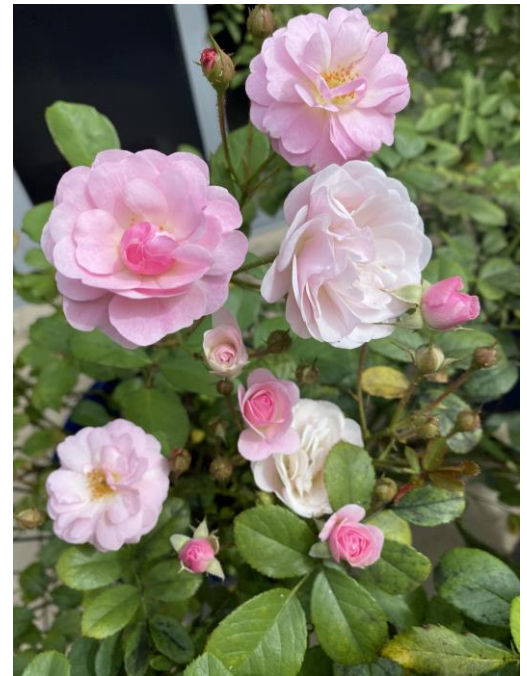




HRiA SYDNEY GROUP NEWSLETTER August 2024



Mrs R. M. Finch; polyantha; 1923

Wednesday 7th August 2024

Dear Members,

At our June Meeting we had as a speaker Stuart Read from The Garden History Society and Stuart gave a very interesting talk on Advocacy for Heritage Gardens which was very much in line with the way we look at our Heritage Rose Gardens. July was our annual pruning Working Bee at the Rumsey Garden and good progress was made by a smaller than usual group. On Monday we had our regular Working Bee at Rookwood and there were still a number of roses flowering. **Crépuscule** was blooming beautifully and a big thank you to Ken Wade who has used his handyman skills to make plant supports for us to lift the Crépuscule branches similar to what Stephan Abrahams made for Grossman House. So thank you to Stephan for the idea and thank you to Ken for manufacturing and installing.

I have received a very welcome email from our President, Bruce Bott who advised that a HRiA conference in and around Toowoomba is being coordinated for 2025 by our National Secretary, Julie Lack. Plans are still being developed and I am sure more information will be in our journal. I have put the tentative dates in under 'Up and coming Events' so please note your diaries. However, we are looking for a Journal Editor to commence with the autumn edition of 2025, this is a very important role and Margaret Furness has stepped in for the last year but someone is needed to take over next year.

Well as you are aware I have recently returned from the World Federation of Rose Societies Regional Convention & Heritage Roses Conference in Sweden. It was great to meet up with people I had not seen for a while and a real pleasure to meet with Helga Bricchet, Emeritus President of the World Federation of Rose Societies. Helga was the key note speaker at the National HRiA 2008 conference in Mt Eliza, Melbourne and prior to the conference was hosted by Madeline and Brian Ellis and taken on a special visit to Rookwood where she was guided by Barbara May and Madeline. Helga remembers well her time with Madeline and Brian and on talking about Rookwood the outstanding rose that came to her mind 16 years later was **Hugo Roller**! I was pleased to be able to tell her that we still have 2 plants in the garden and that they are both doing well. **Hugo Roller tea, Paul UK, 1907** was introduced into Australia by Yates in 1908. This rose is no longer commercially available in Australia which is a shame as it is hardy for our conditions and not a large bush so very suitable for the home garden. So far we have not been successful in propagating this rose so if anyone would like to have a go please speak up and we can supply cuttings.



The conference in Sweden was interesting with a number of the speakers focusing on the heritage perspective. The most interesting to me Lars-Ake Gustavsson who for many years was curator at the Fredriksdal Open-Air Museum in Helsingborg and he was the founder of the Swedish Rose Society. He coordinated the nationwide study of older cultivated roses. They have a national Gene Bank and 324 accessions of roses are preserved in this National Gene Bank. In this living museum at the university they have grown what we would call "found" roses which have been propagated from peoples' gardens. The idea was to consider and research roses, vegetables, fruit trees and other plants that had been in a garden prior to 1950 and where the name was unknown. The project, which has now been running for 20 years, was advertised and the garden owners approached the research team who visited the gardens and interviewed the owners with the idea to obtain as much as possible about the story of the plant / rose and how it happened to be in that garden and or family. The roses had to fit a criteria regarding their story and so the research began. When visiting this university garden we were asked to try and supply more information to help with the identity. The day we visited this Open-Air museum garden was probably the wettest and coldest of the conference but being gardeners on went the wet weather gear and away we went. I do have a copy of the research table and some photos of roses they were keen to identify so if anyone would like a copy please let me know.

