

# THE FRIENDS OF THE WAITE ARBORETUM INC.



## WAITE ARBORETUM

### NEWSLETTER

Spring 2003

No. 37 37

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### GENERAL MEETING

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> August 2003

#### "TREENET" – by David Lawry and Sean Donaghy

A smallish and intrepid band of friends of the Waite Arboretum braved the August cold to hear a very interesting and informative talk on TREENET. This item was extremely topical as the Fourth TREENET Symposium was held at the Waite on 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> September. David Lawry, seemingly unfazed by the Adelaide cold as he had just returned from an overseas trip to sweltering Europe and Turkey, described the current and future work of TREENET in a very relaxed manner. He illustrated the various benefits of having street trees in Adelaide, including the economic benefits so beloved by local council bodies. The economic benefit is estimated at \$172 per tree per annum, while the cost of the tree is estimated at \$20 per tree per annum. These cold hard economic elements do not include the intangible aesthetic, spiritual and ecological components; only such simple elements as the physical lowering of the local environmental temperature on the longevity of roads and pavements, and reduction in soil salinity impacts.

David described how TREENET was bringing to the discussion table a whole variety of people interested in street trees from many walks of life, such as engineers and planners, arborists and educators, and volunteers from the public, since its inception 6 years ago. He emphasised that it provides an ongoing and continuous forum for discussion and the exchange of ideas and information, as well as the important dialogues which occur at the annual symposia.

He told us that TREENET operates from the Coach House on the Waite Campus and is financed by a number of State Government and Industry bodies, and receives valuable support from several educational institutions, especially the University of Adelaide. David distributed car stickers with the slogan: "A City without Trees isn't fit for a dog".

Sean Donaghy described and demonstrated the workings of the TREENET website: [www.treenet.com.au](http://www.treenet.com.au) which is one of the key tools for the continuous forum for the dialogue between the interested parties working with street trees. The data from the many and widely dispersed street tree trials, from Claremont Avenue, Mitcham, to the District Council of Streaky Bay, is recorded onto a database which is available to the registered users of the website. Sean showed how easy it is to become a registered visitor to the website and it is free! He reported that there had been 239000 hits on the website, 50% of these coming from overseas, while there are 240 registered users, some of whom are from interstate and some from a number of overseas countries, such as China, USA, New Zealand, UK, Israel and Belgium. Finally, as with all good pieces of software, it has a useful help line.

A lively discussion on the current topic of street trees in North Terrace rounded out the evening's proceedings.

Peter Nicholls



### **Notes from the President**

Our August General Meeting, with an address by David Lawry as Peter Nicholls has recounted above, was a great opportunity for us to learn about TREENET before the Symposium actually happened.

The major activity since our last newsletter has been catering for morning and afternoon teas for the TREENET Symposium. The record number of registrations meant that all volunteers were kept busy preparing food and pouring tea and coffee over the two days. My special thanks to all those Friends of the Arboretum and Friends of Urrbrae House who were involved. The weather was perfect and it reportedly was a very successful event. The proceeds from our efforts were divided between the two groups depending on the volunteer hours contributed and the cakes donated. We enjoyed our involvement in such a significant event.

The Friends of the Waite Arboretum volunteers have faithfully attended each Tuesday morning to do anything that is required. Despite the very cold winter, we have seldom been deterred from doing something useful either in the grounds or within Urrbrae House. We have watched the roses being pruned and well mulched and are now thrilled to see them about to burst into bloom. Efforts are well underway to ensure that the roses are labelled which is a time-consuming task being undertaken by some keen rose enthusiasts. The Sensory Garden has never looked better and is a credit to those dedicated to its maintenance.

The Friends have funded the remedial work carried out by arborists in the Arboretum with 20 trees having been removed and professional pruning taking place. This is in preparation for our special event in November.

I trust that all members of the Friends of the Waite Arboretum have the date of the 75th Anniversary of the planting of the Arboretum on 16th November, in their diaries. We hope this will prove to be a great celebration for all to enjoy. All we need is for everyone to bring family and friends to enjoy the activities from 11am to 5pm, with music, stalls, a sausage sizzle, wine tastings and tours of the Arboretum as part of the day's activities. Please refer to the tear-off list of tasks at the end of this newsletter, if you feel you can donate any of your time as a volunteer on the day, or items for the stalls and raffle basket, and return it to Jennifer.

Warmest regards  
Cicely Bungey

## ARBORETUM NEWS

### **New planting**

About 40 advanced trees will be planted very shortly. Most are species with potential for streets and will be part of our on-going program to plant in the Arboretum, reference specimens of species being tested in TREENET trials around the state.

### **Arboretum addition**

The tennis courts in the gardens of Urrbrae House have been falling into disuse and disrepair for several years. At my request the area has now been added to the Arboretum. My plan is to remove the decrepit backstops, repair the steps and leave the area unplanted to show the footprint of the original Peter Waite courts. The large flat space will then be available for hire for events, to generate income for the Arboretum. Best of all, the area will accommodate a large marquee which will enable us to hold future TREENET symposia right in the Arboretum. This year we had to restrict numbers to the limited capacity of the Charles Hawker Conference Centre. Next year we hope to attract up to 300 delegates to this new and very special setting. As David Lawry aptly put it "the site will become hallowed turf to the thousands of arborists who will take a seat courtside in the years ahead."

