

THE FRIENDS OF THE WAITE ARBORETUM INC.



WAITE
ARBORETUM

NEWSLETTER NO. 52
Winter 2007

Secretary
Mrs Rosemary Sawley
8379 7102

Editor
Mrs Jean Bird
8272 4140

TWELFTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Monday 30 April 2007

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

It is my privilege to present this report for the 12th year of the Friends of the Waite Arboretum.

Our return to Urrbrae House is very welcome following the completion of major works last spring.

During the latter period we had Robyn Barker's talk on Napoleon's Willows, our combined Christmas drinks function and a talk by David Harrison on rare fruits.

We did, however, have other exposure during Science Week in August, the National Street Tree Symposium in September and the Waite Festival in November.

We have relied heavily on donations and subscriptions from our members but do intend this year to have major fund-raisers in July and August which I hope you will support. More details will appear in the next Newsletters.

Mid-year many of our volunteers enjoyed an event hosted by Mrs Lindsay McWha, the University's Patron of Volunteers, to acknowledge the tremendous support of volunteers across the University.

The fire in the Arboretum last November has been of major concern. However, the Director Dr Jennifer Gardner, has been monitoring the progress of surviving trees and there are signs of recovery in a good number, thanks to her constant attention and the help of hard working Mark Ziersch in follow-up

watering. Needless to say, the drought has placed additional stress on much of the Arboretum and the Campus grounds.

We have also continued to fund interpretive signs and label replacements. We are proud to report that some 8000 hours of volunteer work were put into the Arboretum, Reserve, Gardens and Urrbrae House during 2006, including tour guides and committee work.

This was good news to Yvonne Routledge and Jennifer Gardner who made a successful submission to the University to have this Historic Precinct transferred to a new area of Community Engagement, reporting to the new Pro-Vice Chancellor and we trust this will raise our profile with the University and the community at large.

Lastly I wish to thank all our supportive members and those who have served on the Committee, including our tireless Director Dr Gardner. Special thanks go to Cicely Bungey who retires from the Committee tonight and has been my guide and mentor in addition to standing in for me last winter. As I stated in the last Newsletter she will be sadly missed.

As we have received the required number of nominations for the new Committee, I can announce that the following are the other office-bearers for the next 12 months:

Vice President	Norma Lee
Secretary	Rosemary Sawley
Treasurer	Peter Nicholls

Continuing as committee members are Colin Jenner, Henry Krichauff, Jeanette Lord, Judy Tyler, Lynda Yates, Newsletter Editor, Jean Bird and Jennifer Gardner (*ex officio*). We are especially pleased to welcome Heather Beckmann and Cathryn Hart to the Committee.

I move the adoption of the Friends of the Waite Arboretum 2007 Annual Report.

Bryan Milligan
President

TREASURER' S REPORT FOR 2006

The accounts of the Friends of the Waite Arboretum for 2006 have been circulated. There are copies on the table in the Hall as well.

Because Urrbrae House was closed for the year, we could not hold any fund-raising there, so called for extra donations. We were very pleased with the response.

The major receipts for the year were

Subs & Donations	\$4,000.00
Bank Interest	\$1,876.52

Subscriptions for the year were the same as in 2005 (\$1,500.00) but the donations more than doubled. In the past, your committee has discussed increasing the subscription, but we don't want to exclude students who would like to be members, and it seems that most people who realise that the subscription hardly meets our running costs are happy to add a donation if they can.

We have been able to donate on your behalf \$15,500 to the Arboretum, which is a significant contribution to the annual costs. Since our income was only \$6,000, we have eaten into our reserves and hope this year's fundraisers are a success. We finished with nearly \$13,000 in the bank.

Many thanks go to Bevan Craig, our auditor, who worked this year from his sick bed.

MOTION "That the Financial Statement for the year ended 31/12/2006, and the Auditors' Report dated 28/2/07, be adopted."

MOTION "That Bevan Craig be asked to be our auditor again."

Norma Lee
Honorary Treasurer

2007/2008 COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The 2007/08 Committee members are as announced above in the President's Report

GUEST SPEAKER

At the conclusion of the business proceedings, Heinz Froehlingsdorf, Secretary of the Palm and Cycad Society of South Australia, gave a most interesting and very well illustrated PowerPoint presentation entitled 'Growing Palms and Cycads in South Australia'.

