## THE FRIENDS OF THE WAITE ARBORETUM INC.



#### **NEWSLETTER NO. 62**

Summer 2010

Secretary Mrs Rosemary Sawley 8379 7102 Editor Mrs Jean Bird 8276 1439

#### FROM THE PRESIDENT

We were pleased to be able to use Urrbrae House for the combined Christmas gathering on December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Some were able to enjoy a walk through the gardens with Jennifer before the speeches.

In addressing the crowd to thank the volunteers, Committee and members, I omitted to mention our many sponsors who continued to support us through 2009. We have recently sent them all Certificates of Appreciation.

I was pleased to report a new spirit of cooperation between the three Friends Groups but sorry to hear the Conservation Reserve is losing Chris Kaczan.

At a recent volunteers' meeting in the Coach House, some lacked information on the role of each group and we have undertaken to provide some notes on each in the newsletters. Of course to be best informed, individuals need to become members of the groups that interest them.

We had a small but enthusiastic group on a visit to Dean Nicolle's Currency Creek Arboretum in October. Dean was a foundation member of the FWA and inspired us with all the work he has put into the taxonomy and research on eucalypts.

Coming up next is the "Warp on the Wildside" exhibition run with Basketry SA starting February 26<sup>th</sup>. If you could help us with staffing that event in Urrbrae House during the 10 days we would be pleased to hear from you.

Our AGM is set for Monday April 10 when the guest speaker will be the Director of Treenet, David Lawry.

On Sunday May 9<sup>th</sup> our Patron, Sophie Thomson will be giving another fascinating garden talk in Urrbrae House. Don't miss it! Also mark in your diary, the classical guitar concert with Aleksandr Tsiboulski and Jacob Condover on August 18<sup>th</sup>. We are expecting bookings to be heavy, so get in early when they open.

At our February meeting we will be allocating funds to a number of projects in the Arboretum for 2010. We are also planning a questionnaire to go out to members seeking your views on a number of issues. We look forward to your input.

Bryan Milligan

#### IN THE ARBORETUM FROM THE DIRECTOR

2009 was another busy and productive year. In January inline drippers were installed to save the 68 drought stressed English elms in the heritage-listed Elm Avenue. There has been a noticeable improvement in their health, helped by good winter rains. Irrigation resumed in December following another allocation of water from SA Water. Monitoring of soil moisture has been ongoing and photographic records were made of every elm. A research proposal was prepared by Dr Scott Mills, Water Research Institute, to seek funding. All the elms and many other trees in the Arboretum were mulched thanks to the generous donation of 300 truck loads of mulch (valued at \$45,000) from the arboricultural companies acknowledged on the Arboretum website.

117 new trees were planted including ongoing development of the experimental Dry Rainforest Garden and the Palm and Cycad Collection. 9 rare Dragon Trees *Dracaena* spp. were donated and planted. These were propagated by Dr David Symon from seed collected in the wild from Socotra, Arabia and Canary Islands. One specimen is the only known one of that species in Australia. 94 trees were removed. Some of these were damaged by fire in 2006, others succumbed to successive droughts or storms or had reached their natural life span. Timbers were kept for reuse in the Arboretum labyrinth project (see below).

Community engagement included 35 guided walks given by the 11 very able Arboretum guides, participation in SALA Week and History Week, a promotional display at 'Gardening Australia' Expo at the Showgrounds and providing the venue for the very well attended 2009 SA Tree Climbing Championships. In addition, ongoing assistance was provided to postgraduate students with provision of material and data. A teak bench was donated in memory of Dr John Burford providing a resting place in the oak collection and a seat was also placed under the shady *Schotia brachypetala* #324 (G8) overlooking the new *Dracaena* plantings and the *Cussonia* collection in recognition of the outstanding contribution of David Symon to the Arboretum as its Curator (1956 – 1985).