### **New landscaping**

Work will begin shortly on a small landscaping project to divert storm water runoff away from our precious *Eucalyptus* 'Urrbrae Gem' which has been going steadily into decline, exacerbated by waterlogging. The tree is the original F1 hybrid discovered at the Waite Arboretum by Fred Couzens and planted in 1936 by the tennis courts. Over many years, Prof. Margaret Sedgley and her Ph.D. students have done research to determine the parentage of this tree and propagate it vegetatively. That research has met with some success and I hope it will not be too long before more specimens of the cultivar become available. In the meantime the stormwater will be directed northwards into a small rock lined swale that will be planted with native sedges. This will

markedly enhance the area at the eastern edge of The Mallee which is the main entrance to the Arboretum from the Urrbrae House gardens.

### **The Dam**

The long awaited work to repair the leaking dam will commence in February next year. The engineering solutions are currently being explored and designed. The City of Mitcham is contributing to the cost as the dam receives a lot of storm water runoff from the streets of Netherby to the southeast. The water in the dam will be drawn down over summer, commencing mid October, with a temporary bund constructed at the eastern end. It is anticipated that the completed works will include the reinstatement of safe public access to the area.

### **Water Symposium**

On 24 October I will be speaking at symposium in the Botanic Gardens on 'Waterwise trees for streets and gardens: the Waite Arboretum and the TREENET project'. The audience will be mainly the extended horticultural industry, with a public family day planned for Saturday 25. *We plan to mount a display on the Friday highlighting the Arboretum. I would be very pleased to hear from any Friends who would like to help staff the display. 8303 7405*



### **Spectacular flowering**

Keep your eye on the *Yucca decipiens* (#979A, B8). The large inflorescence is just starting to emerge (see photo) and will gradually elongate into a spectacular flowering spike during October. This is the third year it has flowered.

### **Interpretive signs**

Eight interpretive signs for the Arboretum are now in production, with another four to follow. Illustrations are by Beth Chandler (3 including the Arboretum logo) and Emma Kinnane. An example of text and illustration appears below.

Jennifer Gardner

*Flindersia australis*      *Crow's Ash or Australian Teak*

The generic name of this handsome tree honours Captain Matthew Flinders (1774-1814) who circumnavigated Australia, mapping its coastline. There are 22 species of *Flindersia* of which 15 are native to Australia. Most of the Australian species are found in the warm, moist forests of the northeast coast where they grow to a height of 50 m and are valued for their hard, durable timber. *Flindersia* is in the citrus family Rutaceae. The dense panicles of white flowers with brown centres are followed by unusual 4-, 5- or 6-parted woody fruits covered with blunt spines. Unlike most other species of *Flindersia*, the boat-shaped valves of the *F. australis* capsule remain united at the base after dehiscence and make a fine subject for floral art. Crow's ash is semi-evergreen in our climate and is being trialled as a street tree in Adelaide.



**Emma Kinnane - the artist:**

Emma has been a volunteer at the Waite Arboretum since March 2003, working on, amongst other things, the botanical artwork for a series of interpretive signs for the Arboretum grounds. She studied art at school and enjoys painting and drawing in her spare time, having only recently taken up botanical drawing. She completed a Bachelor of Science at the University of Adelaide, majoring in Zoology and Botany, with an Environmental Science focus. As a result, her botanical understanding has certainly assisted in the accurate reproduction in her illustrations of various species. At present, she is employed in function co-ordination and computer / office work, but hopes to find employment within the Environmental Science field soon, whilst continuing with the drawing of plants, which she finds stimulating and rewarding.

**TREENET Symposium: A Premier Event**

The 2003 TREENET Symposium opened with Premier Mike Rann addressing a capacity audience in the Charles Hawker Conference Centre.

Mr Rann impressed with his awareness in articulating the issues surrounding the urban forest and his Government's commitment to his initiative, the One Million Trees project. Unlike most "greening" projects, this one concentrates on the urban and peri-urban spaces around Adelaide and is unique in Australia. The large delegation of arborists from interstate was envious of the interest and lead coming from such a high level, and expressions of frustration at the low priority given by Mr Rann's counterparts in their home states were numerous.

However, the point of the invitation wasn't just about us learning from the Premier. In briefing him through his staff, we passed on a lot of information about the Arboretum, its history and scientific significance, and the important role that TREENET (Tree and Roadway Experimental and Educational Network) plays as an integral part of the Arboretum's activities. To have such awareness and involvement from our Premier is extremely beneficial to both parties and we hope to build on that relationship in the future. Following his presentation, the Premier presented a Transport SA cheque for \$5,000 to TREENET, and we extended an invitation to him to return in 2004.

**The Arboretum makes more TREENET friends**

"This is the most relaxed and enjoyable conference yet. Such a friendly atmosphere!"

