



eNewsletter No. 10 February 2023

Northern NSW Branch

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**.

Events

No Branch meeting in February

Welcome to 2023 dinner
Saturday 25th February
Armidale Bowling Club
6.30pm \$55.00 per head
Please bring cash.

Saturday 4th March
Heritage Rose Garden
working bee.

Sunday 26th March
General Meeting and dinner

AGHS Conference
29th September - 1st October
Ipswich
Bookings Open 1st May

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



Our own Lynne Walker is the new National Chair of AGHS. Our own Chair, Helen Oates is the new National Secretary.

Image: Peter Lloyd

Welcome to 2023 Dinner
Saturday 25th February
Upstairs - Armidale Bowling Club 6.30pm
There will be an alternating serve of
Black Angus Sirloin and Chicken Supreme
followed by dessert of
Vanilla Crème Brûlée / Sticky Date Pudding
Water, a bread roll, tea and coffee is included.

RSVP

g.wilson42@bigpond.com

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

From the Chair

Hello everyone,

Happy 2023 to you all. Here we are half way through February already. I had thought that life would slow down a little after the New Year, but it seems to have gained speed instead.

We enjoyed a fantastic Open Garden weekend at *Kamarra* at the beginning of December, thanks to the generosity of Dar and Ian Brookes, and to the many people who assisted with the wide range of necessary tasks. Reports from visitors to the garden were all very positive, with the plantings and landscape offering something for everyone. The very handsome profit of over \$2700 will be used to purchase gravel mulch for the Heritage Rose Garden, to minimise our use of water and reduce the need for heavy and repetitive manual labour.

Lucky raffle winners from the weekend were:

1st	Plant and pot (donated by Cedar Nursery)	Kerrie
2nd	\$100 voucher (donated by Cedar Nursery)	Penny Maggs
3rd	Book 'Botanica's Roses'	Barb Ross
4th	Rosey tea set (donated by Ross Patch)	Lu Hogan
5th	3 bottles of wine	Christine Fry
6th	3 bottles of wine	Lynda Skipper
7th	Basket with plants	Marian Grant

Congratulations to all our winners, and many thanks for your support.

Included in this newsletter is our Events Calendar for 2023. My sincere thanks go to Helen Wilson and Moira Lloyd for their efforts in information gathering and planning these events. The calendar will be refined as the year progresses, but please save the dates on your own personal planners now.

Our first event is a social evening enjoying dinner and the company of friends at the Armidale City Bowling Club on Saturday 25 February. Please RSVP to the emails from Helen Wilson that you will have received recently. I look forward to seeing you there! This event will replace our usual monthly meeting.

We are hosting the Guyra Garden Club in the Heritage Rose Garden at Saumarez Homestead on Monday 27 February. The group will enjoy their morning tea and lunch in the garden, and a guided tour amongst the rose beds. Members will then break into smaller groups to visit the gardens of Helen Nancarrow, Liz Chappell and Lynne Walker, where they will be able to appreciate the downsized gardens of these previously broad scale gardeners.

Lynne Walker and I will be in Melbourne over the weekend of 18 & 19 February for a planning meeting of the National Management Committee. We'll provide you with an update after the event, and keep you informed of happenings at the national level.

Best wishes to all

Helen Oates (Chair - AGHS NNSW Branch)

Open Garden - 'Kamarra' - home of Dar & Ian Brookes

3/4th December 2022

'Kamarra' on Kellys Plains Rd is an 80 acre property which was originally a dairy. Dar & Ian moved there in 2007. At that stage there were two large ribbon gums (*E. viminalis*), some large Cotoneasters, a large she-oak *Casuarina*), several English oaks (*Quercus robur*), a Golden Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), some *Melaleucas* and *Wisteria*. The garden was mostly neglected.

After renovating the house and removal of the horse paddock fence, planting began to the north of the house. The design has morphed over the years but it could be described as a series of garden rooms which lead into one another. The stony basalt soils are heavy and difficult to dig with clay not far underneath. The walls and paving are constructed from rocks dug up during excavations. The garden is watered from rainwater or a bore.

Dar has planted about 130 different rose varieties (mostly heritage) as that is her passion. Like most country gardens it suffers from damage by stray cattle, sheep, horses, rabbits and hares. The unpredictable weather patterns have also played havoc leading to a loss of many native plants and drought hardy perennials like *Salvias*, following weeks of rain.

Despite the challenges the garden is absolutely wonderful.



Hedges define the garden 'rooms'.



Westringia and Lavender tightly pruned near the entry.

Photos from Dar Brooke's garden taken on during her Open Garden in December
Images: M. Hitchcock



Ceanothus pallidus "Marie Simon"



Rosa moschata Autumnalis



Clematis Jackmanii Rosemoor?
growing through *Prunus fastigiata*



Dam provides water feature



Rosa 'Narrow Water'



Ulmus glabra
"Camperdownii" Standard,
Camperdown elm or
weeping Wych elm.

