

A lush garden scene featuring a large bush of roses. The roses are in various stages of bloom, with many fully open flowers in shades of light pink and pale yellow. Some buds are still closed. The foliage is a vibrant green. In the background, a portion of a house with a red roof and white walls is visible, along with some trees and a palm tree. The overall atmosphere is bright and natural.

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**Above, Mme Grégoire Staechelin – photo Glennis Clark – see article page 10
Below, Arrangement of Athena – photo Hillary Merrifield – see article page 26**





Above, *R. banksiae lutea* growing through Italian cypresses – photo Sue Zwar – see article page 37

Below, Crépuscule at the top of the drive – photo Jenny Smith – see article page 22



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FRONT COVER: **Comtesse de Labarthe** at Glennis Clark’s (Spring 2010), see article page 10 – photo Glennis

BACK COVER: Arbour with **Sombreuil** and **Pierre de Ronsard** at “Idyllwilde”, see article page 22 – photo Jenny Smith.

Photos are provided by the authors unless otherwise specified.

A Dry Pot-Pourri

To a basin of dried, scented roses, add a handful of dried knotted Marjoram, Lemon Thyme, Rosemary, Lavender flowers all well dried, the rind of one Lemon and one Orange dried to powder, six dried Bay leaves, half an ounce of bruised Cloves and a teaspoon of Allspice. Mix well together and stir occasionally – Recipe dated 1895.

Feature Breeder

Patrick Grant – An Early Australian Rose Breeder

The Editor



One of the earliest breeders of roses in Australia, Patrick Grant, made a name for himself by the introduction of **Golden Dawn**, a rose which achieved international acclaim and in his book *Roses* (Dent 1978, page 86), Jack Harkness devotes several paragraphs to it and remembers it with great pleasure.

He writes: "Patrick Grant...set an example to all rose breeders by his modest total of three introductions, of which two were great successes; it is not necessary to be the most senior of rosarians to remember with pleasure **Golden Dawn** (HT, 1929) and **Salmon Spray** (F, pb, 1923 bred from 'Orléans Rose, Clg' x 'Midnight Sun'). His third was **Midnight Sun** (HT, dr, 1921 bred

from 'Star of Queensland' x 'Red-Letter Day'), quite unfamiliar to me, indeed I ask myself whatever colour could it be? Black as night or yellow as sun? Or a combination of both like a poached egg on burnt toast? The answer turns out to be dark crimson..."

Dr. Horace McFarland, once president of the American Rose Society, was moved to write on the death of Patrick Grant in 1945: "Patrick Grant, known to us principally because he was the originator of 'Golden Dawn', an admirable rose, and also much less conspicuously of 'Salmon Spray' has passed on. He had to



raise 9000 seedlings to the blooming stage before he got 'Golden Dawn'. I found 'Salmon Spray' a thorough delight at Breeze Hill where it was always the first to bloom and also the last on a sturdy and effective plant."

Patrick Grant was born in Aberdeen, Scotland in 1860. The son of a stonemason and himself trained as a wheelwright, he migrated to NSW in 1885 where he worked as a building contractor for 20 years at Macksville. He was also a farmer, the originator of the Glen Grant line of Ayrshire cattle and a president of the Rose Society of NSW (1929-1931). During the latter time he lived at Chatswood, most likely in retirement from 1927.



You are invited to a special event

A RICH HERITAGE

Art and Roses at "The Cedars" Hahndorf

Sunday 8th November 2015 from 10am to 5pm

Reflecting the passion of Hans Heysen and his family for the growing, arranging and painting of heritage roses

In collaboration with Heritage Roses in Australia



ENTRY \$20, Children under 15 FREE

Entry to the historic family home and studios of both Hans and Nora Heysen
Wander through the artist's garden and property in its full spring glory
View Heysen paintings recreated as floral arrangements
Wide range of heritage roses on display
Music in the garden by Tamarisque

PLUS TALKS THROUGHOUT THE DAY BY THESE CELEBRATED SPEAKERS

- *Allan Campbell* on Heysen's gardening skills and favourite roses
- *David Ruston* on Heysen's flower arrangements
- *Walter Duncan* on his connection with the Heysen family and supplying roses for their artwork
- *Trevor Nottle* on companion planting for roses
- *George Thompson* on breeding new roses

Sumptuous morning and afternoon tea available with delicacies from Lady Heysen's celebrated recipes
Be tempted by a market table brimming with homemade preserves, cakes, biscuits, sauces and fresh produce
Opportunity to purchase plants and special blooms featured in "The Cedars" garden



"The Cedars" Heysen Road | Hahndorf SA 5245 | (08) 8388 7277 | www.hansheysen.com.au

The Editor

In *Modern Roses* **Golden Dawn** is described as a Hybrid Tea, medium yellow, bred by Grant 1929 from **Élégante** x **Ethel Somerset**; bud yellow flushed pink; flowers well-formed (editor's note: whatever that means!), 45 petals, intense fragrance; low, spreading growth.

The name was a bit fanciful, as it is not really "golden", but a medium to pale yellow that fades. That does not necessarily mean it cannot have Pernetiana "blood" in its breeding. **Peace** (HT) does and it is in the same colour range. The parents of the yellow mother, 'Élégante', came from Pernet-Ducher and post-dates **Soleil d'Or**, so its real ancestry is in question; however I would think there is a reasonable chance, with the same breeder (Pernet-Ducher), that it does emanate from that source.

