



FRIENDS OF THE WAITE ARBORETUM INC.

NEWSLETTER 111 AUTUMN 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)

AGM FWA

Thursday May 26 2:00pm Coach House



Waite Arboretum New App



Patron: Sophie Thomson

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

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

Editor: Jenny Bivé, **email:** jabyacka620@gmail.com

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

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

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1330C *Banksia prionotes* Orange Banksia, Acorn banksia WA 1998

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2022 Autumn Arboretum report

Dr Kate Delaporte

*Fall, leaves, fall; die, flowers, away;
Lengthen night and shorten day;
Every leaf speaks bliss to me
Fluttering from the autumn tree.
I shall smile when wreaths of snow
Blossom where the rose should grow;
I shall sing when night's decay
Ushers in a drearier day.
Fall, Leaves, Fall. Emily Brontë*

Autumn! Or is it?

I'm not entirely sure. It's not that cold and it's certainly not that wet. Or at all wet. Hardly any smoky fires in Stirling yet, and the leaves are barely changing colour. A few crisp mornings, but really, it's still tee shirt weather.

Perhaps the fresh wind that moved through this weekend will herald a change in nature; perhaps the fresh wind will also herald a change in human things, where we understand change and make it happen for the good of the future.

So, what is changing at the Waite? Not much in the Arboretum – unless we have WEATHER not much changes between January and April; it often gets drier and a bit crispy, which it certainly is now. Some leaves change colour and fall. The eucalypts drop leaves, limbs and bark. In the gardens, the Autumn bulbs show their colours and the roses have one last gasp before settling for a winter rest.

There is so much more change in the human side; the University has had a bit of a rummage through its structure and has devised a 'better' way to do things. As a result, we've had staffing changes, and quite a few excellent staff members at Waite have left for greener pastures, and we have new faces and new roles.

One such person who has left is Stuart Matthews, the School Manager for the School of Agriculture, Food and Wine. I knew Stuart from "BC" (before curator), but barely. Once I moved into the Curator role, he took up the role of mentoring me through the role of "manager" as opposed to "researcher/academic", and I "mentored" him through what the Arboretum is all about and how important trees are. Stuart has been incredibly supportive of the Arboretum, Erica and myself, providing both managerial and budgetary guidance and a strong voice within the School, and an actual physical presence when needed. As you know, Erica and I have a lot of ideas, and running them past Stuart was a very good litmus test for their feasibility. I missed Stuart's last day on campus due to languishing at home with Covid, but he visited with Erica and the Garden volunteers for a cuppa. He will be missed, but isn't far away. I look forward to meeting the new School Business Manager and Faculty Business Manager, and providing them with the full story of the Arboretum and Gardens to continue the excellent relationship the Arboretum staff have with the Faculty professional service personnel and SAFW management. Oh, and we are all now part of the Faculty of Sciences, Engineering and Technology. Watch this space....



Other changes? We have an evolving collegiate relationship with the School of Architecture and Built Environments; Dr Scott Hawkens, Director of the Landscape Architecture and Urban Design and his students visit the Arboretum regularly. In November 2021, Scott ran a masterclass for his students, and they spent three days exploring the Arboretum and learning about the importance of trees and open spaces. They were set a "dirty nails" activity, to create "Bird Tripods". Bird tripods are structures made from fallen branches that are fashioned into tripod-like structures, then fastened and secured, and then native climbers are planted at the base that will quickly grow to cover the tepee. Ideally, these tripods will provide a quick fix to the lack of low and mid canopy bushy shrubs that offer food and habitat for the little woodland birds, while the shrubs grow. The students had a great time creating and problem solving, and we have quite a few tripods/quadpods and even pentapods in the B,B and B, with climbers, such as *Hardenbergia violacea* and *Billardiera cymosa*, growing vigorously up them.



