**Peter Trumble: Memories of Waite**

Student rags, a rewarding career and growing up on the Waite – Peter Trumble has a long connection to the University of Adelaide.

It all began with his father, Professor Chris Trumble. Professor Trumble was one of the first lecturers at the Waite Institute in 1925, and later became its first Professor in Agronomy, a position he held until 1953.

The Trumbles moved onto the Waite campus in 1925, living in an old bluestone cottage known as Claremont. Peter was the first of two children born while they were there. “I wasn’t quite born on the campus – but my mother used to say that the road was so rough, she thought I might arrive before we got to the hospital,” Peter said.

Peter’s childhood memories are mainly in association with his father. “Living on site, he used to go down to the Waite, including weekends, and often he would take me with him, daddy’s little helper – or hindrance! I have a vivid memory of the glasshouses and watching him take readings.”

Later in life, Peter returned to the Waite to study a Bachelor of Agricultural Science. Splitting his time between the Adelaide, Roseworthy and Waite campuses, Peter remembers a close-knit group of just eight students.

“Some of my closest friends are survivors of my year. Living together in dormitories at Roseworthy, Roseworthy and Waite campuses, Peter remembers a close-knit group of just eight students.”

Memories of student days include wine tasting in the oenology department – “Who would spit it out?” Peter asked – and rivalry with the Roseworthy diploma students.

“We did have a few barneys. They once threw our furniture out of the first floor dormitory while we were having our late meal. In retaliation, we attached a hose to an upstairs loo and squirted all their clothes and furniture. We had forgotten that the principal’s office was immediately below, and the water dripped through the ceiling, so we all got fined!”

Peter’s first major job was as a technical secretary to the Director of Agriculture, Sir Allan Callaghan. Peter also completed a Diploma of Public Administration at the University of Adelaide at this time. “It really set me up for the rest of my career,” he said, “understanding the needs of both scientific and administrative people.”

In 1963, Peter became Secretary of Waite, a position he held for nine years. “It was the best job I ever had,” Peter said.

Throughout the many years of his connection with the Waite, Peter remembers the “wonderful spirit” of the campus. “There was a sense of family about the Waite. It was really friendly – there was a lot of interaction at the scientific level as well as the social...it really was a community.”

Story by Lana Guiney

**Coming Events…….**

**Roseworthy 125th Celebration**

To celebrate 125 years of history and showcase Roseworthy’s future, the University of Adelaide is holding a number of events for graduate, staff and the general public.

**Saturday October 18:**

- Adelaide Celebrations
  - 11.00am: St Peter’s Cathedral Commemorative Service
  - 3.00pm: Bonnython Hall Graduation re-enactment
  - 7.30pm: ROICA Annual Dinner for all graduates

- Sunday November
  - Roseworthy Staff and Council Reunion
  - Roseworthy Staff and Council Reunion for current and former staff and officer council members to be held at Roseworthy campus.

- Natural Resources Reunion
  - Natural Resources Reunion Adelaide Oval Function Room

**Golden Jubilee 1958**

All 1968 graduates, family and friends are encouraged to attend the 1988 Graduates’ Golden Jubilee Commemorative Ceremony on Friday 17 October 2008. The celebration includes a graduation ceremony in Bonython Hall and is followed by a Reunion Luncheon on campus.

For more information, or to register to attend these events, please contact: Rebecca Pym, Events Officer
Tel: +61 8 8303 3317
Email: rebecca.pym@adelaide.edu.au

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**Friends and Benefactor Tours**

- June - Elder Conservatorium
- September - Barr Smith Library
- November - Medical School

Invitations to join the tours will be mailed to Friends and Benefactors prior to each event

**Joanna Simpson: A lifelong love of languages**

In 2007, Joanna Simpson left a legacy of $100,000 to the Barr Smith Library, to be used for resources in the literature and structure of languages other than English. This legacy reflected a life in which languages had been a great source of intellectual pleasure.

Joanna was the daughter of David Thomson, a British soldier, and his Australian wife Joanna (Nan), the granddaughter of Robert Barr Smith. Joanna’s grandfather was William Mitchell, who was Vice-Chancellor and later Chancellor of the University of Adelaide.

Joanna moved from England to Adelaide when World War II broke out, making the passage with her younger brother Willie when she was just 14 years of age. It was at high school that Joanna began her interest in languages, which she developed by studying a Bachelor of Arts at the University of Adelaide, winning prizes in English and French.

