

## WAITE ARBORETUM FACT SHEET: J & D GARDNER

(Arboretum seats, memorial seats, history features)

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# JENNIFER and DOUGLAS GARDNER



Photos: Terry Langham Jennifer and Douglas Gardner seated under a #281 *Quercus Douglasii* Hook & Arn. Blue Oak

### 1. NAMES: Jennifer Gardner and Douglas Gardner

- **Occupation:**
  - Dr. Jennifer Gardner: Botanist, Waite Arboretum Curator
  - Douglas Gardner: Architect
- **Seat location:** from Walter Young Drive walk along the H. Froehlingsdorf Palm and Cycad Walk, on your right, walk over the slate path across the watercourse. Keep walking towards the west through the 2015 quadongs plantings. The seat is on your right and is facing south.
- **Nearby tree / plant species:** # 281 *Quercus douglasii* Hook & Arn. Blue Oak FAGACEAE California. 1954



Photos: Terry Langham # 281 *Quercus Douglasii* Hook & Arn. Blue Oak FAGACEAE California 1954

## 2. QUALIFICATIONS

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- Dr Jennifer Gardner: Wattle Park Teacher's College Teaching Diploma, Bachelor of Science (Honours) and PhD degrees in Zoology at University of Adelaide (Zeitz, 2014, p.351).
- Douglas Gardner: Architect

### 3. AREA OF RESEARCH, WORK: Professor Dr. Jennifer Gardner:

- Curator of the Waite Arboretum since 1986.
- Curator of the Waite Conservation Reserve.
- Curator of the Urrbrae House Historic Precinct

**Douglas Gardner:** Douglas's interest in the Waite Campus has been has a Waite Arboretum supporter and volunteer for over thirty years.

- His support and volunteer work relating to the Waite Arboretum has been with countless hours off and on site in tree data collection and supporting roles. He continues to support the Waite Arboretum.

### 4. RESEARCH SPECIALITY – SPECIAL FEATURES

**Dr. Jennifer Gardner:** The Waite Arboretum.

Gardner's first Arboretum Report *"in 1988 – 1989 carries the pregnant suggestions of more experimental work, a survey of the collection, and the establishment of an electronic database"* (Gardner and Symon, 2004).

**A third phase** (since 1928) in the development of the Waite Arboretum began under Jennifer Gardner in 1986 which included:

- The Arboretum was to be seen as a "working collection of trees".
- There were developments of a self – guided walk and trail guide.
- There was an increase in interpretative signage.
- The friends of the Waite Arboretum (FWA) was formed and is still operating in 2016.
- The FWA were recruiting and training volunteers.
- The Arboretum was strongly promoting its educational role and community program outreach.
- Presentation to community groups and booked tours by U3A and many other interested groups took place.
- Free guided tours were in place.
- The Arboretum was being actively promoted as a teaching tool for secondary and Tertiary education.
- The Arboretum was made available and be seen a research tool for many research areas: plant physiology, phytochemistry and chemotaxonomy to name just a few.
- Gardner requests in 1993 and 1994 was successful with a further 3ha being added to the Arboretum (Gardner and Symon, 2004).
- Jennifer Gardner and David Lawry established TREENET which is a non-profit collaborative organisation which is still based at the Waite Arboretum with an aim of bringing together people who have 'an interest in the selection, production and establishment and care of street trees'.

## In 2016 continuing the Third Phase and beyond

Many of the actions of the third phase quoting from the Gardner and Symon 2014 article can be seen today in 2016 in addition to further changes that have been developed and implemented. For example:

- Friends of the Waite Arboretum Inc. and the Friends of the Waite Conservation Reserve are still both active in promoting, raising funds and volunteering work in the field.
- In 2016 the Arboretum can be seen as increasing its appeal and its educational values and opportunity to all people in the community - in all ages - young families with pre-school children to senior citizens.
- Jennifer has initiated and embraced changing technology to enhance the appeal and benefits of the Arboretum to the community with the FWA Website, and the Waite Arboretum app.
- Jennifer attends and providing presentations on Arboretum matters in research education, publicity and promotional events forums.
- Jennifer continues to encourage and nurture volunteers in a number of her work responsibilities and promotes the values of their work and how they contribute financially (with volunteer labour) and socially to the University of Adelaide and the wider community.
- **Waite Conservation Reserve**
  - Jennifer's management of the Waite Conservation Reserve has included and continues to include surveying of plant and animals, seed collection, plant propagation, weed management / eradication, research, feral animal control and much more.
- **Urrbrae Historic House Precinct** (the gardens around Urrbrae House and the area parallel with Claremont Avenue).
  - Jennifer' participation in the Precinct has included commissioning master plans - landscape master plans, project management in the Twentieth Century, the Rose Garden, the Garden of Discovery, the Sensory Garden and many other areas of the Precinct.
- **Urrbrae House**
  - Jennifer has developed a Botanical Collection Room that can be viewed in Urrbrae House.

