

THE FRIENDS OF THE WAITE ARBORETUM INC.



WAITE
ARBORETUM

NEWSLETTER NO. 67

Autumn 2011

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Editor
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SIXTEENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Monday 18 April 2011

The President, Henry Krichauff, opened the meeting by welcoming all of the Friends present. He then called on the Secretary, Norma Lee, to read the minutes of the fifteenth Annual General Meeting, which were confirmed. He then presented his annual report.

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

It is with much pleasure that I present this Report for the 16th year of the Friends of the Waite Arboretum.

With such a wonderful season with so much beneficial rain, the Arboretum is looking its best, especially with the luxuriant foliage of the rejuvenated Elm Avenue. The extensive use of mulch around most of the trees throughout the Arboretum has also contributed to their growth and appearance. We are grateful to the various tree service companies for their donations of many tonnes of mulch material. At this point I would like to make special mention and appreciation of Mark Ziersch who works untiringly in addition to his normal full day, many extra hours with no recompense. He can take much of the credit for the appearance of the grounds.

Our ever enthusiastic Director, Jennifer, apart from the mountain of work she undertakes, has been involved in new plantings with emphasis on some trees appropriate for TREENET's attention. We are fortunate to have such a good working relationship with the TREENET organization and David Lawry. The annual symposium held in September, now in its twelfth year has become a highlight of the FWA year. The large number of Australia-wide delegates who attend seems to be increasing each year.

Our guest speaker tonight, James Smith of *fauNature*, gave a very interesting “hands on” presentation beside suitable Arboretum trees on bird nesting habitats during the 2009 Symposium and then again at a Tree Habitat Workshop last November.

Still on the subject of the Arboretum. A happy occasion was the celebration of David Symon's 90th birthday in October with the unveiling of a plaque under a favourite Dragon Tree, followed by a birthday morning tea in Urrbrae House. The event was a small tribute to his lifelong involvement in, and love of, the Arboretum.

The need to raise funds is ever present on our minds. With our careful Treasurer, Peter, we do have a healthy bank balance, but, as you are aware, there is an ongoing demand for funds for equipment, labels, tree care and other associated expenses. This year we have a number of expenses which are higher than normal, i.e. \$18,200 for Elm Avenue and in excess of \$5,000 for a ride-on mower and trailer.

A classical guitar concert played to a full house in this room in August when we were able to host world class players Aleksandr Tsiboulski and Jacob Cordover. Then in October we were fortunate to display Beryl Martin's ‘last’ exhibition of her high quality water colours along with selling a range of her cards. As you can see from the Annual Statement there are other sources of income which include the welcome \$5,000 from TREENET, but we are always on the lookout for new ideas.

For the first time we have staffed a display at the Sunday Mail Home Living Expo at the Showgrounds in place of being involved with the Gardening Australia Expo. The reason for the change being no charge involved for a display area.

The subject of a water management plan tends to be put aside in a wet year like that which we have just experienced. We are however, mindful of the need to develop a sustainable future. With this in mind we are anxious for the overall Waite Campus plan to be developed by the University to go ahead. Prof Geoff Fincher is prepared to work on this in conjunction with our new Committee member Prof Mark Tester when they have the time available. This would be a significant undertaking requiring a lot of input. Geoff has worked on ideas for this over the years so would be an ideal promoter.

In conclusion there are many people to thank for their work over the year. Apart from those already mentioned whom I wish to thank, I especially thank VP Beth for her wonderful support and being involved with so much behind the scenes organising. My sincere thanks go the retiring Committee and to our ever efficient Secretary, Norma, to Treasurer, Peter and to Editor, Jean. I am pleased that the Committee members have agreed to serve again with the exception of Lynda Yates who retires after her 10 years, the maximum allowed for members to serve. During the year Jude Tyler resigned after serving into her ninth year. We were very happy to welcome Mark during the year; his Uni involvement gives us an excellent link to the corporate body.

I wish to thank you, the members for your support in various ways, from volunteering to financial. I can't omit the many sponsors who have allowed much work to go on that we could not have funded alone. I can't close without recognising the retirement of three stalwarts of guiding in the Arboretum, Jean Bird, Isabella Rawnsley and David Symon. Their contribution over many years will be sadly missed.

I thank you for attending tonight and I hope that you will continue to support us with your time, subscriptions and donations.

I move the adoption of the 2011 Annual Report.

Henry Krichauff

The President then called upon the Treasurer, Peter Nicholls, to present his annual report.

TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT

Mr. Chairman, I present the audited Statement of Receipts and Payments for 2010, a copy of which was sent out with the Notice of the Annual General Meeting to all current members. I trust you have all taken the opportunity to read it.

In doing so, I express my real sense of gratitude to and a very big thank you to all members and volunteers, who have contributed generously to the activities of The Friends of the Waite Arboretum Inc during 2010.

