

THE FRIENDS OF THE WAITE ARBORETUM INC.



NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2003

No. 35

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FRIENDS OF THE WAITE ARBORETUM: EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT

7TH APRIL 2003

Twelve months ago I presented the 7th Annual Report for the Friends of the Waite Arboretum. That evening we welcomed three new members to our committee: Mrs Norma Lee who returned after a year's absence, Mrs Judy Tyler, and Dr Peter Nicholls. Those who were fortunate enough to be with us will recall the splendid slides that Bernd Stoeker, a foremost South Australian landscape photographer shared with us, taken in our National and Conservation Parks. They were stunning.

We have appreciated other excellent speakers at our quarterly general meetings. They have been well reported in our newsletter which is ably edited by Dr Barbara Possingham with the assistance of her husband Max. We have listened with great interest as Dr Mark Tester from the University of Cambridge spoke on aspects of salinity; Maureen Ross, our generous donor of roses, ensured we had a memorable evening of "Champagne & Roses" and to start this year we had a lovely evening with our volunteer Waldo Bushman showing special slides taken in our surrounding bushland, accompanied by selected music. In spring, we paid a return visit to the property of Ian Roberts at Blyth and were most impressed with the development of his native plantings which we had seen a few years ago.

Of major concern over the past year has been the uncertainty over the future of Urrbrae House and Precinct. This coincided with the anticipated arrival of the new Vice-Chancellor of the Adelaide University, Professor James McWha. A meeting was organized at Urrbrae House with all interested parties and the new Director of Finance and Infrastructure, Paul Duldig. Following this, Professor McWha and his wife visited the Urrbrae Precinct and reassured us that he appreciated the historic value and heritage of Peter Waite's gift to the University and the people of South Australia. Meetings are continuing between the University, representatives of the House and the Friends groups, the Waite family, The History Trust of SA, local council & state parliament. The work of repairing the salt damp of the house is well underway, with the second stage to be completed next year.

Links with the Friends of Urrbrae House continue with a shared exercise in providing morning and afternoon tea for the TREENET Symposium which seems to be going from strength to strength. We enjoyed our joint Christmas drinks with the Friends of the Reserve. Newsletters are also shared by committee members and much appreciated.

Last year we mentioned the new frame for the banners which are erected from time to time at the corner of Cross Road and Fullarton Road. Soon after, the new banner advertising our monthly Sunday walks through the Arboretum was in place. We are delighted with the increasing number of appreciative walkers and are grateful to the volunteers who take these guided walks.

Our weekly volunteers continue their invaluable contribution to the Arboretum, the Sensory Garden, the Garden of Discovery with its many recent plantings and the Rose Garden which delights so many visitors each day. The northwest corner of the Arboretum has had more than a hundred seedlings planted as part of the Management Plan. As you may recall, the last newsletter article on the birds of the Arboretum stated that once substantial understorey plantings have become established, the predominance of the aggressive Noisy Miner may be reduced. We sincerely hope this will be the result. We thank also our faithful volunteers who undertake the mail-outs whenever required.

Others who have made significant contributions to the Arboretum and Gardens include the Salvia Society, Bunnings, Unley Mitre 10, Neutrog, Ross Roses, the Mitcham Lions Club, who assisted with the cleaning and repair of the watercourse, the Palm & Cycad Society members who gave and planted thirty palms and cycads recently, and Pamela Brinsley, who has donated dozens of her exquisite greeting cards.

Our finances have been used to engage arborists to work on formative pruning of recent plantings and reductive pruning on some specimens with structural problems. Piles of mulch may be seen ready for distribution at the base of trees in order to help control weeds and define the plantings of new trees as the mowers move in.

The Sundial Garden (stage three of the 20th Century Rose Garden) has commenced. The centrepiece of this garden is a donated armillary sphere sundial especially designed for the site by the physicist Dr Margaret Folkard and John Ward of Sundials of Australia. The new paved path, which will be edged with lavender, will draw visitors from the Rose Garden into the Arboretum. The planting theme will be the "True Blue" rose collection donated by Ross Roses, celebrating the explorers and other notable Australians: Flinders, Florey, and Mawson.

