

NEWSLETTER
SUMMER 2017
NUMBER 90

FRIENDS OF THE WAITE ARBORETUM INC.

www.communitywebs.org/friendsofwaitearb

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

FRIENDS OF THE WAITE
ARBORETUM EVENTS

Free Guided Arboretum walks

The first Sunday of every month
at 11.00 am.
Walks meet at Urrbrae House
on the lawn

**Special History Month walk
Sunday May 7 at 11am**

**Dr Jennifer Gardner OAM
Farewell**

4 pm Tuesday Feb 21
Invitation enclosed.
RSVP by Feb 16

**FWA AGM 7.30 pm Monday
April 10.** Guest speaker: Dr
Kate Delaporte "Gumnuts
revisited: a continuing and
consuming passion"

More details at:
[http://www.adelaide.edu.au/
waite-historic/whatson/](http://www.adelaide.edu.au/waite-historic/whatson/)



Patron: Sophie Thomson

President: Beth Johnstone OAM, **Vice-President:** Marilyn Gilbertson OAM

Secretary: Meg Butler, **Treasurer:** Dr Peter Nicholls

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Erica Boyle, Dr Jennifer Gardner OAM (ex officio)

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Photography: Eileen Harvey



Artist Berenice Carrington, volunteers Barbara Kelsey and Peg Saddler,
Dr Jennifer Gardner with the Landscape Master Plan.
Published in the Eastern Courier Messenger 27 March 1996

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From the President

The past season has been an interesting one, with weather variety in the forefront of our experience. It was the wettest winter for many years and this has produced lots of grass and weeds. There has also been some rather violent storms and wind.



The native
Windmill Grass
(*Chloris truncata*)
which can
suppress weeds,
has grown very
well this year.

It is a new year and with that come some changes. Endings always bring new beginnings and therein lie the possibilities that can bring excitement. We experienced several changes during last year. One of these was the change to the management of the Arboretum. It is now being managed by the School of Agriculture, Food and Wine that provides a world-class concentration of scientific research, education and infrastructure at the Waite Campus of the University of Adelaide. The Dean of Waite is Professor Mike Keller. Members of the committee made contact with Professor Keller and he was a welcome guest at the combined Friends Christmas Party.

Another change was that Dr Gardner went on long service leave and Dr Kate Delaporte as Acting Curator managed the Arboretum. Kate has had a long association with the Arboretum through research and other projects. She has agreed to be our Guest Speaker at the Annual General meeting on Monday April 10 when her topic will be "*Gumnuts revisited: a continuing and consuming passion*".

Now, we are approaching another change. Dr Gardner announced that she would retire on 24th February 2017 and that date is fast approaching. It was in May of last year that we were able to assist her to celebrate her lengthy service with the Arboretum. The Friends Committee had been anxious to ensure some formal recognition of Dr Gardner's service to the Arboretum and I had included in my report a request for people to make donations for such a purpose. The University had received a very generous donation to make possible a prize to be awarded by the Adelaide University in Dr Gardner's name. Any member or

well-wisher can add to this donation by making enquires to:

External Relations, The University of Adelaide
by telephone 8313 5800
or email: development@adelaide.edu.au



Dr Kate Delaporte, Dr
Jennifer Gardner OAM.
Photo Erica Boyle

The many admirers and colleagues of Dr Jennifer Gardner were delighted to hear of her receipt of an Order of Australia Medal in the Australia Day Honour's List. It is our pleasure to congratulate her on this well deserved award.

The committee had been anxious to have a combined Film Event, however found no films available to attract and interest a large group. That changed late last year and we began the year with a very successful Film Event in January and you can read a report of this in another section. It is very satisfying to be able to work in tandem with the other Friends groups and raise funds for the precinct this way.

The Friends Committee members face a few changes in composition, as well. Some who have served on the committee are reaching the limit of time allowed within the Constitution and our valued Secretary Meg Butler has indicated that she will need to retire from being secretary in April of this year. Meg's departure is a great loss as the task of recording minutes and doing correspondence is one of the crucial roles within a committee. Likewise the role of Treasurer. Peter Nicholls has given very generously of his time and energy and has been very effective in this role. He has one year during which we need to find a replacement.

The committee is asking members to assist with finding new members who will be willing to serve on the committee. Anyone interested is invited to call

8357 1679 .