Heinz began by describing palms as belonging to an ancient group of flowering, woody monocots in Family Arecaceae (or Palmae), with 2500-3000 species in approximately 200 genera and with large, compound, evergreen leaves arranged at the top of an unbranched stem. Palms are mostly tropical or subtropical in distribution and are important crop plants, e.g. date palms, wine palms coconut palms, etc. Some palms are dioecious.

Cycads belong to an ancient group of non-flowering, woody seed plants which produce cones, are dioecious and comprise ~ 250-300 species in 11 genera and three families. They are generally tropical and subtropical in distribution

and grow in warm areas. They are sources of food (seed and stem starch), are used in floral arrangements, for building materials and are prized horticultural specimens.

Heinz then asked 'Why grow palms?' and provided reasons such as their attractive appearance, their wide variety, low maintenance requirements and the fact that some rare species grown outside their natural habitat may help to ensure survival of that species.

Throughout his most interesting talk, Heinz showed many beautiful pictures of palms, pointed out where they will grow and gave some of their requirements. Among the many palms illustrated were some that are commonly grown in SA including the feather palms *Archontophoenix alexandrae* (Alexandra Palm) and *A. cunninghamiana* (Bangalow Palm) which grow to ~ 25 m, with a spread of 2-2.5 m and are Australian spp., *Butia* spp. (Wine Palms) e.g. *Butia capitata* which is extremely tolerant of cold, *Chaemaerops humilis*, *Dypsis decaryi* (Triangle Palm) and *Jubaea chiliensis* (Chilean Wine Palm) (Ed's note: the latter was described in Newsletter # 47). Heinz also described many fan palms which are grown in SA, including *Bismarkia nobilis* (Bismark Palm), a native of Madagascar and a dioecious large leafed fan palm, *Brahea armata* (Blue Hesper Palm), the bluest of the fan palms, from N-W Mexico, a medium to large palm and *B. edulis* (Guadalupe Palm), common in SA towns with German ancestry, hardy and with edible fruits. The bamboo palms are hardy, commonly grown and are good understorey palms. They can be single- or multi-stemmed. The Date Palms (*Phoenix* spp.) are also widely grown in SA. Many more palms were illustrated before Heinz turned his attention to the cycads and gave following reasons for growing cycads:

They are attractive, you usually know what they will look like, there is a good variety they are generally infrastructure friendly.

Cycas revoluta (Sago Palm) is probably the most widely grown cycad in SA. It is dioecious, grows in temperate and sub-tropical regions and needs good drainage. There are ~ 100 spp. of *Cycas*.

Other cycads illustrated were *Dioon* spp., *Encephalartos* spp. and the Australian genera *Lepidozamia* and *Macrozamia*. These species all require good drainage. *Zamia* is a tropical genus.

In conclusion, Heinz named the drawbacks of growing palms and cycads namely, they are generally from high rainfall areas and most need good drainage, growth can be slow, tall spp. can be difficult and costly to prune, spiny palms and cycads pose problems with placement and maintenance, some spp. are difficult to obtain and are costly, they are highly prized ornamentals and are prime targets for thieves.

Jean Bird

IN THE ARBORETUM

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Waite Arboretum Report April to June 2007

Arboricultural work

Arborist Chris Lawry did a second day of work, funded by the Friends. Chris was assisted by Mark Ziersch who is undertaking courses for a Certificate in Horticulture at the Urrbrae TAFE and excelling in his studies – congratulations Mark! Work included making a start on deadwooding and underpruning the Elm Avenue, as well as formative pruning or deadwooding 8 other trees. Three blackwoods, *Acacia melanoxylon*, were planted east of the dam.

Bottle tree

One of our bottle trees, *Brachychiton rupestris*, developed an alarming lean and has been propped. I think in the past, a mower scalped a large surface root allowing decay to start and travel back to the trunk. It is another reason why our mulching program is so important, not only to nourish the trees and reduce water loss, but also to keep the mower well away from trunk and surface roots. Trees Are Us continues to donate good quality mulch.

Website

The Arboretum website has had a facelift. More images will be added to the gallery in due course. See www.waite.adelaide.edu.au/arboretum/.

Training days

Vermeer held an arborist training seminar in the Arboretum on 20 June. About 60 people attended to see two top arborists from the USA demonstrate the latest climbing equipment and techniques.