The 10<sup>th</sup> TREENET National Street Tree Symposium held in September was attended by over 250 delegates, the majority from interstate and overseas. The first day was held at the National Wine Centre. The second day at the Waite Arboretum comprised a series of practical demonstrations and workshops. These highlighted valuable research into the science of tree sensitive urban design. 30 volunteers assisted in making this the premier arboricultural conference in Australia.

In collaboration with Treenet, seeds and cuttings have been collected from drought tolerant Arboretum species not commercially available but with merit for urban streets. These are being propagated at Urrbrae TAFE and will be made available for trialling by Local Governments like the City of Mitcham.

In the Historic Precinct Gardens new developments included the installation of compliant drip irrigation throughout. A parterre for the Heritage Rose Collection was constructed by volunteers and the plants relocated by members of the Heritage Rose Society. A partnership was formed with The Mediterranean Garden Society (SA Chapter) to redevelop the Garden of Discovery. The Society allocated funds to purchase many new plants and also held several working bees to prune, plant and weed. I look forward to an ongoing relationship with this enthusiastic community group who promote waterwise gardening. Just before Christmas the exquisite bronze sculpture of Ceres and Proserpina by Meliesa Judge was installed in the Garden of Discovery (see the separate article by Meliesa in this issue).

Last year 117 Arboretum, Garden, Treenet & Reserve volunteers contributed 6,690 hours valued at \$133,800 and I gratefully acknowledge their outstanding efforts. I also acknowledge the dedication of Arboretum groundsperson Mark Ziersch and all the sterling effort he puts in.

Looking forward, my goals for this year include pruning the Elm Avenue to remove the deadwood which harbours the Elm Bark Beetle and improve the health and appearance of the trees, ongoing planting, soil decompaction and mulching of every tree, updating the Arboretum map and the website and the production of promotional brochures for the Arboretum, Gardens and Reserve.



### WAITE ARBORETUM LABYRINTH

The purpose of this labyrinth is to be an aesthetically pleasing element linking the gardens and Arboretum and to provide a beautiful, tranquil setting for contemplative walking – but feel free to run, skip or dance it! It is located on the original site of Peter Waite's tennis courts, overlooked from the Rose Garden with a wonderful view towards the Arboretum.

The lines of the labyrinth are formed with 921 timber rounds mostly recycled from Arboretum trees and the paths are sawdust. The whole installation is intended to be ephemeral or renewable and sit softly on the landscape.

I designed and personally constructed this labyrinth, completing it in mid January 2010. It was an enormously pleasurable, stimulating and satisfying way to spend my Christmas holidays. Arboretum groundsperson Mark Ziersch skilfully cut most of the rounds for me, Giles Goldney cut the Norfolk Is Pine.

Labyrinths date back thousands years and occur across continents and cultures in many different designs and materials. The pattern used here was based on an ancient Finnish 9–circuit stone labyrinth.

I hope you visit and enjoy the labyrinth. If you do, please sign the Visitors Book on the seat.

Jennifer Gardner



# THE TRIANGLE PALM OF MADAGASCAR – DYPSIS DECARYI (JUM.)

In the Arboretum, on the banks of the creek not far from the road, (Grid ref. K 11), is a group of three young triangle palms, found in the wild only in Madagascar.

The island of Madagascar (4<sup>th</sup> largest after – Greenland, New Guinea and Borneo) separated from Gondwana 160 million years ago, with what became India, breaking from east Madagascar just 85 million years ago. Evolution continued in geographic isolation, resulting in a high degree of endemism. The palms of Madagascar help to illustrate this: there are approximately 170 species of palm, 165 of which are endemic.

Over exploitation has resulted in the desecration of the flora of Madagascar, one of the most diverse floras on the planet. There are approximately 12000 plant species known to science of which 70-80% are endemic viz., 10 families and 260 genera. Only Australia with 13 families has greater endemism.