My thanks go to all our supportive committee members and I am delighted that they have agreed to continue for another year. Special thanks to our efficient secretary Rosemary Sawley, and our treasurer Norma Lee. She has been ably assisted by Peter Nicholls. Judy Tyler has instituted a record of the hours of volunteer labour that are given on each occasion, for future reference. We all greatly appreciate the support of the Curator, Dr Jennifer Gardner, who gives wise direction while being a good listener to volunteers' ideas. She is unfailingly cheerful and helpful at all times.

I cannot close without a reminder of next Sunday's Open Day, which has been organized by the Friends of Urrbrae House with a distinctly Scottish theme. We shall have a stall which we hope you will support by bringing or buying goods and generally supporting the day. The highlight of this year will be our 75th birthday celebrations on Sunday November 16. I trust the date is in your diary already.

I move the adoption of this report.

Cicely Bungey AM President of the Friends of the Waite Arboretum

**THE FRIENDS OF THE WAITE ARBORETUM INC,
Statement of Receipts and Payments**

FROM 1.1.2002 TO 31.12.2002

Balance at 1.1.2002 **\$42,048.17**

Receipts

Subscriptions	\$1,630.00
Donations	787.25
Tours	303.00
Publication Sales	241.00
Silver & Paperweight Sales	489.00
Cards - Arboretum	30.00
- Beryl Martin	155.50
Produce	100.50
Champagne & Roses	1,238.00
TREENET Catering	1,050.00
Christmas Party	36.30
Bank Interest	1,208.73

7,269.28

Payments

Newsletters	228.58
Catering	220.03
Stationery	8.00
Growers Kit	17.00
Publications	195.00
TREENET Catering	137.38
TREENET Share to F. of U. House	304.20
Champagne & Roses	251.11

1,361.30

Balance at 31.12.2002

\$47,956.15

Represented by:

Balance Macquarie Bank	6,805.31
Commonwealth Bank	5,640.17
Elders Rural Bank	35,458.12
Cash	<u>52.55</u>
	<u>\$47,956.15</u>

Hon. Treasurer, Norma Lee
Auditor, B.Craig, Accountant.

THE WAITE ARBORETUM - PAST AND FUTURE

The Waite Arboretum originated from the gift by Peter Waite of land and money to the University of Adelaide to establish an Agricultural Research Institute. One of the conditions was that approximately half of the area was to be a public park. The University Council of the day (1923) decided on the planting of an Arboretum. The ground plan of circles and drives was drawn up by Dr A E V Richardson and by 1930 over 1,000 trees had been planted. The final plan had some areas devoted to exotics and the rest to native trees.

Mr Fred Cousins was the first groundsman, and worked in the Arboretum until he retired in 1966 after thirty eight years of service.

Early in its history, the Arboretum was grazed by sheep. These were only to be finally removed when the Director of the Waite Institute was Professor Harold Woolhouse.

From the beginning, a card index was used to keep records of each tree planted, and any subsequent deaths. The latter were separately filed in the morgue! The trees have always been labelled and a great effort is required to keep this up to date.

The Arboretum catalogue lists a number of memorial trees including oaks planted by Dr J Melville, Professor J A Prescott, Ken Pike, Enid L Robertson, Dr E Symon, and Professor Harold Woolhouse. More recently, oaks were planted by Professor M J Oades, The Hon Mr Hamilton-Smith M H A, Professor Mary O'Kane, Mrs Diana Mayfield, Mr Roger Bungey, The Hon Dr Sam Jacobs AO, QC, and Mrs Carlsa Carter. These later plantings were in celebration of the removal of the Netherby Kindergarten from Arboretum grounds.