Civil Skills are conducting tree climbing and aerial rescue training sessions in the Arboretum during July.

State Tree Climbing Championship - Saturday 1 September 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The SA Society of Arboriculture will hold its 8th Annual State Tree Climbing Championship in the Arboretum. This event is open to the public, free of charge and certainly worth a look. Climbers compete in different events: Work Climb, Aerial Rescue, Belayed speed Climb, Secured Footlock & Throwline. The top ranked arborists in these events compete in the Masters Challenge which is the final event of the day, with the winners proceeding to the National Tree Climbing Championships.

Support

The gardens of Urrbrae House Historic Precinct continue to look splendid thanks to the efforts of a dedicated band of volunteers, members of Heritage Roses Australia (SA) who assisted with the pruning and to ongoing in-kind support from Neutrog Fertilisers, which donates all the Sudden Impact for Roses, and Ross Roses which have donated 12 Crown Princess Mary rose bushes.



The Interpretive Sign for the Small-leaved Rock Fig is below.

Ficus brachypoda Small-leaved Rock Fig



Ficus brachypoda is commonly found on rocky outcrops in crevices where water and soil collect, and along creek beds and drainage lines. It occurs in dry rainforest in northern Australia from W.A. to western Qld, and in the deserts of central Australia where it is a species familiar to visitors to the base of Uluru.

Depending on the availability of water, small-leaved rock figs may be straggly shrubs or dense spreading trees to 10 m high bearing thousands of sweet, gritty figs which are highly prized by desert Aborigines.

The nutritious ripe figs are eaten raw, or gathered when dry and rolled into balls for storage. They are rich in protein and fat and contain up to 4 g per 100 g of calcium – 20 times as much as milk. The Aborigines so valued the figs that they performed ceremonies to increase their supply, and deemed some bushes to be so sacred that anyone damaging them could be killed. Early outback settlers also ate the appetizing figs made into jam.

This Small-leaved Rock Fig is the only desert fig species in Australia and is one of 13 species of *Ficus* represented in the Waite Arboretum. Its drought tolerance and wide canopy make it an excellent shade tree for parks.

The specific name is derived from Greek *brachys* short and *podos* foot and refers to the stalk of the fig.

PINUS CANARIENSIS (SWEET EX SPRENG)

Pinus canariensis, Family Pinaceae, is, as its specific name suggests, a native of the Canary Islands Gran Canaria, Tenerife, La Gomera, El Hierro and La Palma.

Pinus canariensis is the largest pine native to the Old World. This sub-tropical pine doesn't tolerate low temperatures or hard frost but will tolerate a wide rainfall range (in its natural habitat, the rainfall varies from < 300 mm per annum to several 1000 mm p.a.). It grows to 40-60 m, and being notably windfirm, has a near-vertical straight trunk and, usually, a crown supported by stout branches. Its bark is scaly and fissured. The annual shoots are also stout, 7-15 mm thick, buff coloured to yellow brown and rough. The adult leaves are in groups of three, are 15-28 cm long, bright green to yellow green and ~ 1mm thick. The long needles give the foliage a drooping appearance. The female cones occur on short, stout stalks, are symmetrical and 10-20 cm long, 5-7 cm broad when closed and 9-13 cm when open. The seeds take two years to mature and cones usually open 2-3 years after pollination. The seeds are shiny blackish brown above, matt grey below, 11-15 x 6-7 mm with a 15-25 x 10 mm wing.

Pinus canariensis needs deep well-drained soils and tolerates most textures except dense clay. Although it grows in maritime, winter-rainfall climates, it does not tolerate waterlogged soil in the root zone. Under warm conditions, it is one of the most drought tolerant pines and can survive where the annual rainfall is < 200mm.