Clear felling and burning of forests has left barely 10% of Madagascar covered with natural vegetation. All palms are in the family Palmae (still referred to as Arecaceae in some texts). The triangle palm is endemic to a small area of extreme south-eastern Madagascar where it grows in dry forest on poor soil. It belongs to the large *Dypsis* genus with 142 species. Apart from one on the Comoros and one on Pemba (Zanzibar), all are uniquely Madagascan. This morphologically diverse genus has recently been revised by J. Dransfield and H.J. Beentje and now includes *Antongilia*, *Chrysalidocarpus*, *Neodypsis*, *Neophloga*, *Phloga* and *Vonitra*. The tiniest palms in the world belong to this genus eg *D. hildebrantii*, only 30cm tall and *D. tenuissima*, 15-45cm tall with a stem 2mm in diameter, the only climbing Madagascan palm.

At the Waite, there are specimens of several species within this genus including *D. ambositrae*, *D. baronii*, *D. carlsmithii*, *D. decipiens*, *D. leptocheilos*, *D. lutescens* and *D. madagascariensis* (Grid ref K11-K12). Furthermore, the collection includes *Beccariophoenix madagascariensis* and *Bismarckia nobilis* (K11) and 3 species of *Ravenea* (J12).

The distinctive shape of *D. decaryi* (the specific epithet honours the original collector Raymond Decary) arises from the leaves which grow in 3 ranks resulting in 3 columns of leaf bases forming the triangular trunk. Furthermore the pinnate fronds have an upright growth habit, drooping only at the tips. Also, there is a chalky white bloom on the leaves and trunk enhancing its beauty. In the wild it grows to 15m; cultivated specimens are rarely old enough to attain this height. It is monoecious - the branched inflorescence comes from between the lower leaves and bears greenish-yellow flowers. These flowers are unisexual, sessile in triads of 1 pistillate flower flanked by 2 staminate flowers each with 3 sepals and 3 petals. The round yellowish inedible fruits are approximately 25mm in diameter. Seed germinates within about a month of sowing but the seedling does not transplant well. *Dypsis decaryi* prefers sun and regular watering. However, it can stand occasional dryness and semi-shade. It is rare and threatened in the wild - only about 1000 individuals remain. There is little or no natural regeneration as all seeds are harvested for export to the nursery trade. It is a highly sought after plant for landscape design and there are many plants in cultivation throughout the world.

Madagascar would have been a very different place when Henri Lucien Jumelle (1866-1935), the French botanist, named the triangle palm. Imagine an even earlier time, perhaps two thousand years ago when the first humans arrived there, what a paradise the island must have seemed.

#### References

Dransfield, J & Beentje, H.J. 1995. *Palms of Madagascar* Jones, D. 1984. *Palms in Australia* Mabberley, D.J. 2008. *Mabberley's Plant Book* PACSOA (Palm and Cycad societies of Australia) Riffle, R.L. and Craft, P. 2003. *An Encyclopaedia of Cultivated Palms* White, M.E. 1983. *The Greening of Gondwana* <u>www.wildmadagascar.org</u>

Diarshul Sandhu



#### **CERES AND PROSERPINA**

The story of Ceres is the story of transition, from dark to light, from winter to spring, from loss and grief to recovery and joy. Like so many of the ancient myths the story was intended to encompass many layers of meaning and human experience. Ceres grieves for her lost daughter and the world is shrouded by winter. She is the goddess of grain, the custodian of the fertility of the land so while she grieves nothing grows on the earth. She searches the world for the child, not finding her; she goes down to the underworld still searching. There the beloved child is found, rescued and Ceres brings her back, rejoicing. Spring returns and the world is abundant and full of new life.

The word Ceres is the Latin root for the word cereal. The myth is ancient; the Roman names Ceres and Proserpina replaced the Ancient Greek names, Demeter and Persephone, for the same story, which itself reaches back to the earliest days of human agriculture. The (secret) rites and rituals that surrounded the early temples codified the knowledge so essential for the survival of agrarian communities. Demeter was responsible for maintaining the fertility of the land that

allowed crops to grow and communities to survive. Her role in sustaining the life of vegetation as a whole meant that she was regarded as critical to the existence of all life on earth. Knowledge and human experience inextricably link in these ancient myths in such a way that science and soul are inseparable, each contributing to civilisation in equal measure, therefore Ceres/Demeter is both the custodian of all knowledge about grain and agriculture as well as symbolic of the love of a mother for her child.

