

# THE FRIENDS OF THE WAITE ARBORETUM INC.



## NEWSLETTER NO. 43

Autumn 2005

Secretary  
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8379 7102

Editor  
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### NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Our summer period started with the very successful evening of "Roses & Bubbles" with popular Sophie Thomson talking on "Companions for Roses" to a most appreciative audience. The evening, initiated by the Friends of Urrbrae House, also provided a financial boost to our funds.

The weather has ensured the Urrbrae House precinct has continued to attract appreciative comments from those visiting the area, together with queries about the obvious excavations on the south side of the house.

The University of Adelaide's twilight Sculpture Walk was fully booked, with hopes for another in the future. The unpredictable weather did not deter 80 attending to hear talks by the artists, as groups gathered at strategic locations.

Our outing to Andrew Crompton's property, "Possum Park", at Mt. Barker was much enjoyed. Members admired the transformation of the former 14 acre dairy farm to a region covered with native vegetation.

Once again we had a combined Christmas celebration with the Friends' groups from Urrbrae House and Waite Conservation Reserve. A major event on that evening was the launch of a reprint of Gladys Hogg's book, "Peter Waite 1834-1922", which is always in demand.

The AGM of the Friends of the Waite Arboretum will be held on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> April, when Sarah Cockerell will be our guest speaker. Please plan to attend and, if possible, bring a friend who may be interested in joining us. I look forward to meeting with our many supporters on that night.

Warmest regards, Cicely Bungey

Cicely sent me an article, "Trees for Peace", that she copied from the net -- "Thank you Cicely". I have included it as a single page attachment.

## **“GUMNUTS GALORE: THE PURSUIT OF THE ULTIMATE EUCALYPT”**

Dr Kate Delaporte delighted a packed audience at the general meeting in February with her illustrated talk about the development of eucalypt varieties suitable for the cut flower industry.

Kate has been interested in the field of floriculture for many years. After working in the cut flower industry for some time she completed a Bachelor of Agriculture Science, with Honours, at the University of Adelaide studying the development of banksias for cut flowers. In 1999 she was awarded a Churchill Fellowship to investigate the commercial development of Australian Plants in countries with a Mediterranean climate and travelled to Italy, France and California. She completed her PhD with a study of the development of ornamental eucalypts and is now working as a post doctoral fellow at the University of Adelaide to further develop this work. The Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation, the Playford Memorial Trust together with industry are funding the project. The Australian Floriculture industry already has major markets in Japan, the U.S.A., the Netherlands, Canada and Germany. There is a demand overseas for novel products; species with interesting buds and flowers with variations in size shape and colour. While eucalypts grow elsewhere in the world, Australia has by far the largest genetic pool of eucalypts. These factors have made research into the development of eucalypts for cut flowers feasible.

The project has five stages:

- Controlled hybridization between selected species
- Selection of varieties according to selection criteria and industry preference
- Clonal propagation of selected varieties
- PBR registration and variety testing
- Commercial release

The hybridization stage has resulted in more than 1000 hybrids growing at the Waite Campus. Most have now reached production maturity. Prior to the talk, about 40 people joined Kate on a tour of these in the Laidlaw experimental eucalypt plantation and talked about the challenges of selection, harvesting and propagation.

Selection of suitable hybrids is firstly made on shape and form of cut stems which includes floriferousness (how it looks or the “wow” factor), bud position, bud colour, and intensity, leaf colour and contrast between bud, stem and leaf. The tree height and habit are also important but these can be affected by environment. Performance characteristics are then assessed, such as response to clonal propagation, postharvest treatments and production regimes.

Of all the hybrids available, 574 have been assessed, with 36 selected based on the first criteria. 175 have been rejected and 363 require further observation or are yet to reach productive maturity. The selected forms have been sent to industry for final selection. Kate has selected 13 individuals from three groups (female parent species); Group Erythronemae, Group Curviptera and Group Subulatae. Kate had beautiful slides to illustrate why these eucalypts were chosen; they look good, the flowers/buds are attractive, they have suitable stems and a good vase life.

Post harvest testing will investigate ways to extend vase life e.g. using a sucrose solution and studying the plant during bud development. Finding out how the plants will respond to various pruning regimes is vital for commercial production but little research has been done to date.

