



eNewsletter No. 6 Aug 2022

Northern NSW Branch

Events

Sunday 28th August

General Meeting 4.00pm
Speaker: Maria Hitchcock
King Island and Bruny Island
Historical Society Centre
Faulkner St (next to old
Library) followed by dinner.
All welcome.

Please send Helen your
RSVP for dinner
helen_oates10@hotmail.com

Rose Pruning

Every Saturday and
Wednesday until done.
9-11 am
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 usually 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



Volunteers from the Lions Club of Armidale assisting in the
Heritage Rose Garden at Saumarez.

Join AGHS Northern NSW Branch

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

From the Chair

I'm sure most of you will be working at preparing your gardens for Spring. I hope you are having a happy and productive time as you do so. I am pleased to report that the National Trust NSW has withdrawn the initial Development Application for the Sustainable Saumarez Homestead Tourism Project which was lodged with Armidale Regional Council in February. It seems that those people or organisations who expressed interest in the project have now been invited to a Community Consultation Forum on 2 September at Saumarez Homestead, so the National Trust NSW can provide an update on revisions to the tourism project and seek input from stakeholders and community members. A new Development Application will be submitted to Council following feedback from the meeting. A number of our AGHS members will attend the consultation meeting, and look forward to participating in the discussion, and to achieving a positive plan for the project.

There have been working bees aplenty so far in the Heritage Rose Garden, with a mighty amount of pruning already completed. We still have a long way to go, however, so I encourage anyone who has a spare hour or two to come along to the next working bee. An email will be sent soon to confirm days and times, but bees will usually be held each Wednesday and Saturday until the pruning is finished. My thanks to everyone who has attended the bees so far. A submission has been lodged for grant funding through the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal, ANZ Seeds of Renewal funds. We have applied for \$15,000 to purchase gravel mulch and the labour to assist with spreading it on all rose beds. Using gravel mulch will reduce repetitive heavy manual labour, reduce weed load in the garden, and reduce water usage overall.

We are also expecting new roses to replace some of those that did not survive the drought. I was told by one rose grower last week that they were going to hand dig the rare roses we have ordered. We don't know how many roses will arrive as they will only be sent to us if they are robust enough once they have been dug up. It will be exciting to see what arrives. I look forward to hearing Maria Hitchcock's presentation on Bruny and King Islands at our next meeting. Bruny Island is featured in the optional day tour after the Hobart conference, so Maria's talk will whet our appetite for our visit. Look under 'Events' on the front page of the newsletter for meeting details.

Helen Oates (Chair AGHS NNSW Branch)

Update on the Sustainable Saumarez Homestead Tourism Project (SSHTP)

Anja Stride from the National Trust invited AGHS members to attend a Community Consultation Forum on Friday 2 Sept 2022 at Saumarez from 2-3pm.

As you know we sent a submission opposing the DA on the grounds that the planned accommodation options were poorly located and would detract from the Heritage Rose Garden. The DA was subsequently held back subject to revisions being made and approved.

We are now informed that

- Restart NSW has recently approved revisions to the accommodation mix and location onsite.

To hear more and for the opportunity to input into the proposed revised plans, the National Trust (NSW) invites stakeholders to a community consultation forum, from 2pm – 3pm on Friday 2 September 2022 at Saumarez Homestead.

Following stakeholder feedback on 2 September, the National Trust (NSW) will finalise the SSHTP plans and lodge a new Development Application for this project with Armidale Regional Council.

Participation in the community consultation forum is encouraged, if you are free to join us please RSVP no later than Tuesday 30 August 2022 to: saumarez@nationaltrust.com.au



HRiA Sydney Chair Glennis Clarke, Miss MacLean centre, John Maurer, Co Chair AGHS HRGS Co Chair after John's very successful presentation to the Sydney branch on our rose garden last month.



We had a wonderful turn out for rose pruning on Saturday 6th August, and had a very productive morning. It was great to catch up with our friends from Lions again too. A smaller group returned on Sunday and we now have both the side trellises pruned, as well as a number of the smaller beds completed. We're getting there, but there's still quite a lot to do. Thanks to everyone who has wielded secateurs and pushed barrows.

Olive Fitzhardinge (1881–1956) was an Australian rose breeder, the first to patent her work. Her four surviving roses are held in Australian collections. Her roses were well received in the 1930s but after the Second World War favoured styles of roses changed significantly.

