NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2009 NUMBER 18 Editor: Peter Bird

President Chris Kaczan Secretary: Joe Haslam Treasurer: Lynda Yates Committee: Peter Barnes, Peter Bird, Jennifer Gardner, Grant Joseph, Peter Lang, Meg Byrt, Helen Pryor, Stephen Wait Address: Friends of Waite Conservation Reserve, University of Adelaide, Waite Campus, PIVB 1, GLEN OSMOND 5064 Phone: 8303 7405 Fax: 8303 6826 Email: jennifer.gardner@adelaide.edu.au Website: www.vaite.adelaide.edu.au/reserve/friends/

Newmembers are welcome. Contact Jennifer Gardner, Manager Waite Conservation Reserve, above

The Old Coach Road travels through quite a large section of the reserve. We often use it while

on working bees to get from Wild Dogs Glen to Urrbrae Ridge and across to Pultenaea Hill. At other times we catch glimpses of the delicate trackside cuttings and accompanying stonework from across the valley. Literally under our feet is an intriguing story of the building and use of this pioneer road.

We know that the road was built in 1861 by Arthur Hardy. It commenced opposite the old Toll House, wound towards Birksgate, and then climbed steeply towards Urrbrae Ridge and on further through the reserve in a south-easterly direction. As such it was one of the first roads to Mt Barker and the eastern states.

We have all driven up the new Mt Barker Road, and possibly the old Mt Barker

Road and there may well be members or other interested people who would enjoy unraveling the fascinating story behind what may be the original Mt Barker Road. The Mitcham Heritage Research Centre tells me that it is possible to look up the original plans and the opening and closing proclamations for this road.

It may also be possible to find in the minutes of the Central Road Board the debate and discussion around why the road was built.

I have also been told that in the book ÂÄWÅÄBACÇA DECÉÅ there is a chapter by Bill Stacy on the Mt Barker Road that would provide good background and references for anyone interested in finding out more about our local early 'highway'. If you are interested could you please contact me or Jennifer Gardner at Urrbrae House.



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I am very grateful for the continued assistance of a very able committee. $\mathsf{T}^{\texttt{x}}\mathsf{j}\mathsf{r}$

Regards AAAAAA ȀJÍBAKÄÐLÄÉ

Reference: ÂĂ₩ĂĂBĂ CA DECÉÂŁĂ E€ĂĂ ĂJĐ€ĂCICĬĂĂ ĂÉËĂ €IBECJĂĂCAMĔĂŀĂĂİÊÅŀBĂŇĨ₩ĂOÄĐĂ, edited by Pam Smith, F. Donald Pate and Robert Martin. 2006. K pi Books. Belair. South Australia.

ŒÃECÓ€E€CJÄ (commonly known as Root-rot Fungus or Œ) is present in Cleland Conservation Park, Eagle Mountain Bike Park and is suspected in Brownhill Creek Reserve. With increasingly frequent foot and bicycle traffic on the Yurrebilla Trail through the Waite Reserve, could it spread here too?

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Although most likely introduced into Australia in the 1800s, it was first identified in the Mount Lofty Ranges in 1972. There are 32 species in Australia but the most widespread & destructive is CEAECOEECJÄADIÉEÄOCOI, so named as it was first isolated on a cinnamon tree in Burma.

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Œ is a soil and water borne water mould

Working Bees this year were split over two general locations. We spent the first part of the season (May-July) in the lower regions of the reserved to the lower regions of the lower regions of the reserved to the lower regions of the lower regions of the reserved to the lower regions of the lower regions of the reserved to the lower regions of the lower regions of the lower regions of the lower regions of the lower

Working Bees from August-Dec will be in the upper Reserve around Urrbrae Ridge, Leafhopper Gully, Hardy Block and the Old Coach Rd.

I am very happy with the planting achieved so far this year which goes some way towards restoring natural vegetation in areas where there has been Nd.

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The 137 ha Waite Conservation Reserve is nestled into the foothills at the back of the Waite Precinct. To the surprise of many people it supports over 280 plant species and as we will hear tonight from our guest speakers a considerable number of animal species.

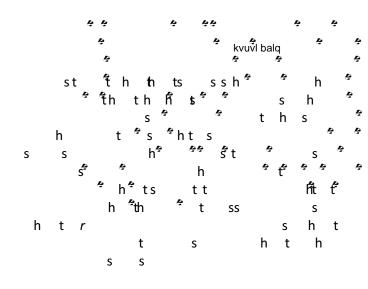
The aim of the Friends group is to help protect the biodiversity of this area which includes what has been described as the most significant example of grey box woodland in South Australia. By controlling the weeds, principally olives, we reduce the stress on the native vegetation and provide more opportunities for natural regeneration.

In addition the Friends group plant seedlings propagated from seed collected in the reserve. We thank Russell Pope from ÚJÅÅBÅÇCJÁSÍÇÅ and John Zwar from *WJJGJÄÅÅ ÚMOÛ* as well as **cfornhol/teten** menebeits Hirindea Yaterschrelelere ur dr Pryor and Stephen Wait for the many hundreds of seedlings they have grown for planting out at working bees.

Stephen Wait and Grant Joseph are also sincerely thanked for their preparation for, and organization of the 16 working bees that ran last year. Over twenty five different people helped at these working bees and between them they donated more than 620 hours of time towards the reserve. Their efforts are greatly appreciated.

In return the committee actively tries to give something back to the members including members' days such as the one run at the end of the biological survey, a guest speaker at the AGM, two newsletters and the working bee BBQs. Tt Yat stillnn atio th

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