

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2017

NUMBER 93

FRIENDS OF THE WAITE ARBORETUM INC.

www.communitywebs.org/friendsofwaitearb

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Friends of the Waite Arboretum

Xmas party Monday 4th December

Free Guided Arboretum walks

The first Sunday of every month at 11.00 am.

Walks meet at Urrbrae House on the lawn

FWA committee meeting

Wed 4th October 9:30am

Waite volunteers room

Twilight Concert

by Vivente Music. Mon October 16
5:30-7pm Bookings 82966851

What's on at Urrbrae House

More details at:

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

New online Arboretum Map which displays the environmental benefits of 1,225 surveyed trees.

Go to <http://arcg.is//1ITTCy>

or search for

Waite Arboretum Inventory—ArcGIS'

Click on a tree to display the benefits.



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Hakea prostrata Harsh Hakea PROTEACEAE W.A.

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From the President

It has seemed like a long and cold winter, with many overcast and cheerless days, so it was a real pleasure to see the bright yellow gold of the wattle start to appear through the varied green leaves within the arboretum. Such a pleasure to see and remind us once again, how very fortunate we all are to be the beneficiaries of Peter Waite's generosity.

The trees and gardens are joining in the spring resurgence that comes with the season change and please go and walk near to Urrbrae House to take in the majesty of the flowering pear trees this season. They look magnificent.

Trees are not always preserved as we can see within the Glenside Hospital development. Many of the neighbours are distressed by the way this is progressing and concerns for the fauna are common.

Those of us who volunteer for the Precinct are lucky indeed to be able to share in the pleasures of the Arboretum and Gardens as well as all the other benefits that come from our association with Waite Arboretum. The volunteers were rewarded with an evening event arranged by the staff in Urrbrae House on 11th September. It was a very pleasant event with a chance to chat and then we were treated to a special musical recital. All of the volunteers were pleased to share this experience and were very grateful to all of those staff that organised the event so well.

A report of the afternoon tea arranged with Professor Mike Keller is available within the newsletter.

The members of the Committee and the Arboretum Guides were saddened to hear of the death of Bob Boardman and attended a Requiem for him on 8th August. Bob had a very long association with Urrbrae and truly loved and valued the Arboretum.

TREENET 18th Annual National Symposium was held in the first week of September and the Friends Committee were involved in the usual collaboration. This was the 20th year of TREENET and David Lawry and Jennifer Gardner featured as founders. The programme for the Symposium was a very interesting one and was held within the Adelaide Zoo. This gave those from 'out of town' an opportunity to visit Pandas and Meerkats and see some of the Zoo. Marilyn Gilbertson and Terry Langham are the two prominent helpers with TREENET and their dedication and support is exemplary. Both are now very wise about the event and do a really great job assisting the wonderfully cheerful and clever Director, Glenn Williams and his support staff. TREENET seems to be growing in strength and we applaud its success.

Dr Kate Delaporte conducted a tour of the Laidlaw Plantation 21st September, as reported in this Newsletter.

The committee was pleased to welcome Jenny Birvé to its membership during our last meeting. Jenny has been an Arboretum Guide for some time and she has generously assisted Eileen Harvey with the Newsletter over the last few issues. She has been enlisted to undertake the presentation of this Newsletter while Eileen is absent and we are very grateful to her for this effort.

Visitors to the gardens will have noticed that the Labyrinth has undergone a renewal and looks wonderful.

Since her retirement, Dr Jennifer Gardner has been toiling away with this project. The Labyrinth is one of the popular spots of the garden and is used daily. Comments left in the box make its popularity apparent.

As this Newsletter is issued, Dr Kate Delaporte will have been Acting Curator for a considerable time. Kate has gained admiration for her skills in problem solving and negotiation. With the combination of Erica Boyle and Kate volunteers are convinced that they have a winning team, both are very popular and effective.

Many members have asked about the delay in having a permanent appointment. All of us are looking forward to hearing news that this will happen soon.

Beth Johnstone OAM



Eucalyptus caesia ssp. magna. Bark called minniritchi bark. EB

Arboretum news - from Dr Kate Delaporte

Apart from the weather, I am also passionate about educating young people about trees. I am constantly on the lookout for interactive ways to engage kids and get them outside.

