

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2012-13

NUMBER 74

FRIENDS OF THE WAITE ARBORETUM INC.

www.waite.adelaide.edu.au/arboretum

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Annual General Meeting

7.30 pm Monday 15 April

Urrbrae House drawing room.

Speaker: Dr. K. Hogendoorn:
Blue banded native bees.

Guitar and Oboe recital

Jacob Cordover

Monday 13 May in the
Urrbrae House drawing room.

ALL ENQUIRIES & BOOKINGS

To Beth Tel. : (08) 8357 1679.

Email :
bgrich@ozemail.com.au

President: Henry Krichauff, Vice-President: Beth Johnstone,

Secretary: Norma Lee, Treasurer: Andrew Walters

Editor: Eileen Harvey, email: eileengarden@y7mail.com

Committee: Marilyn Gilbertson, Dr. Jennifer Gardner (ex officio)

Address: Friends of the Waite Arboretum, University of Adelaide, Waite Campus,
PMB1, GLEN OSMOND 5064

Angophora hispida. Photo Eileen Harvey

Table of contents

2. From the President, new members
3. From the Director:
5. Flute Concert, Combined Friends Christmas Party
6. Alerce - common name confusion
8. Australian native *Citrus* collection
10. North-west section revegetation project
11. Mediterranean Society visit to the Waite
12. What to see in the Arboretum in January, February and March

FROM THE PRESIDENT

With 2013 around the corner we can look back on 2012 and its treatment of the Arboretum and associated events with a good amount of satisfaction.

The recent joint Christmas party concluded the year with its return to Urrbrae House after being held in the garden as a trial last year.

The state of the Arboretum is in good shape with much of the credit due to Andrew Walters our groundsman/treasurer who has been with us for just on a year. His enthusiasm and involvement has been inspiring to us all and especially complements the ongoing work which Jennifer, our Director, so capably performs. The new plantings are

IN THE ARBORETUM
FROM THE DIRECTOR

appreciative audience, highlighting some of our more
uncommon trees from South Africa, Canar-3(s)-491(5(o)-7(u)6n

It was a pleasure to welcome the 84 delegates attending the International Conference of the Mediterranean Garden Society to the Arboretum and Gardens on 27th October. The Rose Garden looked stunning and the visitors loved the Garden of Discovery which the South Australian branch of the MGS have adopted as a project.

SAMGS Branch head, Marilyn Kuchel, sent a lovely thank you note from the MGS which accompanied a cheque to the Friends for \$375. Each year the International MGS donates \$500 to the host Branch for a garden of their choice and the SAMGS nominated our Garden of Discovery. The funds will be used for signage at the entrance.

Arboretum Guides Bob Boardman, Peter Nicholls, Eileen Harvey, Jenny Birvé, Diarshul Sandhu and Henry Krichauff conducted walks for the highly

On the 28th November I participated in the Great
Koala Count a-2.48h scourTj E4

FLUTE CONCERT FOR FRIENDS OF WAITE ARBORETUM

Members of the Friends of the Waite Arboretum were treated to a spectacularly successful concert during the afternoon of 16 December in the drawing room at Urrbrae House.

ALERCE - COMMON NAME CONFUSION

Last week, Jennifer advised me of some trees which had died and had been felled. On Thursday December 6th, I took my trailer and collected (salvaged) some material to pass onto fellow

'ZRRGLHVμ IRU IXWXUH XVH \$PRQJVW WKH ZRRG ZDV

some from the two *Tetraclinis articulata*, or alerce

trees (number40(n)-3(d)-591(h)r7 Xh Rr-3(e)-229(t35(1278<>>BD4(fer)-4sn)b-14(c-3(e11(o)]TJ /)-4sn)pC2_0 9.96(l)-4(l812

Tetraclinis is included on the IUCN (international Union for the Conservation of Nature) Red List, and although the species as a whole is "lower risk, not threatened," the Maltese and Spanish populations are listed as highly threatened. There are a number of web sites which advertise the wood (as Thuya burl) for sale. One such site from the US which

WUDGHV XQGHU '([RWLF :RRG *URXSµ WDONV DERXW WKH difficulty in obtaining the wood, claiming that unfortunately over harvesting has caused the Moroccan government to prohibit the export of Thuya burl wood and then finishes up with the rather glib statement ² 'So, you may ask, how did ZH JHW RXU VWRFN" :HOO ZH OO QHYHU WHOO µ

Thuya Burl: Tetraclinis

AUSTRALIAN NATIVE CITRUS COLLECTION

reviews have asserted that these genera be returned to the Citrus genus (Mabberley, 1998) and that Microcitrus and Eremocitrus now be synonymised. For the purpose of this article I will follow this latest development.

