



HRIA SYDNEY GROUP NEWSLETTER October 2024



Friday 4th October 2024

Lady Hillingdon, tea, 1910

Dear Members,

Welcome to spring and our roses are blooming and also welcome to new members Heather Neilson from Ermington and Mary and Euan Leckie from Tamworth. The rose at the head of this newsletter, **Lady Hillingdon**, is the rose responsible for our member, Tiffany Bignold, starting out on her heritage rose journey and it was also that great rosarian, David Ruston's favourite rose. Thank you Susan Wade for doing the write-up on the roses Roslyn Bignold brought to our August meeting and thank you Roslyn Bignold for bringing such a lovely selection from Tiffany's garden. At our August meeting Susan Wade gave a very interesting PowerPoint presentation on the highlights from the World Federation Rose Societies 15th International Heritage Rose Conference held in Belgium 2023 and it was lovely to welcome Jenny Swan, Illawarra and Southern Highlands group to our meeting. Our September meeting, as per my email of 6th September, was changed and a small group of us had a lovely visit to the rose garden in the Sydney Royal Botanic Garden. The changes planned for this garden are exciting and we look forward to continuing communications with Tristan O'Hara who is the horticulturist responsible for the rose garden and its expansion and Jarryd Kelly the Curator Manager of the Sydney Royal Botanic Garden. We will have further updates on this project as it develops.

Our Rookwood roses in Barabara's Garden are coming into their peak blooming period and we are very pleased that The Rose Society NSW are paying us a visit on Wednesday 30th October. Five NSW regional groups have been invited but we are not sure at this stage how many will be attending. The date has been picked being the peak flowering time for the remontant and single flowering varieties and also to avoid the weekends as at this time of the year the regional rose groups have their shows. It would be lovely if we could have as many members as possible there to help show our visitors around. Full details are on page 7.

You are probably aware of the Heritage Roses website. The web master is in the process of building a page for each of the HRiA regions and this regional page will have information about the region eg what it does, events, articles and newsletters via links. We will control the content and be able to add information to the page. Our page is in the process of being built and I have provided information 'about' our group, the August newsletter (minus personal details) and an article by Lillian Barry. I will let you know when I have more information and when the page is up and running. The article by Lillian Barry is the one she wrote for this newsletter and a big thank you to Lillian for this very interesting article which tells a lovely story.

Our meeting on Saturday 12th October will all be about Tracey's roses and I am sure they will be wonderful. She and her husband Les have put a lot of work into this spectacular garden and I believe Les has been out counting the buds and letting Tracey know how many roses will be in bloom for our visit.

Very best wishes to all,
Glennis

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

Once again, Tiffany Bignold's roses 'stole the show'. Her mother Ros brought five of Tiffany's roses to our meeting on 10th August, as Tiffany was working with Jason in the building of their new house.

General descriptions (*in brackets*) of each of the roses are from *HelpMeFind*. None of these five roses could be described as 'highly fragrant', though **Lady Hillingdon** did have a detectable Tea fragrance.

Tiffany and Ros have given extra information about each rose and Ros has supplied beautiful photos of most of the roses – captured in Tiffany's garden during their peak flowering season.

- **Lady Hillingdon** (*Yellow blend Tea. Fruity Tea fragrance. Bred in 1910 by Lowe & Shawyer, UK.*)

This was her first Rescued Old Rose (ROR), so 'The Lady' is indeed very special to Tiffany. Quoting from Angela Morgan's item about Tiffany's rose garden in the November 2020 Sydney HRIA Newsletter:

*Tiffany discovered her first rose in 2015 when she drove past a demolition site in Box Hill. All that was left of an old house was a chimney stack, rising from the rubble. Twined around that stack was a glowing golden rose. Intrigued, Tiffany drove in. 'Take what you like, luv.' That golden rose was **Lady Hillingdon***

*Pictured: **Lady Hillingdon** (in another garden)*



Photo: Susan Wade

- **Marie van Houtte** (*White blend Tea; cream, pink shading, pink edges, buff undertones. Moderate fragrance. Bred in 1871 by Claude Ducher, France.*)



Photo: Ros Bignold

Recommended by Klaus Eckart, owner of Green E Roses, Galston, **Marie van Houtte** has certainly lived up to Klaus' recommendation. On the day before our August meeting, this bush had 40 blooms – in late winter! Described by Ros as 'a fantastic rose which flowers year-round'.

