



eNewsletter No. 3 May 2022

Northern NSW Branch

Meetings are held on the **last Sunday of the month** followed by a presentation.

Rose Garden working bees are held on the **first weekend of each month** - alternating Saturday or Sunday. Newsletters are published **mid month**.

Events

Sunday 29th May

General Meeting 4.00pm
Speaker: Sir Owen Croft
Historical Society Centre
Faulkner St (next to old
Library) followed by dinner at
a venue to be decided.

All welcome.

Please send Helen your
RSVP and suggestions for a
venue.

helen_oates10@hotmail.com

Saturday 4th June

9 - 11 am

Rose Garden Working Bee
Saumarez Homestead
Bring morning tea & tools

11-13th November

Hobart Conference is now
booked out.

Send articles & photos to:
Reports/Newsletter Editor
Maria Hitchcock
maria.hitchcock@gmail.com



Our Chair, Helen Oates at the Pocket Park Working Bee held in April.

Saumarez Access Roads

New England Visions 2030 Institute has been pursuing improved access to Saumarez Homestead for some time now. It appears that a sealed access road from the business park to Saumarez is not even in the planning stages which is a disappointment.

Here is the reply from Council to our request for clarification:

'The road we are designing is the internal road from the entry gate at Saumarez Homestead to the required areas internally, not the first gate at the top of the hill close to the airport. The design has now been sent to the National Trust for comment.'

The existing gravel road from the airport to the entry gate at Saumarez remains in place and operational until such time as we develop the next stage of the airport business park. At that time the road will be diverted through the subdivision connecting to the end of one of the cul-de-sacs. If we build the new runway the road will be diverted from the end of the airport business park behind The Croft to Saumarez Homestead'.

Saumarez tourism project

'At the time of this newsletter being published I've spoken to the planner at ARC who advises that the National Trust has been asked to amend the plans then resubmit them for assessment. The staff member I spoke to will contact me when the new plans are out for public review'.

Helen Oates



Garden Tour Highlights

Bushfood Morning tea and talk at Fangorn Private Botanic Garden (Dumaresq) with member Maria Hitchcock

Images: Lynne Walker

Landscape and Biodiversity - University of New England (UNE)

The University of New England landscape is a diverse mixture of natural bushland, teaching and research facilities, heritage listed buildings, expansive sporting grounds and a large residential network consisting of six colleges and a residential village.

www.une.edu.au

Draft of the UNE Landscape Management plan.

<https://www.une.edu.au/about-une/areas/administration/estate-and-built-environment/environment/biodiversity>

Bill Oates writes:

AGHS members have a tricky role to play here. The balance of planting natives and ensuring a sustainable campus whilst achieving the maintenance of the European garden heritage around Booloominbah and Trevenna needs lot of eyes commenting.

Personally, I have called for the restoration of the Booloominbah rose garden just below the old site in the grounds of the deer park. (If I cannot have deer then roses will have to do)

I have plenty of photos of the rose garden at Booloominbah before it was removed to allow graduation on the southern lawns. These I have supplied to UNE. (See photos next page).

Maria Hitchcock

My personal comment to the draft plan would be:

That as well as Armidale Tree Group and Armidale Urban Rivercare Group being named as stakeholders, UNE should include AGHS in that list to advise and assist UNE on heritage garden restoration and planting to complement the historic buildings. The Australian Plants Society should also be included as they have the experience of planting and managing a very wide selection of native plants - far wider than ATG or URG. If UNE wants to develop a campus wide Botanic Gardens they will need to focus on plants that will be useful for research and course study. I would also like to volunteer my assistance as leader and founder of Save our Flora, a national online group dedicated to the cultivation and preservation of Australia's threatened flora.

This message was sent to Suzannah Mitchell of UNE and passed on to the Landscape Advisory Committee for approval. She replied that they will let me know what the outcome is. I am quite positive that AGHS will be invited to join the list of community engagement stakeholders.

Members!!!

What do you think about restoring the old rose garden at Booloominbah?

Please send your thoughts and suggestions to: maria.hitchcock@gmail.com for inclusion in the June newsletter.

Join AGHS Northern NSW Branch

<https://www.gardenhistorysociety.org.au/membership/>

A short history of Booloominbah's gardens in photos.

The history of the building Booloominbah has been extensively documented from its construction onwards owing to the celebrity of the architect, community status of its first owners and then the various phases of occupancy from family mansion to seat of higher learning. The extensive gardens and European idyll of a rolling deer park played in this history appreciated by generations.

While the use of these gardens as a family and community space has been documented, we have relatively scant knowledge about the early garden design except from batches of photography gleaned from the many visitors to Booloominbah over time. The definitive White family photo album of Booloominbah is yet to be discovered whilst the site features in albums and collections of many other people.

As construction of Booloominbah was finalised a photo documents the complete lack of pre-existing garden design features or plantings. Relatively few photos document the late nineteenth century development of the garden. Some early pictures exist in the Harris family album of Abington, White collections of Saumarez with some commercial images, however this changes dramatically with Mrs White opening Booloominbah as a Red Cross Convalescent Hospital in 1916. Both soldiers and nurses created many images up to 1919.

Fewer images were created capturing the gardens during the declining years of Mrs White before her death in 1933, but then the donation of Booloominbah to the State to found the first regional university college in 1938 introduced many new photographers to the property and the gardens were extensively documented from this time on.

World War II greatly restricted labour available to maintaining the gardens and then the need for an expanded venue for Graduation led to the de-commissioning of the southern rose gardens in 1965. Many staff and students remember different aspects of the gardens over the decades. From the gardens evening tranquillity being interrupted by flatulent deer in the 1950's to the beauty of wisteria blossom in spring heralding in examinations season.

A brief selection of images starting this project is attached with **any additions to this collection welcomed** as we continue to build this history for AGHS to assist the UNE Landscape Management Committee. Bill Oates woates4@une.edu.au





1916



1918



1938 Workers



Between 1955 - 65



1943



The roses at Booloominbah in 1955 (top photo).
The bottom photo shows the area cleared and planted with some trees in 1965.
Graduation is held here. Images supplied by Bill Oates



Some Australian bred roses named after people

Images and descriptions:

<https://www.wagnersrosenursery.com.au/collections/australian-roses/>



Governor Marie Bashir,

Bush (Hybrid Tea)

This soft pink rose, Governor Marie Bashir, with a coral centre and delicate fragrance is named in honour of Professor The Honourable Dame Marie Bashir AD CVO, former Governor of NSW and a patron of the NSW Rose Society for many years.

Bred by Paul Hains in 2015.

Fragrance: light

Height: to 95cm



Deano

Bush (Hybrid Tea)

Deano is a classic Hybrid Tea rose, with large blooms in a very soft pink with darker, decorative centres. The blooms are borne mostly solitarily, but some small clusters also occur. It's a beautiful Australian rose, bred by Richard Walsh. It was named in honour of Dean Stringer, a well-respected Australian rosarian. Suitable for garden display, cut flowers or exhibition, it's a healthy and vigorous bush.

Fragrance: Mild

Height: 135cm x 65cm wide



Lorraine Lee

Old Fashioned Hybrid Tea or Climber

Its strong pointed buds open to soft salmon pink cupped blooms. Lorraine Lee repeats flowering throughout the season, but if pruned at the end of summer, its winter flowering makes this a standout from other tea roses. It has rich glossy green foliage and is extremely hardy. One of the most popular Australian roses bred by Alister Clark in 1924 and named after a distant cousin of his who lived in England.

Fragrance: medium.

Height: approx. 140cm high x 200cm wide.