The rose at the head of this newsletter is a polyantha rose bred by Ronald M. Finch in 1923 and named after his wife Mrs R.M. Finch. Ronald M. Finch was the manager at the Concord Nurseries of Arthur Yates and Co. Ltd and he said (Sunday Times Sydney) that his best rose was **Mrs R.M. Finch** which won four 1st class certificates. We are not aware what other roses he bred or if any are still commercially available. Ronald Finch was trained in England and his father was a gardener before him. Mrs R.M. Finch is still available through most rose nurseries today. However, it is often sold incorrectly labelled as the Alistair Clark rose **Australia Felix – 1919**. Australia Felix was a hybrid tea and therefore quite a different rose and possibly the true Australia Felix is now extinct, however, it could turn up in a garden or a churchyard somewhere, someday. In my garden in Eastwood I had one rose labelled **Mrs R.M. Finch** and across the other side of the lawn was a second rose labelled **Australia Felix**. I often used to look at them and think what is the difference? It was not until some years ago when I had one of our Sydney Group founding members visiting and she told me the story about the incorrect labelling and so I had two of **Mrs R.M. Finch**. This is a hardy rose and very easy to grow which continually repeat flowers in clusters like a true polyantha. I now have it growing in a pot in my courtyard and it is just as happy as it was in the ground. As you will see in the photo the cluster shows the blooms in a variety of stages from the tight bud which is a dark pink through to the various stages of the bloom as it fades to a very pale pink. It does have an unusual trait in that after the first full flush it often sheds its leaves but very quickly they grow again and it continues to bloom in flushes for about nine months. I highly recommend this rose for either a garden or a pot. However, if you are asking for it at a nursery and they say they do not stock it ask if they have **Australia Felix** and if what you are shown is a pink polyantha there is every chance you have **Mrs R.M. Finch**.

Thank you Susan for doing the following write-up on the roses Tiffany brought to our June meeting and thank you Tiffany for bringing such a lovely selection in the middle of winter. Looking forward to seeing those that can make it to Saturday's meeting and if you do have any rose blooms out please bring them along for 'show and tell'.

Very best wishes to all,
Glennis

Tiffany's roses taken to the Sydney HRIA meeting, June 2024 – Susan Wade

Tiffany Bignold 'stole the show' with her colourful collection of seven roses – just a small selection from the approximately 450 roses growing in her Glenorie garden – which she brought to our meeting on 8th



June. Members present on the day were amazed that so many roses were still in bloom at the start of this year's (colder than usual?) winter. Tiffany's seven roses are pictured on left, each identified by a numbered text box.

Photo: Susan Wade

General descriptions (in brackets) are from *HelpMeFind*. Tiffany has supplied extra information for each rose. In addition, larger photos of "Camnethan Cherry Red" and **Mrs Arthur Robert Waddell** have been sourced from Margaret Furness, the current editor of the HRIA Journal.

1. Beauty of Glenhurst (*Medium pink China, five petals [single], Dr Brian and June Morley, SA, Australia, 1979*). Obtained by Tiffany from Green E Roses, Galston in 2017, this continuously blooming large bush (2.2m H x 2.4m W) has few prickles and little or no perfume.

2. "Camnethan Cherry Red" (*Deep pink/cherry red Tea, collected by the late Susan Irvine from a farming property in Smeaton, Central Victoria*). Obtained from Penny McKinley (Pittsworth, Southern Queensland) after



she visited Penny's garden and nursery in 2017, Tiffany describes this rose as: Overall tall and narrow bush (2.2m H x 1.4m W), 'basically thornless' (no prickles), with a bright, fruity, tea perfume and always in bloom.

Tiffany has a personal love of all ROR (Rescued Old Roses), so this is definitely one of her favourites.

Photo: Margaret Furness

3. Pomponella (*Deep pink Floribunda, W. Kordes & Sons, Germany, 2005*). Obtained in 2019 from Roses and Friends, the former nurse of the late Sue Kingsford and Steve Beck at Fitzroy Falls, Tiffany describes this rose as: A large shrub with arching canes and lightly perfumed, deep cupped pink blooms in large clusters which bloom in flushes.

4. Sunlit (*Apricot blend Hybrid Tea, Alister Clark, Vic, Australia 1937*). Obtained from Green E Roses in 2023, Tiffany describes **Sunlit** as: A smaller Alister Clark soft apricot-coloured shrub which blooms in flushes throughout seasons. Good front of border rose.

5. Mrs Arthur Robert Waddell (*Orange-pink Hybrid Tea, Joseph Pernet-Ducher, France, before 1908*).



Obtained in 2019 from Roses and Friends, Tiffany describes **Mrs Arthur Robert Waddell** as: An early Hybrid Tea with deep, blousy apricot blooms. Large bush. The 'Mother' of **Albertine**. This rose was suggested by Sue Kingsford as the best option if you like **Albertine** but need something smaller and easier to manage.

