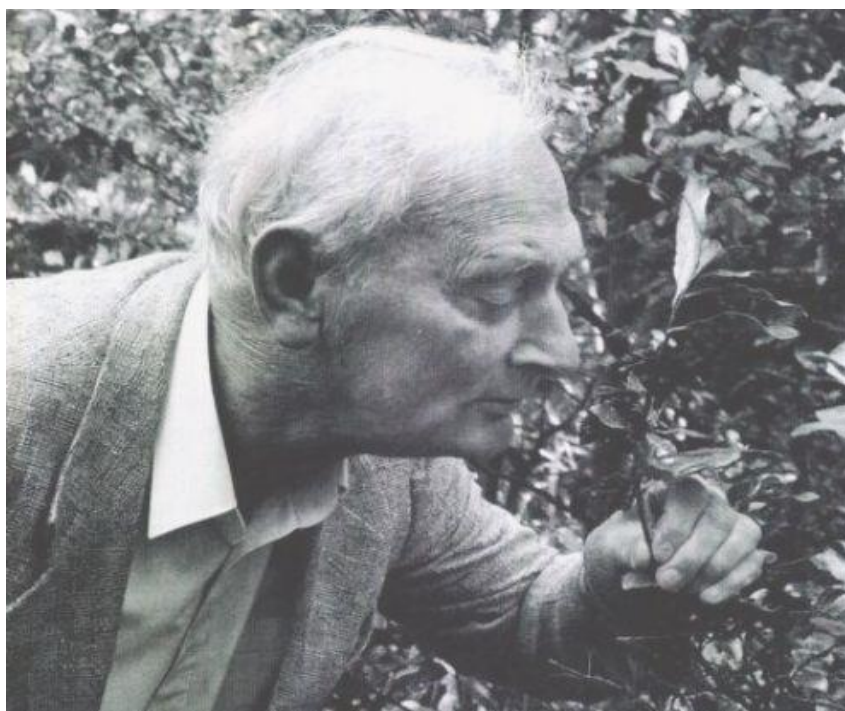


## WAITE ARBORETUM SEAT FACT SHEET: P. G. MARTIN 1923 – 1994

(Arboretum seats, memorial seats, history features)

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## PETER GORDON MARTIN 1923 – 1994

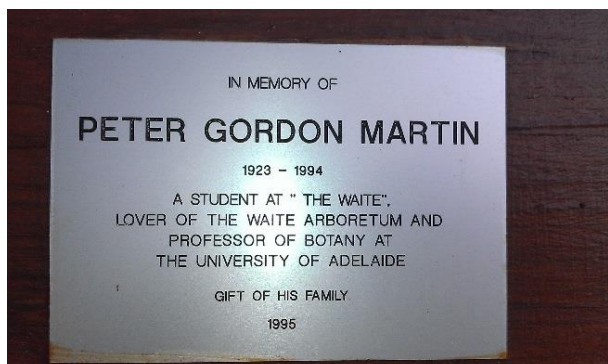


Source: The University of Adelaide

### 1. NAME - DOB – DOD: Professor Peter Gordon MARTIN 1923 – 1994

- **Occupation:** Professor of Botany.
- **Seat location:** Walk on the left side of Elm Avenue from Walter Young Drive. The seat is on the left past the fourth Elm Tree with the seat facing west.
- **Nearby tree species:** #241 *Brachychiton populneus* (schott & Endl) R Br susp *Populneus* Kurrajong, N.S.W., Q.L.D. 1928

*“A Student at the “The Waite” Lover of the Waite Arboretum and Professor of Botany at the University of Adelaide”*







Photos: Terry Langham Ground leaf litter





Photos: Terry Langham #241 *Brachychiton populneus* (schott &Endl) R Br susp *Populneus* Kurrajong, N.S.W., Q.L.D. 1928

## 2. QUALIFICATIONS:

- “... between 1949 and 1951 **studied botany and genetics at the University of Adelaide, achieving First Class Honours in genetics in 1952 and his PhD in 1955.**
- He was awarded the Gowrie Trust Scholarship (1950), the Elsie Marion Cornish Prize and the Ernest Ayres Scholarship (both in 1951) the William Culrose Prize (1955) and the Nuffield Dominion Scholarship (1958)” (University Libraries, 2015).

