



FRIENDS OF THE WAITE ARBORETUM INC.

NEWSLETTER 99 AUTUMN 2019

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Visit to Liquid Metal Studios

Wed, 29 May 2pm

FWA members only

Liquid Metal Studios

Open Studio Exhibition

5th—31st May 2019

Free Guided Arboretum walks

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

World Labyrinth Day

Saturday 4th May

Walk the Waite Arboretum
Labyrinth

What's on at Urrbrae House

The Pedigree of the Rose

Free talk by Tate Hancox

Wed, 1 May 2019 4:30 for 5.00
start— 6:00pm



Patron: Sophie Thomson

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

Secretary: Johanna Crosby, **Treasurer:** Joan O'Loughlin

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

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

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Photography: Erica Boyle, Eileen Harvey, Jenny Bivré, Jennifer Gardner.



Stenocarpus sinuatus Firewheel tree NSW, QLD. PROTEACEAE Flowers appear from late summer on, in clusters of 6-20 at the end of the branches. Photo JB

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Arboretum Report. Dr Kate Delaporte April 2019

It still hasn't rained. But I'm not sharing any earth shattering information with you all. Is this the new normal?

We have had a productive few months in the Arboretum despite the lack of rain. We have had numerous requests for acorns this year, as people search for trees that can offer both large areas of shade and the European look, combined with drought tolerance. One of my favourites has become *Quercus ithaburensis*, or Tabor Oak from the Mediterranean region, with its very large acorns and dark green leaves.



Quercus ithaburensis FAGACEAE Tabor Oak KD.

All over the campus, our large and majestic *Eucalyptus cladocalyx* are showing signs of stress this summer, with many dropping large branches, particularly the venerable ones along Walter Young Avenue. In order to reduce the perceived risk to humans walking beneath the trees, we will be installing a 'soft fence' within the Arboretum, to limit access beneath the canopy of these trees. Over the next 24 months we will endeavour to develop the ground beneath into a more natural space, with native herbaceous endemics and grasses to help these trees live out their lives in peace and safety. The fence should be installed within the next few months and appropriate signage will be installed to explain what we are doing and why.

We have had a number of scheduled tours through the Arboretum and I'd like to acknowledge our wonderful guides who always come through with positivity and enthusiasm, despite the weather and tight time lines! I try to take some tours as I really enjoy sharing with our community, and in early April shared our wonderful site

with University of Adelaide first year students studying a Bachelor of Applied Biology with course coordinator Professor Rachel Burton. Erica and I spent a quick but very enjoyable couple of hours with the new Mayor of Mitcham, Mayor Heather Holmes-Ross, showing her just some of the delights of the Waite Arboretum, Urrbrae House, and the Urrbrae House gardens. We look forward to building on our new relationship with the Mayor in a positive and collaborative way. Our site is used regularly by Urrbrae TAFE to educate students across a wide range of disciplines and we welcome and encourage that interaction.

While I am the Curator of the Arboretum, I am also an Academic who undertakes teaching and research. Since early last year, the Arboretum has been fortunate to support a group of Waite students studying Agricultural Science, two of whom, Jerry and Amber, have remained part of our volunteer cohort as much as possible. Jerry and Amber have been spending many hours walking the Arboretum cross checking the status of the physical labels of every single specimen in the Arboretum, and in the process, using the App and our maps, and learning about the trees! A valuable activity both for us and them.

After so much promise, rather than posing such a risk to passing humans, the Bunyas ended contributing a much needed food source to our varied large feathered visitors. Those that have fallen have been comprehensively mined for the nutritious seed kernels, leaving only ragged husks to fall to the ground. Sad for us and the researchers who wished to share in the bounty, but good for the birds. We live and learn!



Dr Kate Delaporte and Mayor of Mitcham, Heather Holmes-Ross. Photo EB.

In February I presented at the University of Adelaide's Collections ***Dwelling: Shelter, Thinking, Being*** Inaugural symposium preceding the Heysen Sculpture Biennial 2019 *Dwelling* curated by Stephanie Radok. Tasked with talking to the commentary "Ultimately where we are how we think, and act is about being and existing in the world. This will be an exploration of our environment in particular landscape and how to integrate it with our own creative being", I did so, and very much enjoyed the opportunity to share with everyone in the room my love of trees and nature and how I see trees as art shaped by the forces of nature, where they dwell and who dwells within them. Overall an enjoyable day and so lovely to step outside my usual science focus!



Arboretum Report continued.

