

# THE FRIENDS OF THE WAITE ARBORETUM



## NEWSLETTER

SPRING 1994

No. 1

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### THE SHORT HISTORY OF THE FRIENDS OF THE WAITE ARBORETUM

The Friends began public life on the 12th September, 1994 at the inaugural meeting in the Drawing Room at Urrbrae House. There were 54 people at the birth or was it the baptism, and 59 members have already joined.

The Curator, Dr Jennifer Gardner, took the Chair and introduced the Steering Committee, all Guides of the Arboretum with whom Dr Gardner had developed her vision for a body to support the Arboretum.

Friends are needed because funding from the University only covers basic maintenance and this great facility will be much enhanced by additional money, not that fundraising is the only reason for founding a group of Friends. Other activities will include:

- interesting meetings
- newsletters with Friend's contributions
- assisting with propagation
- guide training
- assisting with the production of trails and pamphlets.

The Director of the Waite Institute, Prof. Harold Woolhouse, has been very supportive and much has been achieved with his encouragement. Mowing has replaced sheep, with benefit to the lower branches of the trees and the watercourse is currently undergoing redevelopment. He has also generously agreed to match dollar for dollar any funds raised by the Friends in 1994/5.

### THE INAUGURAL MEETING

It was very encouraging to see so many friends and neighbours prepared to give their support. Most of the meeting was concerned with discussing the Constitution, which was adopted after some modifications. It was most appropriate and delightful that Mr David Symon was able to talk to us on "Collecting trees for The Waite Arboretum". He told some good tales of his own exploits and especially a memorable ferry trip to Crete and the product of that event can be seen among the pear collection. David was Curator of the Arboretum for 29 years.

Other business accomplished included the acceptance of subscription rates at \$10 (Individual), \$18 (Family) and \$40 (Institutional) and the first fundraising events were announced.

Supper was taken in the Dining Room after the meeting and the Committee was very content with the cheerful start of this organisation, in no small way assisted by the warm open fire on that cold night.

### FROM THE COMMITTEE

We have had our first committee meeting and the following office bearers were elected:

President:	Mr Tony Whitehill	Tel.: 228.2329
Vice-President:	Ms Cate Paul	295.4069
Secretary:	Mrs Anna Cox	332.1482
Treasurer:	Dr Jennifer Gardner	303.7405

Other members of the committee are: Mrs Barbara Crompton, Mr Barry Dangerfield, Mr Dean Nicolle, Ms Isabella Rawnsley, Ms Tommie Siekmann and Mrs Mary Tester. Mrs Barbara Crompton (379.6405) will be responsible for the Newsletter.

The Committee decided to support two projects in the Arboretum - the establishment of the hakea collection and the planting of the banks of the watercourse. A working bee to do the watercourse planting will be held later.

A newsletter together with an invitation to membership will be posted to everyone on the mailing list. Only members will receive subsequent issues of the newsletter.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The first event will be an exhibition of paintings by widely acclaimed watercolourist Beryl Martin which will be jointly sponsored with The Friends of Urrbrae House. All Friends will receive an invitation to the opening at **2.30 pm on Sunday 6 November**. Helpers are needed between 10 am and 4 pm Monday to Friday and Sunday 2 pm - 4 pm to staff the exhibition and sell cards which will raise funds for the Friends. The exhibition will close 6 December.

Beryl will give a talk about her work to the Friends at **8 pm on Monday 14 November** in the Drawing Room of Urrbrae House. Come along and bring your friends.

The third activity will be a plant stall at Urrbrae House on Open Day **11 am - 4 pm, Sunday 20 November**. Donations of plants and helpers on the stall are needed. Plants may be brought to Urrbrae House on Saturday 19th (between 11 am & 3 pm), Sunday 20th (10 am - 11 am) or to the lecture on Monday 14th.

If you would like to assist with any of the above fundraising activities or the working bee please return the attached flier to Jennifer Gardner, Uni. of Adelaide - Waite Campus, Glen Osmond 5064 or telephone her on 303.7405.

Barbara Crompton

## ARBORETUM NEWS

A number of major developments of the Arboretum have occurred over the past year in addition to the formation of The Friends of The Waite Arboretum. These include:

- Expansion of the eucalypt collection by 84 species with donations of seeds collected in the wild by Dean Nicolle and Dr Ian Brooker and raised at the Waite Campus by Arboretum volunteers
- The establishment of a banksia collection (55 species) and an acacia collection (50 species) with material donated by Dr Margaret Sedgley and her Ph.D. students Mary Parletta and Michelle Sierp. These collections will provide a valuable resource for continuing research on the reproductive biology, selection and cultivation of these genera
- The establishment of a hakea collection with material donated by hakea enthusiast Max Ewer
- The addition of four more hectares to the North Arboretum to accommodate the new planting
- Regular guided walks for the general public on the first Sunday of every month which are proving to be popular and have already raised \$230 for the Friends
- The formation of an enthusiastic group of Arboretum guides: Anna Cox, Barbara Crompton, Cate Paull, Isabella Rawnsley, Tommie Siekmann and Mary Tester
- Stage one of the beautification of the watercourse with a series of ponds and a contemplation area
- The development of a palm and cycad walk at the start of the watercourse with a donation of plants from the Palm and Cycad Society
- A group of arboretum and garden volunteers who give several hours of their time each week to help with propagation, weeding, labelling and data recording: Jeannie Moffat, Jenny Newell, Susan Patterson, Cate Paull, and Una and John Wagner.

The generosity of the people who have donated material and the assistance of the guides and the volunteers are gratefully acknowledged.

## TREE OF THE MONTH

Our *Yucca decipiens* (#594) now looks spectacular with four striking flowering spikes of dense, creamy flowers. There are nine species of yucca represented in the Arboretum (in grids E14 and B8). The genus *Yucca* in the family Agavaceae comprises 40 species native to North America. Most species are apparently dependent on yucca moths for pollination and the flowers are most strongly scented at night. If you have observed any yuccas which have set seed in cultivation in countries outside North America the Curator would be very interested to know.

Jennifer Gardner