## 3. AREA OF RESEARCH:

- In 1956 Martin was appointed as Lecturer in Biology at the University of Adelaide and became Senior Lecturer in Zoology in 1959, Reader in Botany in 1967 and Professor of Botany in 1969.
- He took early retirement in 1985 at the age of 61 to devote his time to research on angiosperm molecular phylogeny (University Libraries, 2015).

## 4. RESEARCH SPECIALITY:

*“Pete Martin was one of the most influential pioneers in the development of evolutionary studies using macromolecules. His research included work on microbial genetics, the role of the nucleus in the control of cell differentiation, marsupial chromosome structure and evolution and angiosperm phylogeny and biogeography using plant protein, RNA and DNA sequences. He was an early champion of evolutionary genetics, molecular phylogeny and continental drift.”* (University Libraries, 2015).

## 5. FURTHER INFORMATION - SOME WORDS OF HUMOUR, INTERESTING FACTS, ETC:

*“He was also an inspirational teacher, insisting that the best lectures should introduce first-year students to botany, and was responsible for the introduction of genetics to the first-year botany curriculum.”*

*“These papers were donated to the University of Adelaide Library in March 2007 by Mrs Beryl Martin”* (University Libraries, 2015).

**Peter Martin Prize** *“The prize is known as the “Peter Martin Prize for Excellence in Scientific Communication”.*

- The annual value of the prize is \$250.00.
- The prize is awarded annually by the Faculty of Science to a research student (including PhD, Masters and Honours) enrolled in the Discipline of Environmental Biology in the field

of Botany, who has submitted/presented the best poster, seminar or manuscript (accepted for publication) during that year. The medium of scientific communication to be assessed will be determined annually" (University Libraries, 2015).

### **"Contents Listing**

#### **Series 1: Correspondence**

Letter 22 November 1996 from Professor RN Richardson, Botany Dept, re departmental staffing

#### **Series 2: Reprints and articles 1954-1993 12cm.**

A list is available for consultation

#### **Series 3: Reprints by other researchers**

1. Choi, WY  
"Comparison of the DNA of six vicia species by the method of DNA-DNA hybridization" 1971  
"Variation in a nuclear DNA content in the genus vicia" 1971
2. Kadir, ZBA  
"DNA values in the genus Phalaris (Gramineae)" Typescript copy  
"DNA values in the genus Phalaris (Gramineae)" 1974  
"DNA evolution in the genus Gossypium" 1976
3. Kennedy, Jennifer A.  
"The karyotypes of some Australian rodents (Rodentia: Muridae)" 1969
4. Martin, NG  
"Nuclear DNA content of the emu" 1974
5. Shanks, Rae  
"Differentiation in leaf epidermis" 1965 "(University Libraries, 2015).

**P.G. Martin (Neurospora genetics)** trained in the department of David Catchside (Fincham and John, 1998). For information on D Catchside, refer to the Arboretum Seat Fact Sheet David Catchside 1907 – 1994.

### **6. PERSONAL INFORMATION:**

"Peter Gordon Martin was born in Adelaide in 1923, attending Unley Primary School and Prince Alfred College. He joined the Royal Australian Navy in 1940 aged 17 and quickly rose to the rank of Lieutenant. Following his training as a navigator and gunner at Portsmouth in England, Martin took part in the Allied landing in Sicily and was present in Tokyo Bay at the time of the Japanese surrender in 1943. "He continued in service until 1948 and then between 1949 and 1951..."(University Libraries, 2015).

### **7. PHOTOS:**

### **8. REFERENCES:**

Fincham, J.R.S and John, B. 1998, 'Biographical Memoirs of Deceased Fellows', *Australian Academy of Science*. Published by the Australian Science Archives Project on ASAPWeb, 8 April 1998. "The photograph of David Catchside was taken in the RSBS, Canberra, in 1972 by the School's photographer, Barry Parr" (Fincham and John, 1998).

University Libraries, 2015, *Peter Martin, (1923-1994) Papers*, Rare Books & Special Collections, The University of Adelaide [Online, accessed 10 Jan. 2015] URL