Until the late 1950s, the Waite Arboretum was a relatively undirected park collection. After this, following a suggestion from Professor Prescott, the Arboretum was developed as a directed botanical collection. Under the present curator, Dr J. Gardner, the third phase has begun. The sheep were removed! The collection is now looked upon as a working collection of trees and its educational role has been positively developed. Conducted tours have been organised and the Arboretum now provides a resource for secondary and tertiary teachers in horticulture, arboriculture, landscape architecture and taxonomic botany.

The Friends of the Waite Arboretum was formed to foster interest in the care and use of the Arboretum and to raise funds for its development and promotion.

TREENET has been developed and this has brought together an array of arborists, landscape architects, educators and representatives of councils and nurseries. There is much work being done on street trees and replicated trials of these trees have been made.

Recent developments have included the development of Black Forest understorey in the northwest section where some remanent grey box trees are thought to predate white settlement.

(The above is a summary of Dr Symon's address that followed the AGM. Ed.)

Summary of business conducted at the AGM

(a) The small changes to the Constitution that had been included in the last newsletter were passed.

(b) As all members of the 2002 committee were willing to continue, they were all re-elected. In addition, we were pleased to include Mr Bryan Milligan as a new member. He has been involved with the Waite Arboretum for many years and has always, following his retirement, been willing to volunteer his assistance. He will certainly add to the committee's fund of knowledge and skills.

GENERAL MEETING

Monday, February 24 2003

“Natural Environment” - a magical audiovisual presentation
by **Waldo Bushman**.

I did not know what to expect. Waldo's book 'WIRRA, the bush that was Adelaide', has been a great companion in my attempts to cultivate a natural garden. I knew no more of him than that, so I was expecting a gardening session. It was a delight to find a real man who not only lived but breathed poetry and took dreamy photographs.

Waldo has poured his soul into the Australian bush and, from the words he spoke to his images, it was clear that the bush has given him delight and solace. His audiovisual presentation was autobiographical in its revelation of his love for our piece of creation. His photographs flowed dreamily, softened by mists, through seasons and times as plants aged and changed form and colour, produced food and multiplied, cleansed the air, recycled the earth and then succumbed into it to create another cycle. He told us that all the plants which appeared before us are represented in the Waite Conservation Reserve.

David Symon, in thanking Waldo, spoke of his focus on the smallest detail: the drop of nectar on a gland, a magpie in successive shots looking down pensively, to being suddenly alert. He reminded us that patriotism is based on landscape and the area one occupies on Earth. Indeed, Waldo reminded me of the glories that surround us not far away, and fresh from a London visit I felt much gratitude for all that we have left of the natural environment in Australia. May we treasure and protect it and be grateful for the Waldos of the world who work for it.

Barbara Crompton.

About Waldo Bushman

Waldo Bushman was born in the Ukraine during World War II. Subsequently he arrived in Australia as a refugee. He has a passionate empathy for refugees and indeed, for anyone suffering injustice. This is not limited to people only, but embraces all creatures in the natural environment. He sees that people and nature are inextricably connected. He believes that people are at their best when they maintain an intimate relationship with the natural environment. He believes that a large proportion of society's problems are due to an absence of such a relationship for many people.

Waldo has worked on regenerating damaged bushland and he has pioneered bringing back the original natural environment to places from which it had vanished.

Waldo believes that the bush brings out the mystic in everyone. He delights in pitching a tent in the bush and is always enthusiastic and willing to meet people passionate about camping in natural environments.

THE OAKS; AN INTRODUCTION

In previous newsletter issues, several oaks have been described. This note will introduce you to the whole genus of these trees.

The Oaks, *Quercus*, belong to the Fagaceae, that is an overwhelmingly northern hemisphere family. In the southern hemisphere they are represented by the Southern

Beeches, *Northofagus*, a famous and fascinating Gondwanan relic which occurs in South America, Australia, New Zealand, and Papua New Guinea. None survives in the Arboretum. No other Fagaceae are native to Australia.

