



FRIENDS OF THE WAITE ARBORETUM INC.

NEWSLETTER 100 WINTER 2019

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

What's on at Urrbrae House

To commemorate
25 years of FWA.
Morning tea

Thursday October 24 2019
Urrbrae House 11am-1pm

A celebratory morning tea.

Free Guided Arboretum walks
The first Sunday of every month at
11 am. Walks meet at Urrbrae
House on the lawn.

As a Friend of the Waite Arboretum
we are a member of the Australian
Association of Friends of Botanic
Gardens

Check out the events and what is
going on at:
<https://friendsbotanicgardens.org/>



Patron: Sophie Thomson

President: Dr Wayne Harvey, **Vice-President:** Terry Langham

Secretary: Johanna Crosby, **Treasurer:** Joan O'Loughlin

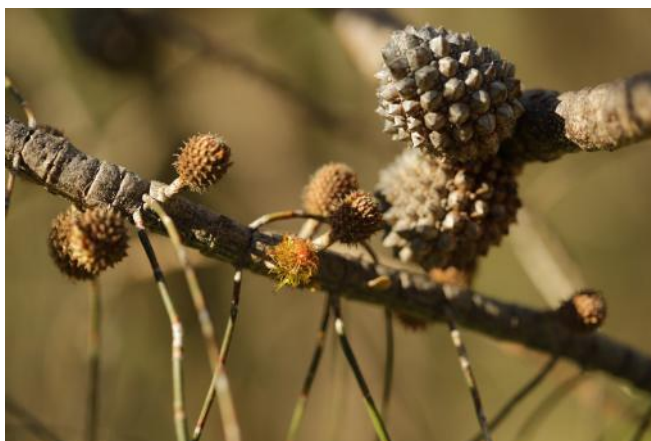
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Photography: Erica Boyle, Jenny Bivé, Jennifer Gardner.



Allocasuarina stricta. A nitrogen fixing dioecious tree from 4 to 10 m tall. The plant flowers all year round. The female flower and fruit showing different stages of development and the male flowers on the end of branchlets. On Kangaroo Island the preferred food item of the Glossy Black Cockatoo. NW corner of Arboretum. Photo JB



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**Arboretum Report. Dr Kate Delaporte April 2019**

As is my normal opening, I lead with a weather report. It has rained, sometimes quite a lot. But, it seems we are much below average still and the winter is predominantly warm and sunny. There is enough rain for things to recover somewhat from the dry summer and autumn, and on the whole, things are looking lush. July is when the Elms finally lose their golden tresses and the Arb looks bare and stark. I see trees in a different way, and see trees that are usually well hidden. It's always a great time for a walk!

A quick update on the Sugar Gum soft fence – the post are in now we are waiting on rope to finish off the 'soft fence' barrier. Stay tuned!

On Tuesday 9 July, the Arboretum, Urrbrae House and the Urrbrae House Gardens co-hosted 30 students from Nanjing University. We spent three hours sharing our three main sites with them; Terry Langham and I the Arboretum, with a focus on our native trees, volunteer Barbara Wills led the groups around the Gardens and Amanda Jackson/Sally Carr led the Urrbrae House tours. The students enjoyed the afternoon as part of their 3 week stay in Adelaide. In June I shared the secrets of the Arboretum with Class 10 students from Mt Barker Waldorf School, to learn about the importance of trees, it was lovely to talk to them and engage them in what trees 'do'. I also had a visit from three lovely and knowledgeable chaps. Bill Funk (Mereweather Arboretum, Dunkeld <https://sites.google.com/smartitguy.com/mereweatherestate/garden-tours>)

Peter Teese (Yamina Rare Plants, Monbulk, <https://www.yaminarareplants.com.au/>) and Peter Taverna.

On a sunny Saturday, we wandered amongst the trees sharing knowledge and stories as we searched for particular specimens. Whilst out walking, we came across the *Arbutus* collection, and snapped a photograph of a stunning red *Arbutus andrachne* fruit. *Arbutus* have been a favourite of mine since I started my horticultural journey, and I am always delighted when I see the delicate flowers and fruit that so reminds me of a candied fruit my grandmother had! Little did I know there were more than *A. unedo*; the Arboretum hosts five specimens, one each of *A. unedo*, *A. andrachne* and *A. menziesii*, and two *A. canariensis* of varying ages.



