



FRIENDS OF THE WAITE ARBORETUM INC.

NEWSLETTER 102 SUMMER 2020

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

What's on at Urrbrae House

Free Guided Arboretum walks

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

Tracks Through Weaving

Exhibition Opening:

2pm Sat. 15 Feb Urrbrae House

Exhibition dates:

15 –27 Feb 2020

Gallery open:

Mon — Fri. 11am — 4pm

Sat & Sun 1— 4 pm

Arboretum Fibre Walk

Sunday 16 Feb 11am

Departs from lawns of Urrbrae house.

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



Patron: Sophie Thomson

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

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Photography: Erica Boyle, Jenny Bivé, Jennifer Gardner.



Albizia lebbek East India walnut, kokko FABACEAE Tropical Asia 1947. The flowers have long stamens and are fragrant. Native to the Kimberly region, northern parts of NT and far north QLD. Photo JB

Table of Contents

2. Arboretum Report. Dr Kate Delaporte
3. Report from the President. Dr Wayne Harvey
4. Waite Arboretum App V2, Dr Jennifer Gardner. Volunteer Annual Report. Erica Boyle. New Website FWA. Terry Langham
5. The 10th Anniversary of the Garden of Discovery. Seat of the Season
6. Wandering around the Waite Arboretum. By Room 1A Mitcham Primary School Year 1 Kids
7. Palm and Cycad Society of South Australia's 25 year contribution
8. 25 Years Anniversary Palm and Cycad Society of SA. PACSOSA



Arboretum Report. Dr Kate Delaporte January 2020

Happy 2020 – we ended the decade with terrible bushfires across southern Australia – every day seems to be a new blaze and a new tragedy and my heart is heavy with the loss of plants and animals that suffer through our “civilisation”.

But this is not a newsletter to dwell on the calamitous events around Australia – except that I must share the news that the Bureau of Meteorology tells us that Indian Ocean Dipole has headed into neutral territory and that the Southern Annular Mode has also broken down – hopefully a more ‘normal’ weather pattern is on the way for 2020 - but what is normal these days? As I type this a cyclone has briefly formed off the NW WA coast at last... and we are expecting a median summer rainfall for the rest of the summer <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/enso/>. As was the story in January 2019, the ground is still hot and dry, without much rain or cloud cover to reduce the sun’s intensity. We have more ‘ground cover’ although for some it means an abundance of barley grass seeds in their socks! We are continuing to work on the strategy to maintain cover of some kind, throughout the Arboretum to reduce water loss and radiant heat. The trick is to increase the presence of perennial native grass species while reducing the annual and perennial introduced weeds. There will be work towards that goal in 2020 and I will report on activities as they happen.

This year has seen a number of organisations celebrate milestones of achievement with the Waite Arboretum – in December the Palm and Cycad Society of South Australia (PACSOSA) celebrated 25 years of partnership with the Waite Arboretum. I was pleased to be invited to celebrate the 25th anniversary on Sunday 3rd November 2019, with a tour of the extensive plantings lead by Heinz Froehlingsdorf, with Heinz commenting on the joys and woes of planting on this variable site. We finished up with a group barbeque and cake to celebrate the occasion! My heartfelt thanks to Heinz and his crew, for their commitment and dedication to creating this fascinating ‘hidden valley’ in our wonderful Arboretum!



Heinz Froehlingsdorf leads group on tour of the Palm & Cycad plantings



Heinz Froehlingsdorf and Max Bawden cut the celebration cake!

All the new plantings that we have engaged in through 2019 to increase our biodiversity need to be watered! Many thanks to our volunteers who contribute many hours to watering outside of the gardens – the North West (Margaret, Marilyn and Alan, Geoffrey) and the Arboretum (Ernest) and the Bee, Butterfly, and Bird Garden (Ernest and Rob) and Erica who has kept the plantings going over the hot Christmas break when we have been unable to have volunteer days because of the high temperatures.....

On 6th December we celebrated the unveiling of a plaque to formally name the “Coach House Garden” – the small garden area between the Coach House and the south Claremont Avenue Olive Hedge. The Garden has been lovingly tended by Garden volunteers Laurel Crouch and Tomai Martin for many years and their care has produced a garden of colour and interest from an area of varied dense shade and poor soil. More recently the planting list has focussed on perennial and annual plants that would have been common in Peter Waite’s time – the 1880s. Urrbrae House Historic Precinct Manager Lynette Zeitz began the proceedings and introduced Ms Jeanette (Nettie) Davidson who formally unveiled the commemorative plaque, and recognised Laurel and Tomai for their contribution.