I have a 5 year old son, Eddie, who is a great resource. Recently, we discovered “The Bunyip Trail”, a 260m long trail, with a narrative based on the Children’s classic “The Bunyip of Berkeley’s Creek” by Jenny Wagner, illustrated by Ron Brooks. This is a joint initiative by the Adelaide City Council and the Children’s University Australia/The University of Adelaide, and provides a wonderful walk through recovering woodland along Karriwirra Parri (River Torrens), north west of Bonython Park. I am utterly charmed and inspired by this, and will seek to develop something similar in the Arboretum. Ideas welcome!



Bunyip Trail. KD

October Arboretum report. Spring has sprung

Indeed, Spring has sprung, and with it blossoms and new leaves; soft colours and sweet perfumes. This Spring felt a little late, but who isn’t late at times, and “better late than never” as my mum always says. Spring brings renewed vigour to the work in the Arb, and the team of myself, Andrew, and Erica have been very busy!



Nuxia floribunda Vlier #369 KD

The Grass is Riz

The grass (aka the Arboretum ground vegetation cover) has not grown much this year. In stark contrast to 2016, we have required little mechanical control of the growth. Over the last few weeks, things have finally gotten going, giving Andrew the opportunity to reduce the weed seed bank through removal of germinated material. Each year seems to bring forth a new “weed”, this year it’s one of the nightshades and prickly lettuce. The native grass we do want, *Chloris truncata*, is starting to show it’s summer green, rising above the bright green of the annual introduced species. Coming up soon is our special free guided walk showcasing the NW Arboretum – more on that next time!



Austrostipa sp. Native speargrass in the NW Arboretum coming into flower. KD

I wonder where the Boidies is?

I am always on the lookout for birds in the Arb. In Australia, we are blessed with such an array of beautiful colourful, noisy birds that thrive in our urban environment, but, we do have a need to create habitat for our little bush birds, such as blue wrens and willy wagtails. I’m on a mission to increase the vegetation for these little birds, and the insects they feed on, throughout the Arb. Ideas most welcome. Andrew spotted a “Buff Banded Rail” in the watercourse, I later saw a pair. We hope they have taken up residence in the main pond at the head of the watercourse – keep an eye out.

<http://birdlife.org.au/bird-profile/Buff-banded Rail>

I was also very pleased to come across a curious, but shy praying mantis in the Rosemary hedge, pretending to be a rosemary flower. His colouration was impressive: I love the little things that make up our wonderful world.

October Arboretum Report continued..



Praying mantis, KD



Buff-banded Rail Image-
<http://birdlife.org.au/bird-profile/Buff-banded Rail>

The Boid is on the Wing

Sometimes I feel like a bird, flittering about all over the place. The other thing I do, apart from looking after the Arboretum, is research. My primary area is developing native plants for horticulture, and I have spent the last 20 years investigating small eucalypts for ornamental horticulture. On Thursday 21 September, a group of FWA ventured out with me to the Laidlaw Plantation, my primary field site located on the Waite Campus. It was a beautiful day, and there were many species and hybrids flowering for the enjoyment of the Friends. I am always happy to share this resource with you, so, please, if you find yourself with a spare hour (or 2!) please do not hesitate to contact me for a quick tour! I have a couple of new research opportunities opening up, and I will talk more about those in following newsletters.



Kate Delaporte explaining to us the nature of her work as we make our way to the Laidlaw plantation.

We continue to observe the Bunya Pines, with a bird's eye view. As reported in the last newsletter, we gathered the University of Adelaide Drone team, from north Terrace to come and film the Bunya Pines to make note of any changes to the trees and the presence of cones. This time, the male cones were almost ready to release their pollen, and did so 2 weeks after we filmed. We did not see evidence of female cones, but will take another shot in December, March.



Male cones of
Araucaria bidwillii
(Bunya) KD

The birds certainly do not like the drone and dive bombed it continuously!

The novelty of the new perspective has not yet worn off, and the footage of slowly rising to the top of the tree and seeing the crown from above, and indeed the aerial panoramas of the Campus itself, are quite captivating.



Bunya cone close up and cross-section showing ripe pollen sacs. KD

Don't be Obsoid, we know the Wing is on the Boid

And finally, research in the Arboretum; I have put in an Honours project to investigate the genetic relationships between our Elms and the Elms around Adelaide, and how they compare to known Elm species across Australia/world wide. This project would use cutting edge DNA analysis to identify species status. Now we wait for a prospective student. I'm also in talks with a student to undertake a small study in the Desert Rock Fig, *Ficus brachypoda*, to look at propagation from seed and by cuttings, as part of a bigger study into the horticultural potential of this species.

