

# FRIENDS OF THE WAITE ARBORETUM INC.

## NEWSLETTER 110 SUMMER 2022

### FORTHCOMING EVENTS

**Free Guided Arboretum Walks**  
The first Sunday of every month at 11 am. Meet on lawns Urrbrae House.  
Please observe all SA Official Covid-19 directives when visiting the Arboretum.  
[Covid-19.sa.gov.au](https://www.covid-19.sa.gov.au)

[Made While Nobody](#)

[Was Looking.](#)

Basketry Exhibition  
Urrbrae House  
Sat. 19 Feb - 1 March 2022  
Sat. opening 1:30. Eventbrite  
Fibre Walk in the Arboretum  
2 pm Sat. 19 Feb.  
Meet on lawns  
Urrbrae House.



Waite Arboretum App



**Patron:** Sophie Thomson

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

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

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

**Committee:** Joan O'Loughlin, Dr Barbara Radcliffe, Ramute Stankevicius, Jenny Birvé, Marilyn Gilbertson

**Ex-officio Waite Arboretum Staff:** Dr Kate Delaporte and Erica Boyle

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*Brachychiton bidwillii* STERCULIACEAE Rusty Kurrajong #2972B J15 QLD. 2009 Located in Dry Rainforest Garden of Arboretum. For information on the relocation of plants in the DRG see page 5.

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## 2022 Summer Arboretum report.

### Dr Kate Delaporte

Ah. Summer. Hot days and cricket on the radio. Dare I say it, so far it's been nice, weatherwise. The cricket continues to cause consternation, frustration, excitement and joy, all at once, but it wouldn't be cricket if it wasn't like that!

Let's not dwell on the pandemic, but of course it continues to impact on our daily lives as many of ourselves, our friends, family and colleagues are directly impacted by the new 'normal'.

I am very happy to share that we have a 'team' of students embarking on research focussed on the Arboretum!

Firstly, we have Rikki Belder who will be commencing her PhD research in March.



Ms Rikki Belder

My name is Rikki, and I'm delighted to introduce myself as a PhD student, commencing in March to work on an important project for the Waite Arboretum. This project arose from a vital question raised by Jenny Birve (Friends of Waite Arboretum Committee) regarding how the Arboretum trees will cope in the face of a rapidly changing climate. The current proposed project is titled: Retaining and improving the urban tree canopy and Waite Arboretum collection in Adelaide's changing climate: development of a dynamic predictive tool for key species survival and management recommendations.

Dr Kate Delaporte heads the supervisory team, alongside Associate Professor Doug Bardsley and Dr Stefan Caddy-Retalic. Our primary aim is to analyse the effect of Adelaide's predicted climate on the survival of key Arboretum species, and to identify strategies to ensure the Arboretum can thrive as our planet changes. My aim is to develop assistive tools for researchers, government and the community, to retain and improve the ecosystem services of the Waite Arboretum site and Adelaide's urban canopy in a climate-sustainable manner.

I graduated with a Bachelor of Biomedical Engineering (Honours) from Flinders University in 2019, and I have mechanics, electronics and programming skills. So what has led a biomedical engineering grad down this garden path? A longstanding passion for protecting the natural environment, a deep concern over climate change, and a refusal to sit by and watch from a 'separate' industry, lead me to explore how I can lend my skills to the environmental sciences.

I will be supported by the Waite Arboretum Award scholarship, and the Charles John Everard Scholarship. Charles John Everard (1882 - 1915) was a descendent of the Everard family, who were among the first colonist farmers of the Adelaide region. Charles was an orchardist in the river settlement of Renmark, and sadly died at a young age. Charles' wife, Ella Syme Everard (1879 - 1972) bequeathed the scholarship in Charles' honour, for agricultural or horticultural research.

I am grateful and excited for the opportunity to put my research and technical skills, and my determination, into a project that I hope will help ensure the health and wellbeing of our tree canopies and their many visitors. Here's to raising the right questions, and striving for answers, so that the Arboretum and our Adelaide canopy can survive and thrive as we head deeper into the 21st Century.



Mrs Rebecca Stevens



Secondly, we have Rebecca Stevens, a 3rd year Ag. Science student who elected to undertake a Summer Research Scholarship project with me: Hello to fellow friends of the Waite Arboretum!

My name is Beck Stevens and I am a student at The University of Adelaide, about to commence the final year of a Bachelor of Agricultural Science. I grew up in a small agricultural community in rural South Australia and have had a keen interest in plants and insects from a young age. After pursuing a teaching career and having 3 children of my own I have returned to early beginnings and chosen to embrace my passion for horticulture and return to further study. I have thoroughly enjoyed the challenge and it has provided me with the opportunity to undertake a Summer Scholarship in the Waite Arboretum, under the expert guidance of Dr Kate Delaporte. This has provided me with many new experiences as well as the opportunity to meet other passionate plant people!



