

FRIENDS OF



WAITE  
ARBORETUM

# FRIENDS OF THE WAITE ARBORETUM INC.

## NEWSLETTER 98 SUMMER 2019

### FORTHCOMING EVENTS

'Things of Nature'

Exhibition by Heidi Kenyon at  
Unley Museum.

To be opened by Marian McDuire  
at 5 pm Thursday 31 January.  
Open until 16th April.

### Free Guided Arboretum walks

The first Sunday of every month  
at 11.00 am. Walks meet at  
Urrbrae House on the lawn  
More details at:

[http://www.communitywebs.org/  
friendsofwaitearb/](http://www.communitywebs.org/friendsofwaitearb/)

### What's on at Urrbrae House

[https://www.adelaide.edu.au/  
waite-historic/whatson](https://www.adelaide.edu.au/waite-historic/whatson)

As a Friend of the Waite  
Arboretum we are a member of  
the Australian Association of  
Friends of Botanic Gardens  
Check out the events and what is  
going on at:

<https://friendsbotanicgardens.org/>



**Patron:** Sophie Thomson

**President:** Dr Wayne Harvey, **Vice-President:** Terry Langham

**Secretary:** Johanna Crosby, **Treasurer:** Ramute Stankevicius

**Editor:** Jenny Birvé, **email:** [jabyacka620@gmail.com](mailto:jabyacka620@gmail.com)

**Committee:** Erica Boyle, Marilyn Gilbertson OAM, Dr Kate Delaporte (ex officio)

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**Photography:** Erica Boyle, Eileen Harvey, Jenny Birvé, Jennifer Gardner.



*Schotia brachypetala* Tree fuchsia, Weeping Boerboon FABACEAE Eastern Africa.  
Referred to locally as the Drunken Parrot Tree, Christmas comes in December for  
many birds and insects that feed on the copious nectar from the flowers.

*Trichoglossus moluccanus* Rainbow lorikeet. Photo JB

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### Arboretum Report. Dr Kate Delaporte

Today, I sit in the Urrbrae House Arboretum office looking out over a very, very hot Arboretum. The forecast for the first three days of the week is 39°C, 40°C and 41°C, before a slight cool change to 37°C. It's very hard on the plants, animals and people, who live and work in the Arboretum on days such as this. People can retreat to the shade of the trees or buildings, but the trees must simply stand out there and cope! And they do, some better than others, and the ones from similar homoclimes to Adelaide thrive in these conditions.

The ground is hot and dry, without much rain or cloud cover to reduce the sun's intensity. It is now that the practices of our new trial ground cover management strategy become apparent. Over the last 12 months we have strived to maintain a sward of vegetation, being native grasses or introduced plants, over as much of the earth as possible. We have used reduced spraying and mowing with a high cutting deck, to allow for plants to survive the mowing events. Now, even though the majority of plants have died off, the above ground bases remain, holding the soil together and shading it, and their roots provide air spaces for quick penetration of water in the event that we might get rain. We are having problems with some summer weeds that have taken advantage of our good nature and the rain of late November, but when we must mow, the ground holds together well. We are still trialling this as a strategy, so please be patient with us if you think the Arboretum looks a little unruly at times! The Caltrop Scourge, *Tribulus terrestris* is at its highest in summer. Groundsman Andrew Walters takes this weed very seriously, and thanks to his diligence in observing and removing the pest plants, he is seeing a reduced germination this year – keep up the good work Andrew!

Bunyas *Araucaria bidwillii*. These are my current obsession. The Waite Arboretum is home to seven bunyas, the oldest was planted in 1893, the other six between 1928 and 1930. Each summer, there is much consternation about the huge cones potentially falling on people. Reproduction happens in October with a massive display of male cones hanging all over the branches, and the wind pollinates the female cones. Male cones are easy to see, female cones are up high in the upper canopy, so not so easy, unless you can fly! You may recall back in June 2017, we commenced regular aerial surveying of the seven trees in the Waite Arboretum, to check the maturity of cones. Since then, the URAF drone team have visited six times.

I am pleased to report that using drones to film high in the canopy of the trees enables us to see the cones developing! We were first able to clearly identify the baseball sized cones in the following December, with quite large numbers being counted! Over the next 12 months, we have been anxiously watching the cones develop. On the 10<sup>th</sup> of January, Matt Bowie and Ramesh Raja Segaran, watched by myself and Tate Hancox, flew their drone over the trees once more. Tate and I were able to spot cones from the ground; the drone footage readily shows cones high in the apical canopy of the trees. Interestingly, the two trees below the dam seem to have the most cones (~30-50 in total!) while the four trees in the Central Arb have about 15 in total. Tate and I pondered the role of different specimens as pollinators, and the prospects of undertaking hand pollinations in future!