After graduation, Joanna worked in diplomacy, which saw her posted to the Australian High Commissioner’s office in Ottawa, and briefly seconded to the UN General Assembly in New York at a time of great tension between the superpowers.

In 1962, after a long engagement so she could complete her posting, Joanna married Donald Simpson, at a time when the Australian government did not accept married women as diplomats.

Her next decade was spent largely as a neurological wife and as a mother, making time to write and travel. In 1962 she visited Russia, which stirred her to study the language. So began an intensive study of languages that would last her entire life.

Joanna matriculated in Japanese in 1973, which she studied for the next decade at the University of Adelaide. This culminated in three months of study in Japan. Japanese led to a brief encounter with Chinese, which she passed with distinction in 1984. She then returned to modern European languages, studying Spanish, German, Portuguese and Italian, winning numerous awards.

Her last language was Modern Greek, studying the Alexandrian poet Constantine Cavafy in his own language. Now in later life, she enlisted the help of a capable teacher who visited her at home.

Joanna strongly believed in public education and access to books as everyone’s right, and as the basis of a good society. Her gift reflects her own life and that of her three children: her elder daughter studied Aboriginal languages, her son’s career took him to work in a French multinational company, and her younger daughter became a writer of children’s stories.
Peter Waite: A legacy that lives on at the University of Adelaide

Few gifts in the University of Adelaide’s 134-year history equal the outstanding bequest made by Peter Waite.

When Peter Waite and his wife Matilda died in 1922, they gifted their entire estate – including Urrbrae House and over 300 acres of land – to the University of Adelaide for the development of an agricultural research institute.

Waite’s bequest remains one of the largest public benefactions in South Australia’s history. His gift established the Waite Agricultural Research Institute, which is now the Waite Campus of the University of Adelaide, and home to world-renowned research and education in agriculture and oenology.

Peter Waite was a man of great vision and had an active interest in the economic development of South Australia, particularly in the area of agriculture.

Born in 1834 in Kirkcaldy, Scotland, he emigrated to Terowie, South Australia, in 1859, building a very successful pastoral business.

Waite was chairman of directors of Elder Smith & Co for 37 years, resigning only a few months before his death. He also held directorships for companies including the Mutooroo, Beltana and Moomba Pastoral companies and British Broken Hill Mining.

By the mid-1870s Peter Waite was wealthy enough to purchase a city estate, Urrbrae, and move his family into the substantial single storey house on the property. In the late 1880s he demolished the original home to build the existing Urrbrae House, which was completed in 1891. His enduring interest in innovation saw Urrbrae House become the first private house in South Australia to have electricity and refrigeration.

Today, Waite’s name lives on in the daily life of the University of Adelaide. Generations of students have benefited from his generosity, commitment to South Australia and vision for the future.

Story by Lana Guineay


Friends and Benefactors visit the Plant Research Centre, Waite Campus

Una Wagner: Waite Arboretum Volunteer

Una Wagner is one of the University’s longest-serving volunteers, providing invaluable assistance to the Waite Arboretum since 1994.

First discovering the beautiful grounds of the Arboretum as a visitor, Una met with Director, Dr Jennifer Gardner and soon took on a much more hands-on role. As Dr Gardner’s first volunteer, Una has done everything from the physical labour involved in the upkeep of the 30-hectare property, to campaigning against the separation of part of the Arboretum as a building site. Today, she continues to assist with donations and mail-outs and is a regular happy face at the Arboretum’s Tuesday volunteer meetings, and visits every day at 5pm to feed the Arboretum’s flock of ducks.

Story by Lana Guineay

New Planned Giving Officer

Sue Fox has joined the Development and Alumni team as the Planned Giving Officer, coming from a background in Fundraising, Bequests and Event Management. Sue is looking forward to meeting Friends and Benefactors at future University Tours and Events and hearing from you with possible stories for future editions of Impact.

Ways of Giving

When you make a bequest to the University of Adelaide, you are joining a proud tradition of giving from generations of people who have provided to the future of the University through gifts and legacies in their Will. If you would like any information please contact: Sue Fox, Planned Giving Officer Telephone +61 8 8303 3234 or email susan.fox@adelaide.edu.au

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