Dr Scott Hawkens and students setting up "bird tripods". Photos KD

Kerry James, Stuart Matthews, Phil Thomas and Erica. 2021 Volunteer's celebration. (first photo)

I've been busy of late with undergraduate teaching and report writing. I love research and I love teaching to inspire the next generation of plant scientists, but sometimes I need a "dirty nails" activity myself! Today I spent time setting cuttings of various plants I've rescued from a gentleman's garden, on his request. Nothing super special (except maybe the 100 year old *Eremophila maculata*) but satisfying nonetheless, not just because I'm rescuing plants, but also because I am creating new plants from old plants. One of the most amazing things about plants is that you can just cut a bit off and stick in in a good spot and it will grow! Thank goodness we can't do that with people, that would be no end of trouble, even though I often say that Erica and I need clones of ourselves to keep up with all the work! I do like to be 'up and doing', though, and gardening of all sorts helps me re-centre and declutter my brain from all the negativity in the world.

Please come and visit us in the Arboretum for a declutter!

Kate, 18 April, 2022.



Report from the President FWA Dr Wayne Harvey Autumn 2022

The scale of the road works at Cross Road/Fullarton Road intersection and its effect on the Arboretum is becoming clear. Mature pines along the boundary have been removed and the Gate House is currently being dismantled according to procedures set by the Department for Infrastructure and Transport. These are significant changes to the Waite Campus and we can expect these changes to have long-term consequences for the North West sector of the Arboretum. The Friends has put in many hours of work maintaining and planting understorey species in the North West Corner and will assist the University in monitoring changes in the flora and fauna.

As the Gatehouse is dismantled piece by piece, the building materials rated as 'heritage items' will be cleaned, labelled and stored off-site ready for the rebuild of the Gatehouse in its new location in the Arboretum. Dismantling of the Gatehouse is expected to continue for several months. The development of concept plans for the rebuilt and expanded Gatehouse has given the Friends the opportunity to put forward ideas for a building that will serve our members, volunteers and visitors to the Arboretum. The Management Committee will continue to provide the University with recommendations as the more detailed design work for the new building proceeds.

University students are becoming increasingly engaged with the Arboretum, using the site for practical studies and for research. The Management Committee welcomes this and has established a student concession rate to encourage students to become financial members of the Friends.

The planting of trees in the Arboretum began in 1928. The Friends of the Waite Arboretum is only 25 years or so old, but we won't let that deter us from celebrating the first 100 years of the Arboretum. The Management Committee will be planning activities for the centenary year and welcomes ideas from our members.

The Friends Annual General Meeting will be held on May 26th in the afternoon and all members are encouraged to attend. In addition to the presentation of reports, nominations for membership to the Management Committee will be received.



For more information about native bees and the flowers they rely on visit:

<https://www.adelaide.edu.au/waite-historic/waite-arboretum/bee-butterfly-and-bird-garden-bbb>

Bee, Butterfly and Bird Garden

Bees are vegetarian wasps that collect pollen or nectar for their offspring. Nearly all of Australia's 2500 native bee species are solitary bees. Species differ in colour, shape, and body length (1.2mm – 2.5cm). Native bees are not aggressive. Females have a sting, but will only use it if cornered and most of them cannot even get through your skin. About 100 species of native bees visit the Waite Arboretum.



Lipotriches sp. inspecting a *Cullen australasicum* flower.
Photos, UoA student Elisabeth Williamson at the BBB garden



Homalictus urbansus inspecting a *Scaevola albida*



Lasioglossum sp. on *Brachyscome multifida* flower

Bees, Butterfly and Bird Garden
Erica Boyle



The Bee, Butterfly and Bird garden goes VIRTUAL!

A few days ago, it was eight years since I arrived in this beautiful country from my home 12,000 kilometres away in South America! As a lover of nature and especially of the plant world, Adelaide overwhelmed me from the first day I walked its tree-lined streets, parks and reserves. Thanks to those Google maps walks, with my husband we decided that our future family destination would be in that beautiful city full of green and life.

Eight years ago, my passion for Australian native flora and its direct relationship with a vast and exotic fauna began. With minimal knowledge of English, every week I sat in front of the television with pencil and paper to watch Sophie Thomson and colleagues in Gardening Australia to learn the names of plants, insects, trees, and practice the Aussie language. I visited the Botanic Gardens weekly also with pencil and paper to write down the names of the most interesting plants, borrowed tons of books from the city library and bought many second-hand ones, too. A bit more than three years of studies in conservation and horticulture followed.

Time has passed and with it so many things in my personal world, among them, finding the job of my dreams in this incredible place where every day I learn new lessons from mother nature. One of the projects that has excited me the most has been the creation of the biodiversity garden in the mallee section of the arboretum: the BBB.