My time, thus far, has primarily involved learning about and assisting in the Waite Graminetum, researching propagation methods for the declining Peter Waite *Morus nigra* (Black English Mulberry) tree, including extracting, drying and counting seed from the fruit for a planned research trial, and assisting with the collection and propagation of cuttings from dry rainforest plants on or near the relocation site of The Gatehouse. Whilst I have found each of these experiences enriching, I have grown to appreciate the fascinating and beautiful collection of native Australian grasses in the Waite Graminetum and the interesting array of intricate and delicate seeds found on many of these plants. I have particularly enjoyed watching one of the rare grasses, *Themeda avenacea*, produce graceful, long, purple tinged culms filled with chocolate brown, furry seeds that look like little mice! It has been exciting to be able to harvest some mature seeds and we are hoping we can successfully germinate some new plants to allow others to enjoy this beautiful specimen. I am incredibly grateful for this rewarding opportunity to immerse myself in the Waite Arboretum and all it has to offer over the coming months.

I am really excited to also introduce Katerina Grypma, who has completed a bachelor of Environmental Policy and Management in the Department of Geography, Environment and Population, Faculty of Arts, and will undertake her Honours year under the supervision of Associate Professor Doug Bardsley and myself, investigating how key community cohorts (e.g. local residents, council, FWA members) are valuing the Arboretum and surrounding urban forest. Kat will share more about her project in the Autumn Newsletter.

I really enjoy working with students and am especially happy to have this trio as part of our team. The benefits to the Arboretum and our urban forest in general, will be significant after their projects are completed.

Our President Wayne has articulated the importance of volunteers, and of our wonderful Friends group, you people, who contribute so much in so many different ways to the smooth running of the Arboretum. Apart from raising awareness of the Arboretum in the community, the FWA provides funds to support research and special projects in the Arboretum. Two key projects funded either in part or wholly by the Friends in recent years are the upgrading of signage and keeping the Arboretum catalogue and Arboretum App up to date and functioning. You may have observed that the Arb App was suffering from a series of glitches through the second half of 2021 – technology is like the little girl with the curl; unfortunately our App went through a horrid patch through no fault of its own, requiring urgent and specialised care to get it back on track which it is now. Please head to your App store and download version 2.07! In addition, following on from Jennifer's report in Autumn 2021, Jennifer and Marian continued to progress the mapping of the Palm & Cycad collection; it is almost complete and awaits only the final loading of the data into the App and creation of the location maps for use by the Arboretum staff and the Palm & Cycad Society of South Australia. Jennifer will provide a report on Stage 2 of the mapping in the Autumn newsletter, once the final tasks are complete. The upgrade to the signage is well underway, with plans for 7-10 wayfinding signs at essential entrances to the Arboretum (as informed by our people counters!) that will have a "you are here" map that will enable visitors to find all of the wonderful features of the Arb, the office, café and facilities! As we do not have dedicated pathways within the majority of the Arb, our signs really do need to be informative rather than simply rules based. However, the larger movements of the world are usually against me progressing things, and the 'imminent' relocation of the Gate House has put that on hold.

I am immensely grateful for the FWA fundraising efforts to enable us to undertake specialised and essential projects in the Arboretum. Without your support, these things would simply not happen.

Kate, 16 January 2022

## Report from the President FWA Dr Wayne Harvey Summer 2021-22

We know the Arboretum is a special place for some people but have only recently been able to estimate the visitor numbers. Counters were placed at 2 locations during 2021 to monitor foot traffic into and out of the Arboretum and its surrounds. The data recorded by those counters show visitor numbers are averaging around 275 per day, with the Andrewartha Gate on Claremont Avenue the most used access point. The FWA and the University plan to install counters in other locations to increase the coverage and the reliability of the data collected. This information will assist with our plans to invest in improvements to the signage within the Arboretum.

Members volunteering their time, resources and expertise is at the core of the FWA's activities and success. The national body Volunteering Australia, regards volunteering as "time willingly given for the common good and without financial gain". According to a survey and subsequent analysis conducted by researchers at the ANU, there has been a decrease in volunteering activity that can be attributed to the pandemic. Approximately two thirds of volunteers across the country have significantly reduced or completely stopped volunteering since February 2020 as a precaution to minimise COVID-19 transmission. This decrease was consistent across all states with SA showing a 62% drop since the pandemic began.

