

# FRIENDS OF THE WAITE ARBORETUM INC.

## NEWSLETTER 106 SUMMER 2020

### FORTHCOMING EVENTS

**YES  
OUR GUIDED TOURS HAVE  
RESUMED.**

**Free Guided Arboretum Walks  
The first Sunday of every month at  
11 am. Meet on lawns Urrbrae  
House.**

The Arboretum remains open and accessible to the public. Please observe all SA Official Directives when visiting the Arboretum.  
Covid-19.sa.gov.au

**PROTEST AGAINST THE REMOVAL  
OF TREES AND THE  
GATEHOUSE ON WAITE CAMPUS.  
GATEHOUSE 31 JANUARY 11AM**



Waite Arboretum App



**Patron:** Sophie Thomson

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

**Secretary:** Johanna Crosby, **Treasurer:** vacant

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*Pinus brutia* PINACEAE Calabrian Pine, Turkish Pine #275 E. Med. Asia Minor 1954 Photo EB

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## January 2021 Arb report

Suddenly, last summer....

Or is it 'Yesterday, When The War began'?

Last year, I opened this edition with sadness after the bushfires. 2020 kept on giving, and 2021, so far... there is so much in the news I am frequently overwhelmed.

The weather is always a feature, because, well, it is the WEATHER and it impacts us every day and every week and every month and all the time for ever. And, is one of the things we cannot control, but it controls us. We can affect it, and the climate, but we cannot control it.

Today it is summer and we had rain in Aldgate – 0.8ml apparently – definitely wet enough to dampen our lunch at a café! It's been a bit of a damp summer up in the hills, I hardly have to water the lawn, and I am so happy about that. But how about down on the plains? Well, a few good downpours late in the spring gave everything a bit of hydration but we haven't had much since then, so a typical summer. Our residual ground cover is increasing and I think the Arboretum looks all the better for it. As I've reported previously, COVID impacted on our capabilities to do the planned work in the Arboretum, but we are on track to be on track for this year.

Our words of the newsletter are: *Geijera*, *Sterculia*, *Quercus*, and 'traker counters'; watch this space, I'll talk about them next time.

As always, I would like to expend my heartfelt thanks to the Friends of the Waite Arboretum Committee for their enthusiasm and commitment through what has been a difficult year; to the volunteers for the work they do, and to Erica, whose absolute support for the Arboretum and Gardens and hard work every single day, make the Arboretum and gardens such a wonderful place for us all.

And what can I ask for to close? Sensible democratic governance, paying attention to what the Community WANTS not what the politicians want; real progress on minimising the impacts of climate change through strong international collaboration and leadership.

And rain, always rain....

Kate, 17 January 2021

### Changing the Fullarton Road, Cross Road Intersection and the impact on the Waite Campus.

This is a message to all University staff on 4 December 2020, sent by Interim Vice-Chancellor Professor Mike Brooks:

*Dear colleagues*

*I'm writing to you to share my concerns about an issue that will have a permanent impact on our Waite campus.*

*We are deeply concerned about this proposal and the impact it will have on the Waite. The campus is located on land bequeathed to the University of Adelaide by pastoralist Peter Waite almost 100 years ago. It is one of the largest and most significant philanthropic gifts in the history of South Australia.*

*The Waite campus, which includes the Waite Arboretum, is held in perpetuity by the University and is a South Australian treasure.*

*The proposed widening of the roadway would result in the carving off of bequeathed land, demolition of a heritage building, destruction of significant trees, and will have a detrimental impact on the Waite Arboretum collection.*

*The building under threat of demolition is a state heritage-listed building constructed in the 1880s, known as "The Lodge" or "Gatehouse". The removal of a roadside section of the Waite Arboretum along Cross Road would destroy a number of trees of historic significance. The University estimates that under the current proposal approximately 20 trees would be removed, some of which are 120 years old and significant in size.*

*As custodians of such an important element of South Australian history, the University is opposed to the acquisition of Waite campus land. We have called on the Government to reconsider these plans and will engage with them further on this important issue. We have also shared our position on the matter with the Federal and State MPs and the Mitcham Council.*

*We will always strive to protect the campus, its heritage and the legacy of Peter Waite.*

### On 15 January 2021 The Advertiser reported that:

The State Government has offered the University of Adelaide \$2 million towards moving the Gatehouse along with \$2 million compensation for land acquisition.

