



FRIENDS OF THE WAITE ARBORETUM INC.

NEWSLETTER 101 SPRING 2019

25 YEARS FRIENDS OF WAITE ARBORETUM

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

**Membership
subscriptions now
due.**

What's on at Urrbrae House

Free guided Arboretum walks
First Sunday of the month at
11am. Meet on lawns
of Urrbrae House

Christmas Party at Urrbrae
House

Mon. 2nd December from
4:30

FOUH and FWA and FWCR
Friends of Friends

Basketry Exhibition
Tracks Through Weaving
Urrbrae House 15 –27 Feb.
Arboretum Fibre walk
16 Feb 2020 11am.



Patron: Sophie Thomson

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

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

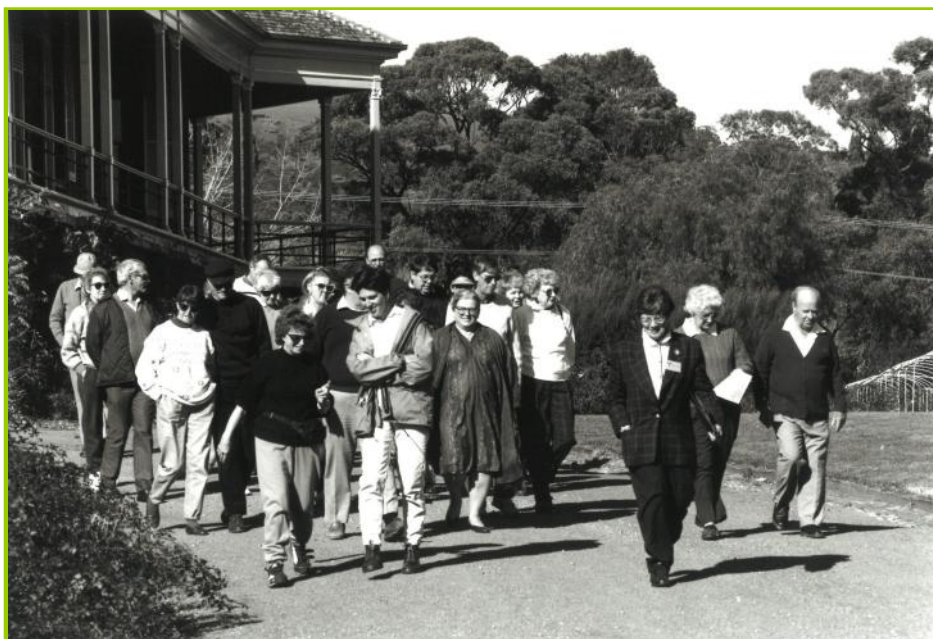
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Committee: Erica Boyle, Marilyn Gilbertson OAM, Dr Kate Delaporte (ex officio)

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Photography: Erica Boyle, Jenny Bivré, Jennifer Gardner.



Friends of Waite Arboretum first guides, leading a walk in 1994.

Guides include Isabella Rawnsley, Cate Paull and Anna Cox.

The following are those members who have been Friends of Waite Arboretum from its
inaugural year 1994/95—2019.

David Catcheside, Pam Catcheside, Jennifer Gardner, Judy Symon, Colin Jenner,
Barbara Radcliffe, Isabella Rawnsley, Ian Roberts, Robert Speer, Mary Tester, Tony Whitehill,
Gaye Boehm, Anna Cox, Max Ewer, Beryl Martin, Marian Wells, Edith Lees.

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24 October 2019



Arboretum Report. Dr Kate Delaporte 2019

Just for fun, I looked back on the October report from 2018. What has changed? We have had another impossibly dry spring, our average rainfall is 135 mm lower than average as we reach the end of October (Kent Town <http://www.bom.gov.au/products/IDS65000.shtml>). Soil moisture levels continue to be lower than we'd like them to be. We are showing "neutral" for ENSO – (El Niño–Southern Oscillation), that's a relief, although it seems to not be as important to us as the Indian Ocean Dipole, which is positive and heavily influencing our current rainfall, or lack of it. And the new kid on the block, the Southern Annular Mode, is making its presence felt. Here, we are experiencing what my mum calls a "green drought" – green growth and grass, but barely. I won't put my rain dance boots away.

The trees will survive, or they won't. We cannot help them, or can we?

Future strategy for the Waite Arboretum – "The Living Lab"

What does the future hold for our Arboretum? Or more specifically: how will the climate change on the Adelaide Plains and foothills, and how will that effect our trees? Can we keep them alive; should we? What do we plant next, where do we look for compatible species? How do we maintain the importance of the Arb as a showcase of trees thriving (or not) in the Adelaide environment, how do we bring the community of Adelaide, SA, Australia, the world, along with us?