I sent Dar a few questions about her gardening experiences (Maria)

Do you have a favourite rose?

Of course, but it can be a different one every time I go out into the garden! There are quite a number of Species roses, some of which are quite unusual and have interesting features. Noisettes such as Lamarque, Narrow Water, Mme Alfred Carriere provide colour over a long period.

When and how much do you prune the roses?

Whenever I'm passing one that needs some attention and have the secateurs in hand and a spare moment. Most roses in the garden are heritage or old fashioned roses that don't require heaps of attention and I can get away with pruning lightly and only every few years.

I notice you have a white garden and a yellow garden - is this intentional?

Yes

You also have a large number of silver grey plants for contrast. Can you recommend some varieties?

Many silver and grey plants are quite drought tolerant. *Artemisia arborescens*, *A. Valerie Finnis* *Buddleja crispa*, some *Eremophilas* and *Helichrysum petiolare* are examples.

Who prunes the hedges and shrubs and what tool do you use?

A contractor prunes the long, tall *Prunus* and *Eleagnus* hedges; I do the easy ones.

Was the pond/dam there or did you have it dug out? How deep is it? Do you have water birds visiting?

We had it dug graduating to 1.8-2m at its deepest.
Egrets, wood ducks, black ducks, grebes spoon bills, and ibis visit.

What kind of mulch do you use?

Lucerne hay and homemade compost are my preferred, but I use whatever I can get my hands on, especially during the drought.

Any other comments about your garden?

Now that I have retired I hope, particularly, to get to pruning many of the shrubs that would have benefitted from greater attention over the past 10 years while I have worked full time in a busy job.



Rosa Lamarque (*Rosa x noisettiana* cv.)

This is an old style rose belongs to the Tea-Noisette rose group. It was first released in 1830 and named in honour of General Lamarque (a name familiar to all fans of *Les Miserables*).

It is a vigorous climber with the most wonderfully fragrant flowers throughout the season. The flowers are quite large and double in form. The petals are white with a yellow tinge at the base. As will all roses these grow best in sunny positions with plenty of air circulating around them. Always give sufficient space between the plants, and ensure the area is well drained with a sunny aspect.

Image: monticelloshop.org

Lynne Walker writes:

Great result yesterday thanks to Dar, Wendy, Mary, Marilyn, Lu and my No 1 Nephew who lobbed in from NZ (believe it or not he is a professional gardener). One bed of Gallicas tamed plus ALL the catmint – one more bed of Gallicas to do – see pics and quite a bit of spot weeding.



Gallicas to be pruned



All done!

Gallica Roses

Gallica roses are the most ancient of the cultivated roses. Compact, upright, with thickening growth, the fragrant flowers range from pink through to maroon-red, with some striped variations. Can often be found flowering in spring along roadsides or in old cemeteries.

***Rosa gallica* 'Georges Vibert'**

'Georges Vibert' was introduced in 1853. It was named for the grandson of rose breeder Jean-Pierre Vibert. The flowers are full and lush, striped dark pink and white and has a strong scent. Gallicas are hardy, thickly foliated, smallish in scale, typically flowering in ranges of pinks to deep wines, and if grown on their own root will sucker freely (which might be great if you're looking for a hedge.) Gallicas have been around for a long time. Probably one of the most famous Gallicas is *Rosa officinalis*, or 'Apothecary's Rose', the "Red Rose of Lancaster" of the War of the Roses or its sport '*Rosa Mundi*,' sometimes referred to as, 'Fair Rosamund' after Henry II's mistress. 'Georges Vibert' has all of the best qualities of a Gallica: incredibly hardy and robust it's shrugged off black spot, powdery mildew, spider mite, Japanese beetle and sawfly larvae.

Australian Garden History Society
Northern NSW Branch
EVENTS CALENDAR 2023



JANUARY

No meeting or events during January



FEBRUARY

Sunday 5th - Heritage Rose Garden working bee
Saturday 25th – Welcome to 2023 - dinner at Armidale City Bowling Club
Monday 27th – Guyra Garden Club visit to Heritage Rose Garden



MARCH

Saturday 4th - Heritage Rose Garden working bee
Sunday 26th – General Meeting and dinner



APRIL

Sunday 2nd - Heritage Rose Garden working bee
Friday 14th or 21st – Autumn Soiree in Heritage Rose Garden
Sunday 30th - visit to Longford followed by lunch at Bendemeer Hotel



MAY

Saturday 6th - Heritage Rose Garden working bee
Sunday 28th – General Meeting and dinner