Olive Rose McMaster was born in 1881 at [Warialda](#), northern New South Wales. She was brought up in the country at Moree. She was the elder daughter of Colin James McMaster (1853–1930) and Sarah Ross (1855–1927). Her father was for twenty years Chief Commissioner and chairman of the [Western Lands Board](#), which administered land leases in the whole western third of NSW. Olive was educated by a governess at home and boarded 1897–1898 at [Presbyterian Ladies College, Croydon](#).

She and her sister Dorothy Jean (1884–1966), later Mrs C.W.D. Conacher of Crona, Warrawee, were influenced by the [Arts and Crafts movement](#), and through it Victorian [Medievalism](#). They collected medieval objects, dress fabrics and tapestry. They cultivated quiet *Country Life* interiors furnished with old things and lit with tallow candles in medieval candlesticks. Exteriors would show the luxuriant informality of [Gertrude Jekyll's](#) *Roses for English Gardens*. Later Olive was to breed roses to look well in candlelight. Her second daughter was married in a "mediaeval gown".

It lent depth to Olive's interest that she married into a pre-Conquest, west of England [family](#) ennobled by Henry II in the twelfth century. In 1909 she married Dr Hardinge Clarence Fitzhardinge (1878–1958), a Macquarie Street dental surgeon. He was the son of M.A.H. Fitzhardinge, a prominent Sydney solicitor from the second generation of the well-known NSW legal family founded in the 1840s by W.G.A. Fitzhardinge.

Hardinge and Olive lived at [Cremorne Point](#) for some years but in 1917 bought 1.5 acres (0.61 ha) with a northerly aspect and good volcanic soil at [Warrawee](#) 21 km northwest of Sydney. As all North Shore suburbs with aboriginal names, Warrawee was the name of a railway station which became attached to the surrounding suburb. Warrawee had developed in the 1900s as an exclusive residential district with no shops, offices, post office, public school, churches or through roads. All the blocks were kept to between one and four acres and the form of houses tightly controlled. The Fitzhardinges had Bridge End at No. 1 Warrawee Avenue, where they built a spreading single-storey house and established "quite a famous garden". As well-to-do citizens of the Empire they followed London manners and taste: in a world of "lounge" rooms they kept to a drawing-room.

The Fitzhardinges had daughters Jean Mary Hardinge Dean (1910–2009) and Olive Prudence Bryant (1912–2001) and sons Colin Hardinge Fitzhardinge (1914–1998) and Brian Forbes Fitzhardinge, who died at fourteen in 1932.

Olive Fitzhardinge began to breed roses at Bridge End about 1920. Because she was wealthy and related to prominent people in the history of New South Wales, her activities as a rose breeder were unusually well reported. In fact society and rose-breeding themes were closely intertwined. The *Sydney Morning Herald* on 16 May 1934 reported the wedding of the Fitzhardinges' daughter. Five of Mrs Fitzhardinge's 12 roses were named after those present, six if one includes 'Warrawee'.

Mrs Fitzhardinge planted many trees in public spaces, including the long avenue of the [Pymble Ladies College](#) (where her daughters were pupils) and many of the majestic tree groupings at the Avondale Golf Club (where she was a member). In 1937 Dr Fitzhardinge, Olive and their surviving son moved to Wongalong, a sheep and cattle property at [Mandurama](#) on the Central Tablelands of NSW.

Despite her intentions, Mrs Fitzhardinge bred no more roses,[7] though she continued to grow them in "drought, many high winds, and mineralised water." [43] She did experiment with breeding improved geraniums. [44] She died in 1956. [45] Her son Colin, married to the writer Joan Phipson inherited Wongalong and her rose, 'Warrawee' was still growing there in 1980.

Rose Breeding

Fitzhardinge's roses were hybrid teas. She registered twelve between 1932 and 1939. Except for 'Beatrice Berkeley' and 'Plain Jane' they were released for sale through Hazlewood Brothers' nursery. She was a friend of the Hazlewoods and of the rose breeders Alister Clark and George Knight. She told the *Sydney Morning Herald* in 1931 she had bred 12 satisfactory roses in ten years, so it is possible that her rose breeding (as opposed to testing and registration) had been completed between 1921 and 1930. Certainly all the plant material she bred from had been released by 1921 (see the list of her rose parents below). She bred twenty thousand seedlings in ten years, ten times the average number bred by Frank Riethmuller in Turramurra after the Second World War. Olive Fitzhardinge described herself as an "amateur hybridiser" but behind a domestic facade she operated on a commercial scale. She knew people who ran big pasture and stock breeding businesses in country NSW and the Northern Territory.