Today, I want to share my excitement to have received the Science Communication Prize for the creation of the BBB interactive map!
<https://set.adelaide.edu.au/news/list/2022/03/23/science-communicators-boost-the-visibility-of-uni-of-adelaide-research>

I am proudly happy to present this project that started hands-on the ground in 2019 and continues virtually today to reach a larger audience.

Thanks to the great collaboration of Sam Le Gallou and Rowena Garcia, former members of the university's marketing team, we managed to condense a large amount of information in an agile and fun way so that the message reaches people of all ages, especially the younger.

The background map with Rowena's beautiful drawings, reflects all the species planted so far in each of the garden beds (Sites 1 to 5) and by clicking on the different blue buttons, you will find information about the Native Bee Hotel as well as important information about the native bees, butterflies and birds especially associated with these herbs, shrubs, groundcovers and climbers species. Clicking on each of the sites, you will find the characteristics and environmental value of some of the plants in that bed.

Please visit the interactive map following this link:

<https://prezi.com/view/SRQfAyPWYzMMwBZrewig/> and for the best experience, use the arrows in the bottom right of the map to expand it to full screen of your computer.

You can also visit our arboretum website for more information:

<https://www.adelaide.edu.au/waite-historic/waite-arboretum/bee-butterfly-and-bird-garden-bbb>

My emotion lies not only in the prize received but also in the long journey that allowed me to get here and be today sharing information about those plants that intrigued me so much several years ago.

Final words to thank Kate for encouraging me to always follow my passion....and to Sophie Thomson (FWA patron) to teach me the first names of these magnificent native plants! And to our amazing BBB volunteer team!

Volunteers at the Adelaide University Waite Campus



Guides at the Waite Arboretum. Back left, Eileen, Terry, Henry, Barbara, Lynda, Jenny, Jennifer and Graham. We welcome anyone who wants to join us as a Guide in the Waite Arboretum. Shirts and hats available for sale, please email, joan.ologhin7@gmail.com



Pinus halepensis Aleppo Pine, Jerusalem Pine PINACEAE NW corner of the Waite Arboretum on Cross Road. These trees are about to be removed 16/03/2022. All but 2 Pines remain. 17/04/2022



Many thanks to FWA Vice President and hardworking volunteer Terry L. for adding to his long 'to-do' list, the maintenance of the rose garden bench which he carefully repaired in time for the opening of the Garden Basketry Exhibition. Photo EB



Gatehouse deconstruction. 7/04/2022. Photo JO



Working bee in the Garden of Discovery on the 10th April. From left: Jenny, Jocelyn, Craig and Mark, all members of the Mediterranean Garden Society SA. Photo EB



Urrbrae House, the venue for the The Fibre Basket Weavers of SA Exhibition, *Made While Nobody Was Looking*, 2022. The musicians played from the balcony and the Waite Arboretum Guides took walks in the Arboretum with the theme being Plant Fibre.



Made While Nobody Was Looking

The basketry exhibition held in Urrbrae House 19th Feb – 1st March was very successful and a credit to members of Basketry SA whose meticulous planning overcame many restrictions and uncertainties due to the pandemic. The outdoor opening on the southern lawns was a huge success with approximately 150 people enjoying perfect weather under the shade of the pear trees, listening to the music provided by Back Door Cajun and imbibing with refreshments provided by The Friends.

The guided walks lead by arboretum guides, Jenny Birve, Lynda Blake and Graham Bald, were very popular.

Urrbrae House proved to be an ideal venue. Approximately 720 people visited the exhibition. They spoke highly of the gardens and arboretum which enhanced appreciation of the use of natural materials for the works of art especially as some of the exhibits used materials from the arboretum. The main “gallery” had some stunning works of arts and the trading tables with smaller items created much interest. Sales were very successful with The Friends receiving just over \$2000 in commission.

Volunteers from FWA contributed approximately 80 hours of supervision during the exhibition while approximately 200 hours were contributed by Basketry SA members.

Many thanks to all those who helped during the exhibition, especially Kate who gave her time on opening day, Jenny, Lynda and Graham who conducted the guided walks, Joan O’Loughlin and Terry Langham who worked with the planning committee and all of our volunteers who contributed their time on the supervision roster. We thank the university for enabling the exhibition to be held in Urrbrae House and are appreciative of the assistance from the house staff in setting up and conducting the exhibition.

