

THE FRIENDS OF THE WAITE ARBORETUM INC.



NEWSLETTER

No.32

WINTER 2002

Secretary
Mrs Rosemary Sawley
8379 7102

Editor
Dr Barbara Possingham
8363 0346

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

President's REPORT to the 7th Annual General Meeting

Urrbrae House, Wednesday, April 10, 2002.

I have much pleasure in presenting the 7th Annual Report for the Friends of the Waite Arboretum. You will recall that at last year's AGM, our President Roger Bungey read a letter from our local Member of Parliament advising that his Private Member's Bill repealing the Netherby Kindergarten Act had just been passed. Many of you may have noticed that the oaks which were planted on that site have been growing well, thanks in no small part to our wet winter and mild summer.

We have enjoyed some very interesting and educational talks during the year, including the joint presentation by Dr David Symon and Dr Jennifer Gardner on the topic of the Pear Trees in the Waite Arboretum and some local streets. My drives along Duthy Street have never been the same since.

Our October meeting was a joint occasion with the Friends of the Urrbrae Wetlands with a shared meal. After a most interesting tour of the wetland with Karen Lane and following the meal we heard Dr Allin Hodson give a fascinating account of the value and use of wetlands. We were impressed with the development of the wetland area since our first visit three years ago.

During the winter our special band of volunteers worked in the rose garden to replace many of the roses which had died. Once again Maureen Ross of Ross Roses was most generous with her donation of 120 roses. These included 37 new heritage roses to fill many gaps in that part of the garden. Maureen not only delivered the roses but helped to plant them. On one memorable occasion this meant an early start to her busy day by meeting some of the volunteers at 7.30am. We look forward to a special function in November when we shall be hosting a "Champagne and Roses" evening. Another donor to the garden has been Peter Love of the Salvia Association. We now have a varied collection of salvias in the gardens which have flourished.

Following the President's report, the **Treasurer's Report** was presented by our Treasurer Mr Roger Bungey. A photocopy of the audited financial statement appears on the last page of this Newsletter.

During the past year, two exhibitions raised over \$5 000 and subscriptions and donations reached a pleasing total of \$2 810. We also received \$1 200 bank interest. However, we only spent \$5 220 on the Arboretum and so we are well able to support some of the cost of current and projected activities.

Election of new committee members:

The following three members, who had accepted nomination, were elected to the Committee for 2002-3:

Ms Norma Lee

Dr Peter Nicholls

Mrs Judy Tyler

Talk by Mr Bernd Stoecker

Following the formalities of the AGM, our President then introduced and welcomed the guest speaker, Bernd Stoecker.

Bernd came to South Australia in 1952 as a young builder and was employed by a company that had a three year contract to build 500 homes at Warradale.

His interest in our "outback" was sparked! He graduated from a motorbike to a VW - removing the back seat to make his first trip to the Flinders Ranges and beyond. Bernd is a self-reliant person and would often spend days all alone at a given spot, waiting for the right light appropriate for a given view. In short he is a talented and committed photographer, whose skills are recognised throughout our state. (He participated in our photography exhibition a couple of years ago.)

As one of our leading landscape photographers all those present were fortunate indeed to view a selection of his spectacular slides and were able to appreciate his love of our National Parks and "outback" Australia.

FROM THE COMMITTEE

At the first committee meeting after the AGM, the following elections were made, unanimously:

President	Cecily Bungey
Vice-President	Roger Bungey
Treasurer	Norma Lee
Secretary	Rosemary Sawley.

Friends travelling along Fullarton Road or Cross Road will by now have seen the new banner advertising the Arboretum walks. This has produced favourable comment as well as having a positive effect on walk numbers.

NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome is given to the following new members:

Wendy & Greg Collings, Upper Sturt

Mrs Stephanie Thomas, Colonel Light Gardens

Mrs Yvonne Mackenzie, Royston Park

NOTES FROM THE CURATOR

This summer I have undertaken a major cull of specimens which were dead, in decline or very common. This has not been done for many years. Quite a few large specimens, at the edge of their rainfall tolerance, succumbed last summer after a dry year. The removal of these 80 trees cost about \$18,000 to which the Friends will contribute. The largest trunks were placed at the edge of the Reserve as a 'habitat heap' for wildlife. Branches up to 20 cm diameter were chipped and the mulch placed along the watercourse and around young plantings. Intermediate timber was offered first to members of Woodgroup SA and others with an interest in wood turning or carving. The remnants were offered as firewood to anyone prepared to cut and collect it. A further six specimens, including the magnificent *Eucalyptus maidenii* which died at the end of summer, have been added to the list of removals in the future.

The cull has cleared space for new material and in particular for testing species with potential for street planting. Altogether, 45 trees will be planted this winter including 18 species from Queensland. About half the new plantings are seedlings donated by Daryl Kinnane, Native Rainforest Flora, Summertown. They include different species of *Flindersia*, *Angophora* and *Syzygium*, genera which have proved so successful in the Arboretum, as well as some very unusual material. These have been planted along the watercourse by the Arboretum volunteers. The other new plantings are advanced specimens which will be purchased with a donation from the Friends and planted by arborists.

Ongoing pruning, funded by the Friends, continues to make a considerable impact. All the eucalypts planted north of the driveway since 1993 have been given formative pruning to remove faults and improve their shapes. All recent planting of oaks, pears and advanced trees have also received attention. The team will gradually work through the collection, one day a fortnight, dead-wooding mature specimens starting with the valuable oak collection and also working on the elm avenue. The support of this project by the Friends is very much appreciated.