JUNE

Sunday 4th - Heritage Rose Garden working bee
End of June – weekend visit to Coffs Harbour gardens



JULY

Saturday 1st - Heritage Rose Garden working bee
Sunday 30th - General Meeting and dinner



AUGUST

Sunday 6th - Heritage Rose Garden working bee
Sunday 27th - General Meeting and dinner



SEPTEMBER

Saturday 2nd - Heritage Rose Garden working bee
Friday 29th – Sunday 1st October – AGHS Annual Conference – Ipswich Qld



OCTOBER

Sunday 1st - Heritage Rose Garden working bee
End of October – visit to Peony farm and Uralla gardens



NOVEMBER

Saturday 4th - Heritage Rose Garden working bee
Saturday 18th & Sunday 19th New England Garden Festival
End of November – Christmas event



DECEMBER

Sunday 3rd - Heritage Rose Garden working bee
No meeting or event at end of December

Minutes of AGHS NNSW branch meeting on 27 November 22, Armidale 4pm.

Chaired by President Helen Oates,
10 attendees in all.
See attendance list, also for apologies.

Minutes of Last Meeting

Treasurer Tom O'Connor sought clarification about the motion to release the preserved \$5,000 (of about \$10,000 of cash holdings, grant aside) back into general use funds. Background provided. The Minutes were unanimously accepted.
Moved Liz Chappell, Seconded Lexia Nielsen Carried

Business Arising

Envisaged Soiree at the Heritage Rose Garden for 'thank you', publicity and then fundraising purposes has been postponed to Autumn 2023.
Open Garden on 3-4 December is proceeding.

Treasurer Report –Tom O'Connor

Modest income received from Regional Aust Bank CCP, and Glen Innes Art Gallery.

Expenditure \$100 to AGHS National for Audit, \$600 for printing Rose books and OG brochures.

A Square reader has been acquired to enable credit card payments at the open garden.

Operating account funds \$21,846.47.
HRIA account \$2,510.

Moved by Tom O'Connor that \$5,000 be placed in a rolling 3-month Term Deposit.
Seconded Elton Squires. Carried.

The Treasurer will be preparing an AGHSNNSW budget for financial year 2023-2024 based on understanding of patterns of income and expenditure.

Correspondence –nil**Reports**

Maria Hitchcock
The next Newsletter (in February) will concentrate on Open Garden stories and pictures.

Helen Oates and Maria Hitchcock
It appears likely that a film crew will be arriving at the Heritage Rose Garden second week of December. This was discussed, with members concerned that an AGHS expert be on site at the time to guide the TV crew and answer questions and provide background on the intent of the HRG and AGHS efforts.

Helen Oates on the MOU with the National Trust of Australia in relation to all aspects of the Heritage Rose Garden. Negotiation of a new MOU is high priority and should move forward from Wed 30 November meeting with NTA at Saumarez (Helen O, Lynne Walker attending).
Helen and Lynne are doing the first round of MOU redrafting aiming for a more balanced and workable MOU as soon as possible.

Bill Oates advised that UNE is considering reopening the Heritage Centre.

Events

Attendees discussed the value of having a Branch Events Calendar for 2023 to assist personal planning and activity co-ordination by Committee and members. Difficulties of working up activities and a calendar in recent years were recognised. It was also noted that now as the Northern NSW Branch, fundraising activity planning needs to look further afield.

It was moved by Tom O'Connor, seconded Sandra Welsman, and agreed by attendees, that: the Branch Committee meet early in 2023 (target January) to discuss a tentative calendar and arrangements so far prepared by the Events Organisers, with a view to discussion at the February Branch meeting.

Helen O will discuss development of a calendar with Events Coordinators prior to calling a Committee meeting.

Raffle in hand for Open Garden 3-4 December.

New HRG Guides have been printed and handed to Sally-Anne at Saumarez Homestead for sale at \$5 each.

Advocacy

Bill Oates reported that UNE appears to be stepping towards re-establishing the Boolloomibah Rose Garden from the 1960s.

Action agreed: Branch Chair to write to UNE to support this plan and to offer a partnership to help bring it to fruition.

However, a number of marquees have been set up on the Boolloomibah lawn and appear fixed. Bill Oates will take this up with the UNE Landscape Committee with reference to impact on the lawns and heritage precinct.

National Management Committee

Lynne Walker is the new Chair and Helen Oates the new Secretary. First meeting (on future directions) will be on 5 December by zoom.

Moved by Liz Chappell, seconded Lexie Nielsen, and agreed by attendees, that: this Branch congratulates Lynne and Helen on their appointments to the AGHS National Committee.

Next Meeting

To be end of February 2023, with anticipation of a Branch Committee meeting in January. The next Newsletter then, would be mid-February.

Meeting closed 5.35pm.