We have had a lot of school groups through over the last few months; 50 students from the Riverton High School, participating in the "Why Waite" program and 100 students as part of the Faculty of Science's "Science Experience" program for mainly regional students. It's great to introduce the Arboretum and the value of trees to a new younger audience; the feedback from staff and students was really positive. Many thanks to Jenny Birve, Jennifer Gardner, Terry Langham, and Erica Boyle for taking the Tours under extreme conditions!

I'd like to say thanks to my team, Erica and Andrew for their hard work and dedication through 2018. Here is to hoping that Mother Nature and the Weather Gods are kind to us in 2019, and we get enough rain to start growing again!

*Araucaria bidwillii* #529. Photo by University of Adelaide's URAF team pilot Matt Bowie.







**Report from the President of the Friends of the Waite Arboretum Summer 2018. Dr Wayne Harvey**

The Friends of the Waite Arboretum shared some time last month with other Waite Friends' groups at end-of-year celebrations held in Urrbrae House. Your committee welcomed the opportunity to once again be able to invite FWA members to a joint function at which we could reflect on past events and think about the next year. It remains clear that the Friends of the Arboretum have some shared interests with the Friends of the Waite Conservation Reserve and the Friends of Urrbrae House and we will continue to find opportunities to cooperate on specific activities.

This first Edition of the FWA Newsletter for 2019 continues with stories behind the seats installed around the Arboretum, commemorating people who have contributed to the Waite Campus over many years. Professor Harold Woolhouse has been credited with the development of the Campus as an integrated research and teaching precinct, bringing the expertise of government and university personnel together.

The FWA has a loyal membership. Our membership record began in 1994 and includes 15 members who have retained continued membership since that time. Some of the longer-serving FWA members have been recognised with Gold Passes issued by the affiliated organisation, the Friends of Parks SA. About 20 Gold Passes have been provided to FWA members by the Friends of Parks SA and we hope to be able to recommend others in the future.

The affairs of the FWA are managed on your behalf by a small management committee. The FWA management committee meet 6 times a year on a Wednesday morning, at the Waite Campus, to discuss activities that enhance the Arboretum experience and keep our members informed about the Arboretum. We also make sure the FWA finances are in good shape and plan the next edition of the Newsletter. Committee work gives us the chance to catch up with the University staff, making sure everyone knows what's happening or what's planned. I encourage members to think about joining in the Committee's work. We will be looking for a new treasurer - so if you, or someone you know, has an interest in finances, bookkeeping, banking and so on, please contact one of the Committee members.



On Monday 3 December all 3 volunteer groups gathered for a Christmas Celebration at Urrbrae House. The Vivente Ensemble played some great music in the Urrbrae House Ballroom. The Friends of Urrbrae House, the Waite Arboretum and the Waite Conservation Reserve intermingled enjoying drinks and light refreshments.



Walks in the Waite Arboretum 2018



Walk in N/W corner Sunday Oct 7 Pic JG

Lynda Blake, a Guide for the Waite Arboretum recalls the Walk – the understory of native grasses looked splendid, as did the climbing Clematis. The koalas had babies and people enjoyed seeing them up close. Families who had land and wanted information about revegetating back to a natural state were especially interested. Lots of native butterflies were seen.



Walk—First Sunday of the Month November 4, 11am 2018 Pic EB

The Arboretum looked magnificent for our November walk with good attendance, 18 visitors. While everyone has different interests when it comes to plants, the Guides on the Arboretum Walks have much to talk about: history of the Arboretum and Urrbrae house, the Mallees, the Oaks, Angophoras, Hakeas, Palms and Cycads, Brachychitons, Pines, Dracaenas, and then there is so much more, all there for the next visit to the Waite Arboretum.



Bawden Family. Pic and article Dr Jennifer Gardner.

In 1994, a landscaping project commenced to convert a straight kikuyu-choked drain traversing the eastern Waite Arboretum into a more natural looking meandering watercourse with three ponds. Many native water plant species were planted and the opportunity arose to develop the verge of the watercourse with a special palm and cycad collection. The Palm and Cycad Society of SA Inc., which currently has 26 members, became partners in the project, mainly through the efforts of Secretary Heinz Froehlingsdorf. Since the project began members have donated their time, talent, and treasures – more than 324 specimens, many of them rare and endangered in the wild. Dedicated members plant, weed, water and fertilize the collection at four weekend working bees a year and volunteer many additional hours during the week. Max Bawden is a long-standing member and President of PACSOSA. Max and his wife Patricia (affectionately known as Pat or Patty) were regular attendees at working bees from the start, so it is fitting that one of the new donated bench seats is in memory of much loved Patty who died last year.

Updating the catalogue and map of the Palm and Cycad collection by Heinz, Marian McDuie and myself is on-going. 2019 will mark 25 years of fruitful collaboration between the Waite Arboretum and the Society.