Beth Johnstone OAM

Curator's report

As this is my final report as Curator I planned to write about the highlights and milestones of my 30+ years in this 'dream' job that has given me so much joy and satisfaction. I started the pleasurable task of browsing through my reports and photo albums of events and compiling a chronological list. Many days and six pages of dot points later I was still only as far as 2000. So I decided to just muse on a few main projects and events. It has been a great privilege to be part of the Waite community of staff, students, volunteers, community groups, consultants, donors, sponsors and the local residents who frequent the grounds and love them as much as I do.



L to R: Dr David Symon, Dr Jennifer Gardner, Prof. Jim Quirk, Director of the Waite Institute, The Hon. Kym Mayes, Minister for Agriculture, at the bronze plaque awarded by International Dendrology Society. 14 September 1987. Photo Urrbrae House collection

The Bequest and the Kindy Story

I often reflect on the extraordinary nature and long-lasting legacy of the Waite Bequest. The gift of the estate and considerable capital enabled the establishment of the Waite Institute which is internationally recognised for the excellence of its research and teaching. Pastoralist and businessman Peter Waite not only recognised the value of a science to underpin agriculture practices and therefore the continuing prosperity of SA, he also understood the benefit of green spaces with trees to the well-being of the community. Thus he specified that the western half of his 54 ha estate be held as a park or garden in perpetuity for the *enjoyment of the public*. With three of the seven fields of study he

specified being botany, horticulture and forestry, the park was established in 1928 as a scientific collection – The Waite Arboretum. In the following 89 years the Arboretum has proven its value in demonstrating sustainable species for our urban forest, as a resource for research and educational programs, for conservation of rare and endangered species and for pleasure.



Dr Jennifer Gardner and Roger Bungey, President of the FWA, cutting the fence to celebrate the return of the Kindy site to the Arboretum 1999. Photo Arboretum Archives

However the Waite family's far-sighted bequest cannot be taken for granted. One of the strongest memories of my time at the Waite is the Kindy Story and the demonstration of the power of people who share common values and act to preserve them. The 1997 proposal to build a new Netherby Kindergarten in the Arboretum was an emotional issue. What had been a 'temporary' hut erected under wartime conditions and in 1945 allowed to be 'temporary' accommodation for a kindergarten was, 52 years later, no longer suitable for that purpose. Many staff and local residents had attended the kindy or had children or grandchildren who did. The proposed building was in breach of the Waite Bequest so the SA Parliament, with support of both parties, passed an Act granting the University immunity from liability for breach of trust. The situation seemed a fait accompli and the 100+ year old Sugar Gums were slated for removal when the proposal became more widely known. A large number of individuals and organisations rallied against the proposal, spear-headed by the Netherby Heritage Action Group, National Trust of SA, Friends of the Waite Arboretum and Friends of Urrbrae House. It was a matter of principle, even one building would set a precedent. Eventually the campaign was successful, a much safer and more suitable site was found adjacent to the Waite

Childcare Centre and the alienated land returned to the Arboretum. In 2000 a Private Member's Bill by The Hon. Martin Hamilton-Smith, Member for Waite, successfully repealed the enabling Act and reinstated the protection of the Arboretum.

The Kindy building was not the first threat of alienation of Arboretum land during my tenure. In 1988 the Waite Land-Use Planning Group produced a Zoning Plan for the campus which recommended the designation of 2.05 ha of Arboretum for other uses viz. 0.27 ha along Claremont Avenue east of the dam for major building and orchard, 1.03 ha of the Northwest Arboretum for arable use and a further 0.75 ha for residential accommodation. This would have resulted in the loss of 200 trees including a number of specimens of scientific value or heritage significance such as the remnant Grey Box and the Sugar Gums planted by Peter Waite. I wrote a strong response expressing my concerns and documenting all the trees under threat. Fortunately, none of these recommendations of the Planning Group were ever implemented. The message in this tale is that the Friends and the wider community must remain vigilant to ensure the Waite Trust is honoured and Waite's wonderful gift of green space with trees is kept in perpetuity for the enjoyment of the public.