### The University of Adelaide responded with:

The University is concerned that this is an attempt to shift responsibility for the future of the heritage-listed Gatehouse away from the State Government and onto the University when actually the future of the Gatehouse is in question because of the Government's planned upgrade of the intersection.

At this stage, there has not been a full and detailed analysis of the immediate and mid-to-long-term heritage and cost implications of relocating the Gatehouse and its impact on the rest of the campus. The Department itself is on the public record with an estimate that the relocation itself would cost far in excess of \$2M. The community's views on relocation would also need to be explored in depth and properly considered.

However, this issue is not just about the Gatehouse. The University has made its position on this matter very clear: we are entirely opposed to the acquisition of Waite campus land and its impact on the heritage of that land and the legacy of Peter Waite.

The University has not provided a formal position to State Government on the relocation or otherwise of the Gatehouse at the Waite campus. The University's formal position is as stated above: opposition to the proposal to acquire Waite campus land. Therefore, the University's preference is for the Gatehouse to remain where it is.

It is important to note that the University has yet to receive formal written notification from the State of its intention to acquire a portion of the land on our campus.

Once that notification is received, as the landowner the University will pursue its legal rights under the compulsory acquisition process. We will continue to make representations to government and the community about the need to protect the Waite heritage and the legacy of Peter Waite.

## Report from the President FWA Dr Wayne Harvey Summer 2020/21

The University of Adelaide Hughes Society is made up by a group of people who have pledged personal funds to support the University. Hughes Society members are invited by the University to a series of hosted events that show the various activities of the University, including exclusive lectures, site tours and Elder Conservatorium Lunchtime Concerts. The Hughes Society had listed a tour of the Arboretum in their 2020 calendar of activities, originally scheduled for April of last year but deferred as the University managed the safety of its students, staff and visitors during the pandemic just declared at that time. The Hughes Society visit to the Arboretum finally occurred in November 2020 when the Friends and the University staff were able to show Society members why the Arboretum is so important to so many people.

A number of people have made donations during 2020 towards the maintenance of the Arboretum and the Management Committee extends its thanks to those people for their continued support for the work of the Friends. The past 12 months have not allowed us to stage the usual fund-raising events so we have been almost completely dependent on members' annual fees and donations to provide funds to the Arboretum.

Our concerns over government plans to expand the Cross Road-Fullarton Road intersection and the likely effect on the Arboretum have been heightened by the recently announced government proposal to remove the heritage cottage in the North West corner of the Arboretum. It has also become clear that the long-term plan is to increase the use of Cross Road and Fullarton Road as major road transport routes between the South Eastern Freeway and the North South Motorway. This will include developments designed to increase the traffic flow through Mitcham. It seems the scheduled expansion of the Cross Road-Fullarton Road intersection is just a part of a larger plan with consequences beyond the Arboretum. The decision-making by the traffic planners continues to cause community anxiety about a solution to a 'traffic management problem' that to many of us is overstated. The University has made its views on compulsory acquisition of any part of the land included in the Waite Bequest clear, and we can only wonder what is needed for the planners to heed community views in an environment described by the government as 'consultative'. Petitions against road works that would compromise the heritage building or the trees were signed by community members last year and new petitions to the government are now available. Thankfully, some elected members of Parliament, including the Member for Waite, have expressed their opposition to the proposal.

Visitors to the Arboretum would have noticed signs on fences asking for dogs to be on leads in those areas around The University of Adelaide Waite Campus and the Urrbrae House Gardens. This is a move by the University and endorsed by the Friends, though not for any trivial reason. Dogs can sometimes frighten wildlife and those people enjoying the peace and quiet in this natural environment.

The Adelaide Waite Campus is an experimental teaching and research Facility.



Gathering for the Hugh's Society walk. Thursday 12 Nov 2020



### Keep Dogs on Lead.

For the wellbeing of dogs, people and wildlife.

These new signs pertain to those areas around The University of Adelaide Waite Campus and Urrbrae House Gardens.

NO DOGS are permitted in the Arboretum or the Waite Conservation Reserve.



Just some of the trees DIT may remove to widen the intersection. Pic JG  
For the latest information on DIT and the intersection please go to:

**Save the Waite Lodge and Trees. change.org**

To print out a petition form or send a letter to your MP:  
**friendswaitearboretum.org**

You can present completed petition to Sam Dulak's Office 1/7-9 Young St Blackwood by first week Feb. or bring to the protest on 31 January.