The University of Adelaide values its volunteers, those members of the community that, in the words of the University, '... add to the richness of University life by engaging a diverse range of people in a variety of volunteer roles'. The University's Volunteer Program was formalised in 2003 and has grown to more than 3,000 volunteers – including members of the Friends of the Waite Arboretum. The University recorded 66,557 hours of volunteers' time to the University during 2021. A total of 177 volunteers in the Waite Arboretum, Waite Conservation Reserve and Urrbrae House Gardens gave 8,250 hours of their time during the same year.

Representatives of the University acknowledged the contribution of these volunteers at an informal ceremony held at the Waite campus last December, during which certificates of service were presented.

Your Committee is providing merchandise to members at competitive prices as part of our fundraising efforts. Hand-made FWA aprons continue to be available and protective over-shirts and sun hats, complete with the FWA logo are also now available to our members. You may see FWA guides and others at work in the Arboretum wearing distinctive FWA clothing.

Our fundraising activity includes offering young plants raised from Arboretum specimens and we expect to broaden the range available as the propagation work by the University produces healthy plants.

Funds raised by the FWA continue to be spent on specific projects designed to manage the collection and to enhance the visitor experience. FWA membership renewals are due and I encourage all members to maintain their commitment to the Arboretum and to also ask others to join the Friends and share their interests in the remarkable collection that is the Waite Arboretum. Your membership is important to the management of the collection for both visitors and students.



Seat of the Season. Terry Langham

In memory of

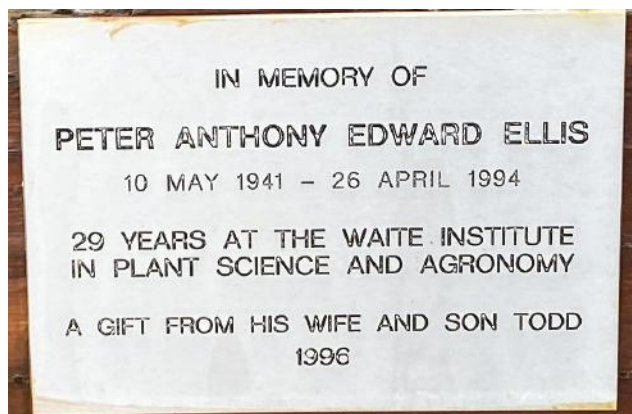
Peter Anthony Edward ELLIS, 10 May 1941 – 26 April 1994



*Quillaja saponaria* Soapbark Tree Chile 1993 Nice tasty nameplate!



The dry fruit has five follicles each containing 10-20 seeds.



IN MEMORY OF  
**PETER ANTHONY EDWARD ELLIS**  
10 MAY 1941 – 26 APRIL 1994  
29 YEARS AT THE WAITE INSTITUTE  
IN PLANT SCIENCE AND AGRONOMY  
A GIFT FROM HIS WIFE AND SON TODD  
1996

Occupation: Technical Officer, 29 years at the Waite Institute in plant science and agronomy.

Nearby tree species: #433, G13 *Ulmus parvifolia*, Chinese Elm, China, Japan, Korea. 1929

When Ron Knight was setting up plant breeding teams to go to Indonesia as part of the Australian-Asian Universities Cooperation Scheme in the 1970s, he and colleagues insisted that one member of each team should be a laboratory manager. Knight's team took Peter Ellis from the Agronomy Department with them. Ellis was a graduate from Roseworthy Agricultural College, very capable with things like lathes or any electronic equipment and was fundamental to the success of Knight's project in Indonesia. (Zeitz, 2014, p.393-394).

Zeitz, L.D 2014, The Waite: A social and scientific history of the Waite Agricultural Research Institute, Barr Smith Press, Adelaide, p.393 – 394.



An evergreen tree in the family QUILLAJACEAE. In foods, quillaia is used in frozen dairy desserts, candy, baked goods, gelatins, and puddings. It is also used in beverages and cocktails and as a foaming agent in root beer. In manufacturing quillaia extracts are used in skin creams. Quillaia is also used as a foaming agent in fire extinguishers.





## To the Volunteers at the Adelaide University Waite Campus

Dear volunteers,

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your ongoing support during yet another challenging year.

Despite the impact the pandemic has had on our volunteering program, we are amazed by the incredible kindness and support our volunteers continue to provide.

For the volunteers who were unable to attend the 'Volunteer Thank You' event on December 7, we are pleased to inform that a total of 177 volunteers within the Waite Arboretum, Waite Conservation Reserve and Urrbrae House Gardens Volunteer Program generously gave 8,250 hours this year. What an outstanding number!!