Interesting questions, and ones that we will work to answer with a special PhD project in the offing at the Waite Arboretum. I will team up with Dr Doug Bardsley (School of Social Sciences – Geography) and Dr Ian Nuberg (School Ag, Food & Wine) to supervise our student through what will be an exciting and ground breaking project, as The Waite Arboretum becomes an international model for understanding changes to urban Mediterranean environments.

As I mentioned at the Friends 25th anniversary morning tea, I am full of great ideas – not great as in awesomely amazing, but great as in great big ideas! One of those is related to my mission to do whatever it takes to preserve the 140+ year *Eucalyptus cladocalyx* on Walter Young Avenue, that seem to constantly raise the ire of the safety conscious amongst us. I struggle to understand how humans, who are mobile and have a free will, can call a large tree "dangerous" because it may drop a branch on the human who CHOOSES to stand under said tree, who could easily stand elsewhere (or chooses to park there, or chooses to build a road or a house there).

The tree cannot move, it has no choice. We have a choice; we can move. We can choose to revere and protect these veterans or we can choose to destroy them because of some perceived risk. So, how can we protect these trees? We remove the opportunity of the humans to stand under the trees! With the stalwart support of Arboretum volunteer and FWA Vice President Terry Langham and the very talented weaver/artist Sylvia Piddington, we have installed a long "soft fence" to gently prevent humans from stomping around under these majestic trees. Terry and I rolled out the rope, Sylvia has been busy splicing the rope (amazing skill set!) and will be creating some other magic on site soon (stay tuned!). Soon, there will be signs and understory planting, and the first of the next generation of trees will be established so that in 50-100 years when the oldest are fully and gracefully senescent, there will be large trees to replace them.

Kate, 1 November 2019

In February 2020, there will be a Basketry Exhibition, Tracks Through Weaving 15-27 Feb. held in Urrbrae House. The Waite Arboretum Guides will take visitors on a walk with the theme
Fibre Walk - Natural Materials for Creative Arts
Sunday 16 Feb at 11am.



Sylvia Piddington, splicing the rope which is installed as a soft fence around the *Eucalyptus cladocalyx* species on Walter Young Avenue.

I would like to take this opportunity to formally recognise the significant contributions made by Andrew Walters over this past eight years or so. Andrew joined the Arboretum staff in 2012 and left us a month ago as a result of an organisational change within the University. As a valued member of the Arboretum Team, Andrew can be justifiably proud of the fine state of Arboretum we currently enjoy.
From Stuart Matthews, the Manager of the School of Agriculture Food and Wine



Dr Jennifer Gardner's speech Thursday October 24 2019
25 Years FWA

Report from the President Dr Wayne Harvey

The Southern Hemisphere has moved from winter to spring. Six months ago the Northern Hemisphere experienced their own shift to spring and the trees across that part of the world showed welcomed signs of a seasonal change after the northern winter. This change gave some locals the opportunity to reflect on the value of trees in their cities and towns. A journalist in the USA noted trees weren't always part of their urban landscape. The first major urban tree-planting campaign in the US was in New York City in the 1870s, leading to the formation of local groups of residents planting trees in front of their homes, apartment buildings and public schools. The motivation for planting trees in the streets of that city at that time were aesthetic and to provide shade during hot summers. Our understanding of the contribution of trees has expanded since then.

A few years ago a professor of engineering in the US stated that "trees clean the air and water, reduce stormwater floods, improve building energy use and mitigate climate change, among other things". He suggested that for every dollar invested in planting trees, city residents see an average \$2.25 return each year on their investment. Other researchers have since developed a software package called i-Tree that can show how trees help to reduce the effects of flooding, air pollution, high energy use and carbon dioxide emissions. Many large cities around the world have applied i-Tree to their own streetscapes and have quantified the benefits of trees to their citizens.

The Arboretum was the subject of an i-Tree analysis in 2017. University staff and volunteers applied the i-Tree assessment tool to about half of the trees growing in the Arboretum. This analysis indicated that those trees store carbon equivalent to the annual carbon emissions from 910 vehicles or 373 single-family houses. The trees remove gases like ozone, carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, sulphur dioxide and particulate matter (smaller than 2.5 microns) from the atmosphere equivalent to the annual emissions from 160 vehicles or 36 single-family homes, produce 90 tonnes of oxygen per year, and prevent more than 1,000 cubic metres of rainfall being lost each year as runoff.