Readers will know of Sweet Chestnut, *Castanea*, harvested extensively in southern and eastern Europe for its large, tasty nuts and now being grown in the Adelaide Hills. Several trees have grown in the Arboretum but none has survived without extra water. Possibly the more critical selection of southern European stocks might be profitable.

The Beeches, *Fagus*, comprise major forest trees of Eurasia and North America, but again none has survived with us. Beech 'mast' is an important food for some forest animals.

Other genera in the family *Chrysolepis*, *Lithocarpus*, and *Trigonobalanus* are either tropical or of high rainfall origin and do not thrive here.

This leaves *Quercus*, the Oaks, a huge genus that dominates the family and many of the forests in the northern hemisphere. It is immensely important for timber, shelter, decorative trees, cork and tannin. The acorns are major items of food for a suite of animals that consume and disperse this chunky seed. *Quercus* occurs across Eurasia and North America, down to Mexico, and south of the Equator in Papua New Guinea. There are something like 600 species which range from evergreen or deciduous clonal shrubs to huge trees. The flowers of oak trees are not conspicuous, though the resulting acorns are often attractive, so the trees are grown for their evergreen mass and form, or for the autumn colours of the deciduous species.

Oaks were amongst the first plants in the Arboretum : 1928, 1930 and 1944. The choices reflected the sources and prejudices of the day so that English Oaks and the colourful Pin Oaks of North America were well represented. Natural selection has had its inevitable result and shows the way to go. As a consequence, we have fine specimens of Cork Oak, Holm Oak, Spanish Oaks and some Californian species from later plantings. The collection has been recently expanded.

There are one or two quite large private oak collections in Australia and there is an International Oak Society of which the Arboretum is a member.

David Symon

FROM THE COMMITTEE

At the meeting held in April it was agreed that on future meeting flyers, when relevant, the following little statement would appear - "Supper - gold coin donation." This should assist in future with our finances.

Following the AGM, a short meeting of the new committee was held. The President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer were all elected into their 2002 positions.

It is probably worth explaining that although our finances, described in the Treasurer's report, appear in excellent condition, the committee has already decided upon spending about \$15 000 on Arboretum maintenance and in addition, aims to spend several thousand dollars on improving the sign-posting of both individual trees and certain groups of trees within the Arboretum. Signs such as we envisage will be of significant educational value as well as having general interest.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Sunday, November 16, 2003, 11am - 5pm. A sub-committee is working hard organising this event. There will certainly be calls for volunteers to help. It will also provide all of us, and our friends, with an entertaining and informative day's activities.

Monday, August 11, evening meeting on **TREENET** by David Lawry. A reminder flyer will be sent!!

ANNA COX

We should all like to congratulate our previous secretary Mrs Anna Cox who was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia for service to the community.

She has had over twenty five years of service to the Adelaide Botanic Gardens and has been involved as a board member of the Gardens and State Herbarium. She was also a founding member of the Friends of the Waite Arboretum.

Without doubt this is a well deserved decoration and members of the committee of the Arboretum are sure that all of our Friends will join with us in congratulating Anna.

OAK IDENTIFICATION

We are extremely fortunate in that one of our committee members is Pam Brinsley, who was a professional botanical artist. This article is followed by a sample of her drawings. In practice, oaks, and in fact all flowering plants, are identified by their flowers, leaves and fruits. Oak flowers are small. Oak leaves and their fruits, acorns, are visible and usually enable accurate species identification.

On the following page we show the foliage and an acorn of *Q. suber*, the Cork Oak, together with a drawing of a piece of its bark which can be used for corking bottles. The specimen was from an Arboretum tree and is drawn to scale, ie x1.

The Cork Oak was written up by Mary Tester in Newsletter 33.