*Macrozamia miquelii* ZAMIACEAE N.S.W. Qld. JB





## Volunteer News

Dear volunteers,

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for the work and time you have donated to the University of Adelaide and particularly to the Urrbrae House Gardens, Waite Arboretum and Waite Conservation Reserve during 2018. We are glad to inform volunteers this year that the volunteering groups reached a total of **5475 hours** worked! We are very privileged to have the enthusiasm and commitment of 145 volunteers from 9 different groups:

Urrbrae House Gardens and Waite Arboretum  
Waite Arboretum Guides  
Friends of the Waite Arboretum Committee  
Waite Conservation Reserve Working Bees  
Friends of the Waite Conservation Reserve  
Palm & Cycad Society Working Bees  
Rose Society of South Australia Working Bees  
Mediterranean Garden Society Working Bees  
Heritage Roses of Australia Working Bees

This year (2018) we also had a group of University students involved with the Horticulture Internship Program - willing to improve their skills working in the Gardens, Arboretum and Reserve.

To get a sense of what we have achieved this year, we should multiply the total hours by the volunteering hourly rate of \$41.72\*. That makes an astonishing total of **\$228,417**. It is a HUGE number and thanks to YOU!

*\*The latest dollar replacement value volunteering hourly rate is \$41.72. The dollar replacement value hourly rate is derived from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) average weekly earnings figure, which is updated twice a year. The rate of \$41.72 can be used until 21 February 2019, when the ABS will release revised data. (Data provided by the University of Adelaide Volunteer Program Coordinator)*

We look forward to seeing you in 2019 and ready for a wonderful year together, surrounded by nature!

With appreciation,  
Dr Kate Delaporte and Erica Boyle.

'Things of Nature' exhibition by Heidi Kenyon at Unley Museum: To be opened by Marian McDuaie at 5 pm Thursday 31 January.

The work Heidi created for the upcoming exhibition follows on from a residency at the Adelaide Botanic Garden earlier this year where she used a musical instrument digital interface to detect electromagnetic energy of a number of significant trees and translate this information into sound. For the Unley Museum exhibition Heidi researched some significant local trees and created sound samples including spoken poetry to tell stories.



*Schotia brachypetala* FABACEAE Tree Fuchsia. Gathering nectar, *Trichoglossus moluccanus* Rainbow Lorikeet .

### Reminder notice for FWA membership renewal for 2018/19

**Please return the membership form that has your details on it, otherwise we do not know who has paid.**

**(even if you pay by bank transfer)**

**The Friends of The Waite Arboretum Inc  
University of Adelaide-Waite Campus  
PMB 1, Glen Osmond, SA 5064**



**FRIENDS OF PARKS**  
SOUTH AUSTRALIA

*Volunteers working for conservation*

The treasurer for the Friends has worked hard recently to find Friends of Parks members who are FWA volunteers. Some of these volunteers will receive awards for their long term service.

The treasurer was pleased to give these figures at our last committee meeting.

45 members with 15 or more years membership  
15 members since the first year of memberships (1994)  
19 Friends of Parks Gold Pass applications received.

We all value the Waite Arboretum, and supporting it with our FWA membership means caring for this wonderful Living Collection.



Neutrog donates fertilisers for the Urrbrae House Gardens and the Waite Arboretum native plants.



## NEW ROSES IN THE GARDEN

The Ross family has been connected with the Rose Garden since before its inception.

The specialist rose nursery of Alex and Deane Ross was first approached in 1956 by the Waite Agricultural Research Institute, to re-propagate and re-locate the original Peter Waite garden that had badly deteriorated. Bud-wood was collected from the original roses but unfortunately not many survived. The new planting was subsequently removed to make way for the Hawker building in the early 1960s.

During this time, Deane Ross contacted rose breeders from different parts of the world to search for old roses no longer available in the market and thus began his deep connection and passion with all facets of the old roses that lead him to become known as the Father of Heritage Roses in Australia.

A second rose garden was created at the south of Urrbrae House, hosting both modern and old- world roses. Showy modern roses were featured in the areas closest to the house, while old varieties such as Bourbons, Gallicas, Moss, Hybrid Musks, Teas and several others were displayed in the southern area. After more than twenty years of hard maintenance the garden began to look tired and needed to be replanted again.

For the Centenary of Urrbrae House, Deane Ross wanted a new rose garden to mark the occasion. The 20<sup>th</sup> Century Rose Garden was then, created. The most relevant roses of each decade were featured in this innovative thematic garden.

Currently, the rose garden is home to more than 1000 rose plants with more than 220 varieties. Being a 20<sup>th</sup> Century rose garden, classes of modern roses such as Hybrid Teas, Floribundas, Polyanthas, Miniatures, Hybrid Rugosas, Modern Shrubs, climbers and ramblers are featured. However, the garden still hosts some of the old varieties, some of which are remains of the historical old rose collection once featured in the main lawns.

