



## eNewsletter No. 1 March 2022

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 27th March**

General Meeting 4.00pm  
Historical Society Centre  
Faulkner St  
(next to old Library)  
All welcome

#### **Sunday 13th March**

**9 - 11 am** (postponed from 6th March)  
Rose Garden Working Bee  
Saumarez Homestead  
Bring morning tea & tools

#### **Saturday 2nd April**

**9 - 11 am**  
Rose Garden Working Bee  
Saumarez Homestead  
Bring morning tea & tools

#### **2nd May**

Bookings for Hobart  
Conference open

#### **11-13th November**

Hobart Conference



We had a wonderful luncheon at Peterson's Winery (Palmerston) in their large marquee followed by two historical talks about Palmerston by Bill Oates and Graham Wilson. Here is a photo of the group of members who attended. Photo: Lynne Walker

Send articles & photos to:  
Reports/Newsletter Editor  
Maria Hitchcock  
[maria.hitchcock@gmail.com](mailto:maria.hitchcock@gmail.com)

## Palmerston

Bill Oates

*Helen Nancarrow writes:*

*It was a lovely lunch – thank you Helen W for organising it and also a huge Thank You for all the time and effort you have put in as our wonderful Secretary over many years! I know everyone has appreciated all you have done for AGHS.*

*Helen Oates writes:*

*I'd like to add my sincere thanks to those already expressed, to our previous hard working and diligent committee members. Thanks to their efforts, we have an excellent base from which to proceed. I'd also like to acknowledge the foresight and hard work of the original founders of our AGHS Northern NSW Sub-branch (as was) in planting the sapling (?) from which we've grown into a fully-fledged branch.*

The images below are of the garden that is no longer there. The proof of the existence of the garden is confirmed by the 1943 aerial photos of Armidale made by the government during WWII. By 1962 the outline is missing in the aerial photos. The best images are the TAS shot of the paved courtyard matched with a shot of the same paving 80 years later.



*Lynne & Richard write:*

*And huge thanks to the outgoing committee who have steered a course for so long as a sub branch (17 yrs) especially Bill, Helen W, Graham & Elton who have been so consistent and diligent in making sure all ran smoothly and that we were all having fun.  
Time to branch out.....*

*John Maurer writes:*

*Dear Helen and NNSW branch members,  
Warm congratulations on becoming the latest independent AGHS branch. Already with significant 'runs on the board' with the development of the Heritage Rose Garden at Saumarez. I'm sure that you will collectively go on to add to your achievements and enjoy gathering for your celebrations. Ann and I look forward to participating in future trips and activities with the branch as well as seeing some of you soon on Sydney branch activities and at the Hobart Conference and associated tours in November.*

## **AGHS Visit to Peterson's Winery (formerly Palmerston)**

**Saturday 26 February 2022**

Graham Wilson OAM

### **The Palmerston Property**

Henry Dangar held a squatter's run of some 50,000 acres in an area east of the later Uralla township from about 1834. It is believed that 'Palmerston' became part of that estate and in 1856 Dangar purchased some 160 acres there. The property was sold to A.H. Palmer in 1857 and re-purchased by Grace Dangar in 1861. Palmer became manager of Dangars' pastoral estate and later became premier of Queensland.

Norman Napier Dangar a descendant of Henry, took over the 'Palmerston' Property and in 1909 engaged F.G. Casteldean, a Newcastle architect to design the present homestead. The stable and garage wing were designed in 1910.

'Palmerston Homestead' is an Edwardian Bungalow. The red bricks were baked on the property. It has a distinctive round-arched porte cochere as an entry; cedar double doors leading to a grand reception hall; dark stained Oregon beams and internal Art Nouveau plaster.

The heritage significance of the property arises from the buildings, grounds and property and the way that they relate to the Dangar pastoral interests, the aesthetic details of the house, the social values of the property, the continuous association with the Dangar family and the scale and changes in the lifestyle of an eminent New England family.

### **Plans to subdivide the property**

In the 1990s there was a Development Application to subdivide the property, formerly known as 'Palmerston'. As the National Trust Chairman of the New England Branch, Graham Wilson provided a written submission to the 1996 Land and Environment Court held in Sydney and spoke as a witness against the proposal to construct 63 dwellings on the property. Later the Court was held in Armidale on 22-26 September 1997 and the date of judgement was 9 October 1997. The Court refused the application to construct the dwellings on the property within the boundaries of the hawthorn hedge.

On 25 August 2000, the Dumaresq Local Environmental Plan No. 17 was gazetted. In part the aims of the plan were:

- (i) To amend item 3 Palmerston in Schedule 2, 'Items of the environmental heritage to Dumaresq Environmental Plan No. 1 to include the homestead, stables, garden and hawthorn hedge on the property of Palmerston'
- (ii) To prevent subdivision for the purpose of erecting a dwelling on land surrounding 'Palmerston' homestead and bound by the hawthorn hedge.