Interim Dean of Waite Campus Associate Professor Chris Ford, Laurel Crouch and Tomai Martin, School Agriculture Food and Wine Manager Stuart Matthews



Report from the President Dr Wayne Harvey

The Friends began celebrating its 25th year of operation with a special event held last October. At that event we announced we intend to be even more active throughout our 25th year, to raise more funds to ensure the the original intention of Peter Waite's gift is maintained and that the Waite Arboretum remains available to the community as a valuable resource. We plan to hold events during 2020 designed to increase the profile of the Arboretum with the community and to raise funds as donations and bequests to the University of Adelaide for the care, development, use and promotion of the Arboretum.

The Friends of Waite Arboretum will continue to cooperate with the University in the promotion of fund-raising activities that benefit the Arboretum. I encourage all our members to continue with efforts to help us achieve our objective.

Members may have seen references in the media and elsewhere to the planned traffic flow changes at the intersection of Fullarton and Cross Roads. The 'artists impression' on the state government's Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure website shows both roads expanded with extra traffic lanes. Each of Fullarton and Cross Road run along boundaries of the Arboretum so it is appropriate that everyone with an interest in the integrity of the Arboretum has an interest in the scope and scale of works for the planned changes to the roads at this intersection.

We can now quantify the environmental benefits of trees in general, and specifically those in the Arboretum, so the irony of compromising any wooded space to allow an increase in the flow of greenhouse gas-generating vehicles cannot be missed. Even more so in light of the State Government's recent announcement of a grants scheme to fund community projects that "promote urban greening and climate change resilience."

I have written on behalf of the Friends to the relevant State Government Member to seek full disclosure of the plans as they evolve and to provide us with a response that might either assuage our concerns or allow us to try to discourage the government from undertaking works adjacent to the Arboretum without full regard to the consequences. No response has been received at the time of writing this column.



Neutrog donates fertilisers for the Urrbrae House Gardens and the Waite Arboretum native plants.

Arboretum report continued.

The gathering of their friends and family enjoyed a light morning tea and a tour of the Garden. Along with Nettie and Lynette, the Interim Dean of Waite Campus Associate Professor Chris Ford, School Agriculture Food and Wine Manager Stuart Matthews, Volunteer Program Coordinator Kerry James, Community Relations officer Tania Johnson, Curator of the Waite Arboretum Dr Kate Delaporte and Arboretum Officer Erica Boyle, and members of the Davidson clan, were all in attendance to celebrate this very special occasion with Laurel and Tomai. We wish them well with their future endeavours and thank them very much for their commitment to the Coach House Garden over the years.

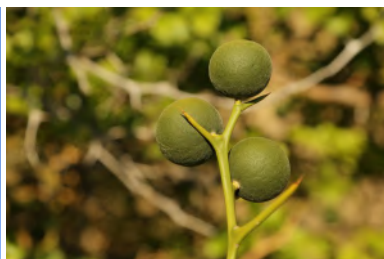
We are especially pleased as the Arboretum staff will now be able to enjoy the Coach House Garden's beauty more often, as the Arboretum Office is moving to the Coach House! We hope to be fully installed by the end of January – please feel free to visit us!

Here is to hoping that Mother Nature and the Weather Gods are kind to us in 2020, and we get enough rain to start growing again!

Kate, 10 January 2020



With temperatures in the 40 Celsius range over New Year, the koala in the Waite Arboretum found a cool place, in a *Eucalyptus camaldulensis*, located next to the dam at the head of the watercourse. Photo JB



Poncirus trifoliata trifoliate orange
RUTACEAE China. The species is unusual among citrus for having deciduous compound leaves and pubescent (downy) fruit.

The trifoliate orange was long viewed as the sole member of *Poncirus*, until discovery of a second species, *Poncirus polyandra*, in Yunnan in the 1980s.



Waite Arboretum App v2 Jennifer Gardner



Enhance your next visit to the Arboretum with the latest release of the Waite Arboretum App!

UPDATES include:

- 2019 aerial image with the 2020 dynamic datum displaying the location of each tree with greater accuracy
- Canopy extents of every specimen adjusted to 2019 and shade area recalculated
- Updated catalogue data incorporating new plantings and reflecting changes in nomenclature either through taxonomic revision or reidentification of specimens
- Updated Introduction and Visitor Information

NEW FEATURE: Selected environmental benefits calculated for each of the 1,255 individual surveyed trees and published online* in 2017 'Valuing the Arboretum'. The benefits are displayed under the 'details' tab in the 'Near Me' function or with the results from a 'Search' query and include total carbon stored, annual carbon sequestration and annual total pollution removed.