## Friends of the Waite Arboretum



Tool maintenance volunteer, Michael is restoring all the tools we use in the Arboretum and gardens.

Since Michael arrived to our volunteer program our tools are bright, perfectly sharp and now also colourful! He has been painting some of our old tools to their original colours and they are now ready for another couple of years of hard work!

We are fortunate to count on our amazing and highly skilled volunteers who share their passion in the arboretum, gardens and reserve.

Erica Boyle

### Useful sites for plant research. Dr Jennifer Gardner

[www.catalogueoflife.org](http://www.catalogueoflife.org) and free App

The Catalogue of Life is an online database that provides the world's most comprehensive and authoritative index of known species of animals, plants, fungi and micro-organisms, over 1.8 million species, presented in a clear taxonomic hierarchy. The Search function includes synonyms and extinct taxa. It was created in 2001 as a partnership between the global Species 2000 and the American Integrated Taxonomic Information System and is continually updated as DNA and other information becomes available and phylogenies are revised. The most recent in 1 September 2020.

[www.ala.org.au](http://www.ala.org.au) and free App

The Atlas of Living Australia (ALA) is a collaborative, digital, open infrastructure that pulls together Australian biodiversity data from multiple sources, making it accessible and reusable. It includes 10,839 datasets with over 91 million occurrence records. For each species there is an interactive map showing all records, taxonomic information and a gallery of images. The public can upload sightings.

[www.iucnredlist.org](http://www.iucnredlist.org)

The International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species was established in 1964 and has evolved to become the world's most comprehensive information source on the global extinction risk status of animal, fungus and plant species. The risk categories range from Least Concern, Near Threatened, Vulnerable, Endangered, Critically Endangered, Extinct in the Wild to Extinct. Assessments state the applicable criteria and the categorization of any species may change over time to reflect ongoing assessment of threats and limits of distribution.

[plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/floraonline](http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/floraonline) &  
[florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au](http://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au)

These are excellent resources for the flora of NSW and WA respectively.

[www.plantzafrika.com](http://www.plantzafrika.com)

Good site for African species.



FWA aprons for sale \$25. One size fits all with pockets.

Dracaena seedlings wrapped and ready for sale. \$50.

Contact our Secretary [Crosby\\_jo@yahoo.com.au](mailto:Crosby_jo@yahoo.com.au)



Marilyn gratefully acknowledging the plant labels generously donated to the FWA by David Feighan, Sales Manager WA & SA, Norwood Industries, Vic.

[David.feighan@norwood.com.au](mailto:David.feighan@norwood.com.au)



**Reminder notice for FWA membership renewal for 2021**

Rainbow lorikeet in *Hakea francisiana* Photo Jeff Rose

***Dovyalis caffra* Dr Barbara Radcliffe January 2021**

Located near the centre of the Waite Arboretum, between the pears and the oaks, you can find a single specimen of *Dovyalis caffra*.

It is a large shrub (or small tree) armed with ferocious spines and apricot-coloured fruit. It is now a member of the *Salicaceae* (willow) family, but was previously classified in the family *Flacourtiaceae*. That family, described as a 'dustbin' family (Mabberley, 2009) included a heterogeneous group of woody, pantropical genera until split into a number of families including *Salicaceae* that now includes the genus *Dovyalis*.

The split was based on analyses of DNA sequences as described in the delightfully entitled paper 'When in doubt, put it in *Flacourtiaceae*: a molecular phylogenetic analysis based on plastid *rbc* DNA sequences' (Chase et al. 2002).

*D. caffra* is from southern Africa and its range is from north of the Great Kei River northwards along the eastern side of the continent to Tanzania. One of its common names, Kei Apple, derives from that of the river. It usually reaches 3 –5m high, but can sometimes reach 8m.



*Dovyalis caffra* (Waite Arboretum) showing fierce spines on a dead branch. Photo BCR

It can be planted close together to form a hedge that is virtually impenetrable due to its fierce spines. The generic name *Dovyalis* is derived from a Greek word meaning spear which reflects the nature of its spines while *caffra* is derived from the geographic name Kaffraria (Eastern Cape) (Ndou, 2003).

The genus is dioecious, that, is it has separate male and female trees, although it is said that some female trees can produce fruit parthenogenetically. The tree in the Arboretum is female and has reportedly not been seen to produce fruit (Terry Langham, pers. com).