- **Peace** ('Peace 1902') (*Discovered in 1902 by G. W. Piper, UK. Light yellow Tea. Moderate fragrance. Sport of **G. Nabonnand** [Tea, Gilbert Nabonnand 1888, France].*)

Tiffany obtained her **Peace** rose from Mistydowns Nursery,* Creswick (Central Victoria) in about 2016. The **Peace** flower brought to our meeting appeared white, but at other times of the year the flowers are pale pink – as shown in the photo. Despite its unhealthy appearance and spindly growth habit, Tiffany's **Peace** bush does produce some beautiful blooms.

* Following the death in 2017 of the owner, Judy Morrison, Mistydowns closed down. So this wonderful source of Heritage Roses is no longer in existence. *Susan.*

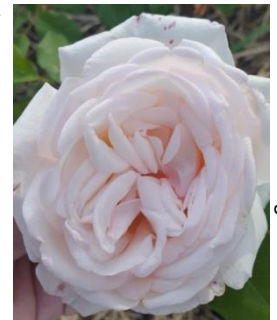


Photo: Ros Bignold

- **Mons Tillier** (*Bred in 1891 by Jean-Alexandre Bernaix (France). Carmine-red, Tea. Moderate fragrance.*)



Photo: Ros Bignold

This is another ROR, rescued by Tiffany from Helen's garden.† Despite the age of this bush, Ros reports that it still looks good and produces many beautiful blooms – like those shown in her photo.

† Quoting Angela's item about Tiffany's rose garden: *In August 2018 several members of the Sydney HRIA group 'rescued' roses from the former Pymble garden of the late Helen Carroll (d. Feb. 2020), a cherished member of the Sydney HRIA group. Tiffany and Ros ended up with 37 of which 34 survived.*

- "Parks' Yellow Tea-scented China (in commerce as)" (*Cream. 48 to 60 petals. Average diameter 10cm.*) (*The rose in commerce as **Parks' Yellow Tea-scented China** is almost surely **not** the original. It is likely that the original was lost over 100 years ago. The pale sulphur yellow original was a small shrub that re-bloomed and set hips. A probable candidate for the rose in commerce is **Fée Opale**, a light yellow Noisette from Bruant, 1899.)‡*

The bloom (*pictured*) brought to the meeting was on a long cane; the bush has 1.5m canes, growing horizontally. Ros predicts that it will be covered in blooms in spring. This rose was obtained by Tiffany from either Mistydowns or Reliable Roses (Silvan, Victoria) in about 2016.



Photo: Susan Wade

‡ Also refer to **Letters to the Editor** (from Margaret Furness and Billy West) on pp. 49-50 of the Winter 2023 HRIA Journal. *Susan.*

RELOCATING AND REINVENTING A GARDEN LILLIAN BARRY, HUNTER VALLEY NSW

Establishing a large country garden was always on my 'wish list', so when we finally made the hinterland of Noosa Qld our home, creating a garden was a priority. As with most garden making, there were numerous unseen obstacles, not the least of which was drought and limited water, surprising to us given the area's high annual rainfall. We hadn't realised our property was in a 'rain shadow'. To compensate, we made the dam larger with the hope that this would help water 5 acres of gardens. The dam subsequently ran dry during prolonged drought.

The sub-tropical climate and vagaries of drought, and occasionally flood, was a challenging climate in which to grow some of the usual modern Hybrid Teas on offer through local nurseries and chain stores. After some research, I discovered and came to love the Heritage Teas which mostly thrived in this climate. Old favourites, like **Safrano**, **Comtesse de Labarthe** and **Mrs B R Cant** (below) took the wet and dry in their stride. These and many of the other Teas like Safrano's offspring, **Isabella Sprunt**, grew into sizeable shrubs that bloomed almost continuously.



The garden continued to expand, but there was something missing. With fond childhood memories of my own grandfather's garden, I wanted to pass on a similar legacy to our grandchildren. But the challenges of distance and eventually border closures and lock-down highlighted how much we missed our expanding family.

So the decision was made to move to the Hunter Valley region in NSW, to be closer to family and for more regular visits with grandchildren.