Arbutus andrachne and *Arbutus canariensis* ERICACEAE Photo KD
Eucalyptus pyriformis x *E. youngiana* MYRTACEAE Photo KD

At the time of writing this, I have spent today immersed in our intensive University of Adelaide Winter School Course Horticulture Production and Quality. This is my new foray into teaching at Waite, with this course the first offering of Horticulture in over 10 years. I studied Horticulture at Waite and it is wonderful to be part of teaching the next generation. Whilst it is something that takes up a lot of time, it is a great opportunity to introduce the Arboretum to the students and encourage them to spend time exploring and hopefully being involved. I am on a mission to raise awareness of the Arboretum to the University population by all ways possible!

With all the news about Planet Earth experiencing the 6th mass extinction event, Erica and I have prioritised the planting of a shrub and ground cover understory to support our native little creatures – we have so much space in the Arboretum that could be growing plants and helping our biodiversity to survive, we should be making the most of it. We are working on two main areas in 2019 – intensive planting of 80 small native plants in the North West Corner to assist in the continued revitalisation of that space, and our Bee, Butterfly and Biodiversity Garden (or the B, B&B) which will fill in the area between the Native Bee Hotel and the Contemplation Pond with an array of small native plants to provide habitat and food for native bees, butterflies and others essential insects, that will in turn support lizards, bats and birds. The B, B&B will be a feature garden to show visitors how our beautiful native plants can work in an informal, low maintenance setting.

In other news, Jennifer Gardner and Marian Mc Duie have been working tirelessly on the Waite Arboretum App – as time has progressed and trees have grown/died/changed shape and new ones planted, the original version of the App needs updating! This has meant checking every single tree for its presence, its size and shape, as well as verifying that the name is unchanged. I am fortunate to have Jennifer so willing and able to continue to provide the Waite Arboretum with her time and expertise!

Kate, 15 July 2019





Report from the President Dr Wayne Harvey

This edition of your Newsletter is number 100.

The Friends of the Waite Arboretum was established 25 years ago at the suggestion of a number of volunteer Arboretum guides. The first meeting of the organisation was held on 12th September 1994 in Urrbrae House, and the FWA was incorporated as a business entity in early 1995. The first Newsletter was produced in Spring 1994.

Newsletters record events and 25 years of the FWA Newsletters provides an insight into the unwavering commitment of the volunteers who make up the Friends. The first projects by this fledgling group were the establishment of the Hakea collection and the planting of various species along water courses in 1995. Later efforts by volunteers concentrated on the restoration of the native understory in the Arboretum northwest corner.

A notable display of the commitment of the volunteers was the defeat of plans by the government of the day to build a kindergarten on an area regarded as Arboretum land. The events surrounding these plans are recorded in Newsletter number 42. Actions taken by FWA volunteers during 1999 and 2000 were successful and an Act of Parliament was repealed. In June 2000 seven oak trees were planted on the site of the proposed kindergarten as a celebratory event. The cancellation of kindergarten building plans on Arboretum land also led to the preservation of a row of mature sugar gums.

A photo from 1999 showing another celebratory event for the "Kindy Story" was reproduced in Newsletter number 90.

The influence of our volunteers showed itself again in 1996 with a successful petition to the University to maintain surface water flow to the dam through the now meandering watercourse, planted with native water plants, palms and cycads. The development of the watercourse began in 1994 with the creation of a series of ponds and the planting of native water plants. The watercourse was designed to replace the earlier weed-infested flowline that could only be described as a drain. Your Newsletter shared this achievement.

Colour photographs were included in the Newsletter only intermittently until 2012. Newsletter number 72 released in that year began to use the current format of text in columns and the widespread use of colour.

