



eNewsletter No. 5 July 2022

Northern NSW Branch

Events

No meeting in July

Saturday 23rd July
Wednesday 27th July
9-11 am

Rose Pruning
Saumarez Homestead
Bring morning tea & tools

Saturday 6th August
9 - 11 am

Rose Garden Working Bee
Saumarez Homestead
Bring morning tea & tools

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**.

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



Bill Oates, Graham Wilson & the late Miss MacLean 20 May 2016
The Rose Garden was awarded a National Trust Award
Image: New England North West Facebook

Join AGHS Northern NSW Branch
<https://www.gardenhistorysociety.org.au/membership/>

From the Chair

Hello everyone. While we're in the midst of a cold and somewhat wet Winter, signs that Spring is on the way are starting to appear. Tender buds are emerging, hopefully to survive the frosts which will still greet us for many mornings to come.

We enjoyed a fascinating illustrated talk from Graham and Bill as our end of June activity, entitled *Curtis family influence on Jeffrey Street*. It was great to hear so many of our audience members participating in the discussion with family information and accounts of personal experiences, adding an extra depth to the knowledge of this family and their contribution to Armidale streetscapes and gardens. Our thanks to Graham and Bill for their continued work in preparing information for many of our entertaining events.

With so many other activities underway, and the desire to stay warm during the cold weather, we won't be having our monthly meeting or presentation in July. Watch this space for information on upcoming events and activities over the next couple of months.

An activity to add to your calendar is our annual rose pruning in the Heritage Rose Garden. We'll start on Saturday 23 July, and continue on Wednesday 27 July. There'll be other dates added as we see how much more is left to do. This is a great opportunity to get the garden back to its best before Spring, and to enjoy each other's company while we work and at morning tea. I look forward to seeing as many members as possible on Saturday 23 July, as we all know that many hands make light work.

Lynne and I are pleased to advise that we will be having regular communication meetings with staff at Saumarez Homestead, beginning on Friday 22 July. Meetings will take place every two months, and will provide an opportunity for planning and timely exchange of information. Lynne and I are not so pleased to advise that, due to both of us being ill, neither of us attended the National Management Committee meeting in Sydney, in person. We both attended via Zoom from our respective laptops, but it would have been so much more enjoyable to see other NMC members face-to-face on 16 July. We'll provide an update on the meeting outcomes in the next newsletter.

I hope everyone enjoyed the latest edition of the AGHS Journal, in which our NNSW branch featured. I think the Journal is a wonderful publication and that Francesca Beddie and her editorial team are to be congratulated. I have some spare copies of the Journal, if anyone would like an extra. What stories can you think of for inclusion in our next newsletter? If you have an idea, please put some words together or ask for assistance if you would like some. Any photos you have which might generate an article are also being sought.

Stay warm and well, everyone, and I look forward to seeing you again soon. Below is the citation to the award we received pictured on page 1.

Helen Oates
Chair AGHSNNSW

Heritage Awards 2016 NATIONAL TRUST AUSTRALIA (NSW)
2016 Conservation Landscape - Conservation Collection
Heritage Rose Garden Saumarez Homestead
Australian Garden History Society-Northern NSW Sub Branch, National Trust and
the heritage rose collection of Miss Catherine MacLean.

Curtis Family Presentation

June 2022

Bill Oates - text and images

Generations of the Curtis family have been gardening in Armidale. From William Curtis with his house gardens and street tree planting to his children and his grandchildren, Armidale has benefited from both public and private gardens.

William Curtis planted street trees in Jeffrey Street that are still there, street trees in Faulkner Street that are gone and designed a wonderful garden around his house the 'Cotswolds' in Marsh Street that he frequently opened to the community for public events.

The Cotswolds sported a pavilion, croquet lawn, out houses and outdoor garden lighting to delight family and visitors alike. As the family grew, Eynsford was built next to Cotswolds and the gardens extended and groomed for decades. A photographic record was kindly shared by the family with AGHS and work continues to document this wonderful gardening family.



