

TOPIC : “HISTORY OF PATTEMORE HOUSE AND GARDEN”

GUEST SPEAKERS : PENNY EDWARDS & SUE McCLEARY

MALENY GARDEN CLUB MEETING : 25 OCTOBER, 2016 IN THE GARDEN AT PATTEMORE HOUSE

The house, originally known as ‘Fairview’, dates from 1907. It was built on 154 acres as a home for JR (John Robert) and Emily Pattemore, by their four sons using White Beech which was cut, sawn and dressed on the farm. The family of farmers and butchers moved to Maleny from Central Tilba, NSW where their three daughters had married and remained. The property, bounded by Obi Obi Creek and Porter’s Lane, was established as a dairy farm. Albert Pattemore is currently a well known butcher in Brisbane.

Original JRP branding irons were discovered and now displayed. JRP introduced the first Friesian cows to the district and his prize bull was called Phoebe.

The Howard and Armstrong families owned the property through the 70’s to the 90’s. In 1995 Council purchased the property for effluent disposal. In 2003 the property, House and 5 acres, was listed on the Queensland Heritage Register. It is the only one listed in Maleny.

Two Persimmon trees planted by the Pattemores survive as does a Privet Hedge, now kept trimmed so it doesn’t seed. An Ochna shrub was also part of the original planting. Privet, Chinese Elm, Ochna (Mickey Mouse Plant) now listed as weeds were embraced by early settlers. A picket fence surrounded the garden packed with citrus and vegetables. There was also a large rose garden. The Frangipani tree in recent winter mode was thought to be dead by a Council contractor who cut it out. Avocado, Macadamia and Mulberry trees were planted too along with two Bunya trees which are now gone. White Beech was next in value to Cedar.

Friends of Pattemore House was formed in 2008 and now has a lease agreement with Council but permission is needed to undertake any work. Applied for funds to rebuild the picket fence and archway entrance. Reconstruction of the Pergola is the next project. A plan has been devised and approved including a list of all plants in the garden over the years. Guidelines apply regarding the type and depth of mulch which can be used. Hoop Pine mulch is recommended on the list. After fence is completed work will start on the front garden. Can only use an old variety of Azelea to replant.

The Garden Plan was accepted by Council and approved by the Environment Protection Department so approval does not have to be sought for each garden.

Friends of Pattemore House seek the help of MGC Members to re-establish gardens – perhaps adopt a garden or join working bees. Spraying and weeding are ongoing activities.

Next Working Bee is on November 12 – all welcome.

Crucifix Orchids and Shasta Daisies will be needed for the garden refurbishment program.

Pattemore House is open to the public on the last Saturday of each month from 1 PM to 4 PM. Afternoon Tea is available. CONTACT : SECRETARY – GAIL DENVER <gail@mavmuse.com>