This analysis gives us some idea of the capacity of the Arboretum to remove carbon dioxide and add oxygen to our atmosphere. Little wonder trees have been described as a "natural climate solution".

Being able to quantify the environmental benefits of trees adds a new dimension to our appreciation of the Arboretum and the urban forest more generally.

The inaugural Arboretum guides and the foundation of The Friends of the Waite Arboretum

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Friends of the Waite Arboretum, so it is timely to acknowledge the pivotal role played by the inaugural Arboretum guides and the huge contribution made by this dedicated group who share their knowledge and love of the Arboretum with the wider community.

The guides first came together on 18 April 1994. There were eight of us: Anna Cox, Barbara Crompton, Cate Paull, Dr Barbara Radcliffe, Isabella Rawnsley, Tommie Siekmann, Mary Tester and me. With the exception of Cate and myself, the inaugural Arboretum guides were also guiding at the Botanic Gardens of Adelaide and so were already expertly trained.

Barbara led the first guided walk in May and these regular walks on the first Sunday of every month of the year have continued to be offered without a break to the present. Barbara is still an Arboretum guide – congratulations Barbara on your remarkable 25 years of service. In 1995 Jean Bird and Dr David Symon joined the guides, in 1999 Roger Bungey joined us and then in succession Kevin Kemmis, Dr Peter Nicholls, Robert Boardman, Tony Cole, Henry Krichauff, Eileen Harvey, Diarshul Sandhu, Jenny Birvé, Rosemary Phillips, Graham Bald, Curator Dr Kate Delaporte, Linda Blake, Terry Langham and Arboretum Officer Erica Boyle who also coordinates the guides and takes bookings. Guides are great ambassadors for the Arboretum. Their regular and booked walks are a significant component of the Arboretum educational program and community outreach.

The inaugural guides formed a steering committee to establish a Friends of the Waite Arboretum group and on the 12 September 1994 a public meeting was held attended by 50 people, with apologies from 20 well-wishers. I spoke about the role of the Arboretum, the recent addition of four hectares and expansion of the Eucalypt Collection, and other developments such as the beautification of the watercourse with a series of ponds to which the Palm & Cycad Society (SA) contributed – donating rare plants and maintenance which continues 25 years later.

Continued..



Inaugural meeting of Friends of Waite Arboretum December 1994



Arboretum Guides 1996



Inaugural meeting of FWA. Photo EB.



David and Judy Symon, Anna Cox, and Mary Tester



Leon Camens, Isabella Rawnsley, and Cate Paull.

Previous long-serving Curator Dr David Symon was then invited to formally put a motion to form the Friends which was seconded by Dean Nicolle and duly endorsed by those present. A draft Constitution prepared by the steering committee was presented and adopted. The first Committee was elected: Anna Cox, Barbara Crompton, Barry Dangerfield, Dean Nicolle, Cate Paull, Isabella Rawnsley, Tommie Siekmann, Mary Tester, Tony Whitehill and myself ex officio.

Over the years the Friends of the Waite Arboretum have held many varied and successful events including: 15+ selling art exhibitions with works by Beryl Martin, Woodgroup SA, Basketry SA, Gilbert Dashorst and others, four themed dinners with botanical commentaries, open days, concerts, film events, excursions, public talks, themed guided walks, a gala truffle dinner, fungal forays, and 25 Christmas joint parties with the Friends of Urrbrae House and Friends of the Waite Conservation Reserve. The Friends of the Arboretum also provided invaluable assistance with 20 TREENET Symposia held at the Waite and helped host the opening events of the Sensory Garden, Rose Garden and Garden of Discovery.

Through their fundraising events the Friends have donated over \$200,000 to the Arboretum which has funded interpretive signs, a permanent Arboretum Exhibition in Urrbrae House, the Arboretum shed, equipment, Waite Arboretum Wildlife Orienteering Trail and other projects.

My heartfelt thanks, best wishes and warmest congratulations to the Friends of the Waite Arboretum on their 25th anniversary. Long may you to continue to grow and flourish!

Jennifer Gardner

23/10/19

Activities in the Waite Arboretum this Spring



The visitors to the North West of the Waite Arboretum, on 6 Oct. 2019. Together we looked at the progress of the restoration of Grey Box Grassy Woodland in this area of the Arboretum. Some of the plants we looked at were *Linum marginale*, *Rytidosperma* sp., *Senecio quadridentatus*, *Hardenbergia violacea*, *Themeda triandra*, *Eutaxia microphylla* and *Clematis microphylla*. Photo EB.