A move from 5 acres to half an acre meant we had to leave most of our collection of Heritage Tea roses behind; the likes of Safrano (below) were far too large to move. I took cuttings, but as my strike rate was usually poor in this sub-tropical climate, I didn't have a lot of faith in my hurried process.



Fortunately, local members of HRiA (Brisbane) came to my rescue, visiting the garden and taking numerous cuttings to grow on in their own gardens. It's lovely to know that some of the roses I'd collected over the years continue to be cared for by knowledgeable rose lovers.

I looked forward to the prospect of creating a new, although smaller garden, in a climate known for its vineyards and where roses also flourished. In the weeks before moving, I was able to pot up a few of our rarer Heritage roses to make the move with us. Some of these old roses had struggled to thrive in a sub-tropical climate and so were not too large to dig up and relocate.

One of these is Tea rose, **Carlsruhe Cemetery Maria Bruhne** (see below), a renamed old rose (ROR) found on the graveside of her name-sake.

Said to be the original **Sombreuil** rose, famous for its connection to the French Revolution, she is a prized rose in my collection of Teas. I was nervous about relocating her but could not risk just taking cuttings and hoping for the best. I've since tried to take cuttings unsuccessfully, so I'm pleased we potted her up and moved her to our new garden. She is doing much better here in our Hunter Valley garden, recovering after her little adventure on the removalist truck!



Another of the Tea roses we brought with us is **Sylvia Hannah**. She was given to me by a member of the Brisbane HRiA. She also came with us to our new garden and is thriving, growing rapidly in size and blooming consistently with sweetly tea-scented, bright pink blooms. I love her so much that I have taken more cuttings so that I can place her around the garden. Her long stems make great cut flowers for bouquets and arrangements.

And what flower arranger could have a Heritage rose garden without the classically shaped, lemon Tea rose, **Alexander Hill Gray** (below). This handsome chap recovered quickly after being dug up, potted and moving with us to NSW. I am hoping to plant Tea rose **Perle des Jardins** nearby to keep him company. This is one of the treasures I left behind, not because it was too large to move but there's a limit to how many roses you can move with.

A classic, lemon bloom of **Alexander Hill Gray**.



Other roses that we brought with us included Moss roses, **Souper et Notting** and **Alfred de Dalmas**. They are slightly remontant, tough roses, relocating well despite struggling in our previous garden.

I have since added to these by planting roses I could not have dreamt of growing in the subtropics, such as the Damask roses, **Ispahan** and **Kazanlik**; Gallica, **Duchesse De Montebello**; Alba, **Koenigen van Danmark**; Moss, **Salet** and Centifolia, **Fantin-Latour**. These are all in trial mode and will be selectively added to.

So, the journey continues, with our half acre corner of the Hunter Valley beginning as a blank canvas and slowly taking shape with approximately 100 roses and still counting.

I have gone vertical to accommodate more roses, with some favourites that I had to leave behind, like the lovely Noisettes, **Lamarque** and **Madame Alfred Carrière**, the delicious climbing Bourbon, **Souvenir de la Malmaison**, and climbing Tea, **Lady Hillingdon** to name a few. I had to leave behind many climbers and ramblers, such as the gorgeous once blooming confectionary pink, **May Queen**, Alister Clark's **Milkmaid** that smells like a vanilla milkshake, the giant **Rosa Laevigata** (below) and many more.

May Queen in full bloom.



There's not room to list the roses left behind, but I'm happy that some were saved, like **Milkmaid** who is now residing at the lovely property of Laurel Sommerfeld, an expert Rosarian and rose breeder. I believe Milkmaid now also has a daughter!

In this new garden, as in our old garden, I'm hoping to create new places in the garden for children to run and hide in, just as I hid behind huge shrubs of hydrangea and azalea in my grandfather's garden as a child.

There are lessons learnt from the previous garden though, such as not planting a huge, rose like Rosa Laevigata that quickly overwhelmed a favourite hiding place with prickly growth!

Now that we're closer, I'm pleased to say that our grandchildren visit regularly, and definitely associate their grandparents with birthdays and cupcakes, cattle dogs (now in retirement) and a pigeon loft, nearby horses to visit (not ours!), as well as lots of rambling old roses.

