

# THE FRIENDS OF THE WAITE ARBORETUM INC.

## NEWSLETTER NO. 61

Spring 2009

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### FROM THE PRESIDENT

**First of all an urgent reminder. This Sunday, October 18 you and your friends are invited to join us on a visit to Dean Nicolle's Currency Creek Arboretum.**

**We are to meet at the Lions Park at Currency Creek at 10 am. Cost per head is \$5. You may wish to bring a picnic lunch, or go on to Goolwa when the tour is finished.** This is also an excellent opportunity to view first-hand the 4 a Field Day was held on Waite Campus for the 10

<sup>th</sup> National Street Tree

Symposium (Treenet). Volunteers from the Friends assisted with the preparation during the week and staffing at the Wine Centre on the Thursday. We also had wonderful support for the catering and guiding of groups on the Friday.

Special thanks go to Beth Johnstone who consulted with David Lawry and made the provision of lunch to the delegates run so smoothly and to Peter Nicholls for organizing the guides and keeping oversight of the event at the Urbrae House and the Urbrae both well supported. On

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> the Arbor Wind Quintet gave their second performance for the Friends and on Wednesday evening the 23<sup>rd</sup> Aleksandr Tsiboulski gave us another brilliant recital in classical guitar.

Aleksandr performed works from eight separate composers over one and a half hours of beautifully played and lovingly executed pieces. Those who were fortunate enough to be present in such a venue

enjoying the performance of this brilliant young musician will not forget it. His first public performance was at Urrbrae House 15 years ago at the age of 15. Since then he has received numerous awards and performed all over the world. How privileged we were! Thanks to those Committee members who enabled both functions to run so smoothly.

I was fortunate last month also to attend the tree-climbing competition in the Arboretum Centre<sup>th</sup> and a nature walk with our Conservation Reserve Friends on the 20<sup>th</sup> to Liddesdale<sup>th</sup>. Our ongoing work to gradually restore and gradually restoring many native plants on the Reserve is a great credit to such a small but dedicated group.

Next year we are planning with Basketry SA for their exhibition during the Fringe Festival and we hope to have a Sunday in Autumn with our Patron, Sophie Thomson, giving a talk in Urrbrae House.

If you have anything of interest you would like to contribute to our newsletters feel free to contact Jennifer or our editor Jean and when thinking about gifts for a friend what about a year's membership to Friends of the Waite Arboretum?

The Arboretum is becoming better known and we like to keep as many people as possible informed of its activities, so increasing our membership is important to the aims of the Friends. Meanwhile we hope you can join us on October 18 and at the Christmas wind-up on December 7.

Bryan Milligan

## IN THE ARBORETUM

### FROM THE DIRECTOR

#### State Tree Climbing Championships

The SA Tree Climbing Championship held in the Arboretum on Thursday 10th November was a success.

During winter and spring, the **Mediterranean**

ACACIA ANEURA F v M. ex Benth.

*Acacia aneura*, Family Leguminosae, commonly called mulga or true mulga, is endemic to arid Australia and is widespread in all States except Victoria and Tasmania. It is such a common feature of inland Australia that the words 'the mulga' can be used to mean the bush, the outback or wilderness in general. The botanist Ferdinand von Mueller first described *A. aneura* in 1851 from a specimen which some historians believe he collected from the Kanyaka ruins near Hawker in South Australia. The dense, hard





Dr Jane Tarran from the University of Technology Sydney talked about urban ecology and peoples' attitudes toward trees and green infrastructure.

Lyndal Plant from Brisbane City Council talked about climate change and sustainability action plans and the role that trees play in these areas.

Karen Sweeney from the City of Sydney Council gave a brief overview of the Sydney Council's tree management plan and the recent inauguration of the three council areas that now exist as the City of Sydney Council.

Dr Peter May from May Horticultural Services discussed the use of storm water for the irrigation of street trees and the results of the trials using structural soils.

Overall the day was very informative and gave an inspiring and constructive outlook on the future of the arboricultural industry and street tree management.

Kieren O'Neill

Presentations at the W





Landscape features: Final stop was in the Elm Avenue, that has been stressed by a 7-year period of low rainfall and 3-year drought that had an average rainfall of only 400mm/year. The 80 individuals upon which to assess damage and recovery patterns was posited as a unique research opportunity as well as helping to find ways to save iconic specimen trees around the city. Funds were obtained to apply mulch and a watering system to restore health.

Stop 5: Ross Clark: **Selecting for quality in planting stock.**

Ross had on hand a ust d

Studying trees: Look at them in layers (of about 5m), beginning at ground level with herb, grass and shrubs, lifting the eyes to lower, middle and upper canopy layers of trees.

Structure of the vegetation is its most important feature and this factor determines the kind of fauna that will be attracted; this and the availability of clean water.

Wildlife abundance: Parrots and three species of rosella are abundant in the urban area. Native honey-eaters have been outnumbered by miners for which the modern city is a perfect habitat because the vegetation has been managed. Urban conditions favour possums and southern cities in Australia have populations 5x to 10x the natural intensity. The fur of possums enables them to live within urban structures, especially roofs, during summer heat and frosty nights. Nevertheless, they are territorial and adjusting in the urban setting can be stressful shown by disorders of their fur and skin.

Problems with planted trees: Nard Bh or e trh tarx as eyb