As we move into the frantic tail end of the year, thank you all again for your support and encouragement. It is greatly valued as is your counsel. Please feel free to come and visit for a chat and a coffee; you may need a net to catch me as I flutter by, but please try!

Diploglottis species in the Arboretum

The Sapindaceae, soapberry family, includes 2,000 species and 150 genera. They grow in tropical and subtropical areas. The family takes its name from the *Sapindus* genus, some species of which have fruit pulp which provides oil for soap. Botanically the fruit is an aril, like that of yew. The lychee, *Litchi chinensis* from southern China, the rambutan, *Nephelium lappaceum* which is like a lychee with mad hair, and a street tree now common in Adelaide, the Goldenrain Tree, *Koelreuteria paniculata* are all in the Sapindaceae family.

Walter S. Judd an American botanist and taxonomist, and Distinguished Professor in the Department of Botany, University of Florida, suggests changes in the Sapindaceae family to include the Aceraceae (maples) and the Hippocastanaceae (horse chestnuts) [1]

In the dry rainforest area of the Waite Arboretum you can find both *Diploglottis australis*, Native Tamarind and *Diploglottis campbellii*, Small-leaved Tamarind. The name *Diploglottis* comes from Greek, *diploos* (double) and *glottis* (tongue), referring to the double petals.

D. australis has a complex naming history and has a synonym *D. cunninghamii*. Recently *D. australis* has received support and clarification as the currently accepted name. [2]

D. australis, the Native Tamarind Tree is a sub-tropical native lowland species growing in the eastern states. (20° S - 36° S). The tree is medium to large, with long and broad leaves.



Diploglottis australis, Native Tamarind tree. #2949A. JB

It can grow to over 35 metres tall with a trunk diameter of 75 cm. The trunk is cylindrical and flanged at the base. The branches bear alternate leaves, which are large and pinnate with conspicuously large leaflets. The leaflets are commonly 10 - 30 cm long and 4 - 8 cm wide, broadly oblong to elliptic, bluntly pointed at the tip, not equal at the base, and often covered with velvety golden brown hairs.



Diploglottis australis with newly formed leaflets. JB

The leaf veins are easy to see on both sides, more so on the underside. The midrib is slightly raised on the top surface. The flowers are creamy brown, about 3 mm across with 4 white round thin petals, a brown hairy calyx and 8 stamens. They are grouped in large, stiff, densely rusty hairy panicles, 15 - 50 cm long arising from the forks of the upper leaves. Flowers appear in spring. The fruits are held in brown hairy capsules comprising 2 - 3 globular lobes, 10 - 15 mm in diameter. Each lobe contains a seed enclosed by an aril, an edible fruit with orange yellow juicy pulp.

The Tamarind Tree is called Burrunedura by indigenous people of Illawarra and Aucoloby and Toonoum in NSW. [3]

The native tamarind is valued as an indigenous fruit tree because the aril may be eaten raw or added to jams and chutneys.



Diploglottis australis leaves showing paired leaflets. JB

Diploglottis campbellii

The Small-leaved Tamarind, is a rainforest tree found in northern New South Wales and south eastern Queensland. Growing to 30 metres tall, it is rare and threatened and is restricted to a small number of sites. It has soft hairy new growth that becomes hairless with age. It has a grey brown trunk, the outer surface of live bark is green with orange to brown blotches, the leaves are 10 - 35 cm long, leaflets 4 - 8 cm, with a glossy upper surface and pale dull bottom surface.



Diploglottis campbellii The Small-leaved Tamarind. #2990A.

The inflorescence type is a panicle up to 15 cm long with small creamy brown flowers. Fruits are large (to 6 cm across) and quite spectacular, 3-lobed capsules that split open when ripe to reveal the seeds covered by the bright red or sometimes yellow, fleshy aril.

The aril or the flesh around the seed is the edible part and can be eaten raw and is refreshingly acid to taste. Its distinctive, tart flavour lends itself to both sweet and savoury applications. It can be made into jams, jellies, drinks and sauces.