Jennifer continues to be passionate and active in preserving the aims of the Peter Waite 1928 bequest.

*"The purposes of the Arboretum are experimental i.e. to demonstrate and evaluate the suitability of a wide range of trees to the local environment, to provide a valuable resource for teaching, research and propagation and to provide an attractive and informative area for passive recreation"* (text from the Friends of the Waite Arboretum Invitation to Membership Form, 2016).

**Douglas Gardner:** In the days before the use of GPS, Douglas gathered and recorded data on every tree in the Arboretum.

## 5. FURTHER INFORMATION - SOME WORDS OF HUMOUR, INTERESTING FACTS, ETC:

*"Jennifer Gardner said that she first met David in 1959 when she did her Grade 7 project on the Waite Institute.*

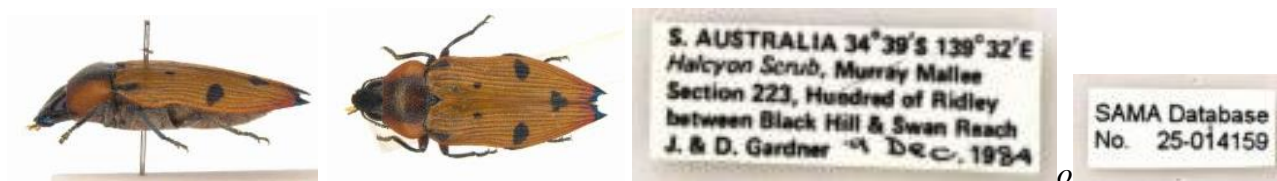
- *David talked to her enthusiastically about the Arboretum. 27 years later, when she was appointed Curator of the Arboretum,*
- *David helped her find her feet and continued to share his knowledge, insights and ideas for the Arboretum until his last days.*
- ***Jennifer says that there was only one area where their views differed.***
- *During the prolonged drought she installed drip irrigation to extend the life and promote the health of our heritage-listed Elm Avenue.*
- *David, with characteristic forthrightness said "Let them die!" as he visualised a unique and spectacular avenue of 70 dragon trees taking their place. That was David: always looking to the future" (Gardner 2012, pp.5-6).*

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In February 1986 Gardner submitted her “*PhD thesis on buprestids or jewel beetles in the Department of Zoology at the University of Adelaide*’ (Zeitz, 2014, p.350).



***Castiarina gardnerae*** - Species: *Castiarina gardnerae* Genus *Castiarina* Family BUPRESTIDAE Recorded by and Collector, J. Gardner, D. Supplied as “GardnerJ & D.”

Source: Website – *Atlas of the Living Australia* (South Australian Museum) Photographer: David Hollingworth

**Publications:** *The Waite Arboretum : a guide and catalogue of trees* / Jennifer Gardner [Adelaide]: Waite Agricultural Research Institute, 1990 100 p.: ill., maps; 21 cm.

## 6. PERSONAL INFORMATION:

**Dr. Jennifer Gardner** has had an interest in the Waite Arboretum since her primary school project on the Waite in which she interviewed David Symons and Helen Brookes (Zeitz, 2014, p.351). Many people would say (including herself) that her passion and enthusiasm for the Waite Arboretum has never waned and never will.

In 2016 at her thirty years celebration as Waite Arboretum Curator Jennifer expressed a special thanks to David Symons Waite Arboretum Curator 1956 – 85, Professor Harold Woolhouse WARI Director 1990 – 1996 “*he gave me a free rein in my curatorship of the Waite Arboretum*” and Douglas Gardner.

## 7. PHOTOS:



**Left** Photo Terry Langham, Waite Arboretum Labyrinth designed and constructed by Dr Jennifer Gardner in 2010

**Right** Source Zeitz 2014, (University of Adelaide, Urrbrae House Historic Precinct – Coach House Collection)

“*Unveiling of the Waite Arboretum plaque on 14 September 1987. (From left) T. R. Noel Lothian (Director of the Botanic Gardens of Adelaide), the Hon Kim Mayes (South Australian Minister for Agriculture), Professor James Quirk, Dr Jennifer Gardner, and Dr David Symon.*”

## 8. REFERENCES:

Gardner, J. 2012, *Friends of the Waite Arboretum Inc.* Newsletter No. 70 Summer pp.5-6 Graham

Gardner, J and Symon, D. (2004) ‘The Waite Arboretum: Past and Future’, *Australian Garden History* Vol. 15 No4 February / March/ April 2004

Zeitz, L.D 2014, *The Waite: A social and scientific history of the Waite Agricultural Research Institute*, Barr Smith Press, Adelaide.

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