'Cotswolds' Armidale in Marsh Street - now a Motel and Restaurant.
Image: Testimonial A B Curtis - courtesy of Curtis family



Above: 'Cotswolds' 1934 (HRCP5119) Image: courtesy of Curtis family
Below: Garden (P99_0372) Image: courtesy of Curtis family



Promoting the Heritage Rose Garden at Saumarez in Sydney

Lynne Walker & John Maurer

On Friday 15th July John Maurer gave a presentation to the Sydney group of Heritage Roses in Australia. The group met at the home of Jenny Figtree, a lovely Edwardian residence in Cheltenham. The presentation had to be rescheduled several times because of Covid-19 restrictions in 2020 and 2021. Lynne Walker was to present but was prevented doing so as a victim of Covid herself. John was able to step in and talk to the group assisted by PowerPoint slides of the achievements of the Northern NSW Garden History Society.

One of the issues discussed following the presentation was the challenge of locating roses bred by Olive Fitzhardinge in the 1930s at her Warrawee home. These were the first Australian roses to be registered internationally. Of those released, only four still exist. The Heritage Rose Garden at Saumarez has only one of these, Lady Edgeworth David, named for a close friend of Olive Fitzhardinge. This specimen was donated by Judith Oysten, a Heritage Roses member, rose expert and a member of the Rookwood Necropolis working group. (see photo next page)

A participant at the presentation happened to be a nursery owner with an interest in roses. In a conversation with John afterwards there was discussion on overcoming the unavailability of Fitzhardinge roses commercially. A way around this would be to obtain budwood from a known source, wrap it in moist paper towel, and express post to a pre-arranged grafter who has access to suitable rootstock and is prepared to undertake a small scale budding. Most commercial grafters work in quantities of several hundred and wouldn't be interested in a smaller run. However, a smaller quantity which could serve the roles of filling the Fitzhardinge bed at the HRG, as well as providing these roses for sale as a fund raiser, may be able to be organised through personal contact with a grafter. Stay tuned on this opportunity.



Heritage Rose Garden Saumarez Homestead (National Trust Award)

Australian Garden History Society- Northern NSW Sub Branch, National Trust and the heritage rose collection of Miss Catherine MacLean

This project is not really a traditional conservation project. It doesn't conserve or recreate a garden it 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. (Image: John Maurer)

Two Australian roses bred by Mrs H. C. Fitzhardinge (1881-1956) of Warrawee NSW



'Prudence' Image: Eric Timewell

'Prudence' Hybrid Tea/Climber

(Sought after by our group)

Warrawee x Souvenir de Claudius Pernet

Introduced in Australia by [Hazlewood Bros. Pty. Ltd.](#) in 1938

Semi-double, salmon pink, strong fragrance, full (26-40 petals), cupped bloom form. Continuous (perpetual) bloom throughout the season. Thorns/prickles, compact. Climber height 3m.

Named for Mrs Fitzhardinge's second daughter, Olive Prudence, later Mrs Bryant. As Prudence Bryant she later wrote an illuminating account of her mother's rose breeding, *Journal of Heritage Roses in Australia*, 1980 Vol 2 No 4, p.2

Ref: <https://www.helpmefind.com/rose/l.php?l=2.61315>



'Lady Edgeworth David'
Image: Eric Timewell

Lady Edgeworth David Hybrid Tea

(Commercially available)

Unnamed seedling x Betty Uprichard.

Introduced in Australia by [Hazlewood Bros. Pty. Ltd.](#) in 1939.

Ht: 90-120cm W: 60 cm

Upright vigorous shrub with glossy foliage, pink, light pink shading. Malmaison rose, shaded with dawn pink. Long stem.. Moderate fragrance. Large, very full (41+ petals), open bloom form. Blooms in flushes throughout the season. Large, long, pointed buds.

Lady Edgeworth David was the widow of a distinguished explorer and academic. She was also a distinguished social campaigner and State Commissioner of Girl Guides. She and her daughter Molly were family friends of the Fitzhardinges.

Ref: <https://www.helpmefind.com/gardening/l.php?l=2.30038>