Marilyn Gilbertson



Some of the Exhibits at the The Fibre Basket Weavers of SA Exhibition, *Made While Nobody Was Looking*.

Twenty Two Canoes and *Beady Basket*, both by Sylvia Piddington. *The Devil Made Me Do It* by Pauline Hunter.



Seat of the Season. Terry Langham

In Loving Memory of Nelly Bleys,

17 April 1919—8 July 1998

and Chris Bleys

23 December 1918—29 September 2002.



Nearby tree species: # 477A, G11 *Quercus lobata* California White Oak, Valley Oak FAGACEAE California 1954

Unable are the Loved to die, for Love is Immortality

Emily Dickinson

To sit in the shade on a fine day and look upon verdure is the most perfect refreshment. Jane Austen.

Donated by The Bleys Family.

Inga Bley's donation to install the slate around the Bleys' family table and benches has been completed, with Terry installing the plaque in one of the benches.



1312A *Banksia media* Southern Plains Banksia. WA 1994. A many-branched bush with wedged shaped serrated leaves, it grows up to 10 m around the south coast of WA, between Albany and Israelite Bay. These plants are killed by bushfire, and regenerate from seed. Plants in the Fitzgerald River National Park take around ten years to flower and set seed after germination, where fires are 30– 60 years apart.

Waite Arboretum Banksia Collection

Banksia is one of Australia's most distinctive flowering genera comprising 279 species (including 94 species formerly *Dryandra* which was merged into *Banksia* in 2007).

The establishment of a Banksia Collection around the Waite dam began in 1992 in collaboration with Prof. Margaret Sedgley. Prof Sedgley was an outstanding plant physiologist who in 1995 became Australia's first female professor in horticultural science when she was appointed Foundation Chair of Horticultural Science at the Waite. She was enthusiastic about promoting and developing cultivars of Australian natives for the cut flower industry, particularly eucalypts, acacias and banksias as well as working on crops such as quandongs, almonds, olives, pistachios and avocados.

Truckloads of suitable sandy soil were imported and material was obtained from growers in the Fleurieu Peninsula. Over the next eight years 180 specimens representing 54 species and 5 cultivars were planted, but by 2003 only 76 specimens remained.

In 2004 the dam was enlarged and through a LEAP scheme grant a group of young trainees constructed a dolomite path around the rim of the dam to give the public safe access, and a floating island was made to provide a haven for waterbirds to breed out of reach of foxes and cats. The area quickly became a popular spot for visitors, especially for young families.

Subsequently the area was closed to the public and staff and fell into disrepair, however some of the survivors have grown to enormous specimens and are spectacular in flower. One of these is *Banksia* 'Waite Orange' a hybrid between Hookers Banksia *B. hookeriana* and Acorn Banksia *B. prionotes*, one of three Banksia cultivars bred and registered for Plant Breeders Rights by Prof. Sedgley. Selection characteristics in breeding banksias for the cut flower trade include extreme of colour, stability of selection, length of flowering season, flower form and size, and stem length (>60cm) and straightness.

Today the Banksia Collection comprises 38 specimens representing two cultivars and 21 species. All labelled and mapped.

Hopefully one day we can prune and weed the area, plant more specimens and reinstate the path to allow limited public access, even if only on guided tours when the Banksias are at their best.

Jennifer Gardner

1340 *Banksia ashbyii* Ashby's Banksia WA 1994. The specific epithet honours Edwin Ashby, one of the collectors of the type specimen. It can grow to 8m and sometimes forms a lignotuber.





Autumn in the Arboretum
Banksias of the Waite Dam



1330 C, 1313 C *Banksia prionotes* Acorn banksia WA 1998



1317A *Banksia grandis* Bull Banksia 1995



1324A *Banksia laevigata* ssp. *fuscolutea* Tennis Ball Banksia WA 1995



1317 *Banksia littoralis* Swamp Banksia



1320B *Banksia robur* Swamp Banksia NSW,QLD 1994



1328 *Banksia menziesii*
Firewood Banksia. 1995
Flower and cone with open
follicles. Grows from the
Murchison River in the
north to Pinjarra in the
south. There are a few
isolated populations 200km
east of Perth.