The fruit is ripe February to April. Each tree can produce many kilos of fruit and increased planting of Small-leaved Tamarind has resulted in larger volumes of fruit becoming available for food, as well as ensuring the survival of this species. [4]

As the tree is very rare in the wild, the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage have a conservation project in place to conserve the Small-leaved Tamarind in the long-term. *Diploglottis campbellii* (#2990A-D) is listed as Endangered in the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act - List of Threatened Species. [5]



Diploglottis campbellii. The fruit with a cockroach just visible feeding. JB

The project was developed by experts who identified the minimum number of necessary management sites and conservation actions required to conserve the species. The Small-leaved Tamarind is one of many threatened plant species found in north-eastern NSW and south-eastern Queensland. These regions support the highest concentration of threatened plant species in Australia (Briggs & Leigh 1996) [6]

By protecting and ensuring the future survival of the Small-leaved Tamarind and its habitat in NSW and Queensland, an important contribution will be made towards conservation of a component of the Sub-tropical Lowland Rainforest on Floodplain in the NSW North Coast Bioregion.

Jenny Birvé

References

- [1] *The Secret Life of Trees How They Live and Why They Matter* Colin Tudge
- [2] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diploglottis_australis
- [3] Australian Trees Cronin's Key Guide www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public
- [4] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diploglottis_campbellii
- [5] www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public
- [6] Briggs, J.D. & Leigh, J.H. 1996, Rare or Threatened Australian Plants, CSIRO, Melbourne.

18th TREENET Symposium 7 – 8 September 2017

Celebrating 20 years of education and research

Many Friends of Waite Arboretum will be familiar with TREENET, the national urban tree research and education cluster based at the Waite Arboretum. TREENET advocates and promotes the value of the urban forest and each year it shares information through a symposium. This year celebrates 20 years since the cluster was founded by David Lawry OAM, and Dr Jennifer Gardner, OAM.

The Friends have had a long association with TREENET in particular helping with behind the scenes work for the symposiums. In the early years when the symposia were held entirely on the Waite Campus, The Friends were responsible for the catering. I remember many years ago serving morning and afternoon tea on the verandah of Urrbrae House. Arboretum guides used to regularly help with the field activities on Day 2. This year volunteers from the Friends helped with the assembling of conference packs, organisation of name tags and servicing the registration desk.

Over 250 people from Australia wide attended the symposium. Presentations on Day 1 were held in the function center at the Adelaide Zoo. Dr Greg Moore, Chair of TREENET and eminent researcher in Plant Science and Arboriculture, gave the Keynote Address, **“Taking it to the Streets- Celebrating a twenty year history of TREENET”**.

“As we celebrate twenty years since the origin of TREENET, it is perhaps worth recalling that it grew from a clash of urban trees and constructed infrastructure and the different perspectives of professions – engineering and horticulture- that managed urban trees. It is timely to take stock on where we stand on such matters today.

Because of its origins, TREENET has had a long tradition of embracing other professions such as engineers, soil scientists, plant pathologists, planners, architects and medical practitioners. This multidisciplinary approach has informed our conference papers in climate change, water sensitive urban design, tree health and the comprehensive human health benefits that the urban forest provides.

However, Australian cities are continuing to lose rather than gain canopy cover. We have to ask, ‘How valued are our urban forests?’ and we need to reassess the importance of the role of the urban forest in both private and public space. Urban trees are, and will continue to be, essential parts of city infrastructure – in many ways the sustainability and livability of our cities depends on them. We have both a responsibility and a duty to ensure a legacy of treed cities for future generations. No-one else will do it; it is really up to us”. (a summary taken from the program)

Delegates were treated to a field visit within the zoo enclosure, following a presentation by Jeff Lugg, **“The Adelaide Zoo – Animals, Exhibits and Trees”**.

“Have you ever wondered what goes on in a zoo when the public are not walking through the grounds and the animals are sleeping? Jeff gave an insight into what activities actually occur to enable the standard of grounds that you see to be presented in the best possible ways for both the animals’ and public’s enjoyment. Consideration needs to be taken into account for the animals’ health and welfare. Are the plants toxic? Will the animals be able to use the plant material for escape? These are issues that most landscapers never have to consider.” (notes taken from the program)

Jeff also discussed the considerations for maintaining the large amount of significant trees in the Adelaide Zoo, how they integrate into animal exhibits and what extra care is required to maintain tree health.

Field activities on Day 2 at Waite Arboretum included, **“Assessing and Specifying Nursery Tree Stock Quality”**, **“Tree Protection Zones and the Australian Standard – where did we go wrong?”** **“Practical Indicators to Help Determine the Level of Street Tree Establishment Success”**, and **“Drone Technology- options for aerial tree inspections”**.