Today, the property is known as Peterson's and is conducted as a guest house and winery. Judith Grieve OAM pleaded with members at the luncheon to continue calling the property Palmerston.



*Helen Wilson writes:*

*Hello everyone. I hope wherever you are, you are safe and dry! It was lovely to catch up with so many members at the lunch last Saturday and I do hope you enjoyed the outing. Fingers crossed we can get together on many more occasions this year. Huge thanks to the people who put up their hands for executive roles. It sure helps the organisation to run smoothly. Cheers until our next get together.*

## Welcome to the new committee for 2022

Elected at the AGM held Saturday 26th February at Palmerston.

Chair: Helen Oates  
Vice-Chair: Graham Wilson  
Minutes Secretary: Robyn Jackson  
Treasurer: Tom O'Connor  
Reports/Newsletter: Maria Hitchcock  
Publicity: Lynne Walker  
Events Organisers: Helen Wilson & Moira Lloyd  
Fundraising Organisers: Fran Webb & Lexia Nielsen  
Rose Garden Organiser: Lynne Walker  
NMC Rep (State): Lynne Walker  
NMC Rep (Branch): Helen Oates  
Advocacy Representative: Bill Oates

## Rosy Roundabout

Lynne Walker

Here are some pics I took while weeding in the Rosy Roundabout a few weeks ago – as you can see the roses are literally up around my ears – phenomenal growth of the roses and not much to weed as the rugosas have crowded them out!!! Roses and hips together are spectacular.



**Join AGHS Northern NSW Branch**

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

## 'Beyond the Lawn'

Helen Wilson

AGHS 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration funding was the impetus for a travelling photographic exhibition 'Beyond the Lawn'. This exhibition was prepared to run in conjunction with the national exhibition, 'The Blade: Australia's Love affair with Lawn' but COVID 19 intervened and it was almost history!

Friday evening, 4<sup>th</sup> March saw the exhibition spring to life at the Glen Innes Art Gallery thanks to the co-operation and assistance of wonderful gallery members and staff of the Library. The exhibition comprises 32 panels of beautiful photographs of historic Northern NSW gardens, including school gardens and the display is supported by a booklet with the photographs and location and descriptions of the gardens as well as a television with rolling display of the images.

The exhibition was painstakingly researched and curated by Bill Oates and Graham Wilson. It was enthusiastically received by the Glen Innes visitors when it was introduced by recently elected Chair of the NNSW branch, Helen Oates. Bill Oates explained its origin and research and the exhibition was opened by Graham Wilson.

Special thanks go to Helen Ellis from the Glen Innes Art Gallery for enhancing the exhibition with her artistic floral displays and old garden tools and along with Helen to Barry Ellis and Dennis Hazelwood for the organisation of food and drinks. It was a wonderful evening. Future plans involve travelling to Inverell and Tenterfield before the exhibition returns to Armidale for its Grand Finale.

From the top:  
Bill Oates, Graham Wilson, Owen Croft  
Graham Wilson  
Helen Oates  
Owen Croft, Lynne Walker  
Images: Helen Wilson





## Saumarez Development Application

Helen Oates - Chair

We became aware yesterday that Development Application DA-25-2022 is under notification with Armidale Regional Council, having been lodged by the National Trust on 25.02.2022. I cannot link the DA so I can provide it to you, but it is available for viewing and comment on the ARC website / Development Applications / Online DA Register. Look then at the plans and documents at the bottom of the page.

There are concerns about the impact of aspects of this development on the heritage of the site as it varies considerably from the original plans, and also the impact on the Heritage Rose Garden. In particular, I am concerned about the placement of the accommodation pods in the paddock where we currently put our garden waste for burning, and also the placement of the Recreational Vehicle (RV) overnight sites hard up against the fence in the carpark adjacent to the picking garden.

Graham was asked previously to provide a Heritage Impact Statement for the original planning application, but the Statement of Heritage Impact attached to the current application has been written by David Burdon, Conservation Director for the National Trust. The Statement, therefore, has not been provided on an impartial basis.

I have spoken to ARC this morning and **we have until 15.03.2022** to provide comment on the application. Graham is writing a submission separate from that which I will put together on behalf of the AGHS NNSW branch. I am happy for you to provide comment to me for inclusion in the AGHS submission, or for you to individually provide responses to ARC through the button found on the DA. Our Memorandum of Understanding with the National Trust for the operation of the Heritage Rose Garden should at least indicate to ARC that we are significant stakeholders.

Please contact me if you would like to on **0408 434 016**, or email any comments or questions you may have ([helen\\_oates10@hotmail.com](mailto:helen_oates10@hotmail.com))

Here's a plan of action so far for responding to the DA at Saumarez Homestead.