The sculpture depicts the moment of return, joy as Spring leaps forth. Ceres dances and Proserpina dances with her, protected but not constrained by the parent; the child is depicted as independent but shielded by the mother's robe that wraps around them both.

The sculpture is a gift, lovingly given by the Jenner family to the Waite Arboretum as a monument of Norma Jenner's life and work. The idea for the theme of the work links Colin's life work, researching - the accumulation of sugar and starch in developing cereal grains and related topics at the University of Adelaide Waite Institute, with Norma's academic career as a dancer and dance educator, their lives together echoing the theme of science and soul combining to contribute to the great human endeavour of civilisation.

Given a free hand to work within the theme, I was able to pursue my own passion for movement and energy within a figurative sculpture. The first idea for the concept came from a photograph of Norma surrounded by dancers at a ballet school in England. The idea of including the child developed from a book that Norma wrote about teaching dance to children. The freedom and joy in the faces and movement of the children underpinned the decisions we made regarding the relationship between the two sculpted figures. The sculpture was never intended as a portrait and does not depict Norma's face.

I enjoy sculpting drapes as loose, almost abstract forms that dynamically counterpoint the realistically modelled figures. On Colin's suggestion we incorporated wheat into the robe itself, using several wheat varieties, cast directly into the metal. The sculpture is mounted on large slabs of Kanmantoo bluestone, the local stone blending with the designed walls and pathways of the gardens, the layered slabs add to the concept of layers of meaning within the work. Each year the surrounding red sand garden beds are planted with experimental and heritage wheat varieties.

The sculpture was made, moulded and cast into bronze at our studios in Lynton.www.liquidmetalstudios.com.auSculptor: Meliesa Judge Project management: Will KuiperArticle & Photo by: Meliesa Judge

## WAITE ARBORETUM – NORTH WEST SECTION REVEGETATION PROJECT

The site of the Waite Arboretum, prior to European settlement, was within an extensive area of *Eucalyptus microcarpa* (grey box) woodland referred to by the early European settlers as the Black Forest. The commencement of grazing in the site in about 1840 prevented the regeneration of indigenous woody plants. The removal of trees and shrubs and introduction of exotic grasses and broad-leaved herbs (forbs) began to cause the extinction of indigenous species. Grazing of sheep continued until 1991. Subsequent management of the site was regular mowing.

By 1880 the Black Forest had been almost completely cleared and since no intact grey box forest remains on the Adelaide Plains, it was recommended that attempts be made to encourage the growth of original grasses, small trees and shrubs in order to assist the survival of one of our original SA habitats.

A Management Plan was prepared in 1998 by Andrew Crompton, biodiversity manager from Burnside City Council, at the request of Dr Jennifer Gardner, Director Waite Arboretum and the Friends of the Arboretum. Over the past ten years, a small band of volunteers has worked towards the revegetation of the site using the plan as a guide. "Propagation Instructions" from Trees for Life and "The Native Plants of Adelaide" by Bagust and Tout-Smith have also been valuable resources.

The first stages involved the propagation and dense plantings of *Acacia pycnantha* (golden wattle) and *Allocasuarina verticillata* (drooping sheoak). It was hoped that the dense canopy formed would shade out the weeds and help prepare the area for subsequent plantings of shrubs and understorey plants. Following a visit to the area mid 2007, Andrew Crompton recommended that further plantings of *Acacia pycnantha* and *Allocasuarina verticillata* be made in order to thicken the current plantings, preparing the ground for more successful plantings of the understorey in the future.

Shrubs and understorey plants were the next group to be propagated and planted. The smaller species have been clustered in plots for ease of management. Some 30 of these indigenous species now grow on the site. Six *Eucalyptus leucoxylon* (SA blue gum) and three *Xanthorrhoea quadrangulata* (grass trees) have also been planted as there were none on the site and they were known to have been part of the tall woodland habitat. Twenty *Eucalyptus microcarpa* (grey box) have been planted as the three remnant trees are declining in health.

