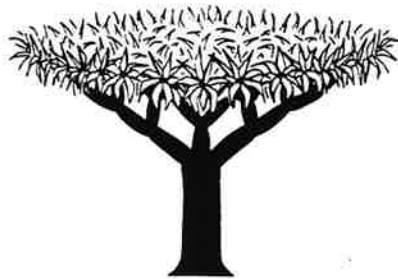


THE FRIENDS OF THE WAITE ARBORETUM



NEWSLETTER

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332 1482

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GENERAL MEETING on Monday, 10 July 1985 at 8 pm

It was very cold and wet but the Drawing Room at Urrbrae House was packed with people wanting to hear Prof. Margaret Sedgley on *Developing Australian Natives*. We hoped that the subject would be appropriate to the members of this association and indeed it was. Our speaker was appointed to the Chair of Horticultural Science in the University of Adelaide in 1995 and is head of the Department of Horticulture, Viticulture and Oenology. Prof. Sedgley has a distinguished record as a researcher and is known internationally for her earlier work on avocado breeding systems. Since 1985 she has been working at the University of Adelaide in the area of ornamental native plants, in particular the development of new varieties of banksias. Her research interests include work on acacias and eucalypts for marketing and ornamental floriculture.

Prof. Sedgley showed a large number of excellent slides and it was intriguing to see photographs of our own native plants for sale in markets in Europe for very large prices. We saw slides of bunches of buds on stalks which had been stripped of all leaves, others were sprayed and dyed. There were many pictures of native flowers and foliage so attractive that from now on we will always see them differently. It is hard to imagine paying \$20 for a bunch of *Eucalyptus gunnii* but this is done at Christmas time overseas. Some of our natives had been raised in Israel, France and Italy and it seems a great opportunity for our growers to avail themselves of this willing market. It is expected that by the year 2,000 exports of native flowers will net \$100 million... a unique product and ease of transport favours them. Certainly, researchers like Prof. Sedgley are producing a great mass of valuable information concerning the raising of suitable species to assist growers.

Prof. Sedgley spoke of the plants with which she has enjoyed the greatest success. She has worked to suit market demands, for instance red flowers for Japan and orange for Europe and the U.S.A. She used techniques of clonal propagation to produce banksia cultivars like 'Waite Orange', a favourite with multiple blooms and long stems, 'Waite Crimson' and 'Waite Flame'. The use of acacia, long used for its foliage and flowers, has been successfully trialed by Waite scientists for the pot plant trade using methods of pruning rather than the application of chemicals. Eucalypt foliage is popular overseas and research has been conducted in Italy, Israel, Germany and the U.K. The popular varieties include *E. gunnii*, *E. cinerea*, *E. cordata* and *E. stuartiana*. Italian researchers have shown that eucalyptus foliage will remain fresh in water for 30 days which makes it a viable export even from Australia.

It was a very fascinating lecture and those who heard Prof. Sedgley will be following her progress and that of this trade with great interest.

Barbara Crompton

FROM THE COMMITTEE - Meetings on 15 June and 11 September, 1995

- There has been much preparation for the next meeting on 9 October when the Wood Group will tell us about their work as well as mounting an Exhibition. The Guides are planning special walks in the Arboretum looking at trees whose timber is valuable, historically or currently.
- Art Lessons at Urrbrae House. Mary Tester has been working towards this activity as a fund-raiser. We will be canvassing for expressions of interest.
- You will be pleased to hear that there are so many plans afoot that the Committee is feeling the need for more meetings to deal with all the business. We are anxious to know if there are Friends or Friends' friends who would be interested to take an active role on sub-committees. What we have in mind are groups to run exhibitions from time to time; to issue publications...brochures or postcards etc.; to initiate publicity and to help with membership records.
- It is very good news and a tribute to Jennifer's persistence that we have heard from the Taxation Department that any gifts to The Friends of the Arboretum will be allowed as tax deductions.
- Please tell your friends that membership undertaken before 31 December 1995 will qualify for Foundation Membership. It is proposed that we produce a book with all our names in it, scribed by a calligrapher. Now there's an incentive!
- We should be grateful for any plants that you might be able to pot up for our stall on Open Day. Helpers are also required to staff that stall and some exhibitions which are to come. Dates are listed below.

NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome is extended to: Ms Margaret Daly, Netherby; Mrs G. M. Henley, Ridgehaven; Mrs Barbara Kelsey, Torrens Park; Dr Torrance & Mrs Margaret Paull, Victor Harbor; Dr Eric Sims, Medindie; and Dr Tony Spooner, Vale Park.

With sadness we note the deaths of two Friends: Mrs Judy Saunders and Miss Zeta Walsh and extend our sympathies to their families and friends. Judy Saunders was a keen ornithologist and kept records of birds seen in the Arboretum over many years. Her observations were published in *S. A. Ornithologist* 29, 40-41 (1983).

VOLUNTEERS

There are now ten volunteers in the Arboretum and gardens of Urrbrae House. Recent activities include tending seedlings, taking inventories of nursery stock, pegging out sites and emplacing new trees for the spring planting, weeding, flower arrangements in the house, and planting lavender. If you have pruning or gardening skills and would like to give a few hours a week or fortnight to give the Arboretum or gardens a little tender loving care, please contact Jennifer on 303.7405.

There are two other species of *Aesculus* in the Arboretum. *Aesculus californica* [J9, No. 261A] commonly known as "Buckeye" is a much smaller tree. A native of California, it grows on dry slopes and in canyons below 1500 m in the Coast Range and Sierra Nevada Mountains. The showy flowers vary in colour from pink-tinged white to rose pink and are said to be poisonous to bees. In winter the silvery-white trunk and branches are most eye-catching. The ground seeds were once used by the Indians for stupefying fish. *Aesculus X carnea* [H9, No. 261] is a hybrid of the Horse Chestnut and Red Buckeye *A. pavia*. It is a very lovely small tree with rosy red flowers and is cultivated widely.

Mary Tester

I regret a mistake in the reproduction of Mary's explanation of terms in last month's Newsletter. The paragraph on 'endemic' should have read...

endemic - plants which grow only in a specific area. They may be restricted to a small region - for example there are 39 plants which are endemic to Kangaroo Island. Or they may grow in an area as large as a continent - for example Angophora only grow in [are endemic to] Australia. [Ed.]

FORTHCOMING EVENTS AND DIARY DATES

Sunday, 8 October at 1.30 pm - Opening of exhibition "MADE FROM WOOD" by Malcolm Campbell. All Friends and their partners are invited to the opening. The exhibition will feature wood carving, wood turning, furniture, marquetry, sculpture and decorative woodwork. It is not too late to enter works, which may be for sale or not for sale at the discretion of the exhibitor. Any Friends interested in contributing should contact Jennifer on 303.7405 before 2 October. The exhibition will close 15 October.

Monday 9 October at 8 pm in Urrbrae House- Friends lecture on AUSTRALIAN TIMBERS by Neville Sanders and Keith Newberry.

Special guided Arboretum walks **A WALK WITH 'THE WOODS'** will be held in conjunction with the exhibition on **Sunday 8 October at 2 pm** and **Sunday 15 October at 11 am and 2 pm.**

Sunday 12 November at 2 pm - Opening of the exhibition "A THOUSAND FLOWERS - Visualisations of the Arboretum in Textiles" by Connecting Threads - the Women's Suffrage Tapestry Weavers. The exhibition will be opened by Jennifer Cashmore and all Friends will be invited. The exhibition will close 10 December.

Thursday 16 November to Saturday 18 November - COMMUNITY EXPO in the Burnside Village. The Friends will have a display to promote the Arboretum and attract new members.

Sunday 19 November - URRBRAE HOUSE OPEN DAY. The Friends will have plant and card stalls and guided tours. *Any contributions of plants for the stall will be gratefully received.*

A flier about the first of these events is enclosed. Please help publicise it by posting it in your local library or community centre.

Your help is needed to make all these events successful fund raisers for the Arboretum. Please consider giving a couple of hours of your time to assist (see attached notice).

Sunday 26 November - Visit to fossil site at Golden Grove led by Dr David Christophel. Date and time to be confirmed.