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height of the 1st floor verandah roof, so the age of the tree can now be estimated to about 120 to 130 years old. Derek's measurements calculate the tree to be 5.4 meters (212 inches) around the trunk, 18 meters (59 feet) in height and 17 meters (55 feet) in the crown.

In Australia the Ginkgo Biloba tree is commonly called the Maidenhair Tree for the resemblance of the leaves to those of the Maidenhair Fern. It is a deciduous tree that originated in the modern era from Asia in the region of China, Japan and Korea where it is claimed there are some trees up to 4,000 years old. The tree has an ancient heritage and is sometimes referred to as a 'living fossil' as it has remained largely unchanged in fossilised findings from the Permian period which was 270 million years ago and before the dinosaurs appeared in the Jurassic period. It is now grown widely around the world but how it came to be in the garden at Saumarez will remain a mystery. There is also another, but much younger, Ginkgo tree in Brown Street near the corner of Marsh Street, outside the BUPA aged care facility.

Derek is always happy to hear from people who know of a large tree which might be included in the Big Trees Register. He can be contacted by e-mail at derek@nrbtrees.com.au or by telephone on 99480618. Check out the register at www.nationalregisterofbigtrees.com.au.

Coordinator Peter Wise and volunteer Werner Schwarz under the canopy of the tallest recorded Ginkgo Tree at the National Trust property Saumarez Homestead.

Saumarez Ginkgo record

The National Trust (NSW) property Saumarez Homestead has recently hit the record books. A surprise visit from Derek McIntosh to the property's manager Drew Taylor has resulted in one of the homestead's garden trees being listed on The National Register of Big Trees. A female Ginkgo Biloba tree in the garden has been listed as the largest of its kind in Australia.

Derek had come to New England to inspect the old cork

tree in Wood Street, Tenterfield, which was subsequently added to the register. He was told about the tree at Saumarez by a local arborist and came to the property to see it for himself. Derek uses laser equipment to accurately measure a tree's girth at the trunk, height, and size of the crown which is the 'leafy' part of the tree. He is constantly adding to the Big Tree Register with information from local people with local knowledge which is passed on to him by word-

of-mouth such as the 'discovery' of the Ginkgo tree at Saumarez.

No-one knows for sure when the Ginkgo tree was planted so its age could not be recorded on the Register. It is firmly believed by the White family and the historians at Saumarez that Mr FJ White and his wife Margaret began planting the garden at Saumarez shortly after their marriage in 1881 with the intention of building a new house within it as soon as they could. It is believed that the Ginkgo

was one of those early plantings but if not, then it was certainly planted in the major structuring of the garden which was completed by 1890. In the Saumarez White family photograph collection there is a photograph of the vegetable garden taken in 1909 which shows the house and the eastern side garden in the background. It shows an established, well-shaped tree which does not quite reach the

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