*<https://www.itreetools.org/support/resources-overview/i-tree-international/reports-nation>

Volunteer Annual Report. Erica Boyle

2019 marked a very successful year for our Volunteer Program. After calculating the annual volunteering statistics we are pleased to announce that 178 volunteers in our nine different groups contributed 6,680 hours equalling \$287,000 in dollar value! This is an outstanding achievement. We were also glad to welcome 35 new volunteers who joined the program.

During the year 105 people enjoyed the Free Guided Tours of the Waite Arboretum on the first Sunday of every month. 207 visitors attended 10 different Booked Tours and a total of \$917 has been raised thanks to the dedication and passion of our Waite Arboretum Guides. This year saw a remarkable fundraising contribution to the FWA account and ultimately to the beloved Arboretum.

Some of the activities volunteers do include: hand pulling olive seedlings, sharpening tools, brewing coffee for morning teas, installing ropes for the Arboretum soft fence, cementing signs and WAWOT animal cuttings into the ground,

dead-heading roses, counting Elm Leaf Beetles, watering new trees in the Arboretum, guiding tours, researching roses, recording plant growth stages, building pine steps in the Reserve slopes, researching the BB&B project, watering palms, cycads, and new roses, propagating salvias, growing wheat varieties, trimming lavender hedges, planting, mulching, fertilizing and weeding. An amazing team of dedicated volunteers.

A terrific number of Working Bees took place during week days and also on weekends in 2019.

- 16 in the Waite Conservation Reserve with the goal being to protect and reinstate the original vegetation by planting 600 seedling trees and maintaining weed control.
- 5 in the Garden of Discovery with members of the Mediterranean Garden Society who contributed to the maintenance of the garden and also donated more than 50 plants.
- One long session in the Rose Garden with the Heritage Roses of Australia members who helped during the winter rose pruning season and a special activity in the Arboretum North West Corner with Arb & garden volunteers who planted 100 native plants to keep developing the understory of the site.
- 3 Working Bees in the palm collection with PACSOSA members, who planted a number of specimens, and kept the palm corridor hydrated during hot days.
- A special session with members of the Rose Society of SA to draft a new project in the Rose Garden circular parterre which will illustrate the rose breeding history ready for the 2021 World Rose Convention.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our volunteers for their ongoing support during 2019. Their commitment, passion and expertise make our UH Gardens, Waite Arboretum and Waite Conservation Reserve Volunteer Programs such a success.

New website for FWA Vice-President Terry Langham

Our new website is operational and under construction. The Friends of the Waite Arboretum website has been operating since 2014, and was initially set up through UniSA (Magill Campus) via www.communitywebs.com.

UniSA School of Creative Industries (Community Webs) has provided the opportunity to move to a new Content Management System. The website has been developed via a UniSA School of Creative Industries students assignment and is now operational.

The website has been created with a basic foundation with which we can work, however there is a reasonable amount of work to do to bring it up to a model that is suitable for our purposes.

The new website is a move forward in maximising FWA's support and engagement in the Arboretum. I will be managing the change to this more informative and productive website. The new domain name is:

<https://friendsofwaitearboretum.org>



The 10th Anniversary of the Garden of Discovery

Urrbrae House Historic Precinct

Excerpts from this article taken from—"Celebrating the Garden of Discovery's 10th Anniversary". Mediterranean Garden Society Newsletter 78 Spring 2019. Erica Boyle and Dr Kate Delaporte.

There are currently four distinct gardens surrounding Urrbrae House; the 20th Century Rose Garden, the Garden of Discovery, the Sensory Garden and the Coach House Garden. A fifth garden is being developed which will present an Indigenous Plant and Knowledge Garden.

The Garden of Discovery interprets some of the significant scientific research undertaken at the Waite Agricultural Research Institute. In 2009, in collaboration with the SA Branch of the Mediterranean Garden Society, the Garden of Discovery was set up with native plants suited to the soil and climate conditions. SAMGS members have created and nurtured this garden for ten years.



Eucalyptus youngiana Large-fruited mallee. MYRTACEAE
Garden of Discovery. Photo JB



Through plantings, book-works, soundscapes, commissioned sculptures, inlaid paving and interpretive signs, the semi-formal garden explores current and historical research undertaken at the Waite Agricultural Research Institute. The outdoor book describes one such researcher, Dr Mary D. Glynne. Photo JB

Seat of the Season

Dr Mary D. Glynne, OBE 1895—1991



Area of Research : Mycology, plant pathology
Bachelor of Science Degree University of Wales 1917
Master of Science Degree 1922
Doctor of Science University of Wales 1943

In 1927, Professor Richardson, the first Director of the Waite Institute, visited Rothamsted Experimental Station in Harpenden, England where he extended an invitation to Miss Glynne to visit the Waite Institute and to research "Take-All", a deadly fungus that was ravaging wheat crops in Australia.