Australia had no Plant Breeder's Rights Act at that time. The only way to secure rights was to take out an overseas patent. Fitzhardinge is the only Australian breeder before the 1960s known to have done so, in her case an American patent on 'Warrawee.' To that extent she had commercial ambitions for her work, unlike her friend Alister Clark or North Shore successor Frank Riethmuller. 'Warrawee' especially received enthusiastic press notices, emphasising the ladylike quality of the rose, said to be due to its being bred by a lady. At the same time the rose was seen as an Australian nationalist venture into world markets.

But the predicted commercial triumph of her roses did not occur, though 'Warrawee' was introduced in England and America in 1935. Her shrub roses had been modelled on 'Ophelia' as the ideal rose; after the war a shift in taste took place to roses modelled on 'Peace.' Her climbing roses were huge plants best suited to prewar gardens. Even to post-war enthusiasts Fitzhardinge's roses seemed under-bred. For instance, 'Sirius' 1939, a dark red climber, was criticised for lack of vigor by those who still grew it. Moreover, nearly all her roses have very double flowers which in humid climates can rot before opening.

Patrick Grant, a fellow member of the NSW Rose Society, had more success in between-wars overseas markets with his 'Salmon Spray' and 'Golden Dawn', a rose destined, like hers, to be outmoded by 'Peace'.

Ten years after her death, her roses had nearly been forgotten. The Australian registrar of roses and president of the National Rose Society of Victoria was A.S. Thomas. The 1967 edition of his *Better Roses* prints a list of eighty "highly prized cultivars" from Australia and New Zealand. Twenty of them are roses by Alister Clark. Seven are by Frank Riethmuller. Only 'Lubra' and 'Warrawee' are by Olive Fitzhardinge.

Ref: https://www.wikiwand.com/en/Olive_Fitzhardinge

The reference includes lists of her rose names, who they were named after, breeding information and where the roses can be seen (may not be update).

Ed: My thanks to John Maurer for sending this reference.

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



'Lubra' Image: Eric Timewell

'Lubra' Hybrid Tea

(Sought after by our group)

Ophelia x *Black Boy*

Introduced in Australia by Hazlewood Bros. in 1938.

Crimson. Strong fragrance. Small to medium, double (17-25 petals), high-centred bloom form. Blooms in flushes throughout the season. Height of up to 42" (up to 105 cm).

The name alludes to its being a darker and more elegant descendant of Alister Clark's 'Black Boy.'

Ref: <https://www.helpmefind.com/rose/plants.php?searchNmTyp=5&searchNm=Lubra&rid=3227&sbSearch=SEARCH&tab=1>



'Warrawee' Image: Eric Timewell

Warrawee Hybrid Tea

(Sought after by our group)

Rev. F. Page-Roberts x *Padre*.

Introduced in Australia by [Hazlewood Bros. Pty. Ltd.](#) in 1932.

Seashell-pink, deep pink reverse. Moderate, clove fragrance. Very large, double (17-25 petals), high-centered bloom form. Blooms in flushes throughout the season.

Name of the sequestered suburb and society in which the Fitzhardinges lived. She took out an American patent in the hope of commercial success of the rose. This did not eventuate due to the success of 'Peace' and the move away from double petalled roses.

Ref: <https://www.helpmefind.com/rose/plants.php?searchNmTyp=5&searchNm=Warrawee&rid=3227&sbSearch=SEARCH&tab=1>

PLANT THIS DATE IN YOUR DIARY

5TH & 6TH OF NOVEMBER 2022

10AM - 5PM

STONEHENGE STATION & BLAIRMORE OPEN GARDENS

Renowned historical New England (adjoining) properties settled by Brothers in 1838

Situated: 80km North of Armidale & 13km South of Glen Innes
along the New England Hwy (well signed on the day)



TICKETS \$30 FOR BOTH GARDENS

- Morning, Afternoon tea and Lunch available
- Raffles & Plant Stall
- Floral Arranging Demonstration both days
- Stonewall Demonstration with Model Stonemasons both days
- Tickets available at both gardens on the day with brochure containing garden information and demonstration times

Proceeds contributing to the restoration of the Guyra Showground Ring surface, to ensure safety for livestock and competitors.

A very special thank you to owner Wally Rea & Rachael Abbott for their support, time & effort with their gardens to make this a wonderful fundraising event.

Like our FB page 'Guyra Country Gardens' to keep updated

Initiative of the Guyra Campdraft Club

For further information contact Donna Davidson 0427 792 748