Finally, last week saw the culmination of 18 months of planning and 6 months of work, with our celebration to open the WAWOT! The Waite Arboretum Wildlife Orienteering Trail is a self-guided discovery of the wildlife found in the Waite Arboretum. This trail was inspired by a family visit to the Australian Arid lands Botanic Garden in Port Augusta, and participating in their children's activity in the *Eremophila* garden; "What a great idea" I thought! I discussed the idea with Erica, we shared it with the Friends of the Waite Arboretum Committee, who agreed to support us in our endeavours. We selected 20 creatures – birds, mammals, marsupials, amphibians, reptiles and invertebrates that have been observed in the Arboretum. We searched for a local suppliers to take our ideas from drawings to real creatures, and found the wonderful team at Regional Profile Cutters, located in Tailem Bend. In January, we handed over 30 metal cut-outs to volunteer Terry Langham, and the process of working out the how and where of installation began. We set 12th of April as the launch date, and the race was on. Thanks to Terry's sterling efforts, supported by Erica, and volunteer Russell Cook, all 30 creatures were installed with time to spare. Marian McDuaie and Jennifer Gardner mapped out the locations and developed the map. Our Applied Biology intern Jacqui Barsby worked out a clever collection of clues as to the identity of each creature. We put it all together into our WAWOT activity! I am very proud of this as an achievement and give my utmost thanks to everyone who helped and supported this venture. Download your map and quiz from <https://www.adelaide.edu.au/waite-historic/arboretum/> and start your self-guided discovery of the wildlife found in the Waite Arboretum. Our new Wildlife trail provides children young and old with a chance to explore, and discover the animals that live in the Arboretum, from a new perspective.

I'd like to acknowledge the ongoing support and hard work by the Volunteers and Friends of the Waite Arboretum. Their enthusiasm and dedication to the Arboretum and the Gardens contributes vastly to the great thing that is our Arboretum, and make my role uniquely enjoyable! Erica and Andrew continue to do their best in their respective roles, thank you to you both for your efforts.

In January I said "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!" so far, not so kind, but hopefully, hopefully, we will see some rain soon.....

Kate, 17 April 2019

President Report Dr Wayne Harvey

Adelaide's prolonged dry period continues to demonstrate the varying resilience of some species to these conditions. Most of the trees in the Arboretum are showing some signs of stress, with boughs dropping unexpectedly. Visitors are asked to take note of this heightened risk.

Our AGM was held in April and we were able to report a good financial state. The AGM is also the time for renewal of your Committee and I am pleased to advise the new Committee is made up of Marilyn Gilbertson, Jenny Birvé, Ramute Stankevicius, Erica Boyle, Jo Crosby as Secretary, Joan O'Loughlin as Treasurer, Terry Langham as Vice President, with myself continuing as President for a further term. Dr Kate Delaporte will continue as an *ex officio* member of the Committee.

Our AGMs are accompanied by a presentation on topics of interest to our Members, and this year we were treated to a discussion by a panel of four Adelaide University researchers on the topic "Phosphorus nutrition of the Australian flora, with specific reference to the eucalypts in the Arboretum and the Waite Conservation Reserve".

A new education resource in the Arboretum aimed at young children was officially launched on April 12th. The *Waite Arboretum Wildlife Orienteering Trail* comprises 30 durable metal cut-outs of animals to be found in the Arboretum, skilfully placed amongst the trees and bushes to challenge our young visitors to find, identify and comment on each animal. This WAWOT was funded by a donation to the University by FWA as part of the University's wider plans for increasing the visitor experience.

We are also delighted to have been awarded a grant from the Commonwealth Government under their Stronger Communities Programme (Round 4) to contribute to the creation and installation of a sign specifically to share data held by the University through any smart device. The initial work is underway and we hope to have the sign completed and installed by June.

Readers of the monthly magazine *SA Life* may have seen an article in the March edition that made mention of the Arboretum. Two significant trees from the Waite Campus were included in an article titled *Trees of Life*. A Dragon Tree growing in the Arboretum, on which our logo is based, and one of the taller Canary Island Pines adjacent to Urrbrae House were represented with photos and text.



Annual General Meeting presentation

Monday 8th April 7:30 pm

The President of the FWA began the meeting with reference to the year of the 25th AGM approaching in November 2019. The President went on to introduce our speakers for the evening.

Phosphorus nutrition of eucalypts in the Waite Arboretum, Waite Conservation Reserve and beyond

Ron Smernik, Ashlea Doolette, Max McQuillan and Mikala Kidd.