The Whirlwind Woolhouse Era

A turning point in the fortunes of the Waite Arboretum and Urrbrae House was the appointment of Professor Harold Woolhouse as the fifth Director of the Waite Institute in 1990. He was a man of vision and energy and as a botanist took particular interest in the Arboretum. The Arboretum was allocated a budget for the first time and the sheep were removed in favour of mowing. This



Cate Paull, Lorraine Nettleton, Una Wagner and Cicely Bungey with Jennifer on the occasion of the presentation by the Hon. Martin Hamilton-Smith of a cheque for \$8,000 from the History Trust of SA for the permanent Arboretum Exhibition in Urrbrae House 4 February 1998. Photo Arboretum Archives

initiative reduced compaction, enabled the trees to develop their natural habit and internal fences and stiles to be removed improving public access. Harold understood the importance of opening the campus to the wider community thereby encouraging public support and participation.

An Urrbrae House Committee was formed, charged with developing and implementing ideas for the future use of the house as the social and cultural centre of the campus. I was appointed Secretary of this committee and also given the responsibility to develop the Urrbrae House gardens. At about



Volunteers Jenny Newell and Una Wagner with Jennifer Gardner in the Arboretum nursery raising eucalypts for the NE Arboretum 1994. Photo Arboretum Archives



Anna Cox leading the second guided walk of the Arboretum (Isabella Rawnsley led the first) July 1994
Photo Arboretum Archives

same time, following the merger with Roseworthy Campus and the removal of sheep from the Waite hills, I was given responsibility to oversee the newly delineated Waite Conservation Reserve which was opened to the public. With these three additional roles my position was expanded from half to full time. Harold often stopped by my office at lunchtime for a chat about his vision for the Waite and he encouraged me to expand my thinking about what was possible in the Arboretum and gardens and to be creative. Sadly Harold stepped down prematurely in 1995 due to terminal illness and returned to the UK. I still miss him and our stimulating conversations.

In 1991 Yvonne Routledge was appointed the first Curator of Urrbrae House, a position she held for 17 years. We worked well as a team on many projects the first was a series of events to celebrate the Centenary of Urrbrae including commissioning Historical Consultant Denise Schumann OAM to undertake the Waite Oral History Project, the commissioning of a conservation and management plan by architect David Gilbert, a formal dinner, a garden party, a very memorable Peter Waite Heritage Ball in period costume. It was an exciting year of activities. Yvonne initiated the first volunteer program in the Waite Historic Precinct. This idea I adopted in 1994 with the first Arboretum guides and my first garden volunteer, Una Wagner who gave 17 years of steadfast service.



Jennifer, inaugural President Tony Whitehill and FWA Committee members Cate Paull and Mary Tester at the opening of the FWA fundraising exhibition "The Richness of Botanical Art" 1996. Photo Arboretum Archives

The Garden Blossoms

To suitably mark the Centenary of Urrbrae House Deane Ross of Ross Roses suggested a new historic rose collection which would feature the significant species and varieties of the past 100 years – a Twentieth Century Rose Garden. Roses were an



Volunteers: Friend, Colin and Cicely Bungey planting seedling eucalypts in the NE Arboretum August 1997. Photo Jennifer Gardner

important component of Peter Waite's garden and were also used to conduct entomological research in the 1950s which led to a landmark theory of abiotic factors regulating animal populations. Stage 1 (representing 1900 to 1950) was a formal layout designed by Deane Ross. Budwood was sought from UK and NZ. Heritage Roses Australia contributed funds and with the roses supplied by Ross Roses planting began in 1992. This was the start of an ambitious, innovative and on-going project to develop the gardens of the Historic Precinct. Overseeing this project has given me 26 years of great enjoyment and satisfaction.

The first step was the commissioning of a Masterplan by a collaborative team of garden designer extraordinaire Viesturs Cielens OAM, architect Susan Phillips, and artist Berenice Carrington. The Masterplan completed in 1994 was informed by an appreciation of Peter Waite's contribution to agriculture in SA, the architecture of Urrbrae House and the evolution of the garden from the Waite family's occupation of Urrbrae House until the present. There was no attempt to reconstruct the garden as it may have been at any point in time, instead the approach was to interpret historical themes and garden components in to more contemporary design plan.

Five major discrete gardens were proposed, the Twentieth Century Rose Garden which had already started and four thematic artist's gardens: a Sensory Garden, reflecting the original kitchen garden; Garden of Discovery, telling some of the narratives of early scientific work at the Waite; the Paddocks Garden, a suite of sculptures relating to the Peter Waite story; and the Sun Garden. Each thematic garden was workshopped. Participants included scientists, the Friends groups and local community.