Pinus canariensis in South Australia is well within its climatic 'comfort zone' and is only limited by rainfall and soil type. It normally grows to heights of 20-30m here. It grows slowly on shallow skeletal and lateric clay hill-top soils but will grow on the sheltered rock reefs that tend to occur in the Southern Flinders Ranges; soil is scarce but rooting can be deep into cool, moist conditions. It was first reported from the Mt Lofty Ranges property of Highercombe (now a well known golf course). The original owner, A. D. Ross, planted specimen exotic pines and hardwoods between 1839 and 1846. This estate provided the first lots of seed for the infant Forest Board and included *P. canariensis*. The next recorded planting was in 1876 (Lewis, 1957) It is one of 14 *Pinus* spp. included in forestry trials in SA (between 1877 and 1932) and has been ranked fourth in usefulness after radiata pine, maritime pine (*P. pinaster*) and Aleppo pine section (*P. brutia*). "The unqualified adaptability of *Pinus radiata* to South Australian conditions was early evident and afforestation with this species ... has been primary policy for nearly 60 years." (Lewis, 1957). However, it was found that best growth of *P. canariensis* was on sites best suited to and most productive from radiata pine. It is little wonder, therefore, that, site for site, the greater productivity of radiata pine, ($2^{1/2}$ - 3 x that of Canary Island pine) led to the former being preferred for commercial forests. It has been used in most agricultural districts as a windbreak or avenue tree (Bednall, 1957). There is a fine row about 30 m tall bordering the western boundary of the Arboretum beside Fullarton Rd.

Pinus canariensis besides straightness and wind-firmness, has the unique trait of epicormic buds on its stems, like many species of *Eucalyptus* and other forest trees, but unlike other pines. These usually develop after fire and can be seen in the photograph of one of our *P. canariensis* taken after the fire of 20 November 2006. It is one of the most fire-resistant conifers in the world and our three specimens in the fire area (## 688, 689, 690, all in zone E7) all appear to be surviving.

I am grateful to Robert Boardman who read and criticised the MS and who provided, among other things, the information about *P. canariensis* in South Australia.

References: Bednall, B.H. (1957) Exotic Forest Trees in South Australia. *Woods and Forests Dept Bull* 8 10-13; 31-35; Lewis, N.B. (1957) Silviculture of Exotic Plantation Species in South Australia. *Woods and Forests Dept. Bull.* 5 15-17; www.conifers.org/pin.canariensis; <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki>

Jean Bird



Photograph (courtesy J. Gardner) showing a *P. canariensis* with leaves destroyed by the fire and new, tufted growth from epicormic buds on top of the stems.

POT – POURRI

The recital by award winning guitarist, Aleksandr Tsiboulski held on 11 July, our first fundraising event for 2007, was an outstanding success and raised \$1055 for the Friends.

Two of the poems included with Ms Linke's letter of appreciation follow. 'Morning Chorus' is about the kookaburras, 'Highlighter Flight' refers to the rosellas or lorikeets.

Morning Chorus.

Raucous, rolling xylophone!
You so relieve the city drone.

In silent wonder, I adore
your chortle
as you
pick the sonic bones away,
the wonder of a brand new day uncurls;

you ring the day in, truly
new!

Bring to our ears the glory
of your warring,
morning
chorus.

Highlighter Flight.

In brilliant hues,
they leave their bruise;

the rainbow trail
a burning veil,
come in to dock,
you livid flock

you're nature's boldly sailing
wildly flailing bright

highlighter flight!

Lynx.

Lynx.

NEW MEMBERS

We warmly welcome the following new members:

Mrs Dinah O'Brien, Black Forest; Ms Cathryn Hart, Netherby; Mr Lindesay Hart, Colonel Light Gardens; Grace, Andy and Chris Lawry, Upper Sturt; Mrs Raelee Nelson, Tamworth, NSW; Mrs Linda Gibson, Kenthurst, NSW

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Sunday 12 August: 3-5 p.m. Urrbrae House. A presentation 'Waterwise Gardening' by **Sophie Thomson**. Admission: \$7.50 includes light refreshments and a free bag of samples from Neutrog.

1 September 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.: The **SA Tree Climbing Competition** in the Arboretum. (See Director's Report, p. 5 this issue)

6 & 7 September: The **8th National Street Tree Symposium**, National Wine Centre. "Urban Trees and Climate Change" see www.treenet.org/symposiumtimetable for the program.

Sunday 16 September: Excursion to **Ian Roberts' property** at Blyth.

Information about the **Tree Climbing Championships** is provided above in the Director's Report.