Phosphorus (P) is ranked in the top three of essential plant nutrients, along with nitrogen and potassium. Australian soils are renowned for being P deficient and the addition of P fertiliser is a cornerstone of enhancing the productivity in high-input cropping and horticultural systems across the nation. But what about our "low-input" and "unmanaged" systems? Are they all P-impoverished? And if not, why not?

The quest to answer these questions has taken this group of researchers across the country and then back to the Waite.

These scientists came together to present an overview of their research on the part that phosphorus plays in life. Dr Smernik explained how this molecule just loves oxygen and how this plays out in cells, soil, and plants. Ashlea Doolette explained how the amount of P varies in soil samples and talked about her work with grapevines. Max McQuillan, an ecologist, talked about his research and using *TERN . Terrestrial Ecosystem Research Network. He talked about his sampling of P in eucalypts in NSW and in the Arboretum. He said P levels can vary in the same species in similar locations and the levels are influenced by the soil P and the plant species. Mikala Kidd talked about her work sampling tree species in the Arboretum. She found differences in P levels in plants sampled from the East versus the West of the Arboretum. Plants growing in direct light versus shaded positions also had different levels of P.

Each scientist talked about their own research on P, which made the presentation completely fascinating. JB.



Terry Langham presenting hand-made crafts (made by Silvia Piddington) to the Phosphorus task force. JB



Waterbirds sculpture by Meliesa Judge, at the Waite Arboretum. Photo EB.

Liquid Metal Studios

A retrospective exhibition of sculpture celebrating 20 years, at the studios of Meliesa Judge and Will Kuiper.

Join us to celebrate twenty years of intensive creative collaboration. We will be presenting a mixture of work that reflects on the progression of our sculptural ideas, as well as some striking new sculpture exhibited for the first time.

Presented as an Open Studio exhibition, this is a chance for you to see how the sculptures are made, the bronze casting stages, and the capacity of our workshop to develop future projects.

Please feel welcome to invite friends and colleagues who share your interest in contemporary figurative sculpture.

Sunday 5th May at 10:30 am

Opening speech by Maggie Beer AM

Exhibition continues until Friday 31st May

Wed—Sun 11am—6pm

Liquid Metal at the Lynton Council Depot

For FWA members (first 25 to book)

Visit to Liquid Metal Studios

Wed, 29 May 2pm

Please contact Marilyn

0438107614

mgilbertson63@adam.com.au

Also afternoon tea for everyone after a talk by Meliesa Judge, which allows everyone to walk around and have a good look at the sculpture and process areas.

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



Waite Arboretum Wildlife Orienteering Trail (WAWOT) Opening 12/04/2019



Dr Kate Delaporte kneeling and showing the cut out of a bee with the team from Regional Profile Cutters, second from right, Helen, Sonya, David, Erica, Terry Langham, and Russell. JB



A group using the Waite Arboretum Wildlife Learning and Orienteering Trail map to find the beetles and butterflies, lizard and koala cut-outs and to learn about where they live. Below, Kate pointing out the cat. Terry installing the echidna and Kate with John and Helen – Regional Profile Cutters, at their office in Tailm Bend. JB and EB.



Regional Profile Cutters — setting off to find the animals in the Arboretum and below, holding some of the animal cut-outs. JB.





Tribute to Beryl Martin, artist

On 24th March 2019, about 120 people gathered in a marquee on the Urrbrae House lawn overlooking the Arboretum to celebrate the life of Beryl Martin, a fine watercolourist.

As a young couple, Beryl and Peter Martin built a house nearby in Netherby in which they lived for the rest of their lives and raised their son Nick and daughter Mandy. Peter was appointed Professor of Botany at the University of Adelaide and the Arboretum was a source of uncommon material such as *Curtisia dentata* (#500A) for his phylogenetic research.

Under the tutelage of renowned Adelaide artists Ruth Tuck and Mervyn Smith, Beryl developed a wash technique which she used to great effect in her paintings, particularly of flowers. She would paint only fresh specimens, and the Arboretum was an inspiration for some of her most striking works.

She was especially fond of painting banksias, eucalypts such as Illyarrie *Eucalyptus erythrocorys* (#1852A) with its bright red bud caps, Ooldea Mallee *E. youngiana* (#1926B) with its large pale pink flowers and attractive fruits and Tallerack *E. pleurocarpa* (#1922A) with its blue-grey leaves and clusters of waxy white gumnuts. Three splendid floral arrangements by Allan Woodman graced the marquee with foliage and flowers from these Arboretum trees.