Everyone's efforts have resulted in the generation of a surplus of \$18,916.58 for 2010.

I have organized the Statement into distinct groupings which reflect the activities of the members and volunteers and on the front page are summarized the receipts from these activities and the payments for the costs associated with them. On the second page the details of receipts and payments associated with each event are itemised.

The painting exhibition by Beryl Martin "Celebrating Spring" generated the largest cash turnover as shown on page 2. The Basketry Expo "Warp on the Wild Side" generated considerable cash flow, which was handled by them, so the statement only shows the commission paid by them to us for hosting the expo. When looking at the costs, please note that we received a grant of \$500.00 from the City of Mitcham during 2009 towards the cost of promoting the expo, which covered most of the \$616.00 of the printing of the flyers. Again we were fortunate to receive a grant of \$350.00 from the City of Mitcham to assist in defraying the cost of \$891.00 for promoting the painting exhibition. One of the outcomes of the exhibition is that we have a number of Giclée prints of Beryl's to sell in addition to her postcards and these have been popular in the pre Christmas period. Pat Hagan's Jewellery is always popular and again in the pre Christmas period this was quite noticeable.

The three ticket sales events, Sophie Thomson's talk, the guitar concert by Aleksandr Tsiboulski and Jacob Cordover, and the Sculpture Talk and Twilight Walk by Meliesa Judge were very well attended. These events usually do not involve a large number of volunteers, but do generate considerable funds for us.

In contrast, the strong volunteer effort in supporting the regular TREENET Inc Symposium was very rewarding both in the receipt of a very significant donation of \$5,000.00 from TREENET Inc for which we thank them, and also the enjoyment of being involved in a worthwhile project.

When the surpluses for the past two years were combined the committee was able to make a donation of \$20,000 to the Arboretum Donation Account at the University of Adelaide and the committee anticipates being able to authorise further donations during 2011.

All this activity helps to make the Arboretum a desirable place for residents of, and visitors to, Adelaide to see and enjoy a hidden gem in our environment. These activities underpin the aims of the University in outreach to the community.

Some developments at the beginning of 2011 include the offer of the Electronic Funds Transfer facility for members paying subs, purchasing tickets to concerts, or buying items which are on sale. When you use this facility please include name and item e.g. subs/ concert/ etc.

Also, we shall making a further financial contribution towards enhancing the work of the volunteers by purchasing a mower for the management of ground cover especially in the North West corner of the Arboretum.

Mr. Chairman, I move the adoption of the Annual Statement of Receipts and Payments of the Friends of the Waite Arboretum for 2010.

Peter B. Nicholls

RED DOT NOTICE

Dear valued member, please note that if you have a RED DOT on the front of your latest newsletter, this is to alert you to the inclusion of a Reminder Notice of your overdue membership subscription and a Membership Renewal Form for 2011.

Please send us your membership subscription as soon as possible, so that you will continue to receive your Newsletter, or advise us that you do not wish to renew your membership of the Friends of The Waite Arboretum.

You may renew your membership by using EFTPOS. If you decide to do so, please use your name as the reference, otherwise I am NOT able to identify you for recording your payment.

Yours,

Peter Nicholls, Hon Treasurer, FWA.

The President then announced the following nominations for the new Committee:

Beth Johnstone, Prof Mark Tester, Marilyn Gilbertson, Dr Peter Nicholls, Jean Bird, Norma Lee, Bryan Milligan, Henry Krichauff, Dr Jennifer Gardner (*ex officio*). As there were no further nominations, those named were elected.

That concluded the AGM and Henry then introduced the Guest Speaker, James Smith from FauNature. Henry said that he and Bryan have known James for many years and gave a brief resumé of his career. He mentioned also that James had given a presentation in the Arboretum during the 2009 TREENET conference and had also been involved in a Tree Habitat Workshop last year.

GUEST SPEAKER

Our Guest Speaker, James Smith addressed the topic “Hollow Habitats” in his most interesting, well-illustrated and well-received talk following the AGM. He wondered how a wildlife man could engage with a group primarily interested in trees but decided to take his topic from his presentation to TREENET delegates in 2009.

He first posed the question ‘Why are Hollows Important?’ and answered it by pointing out that 31% of mammals and 66% of Micro-bats are dependent on hollows. He pointed out the benefits of living trees as opposed to dead standing ones and compared Australian trees which are mainly eucalypts to those in the USA which are mainly firs.

Most birds live in trees but a much lower percentage of birds in places other than Australia live in hollows. Why might this be so? It might be because the difference in temperature on a hot summer’s day between that inside a hollow and the ambient can be quite considerable; conversely, hollows are warmer than ambient in the winter.