The FWA Newsletter has provided a valuable record of work undertaken in the Arboretum over the past 25 years. Thankyou to a succession of Newsletter contributors and editors whose work ensures the key events and activities in the Arboretum are recorded.



Eucalyptus cladocalyx. Sugar gums on the site of the old Netherby Kindergarden. The cancellation of kindergarten building plans on Arboretum land in 1999 led to the preservation of a row of mature sugar gums. *E. cladocalyx* has no close relatives and is the only SA species with discoloured adult leaves. Three geographical variants are known.

(Dean Nicolle) Photo JB



Quercus alnifolia. Golden oak. FAGACEAE. Cyprus 1999. Growing in the area of the old kindergarden at the Waite Arboretum. Like other members of the oak genus, *Quercus alnifolia* forms mutually beneficial, ectomycorrhizal associations with various fungi. It is an evergreen oak species of Cyprus, and limited to the Troodos Mountain, at altitudes from 400 to 1700 m, in rocky, steep and gentle slopes. Its common English name refers to the golden coloured lower surface of its leaves. Due to its short stature (up to 10 m high) it is sometimes referred to as the dwarf oak. Photo JB



Visit of the FWA to Liquid Metals Studio Exhibition 31 May 2019 Dr Jennifer Gardner

In May, 18 Friends visited a retrospective exhibition of sculpture celebrating 20 years of Meliesa Judge and Will Kuiper at their Liquid Metal Studios (LMS). Visitors to the Arboretum will be familiar with Meliesa's bronze 'Water Birds' suite at the Contemplation Pond and Will's 'Owl Pole'. Meliesa's bronze figures 'Dance into the Light' grace the Garden of Discovery.

The last major exhibition by LMS was in Urrbrae House in 2000. In 2001 Meliesa was awarded a prestigious Churchill Fellowship and they spent a summer in a studio in the south of France working around the clock, challenged by new ideas and materials and expert advice, as well as exploring the great art collections of Europe.

Meliesa and Will not only design their contemporary figurative sculptures but do all their bronze casting. Meliesa first told us about the importance of art to communicate and inspire, her philosophy of art and her creative process. She then explained, with examples, the lost wax technique of bronze sculpture and astonished us all with the complexity, thought, discipline and physical effort required. Meliesa and Will work to the highest standards. Their sculptures have movement, narrative and meaning.

The process starts with researching the subject and their story, development of the concept, finding the right person to model the human figure and the creation of maquettes for approval by the client. Then follows the manufacture so eloquently described by Meliesa on their website:

"There is a sheer visceral materiality to sculpture that keeps an artist grounded in reality; the grit and slip of clay, the slow emergence of form from shapeless mass, the slurry of plaster, the hot honey smell of wax melting, liquid rubber gelling into shape, mapping the path of burning gas as it spirals through a kiln, hot moulds that weigh ¼ of a tonne yet are as fragile as eggshells, the astonishing, wondrous, iridescent fluidity of molten bronze, the crucible glowing orange. I find myself looking into a 'volcano', looking back into the cauldron of creation. And then, when the firing is over; the black crust of the cast contours in a mountain of plaster waste, like the first clues emerging from an archaeological dig, three dimensional jigsaws of jagged fragments. I live in my dust mask and gloves amongst shards and splinters of ground metal. I spend whole days in the silent chamber of earplugs and face-masks, every ounce of energy focused on the spinning of the tungsten tipped grinders.

The final serenity of a completed work never reveals the whirlwind of activity that has brought it into being."

One of Will's most striking designs is the bronze of Malcolm Blight, a footballer renowned for the longest goal kick, at the Adelaide Oval. There were maquettes of 'Blighty's' athleticism on display. Both Will and Meliesa worked on this impressive larger than life size bronze. The entire project took one and a half tonnes of clay; 300 kilos of bronze; 40 kilos of silicone rubber and 120 kgs of acrylic rubber and 120 kgs of acrylic resin; three tonnes of calcinated fine clay; one tonne of plaster; 800 litres of LPG; 4 tanks of argon welding gas – and finally a tally of 3,260 hours!