### Thursday 10.03.22

1. I will write a submission on behalf of AGHS NNSW branch, detailing:
  - visual impact of pods and RV overnight locations on heritage site, including curtilage;
  - visual impact of pods and RV sites on heritage rose garden, given the heritage requirements we had to meet during the construction of the garden;
  - concerns re drainage from pods and RV sites;
  - impediment to vehicular access to heritage rose garden;
  - lack of local consultation, including AGHS as stakeholders, during development of plans;
  - recognition of rose garden as a heritage site now and into the future, given it is a significant repository for heritage and rare rose varieties.
2. Letter to be sent to National Trust NSW board members, including all details above.
3. Letter also to be sent to Armidale Regional Council Mayor.

### Today 8.03.22

Lynne and Richard will seek independent legal advice about our options for objection to or delaying a decision on approving the plans.

Please let me know what you think, and add any comments you would like included in the DA response or letters.

## Saumarez Conservation and Landscape Management Plan Meeting

Monday 8 November 2018

Representatives: Helen Oates, Marilyn Pidgeon, Lynne Walker, Graham Wilson, Richard Bird.

### Background to establishment of the Heritage Rose Garden at Saumarez Homestead:

The project set out to establish a sustainable Heritage Rose Garden (HRGS) in two stages on the site of the former orchard at the historic National Trust property, the Saumarez Homestead. A local resident, Miss Catherine MacLean, donated the majority of the heritage roses collected over many years for this garden. As it was located on a State Heritage site, permission was obtained from the NSW Heritage Office and a Memorandum of Understanding was developed between The Australian Garden History Society (AGHS) and National Trust (NSW), the first of its kind in Australia between the two organisations. Representatives of the AGHS Northern NSW Sub-Branch Armidale Sub-Branch's Garden History and Saumarez Advisory Committee meet regularly to discuss progress of the project.

The purpose of the project has been to develop a significant cultural landscape while conserving a collection of heritage roses. The Sub-Branch assists the educational role of the Saumarez Homestead by attracting tourists to this historic property in its historic garden setting. It supports the Armidale community by providing the opportunity for voluntary work as well as employment to local tradesmen including the 'Back Track' organisation.

### Funding:

An Australian Garden History Society Conference was held in Armidale in 2013 and the funds raised provided the opportunity to commence stage 1 of the project. Ongoing and recurrent costs for this stage have been met by voluntary labour from AGHS members as well as garden clubs and other community groups. Donations have been received from the National Office of the Australian Garden History Society in Melbourne, members of the society, New England Garden groups, local Service Clubs and revenue from local Open Gardens and publications.

The Armidale Regional Council provided funds through the 2016 the Stronger Communities Grant program to develop Stage 2. Other funds have been raised from diverse support as outlined above.

### Awards:

At the National Trust Heritage Awards held in Sydney in 2016, the garden was recognised with a Conservation Collection Award. This was the first time this award had been given by the National Trust. In presenting the award the judge's notes read:

*This is a project that preserves a living collection of historic or 'heritage roses'. It is the work of dedicated and tireless volunteers and managed by the Northern NSW Sub-Branch of the Garden History Society.*

### Plans for the future:

- Continue to work on the scientific value of this collection of historic roses by identifying and cataloguing all roses held in the existing garden and those obtained in the future.
- Continue research on historic photographs of the gardens of Saumarez Homestead and the former orchard held at the Heritage Centre, University of New England Archives.
- Ongoing publication of articles on the Heritage Rose Garden in The Australian Garden History, Heritage Rose Society and National Trust Journals.
- Develop research on the relationship between the roses in the Heritage Rose Garden and those in the Saumarez Homestead garden. One of Australia's leading specialist rose nurseries is currently researching availability of roses which were

planted in Mrs White's garden in the late 1880s (HRGS currently has a dozen of the same roses). Mary White's rose orders also being researched

- Continue to offer support to Saumarez Homestead from members of the Garden History Sub-Branch in the areas of gardening experience, botany, journalism, heritage and administration.
- One of the world's most knowledgeable experts in Heritage garden tools , Richard Bird (aka The Old Mole) has offered to work with the White's extensive garden tool collection by providing an inventory, maintaining the tools and investigating an appropriate display to enable visitors can understand the history of tool use in gardening .
- An AGHS member has contributed significant funds to reintroduce the former Hen House (Chook Palace) based on exiting records and photos.
- Members of AGHS have expressed interest in helping to resuscitate the vegetable garden based on photographs and records of the garden under Mr White's care.
- Local AGHS members have an excellent history of contributing volunteer hours in the HRSG accumulating 50% of the HRSG's income in kind.
- Develop the Heritage Rose Garden as a part of the Australian National Rose Garden Trail; thus attracting more tourists to the Saumarez Homestead. It is envisaged that this rose trail will include rose gardens open to the public right up the East coast of Australia, beginning at Woolmers Rose Garden in Tasmania, and including gardens in S.A, VIC, NSW and ending at the State Rose Garden, Toowoomba, QLD.