Jack Harkness wrote in his 1978 book *Roses*: "**Golden Dawn** is an interesting



yellow Hybrid Tea, one of the most reliable of that colour and with handsome and unusual leaves. I have always felt there was something very interesting for the breeder here, but I got no reward for the work I put into it. The parentage tells us very little...for those two (parents) came from

Pernet-Ducher and Alexander Dickson without a hint of their antecedents. The soft yellow flowers are large and tend to look at their best when other Hybrid Teas are taking a rest, particularly in the autumn. By the time they are wide open, one usually notices a 'split'; in other words petals are not folded around the centre in a perfect cone, but tucked back on themselves. When **Peace** became available, few people could see the reason to keep 'Golden Dawn', but it is still a good rose."



It was introduced by Hazlewood Bros., Epping, NSW. Unlike many Australian bred roses, this one migrated successfully around the world, probably when quarantine regulations were more relaxed. Sports of it were registered in Australia, New

Zealand, USA and England.

If, in the process of division, any change occurs in a chromosome, this will be passed on, after division, into each of the daughter cells. In this way it is possible for changes in morphology (different flower colour or form, different leaf shape, different growth habit) or physiology (recurrent instead of once-flowering, change in the degree of hardiness, etc.) to take place which in one or more ways differs from the original cultivar. Such a deviation is called a “mutation”; in the horticultural world the English term “sport” is commonly used.

There were three yellow climbing sports and seven pink bush varieties. The climbers were registered to Le Grice (UK) in 1947, Knight (Australia) in 1937 and Armstrong (USA) in 1935. The Le Grice and Armstrong sports appear to be a deep yellow and the Knight sport is a pale yellow, similar to the bush rose colour. If they sported separately and are not clones, there is little likelihood they are in fact identical. The changes in a mutation are superficial and would not likely be transmitted through breeding anyway.

The bush rose sports were mostly a pinkish shade and are **Mrs Violet Ewen** (HT, <1937, salmon pink), **Apricot Dawn** (HT, ab, Wyant 1938, apricot, yellow base), **Dorothy James** (HT, pb, 1939 C-P, peach pink, reverse deep rose), **East Anglia** (HT, mp, Morse 1939, aurora-pink), **Mrs Breedlove** (HT, pb, Breedlove 1947, pink, yellow base), **Pink Flamingo** (HT, pb, Kern 1958, rose pink, tinted lighter), **Pink Golden Dawn** (is that a contradiction of terms?) (HT, mp, Bostick 1938), **Queensland Beauty** (HT, pb, Alderton and Williams 1934, coppery pink).

With the various sports of ‘Golden Dawn’, it seems the climbers took after the yellow seed parent ‘Élégante’, and the bush sports took after the pink pollen

parent 'Ethel Somerset'. Some people believe the pink sports to be a similar colour, but the descriptions are quite different, although this may reflect the perception of the person providing the registration details.

It is a rose with much to recommend it, but is hard to find a source for those who do not already own it. Perhaps the best way to obtain a plant if desired is to contact one of the nurseries that specialise in Heritage Roses to see whether or not they have budwood and can create a plant for you. Remember, it may take up to 2 years, especially if a source of budwood has to be found.

Watch out for spider mites!

Spider Mites are 1/75th of an inch long (and look like a light colored speck of paprika). The first sign of damage is often yellow speckled areas on the leaves, with fine, silken webbing underneath. The leaves may appear dirty, stippled, or bronzed. (Two spotted spider mites generally attack below leaves.) Tap suspected flowers over a piece of white paper. Both European red and two-spotted spider mites are more easily viewed on this surface, and may appear as green, yellow, or red specks (about the size of ground pepper) that crawl around.

Hot, dry conditions favour mites, so be especially vigilant during summer, when these Arachnida Family members live out a complete life cycle in 7 to 10 days, quickly increasing in numbers.

Monitoring notes: In Summer (late December to early March), look for spider mites. They often appear after three days of 27 degrees or more with low humidity.

Cultural/Mechanical

Wash mites from plants with a strong spray of water. While this is not a good complete control, it can reduce pest populations dramatically. Use dormant sprays in winter.

Organic

Garlic sprays and insecticidal soap and pyrethrin. Use of beneficials (predatory mites).

Home Gardener

Speak to your local Garden Centre regarding suitable sprays.

To Prune or Not to Prune, That is the Question

There are many schools of thought on pruning...hard, light or none at all. Most “textbooks” suggest old garden roses need little pruning, except perhaps to clean out the dead and diseased material, and that it should be done after the spring flush for the once-flowering roses.

My reason for disagreeing is experience. I had a friend who had not read the textbooks and pruned as you would a Hybrid Tea or Floribunda, namely fairly hard and in winter, deadheading after blooming unless hips are required; his roses were the best I had seen compared to the minimalist approach. I also visited two gardens in New Zealand with once flowering OGR’s, Broadgreen House at Nelson and Christchurch Botanic Gardens. At the former, they were left to do their own thing and at the latter pruned hard in winter. The results were big plants with scattered small blooms borne singly on short stems on the first and large flowers in clusters on long stems on a compact plant on the second. The results spoke for themselves.



The quality and size of the blooms can only match the quality and strength of the stems on which they grow. We had to prune **Rêve d’Or** following the April storm fairly hard to reconstruct its support...now it is a compact shrub covered in blooms (in the middle of August). There was no new growth near the base of **Penelope** (HMsk), so the two old stems at the base about 3cm thick were cut back to about 30cm high and it is now branching with strong new growth from there.

My suggestion: remove dead and diseased or thin, crossed and unproductive growths before shortening back the stems being retained to AT LEAST pencil thickness, removing from half to one third, to an outward (on upright-growing plants) or upward facing eye (on spreading plants).