These interactions fostered a feeling of ownership and many participants subsequently became garden volunteers, donors and supporters. Over the next ten years more than \$209,000 was secured with State and Federal Grants (primarily from Australia Council for the Arts), sponsorship (Southcorp), sponsorship in kind and grants from the Friends of the Waite Arboretum and Friends of Urrbrae House.

Stage 2 of the Twentieth Century Garden had a more imaginative, informal design with spirals, ponds and changes of level. The Hon. Diana Laidlaw, Minister for the Arts officially opened Stage 2 in February 1996 and the garden was awarded a City of Mitcham Landscaping Award as an outstanding example of a community / collaborative garden project in December 1997. The Sundial Garden extended the collection with the further donation of plants by Ross Roses and has been enhanced with a bronze armillary sphere sundial commissioned by private donors.

The Sensory Garden was constructed in 1997, volunteers commenced planting and the ceramic panel relating to the Peter Waite story was installed. Horticultural media personality Malcolm Campbell opened the garden in November 1998. The colour-themed plantings were tended for many years by a small but dedicated group of volunteers and after their retirement the garden was in need of some tender loving care, but new volunteers have adopted the garden and plantings will be renewed this year, so watch that space.



Greg John's 'Towards the Land'. Photo Erica Boyle

of Peter Waite's dog Shrimp. Greg's 'Floating Figure' nearby was the first sculpture to grace the Arboretum and we hope to install soon one of his 'Horizon' sculptures recently offered to the Arboretum by a private donor.

My favourite themed garden is the Garden of Discovery. Dianne Longley collaborated in the initial workshops, but Viesturs' creative design was enriched when Denise Schumann joined

the project and developed the conceptual schema for the narratives, based on her extensive research and Waite Oral History project. The narratives of early scientific work at the Waite are told through soundscapes from the oral histories, inlaid pavers by artist Lynn Elzinga, interpretive signs, an annual historic wheat display maintained by volunteer Russell Cook, a bronze sculpture by John Dowie commissioned by the Davidson Family and two outdoor book works, 'Collaborations' and 'Girls with Grit' written by Denise who oversaw their design and manufacture. The books are located on the two beautiful red gum tables with benches. 'Collaborations' refers to the work three of the Foundation Professors of the Institute soil scientist James Prescott, agronomist Hugh Trumble and particularly entomologist James Davidson. The Davidson family funded this installation and the sculpture and have an ongoing connection with matriarch Nettie volunteering in the garden and the stunning carved memorial bench seat in the northwest Arboretum. 'Girls with Grit' celebrates some of the early women scientists at the Waite and their significant but little acknowledged research. The Garden of Discovery was officially opened in 2001 by His Excellency Sir Eric Neal AC, CVO Governor of SA attended by 100 guests. Grants to develop the garden were secured from National Science Week, Centenary of Federation Grants Program, History Trust SA, Australian Wine Research Institute, Federal Department of Industry & Science, Australia Council and private donations.



LEAP Scheme participants helping sculptor Greg Johns to erect 'Floating Figure'. October 1996. Photo Arboretum Archives

In 1998, paths were created in the Mallee section of the Arboretum and the sculptural narratives in Austen steel by Greg Johns were installed complemented by Silvio Apponyi's bronze sculpture

A bronze sculpture 'Dance into the Light' by Meliesa Judge, Liquid Metal Studios, commissioned with a grant from Dr Colin Jenner was installed in

2009. The much loved sculpture depicts Ceres, the Goddess of Agriculture dancing with her daughter Prosperina on her return to Earth from Hades, bringing spring to the world. Last year a lovely three-tiered stone water feature and two gabion and red gum seats were installed to further enhance the garden. The Garden of Discovery had a major boost in 2009 when the Mediterranean Garden Society (SA Branch) adopted it as a project and a continuing partnership was formed. The Society members have completely refurbished the plantings with sustainable native species which they have donated and tend at quarterly weekend working bees. I am very appreciative of their contribution of funds, time and talent. We are still looking for more Tuesday morning volunteers to tend this attractive garden.