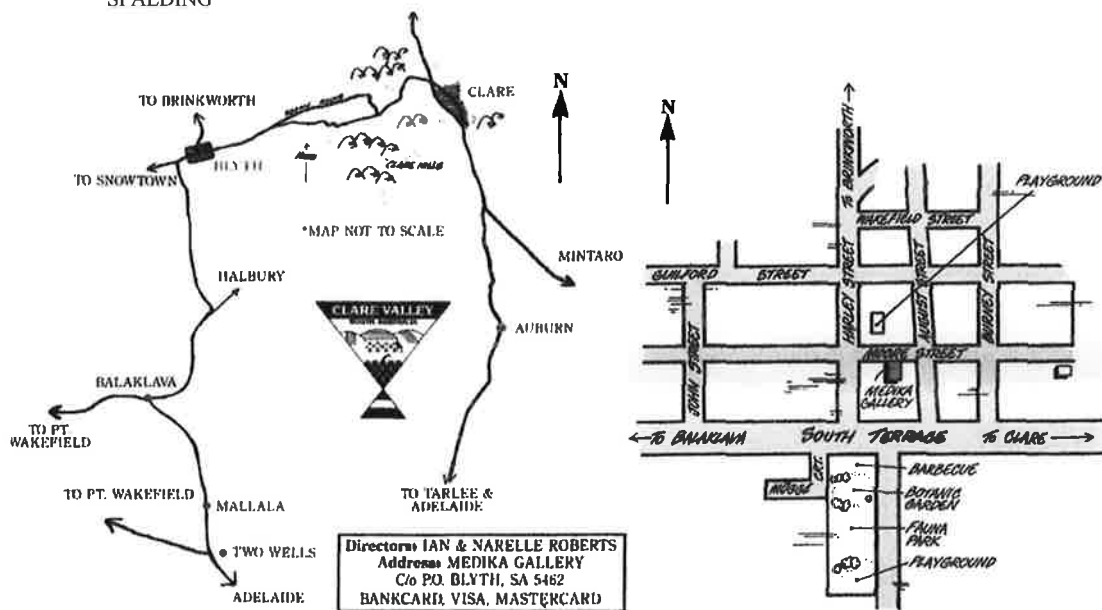
Visit to Ian Roberts' property.

Here is some information about this picnic and tour to which all Friends of the Waite Arboretum and their friends are invited. Ian is a brilliant artist who loves native plants. We will see his collection on the day. You will need to bring your own picnic lunch.

Blyth is ~ 2 1/2 hours' drive from Adelaide and it has been arranged that those participating meet at Ian Roberts' gallery at 11 a.m. Directions and arrangements are below.

To obviate the need to drive, the Friends Committee has agreed to hire a small bus if there is sufficient interest. The cost is \$20.00 per person and anyone wishing to avail themselves of this service should contact Jean Bird (8272 4140) **as soon as possible but before Mon. 13 August**. The bus, if hired, will leave Urrbrae House at 8.30 a.m. on 16 September.

TO BUNGAREE, GERALKA RURAL FARM,
SPALDING



N.B. The Director is calling for volunteers to help at this year's Treenet Symposium, Thu. and Fri. 6 and 7 September. Anyone willing to help on the Registration desk for a couple of hours, on either day, can listen to the talks at no cost. Help is also needed to pack conference bags a few days beforehand (Mon. 3 Sept. at 10 a.m.). Will volunteers willing to help with either or both of the above please contact the Director on 8303 7405?

Visit to Ian Roberts' property at Blyth

NOTE CHANGE OF DATE

From Ian Roberts re visit to Garden in the Clare Valley & Blyth (16/8/07)

It is with sincere apologies that I must cancel this date due to my inadvertently double booking the 16th with my Mother's 80th birthday party (in Adelaide). However, I would really love to be able to show you all around & will therefore be available to the "Friends" on **Sat 15th Sept from 11am** & for those who cannot attend on that date, will repeat the tour on **Sun 23rd from 11.00am**. All places visited, lunch, etc for both dates remain the same as for the 16th. Again, my apologies for any inconvenience caused.