Propagation of the plants is vital to the success of the project. Hybrids can't be reproduced by seed. Investigation into grafting and cutting propagation and tissue culture

methods is underway by three team members who are funded by the Playford Memorial Trust, the State Government, Don and Margaret Laidlaw, a Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation PhD Scholarship and an Australian Flora Foundation grant. Future directions include continued research into propagation, postharvest treatments and varietal development.

"The selection of superior interspecific hybrids with proven performance capabilities will enable the commercial production of eucalypt buds and flowers to achieve new heights"  
(Dr Kate Delaporte)

This interesting talk filled me with admiration for Kate and her team for their commitment to the Australian Floriculture Industry, their perseverance with such painstaking research and their passion about the project.

Marilyn Gilbertson

## SALT DAMP REMEDIATION WORK AT URRBRAE HOUSE

The second stage of the salt damp remediation work at Urrbrae House is well underway despite being considerably delayed by weather. This work covering the eastern and south-eastern corner of the house is due to be completed by May. During this stage of the work we have continued to have functions and events although there have been difficulties because of the lack of access to the back kitchen door.

In November the house will close until mid 2006 for the third stage of the work on the northern side of the house. This work involves dismantling the main external stairway to the house to allow for trenching. The stairway will need to be rebuilt at the end of the work. The front driveway of the house will also be inaccessible at this time and we expect that the driveway will be resurfaced when the work is finished.

It has been a long haul and a considerable financial commitment by the University to Urrbrae House. However the work had become critical and further delays would have caused structural damage. Nevertheless it will be nice when things finally return to normal in mid 2006.

Yvonne Routledge

## FINANCIAL NOTES FROM OUR TREASURER

**Subscriptions for 2005, together with many generous donations, have been flowing in at a pleasing rate.** We hope that those of you, who have not yet paid, will consider the work in the Arboretum sufficiently valuable to be worthy of your continued support.

**\*\*\* If your Newsletter has a *pink spot* your subscription is now due. \*\*\***

The following major payments were made to the Arboretum in 2004.

Arboriculture: \$9 000 plus \$4 800 in Jan. 2005

Interpretive signs: \$9 000

New plaques for seats: \$1 000

Drainage and landscaping for Eucalyptus "Urrbrae Gem": \$920.

In addition we have agreed to pay:

\$4 000 for setting up a web-site

\$2 000 for (damage-proof, we hope!) new labels for trees.

Norma Lee

IN MEMORIAM  
**BETTY R. WESTWOOD O.A.M.**

Miss Westwood, Betty to her friends, was brought up near Strathalbyn in the twenties and thirties – times of extreme poverty and depression. Having had relatively little formal education, she began training for Nursing in the Royal Adelaide Hospital in 1939. After qualifying as a Sister, she joined up and became an Army Nurse serving in the Pacific Islands. She subsequently worked in the Repatriation Hospital where she nursed many former prisoners of war.

Later Betty spent a couple of years nursing in the United Kingdom and soon after returning home she was offered a position at St Peters College, in Adelaide, where she spent the rest of her working life.

Matron Westwood, as she then became, proved herself to be an amazing and very special person, who devoted her life to loving and caring for others. I am certain that her enthusiasm for nature rubbed off on to many of “her boys” and I KNOW that at least two of them were appreciative of her efforts.

Betty Westwood loved all living things and worked hard and enthusiastically to preserve nature in all of its forms. As an early member of “Trees for Life” she spent years nurturing seedlings, many of which she planted and tended on the roadsides and in the paddocks near Strathalbyn and Finnis. She had always kept her old family home in Strathalbyn and in fact used what had been an old building on the block to become “Hoot Hall” where she housed her amazing collection of OWLS – painted, stuffed and fabricated in a great variety of ways. She delighted in showing this collection to visitors!

Betty Westwood, was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia for her work in areas of conservation. She was a member of The Friends of the Botanic Gardens, and was one of the first guides there, a Foundation Member of the Friends of the Waite Arboretum and a member of the Nature Conservation Society of South Australia.