Viesturs Cielens, __, Susan Phillips, Mayor Yvonne Caddy, Jennifer, garden volunteers Cicely Bungey, __, Leon Camens, Colin Bungey at the Mitcham Landscaping Award Presentation for the C20th Rose Garden as an outstanding example of a community / collaborative garden project. 1997. Photo City of Mitcham

This year the initiation of fourth of the thematic gardens - the Sun Garden – project begins in earnest. Concept plans have been developed by Viesturs with input from Heritage Roses (SA) and Ross Roses. Detailed design and implementation of the landscaping elements will require considerable funds and sponsors and donors will be sought. The theme will be Memory Roses which will make this garden unique. It will be on the program of places to visit during the World Federation of Rose Societies 2021 Convention in Adelaide.

The Arboretum Grows

Where to begin? Over the last thirty years the planting area has increased by 4.8 ha and over

2,280 trees have been planted, a number of them rare and endangered in the wild and some special collections established. The labyrinth I constructed from recycled Arboretum timber in the 2009/10 Christmas holidays gave me much pleasure to make and has brought many repeat visitors to the gardens, especially children. The construction of the Native Bee Hotel by Terry Langham near the watercourse is also a popular attraction. These, the new Schools program and numerous other projects and events have been featured in the Friends' newsletters over the years. So I will highlight just three of the projects dear to me – the watercourse, Treenet and the Waite Arboretum App.

When I started in 1986, water was pumped from a bore on the eastern side of Waite Road to a straight, kikuyu infested open drain through the Arboretum to the dam, which was used to water the oval. In 1994 I set about creating a more aesthetically pleasing watercourse. Two ponds were excavated and ringed with Kanmantoo stone, a shallow billabong created and the watercourse made to gently meander. A variety of native water plants replaced the kikuyu. The Palm and Cycad Society (SA) offered to develop a collection along the banks and the first 32 specimens were planted. The Society has had a 23 year ongoing partnership with the Arboretum. They have continued to expand and maintain the collection with two or three well attended working bees each year as well as doing the summer watering of new plantings. The specimens are grouped by geographic areas and more than 400 specimens, many rare in cultivation, have been added to the collection. Heinz-Froehlingsdorf, Secretary of the Society has been the driving force behind the project and as an enthusiast keeps me informed of taxonomic name changes. The Contemplation Pond on the watercourse was enhanced in 1999 by the beautiful suite of five bronze 'Waterbirds' sculptures by Meliesa Judge commissioned by a private donor. A bronze sculpture 'Owl Pole' by Will Kuiper, Liquid Metal Studios was installed nearby.

David Lawry OAM, nurseryman and graduate of the Waite, conceived the idea of a cluster group of people who shared an interest in street trees - landscape professionals, planners, tree nurseries, arborists, managers of infrastructure, researchers and educators. In February 1997 we co-founded TREENET Inc. an independent not-for-profit organisation dedicated to improving the urban forest, and based at the Waite Arboretum. Now, 20 years later, TREENET has 70 Institutional Members

(Government, Corporations and Associations), has held 17 very successful Annual National Symposia attended by an average of ~200 delegates from around Australia, and conducted a Shading SA research project to investigating UV blocking characteristics of a range of urban trees. David developed the TREENET Inlet and cistern system to harvest stormwater at the kerb for the benefit of trees and also propagated and registered 'Gallipoli Rosemary'. Royalties from the rosemary sales go towards David's other initiative and passion - the 'Avenues of Honour 1915-2015' project. It has been an honour for me to be part of the TREENET team with Director Glenn Williams and the Management Committee chaired so ably by Dr Greg Moore, University of Melbourne.



Nettie Davidson, Dr Jennifer Gardner, Marian McDuie. Photo Erica Boyle

The Waite Arboretum App opens the digital door to the Arboretum collection. My colleague Marian McDuie and I collaborated closely on this project for a year. Marian has expertise in geospatial data mapping for environmental purposes and the ArcGIS software, lecturing at Urrbrae TAFE on the subject. With my husband Douglas I had produced the first electronic map of the Arboretum in 1990 showing the relative position of

each tree and its canopy extent, but it was not geospatially referenced. Marian converted it to a digital version was then merged with the Arboretum catalogue data to enable our app developer, Carlos Carvalho, Oak Systems, to create various functionalities for smart devices including Near Me, Search and self-guided themed walks. We are very proud of our app, which was launched by our Patron Sophie Thomson in February 2015 and is the source of much interest from other botanical gardens. It has proved to be a very useful management tool as well as enhancing the visitor's experience. Working with Marian continues to be a great pleasure and we are now working with Erica Boyle on the iTree Eco project to quantify the environmental benefits provided by the Arboretum and hope to publish the analysis very soon.

