



# HRIA SYDNEY GROUP NEWSLETTER January 2025



***Bishop Darlington, Hybrid Musk, USA 1926.***  
*Photo taken by member Intan Kallus*

**Thursday, 23 January 2025**

Dear Members,

Well when I last wrote in October I said welcome to spring and here we are now in the middle of summer and we have certainly had a variety of weather with heatwaves and storms and everything else you can think of. Our tough old roses don't seem to mind and even mine in pots are surviving quite happily. I came back from NZ at the end of December and really enjoyed my time at the NZ Heritage Roses Conference. The conference went really well and we saw some fantastic gardens in Dunedin and Central Otago, the roses were magnificent but the peonies nearly stole the show. In that part of the South Island the peonies were everywhere and in some cases were growing like weeds! There were 16 from Australia at the conference and also a couple from the UK and USA and with the Kiwis a total of approximately 150. After the conference I stayed on in NZ and had Christmas with family. I had not been over since COVID so it was great to see everyone again.

On 12<sup>th</sup> October we visited members Tracey and Les Fleischner's garden out at Dural. The roses were in full bloom and looking magnificent with the garden a wonderful picture. Angela Morgan has written an article on the garden later in this newsletter and Susan Wade has done the photography. Thank you so much to Tracey and Les for having us visit and thank you to Angela and Susan for the article. On the 30<sup>th</sup> October we hosted the NSW Rose Societies Regional Groups to Rookwood. The weather was kind and there were representatives from most of the Rose Society regional groups. After morning tea we had the use of the All Souls Chapel where we adjourned to hear a talk from the Rookwood historian on the history of Rookwood followed by my talk on the story of Barbara's Garden. We gave our visitors a tour of the garden after which they had a picnic lunch. Even though the roses bloomed early at Rookwood this year and there were not as many roses in flower as expected there will still be enough flowers for Judith Oyston to collate for this beautiful arrangement which was admired by all – photo Intan Kallus. The photo at the head of this newsletter was also taken on the same day and would have to be one of my favourite Rookwood photos. After lunch we guided our visitors through the old Anglican section so they could see the old Victorian part of the cemetery.



On the 15<sup>th</sup> November we had a lovely visit to the home of Anthea and Scott Hinchliffe's home in Wentworth Falls. This was a joint meeting with the Blue Mountains and Nepean Group and we had a most enjoyable time talking about our common interest in heritage roses. Anthea took us on a walk around her beautiful garden which was very park like with its magnificent trees and collection of heritage roses. Thank you so much to Blue Mountains and Illawarra and Anthea and Scott for a lovely day. I missed our Christmas Lunch held at The Grove in Dural and I believe all had an enjoyable day. Thank you to Pauline for organising.

Our meeting on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> February will be our AGM and we have some important items to discuss on the Agenda. However, please bring any of your special rose blooms along for discussion.

Very best wishes to all,  
*Glennis*

## Tracey's garden – Angela Morgan

In 2002 bushfires swept through the districts around Glenorie, Maroota, Berowra, Kenthurst, Brooklyn, and Wisemans Ferry. Tracey and Les Fleischner's house at Forest Glen was right in the path of the fires. Les stayed to defend their house, putting out spot fires once the fire front had passed. Despite some damage, with the help of local volunteer fire brigades the house was secured, with furniture taken out of the damaged areas and stored on the verandah.

However when Tracey and Les returned the next morning they discovered that the fire had somehow reignited overnight, and their home was completely destroyed.

On an overcast Saturday afternoon in October 2024 the Sydney group of HRIA visited Tracey and Les' property in Dural, and the garden they created following this disaster.

Tracey has always loved roses, she is sentimental, attached to their beauty. But she is also practical and observant, admiring how heritage roses performed in her friends' gardens.

*'They do so well, especially the Teas, which will flower for eleven and a half months, and are covered in flowers even in winter.'*



*I like their form and size, their flower shape – those unruly petals – and how they fit into the garden. I don't want to grow one flower on a single stem. I want big bunches to take inside. One stem of heritage roses can fill a vase, and the flowers last so well.'*

Establishing the new garden took time, battling against wallabies, possums and rabbits. Planting tough plants like salvias, not so attractive to the local wildlife, gave Tracey a start. A major step forward was building a substantial fence. With this protection Tracey was able to grow her roses.