Photo: Margaret Furness

6. Sonia Rykiel (*Orange-pink Shrub, Dominique Massad [a member of the Guillot family], France, 1991*). Obtained from a wholesale nursery closing down in Arcadia NSW in 2015, Tiffany describes **Sonia Rykiel** as: Soft pink with slight apricot/coral tones and a strong perfume. Weak bush that requires support.

7. Safrano (*Apricot or apricot blend Tea, Jean Frédéric Sourdeau de Beauregard, France, 1837*). One of many roses rescued in 2018 from (the late) Helen Carrol's former garden in Pymble, Tiffany describes **Safrano** as: A very large bush with soft apricot/buff blooms and a medium perfume. Always blooming.

General Business:

Rose - Note Cards:

All sold – how about that!

Booklet - Heritage Roses in Our Gardens

This booklet has been updated and I now have booklets for sale to the public. They will be available at our next few meetings and are \$10.00 each. There are some beautiful photographs and growing information of the roses we know and love so well. A complimentary copy is available to members and if you are unlikely to be attending a meeting over the next few months and you would like a booklet I am happy to post you one.

Next Newsletter Week ending: 4th October 2024

Rookwood working bees: - Usually 1st Monday of the month. At this stage we plan to work on Monday 2nd September; Monday 7th October; Monday 4th November and Monday 2nd December.

Please bring your own tools, lunch and a chair. Park in car park opposite the All Souls Chapel and the rose garden is behind car park. We do not work in the rain or in heatwaves so if you wish to come and are not sure of the weather please phone either Sally Price or Glennis Clark.

Up and coming events:

- **10th August 2:00 pm a talk and PowerPoint presentation by Susan Wade on ‘Highlights of the World Federation Rose Societies 15th International Heritage Rose Conference held in Brussels in June 2023’.**

Venue is at the home of Glennis Clark, Villa 4, 183-185 Burns Road, Turramurra.

If you are planning on coming please phone or email me (details below) by Thursday 8th August so I can organise seating and cups. Please bring a plate to share for afternoon tea. If practical I suggest you carpool.

Parking options:

1. There is limited visitor parking in our underground carpark. Entry to the carpark is via the second driveway on the left past the Bobbin Head Road lights. Drive into the driveway and just before the gate there is a keypad – press number 4 and I will remotely let you in. There are 2 **Visitor** spaces in front of you and 1 behind. If no spaces are available you will need to turn around and go back onto Burns Road. If you obtain a space you can come up to ground level via the lift which is half way along on your right. My courtyard gate (no 4) is adjacent to the lift.
 2. There may be 2 spaces in Burns road just past the bus stop. If you park here walk back to the **pedestrian gate**, press 4 on the keypad and I will let you in.
 3. If you turn left into Burns Road from Bobbin Head Road take the first street to the left (The Chase) then hard left into Nambucca – there is likely to be plenty of parking in Nambucca. From Nambucca it is an easy 5-10 minute walk back around to the **pedestrian gate** entry where you can press No 4 on the keypad and I will let you in.
- **Saturday 14th September**
The plan is to visit Macarthur Park Camden rose gardens both modern and heritage. We are still researching and details will be sent out by a separate email by the 6th September.
 - **Saturday 12th October**
Visit to Tracey Fleischner’s garden in Dural.
Details to be in the October newsletter.
 - **Wednesday 30th October 2024 from 9:30 am.**
We will be hosting a visit to Rookwood by the NSW Rose Society’s Regional Groups.
The day will involve Barbara’s Garden, two talks in The All Souls Chapel – the Rookwood historian Mark Bundy on the history of Rookwood and Glennis on the story of Barbara’s Garden. We will finish with a walking tour of the old Anglican section where roses are still growing on graves. Final details will be in the October newsletter.

- Heritage Roses NZ National Conference at Cromwell 28th November to 1 Dec 2024 plus pre and post tours. Website www.heritageroses.org.nz/conference .
- World Federation of Rose Societies 20th World Rose Convention 18-24th May 2025 Fukuyama, Japan. Registration open.
- Heritage Roses in Australia Inc. Conference planned to be in Toowoomba with expected dates to be 17-19 October 2025 with post conference to be 20 and 21st October 2025. Details will probably be in the next journal but note your diaries.

| HRIA Sydney Group Committee for 2024 | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
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HRIA Website and Facebook: www.heritage.roses.org.au www.facebook.com/www.heritage.roses.org.au

Specialist nurseries selling Heritage Roses:

- Green E Roses – 400 Galston Road, Galston NSW 2159 – Klaus, Brigitte, Stephen and Jaqui Eckardt. Website: www.greeneroses.com.au Phone 02 9653 1745 Email info@greeneroses.com.au