Emma's deep love of Tolkien was obvious in her performance — beautiful words, beautiful music, beautiful voice.

Emma Horwood is currently musical director of The Corinthian Singers and a member of the Adelaide Chamber Singers.

Hugh McClelland



Emma Horwood

VIVENTE MUSIC QUINTET

Urrbrae House was the venue for a very special event on the 11th of April. Vivente Music premiered a half hour piece that was written by Grant Sheridan in recognition of the 1975 genocide of 1.5 million Armenians. The Composer spoke movingly about the piece of work he had been asked to create after discussions with Minas Berberyan. The work incorporated many nuances of folk music 'magically' intertwined with contemporary music. Minas noted that this subject has special meaning for his family as his grandparents were affected by a three year separation from each other at this time. As there was a large audience for this concert, the Ballroom was a splendid venue. The Premiered piece was met with a standing ovation – testament to the superb expertise of composer and performers.

The group played Mozart's Quintet for Clarinet & Strings K 581 and Grant Sheridan's "Armenian Quintet".

Kate Currier and Vicki Cheshire



Minas Berberyan [violin], Erna Berberyan [violin], Imants Larsens [viola], Cameron Waters [cello], Dean Newcomb [clarinet]

URRBRAE HOUSE events to look forward to:

May 29th Afternoon tea with Mr and Mrs Waite in 1892 2.30–4pm (SOLD OUT) Learn about the Waite Family and household activities in 1892 as guests of Mr and Mrs Waite at beautiful Urrbrae House. Enjoy afternoon tea served in the magnificent dining room by ‘servants’ of the household.
Contact: lynette.zeitz@adelaide.edu.au 83037425

May 29th Guided Tour of the Waite Arboretum 11.00am–12.30pm Meet at Urrbrae House. Free Admission. No bookings required for these guided walks. Enquiries: [Jennifer Gardner](mailto:Jennifer.Gardner@adelaide.edu.au) 8303 7405

May 30th Twilight Concert at Urrbrae House Ensemble Galant (Almost SOLD OUT) A collection of period instruments playing High Baroque, Galant and early classical styles. 5.30 for 6.00pm Please contact peggy.rowe@bigpond.com 82771426

June 2nd Manager's Morning Tea 10.30am Contact [Lynette Zeitz](mailto:lynette.zeitz@adelaide.edu.au) 83037425

July 3rd Elder Conservatorium Concert at Urrbrae House 3.30pm Programme to be advised. Please contact peggy.rowe@bigpond.com 82771426

July 31st Onkaparinga Harmony Chorus Concert at Urrbrae House 3 for 3.30pm start – This dynamic women's 4 part a-cappella (unaccompanied) harmony chorus will perform songs from the 1920s through to the 1960s. Contact lynette.zeitz@adelaide.edu.au 83037425

August 8th Twilight Concert at Urrbrae House Presented by Vivente Music. 6.00 pm with refreshments from 5.30 pm Details to follow.

Bookings essential: Vivente Music, please call 8296 6851 or email viventemusic@yahoo.com.au

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

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

Janet and Paul Apostolopoulos
Mignon Grivell
Beth Johnstone
Brian Richards
Pamela Saint