Barbara Possingham

## FRIENDS OF WAITE ARBORETUM – DIARY DATES

### GENERAL MEETINGS 8 pm Urrbrae House

**Monday 18 April (AGM)** – speaker: Sarah Cockerell – **Avenues of Honour**

It would be good if as many as possible members attended the AGM. We do need a Quorum.

New faces are always welcome and a nice little form on a later page makes it easy for those **who are able and willing to serve!** (Sounds a bit like Churchill in WW2)

There is a form near the end of this Newsletter requesting people to apply for committee membership. **PUT YOUR NAME FORWARD PLEASE!**

It is also necessary to find a new Editor for this Newsletter. Barbara Possingham shall not be available.

**Monday 15 August** – Graham Brookman has agreed to speak on his “Food Forest” - followed up with an excursion to his permaculture property near Gawler (in spring).

**CHRISTMAS PARTY: 6 – 8 pm Monday 5 December** in gardens

### FUNDRAISING EVENTS:

Catering morning and afternoon teas for TREENET hosted workshops

**Beryl Martin** exhibition in Urrbrae House. Opening: Friday 9 September and running from 10 – 25 September.

## NEW MEMBERS

We have fallen a little behind in reporting these, so the list includes some new members who joined in 2004. A warm welcome is extended to them.

Julie Brownell, Fullarton

Tony Cole, Norwood

Robin Elix, Urrbrae

Jane & David Hurst, Millswood

Judy Morton, St.Peters

Andrew Mason

Lyndon Stacy, Dulwich

John Fitzgibbon, (Metro Tree Growers), Melbourne

## ARBORETUM NEWS

**Labelling plants** in arboreta and botanic gardens is an on-going challenge. The labels need to be prominent (without detracting from the specimen), easy to read, long-lasting, easy to attach, secure from theft and allow for tree growth, all without being injurious to the tree. Recent visitors to the Arboretum may have noticed the new style of labels, which I think look very elegant and I hope will be long-lasting, secure and represent best arboricultural practice. The labels are etched, rather than engraved, black anodised aluminium to match our new interpretive signs. They are attached to lateral branches (on the north side of the tree) with long loops of multi-stranded stainless steel cable secured with nickel-plated copper ferrules. Where there are no low branches, a single eyelag screw with a long shaft to allow for growth is used. The first batch of 90 new labels has been installed with the invaluable help of new volunteer Mark Ziersch. Volunteer David Barwick has been conducting an audit of all the labels, and a second batch will be ordered later this year. The new labels have been funded by the Friends.

The **Palm & Cycad Society (SA)** had a very productive and enjoyable working bee on Sunday 27 February. Another 15 new specimens were donated and planted and the October 2004 plantings tagged with their names. Many palms in cultivation hybridize freely, both intra- and inter-generically, so naming our specimens can be quite tricky and must await flowering to be sure. The Palm and Cycad walk is developing well with the care given to it by the members and our hard-working Arboretum volunteers.

The **Arboretum catalogue** is now available on the website:

<http://www.waite.adelaide.edu.au/arboretum/> and can be readily kept current. The catalogue is in an Excel spreadsheet and is searchable and sortable by the different fields: scientific name, common name, family, date planted, tree number and grid reference. Work continues to update the map.

Two new **self-guided walking trails** are in place and the trail guides can be downloaded from the Arboretum website. Thank you to Arboretum guide Jean Bird who has developed these trails.

**Volunteers** are needed to participate in a special Avenues of Honour project by helping to **propagate the Gallipoli rosemary** which will be sold to raise funds for the project. A hedge of the parent stock was planted last September, during the TREENET Symposium, along the south-eastern corner of the Arboretum. To learn more about the Avenues of Honour project, come along to Sarah Cockerell's presentation at the next Friends' meeting on 18 April. If you would like to help with the propagation, please phone David 8303 7078 or email him [david@treenet.org](mailto:david@treenet.org)

Jennifer Gardner

## TREES FOR PEACE

What do trees have to do with peace?

An African woman, Dr Wangari Maathai, is this year's Nobel Peace Prize Laureate. This is her story.

Thirty years ago, in the country of Kenya, 90% of the forest had been chopped down.

Without trees to hold the top soil in place, the land became like a desert.

