

STAYING IN TOUCH

AGHS NORTHERN NSW SUB-BRANCH NEWSLETTER MAY 2020

In this world where we seem to be in a freeze frame (time wise not weather) we thought you might be interested to know that a few things have been happening with the rose garden, the roundabout and other matters of interest.

Like so many other organisations, the programme of events for the Australian Garden History Society has been restricted. The Northern NSW sub-Branch was lucky enough to time an event the weekend before the main restrictions appeared.



Remember when.....

We had a **great day out!**

Saumarez Homestead and the Heritage Rose Garden....

The National Trust (NSW) has closed all of its properties for the foreseeable future and is denying access to all volunteers. Our HRGSH sub-committee Co-Chair, Helen, has written to the National Trust seeking clarification on our position with the rose garden in relation to the NT statement and we are eagerly awaiting a reply.

Contractors are allowed in to NT properties so Ducats have delivered the first load of scoria and a further load of gravel to finish the two new pergolas. Last week local contractor John Hiscox went in and spread materials very efficiently and effectively after being issued with a very strict set of guidelines by the NT. Richard (as the Project Manager) was allowed to accompany him and did shovelling and raking where appropriate. John & Richard will return to spread the rest of the scoria mulch along the Rugosa bed.



The roses....

The rose garden is looking amazing in terms of floral abundance – hundreds and hundreds of blooms still going and many buds still coming. So sad that no one can see them. Admittedly they did look a bit leggy and tired but still overwhelmingly lovely especially Stage Two.



The bad news was the weed burden – although not a lot of them they made up for in size – especially thistles- and the dreaded Lambs Ears have staged a comeback in a number of beds especially the Albas. Jarrad will spray the paths but the beds really require hand weeding – so we are keen to hear back from the NT. Hopefully there will be more news this week.

Astonishing facts....

As part of our appeal to the NT, Lynne has been putting together figures re. our contribution to Saumarez and in what capacities. You may be interested to know that since 2014 we have worked voluntarily for 3612 hours which @ \$25 an hour equals \$90,300!!

Elton has also calculated that, since inception, we have expended approximately \$150,000 in the creation of the rose garden.

What a valuable asset!



The roundabout....

The Rosey Roundabout continues to flourish and the Rugosas have done amazingly well. The weed burden also continues to flourish being blown in from the nearby weeds in the roundabout approaches. Spraying the weeds is truly a self isolating and self distancing experience.

(Thank you to James White for this wonderful photograph).



Other projects....

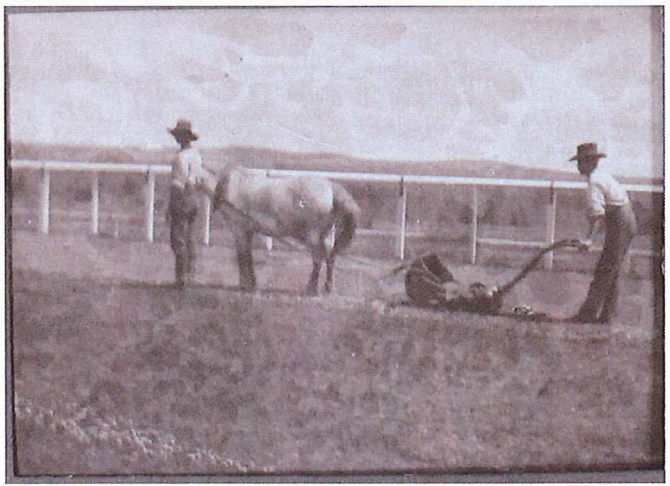
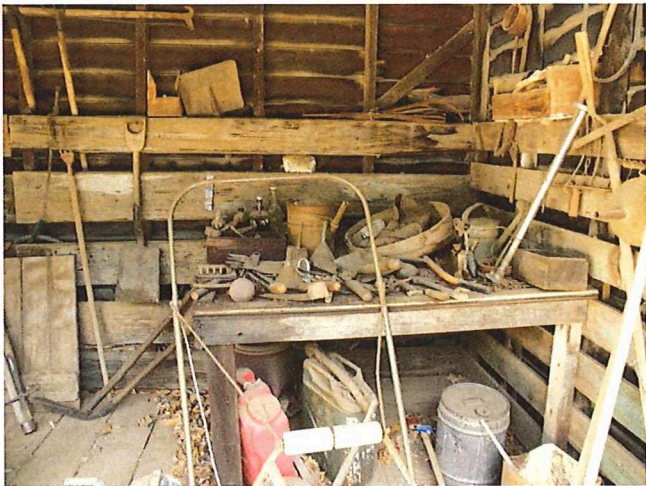
On the garden research front, there have been old coloured images discovered of New England streetscapes and landscapes in Bellingen Historical Society. These include Glencoe Station where further images have been obtained of the old gardens adjoining the Public School gardens.



More good news....

Richard Bird (formerly the Old Mole) has been given permission to restore the tools in the Saumarez tool shed. Jarrad has already catalogued them so the tools will be restored and photographed and appropriately displayed. The tools may then be used as part of a NthNSW exhibition to complement the AGHS national travelling exhibition of "The Blade" which is scheduled for NERAM next year.

Graham Wilson (our Grant Writer Extraordinaire) is completing an application for funds through the Armidale Community Heritage Fund for this project.



Reminder, Reminder, Reminder....

Bookings for the AGHS National Conference in Sydney are now open. Details are in the latest AGHS Journal and on the AGHS website. Please also see Helen Wilson's email (Sunday 3 May) for details about accommodation bookings. Places are filling fast, so please don't tarry!

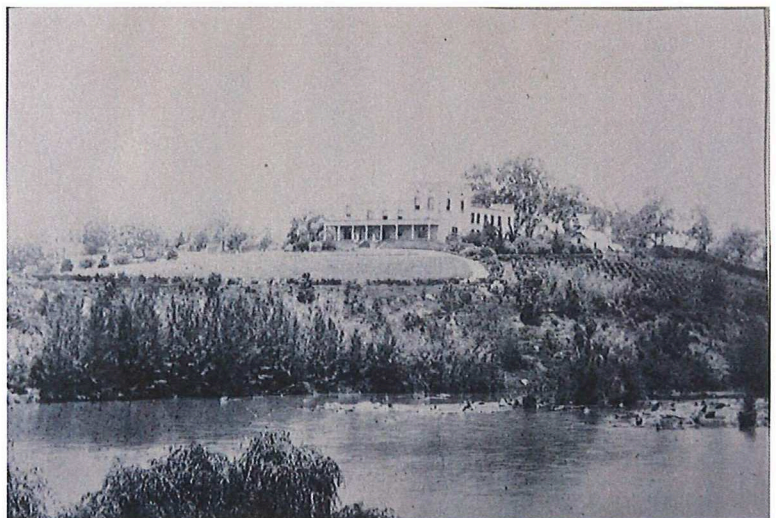
What else is happening at Saumarez?.....

The huge fire pile in the adjacent paddock has been burned and John Hiscox pushed the ashes up into a tiny pile last Wednesday, the toilets are actually been overhauled (one of the Ladies hasn't been operational for several years) and the Autumn colour has started although the Ginkgo yet to start turning.



Yulgilbah.....

We're looking forward to being able to travel to Grafton and Yulgilbah when the current restrictions are no longer in place.



UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN, PLEASE STAY SAFE AND HEALTHY.