Dr Kate Delaporte, Terry Langham and Jenny Birvé leading a group from CSIRO on a walk through the Waite Arboretum. Photo JB.



Jack Kelly, pictured bottom left, is an Intern undertaking the Bachelor of Applied Biology, and Qili Xu (Jerry) is a B. AgSc. student who has been volunteering in the Arboretum for over 12 months. Both are helping to construct the BB&B site. Photo EB.



A new accommodation for bees, butterflies, birds and other living creatures has been recently planted very close to the Bee Hotel in the Mallee section of the Arboretum. Ernest pictured top right, is a recent volunteer. Photo EB.



Thank you day

On Tuesday 29 October the Adelaide University Volunteer Program invited all volunteers to a morning tea to celebrate another year and volunteers were presented with awards.

Erica Boyle (right) was presented with flowers in appreciation of all her dedicated work towards organizing and facilitating the very successful volunteer programs at the Waite Precinct. Photos JB.



Walk in North West of the Arboretum. 6 October, 2019



Jennifer is demonstrating how to use the Waite Arboretum App. in front of *Corymbia eximia*, Yellow Bloodwood, which has unusually long leaves and yellow-brown tessellated bark. Photo JB.



Terry Langham and Costa Georgiadis recently caught up in the Waite Arboretum. Terry works tirelessly for the well being of the Waite Arboretum. Costa is host on ABC Gardening Australia. Both Terry and Costa have much in common. Photo EB.



Observed in the N/W corner of Arboretum. Skippers are in the family *Hesperiidae*, of the *Lepidoptera*. They are named for their quick, darting flight habits. Being diurnal, they are generally called butterflies. They were previously placed in a separate superfamily, *Hesperioidea*, however the most recent taxonomy places the family in the superfamily *Papilionoidea*. Photo JB.

Rose Garden now in bloom.
Erica with a small team of volunteers has been planting more than 160 new varieties in preparation for the Rose Festival in 2021. More to come in the next edition....
Photo EB





Garden Seat of the Season

Terry Langham, Vice-President of the Friends of the Waite Arboretum has collated the names of those people who have donated seats, in the Waite Arboretum. Terry has listed the history of some of the people (scientists, researchers staff and recreational visitors). Seats/sculptures described in Newsletters are extracts from Terry's collections and show a nearby tree species. Photo of Bryan taken by Lynette Zeitz and of *Cassia brewsteri* by Eileen Harvey.

BRYAN LESLIE MILLIGAN 1938 – 2015



Arboretum Seat of the Season – Bryan Milligan

Against the lovely backdrop of the Cigar Cassia *Cassia brewsteri* (#107) near the watercourse is a seat in memory of Bryan Milligan. The plaque reads "He always brought love, intelligence & smiles."

Bryan was a delightful person and valued colleague. He worked at the Waite Institute for many years as Assistant Farm Manager and later Manager of Research in Rural Services. He appreciated the Arboretum and was very welcoming and encouraging to me when I took up the position of Curator. At that time, the farm staff maintained all the Waite grounds including the orchards, potting sheds, experimental fields and Urrbrae House gardens - mowing the lawns, planting a spectacular display of annuals around the heart lawn and pruning the roses. Farm staff also maintained the Arboretum – grazing woolly quadrupeds to keep down the grass and reduce fire risk, planting, watering and protecting new trees. In those days of high wool prices, the sheep were not only a valuable research flock and grass mowers, but generated income to pay for the shepherd and buy equipment for the gardens!

Bryan and I served together on the Waite Grounds Committee and he was always very protective of the Arboretum arguing against any encroachment by proposed buildings.

Following his retirement, Bryan joined the Friends of the Waite Arboretum Committee, serving for eight years (2003 -2010) including two years as Vice-President then four years as President.

Bryan also volunteered at the City of Burnside, working on a bush care site with Andrew Crompton, so he took an interest in the restoration of native understorey species in the NW Arboretum.

Jennifer Gardner



25 Years Friends of Waite Arboretum



Inaugural guides: Mary Tester, Jennifer Gardner, Barbara Radcliffe, Isabelle Rawnsley with the inaugural President, Tony Whitehill.
Photo JB.



Judy Symon, Jennifer Gardner and Beth Chandler. Photo Lynette Zeitz.



Dr Kate Delaporte, the Curator of the Waite Arboretum, describing some exciting ideas for the future. Photo JB



Marilyn Gilbertson and Judy Symon. Photo Lynette Zeitz.



25th anniversary morning tea, 24 October 2019. Photo JB.



Daniel, Rosemary, Terry, Kate, Ernest, Erica and Joan.
Photo Lynette Zeitz.