Videos and full texts of these and other presentations can be found at <https://www.treenet.org>

A team of trainee horticulturists from the Botanic gardens provided valuable assistance with setting and packing up and guiding groups around the arboretum.

Ron Allen had a display in Urrbrae House of beautiful items he had turned from a variety of wood collected from the arboretum and tours of the house were available.

Congratulations to all who worked hard to make the symposium a success and in so doing brought many visitors to the Arboretum and Urrbrae House precinct.

Marilyn Gilbertson.



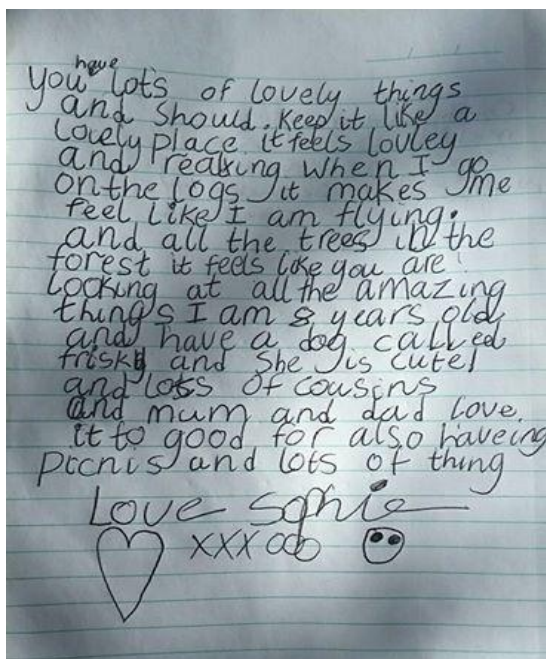


Labyrinth.

The Labyrinth is looking gorgeous, come for a pleasant walk.

One of our new volunteers, Dr Jennifer Gardner has been working hard for a long time now, to replace many of the decayed wood logs of the Labyrinth. She has dedicated many hours moving each heavy round from one side to the other.... until finding the perfect spot .

The maintenance of the Labyrinth is not an easy task and requires hard work. Jennifer has put in an enormous effort and receiving this message from a young enthusiast makes the effort worthwhile. So good to know this space is still capturing the public's imagination.



Jennifer Gardner working on the labyrinth. EB

Rose Garden

Heritage Roses Australia (SA) and Rose Society of South Australia working bees

During August, the Rose Garden was visited by many people with rose expertise. Members of two well-known groups dedicated several hours to prune the special collection of old roses. Yes, the prickly ones! Merv, Wendy, Gavin and Laurel from The Rose Society of South Australia worked long hours pruning the prickly roses.

Kitty, Trish, and Andrew from Heritage Roses Australia had a very productive working bee session. These three knowledgeable gardeners worked for five hours and achieved excellent results.

We want to acknowledge the donation of five specimens from Heritage Roses Australia. The specimens are waiting in our nursery and will soon be planted.

The work done by the members of these two groups is very much appreciated by the Rose Garden Volunteers team, who come every Tuesday and most Fridays to maintain and care for the roses. In winter, the main duty is pruning, so it is a relief to have extra helping hands.

We are very fortunate to have many new faces on our team. Volunteers from diverse backgrounds, many of them very experienced gardeners, have joined the group recently.

One of the ideas for this winter (2017) was to gather the volunteers in teams and tackle one rose bed at a time. Many hands made light work of the task and the results were most rewarding.

We are happy to have so many dedicated people working on the Urrbrae House Gardens, sharing the love of roses. The daunting job of winter-pruning was completed on time.

Spring has arrived and there are the first signs of soft reddish shoots on most of the roses. It will not be long before a new season of floral delight unwinds for those visiting this enchanted garden. Erica Boyle



Garden volunteers: Caroline, Pooja, Fiona, Rosemary, Cicely, Margaret, John . EB

Rose Garden Working Bee

Heritage Roses Australia (SA) and Rose Society of South Australia working bees



Cicely, Margaret, Rosemary and Peter in background. EB



Gavin Woods. Rose Society of SA. EB



Kitty, Trish and Andrew
Heritage Roses Australia (SA) EB



Merv and Wendy Trimper
Rose Society of SA. EB



Volunteers Thankyou

An enjoyable afternoon event was held at Urrbrae House on the 11th September to thank the magnificent volunteers who dedicate many hours working for the Waite Arboretum, Mediterranean Gardens, Waite Conservation Reserve and Urrbrae House.