My favourite works on display were two commissioned ¾ size naked bronze figures 'Dominique' and 'The Architect' by Meliesa and an extraordinary full size figure on a surf board riding wave forms high overhead 'Tailslide: Surf Odyssey' by Will. There were also many small sculptures to delight the eye.

It was a very memorable excursion and those attending were most appreciative of the time the artists spent sharing their vision and passion with us.



Marilyn Gilbertson, Jennifer, Meliesa and Beth Johnstone with 'Dominique' and FWA with Meliesa and 'Dominique'.



Meliesa and Will with 'The Architect'. To learn more about Liquid Metal Studios, their aesthetic values and their work visit <http://www.liquidmetalstudios.com.au/>



WORLD ENVIRONMENTAL DAY FRIDAY 5 JUNE

The World Environment Day is the United Nations day for encouraging worldwide awareness and action to protect our environment. To celebrate it a perfect activity took place at the Waite Arboretum in July: a tree planting day!

Fifteen trees were planted recently thanks to the participation and help of members of the United Nations Association of Australia - SA Division. We were also honoured with the presence of Dr Heather Holmes-Ross - Mayor of City of Mitcham and Elizabeth Day - Director of the Department of Foreign Affairs, South Australian State Office.

The new specimens planted had become part of our diverse collection of trees but most importantly, they now represent a strong bond between the planters and their trees. We counted also with the fresh input and help of five little young helpers!

The Arboretum welcomes these new species to its grounds:

Aesculus x carnea 'Briotii'

Aesculus x carnea 'Plantierensis'

Aesculus hippocastanum 'Baumannii'

Aesculus pavia

Aesculus sylvatica 'Erythroblastos'

Arbutus x andrachnoides

Atalaya multiflora

Beilschmiedia berteroana

Pistacia lentiscus

Quercus 'Mayday Hills'



United Nations Association of Australia - SA Division assisted with the planting of 15 trees in the Waite Arboretum for World Environment Day. Photo EB.



Eucalyptus grossa

Coarse-leaved Mallee

MYRTACEAE WA.

The name *grossa*, meaning 'thick', refers to the distinctive thick, glossy leaves. The branchlets and buds are reddish and the flowers yellow. Drought resistant, it occurs in loamy or clay soils.

Photo KD



Phascogale cinereus The koala, an arboreal native herbivorous marsupial, in the Waite Arboretum sitting in *Eucalyptus kruseana*, the Bookleaf Mallee. Photos by Amelia Birvé and KD.





Podargus strigoides The Tawny Frogmouth is native to Australia.
Waite Conservation Reserve. Photo Carolyn Schulz.



FRIENDS OF PARKS
SOUTH AUSTRALIA

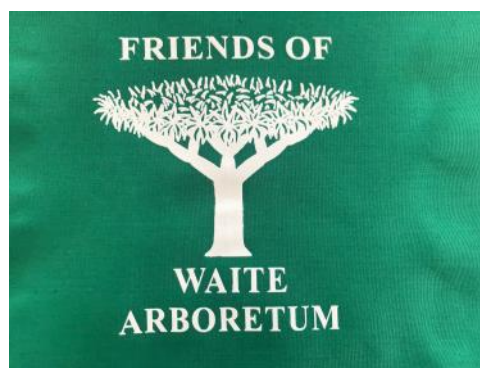
Volunteers working for conservation

Friends of Parks SA would like recognize those long serving members of the FWA. There are:

45 members with 15 or more years membership

15 members since the first year of memberships (1994)

We all value the Waite Arboretum, and supporting it with our FWA membership means caring for this wonderful Living Collection.



Limited Edition Aprons- Friends of Waite Arboretum.
\$25 each. One size fits all, 2 Pockets, tie at back.
Send order details to
friendswaitearboretum@gmail.com



Seat of the Season

Jennifer Gardner, Curator of the Waite Arboretum 1986—2019

Just a few of the many Activities and Achievements of Jennifer Gardner for the Waite Arboretum during her time as Curator.