Another specimen can be found in Wittunga Botanic Garden, also female, and according to the Botanic Gardens of Adelaide *Catalogue of Plants* (2010) is the only specimen in the Garden. Nevertheless, it produces fruit so perhaps it does so by parthenogenesis. However, it is possible that there might be a male tree in a private garden near enough to allow pollination of the female tree, since it is thought that the species is insect or bird pollinated (Ndou, 2003).

The inconspicuous flowers are creamy-green with no petals. The female flowers are in groups of 1-3 on petioles between 4 and 8 cm in length (photograph C) while male flowers are said to occur in clusters of 5 –10 ([www.rarefruitclub.org.au](http://www.rarefruitclub.org.au)).

The fruit is edible and said to be pleasantly acidic but some varieties are sweet enough to eat raw if kept at room temperature until they become soft ([www.rarefruitclub.org.au](http://www.rarefruitclub.org.au)). In addition, the fruit can be made into jam (Ndou, 2003).

Kei apple (*D. caffra*) is found in Queensland, New South Wales and South Australia. It is a listed weed in parts of NSW, and it is a tough plant that tolerates frost and drought, although it prefers full sun ([www.weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au](http://www.weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au), 2021).

It should therefore be treated with caution.

In summary, 'This is a tough plant that has no problem with our infertile soils and challenging summer conditions. The fruit of sweeter varieties is good and can be produced in abundance. The biggest issue is the thorns, which can be a plus if the tree is used as a barrier/hedge, but a negative whenever pruning has to be undertaken.' ([www.rarefruitclub.org.au](http://www.rarefruitclub.org.au)) Remember to put on your gloves!

References

Board of the Botanic Gardens of Adelaide and State Herbarium. 2010. *Catalogue of Plants, Adelaide, Mount Lofty and Wittunga Botanic Gardens*. Department for Environment and Heritage, Government of South Australia

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Mabberley, D.J. 2009. *Mabberley's Plant-book a portable dictionary of plants, their classification and uses*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.

Ndou, P. 2003. *Dovyalis caffra*. South African National Biodiversity Institute, PlantZAfrica. [pza.sanbi.org/dovyalis-caffra](http://pza.sanbi.org/dovyalis-caffra). Accessed 30/12/2020.

[www.rarefruitclub.org.au/Dovyalis.htm](http://www.rarefruitclub.org.au/Dovyalis.htm) (accessed 12/2020) Kei Apple, also called Wild Apricot *Dovyalis caffra*



*Dovyalis caffra* in Wittunga Botanic Garden showing edible fruit. Photo JB



*Dovyalis caffra* (Waite Arboretum) showing female flowers and leaves. Photo BR.

**Lottie Lillian Sharrad**

Lottie Sharrad was born July 1902 in Stirling. She was one of 5 children and by grade 6 she left school and worked as a nanny. She left a deep impression on all the families she cared for. Richard Davies knew Lottie when he was a child and the physicist Dr Margaret Folkard, (one of the proprietors of Sundials Australia) also a close friend of the Davies, knew and loved Lottie. They felt that the sphere was the perfect way to honor her.

Lottie loved the Urrbrae House rose garden and the time piece is located on the north side of the rose garden.

K Davies writes

*Lottie Sharrad was a remarkable woman. It could be said that hers was a 'small domestic life', but her kindness and thoughtfulness and love influenced four generations of our family, and of hers. There are few who could claim as much. Lottie ("Doway") Sharrad. Much loved Auntie and Friend.*

For the complete article on Lottie Lillian Sharrad by K.Davies [friendsofwaitearboretum.org](http://friendsofwaitearboretum.org)



**Armillary Sphere in the Rose Garden**



The leaves of *Capparis mitchellii* are the larval food of the migratory Caper White butterfly *Belenois java teutonia*. Photos EB



What time is it on the Armillary Sphere?  
Read time from the middle of shadow cast by rod.  
To calculate correct clock time add or subtract the number of minutes shown on the graph for today's date. Add an extra hour during daylight saving.



Running late for a 9:30 am meeting (daylight saving time, add 1 hour to shadow).



Meeting finished and its just after 11 am. Photos JB



**Fullarton Road and Cross Road Intersection Upgrade Proposal**

**Example of a letter for your State Member of Parliament**

Jennifer Gardner 31/12/2020 (friendsofwaitearboretum.org)

I am strongly opposed to the current proposal to upgrade the Fullarton Road, Cross Road intersection.

