

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2018

NUMBER 94

FRIENDS OF THE WAITE ARBORETUM INC.

www.communitywebs.org/friendsofwaitearb

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Free Guided Arboretum walks

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

More details at:

<http://www.adelaide.edu.au/arboretum/walks/>

FWA AGM Monday 16 April 7:30pm.

What's on at Urrbrae House

Friends Of The Waite Arboretum are hosting the following event:

Free Guided walk before the Exhibition of Basketry.

"Plant fibre materials coming from Country". 11am Sat 17th Feb

Later that day...

"Nature's Pace..."

Exhibition Basketry and sale of Baskets, Sculptures and Fibre Jewellery.

2pm Sat. 17th Feb 2018 . Urrbrae House , Uni. Adelaide, Waite Campus

More details at:

<http://www.adelaide.edu.au/waite-historic/whatson/>

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer guide in the Waite Arboretum, or if you would like to join the Friends of the Waite Arboretum Committee, please contact the Friends.

FRIENDS OF



WAITE
ARBORETUM

Patron: Sophie Thomson

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

Secretary: Johanna Crosby, **Treasurer:** Dr Peter Nicholls

Editors: Eileen Harvey, **email:** eileengarden@y7mail.com
Jenny Birvé, **email:** jabyacka620@gmail.com

Committee: Erica Boyle, Dr Wayne Harvey, Terry Langham, Dr Kate Delaporte (ex officio)

Address: Friends of the Waite Arboretum, University of Adelaide, Waite Campus, PMB1, GLEN OSMOND 5064

Phone: (08) 8313 7405, **Email:** friendswaitearboretum@gmail.com

Photography: Erica Boyle, Eileen Harvey, Jenny Birvé



Barklya syringifolia Gold-blossom tree LEGUMINOSAE NSW QLD
1953 #820

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Report from the President Beth Johnstone OAM

January 2018

A Happy New Year to all those members who continue to be our support and our raison d'être. Thank you.

After a period of waiting, we were delighted to be informed by Professor Keller early in November, that Dr Kate Delaporte had been appointed as Curator of the Waite Arboretum.

Her responsibility in this position also extends to oversight of the Waite Conservation Reserve.

Kate has been appointed as an academic Lecturer Level B. As such, she will contribute to both teaching and research at the Waite.

Kate has a range of skills and knowledge and she has proved her abilities while in an acting capacity. Her appointment meets with wide approval.

Erica Boyle has also informed us that her contract has been renewed. This is very pleasing news and made all those wonderful people who turn up to work in the gardens each Tuesday and Friday cheer when they heard the news. It promises to be a good year following this start.

One of the outcomes of an association with trees or gardens is the development of a habit of watching weather, particularly rainfall. The annual rate of rainfall for 2017 was lower than the previous year and predictions to date are not encouraging for 2018.

Two of the very popular spots within the arboretum, the Bee Hotel and the Labyrinth continue to attract visitors in great numbers. The renewal of the Labyrinth during 2017 by Dr Jennifer Gardiner and her helpers has given pleasure to many who use it regularly and the Bee Hotel recently attracted the attention of a journalist who wrote of the importance of native bees. It is good to see the spread of such a message.

The Friends Committee worked with Treenet during the annual Symposium and was rewarded by the presentation of a cheque for \$1000. Marilyn Gilbertson who diligently assists and organises procedures for Glen Williams, Director, does the major part of this work and it is intended to use the donation to provide signage in the northwest corner, where Marilyn and Alan Retallack have volunteered for many years.

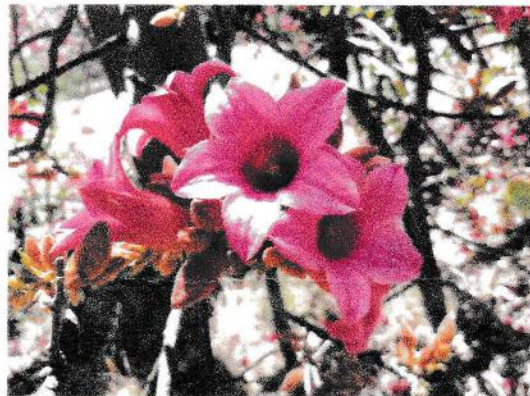
Planning is well underway for the Basketry Exhibition early in February. The exhibition is entitled "Nature's Pace" details are provided elsewhere in this Newsletter. This collaboration with Basketry South Australia is one that has brought pleasant experiences to both groups and is very popular with the community.

The beginning of this year is a reminder that 2021 is coming closer when the 19th World Federation of Rose Societies Convention will be held in Adelaide and the Rose garden will become a focus of attendees. The committee will plan for this during the year. The committee is also committed to planning to have signage updated.