- 1986 Appointed to the position of Curator Waite Arboretum commencing 5 May 1986 in the Director's Unit.
- 1988 The Waite Land-Use Planning Group produced a Zoning Plan for the campus which recommended the designation of 2.05 hectares of the Arboretum for other uses, for example residential, buildings and an orchard. This would have resulted in 200 trees being removed. Jennifer submitted a strong response to prevent this plan going ahead.
- 1989 Creation with Douglas Gardner the first digital map of the trees in the Waite Arboretum
- 1994 Foundation of the Friends of the Waite Arboretum on 12 September 1994.
Guest Speaker: David Symon "Collecting trees for the Waite Arboretum" First Newsletter Spring 1994.
- 1999 In collaboration with FWA and other supportive organisations and individuals, a public meeting was held to oppose the rebuilding of the Netherby Kindergarten on Arboretum land to restore the integrity of the Waite Bequest. The community movement was successful, the alienated land was returned to the Arboretum.
- 1999 Production of a Management Plan for the conservation and restoration of the understory Black Forest flora in the NW Arboretum by Andrew Crompton paid for by FWA.
- 2002 Arboretum: Major cull of 80 specimens which were dead, in decline or common. 45 new specimens planted – expanding the Dry Rainforest Collection. All the Eucalypt specimens in the NE Arboretum were formatively pruned by arborists.
- 2007 Expansion of the Dry Rainforest Collection.
- 2008 The Arboretum was featured in ABC TV 'Gardening Australia' program with Sophie Thomson. Sophie subsequently accepted the invitation to be the Patron of the Friends of the Waite Arboretum.
- 2009 Entomologist Dr Richard Glaetz discovered three species of buprestid beetles in the NW Arboretum: *Agrilus* sp., *Cisseis* sp. both on *Acacia pycnantha* and 12 *Germarica liliputana* on *Allocasuarina verticillata*. Also in the NW Arboretum Richard discovered 4 specimens of a wasp *Aulacus* sp. The Aulacidae family is rarely collected and there are only 4 species identified in SA, represented in the SA Museum by a mere 12 specimens in total. Quite a find!
- 2015 Launch of Waite Arboretum App
- 2017 Retired 24 Feb 2017
- 2017 Continuing to work on Arboretum and Reserve projects in the honorary position of Visiting Associate and volunteering in the Gardens, Arboretum and Reserve.



This seat is located under the *Quercus douglasii*, a favourite tree of Jennifer and her husband Douglas Gardner. Photos JB

Winter in the Arboretum.

The Waite Arboretum App has more information about these plant species.



Cupressus sempervirens Candle Pine CUPRESSACEAE
S Europe W. Asia. 1928 A coniferous evergreen tree to 35 m, having a fastigate crown, or branches parallel to the main stem. It is very long-lived, with some trees reported to be over 1,000 years old. It is also known for its very durable, scented wood, used most famously for the doors of St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican City, Rome. The oldest living Cypress is the Sarv-e-Abarkooh in Iran's Yazd Province. Its age is estimated to be approximately 4,000 years. *Photo JB.*



Euclea pseudobenus Cape Ebony. EBENACEAE Sth Africa. 1980
Drought hardy with branchlets hanging down the length of the tree. The heartwood is fine grained, brown to black and very hard. *Photo JB*



Eucalyptus lansdowneana subsp. *albopurpurea* Port Lincoln mallee MYRTACEAE. *Albus* meaning white in Latin and *purpurea* meaning purple, referring to the variable flower colour in the species. Endemic to S.A. and known only from K.I. and the southern tip of Eyre Peninsula. Unique in being the only eucalypt which commonly has purple flowers. Plants on lower Eyre Peninsula commonly have purple flowers, while those on K.I. have white or more rarely pink flowers. (Dean Nicolle) *Photo JB.*



Eucalyptus leucoxylon subsp. *stephaniae* MYRTACEAE Occurs from the Eastern side of Lake Alexandrina eastwards, both coastal and inland, and across to the Vic. Border. This species may be more drought tolerant than the four other subspecies of *leucoxylon*. (Native Eucalypts of SA Dean Nicolle) *Photo JB*