An enthusiastic band of volunteers has been working in the northwest Arboretum where we are gradually restoring the Black Forest flora. Weeds have been sprayed. Seeds of sheoak *Allocasuarina verticillata* and *Acacia pycnantha* were collected from the Waite Conservation Reserve and germinated. They have been planted out in small copses where indigenous understorey plants like native lilac *Hardenbergia violacea*, round-leaved wattle *Acacia acinacea*, spear grasses *Stipa* spp., wallaby grasses *Danthonia* spp. and windmill grass *Chloris truncata* have been established.

The removal from the Arboretum of our two South African *Acacia karroo* generated quite a lot of media interest. Given our policy of planting trees from homoclimes which will do well under natural rainfall, there is always a risk that some may become weedy. This often happens when plants are removed from the suite of pests and pathogens which keep them in balance in their native habitats. The potential to become a weed is increased if the species is one which seeds prolifically or spreads by suckering. We need to be alert to this danger and act quickly and responsibly if evidence of a potential problem comes to light.

The Arboretum website [[www.waite.adelaide.edu.au/Waite Arboretum](http://www.waite.adelaide.edu.au/Waite%20Arboretum)] is currently being upgraded and will soon include the self-guided walking trail being revised by Jean Bird. The regular guided walks on the first Sunday of every month have been very well attended this year, thanks to the new banner bought by the Friends, and publicity on the radio gardening programs.

Jennifer Gardner

In February about 50 tubes were planted with golden wattle (*Acacia picnantha*) seeds and fifty with sheoak (*Allocasuarina verticillata*) seeds obtained from the Waite Reserve. These will be planted out in mid-July. It was hoped that the area near C4 could have received them, but spraying of the couch grass in April was not successful and will have to be repeated in October.

In the meantime the rain has brought up large areas of soursobs and these will be sprayed to protect the herbaceous understorey plants which were planted last October and which are in danger of being shaded out.

Alan Retallack

THORNY ISSUE AT THE WAITE

While thousands of Australians were out planting and hugging trees on National Tree Day Sunday 30 June, Adelaide scientists bringing out the chainsaw!

The University of Adelaide and Cooperative Research Centre for Australian Weed Management had cast a long, hard, critical look at some of the exotic trees planted some years ago at the Waite Campus and their potential to go feral.

In particular it was thumbs down for one South African species, *Acacia karroo*, and its two specimens in the renowned Waite Arboretum. Dr Jennifer Gardner, explained that scientists felt they now knew enough about the tree and its behaviour to make the decision to remove it.

"It's a difficult decision to remove specimens from our valuable Arboretum collection", said Dr Gardner. "But all the evidence now points to this species being a potential time bomb as a weed in Australia. The last thing we want is our wonderful Waite Arboretum to be the source of a major environmental problem".

Dr Gardner pointed out that *Acacia karroo*, also known as mimosa thorn and sour thorn, was the subject of a long and expensive eradication campaign at the Western Plains Zoo near Dubbo, NSW. The Werribee Open Range Zoo had also decided to remove its specimens, as had Kings Park in Perth.

The tree is one of the most widely distributed in South Africa, and its seeds are easily spread in animal dung. The seeds are also very heat resistant and establish well after fire. It had the potential to spread very widely in the temperate and semi-arid zones of Australia and its long thorns and its propensity to form dense thickets make it unattractive to stock.

The Arboretum will be replacing these two specimens with a new planting of 42 trees over the winter, all much more friendly to the environment, Dr Gardner said.

Obliging with a chainsaw, the Chief Executive Officer of the CRC for Australian Weed Management, Dr Rick Roush, pointed out that botanic gardens have frequently been the unintended source of such problems. The most notorious example was *Mimosa pigra*, the Giant Sensitive Plant from South America that is believed to have escaped from the Darwin Botanic Gardens after its introduction there in the 19th century.

"That plant alone has cost the taxpayer millions of dollars", Dr Roush said. "It continues to have a massive impact on wetlands in the Northern Territory. It's been a real environmental disaster."

THE FRIENDS OF THE WAITE ARBORETUM INC.
Statement of Receipts and Payments
From 1.1.2001 to 31.12.2001

Balance at 1.1.2001 \$37,095.44

Receipts

Subscriptions	\$1,708.00	
Donations	1,102.30	
Neutrog donation	60.00	
Tours	131.00	
Publications sales	494.00	
Arboretum postcards	46.50	
Silver & paperweight sales	544.00	
Exhibitions		
Roberts & Pearson	13,660.65	
Beryl Martin	7,675.50	
Plant sales	60.35	
TREENET catering	983.85	
Beryl Martin cards	67.00	
Bank interest	1,241.64	
		\$27,774.79

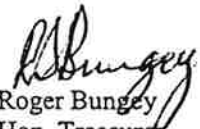
Payments

Arboretum		
Pruning	440.00	
Pruning	2,100.00	
Banner	1,180.00	
Membership: Friends of Parks	10.00	
Exhibitions		
Roberts & Pearson	9,448.13	
Beryl Martin	6,615.45	
Publications (Dean Nicolle)	225.00	
Cards	18.40	
Urrbrae House for display board	1,500.00	
Friends of Urrbrae House share of TREENET catering	143.00	
Photocopying of newsletter	369.60	
Meetings catering	179.33	
Petty cash	116.15	
Silver (Pat Hagan), paperweights (Charles Grieg)	462.00	
Bank charge	15.00	
		\$22,822.06

Balance at at 31.12.2001 \$42,048.17

Represented by:

	Balance	Commonwealth Bank	\$15,936.94	
		Macquarie Bank	26,099.68	
	Cash		11.55	
				\$42,048.17


 Roger Bungy
 Hon. Treasurer
 2 April 2002

Auditor's Report

In my opinion the above financial statement has been properly drawn up in accordance with the books and records submitted. I have obtained all the information and explanations required by me.

Brian J. Measday
 Chartered Accountant

 FCA