Mary Glynne was awarded one of the first "Australian Federation of University Women Fellowships", and arrived in Adelaide on 7 May 1928.

Source: Denise Schumann 2001 "Girls with Grit Women Scientists of the Waite Institute 1925– 1945" metal book.



Wandering around the Waite Arboretum

By Room 1A Mitcham Primary School Year 1 Kids

What a surprise opening the gate, wandering down the pathway and seeing a huge mass of colourful flowers, the hum of buzzing bees and the beautiful smells.

We knew we would have a great day!



So, our first challenge was Seek and Find and we certainly needed to use our senses. First our detective eyes! We found hidden in the Arboretum, sculptures of all sorts of local creatures - black rats hidden in the long grass, a fox and a cat - predators in the landscape, a tiny bat high up in the tree, an owl watching us from a pole, a leaf man camouflaged in the huge tree, spiders, ants butterflies, beetles and frogs. Amongst the shady trees was a magnificent native bee hotel.

Waterbirds led us on towards a magic doorway into a tree. We wondered who might live inside this imaginary house. It looked like the Magic Faraway Tree but in the Australian bush. We looked up to make sure that Dame Wash-a-lot was not about to tip a bucket load of water on us from above!



Next we excitedly worked together, to build mandalas using native materials. We used the stuff that had been collected by the Arboretum staff over the year, so as not to disturb the habitats of creatures.



Afterwards we used our maths thinking, to design a labyrinth and counted sections. Our count was high. So many logs! We compared the difference between a labyrinth and a maze.

We posed for a group photo on the lawns, looking at the magnificent Waite house, thinking about the history of this fantastic learning environment.

What a generous man Peter Waite was, to leave this fantastic resource for future generations. He would smile if he could see us having such a spectacular time.



Disguised amongst the bark of the shady trees koalas, cockatoos and possums hid.

Teacher: Stephanie Tsounis,
Mitcham Primary School



Palm and Cycad Society of South Australia's 25 year contribution

2019 marks 25 Years of collaboration between the Waite Arboretum and the Palm and Cycad Society of SA (PACSOSA). PACSOSA was formed in 1990 under the guidance of Heinz Froehlingsdorf and Tony Brady. In 1994, Dr Jennifer Gardner was developing the watercourse area of the Waite Arboretum and she invited PACSOSA to plant on the verges of the watercourse. One of the main purposes of the Palm and Cycad walk is to demonstrate that many of the tropical species can succeed in this area. Some of the genera include *Livistona*, *Brahea*, *Trithrinax*, *Chamaerops*, *Butia*, *Chamaedorea*, *Jubea*, *Dypsis* and cycads. They now provide an attractive and valuable learning resource.

Over the 25 years the PACSOSA members have donated their time and experience to set up an outstanding collection of 324 specimens (Dec. 2018), many of them rare and endangered in their native locations. Max Bawden is President of PACSOSA. The dedicated members plant, weed, water and fertilise the Palm and Cycad collection.



Redevelopment of the Watercourse August 1994



First planting. December 1994



Second planting April 1995



Third planting October 1995 and 25 May 1996



Official Opening 26 November 2000, 73 species of palm and cycads from around the world and the current Palm and Cycad walk with 324 specimens

25 Years Anniversary Palm and Cycad Society of SA. PACSOSA



1. *Washingtonia robusta*. Mexican fan palm PALMAE Mexico 1999



2. *Trithrinax campestris* PALMAE Argentina
Uruguay 2000



3. *Macrozamia communis* Burrawang palm ZAMIACEAE



4. *Washingtonia* hybrid PALMAE 1999



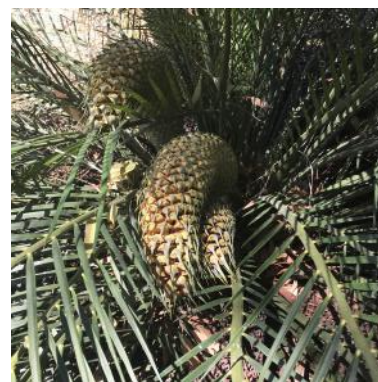
5. *Encephalartos villosus* Lebombo
cycad ZAMIACEAE



6. *Encephalartos natalensis* Natal cycad ZAMIACEAE
South Africa 2001



7. *Macrozamia miquelii* ZAMIACEAE NSW QLD 1994



8. *Cycas thousarsii* CYCADACEAE Africa, Madagascar,
Seychelles, Comoros 2004



9. *Cycas revoluta* Sago palm
CYCADACEAE China, Japan 2010



10. *Dypsis decaryi* Triangle palm PALMAE Madagascar