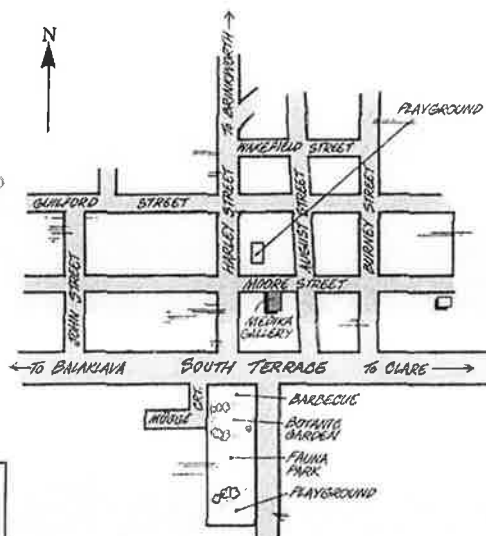
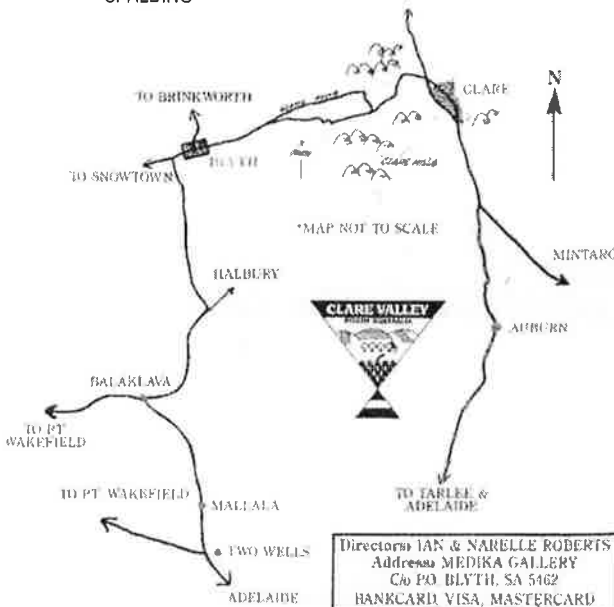
Ian Roberts

Here is some information about this picnic and tour to which all Friends of the Waite Arboretum and their friends are invited. Ian is a brilliant artist who loves native plants. We will see his collection on the day. You will need to bring your own picnic lunch and picnic chair / rug.

Blyth is ~ 2¹/₂ hours' drive from Adelaide and it has been arranged that those participating meet at Ian Roberts' gallery at 11 a.m. Directions and arrangements are below.

BOLD To obviate the need to drive, the Friends Committee has agreed to hire a small bus for Saturday 15 September. The cost is \$20.00 per person there are still 3 places available on the bus. If you wish to avail yourself of one of these and have not already booked, contact Lynda Yates (8298 2452) **as soon as possible**. The bus will leave Urrbrae House at 8.30 a.m. on 15 September.

TO BUNGAREE, GERALKA RURAL FARM,
SPALDING



Jennifer Gardner

From: Bryan Milligan [millis@senet.com.au]
Sent: Monday, 27 August 2007 5:54 PM
To: 'Jennifer Gardner'
Cc: Lynda Yates
Subject: RE: Flyer

Dear Jennifer, A couple of points; Ian has the date at the top as August We probably should have the new date in bold in the last paragraph. And to assist Ian, can we add something about asking for numbers of those wishing to attend on the following Sunday? Or is this not needed or achievable? I will be unavailable in the morning [Tues.] but you could reach me on my mobile 0400 828 971. Bryan

-----Original Message-----

From: Jennifer Gardner [mailto:jennifer.gardner@adelaide.edu.au]
Sent: Monday, 27 August 2007 3:04 PM
To: 'Bryan Milligan'
Subject: FW:

-----Original Message-----

From: Jennifer Gardner [mailto:jennifer.gardner@adelaide.edu.au]
Sent: Wednesday, 22 August 2007 4:36 PM
To: 'mallynd@aapt.net.au'
Subject: RE:

Hi Lynda,

I have drafted a letter / flier to mail out to all FWA. Could you please check it for accuracy. We could photocopy & mailout next Tuesday.

Jennifer

Dr Jennifer Gardner
Director, Waite Arboretum
University of Adelaide - Waite Campus
PMB 1, Glen Osmond, South Australia 5064

Phone: (08) 8303 7405
Fax: (08) 8303 6826

www.adelaide.edu.au/waitearboretum
www.adelaide.edu.au/waitereserve

-----Original Message-----

From: Malcolm Keyte [mailto:mallynd@aapt.net.au]
Sent: Wednesday, 22 August 2007 4:20 PM
To: Jennifer Gardner
Subject: Re:

11 Mrs
Lorraine
Ian
Toko
Cath.
David O
Judgy
Peter C
Pudlin
David J
Rosenman
Duan
Bus. List. - Lynda