No Australian vertebrate species can create hollows although 31% of terrestrial vertebrates, 15% of birds and 66% of Micro-bats need hollows. How do hollows develop? Mostly by insect activity, especially termites but also by beetle and moth larvae, some of which create tunnels. Fungi can also create hollows after the heart wood has been affected and James gave the example of the sugar gums at the beginning of the drive to Urrbrae House which are about 120 years old. Hollows start to develop when trees are 120 – 150 years old. The sugar gums have large hollows which were probably initiated by lopping. Lopping exposes the heartwood which then contracts and so water and fungal spores can get into the branch; over time hollows will form. Fire can have a similar effect and can increase the size of hollows too, which allows for big birds like owls to use them. 400 + species of terrestrial vertebrates e.g. geckos, skinks, possums, etc and ½ of Australian kingfishers, for example, need hollows in trees. Ringtails in SA don’t use hollows except in winter but in other parts of Australia they do. Some marsupials, dunnarts for example, use hollows for shelter but also to forage. Dozens of tree frogs (not in SA where there is only one species) never come to ground and are entirely dependent on hollows.

James then went on to discuss artificial hollows. He showed photos of people attacking logs with chainsaws and said that it was a matter of trial and error before suitable artificial hollows were developed. Artificial hollows need to be custom made to suit their potential users and the right trees have to be selected e.g. stringy bark is not good but red gum is. As well as cutting a cavity the correct size, depth etc. for its anticipated occupant, artificial hollows need to be positioned correctly to take into account any territorial habits that the future occupants might have.

James pointed out that, historically, councils and others have removed trees deemed to be a danger to the public and suggested that trees can be made safe by careful pruning thereby

obviating the need to remove the whole tree and so removing potential hollows for wildlife. If trees are pruned so as to replicate natural trauma, the potential for hollows eventually to develop is increased. He and his colleagues are encouraging councils to adopt this practice with some limited success.

Throughout his talk, James illustrated his points with photographs and towards the end showed an artificial hollow in his garden in which he had placed a camera to record the events. The female parrot laid one egg at first and then left. However, she returned and two days later, laid two more eggs. She eventually laid eight over a period of several days. The photographs of the chicks hatching and eventually occupying all of the hollow were quite fascinating. Although the eggs had been laid over a period of days, interestingly, all the chicks fledged two days apart.

Cats, foxes, bees, rainbow lorikeets, exotic bird species e.g. starlings and house sparrows all pose threats to hollow-dependent fauna but the greatest threat of all is habitat destruction. Hollows take hundreds of years to develop and so it is obvious that the destruction of hollow-producing trees will have a great impact on the vast array of fauna which are dependent on them for hollows.

At the conclusion of his talk, James fielded many questions until Henry called a halt. The number of questions asked and yet to be asked, was a measure of the interest shown by the audience in this fascinating and well presented talk.

Jean Bird

Before we adjourned for refreshments, Henry announced a FOWCR function on 25 May and also that Pam Catcheside is willing to lead a walk to inspect the fungi in the Arboretum for anyone who wishes to participate.

Subsequent to the meeting the new Committee met to elect the Office Bearers and the following were elected: Henry Krichauff, President; Beth Johnstone, Vice-President; Norma Lee; Secretary, Peter Nicholls, Treasurer. Marilyn Gilbertson, Mark Tester, Jean Bird and Jennifer Gardner (*ex officio*) are the other members of the Committee.

Jean Bird

IN THE ARBORETUM

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Planting has commenced early this year with about 40 specimens including Small-leaved Apple-myrtle *Angophora bakeri*, Dwarf Apple *A. hispida*, Bottle Tree *Brachychiton rupestris*, Southern Cypress Pine *Callitris gracilis*, Yellow Bloodwood *Corymbia eximia* 'Nana', Brown Mallet *Eucalyptus astringens* subsp. *redacta*, Cap-fruited Mallee *E. dielsii*, Goldfields Blackbutt *E. lesouefii*, Long-flowered Marlock *E. macrandra*, and Chinese Flame Tree *Koelreuteria bipinnata*. Most of these species have been propagated or grown at Urrbrae TAFE with best practice techniques in collaboration with TREENET and are also being planted out in the City of Mitcham as street tree trials. There are also some unusual and rare plants propagated and donated by David Symon.

An exciting new development is the establishment of a reference and research collection of Australian citrus species located in the area of the Arboretum left bare by the removal of trees destroyed in the fire of 2006. All the material was grafted or propagated from seeds or cuttings and donated by Paul Coats who has recently commenced a PhD study at the Waite Institute's Plant Research Centre with Dr Michele Wirthensohn. Paul's project will look at the ecophysiology, reproduction and domestication potential of two semi-arid Australian citrus species - *C. gracilis* (Humpty Doo Lime or Kakadu Lime - a straggly shrub of eucalypt savannah woodlands of the Northern Territory) and Desert Lime *C. glauca* (already represented in the Arboretum by a fine specimen #163 (J11) planted in 1966). Species planted last week include: 9 Mount White Lime *Citrus garrawayi* from Cape York, 5 Finger Lime *C. australasica* and 3 Round Lime / Gympie Lime / Dooja *C. australis* from SE Queensland, 7 Russel River Lime *C. inodora* from the Bellenden Ker Range near Cairns and 6 hybrid *C. x oliveri*. The collection will continue to expand over the next few years and I look forward to a future newsletter article or presentation by Paul on his research.