It is inappropriate for an inner suburban commuter route Cross Road to become a key corridor for heavy freight vehicles connecting the South Eastern Freeway to South Road.

The current proposal will:

- reduce the safety and amenity of the many educational and elderly-care institutions and residences along Cross Road
- cause the loss of significant built heritage and established trees
- increase bitumen exacerbating the heat island effect and stormwater runoff
- significantly lower air quality due to increased harmful vehicle emissions and removal of ameliorating trees
- have only temporary gains as any increase in traffic flow will be quickly neutralised by the increase in traffic volumes.

I urge the Government to show leadership and to revisit the decision not to proceed with the road-rail link which would direct heavy freight transport well outside metropolitan Adelaide.

I exhort the Government to maintain Adelaide as the most liveable and sustainable of cities with clean air, urban forests cooling the city, improved paths for pedestrians, cyclists and access to public transport.

I demand that the Government undertakes genuine and transparent consultation with the community and respects the Waite bequests and our built and natural heritage.



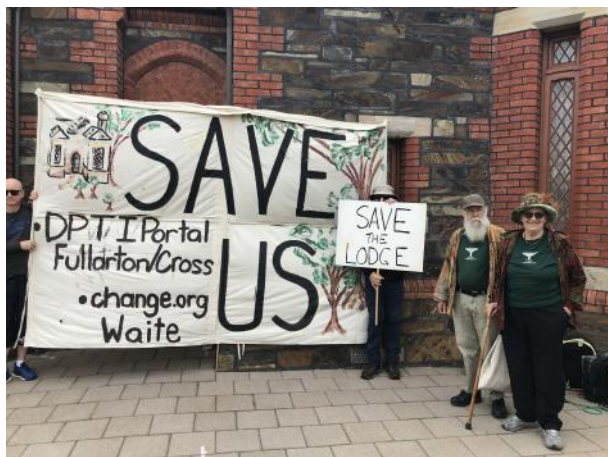
Trees that are targeted for removal by DIT. *Eucalyptus placida* Grey Ironbark #1526. *Eucalyptus populnea*. Poplar Box #1514



The majestic *Pinus canariensis* #2114 threatened by the intersection upgrade. Photos JG



Arboretum trees to be removed by Department for Infrastructure and Transport, looking west to the Cross Rd Fullarton Road intersection, Photo JG.



Terry and Sylvia along with many hundreds protesting the changes to the Intersection on 6/12/2020. Photo JB

**Finding refuge in the Waite Arboretum. By Erica Boyle**

It is always immensely rewarding to discover living creatures of all sizes while you walk through the Arboretum. From butterflies, plenty of bird species, owls, bats, koalas, kangaroos, echidnas, lizards, frogs, bees, skinks to little insects hidden under the bark of the trees, under logs or in the ground, all of them have adopted this space as their homes.

The Arboretum provides immense value to our environment by providing our wildlife with habitat and protecting them from the loss of green spaces due to the relentless advance of urbanisation. The Arboretum provides our wildlife with housing, refuge, food, water and protection, while keeping the ecosystem alive.

Green spaces in cities increase biodiversity, particularly the diversity of living forms: from large mammals and plants, to fungi and microorganisms (as our magnificent centenary trees in the Arboretum have provided habitats for so long). All species, including us, rely on many other species to live and thrive. The Arboretum displays this interconnection; animals depend on plants for food and shelter, the plants depend on the soil for growth and on bees for pollination and reproduction. Fungi and bacteria decompose other organisms to fertilize the soil; and humans depend on all these living forms to survive!

When you come to the Arboretum and find a bird, ant, or fungi think about the interconnectedness of all of us as part of a huge network of life, feel the privilege to be part of the ecosystem but at the same time the immense responsibility that is in your hands, to protect it.

My last discovery was this tiny little Gecko inside a palm flower sheath! A surprising and wonderful encounter!



*Christinus marmoratus* Southern Marbled Gecko. Photo EB



*Lophostemon confertus* Brush Box MYRTACEAE #511 NSW Qld. NT 1928 Photo JB



*Eucalyptus gillienii* MYRTACEAE Mt Gillen Mallee #81 Arid Australia 1987



*Calodendron capense* Cape Chestnut RUTACEAE #380 Africa. Near the coast it has an evergreen habit but inland it is deciduous with leaves colouring yellow. The bittersweet seeds yield an oil used to make soap. Photos JB