Grasses have been the last group to grow by both propagating and direct seeding. There are currently nine indigenous species of grasses growing on site.

A major attack on the weeds through spraying (glyphosate), grubbing/digging out and hand weeding has been continuously undertaken. Strategic grass cutting and mowing has also been regularly done. This has stimulated the growth of remnant native grasses. In recent years the annual weeds have been less, due to the dry winters, which enabled the native grasses to flourish. In 2009, however, following good winter rains, weeds have grown thickly especially wild oats, cape weed, soursobs and plantain. There does seem to be less couch and kikuya, though. The *Acacia acinacea*, *Dodonaea viscosa* and *Vittadinia* are self seeding very successfully.

Volunteers are continuing to collect, propagate and plant seedlings with the aim of improving the diversity of vegetation. The planting of understorey plants and grasses has had limited success. Experimentation with direct seeding of *Acacia pycnantha* has also had very limited success.

#### Note from the Director

Dr Richard Glatz, Senior Research Scientist at SARDI Entomology has been collecting the Arboretum. In the NW Section he has discovered 3 species of Buprestid beetles, *Agrilus* sp., *Cisseis* sp. (both on *Acacia pycnantha*) & *Germarica liliputana* (on *Allocasuarina verticillata* saplings). *Germarica liliputana* is not often collected but Richard found 12. Also in the NW Arboretum Richard caught 4 native wasps of the same *Aulacus* species. Seeing multiple individuals of these wasps is almost unheard of, especially alive; many species are known from single individuals. The family Aulacidae is hardly ever collected, with only 4 species described from SA represented by only about a dozen specimens. So Marilyn and Alan's revegetation efforts are already paying great dividends attracting native fauna to the site.

### **POT POURRI**

# CHRISTMAS PARTY

Our Christmas Party, combined with the Friends of Urrbrae House and the Friends of the Conservation Reserve held on Monday 7 December was, as usual, very successful. Prior to the commencement of the party Dr Gardner hosted a walk round the gardens to showcase, among other things, the gardens being developed by the Mediterranean Garden Society.

Professor Geoff. Fincher began the formal proceedings with a speech in which, after thanking the Volunteers of the various groups of Friends, he described some of the activities of scientists at the Waite. Prof Fincher also described the various refurbishments which have occurred both at the Waite Campus and CSIRO.

Professor Fincher's talk was followed by speeches by the Presidents of the three Friends groups, Bryan Milligan, Bill Wallace, and Chris Kaczan, all of whom thanked their respective committees and volunteers for their continuing work. Bryan made special mention of Dr Gardner for her great efforts and the initiation of new projects and especially welcomed Martyn Evans and Joe Bennick from the University. He called for volunteers to help with the forthcoming Basketry Exhibition. Chris thanked specific people for their efforts during 2009 and pointed out that the whole community benefits from the Conservation Reserve. Bill expressed sorrow that Chris is moving interstate and described the various activities at Urrbrae House. He thanked Lynette and Amanda for the smooth running of UH. Lynette and Jennifer also thanked their volunteers.

#### ARBORVIEW

Trees are one of the largest and longest living organisms on the face of the earth. There are trees all around us in parks, streets, gardens and bush lands. Trees make our cities look less harsh by softening the landscape. They provide habitat for birds, insects, reptiles and small mammals, as well being a reminder of our primal origins.

As big a part that trees play in our lives they are generally overlooked or go unnoticed by the larger percentage of the population. Due to the minimal thought given to trees they have little funding available for their continuing care. Most work that happens to trees is reactive and rarely proactive. The majority of homeowners pay little to no attention to the trees under their supposed care, unless the leaves block the gutters or a branch falls through their roof. Street trees are continually tortured by late night revellers and teenagers tearing braches off and ripping newly planted trees from the ground. They are constantly butchered by contractors working on behalf of utility companies, who cut any branch within a 2-metre distance to power lines. This kind of work would be limited, if not totally prevented, if only a smaller growing species were selected. The Councils continually remove dead, damaged or dying trees only to replace them with another inappropriate species underneath utilities, that in a few years will have its top removed because it is growing through the power lines. It is at this point that residents complain about the works being carried out and demand the council do something. Of course the council can do very little at this point, as the supply of power must be uninterrupted and the tree hasn't got a chance.