On a larger scale, University of Adelaide Volunteer Program Coordinator Kerry James informed us during the event that a total of 2,705 volunteers volunteered 66,557 hours to the University community equalling \$3M in dollar value during 2021.

Once again, we would like to thank all of our regular volunteers for everything you do for our beautiful green assets here at Waite Campus year after year: Waite Arboretum and Urrbrae House Gardens volunteers, Waite Arboretum Guides, Friends of the Waite Arboretum, Waite Conservation Reserve volunteers and Friends of the Waite Conservation Reserve.

And as part of our extended community engagement program, our thanks go to all the volunteers in the following groups who assist us through working bee sessions, advice and camaraderie along the year: Palms and Cycads Society, (SA), Mediterranean Garden Society (SA), Heritage Roses of Australia (SA) and Rose Society of SA.

A big thank you also to the wonderful group of UoA Horticultural Internship Program students who helped us in the arboretum, gardens, conservation reserve and glasshouse during 2021. We are very excited that many of you have decided to become regular volunteers and that it will allow you to continue learning from practical experience and from other knowledgeable volunteers, as well as develop your teamwork and social skills and why not: get new friends!

Thank you once again. Your commitment, support and enthusiasm is what makes our Volunteer Program such a success. We are very grateful to work with a wonderful group of people.

We look forward to working and enjoying Nature again with you all in 2022. With gratitude, Kate and Erica.



Erica, Kate and University of Adelaide Volunteer Program Coordinator Kerry James awarding certificates of recognition at the 'Volunteer Thank You Day', December 7, 2021.

## Update on Gate House relocation

### to the Dry Rainforest Garden. Dr Kate Delaporte

Relocating the Gate House to the Dry Rainforest Garden will provide the Arboretum with a wonderful shared space for the Volunteers and Friends groups. All of the specimens currently in that location will be relocated or replanted with new specimens elsewhere in the Arboretum. Nine specimens (from five species) in the DRG will be moved to new locations when the Gate House move is finalised. We are watering these plants now to give them a health boost prior to the move. All other specimens in the DRG will be removed but replaced with new, young specimens as they were deemed not possible to move (too big, not healthy enough to survive a move). Where we are unable to locate new specimens from acceptable suppliers, we have tried to propagate them from cuttings with mixed success so far. We will keep looking to ensure we are able to replace every specimen. We have documented the growth of each of the DRG specimens so we have a record of their performance in that area over 20 years. The new location has been carefully considered with regards to the microclimate in the new sites, and the practical realities of the project. There will be significant ongoing time costs for the Arboretum team to provide daily watering and care for moved plants and the new plantings. We have the new sites all mapped out ready. We are waiting on DIT to advise us when the activity will commence.



*Brachychiton bidwillii*

Nine specimens (from five species) in the DRG will be moved to new locations when the Gate House move is finalised. Also the *Sterculia* (1), *Planchonella* (1), *Myrsine* (2) and *Jaegera* (3)

## Made While Nobody Was Looking

Enclosed with this newsletter is an invitation to attend an exhibition by members of Basketry SA in Urrbrae House .

19 Feb – 1 March. Due to Covid restrictions and university requirements the launch on Sat Feb 19 is a ticketed event (free) so that numbers can be managed appropriately. If you intend to come to the opening, please register your attendance by logging in to **Eventbrite - Made While Nobody Was Looking** - organized by The Friends of Waite Arboretum. All other sessions are not ticketed but numbers will be managed at the door.

A guided walk in the Waite Arboretum will follow the opening of the exhibition. The walk will begin on the lawns of Urrbrae House, Sat. Feb 19 2pm, and will focus on plants used for fibre.

## Membership 2022.

A reminder that membership subscriptions were due 1st January. Thank you to those who have renewed and for the many generous donations received.





*Eucalyptus perangusta* Fine-leaved mallee MYRTACEAE WA 1988  
Endemic to a small area on the south coast of WA. The bark is smooth throughout, pale grey and tan, shedding in thin curly flakes. Grows in the sandplain heath and has narrow leaves compared to other eucalypt species, with a distinctive crown.

*Backhausia myrtifolia* Carrol, Grey myrtle, Neverbreak.  
MYRTACEAE ACT, N.S.W Qld 2005. Grows in subtropical rainforests of E. Australia. The plant produces oils with cinnamon-like aroma that has anti-bacterial and anti-fungal properties.



*Melaleuca concreta* MYRTACEAE W.A. 1967 Found in SW WA from north of Perth up to near Shark Bay. The leaves are narrow with a pointed tip. The fruit capsules are about 1 cm in diameter. A variety, *M. concreta* var. *brevifolia* Benth., is recorded from the Hamelin Pool area, and is distinguished by its shorter, more acute leaves.