**Crépuscule** – growing just inside the entrance gate

The first heritage rose Tracey planted was **Crépuscule** (Noisette, 1904), a gift from a friend. Over time Tracey grew more and more heritage roses, discovering they were a better fit in her garden. This led her to join HRIA. Tracey has been a member of Creative Gardeners Club, founded by Mary Davis, for 25 years and is now the President. She was also a founding member of UNSH – the Upper North Shore and Hills group of the Rose Society of NSW. She enjoys sharing plants, knowledge and experience with her fellow members.

Tracey has been making this garden for more than twenty years. Her journey from pot plants in Leichhardt and Thornleigh, then native bushland and destruction at Forest Glen has led her here, where this garden, sheltered within its protective fences, facing north-west, allows her roses to bask in sunshine all day. Stone walls in a long curve create beds at different heights, full of a mix of roses and lovely cottage garden plants and shrubs. These beds draw the eye along and then up, where the topmost branches of gum trees are silhouetted against the sky.



Tracey grows both heritage and modern roses, with **Crépuscule** flowering at the entrance gate, and David Austin's English Style Roses **Tamora**, **Crown Princess Margareta** (on left) and **Pat Austin** (on right) all welcoming us on our



visit.

Garden beds line both sides of the driveway and a path and lawn lead to the shady verandah in front of the house (*below*). A white wooden archway and supports for pillar roses add height and interest. The apricot-coloured David Austin rose **Bathsheba** grows on a pillar, and **Fourth of July** (red-striped Large-Flowered Climber, 1999) gives a completely different effect on the arbour. (*Below, R. & far L. respectively*)



*Orlaya grandiflora* (white laceflower) gives an edge of frothy white flowers along the path and cool splashes of white throughout the garden.

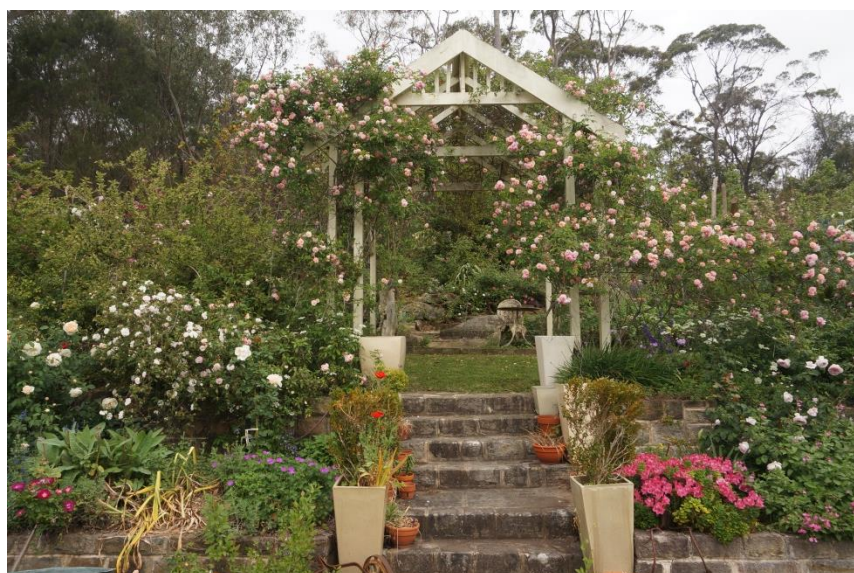


Amongst the heritage roses thriving in Tracey's garden are a wonderful plant of Alister Clark's **Squatter's Dream** (Hybrid Gigantea 1923) (*on right*), while **Lamarque** (Tea Noisette 1830) and a white species Banksia rose display their vigour and abundance covering sturdy timber pergolas. Covering another pergola, the 1925 Hybrid Musk **Cornelia** was covered in hundreds of blossoms on our visit, making a glorious display. Tracey also grows that other beautiful Hybrid Musk **Buff Beauty** (1939), and the Tea roses **Monsieur Tillier** (1891) and **Comtesse de Labarthe** (1857)



Photo: Angela Morgan

(often sold as 'Duchesse de Brabant') with her exquisite cupped pink blooms.