Peter Lawton, veteran Melbourne based attendee of all four National Street Tree Symposia to date was not alone in his observation. A record crowd enjoyed not only the excellent presentations, but soaked up the wonderful atmosphere provided by sunshine, beautiful surroundings and smiling faces.

The "Friends" groups are major contributors to the success of the annual event and delegates loved the attention given to them during the breaks by such attentive and friendly people.

TREENET would like to thank all the volunteers who baked cakes, prepared the food, set up the tables, dispensed tea and coffee, guided delegates to the car park or the Charles Hawker Centre, or showed them around Urrbrae House and the Arboretum. If you would like to be part of the fun at the 5<sup>th</sup> TREENET Symposium, mark your diaries now for the first Thursday and Friday in Spring, the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> of September 2004.



### **Urrbrae House moves to Kensington**

No need to panic; you can still expect to see the lovely old house at the top of the Peter Waite driveway next time you visit. However, it will also be 'on show' at Kensington Gallery from Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> October through to November 16<sup>th</sup>. The exhibition will be opened by an important friend of the Arboretum, Peter Lewis MP, and will feature works by John Dowie, whose sculpture features in the Garden of Discovery, as well as other artists. Included will be a water colour of Urrbrae House by local artist Julie Lawry, who has captured a view of the house from the southwest near the tennis courts on a late afternoon in September this year. The magnificent Bunya pine in the foreground is an outstanding feature of the work. Julie is considering making a limited edition of signed and framed prints available for purchase through the Arboretum office, with part proceeds supporting the Arboretum.



### **Friends support of the Waite Arboretum - Funds committed for 2003:**

ARBORICULTURAL WORK - 11 days (crew of 3 + chipper @ \$1,500 / day)=  
**\$16,500**[paid for 5 days \$7,500 to date, \$9,000 to pay]

INTERPRETIVE SIGNS: Allocated **\$10,000**  
 Cost for 12 signs (design & production): **\$6,050**  
 Artist (Emma Kinnane) 9 drawings @ \$150 each = **\$1,350**  
 [paid Emma for 5 drawings to date \$750, \$600 still to pay] Installation cost: est.  
 \$300 Total for signs : **~\$7,700**

NEW PLAQUES FOR MEMORIAL SEATS: Allocated **\$1,000**  
 Cost: 16 @ \$62.50 each = \$1,000

NEW TREES 2002 **\$1,000** paid in 2003

NW SECTION – understorey regeneration Allocation: **\$200** paid

**Total spent or allocated in 2003: \$28,700**

In addition, the Committee has agreed to contribute to the cost of new trees to be planted in 2003.



*When we plant a tree, we are doing what we can to make our planet a happier and more wholesome dwelling place for those who come after us, if not for ourselves*

*Holmes*



## **75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Waite Arboretum Open Day**

We are going to need as many volunteers as we can possibly get to help with activities and stalls on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> November at the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Waite Arboretum Open Day. If you feel you would like to volunteer some time to help out on the day, please mark the task and time you would prefer on the tear-off list below, and return it to Jennifer at Urrbrae House at your earliest convenience. As always, we rely on our volunteers, and are most grateful for any help offered.

We also are asking for **donations for the Trading Table and the raffle**. If you can provide anything, such as produce, biscuits, cakes, plants, art and craft items, please indicate also on the list below. Donations such wine, chocolates and special produce will be raffled during the day.



## **Diary Dates**

**Friday 24 October & Saturday 25 October** – Water Symposium in the Botanic Gardens of Adelaide. Volunteers are needed to staff the Arboretum display. Contact Jennifer 8303 7405. See enclosed brochure.

### **Special guided walks in the Arboretum**

**11 am Sunday 2 November:** Dean Nicolle – the Arboretum eucalypt collection

**11 am Sunday 9 November:** Prof. Bob Hill – Living descendants of fossil genera. There will also be a related exhibition in Urrbrae House.

**11.30 am and 2 pm Sunday 16 November** (during Open Day)

**11 am – 5 pm Sunday 16 November:** 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Arboretum Open Day (see separate flier)

**11 am Sunday 23 November:** David Lawry – Trees for streets

**6 pm – 8 pm Monday 8 December** Joint Christmas drinks and nibbles with Friends of the Waite Arboretum, Friends of Urrbrae House, Friends of Waite Reserve and all the volunteers.



**Please return to Jennifer Gardner at Urrbrae House**

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**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_ **PHONE NO:** \_\_\_\_\_

<b>DESCRIPTION OF DONATION /S FOR TRADING TABLE / RAFFLE BASKET:</b>
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<b>TASKS</b>	<b>9 – 11am</b>	<b>11 – 1pm</b>	<b>1 – 3pm</b>	<b>3 –5pm</b>	<b>5pm clean up</b>
Saturday general preparation					
9 – 11am general preparation					
On duty in Urrbrae House					
Information guide –booth					
Information guide – roving					
Arboretum guide					
Ice cream / drinks stall					
Trading table					
Champagne serving on balcony					
Lily Pily wine tasting in arboretum					
Paintings / small articles sales in U.House					
Raffle ticket selling					