When the women and girls would go in search of firewood in order to prepare the meals, they would have to spend hours and hours looking for what few branches remained.

A woman named Wangari watched all of this happening.

She decided that there must be a way to take better care of the land and take better care of the women and girls.

So she planted a tree.

And then she planted another.

She wanted to plant thousands of trees, but she realized that it would take a very long time if she was the only one doing it.

So she taught the women who were looking for firewood to plant trees, and they were paid a small amount for each sapling they grew.

Soon she organized women all over the country to plant trees, and a movement took hold.

It was called the Green Belt Movement, and with each passing year, more and more trees covered the land.

But something else was happening as the women planted those trees.

Something else besides those trees was taking root.

The women began to have confidence in themselves.

They began to see that they could make a difference.

They began to see that they were capable of many things, and that they were equal to the men.

They began to recognize that they were deserving of being treated with respect and dignity.

Changes like these were threatening to some.

The president of the country didn't like any of this.

So police were sent to intimidate and beat Wangari for planting trees, and for planting ideas of equality and democracy in people's heads, especially in women's.

She was accused of "subversion" and arrested many times.

Once, while Wangari was trying to plant trees, she was clubbed by guards hired by developers who wanted the lands cleared. She was hospitalized with head injuries.

But she survived, and it only made her realize that she was on the right path.

For almost thirty years, she was threatened physically, and she was often made fun of in the press.

But she didn't flinch.

She only had to look in the eyes of her three children, and in the eyes of the thousands of women and girls who were blossoming right along with the trees, and she found the strength to continue.

And that is how it came to be that 30 million trees have been planted in Africa, one tree at a time.

The landscape – both the external one of the land and the internal one of the people – have been transformed.

In 2002, the people of Kenya held a democratic election, and the president who opposed Wangari and her Green Belt Movement is no longer in office.

And Wangari is now Kenya's Assistant Minister for the Environment.

She is 65 years old, and this year she planted one more tree in celebration and thanksgiving for being given a very great honour: Wangari Maathai has been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

She is the first African woman to receive this award.

After she was notified, she gave a speech entitled, "What Do Trees Have To Do With Peace?"

She pointed out how most wars are fought over limited natural resources, such as oil, land, coal or diamonds.

She called for an end to corporate greed, and for leaders to build more just societies.

She added: "Our recent experience in Kenya gives hope to all who have been struggling for a better future.

It shows it is possible to bring about positive change, and still do it peacefully. All it takes is courage

and perseverance, and a belief that positive change is possible. That is why the slogan for our campaign was ' **It is Possible!**'"

"On behalf of all African women, I want to express my profound appreciation for this honour, which will serve to encourage women in Kenya, in Africa, and around the world to raise their voices and not to be deterred."

"When we plant trees, we plant the seeds of peace and seeds of hope. We also secure the future for our children. I call on those around the world to celebrate by planting a tree wherever you are."

As she received the Nobel Peace Prize this week in Oslo, she invited us all to get involved. "Today we are faced with a challenge that calls for a shift in our thinking, so that humanity stops threatening its life-support system. We are called to assist the Earth to heal her wounds and in the process heal our own." Can we accept Wangari's invitation? As we look around our neighbourhood or city, as we look at our own country, "What is needed?" What is our equivalent of planting one tree? See <http://nobelprize.org/peace/laureates/2004/maathai-lecture-text.html>



## Friends of the Waite Arboretum Inc.

Agenda for the 10th Annual General Meeting

8 pm Monday 18 April 2005

1. Apologies. Attendance list to be circulated.
  2. President's Report
  3. Treasurer's Report
  4. Election of the Committee
  5. Any other business
- Close of AGM.

THE AGM WILL BE FOLLOWED BY AN ILLUSTRATED TALK BY

SARAH COCKERELL

*“Avenues of Honour 2015 –  
a TREENET initiative”*

To the Honorary Secretary,  
Friends of the Waite Arboretum  
Waite Campus, Glen Osmond SA 5064

I hereby propose

(name).....

of (address)

.....  
.....

to be a member of the Friends of the Waite Arboretum Committee.

Proposer.....

Secunder.....

I agree to serve on the above Committee if elected

Signature of  
nominee.....Date:.....