While I was enjoying all the projects and activities in Urrbrae House, the Gardens and Arboretum I continued to oversee the conservation and restoration of another very special area – the Waite Conservation Reserve – 121 hectares of significant Grey Box (*Eucalyptus microcarpa*) Grassy Woodland, a Nationally Endangered Ecological Community. But that story is best left for another newsletter.



Inaugural meeting of the FWA. David Symon, Judy Symon, guides Anna Cox and Mary Tester 1994 Photo

Thankyous

From the preceding ponderings, I think you will see why my 30+ years at the Waite have been such a joy. I haven't been bored for a minute! It has been very rewarding to see the increasing community awareness, use and active participation in my areas. I love sharing the Arboretum, Gardens and Reserve with the public for whose enjoyment Peter Waite left half of his estate. The friendships I have formed and support and encouragement I have received especially from colleagues, volunteers and the Friends have been amazing. I could not have achieved what I have without them. I especially thank Urrbrae House Curators Yvonne Routledge then Lynette Zeitz, Arboretum Groundsmen Mark Ziersch then Andrew Walters, Arboretum Officer Erica Boyle and Kate Delaporte who will be Acting Curator until the position is advertised and an appointment made. A huge thank you to all of you. I also acknowledge Dr David Symon, Curator of the Arboretum for 30 years before me, for his kindness and generosity in sharing his knowledge and ideas. I am very optimistic about the future of the Arboretum, Gardens and Reserve: I believe they are in safe hands. I offer my very best wishes to my successor and the rest of the Arboretum team.

Jennifer Gardner OAM

FRIENDS OF THE WAITE ARBORETUM NEWS

NEW MEMBERS

We warmly welcome the following new members:

Mr Philip Thomas, Colonel Light Gardens

Mr Jon and Mrs Emily Anderson, Urrbrae

Christmas Party

The Friends groups combined once more to have our Christmas Party in December and it was a huge success. It is an occasion when all of the groups can network about the events and comings and goings of the previous year, and sometime make plans about the next one. Joy Middleton welcomed those present and wished all success for the coming year. She also arranged carol singing for those with good voices and this made a cheerful sound for the rest of us who are not gifted thus.

The volunteers were very pleased to see Professor Mike Keller mingling amongst the guests and were very pleased that he could spare the time in his very busy schedule. The Hon. Martin Hamilton-Smith came to wish everyone well. Martin has been a long-term supporter of the Waite Precinct and it was wonderful to have him come to catch up.

Marilyn Gilbertson OAM

Reminder from the Treasurer

Membership subscriptions for 2017 were due on the January 1st. Please renew before April 5th.
Individuals \$20, Families \$25.00

Honorary Life Membership

The inaugural Friends committee comprising Tony Whitehill (President), Cate Paull (VP), Anna Cox (Secretary), Barbara Crompton (Editor), Isabella Rawnsley, Tommie Siekmann, Mary Tester, Barry Dangerfield (dec.), Robyn Barker, Jennifer Gardner (ex officio), initiated what has been a very successful organisation. The committee decided at the last meeting that Honorary Life Membership would be a appropriate public recognition of our deep appreciation.

The decision was prompted by the recent update to the list of members who had served on the Friends committee. In the process of compiling this list it became obvious that what was essentially a small community committee had been an enormous success, because the funds donated to the Adelaide University for the Arboretum over the years had grown to be a impressive sum.

The Committee recognises and thanks these members for their pivotal role in the early days of our organisation.

Beth Johnstone OAM

The School Program

In November students from Mercedes College and from St Josephs College enjoyed a tour of the Arboretum and gardens and activities including painting leaves and making mandalas.

Photos Erica Boyle





Tuesday Garden and Arboretum Volunteers morning tea. Jennifer is wearing an OAM scarf presented to her by volunteer Cicely Bungey AM to celebrate her award. Photo Erica Boyle

Award to Dr Jennifer Gardner OAM

The Australia Day honors list contained news of an Order of Australia Medal awarded to the Curator of the Waite Arboretum, Dr Jennifer Gardner, for service to conservation and the environment. There are many who have thought that this was long overdue and are delighted to be able to offer congratulations.