The Friends group held a Film Event this January, when the Barnum story with Hugh Jackman and Michelle Williams entitled "The Greatest Showman" was shown.



So many extraordinary things out there if you just take the time to look. I noticed a "blue bee" – not a Blue Banded Bee, but something different. For once, my phone camera behaved, and I discovered that it was a *Thyreus caeruleopunctatus*, the Chequered Cuckoo Bee, which lays eggs in the nest of native blue banded bees. KD.



Brachychiton discolor MALVACEAE Lacebark Tree NSW, Qld #242

Plant fibre materials coming from Country.

Come join us on a walk through the Waite Arboretum

11am Sat 17th Feb. to look for those plants that have provided the material for carrying, pulling, netting, filtering and sheltering people for time immemorial.

January 2018 Report Dr Kate Delaporte

I was looking for a poem to celebrate summer and the one that sprang to mind of course is Shakespeare's Sonnet 18, however an English summer is nothing to compare to an Adelaide one, except for the line "... Sometimes too hot the eye of heaven shines, ..."

Since the last newsletter the Arboretum has settled down into the growing groove. A dry autumn, average winter and a dry spring has resulted in minimal ground cover growth throughout the Arb. The native grasses continue to flourish, albeit not as well as last year. We continue to support the establishment of *Chloris truncata* in the greater Arb and numerous other species in the NW Corner.

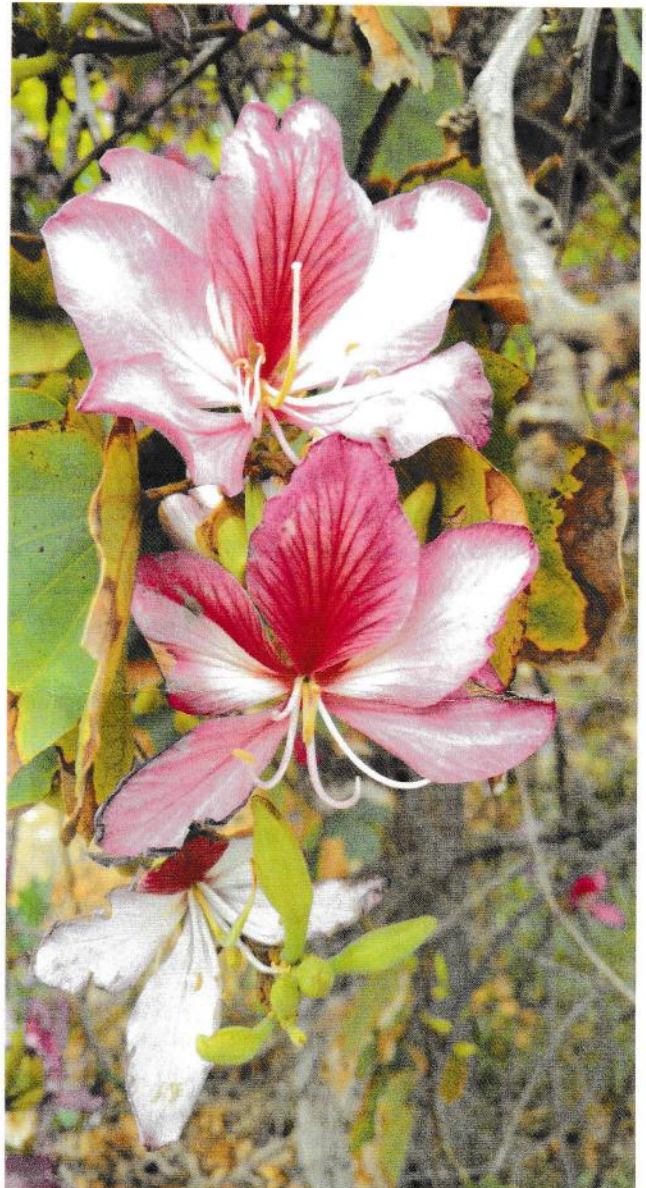
The NW Corner was a featured free guided walk in October and over the following months, Ellen Bennett and Marne Durnin of the SA Native Grasses group undertook an inventory of the grass species in that area. At least 12 species of grasses have been identified! Over the coming months, key volunteers Marilyn Gilbertson and Alan Retallack will work with Marne and Ellen and myself, to produce a new 20 year plan for the area to continue with the fantastic rehabilitation work already done.



Bauhinia variegata FABACEAE India, China 1930 #343
Orchid Tree and flowers. KD

Arb Groundsperson Andrew Walters has been progressing the tough and laborious job of lifting canopies and clearing the vegetation beneath, essential for fire fuel load reduction to keep our trees safer from unwanted fires. With over 2,300 trees to care for, it's a seemingly never ending task, however Andrew takes it on with enthusiasm.