Despite the sadness of leaving behind a beloved garden that contained some treasures, the reality of life often intervenes and it's reassuring to discover that a garden in all its various formats can be relocated and reinvented!

Rosa Laevigata in splendid full bloom. A favourite spot to hide under, until the thorny growth became too overwhelming!



On reflection, I realise how blessed I am that we haven't had to flee a war zone or bunker down and eke out an existence selling clematis seeds, like brave Alla Olkhovska. Her interview with Floret is inspiring and puts our interstate move into stark context. See the interview here [The {Farmer} & the Florist Interview: Alla Olkhovska - Floret Flowers](#).

Wherever you garden, and however you garden, I hope you enjoy it and take some time out to pause for a moment and smell the roses.

General Business:

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 A very short update by the 20th November, to cover Christmas lunch arrangements, with the next full newsletter to be week ending 24th January 2025.

Rookwood working bees: - Usually 1st Monday of the month. At this stage we plan to work on Monday 7th October; Monday 4th November and Monday 2nd December. Plus a special extra day on Saturday 19th October. 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:

- **Saturday 12th October**
Visit to member Tracey Fleischner's garden in Dural
Contact Group Coordinator for details if you are interested in attending.
- **Saturday 19th October from 10:00 am**
A special working bee at Rookwood to do a general tidy up in other words weeding and dead heading. The Rookwood Groundsmen will then mulch so that we should be prepared for the NSW Rose Society visit on 30th October.
As usual please bring your own tools, lunch and a chair.
- **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. Tables, chairs and shelters will be set up on The Village Green (lawn area) for BYO picnic morning tea and lunch. Judith Oyston will do a floral arrangement using roses from Barbara's Garden. Presentation in Chapel will be at 10:30 followed by us taking our guests on a tour of Barbara's Garden. Lunch will follow and then we will go over to the old Anglican section and serpentine area so we can show our visitors an area where roses are still growing on graves.
If it is wet we will need to cancel.
- **Friday 15th November arrive between 10:30 and 11:00 am**
Visit to the garden of Anthea and Scott Hinchliffe, Wentworth Falls.
We will be meeting with the Blue Mountains and Nepean Group. Please bring your own picnic morning tea, lunch and chair. Anthea and Scott will provide hot water, tea, coffee and mugs.
I believe that this is a beautiful park style garden with many roses which will be at their peak in November.
Contact Group Coordinator for details if you are interested in attending.
If it is wet we will need to cancel.
- **Saturday 16th November 2:00 pm.**
Launch event for a new regional group of the Rose Society.
Venue - Meeting Room 1, Gordon Library, 799 Pacific Highway. Gordon.
A new regional group, called Northern Sydney, is being launched by The Rose Society of NSW. This new group is catering to those who are living on the North Shore and Northern Beaches. Penny Whipp, who many of you know, is involved in organising the event and our members are welcome to attend and enjoy a cup of coffee or tea and hear

Mark Massey a knowledgeable plantsman, rose enthusiast and committed independent nursery owner, speak. If you would like to attend the launch event please email northernsydneyrose@gmail.com or phone 0409 548 561.

- **Friday 29th November 12:00 for 12:30**
Blue Mountains and Nepean's group Christmas lunch.
 Victoria and Albert Guest House, Mount Victoria. Cost \$65 for 2 courses.
 Sydney Group Members have been invited to attend so if you are interested please talk to their Coordinator, Kathy Reid when we meet with them on 15th November or email her on reidrandk@bigpond.com
- **Saturday 14th December**
Christmas lunch
Venue to be The Grove café recently taken over by Mother Earth Nursery 1A Annangrove Road Kenthurst.
 Details will be via a special newsletter / email on 20th November.
- **Saturday 8th February 2025**
Annual General Meeting
 Information will be in January 2025 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 | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| Group Coordinator | Glennis Clark | Email: glennis007@optusnet.com.au | T: 02 9874 3118 M: 0409 718 890 |
| Treasurer | Pauline Dunne | | |
| Calendar Organisers | Sue Ballinger Tiffany Bignold | | |
| Committee Members | Susan Wade Ros Bignold Tiffany Bignold | | |

HRIA Website and Facebook: www.heritage.roses.org.au www.facebook.com/www.heritageroses.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**