I have four of her paintings which give me great pleasure. My favourite is of the Lacebark Tree *Brachychiton discolor* with its sprays of large, deep-pink bell-shaped blossoms. It is the Arboretum tree next to the seat donated by the family, originally in memory of Beryl's beloved husband Peter who died in 1994, but now with a second matching plaque for Beryl.



Jennifer Gardner and attendees at the Lacebark tree, *Brachychiton discolor*, for the memorial celebration.
Pic D. Gardner.



Beryl Martin, Margaret Clark, Gillian Robertson, Barbara Kelsey.
1997 Exhibition in Urrbrae House. Photo J. Gardner



At the conclusion of the memorial celebration, about 50 attendees joined family members and me in a short stroll to the Arboretum to view the Martin seat and the adjacent Lacebark (#242), one of three in the Arboretum and just coming into bloom.

Beryl was a great supporter of the Arboretum. Over sixteen years she had six very successful exhibitions in Urrbrae House, hosted and staffed by the Friends of the Waite Arboretum. The exhibitions included original bold floral and landscape watercolours, giclée prints, posters and cards. Commissions from the sales generated thousands of dollars for the Friends which funded interpretive signs and other developments in the Arboretum.

Beryl has left a legacy of wonderful paintings that will continue to bring joy to those who own them for many years to come.



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/

Peter Gordon Martin 1923 – 1994 Professor of Botany and his wife, **Beryl Maud Laura Martin 1925—2019**.



Nearby tree species #241 : *Brachychiton populneus subsp. populneus* STERCULIACEAE Kurrajong, NSW, QLD. 1928. On the south side of Elm Avenue.

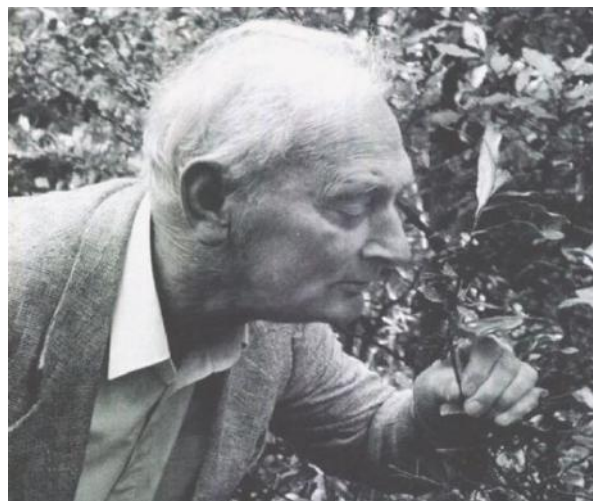
Between 1949 and 1951 **Professor Peter Martin** studied botany and genetics at the University of Adelaide, achieving First Class Honours in genetics in 1952 and his PhD in 1955. In 1956 Martin was appointed as Lecturer in Biology at the University of Adelaide and became Senior Lecturer in Zoology in 1959, Reader in Botany in 1967 and Professor of Botany in 1969.

RESEARCH SPECIALITY:

"Peter 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).



Beryl Martin, Jennifer Gardner and Ruth Tuck 1994
Exhibition Urrbrae House. Photo J. Gardner.



Peter Martin smelling the roses. Source : The University of Adelaide.

Autumn in the Arboretum.

The Waite Arboretum App has more information about these plant species.



Acacia stenophylla FABACEAE Eumong, river cooba SA, WA, Vic. NSW, NT, Qld 1975 *Acacia* flowers are an aggregate, each swollen flower bud making up the capitate head in this species, (rod like flowers also in some *acacia* species) There seem to be no specific pollinators for *acacias* owing to the lack of nectar in the flowers. JB



Arbutus unedo ERICACEAE Irish Strawberry tree. S. Europe 1928. The fruit matures into a red berry and is edible. JB.



Acacia peuce FABACEAE Waddy. NT, Qld. See the pod, the needle-like phyllodes, flowers and buds on this *acacia*. This species survives on a rainfall of 150mm. The wood is very hard and was used to produce clubs or the waddy by the local aborigines. The conservation status is Vulnerable. JB.



Eucalyptus arachnaea MYRTACEAE Black-stemmed mallee. WA. Although in flower in March, this tree has self-pruned due to the hot dry conditions. JB.



Eucalyptus arachnaea. The species epithet '*arachnaea*' refers to the spidery cluster of flower buds, in clusters of up to 13.



Eucalyptus cladocalyx MYRTACEAE Sugar gum. SA. 1960. Endemic to SA. Three geographical variants are known. A large bough has dropped in response to the below average summer rainfall. JB.