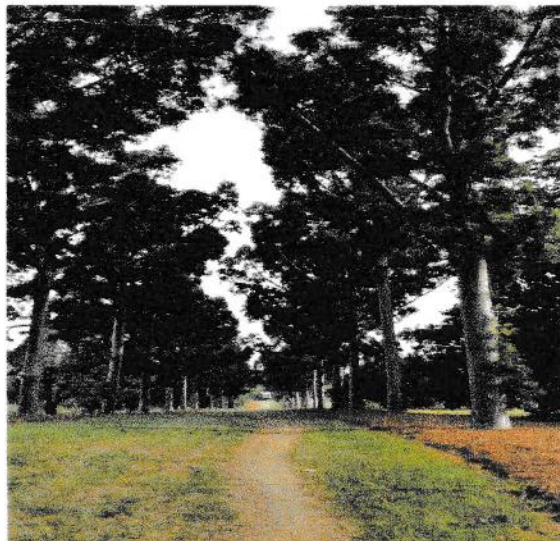
As noted in my first newsletter piece, every season provides us with a chance to observe and gather new information about the way things grow, naturally establish, and how we can find the balance between "cultivation" and natural systems. As often as I can, I take a walk through the Arboretum and, really, I see it with fresh eyes every time. On every occasion, I find myself falling over something I haven't seen before – and in October I stumbled over the *Bauhinia variegata* #343 in full bloom – glorious!



Arboretum News Dr Kate Delaporte

In October, Arb Officer Erica Boyle, Arb Groundsperson Andrew Walters and I attended the 8th BGANZ Congress, held at the National Wine Centre, hosted by the Botanic Gardens of South Australia. I personally really enjoyed the two days I spent at the Congress and, despite a very wet afternoon, the delegates enjoyed the walk and afternoon tea at the Waite Arboretum (provided and supported by the Friends of the Botanic Gardens of Adelaide); thank you to Erica and Andrew, and to the guides on the day, Jennifer Gardner, Jenny Birve and Barbara Radcliffe, for taking the tours in persistent rain. Thanks also to Amanda Jackson, Sally Carr and Lynette Zeitz for managing the afternoon tea in the Coach House. I met some really lovely people and established some new connections.

After the Congress, I was contacted by Dale Arvidsson, the Curator of the Sherwood Arboretum in Brisbane. Dale visited the Waite Arb as part of the Congress Tour and was impressed by our site. In December, while in Brisbane for a family Christmas, I visited Sherwood and met with Dale and two of the Sherwood Friends, Barry Golding and Andrew Benison. The Sherwood Arboretum covers an area of 15 hectares, containing approximately 1,100 trees from about 300 species. The Arboretum comprises parkland, and an artificial freshwater wetland and has an extensive frontage to the Brisbane River, complete with a boardwalk and mangroves! The Sherwood Arboretum is a very interesting site, populated mainly with trees native to the South East Queensland area, and well worth a visit! I hope to establish a collaborative relationship with this site, and trial some of their local species here at Waite in the future. Please take the time to look up the Sherwood Arboretum on <https://>



Friends News

Fundraising Film Event Marilyn Gilbertson OAM

"The Greatest Showman"

Over 170 friends and supporters of FWA, FOUH and FWCR attended the film event at The Capri on Sunday 7th January. While our choice of film received a mixed reaction with some people stating that they loved it but others were less keen, it was a happy afternoon. The Wurlitzer Organ recital before the screening of the film was especially enjoyable.

Friends were very generous with their purchase of raffle tickets. With the profit from ticket sales and our share of raffle ticket proceeds we raised almost \$1000.

The cooperation and assistance from staff at The Capri was greatly appreciated.

It is always rewarding to work with the friends of FOUH and FWCR and we look forward to having another combined event later in the year when a suitable film becomes available.

Thank you to our members and friends who, by attending the event, continue to support our efforts to promote awareness of the Arboretum, while raising funds for its care.



Urrbrae House Gardens now has a Street Library. A lovely new feature that has already captured the interest of neighbors and visitors who come to the gardens to exchange their books. Located at the entrance of the Gardens, by the Andrewartha Gate on Claremont Avenue, interesting books are waiting for you! You can find out more about Street Libraries in Australia at <https://streetlibrary.org.au/>

Special thanks to Lynette Zeitz, Manager of Urrbrae House, for arranging this new attraction in the gardens. We also extend our thanks to Terry Langham who volunteered his time painting the lovely house-shaped box before its installation.

Erica Boyle