There is no doubt that Jennifer's commitment and dedication to the development of the Waite Arboretum over the past years has ensured that Peter Waite's gift remains a valuable and valued public space. Early in her tenure Jennifer established community groups to be involved in the maintenance, development and support of the Arboretum, gardens and the Waite Conservation Reserve.

This involvement continues and the Arboretum and gardens have become places of enjoyment for the public as well as resources for education.

We all wish her the very best in the next phase of her career.

Beth Johnstone OAM



FWA committee Beth Johnstone OAM, Dr Wayne Harvey, Terry Langham, Jenny Birvé, Eileen Harvey, Dr Jennifer Gardner OAM, Marilyn Gilbertson OAM, Meg Butler, Dr Peter Nicholls, Erica Boyle. Photo Erica Boyle



Dr Kate Delaporte, Dr Jennifer Gardner OAM and Arboretum guides Eileen Harvey, Jenny Birvé, Graham Bald, Henry Krichauff, Diarshul Sandhu. Photo Erica Boyle

Rita Hall Wall Hanging

The wall hanging entitled *"Tree Stump Interior"* by Rita Hall was gifted to the Arboretum by the late Bryan Milligan who served as President of the Friends of the Waite Arboretum Inc. Committee from 2006 to 2009.

It is 144 x 164 cm in size and is in varied shades of green with light shading of pale grey and cream within the circled outline. The fabric is velvet and it looks very beautiful hanging on a large wall. It was hung for some time in the foyer at Urrbrae House where it attracted admiration.

The hanging was given as a donation to raise funds, and the Committee is delighted to announce that it has been sold and the funds will be used for the benefit of the Arboretum.

Beth Johnstone OAM



Follow the Waite Arboretum on Instagram!



Instagram is an online mobile photo-sharing site that allows its users to share pictures and videos either publicly or privately on the app, as well as through a variety of other social networking platforms, such as Facebook, Twitter, Tumblr, and Flickr. Users can also apply digital filters to their images.

waitearboretumandgardens

On February 1 Erica Boyle created an Instagram account and posted just a few pictures. By February 3 the Arboretum had 247 followers and between 25 and 91 likes on the different pictures.

Volunteers Adrianne Ralph and Gloria Yang working amongst the native grasses in the Garden of Discovery. Photo Erica Boyle



SUMMER IN THE ARBORETUM



Sterculia quadrifida, Peanut Tree. The flowers are followed by decorative orange pods containing edible seeds. Origin NSW, Qld



Aesculus californica, California Buckeye will carry its spectacular crop of woody fruit all through the summer. Native Americans used the poisonous nuts to stupefy schools of fish in small streams to make them easier to catch. Origin California



Quercus ithaburensis, Tabor Oak is mentioned numerous times in the Bible. The acorn can be eaten after roasting: their taste is said to be 'bearable'. Origin Mediterranean



Rhodospaera rhodantha, Deep Yellow Wood has panicles of red flowers in spring followed by clusters of chocolate-coloured brown fruit. The yellow timber is fine grained and attractively figured. Origin NSW, Qld



Corymbia calophylla, Marri has masses of cream flowers on the outside of the canopy. The rough bark often oozes a reddish sap, or kino which gives rise to the common name 'Marri' - the Nyoongar Aboriginal word for blood. Origin WA



Backhousia myrtifolia, Grey Myrtle is a small rainforest tree. Crushed leaves can be rubbed on skin as an insect repellent. Origin NSW, Qld



Ficus macrophylla, Moreton Bay Fig has edible 'fruit', or syconium, an inverted inflorescence with the flowers lining an internal cavity. Like all figs, it is pollinated only by fig wasps. It is the oldest tree in the Arboretum, planted 1893. Origin NSW.



Eucalyptus pleurocarpa, Tallerack is a mallee with exceptionally attractive foliage and juvenile stems. The leaves, buds, fruits and stems are white and waxy. The large leaves are elliptical, blue-grey in colour and leaf margins are almost white. It is suitable for the home garden but can be straggly if not pruned. Origin WA



Backhousia citriodora, Lemon-scented Myrtle is an ornamental, evergreen tree with lemon-scented leaves which have many culinary uses. Leaves contain the essential oils citral and citronellal. Origin Qld



Quillaja brasiliensis is harvested from the wild for its wood and the saponins in its bark which are used as a soap substitute and insecticide. Origin Brazil