**Cornelia** – on the pergola and close-up

On Tracey's wish list are **Blush Rambler** (Rambler 1903), **Étoile de Lyon** (Tea 1876), **Irène Watts** (China 1895) and **Mrs Dudley Cross** (Tea 1907). Tracey says the Tea roses and Hybrid Musks do the best here.

Tracey learned gardening wisdom from the experienced gardeners in her garden clubs. Advice is passed around, plant combinations admired, successes and failures observed. Cuttings are shared and gifted plants pop up in friends' gardens.

Tracey believes that it is important to keep old varieties, for their history, and because they are often stronger and flower better.

*'Old varieties of roses, and other plants, should be available so people can learn about them, and grow them.'*

Thank you, Tracey and Les for welcoming us to your garden and for sharing your story with us, from the lows of the bush fire disaster, to the highs of your delight in successfully growing so many beautiful roses.

*Unless otherwise acknowledged, photographs are by Susan Wade.*

## **General Business and planned activities:**

### **Heritage Roses Membership:**

If you have not paid your membership for 2025 it is now overdue. The form was included with the Summer Journal but if you have mislaid the form I have attached another for your convenience. Please contact me if you have any queries. If you prefer to pay in cash at our AGM on 8<sup>th</sup> February that is fine.

### **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 24<sup>th</sup> Feb with the following newsletters to be sent every second month.** The newsletter on 24<sup>th</sup> Feb will be a short with the main purpose to be the programme of activities and draft minutes of the AGM held 8<sup>th</sup> Feb.

**Rookwood planned activity and working bees: - Working bees are usually 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month commencing approximately 10:00am. At this stage we plan to work on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February; Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> March; Monday 7<sup>th</sup> April.** 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.

We are looking to plant some new roses in Barbara's Garden say in April or May when the weather cools down. At this stage we have 5 plants ready to go all of which are on the original plan or known to be growing on the graves at Rookwood. The 5 plants currently being babysat are: **Souvenir de la Malmaison (2); Général Galliéni; Comtesse du Cayla** (propagated by cutting by Peter Rezek of Illawarra and Southern Highlands from a plant growing in Robyn Coupland's garden in Burradoo) and **Isabel's daughter** (a seedling from our 'found' rose **Isabel Smith**).

### **Neutrog:**

Things are looking possible for a Neutrog delivery this coming winter / spring and hopefully I can clarify in the April newsletter.

### **Heritage Roses in Australia website and Sydney Group Web page:**

We now have our own web page on the HRIA website and I believe other regions are in the process of setting up their page. If you have not already done so go into the site and have a look at our page. After distribution of this newsletter I will add to and update the page.

This page is accessible to the public so you do not need to sign on to read it just open the Heritage Roses in Australia website; in the top toolbar click 'Regions and Events'; click 'Regions' and click 'Sydney Group'.

## Up and coming events:

- **Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2025 2:00pm**  
**Annual General Meeting**  
**Venue – the home of Glennis Clark**  
If you are planning on coming please phone or email me (details below) by Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February so I can organise seating and cups. Please bring a plate to share for afternoon tea. If practical I suggest you carpool.
- **World Federation of Rose Societies 20<sup>th</sup> World Rose Convention 18-24<sup>th</sup> May 2025**  
**Fukuyama, Japan. Registration open.**
- **Heritage Roses in Australia Inc. Conference to be held in Toowoomba from 17-20 October 2025. Refer to the HRIA Summer 2024 Journal for details.**  
I am aware that a few of our Sydney Group members have already booked and are looking forward to a great few days.

<b>HRIA Sydney Group Committee for 2024</b>			
<b>Group Coordinator</b>	Glennis Clark		
<b>Treasurer</b>	Pauline Dunne		
<b>Calendar Organisers</b>	Sue Ballinger Tiffany Bignold		
<b>Committee Members</b>	Susan Wade Ros Bignold Tiffany Bignold		

## HRIA Website and Facebook:

[www.heritageroses.org.au](http://www.heritageroses.org.au) [www.facebook.com/www.heritage roses.org.au](https://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](http://www.greeneroses.com.au) Phone 02 9653 1745**  
Email [info@greeneroses.com.au](mailto:info@greeneroses.com.au)