Landscapers are also guilty of planting trees with little thought to their growth habits, or the ongoing care required by the tree. Including trees in a conception drawing looks good and is often required to be included for a development application. Mostly draftsmen have little to no knowledge of trees and the requirements of different tree species, so the appropriate selection is rarely made.

Trees are given little value but they are a valuable asset to a city:

- 1. They remove pollutants from the atmosphere
- 2. Create shade, and cool the environment
- 3. Provide habitat for native fauna (both macro and micro)
- 4. Increase the visual appeal of the streetscape
- 5. Influence the human psyche
- 6. Increase neighbourhood property values

We are continually doing things to the trees to suit our own agenda rather than for the benefit of the trees. There was a time when humans had a coexistence with nature and a symbiotic relationship with trees. Fruit, wood and by-products were collected for use by earlier generations and, in return, the trees were cared for and their seeds planted in well-tilled soil.

Most trees take many years to mature. It is only in maturity that hollows suitable for wild life habitat are evident. If a tree is growing where a building is to be constructed or extended, quite often the tree is either pruned excessively, has it roots cut or is completely removed. Large development companies seem to get away with quite unethical treatment of significant trees. The value of a new housing estate far outweighs the value of a stand of 200+ -year old river red gums (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*). Remnant trees are continually cleared to make way for the continued urban growth of many cities. This practice has been going on since European settlement of Australia and shows little sign of slowing. Past generations may be forgiven for their mistreatment of natural resources, due to their lack of understanding. We now know better and still act in a detrimental way to the environment. Will the future generations forgive us?

Kieren O'Neill



# A VISIT TO DEAN NICOLLE'S CURRENCY CREEK ARBORETUM

Photo:Lynda Yates

The Friends of Waite Arboretum arranged to visit Dean's property on Sunday 18 October 2009 when many gums would be flowering. About twenty people made the trip and it was a good day to visit as the weather stayed cool but dry. An area of 32 hectares (80 acres) was bought in 1992 after Dean had filled up his parents' garden with eucalypts and he has now planted up most of this as a specialist eucalypt

research arboretum. He planted the first seedlings in 1993. The eucalypt collection now includes 1,000 species and subspecies with over 8,000 trees. The trees are grown from seed collected mostly by Dean on plant-collecting trips all over Australia. He collects from wild populations, taking the seed from one good representative of the species which also has accessible seed. However, as the pollen may have come to that tree from several others, the seedlings can still be quite different. He grows 8 plants from each species and plants out 4, the remainder being saved as herbarium specimens to show their juvenile leaves and these are sent to Canberra. Dean prepares to plant by killing off the weeds in August and then he plants the seedlings in September, watering them in. He now has 350 rows, each 5 metres apart, of 30 - 40 trees. Each row of trees is marked on a master plan and the individual trees are listed on a database. There is no pruning, staking or fertilising but there is a bore and drippers are used to water. Originally trees were watered for the first couple of years but now they only get watered for the first year.

Dean's property has mainly a sandy loam up to 1 metre deep with sandstone and quartz rocks beneath so it is well drained and the pH is neutral. It is a fairly high site so can be windy. The rainfall is about 450mm a year but varies – 2 years ago only 200mm fell but the maximum in the last 15 years has been 700mm. West Australian trees grow well here but the desert species find it too wet and cold so may die.