This is just an introduction to illustrate the deep connection the Ross family has with the roses at the Waite. Ross Roses nursery donated most of the plants now featured in the garden.

We were very glad again, to receive this winter a donation of 25 new beauties for the rose garden. All of them are looking good and growing beautifully.

The new roses we received are: Ambridge Rose, Bonica, Chicago Peace, Courage, Edelweiss, Elizabeth de Glamis, Etoile de Hollande, Gold Bunny, Howard Florey, Loreto Gold, Mister Lincoln, Molineux, Philadelphia, Rugspin and Simply Magic. Yes, one prettier than the other.

Thank you Maureen and Andrew Ross. Erica Boyle



Maureen Ross with some of the roses donated by Ross Roses



'Deane Ross' rose, one of more than 1000 rose plants in the 20th Century Rose Garden. Pic EB.

### Save the Date!

A retrospective Exhibition of Sculpture at the studios of Meliesa Judge & Will Kuiper Celebrating 20 years of Liquid Metal Studios.

Their sculptures are a feature in the Arboretum and Gardens.

Opening speech by Maggie Beer AM Sunday 5th May 10 am.

Exhibition continues until Friday 31st May

Open Wed - Sun 11am - 6pm

Liquid Metal at the Lynton Council Depot 33 Beagle Tce  
Lynton SA 5062



### Garden Seats of the Season

Terry Langham, Vice-President of the Friends of the Waite Arboretum has collated the names of those people who have donated seats, in the Waite Arboretum. Terry has listed the history of some of the people (scientists, researchers staff and recreational visitors). Seats/sculptures described in Newsletters are extracts from Terry's collections and show a nearby tree species, the flora and sometimes fixtures close to the seat. Details will be put onto the website in the near future.

[www.adelaide.edu.au/waite-historic/friends/arboretum/](http://www.adelaide.edu.au/waite-historic/friends/arboretum/)

#### Leonie M. and Harold M. Woolhouse

Professor Woolhouse was the Director of the John Innes Institute in Norwich and the Waite Agricultural Research Institute in Adelaide and Dean, Faculty of Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences, University of Adelaide 1990-96.

'As the first botanist to be appointed Director of the Waite Institute Professor Woolhouse took a keen interest in the Waite Arboretum. The position of Curator of the Arboretum was increased to full-time, sheep were removed from the Arboretum and with that the internal fences and tree guards, which enhanced the visual aspect and provided public access.'

(The Waite Arboretum— Science Trees and Technology. Dr J. Gardner)



The seat is on the edge of the Mallee Collection below the Twentieth Century Rose Garden and north of the Labyrinth. The seat, donated in 1995, is facing north. Nearby tree species: Left *Eucalyptus* 'Urrbrae Gem' MYRTACEAE 1936

Right: *Araucaria bidwillii* Bunya Pine. ARAUCARIACEAE. 1893. QLD. Photos: Terry Langham

**Woolhouse believed that the problems of feeding the world and the protection of the environment could be solved by the application of scientific research, and he encouraged international co-operation to that end. (Szirtes, 1996).**

Leonie Woolhouse lived in Urrbrae House as a child. (Gardner, J. 2016, pers. comm)

*Eucalyptus* 'Urrbrae Gem' (*E. erythronema* x *stricklandii*) was a chance hybrid discovered at the Waite Arboretum in 1936 by Fred Couzens Jr. Current research on Ornamental Eucalypts at the Waite is led by Dr Kate Delaporte, the Curator of the Waite Arboretum.





*Stenocarpus salignus* PROTEACEAE Beefwood, Red Silky-Oak  
N.S.W. QLD. 1928

This tree is growing far from its native habitat. Over many millions of years some of the flora of Australia also adapted to drying conditions. This specimen in the Arboretum is an example of a species out of its range.

Found in warmer rainforests on the coast and ranges. It is often found in warm temperate rainforest on poorer sedimentary soils, or on volcanic soils above 750 metres (2,460 feet) above sea level. It was originally described by the botanist Robert Brown in 1810.

Proteaceae are mainly a Southern Hemisphere family, with its main centres of diversity in Australia and South Africa. It is thought to have achieved its present distribution largely by continental drift rather than dispersal across ocean gaps.

*Schotia brachypetala* FABACEAE Tree Fuchsia. Eastern Africa 1960.

The flowering time is somewhat irregular in that a tree in bloom may be a few metres away from one that has no sign of flowers. This irregularity is of value to the nectar feeding birds, and ensures a longer feeding season. The flowers produce copious amounts of nectar, which over-flows and drips or 'weeps' from the flowers and may be the origin of the common name, the weeping boer-bean, or huilboerboon in Afrikaans.