Paul Coats planting his Citrus research collection Photo: J. Gardner

The welcome autumn rains have produced a bumper crop of fungi this year and earlier than usual. Two brightly coloured and distinctive species, not usually seen, are Anemone Fungus *Aseroe rubra* which is found naturally in mountainous regions of Australia and Stinkhorn *Phallus rubicundus*. The Death Cap fungus *Amanita phalloides*, recorded in the Arboretum for the first time in 2008 has proliferated and has been found in new sites again this year. Already over 467 specimens have been collected and destroyed this year, compared to 365 for the entire season (22 June to 7 Sept) last year. Visitors are advised not to pick or touch any fungi in the Arboretum. Mycologist Pam Catcheside has offered to take a free guided walk in the Arboretum for the Friends (see Diary Dates) so I hope you can join us.

Anemone Fungus *Aseroe rubra* Photos: Jennifer GardnerStinkhorn *Phallus rubicundus*

Two more teak benches have been donated to the Arboretum. One, located under the magnificent Yellow Box overlooking the watercourse, is in memory of Waite scientist Geoff Auricht and was presented by his colleagues in the Pasture Research Group. The other was donated by the Kelly Family and overlooks the labyrinth - a welcome sunny spot to sit and watch children at play. Another seat, donated by the Goanna Walking Group, has been placed in the Waite Conservation Reserve. Seats are greatly appreciated by visitors to the Arboretum and Reserve.

The Labyrinth continues to be popular and I expect more than usual visitors to the Arboretum on World Labyrinth Day Saturday 7 May.

The 12th Treenet Annual National Street Tree Symposium will be held on the first Thursday and Friday in September (1st & 2nd). The assistance of the Friends is again sought to pack conference bags on Monday 29 August, staff the reception desk (and sit in on the presentations) on Thursday in the National Wine Centre, and on Friday shepherd the groups around to the various stations the Arboretum and assist to serve lunch and morning and afternoon tea. Please contact me on 8303 7405 if you can help with any of these tasks.

Jennifer Gardner

POT POURRI

The Friends of the Waite Arboretum Committee accepted an invitation to participate in the recent Sunday Mail Home Living Expo. A series of photographs illustrating developments within the Precinct was prepared and attracted attention from many of those people who visited the Expo. A brief outline of the Peter Waite gift headed the display, and the volunteers who generously staffed the stall over the three days engaged with the many who came and said that they knew nothing about the Arboretum. Several of these questioners have said that they will visit in the future.

Some relevant books were available for sale and many flyers and membership application forms were handed out in response to interest.



The photograph above shows our President Henry Krichauff talking with Marilyn Gilbertson (who assisted in the preparation and management of the stall) in front of the exhibition.

Beth Johnstone

Elkhorn plants for sale

A Friend of the Arboretum has a 25 year old Elkhorn fern which has to be removed. It can be divided into many plants which she is offering for sale (unmounted) with the proceeds going to the Friends. Price ranges from \$10 (single small) to \$50+ depending on the age, size and number of plants in the clump. Contact Jennifer 8303 7405 to register interest.



NEW MEMBERS

We warmly welcome the following new members: Mr John and Mrs Margaret Whelan, Myrtle Bank; Mr John Priest, Clarence Gardens; Richard Scott Young, College Park

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Monday, 2 May. 11 am Walk in the Arboretum to inspect the wide range of fungi (toadstools, puffballs and other fascinating fungi) hosted by eminent mycologist, Pam Catcheside. * tbc.

Saturday 7 May: World Labyrinth Day – come and visit the Arboretum labyrinth

Thursday 1 and Friday 2 September: 12th National TREENET SYMPOSIUM

***Check the website (www.waite.adelaide.edu.au/arboretum/) or telephone Jennifer 8313 7405 to confirm this date. [If there has been little rain in the meantime, the walk may be postponed until later in the season.]**

April in the Arboretum



The aptly named Red-Capped Gum or Illyarie *Eucalyptus erythrocorys* #1852A (K13) from WA provides a stunning display of colour. Illyarie is an Aboriginal word. The specific name is derived from Greek *erythro-* red and *korys* a helmet.



The Californian Buckeye *Aesculus californica* #261B (I9) is hung with large shiny chestnut coloured fruits on a bare silvery framework.