TREENET

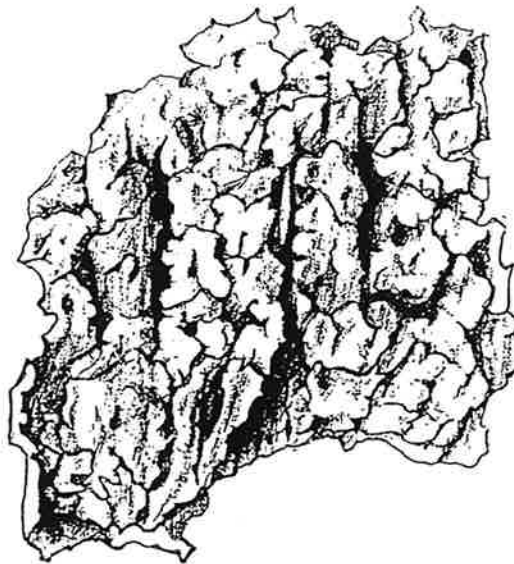
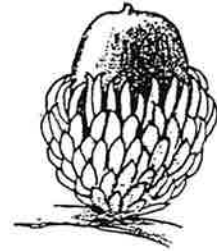
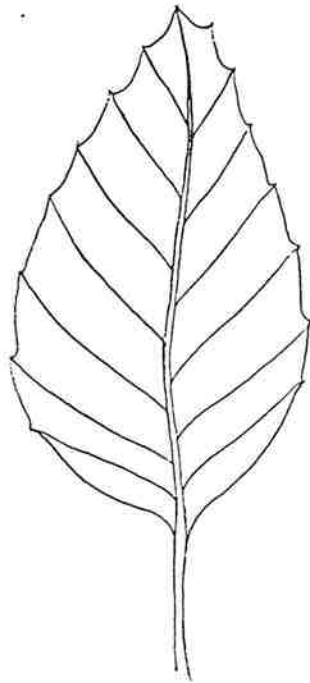
Since our last report, TREENET has moved into its new headquarters in the Coachhouse. David Lawry, co-founder with Jennifer Gardner of the TREENET project, is in residence on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, working with an enthusiastic and talented team: IT guru and TREENET webmaster Sean Donaghy, and volunteers Sarah Prior (graduate landscape architect) and science graduate Daniel Carocci. Also assisting the project as required are Tim Johnson, Chair, and Brian Measday, Accountant.

As an established and widely respected organisation with its focus on the urban forest and street trees in particular, TREENET is gaining a national and international profile for the Arboretum and its intended role as a resource for research.

At the Symposium this year, to be opened by the Premier of SA Mike Rann, two long term projects will be launched. The first is a trial of stormwater harvesting techniques which will establish the effectiveness of various engineered devices designed to capture runoff from Claremont Avenue. It is a collaborative effort involving TREENET, Uni SA, Mitcham Council and Transport SA. and will provide information on the potential of street trees to assist in the removal of pollutants from the stormwater system, and the benefit from the significant increase in available moisture to the root zone.

The second trial, to be designed by Derek Moore, Senior Lecturer in Arboriculture at the Charles Sturt University in consultation with Arboretum curator Jennifer Gardner, will investigate the effect of different tree production systems on root development in juvenile and established trees. It is anticipated that the trial plot, to be established in the northern portion of the Arboretum, will continue over a twenty five year period, ending in the centenary year of the Arboretum.

To find out more go to www.treenet.com.au .



Cork Oak, *Quercus suber*

Dear Friend,

Your 2003 subscription is now overdue. We hope this is just an oversight. Your support of the Waite Arboretum through the Friends is greatly appreciated.

To ensure your continued receipt of this Newsletter, please renew your membership on the form below.

Thank you.



**THE FRIENDS OF THE WAITE ARBORETUM INC.
MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL 2003**

Title:.....Name

.....

Address:.....Postcode:.....

..

Telephone:.....Email:

- Yes, I would like be a volunteer Yes, I would like to help staff exhibitions
- Individual \$10
- Family \$18
- Institutional \$40

I enclose my fee of \$.....

A donation* of \$.....

Total amount.\$.....

(Subscriptions are due on January 1st.)

*Please make cheques payable to "The Friends of The Waite Arboretum Inc." and return to:
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FRIENDS NEWSLETTER

Print Post Approval PP504655/00196

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