

STRATHFIELDSAYE ESTATE – Newsletter July 2020

Strath monthly (or thereabouts) Update. Well the weather has definitely turned colder, and this is not helping with regards to getting some of the work completed. There has not been much pasture growth either as it is too cold, apart from anything else. Strath has had a total of 20.8 mm of rain for May and 22.3 mm of rain for June. July is looking more promising.

Photo on the right was taken from the back of the Shearing Shed on the 25th of June.



1. West Wing Bathroom – is open for business! The tiling and wall painting is complete. The ceiling could still do with a new coat of paint, but I don't have the right colour at the moment, and it is not the most urgent painting required on the property. It will be added to the list and get done at some point. Maybe when the new plaster in the farm hands ceiling is painted?

2. Fencing Repairs – Paul is continuing to work on the fencing, the kangaroos are not helping in this regard and

neither are the few cattle on the property. There has been a small problem lately where the cattle (totalling 8 including the two bulls) decided that they liked hanging out on the driveway. They have been relocated now back to the Dairy paddock below the managers house. Hopefully they won't cause any more problems with the fence under the Cyprus trees.

3. Driveway Improvements – Danny was able to deliver the road base for the driveway and Paul helped spread it. More work has been done to help improve the drainage, as the weather has not been helping here. Some areas are definitely better but some still need more work done. We will probably need more gravel to complete the job.

4. The Daly's visit – Both Peter Snr and Peter Jnr were able to visit Strath in mid-June. We took the opportunity to discuss the works which need to be completed and how this would all be managed. The visit allowed the trustees to see some of the work which has been carried out in recent months and to gauge the level of urgency of some of the proposed projects.

5. Weeds in the Garden and Paths – One of the discussions had during the Peters' visit were in regards to the prolific weed growth in the gardens and path ways around Strath. The discussion included the methods which had currently been tried to manage the issue. It was proposed that we ask Pam to investigate having the Homestead removed from the Organic Certification. This would allow us a wider range of products to be used to manage the weeds and maintain the paths. Pam was able to achieve this in a very short time and Paul and Danny promptly dealt with the situation. They have sprayed all the paths around the homestead including the gravel drive along the front of the homestead which also leads down to the lake. It is a huge amount of work and the results are beginning to be seen



with weeds dying off. The effects are much slower this time of year, but the treatment is certainly working.

6. Building Restoration – Brad Baade from Baade Builders has completed the work on the west wall of the maid's cottage and the south wall of the west wing of the homestead. The two man team were onsite for a total of 4 days and the results are fantastic. The guys pre-painted all the timber they put in place to ensure the raw ends of the timber were sealed prior to being nailed in place; this should give the timbers a longer life. I have now filled all the nail holes and completed one coat of paint. The paint is rather slow to dry at the moment with the temperatures we are having, but I will get more paint on those new areas very soon.

1. Before

2. In progress

3. Finished



MAIDS COTTAGE WEST WALL

WEST WING SOUTH WALL

1. Before

2. In progress

3. Finished



7. Letterbox – The last couple of times the mail has been collected it has been soaking wet. The roof of the mail box has rusted away and is not doing the job anymore. Rich & found a piece of iron and have given the letterbox a new top. It might not be very pretty but at least the mail should stay dry now, however, it might need some new numbers and a touch of paint! Gotta love the shadow puppet.



8. Plaster Work – we have received a quote from a local plasterer who is able to restore the walls in the blue room of the homestead. The paper required for this is onsite already and hopefully we will get an exemption from Heritage Victoria so the



work can be carried out very soon. These pictures give an idea of some of the repairs required in this room.

10. Water – although there hasn't been a high level of rain fall over the past two months, walking down to the Perry River and along the track to the mouth of the river was not possible. The water laying in the tracks was very deep and the whole area was quite boggy.



11. New Sign – It appears the council did keep their promise and have erected a new sign at the main gate on Strathfieldsaye road. "No Camping Shooting".