To celebrate another successful year of volunteering at the Waite Historic Precinct, we were delighted to have the Berbery String Trio performing a classical repertoire by Bach, Handel, Schubert and Leonard Cohen.

We would like to thank the efforts of Lynette Zeitz, Amanda Jackson and Sally Carr for the organization of such a lovely celebration. EB



Volunteers for the Waite Arboretum, Mediterranean Gardens, Waite Conservation Reserve and Urrbrae House . EB



Berbery String Trio, Minas, Erna and daughter. EB

Instagram News

We are happy to announce that the number of Instagram followers is now 490!

The 'waitearboretumandgardens' Instagram account continues to captivate the attention of plant and tree lovers with pictures of the changing seasons from the Waite Arboretum and Urrbrae House Gardens.

An outstanding picture has been posted of *Acacia glaucoptera*, a close relative to *Acacia pycnantha* or Golden Wattle, on the National Wattle Day.

Acacia glaucoptera known as Flat Wattle or Clay Wattle, is a spreading shrub to 1.5m high with modified flattened and waxy stems (cladodes) that function as leaves. The typical pom-poms yellow flowers grow singly on stalks arising from nodes on the phyllodes.

If you want to find this unusual and attractive Wattle, it is now in full bloom, growing in the Garden of Discovery.

Erica Boyle



Garden of Discovery Working Bee

It is always satisfying to arrive early for a Sunday Working Bee in the Garden of Discovery and see the Mediterranean Garden Society Friends arrive one by one until there is a crowd.

In August, the third Working Bee for the year was held and with all the expertise and help the maintenance of the garden quickly took on shape.

The fourth and last MGS Working Bee of the year will be conducted on the 19th of November.

2018 Working Bee dates have been already assigned: 18th February, 20th May, 19th August and 18th November.

The Mediterranean Garden Society current Branch Head, Kate Chattaway, came along on a Tuesday and talked about the garden to the volunteers. A pleasant morning tea was enjoyed by all.

Kate was accompanied by Lyndie Charracher (Open Gardens SA Deputy Chairperson). They are both involved with the Open Gardens of South Australia program, and they informed us about this program as well.

Open Gardens SA is a not-for-profit organization overseen by a dedicated committee of South Australian garden lovers, including designers, horticulturalists and garden owners. Special private gardens are open under this scheme to share the beauty and to bring garden lovers together. Erica Boyle.

Check this link: <http://opengardensa.org.au/> for more information about their attractive current season openings!

Erica Boyle



Mediterranean Garden Society volunteers during Morning Tea. EB

Call for assistance: the 8th BGANZ Congress, 22-25th October 2017, will be held in Adelaide hosted by the Botanic Gardens of South Australia. The theme is "Preservation: Exploring and Adapting", and underlies the need for adaptation of botanic gardens in their ongoing environment and the everchanging attitudes of the community. This covers both the natural, cultivated and political environment, and the required strategies to ensure the preservation of endangered species can continue.

<https://www.bganz.org.au/8th-bganz-congress/>

Waite Arboretum will be hosting a congress tour on the afternoon of Tuesday 23rd October – from about 1:30 to 4 pm we expect over 100 delegates to visit the Arboretum, for both guided and self guided walks, and a cup of tea. If you are able to help out during that time, your contribution would be most welcome – please let me know on 0427 394 240 or by email to kate.delaporte@adelaide.edu.au.

Roger Bungey & Robert 'Bob' Boardman

Here I pay tribute to two long-standing Arboretum guides and FWA Committee members.

Roger Bungey served on the FWA Committee for 12 years (1998-2010), the first four as President during the successful challenge to a proposed new Netherby Kindergarten building on designated Arboretum land. The Kindy Story was recounted in the Summer 2017 FWA Newsletter #90 p.3-4. Roger was also a dedicated Arboretum guide for ten years (2000 - 2010). He studied at the Forestry School in Canberra and did postgraduate studies in Entomology at the Waite. On his retirement from the SA Woods and Forests Department he volunteered at the SA Museum where he applied his skills as an entomologist to work on the collection. His work there was acknowledged when wasp *Pseudofoenus bungeyi* was named after him.