The remaining Australian Citrus species not in our collection is Citrus gracilis which was the subject of 3DXO & RDWHV. UHVHDFK ZKLFK LV V has a teaching position. This species is endemic to the Northern Territory in the Darwin area. Paul believes that its conservation maybe under threat because of a change in the way fire has been used since white settlement and development.

\$Q\ RQH LQVSHFWLQJ WKH :DLWH \$UER

Did you know that Australia has more remaining wild species of the genus Citrus than any other part of the world? Australia is not the centre of genetic diversity but it is in the unique position of having wild populations of native species which remain, to some degree, intact. This is in stark contrast to other areas such as Southern China and North East India, close to the centre of origin, where wild species have unfortunately been lost.

Australia has six species of Citrus. In most parts of the centres of genetic diversity/origin, namely in China and India, humans have been cultivating citrus plants for thousands of years, selecting varieties that are better yielding, have better flavour or other desirable attributes. This is demonstrated by the ease with which citrus hybridises resulting in a dilution of the wild species. The phenomenon called apomixis (seed production without fertilisation) adds to this loss of diversity. The fruit yields seeds that have within it multiple embryos the vast majority of which are clones of the female parent as opposed to sexual or zygotic embryos. It would need another article to discuss the various effects of this phenomenon.

In the Arboretum we are fortunate to have representatives of five of six the Australian Citrus species: Citrus australasica , Citrus garrawayae , Citrus australis, Citrus inodora and Citrus glauca. The Arboretum is providing valuable conservation of this genetic material ex situ (off site). This has come about because of the generous donation made by Paul Coates from his own personal collection over the past few years.

For some time the first four species were separated into the genus Microcitrus by the botanist Walter Swingle on account of their very small dimorphic leaves and small flowers and Citrus glauca was placed in the genus Eremocitrus, PHDQLQJ ¶ FLWUXV RI WKH GHVHUW. 7KXV DFFRMLDQJ WR 6ZLQJOH and Eremocitrus amongst others would be considered separate genera within the sub-tribal group C, True Citrus fruit trees in the botanical classification of citrus. Thankfully, recent taxonomic

NORTH-WEST SECTION REVEGETATION PROJECT

The site of the Waite Arboretum, prior to European settlement, was formerly within an extensive area of

plantain. There does seem to be less couch and kikuyu, though.

The *Acacia acinacea*, *Dodonaea viscosa* and *Vittadinia* are self seeding very successfully. Experimentation with direct seeding of *Acacia pycnantha* several years ago seems to have had some success with new seedlings appearing. Volunteers are continuing to collect, propagate and plant seedlings with the aim of improving the diversity of vegetation although the planting of understory plants and some grasses has had limited success.

A pleasing result of the revegetation efforts are the reappearance of native animals including many birds, koalas, blue-tongue lizards, native insects and most recently a kangaroo!

Marilyn Gilbertson

Acacia acinacea, *Allocasuarina verticillata* and grasses growing well. Photo Eileen Harvey

In October 33 international and 20 local members of the Mediterranean Garden Society (MGS) visited the Garden of Discovery and the Waite Arboretum as part of their annual meeting. It was the first time their AGM had taken place in the southern hemisphere.

amazed to see many trees they recognised growing

ntin/TT3 9.91m f 203.92(t)7.46 Dr wcocFran-203.92(3(e))TJ.46 dr

Two coach loads of members enjoyed a picnic lunch on the lawn by the Garden of Discovery and the Rose Garden. Members of the SA branch of the MGS have been replanting this garden over the past three years at quarterly working bees and with the assistance of Jennifer Gardner and the Tuesday morning Friends group. The garden is now looking nicely established and we were proud to show it to our visitors as an example of how to use native plants in a semiformal garden situation.

Our visitors were delighted to be guided through the Waite Arboretum by the volunteer guides and were

WHAT TO SEE IN JANUARY,
FEBRUARY & MARCH IN THE
ARBORETUM

The evergreen soapbark, *Quillaja*
saponaria, has been