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FRIENDS OF THE WAITE A RBORETUM INC.

www.waite.adelaide.edu.au/arboretum

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

IN THE A RBO RETUM

National Tree Day Sunday July 28 11.00 am Free walk , meet at NW corner of Arboretum near Gate 2.

Free Guided Arboretum walks The first Sunday of every month at 11.00 am. Sunday July 7, August 4 and September 1 Meet at Urrbrae House stairs

Fireside Chat with Dr Tony Rogers Wednesday July 31 5.00 pm Tickets\$15

Colonial Tea Dance Sunday August 252 pm 5 pm Tickets \$15

More details at:

www.waite.adelaide.edu.au/ urrbraehouse/whatson/

FRIENDS OF



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- 3. From the Director
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- 5. New members, Fascination of Plants Day walks



FRIENDS OF THE WAITE ARBORETUM NEWS

A generous donation

The Committee of the FWA gratefully acknowledge the generous donation of \$1000 by Dr Barbara Hardy AO which will be used for specialist pruning of significant Arboretum specimens.

Your funds at work

Earlier in the year funds raised by the Friends were used to buy a slasher and chipper for the Arboretum. When asked how these machines were performing, Ground sperson Andrew Walters said that they are of great assistance in carrying out his work in the Arboretum. In particular, fallen branches and prunings can be chipped on site which is not only more efficient but, more importantly, gives Andrew complete control over the quality of the product and eliminates the possibility of introducing weeds. Converting material from the Arboretum into mulch, composting it and using it on site returns nutrients to the soil and helps suppress weeds.



And rew Walters using the new chipper bought with FWA funds. Photo Eleen Harvey

MGSworking bee

On June 23 the Mediterranean Garden Society held another working bee in the Garden of Discovery and planted 40 donated plants including Dianella caerulea Correa alba, Themeda australis (kangaroo grass), Doryanthes excelsa (Gymea lily) and Goodenia species.



MGSworking bee participants enjoying a well-earned



Guide, Diarshul Sandhu and visitors in Elm Avenue. Photo Elleen Harvey









OUT OF SIGHT BUT NEVER OUT OF MIND: ROOTS AND THEIR FRIENDS

the tree. First the roots must securely anchor the tree



form ECM which may account for the minimal root

mycelia can be observed with the naked eye as indeed can the fruiting bodies which arise from these mycelia close to the surface of the soil. The photograph shows some fruiting bodies of a bolete fungus which maybe have a mycorrhizal association with the historic Pinus canariensis growing at the edge of the Urrbrae House lawn.

The mycorrhizae have been growing in harmony

ability to survive particularly in periods of stress, e.g. drought, but they also provide the tree with a protective function. This may arise because the mycorrhizae are able to outcompete pathogenic fungi and create an inhospitable environment for disease causing fungi to colonise roots (Moore, 2011).



THE ALEPPO PINES.

The trees known as Aleppo Pines until the mid 20th century are now split into three, or according to some taxonomists, five species. Two major ones have over-lapping distributions: Pinus halepensis,

mainly in the western Mediterranean zone,



attempted to expand their influence by means of sea power. Athenian wealth depended on naval power and that power depended on access to good shipbuilding timber. In the war between Athens and the Peloponnesian League (431-405 BC), the armada sailed out of Piraeus and was defeated and destroyed. Having lost power, not only did the Athenians have to find new crews but also find new sources of timber to renew their ships.

The fleet destroyed had been built of Cedar of Lebanon, Cedrus libani, the timber of choice at the time. Supplies were limited by its relatively small occurrence in Lebanon and NW Syria. By the time

Temple at Jerusalem, cedar had become so scarce that it could only be afforded by builders of such a significant project; definitely not affordable for building ships.

The qualities exhibited by cedar in antiquity (and

America, Swietinia spp., and by teak, Tectona grandis) were uniform swelling and shrinkage in each dimension with wetting or drying, so that all joints remained tight at all times. For shipbuilding and cabinet-quality furniture especially, choice of trees from secondary species tends to focus on careful selection of individual trees likely to have acceptable shrinkage/swelling characteristics. Unfortunately, most conifers, as in Aleppo Pine, have higher shrinkage in the longitudinal direction (parallel to the main axis of the stem) than radially or tangentially. The problems arise when poor choices result in sawn or cut timber (boards, planks, beams, etc.) warps and twists when drying out. This is why seasoning timber is valuable despite the time it takes, especially when it is done in naturally the open air.

So, after their defeat the Athenians had to accept the second best, which was Aleppo Pine from their own coastal forests. This entailed people seeking out the most suitable pine trees. Trees selected had to grow vertically with a single trunk and a large but balanced crown to provide boards and planks that would not warp. Strong curved branches provided ready-made ribs on which the hull planking could be fastened⁷. The experienced people who found and selected such trees were an integral part of a boat-building industry. plan64 106.e1 0 0 1 41.d5

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