Bob Boardman was an Arboretum guide for 13 years (2003 - 2016) and served on the FWA Committee (2014 - 2016). With a M. Sc. (Seattle, USA) he had an extensive knowledge of trees and their biology and worked at the University of WA Botany Dept, WA Dept of CALM then at the Forest Research Branch of SA Woods & Forest Dept. He co-authored a Report of the Australian Low Rainfall Tree Improvement Group which recommended nine key species for the 400 – 600 mm rainfall regions to help control dryland salinity, reduce soil erosion and provide a worthwhile economic return of high quality timber or leaf oils. Bob installed 40 "yield" plots at 9 locations around the SA to quantify and evaluate the potential of broadscale natural woodland and plantations of indigenous species growing in the 200 – 600 mm rainfall zone of SA to act as an offset for carbon dioxide emissions from the burning of fossil fuels for electricity generation. He was an advocate for growing *Pinus brutia* and developed a genetic improvement strategy.

It was a pleasure to have worked with both these gentlemen who generously shared their knowledge of trees and committed their time to supporting and promoting the Waite Arboretum.

Jennifer Gardner

Pinus brutia Calabrian Pine,
Turkish Pine PINACEAE E.
Mediterranean,
Asia Minor #275 H8



Meeting with Professor Keller

Some thirty people turned up to an afternoon tea in Urrbrae House on the afternoon 27th July 2017 to attend a meeting with the Head of the School of Agriculture, Food and Wine. The purpose of the meeting was to give members a chance to hear of future plans for the Waite precinct.

The meeting was fairly informal with Professor Keller using his expert knowledge and story telling skills to good purpose. He was accompanied by Stuart Matthews, School Manager, who was also available to respond to some of the questions raised by the audience.

Professor Keller began with the story of Peter Waite's magnificent gift of 54 hectares with half of the land for agricultural and kindred studies and balance converted to public park under control of the university.

He went on to reflect on his own long standing connection and commitment to the Waite precinct and his positive efforts to involve interest in, and connection to, the community. He made particular mention of volunteers and the many people who have given generously to the development of the precinct and related a brief history of subsequent developments. He outlined possible future developments and answered questions asked by those present.

While the Friends of the Waite Arboretum had issued the original invitation and Professor Keller spoke mainly of the Arboretum, several members of the Friends of the House committee were also present.

The meeting provided an opportunity for members to further their knowledge and proved to be a very positive experience that will be repeated as need arises. One of the outcomes is that the committee will schedule a regular meeting with Professor Keller prior to each Annual general meeting in order to assist planning decisions for the Friends of the Arboretum Committee.



Eucalyptus rhodantha. Laidlaw Plantation. EB

SPRING IN THE ARBORETUM



Eucalyptus sporadica WA
MYRTACEAE #1906A. This is a mallee tree that is native to an area in south WA. Presumably occurring in scattered or isolated locations - (sporadic)



Hakea francisiana Grass-leaf hakea PROTEACEAE WA SA. #219A
The open habit of the plant means the flowers are well displayed, never failing to attract attention. The pods do not shed the seed until stimulated to do so by environmental conditions, for example, after a bushfire.



Eucalyptus lansdowneana ssp. *albopurpurea*
Pt Lincoln mallee MYRTACEAE #1924A. Flowers are white to pink on K.I and Eyre Peninsula with purple occurring only on Eyre Peninsula.



Eucalyptus thamnoides ssp. *megista*
MYRTACEAE WA #1923A



Quercus wislizenii Interior live oak FAGACEAE #383A. Known by the common name Interior Live Oak, found in many areas of California. Monecious – the male flowers are on catkins, the female flowers in leaf axils.



Eucalyptus incrassata Lerp mallee. MYRTACEAE #1816A K12. SA VIC. NSW WA
The name *incrassata* is from the Latin *incrassatus* meaning thickened, referring to the thick leaves.



Hakea fraseri Corkwood Oak. PROTEACEAE #298A. The leaves look like pine needles, 12-30cm long and 1mm wide.



Macrozamia miquelii ZAMIACEAE #3033A
NSW QLD Cycad endemic to Australia. Although poisonous, the treated seeds were a traditional food of the Australian Aborigines.



Pyrus amygdaliformis ROSACEAE #473A G11
Southern Europe and Asia Minor. Known as the Almond-Leaved Pear. The fruits are astringent. Can tolerate atmospheric pollution.