Dean has a block of East Coast eucalypts planted in 1994, one of South Australian species planted in 1997 and one of West Australian trees planted in 2001. We wandered amongst the trees and he told us about some of the species as we went. Eucalypts are now classified into 3 genera: *Eucalyptus* – about 800 species, *Angophora* with roughly 20 taxa and *Corymbia* with about 100 species. Only 12 species are not native to Australia and of these only 2 species will not grow in Australia although they will grow on some of its islands.

The mallee is a type of eucalypt that stays quite small and often grows several trunks eg. *E. lehmannii*, the bushy yate and *E. erythrocorys*, the red-capped gum. It has a lignotuber just under the soil from which it can regenerate after fire. Other eucalypts are quick growing and good as windbreaks but don't survive fires so they flower and seed within 5 years of maturing and are called obligate seeders eg. *E. conferruminata*, the Bald Island marlock. These trees also fall down easily as they are top heavy so mallees make better long-term windbreaks. Blue gums (*E. leucoxylon*), sugar gums (*E. cladocalyx*) and the several stringybark species will reshoot on the trunk but mallees reshoot mainly at the base. If you want to cut back a eucalypt, mallee or otherwise, it is best done in October when the weather is warming up to encourage quick regrowth.

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Some eucalypts shed their seed every year but others keep it on the tree and the capsules only open when there is no moisture – if the tree has died or the branch broken. This avoids competition.

Some of the gums have citriodora oil and are quite flammable. The lemon-scented gum, *Corymbia citriodora*, does not, despite its name, contain citriodora but citronella oil and this does not burn easily. Spotted gums (*E. maculata*) also resist fire well. Ironbarks, a group of trees with very hard bark, burn very slowly. Their sap helps to defend the tree against borers and other insects. Stringybarks also have bark which helps to protect the tree and so are not very flammable. However, when trees have ribbons of bark these can carry fire a long way eg. *E. smithii*, the gully gum (East Coast), *E. viminalis* the local ribbon gum. Dean was about to be assisted by the local fire service to do a controlled burn of one area so he can further research how the trees respond to fire of varying strengths.

Some of the trees had grass growing under them whilst others had bare areas beneath them eg. *E. megacornuta*, the warty yate. Dean explained that the latter would have lots of surface roots and therefore take away most of the soil moisture from other plants. This does not mean that these trees are any more drought-tolerant than others.

The scribbly gum, *E. sclerophylla*, from Queensland could not cope with the dry climate here and died but it is worth noting that these gums would never get the telltale scribbles here as these are produced by the larva of a moth species not found in South Australia.

Once we had finished our tour around we thanked Dean for his enthusiastic and knowledgeable overview and left to enjoy the rest of the day, several people having a picnic lunch or going to Goolwa to visit the Sunday market. It was a pleasant day out.

Lynda Yates

## SUBSCRIPTIONS

It is again time to renew your membership. For the last few years, members have been very generous and have donated to the Friends when they have renewed their membership, which has allowed us to continue to fund the ongoing work in the Arboretum. We urge you to dig as deeply into your pockets as you can. Fees for 2010 remain the same - \$15 for individuals, \$20 for family membership and \$40 for institutions. **Donations are tax deductible.** 

# Nominations are called for the Committee to be elected at the AGM on Monday 12 April.

# **NEW MEMBERS**

We warmly welcome the following new member: Mrs Wendy Furness, Sunbury, Vic.

# FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Saturday 27 February – Monday 8 March: 'Warp on the Wild Side' - Basketry SA Exhibition

Monday 12 April: FWA AGM. 7.30 p.m. David Lawry will speak about 'The Avenues of Honour'.

Sunday May 2.00 p.m. (date to be confirmed) Talk by Sophie Thomson. Topic to be announced. Refreshments will be served and there will be a charge.

Wednesday 18 August. Classical Guitar concert by Aleksandr Tsiboulski and Jacob Condover. Cost \$30 (conc. \$25).

Thursday 2 September and Friday 3 September. TREENET SYMPOSIUM.

Sunday 10 – Sunday 17 October. Exhibition of Beryl Martin's paintings.

Friday 19 November. Talk and twilight walk by Meliesa Judge, sculptor, Liquid Metal Studios.