



HRIA SYDNEY GROUP NEWSLETTER February 2025



Sunday, 23 February 2025

Bishop Darlington, Hybrid Musk, USA 1926.

Photo taken by member Intan Kallus

Dear Members,

Nearly the end of summer and thank goodness the humidity has gone, well for now anyway. I love the above photo taken at Barbara's Garden, Rookwood so much that you are going to have to look at it 2 months in a row, I am sure an artist could make a wonderful job of painting it!

On the 8th February we had our AGM. As recorded in the minutes it is noted that there was an issue with the state of the Rumsey Garden following takeover by the new contractors. On Wednesday 12th February Tiffany Bignold and I met with representatives from Greater Sydney Parklands who have the specific responsibility for The Rumsey Garden. The day we met, which was following phone calls the previous week, there had been some attention to the garden by the contractors, however, the representatives we met with from The Greater Sydney Parklands were concerned about what had happened with the new contractors. Now that introductions have been made all should be good going forward. Tiffany Bignold is to be the Heritage Roses representative for all communication with Greater Sydney Parklands, The Rumsey Garden and the contractors. The Rumsey Garden is a living museum and is seen as such not only by Heritage Roses but also The Greater Sydney Parklands.

Our March meeting is to be a visit to Helen's garden. Helen has a beautiful federation home and her lovely garden compliments the house. Helen and her daughters are renowned artists and we are very lucky to have the opportunity to be able to see some of their paintings. Our April meeting will be a week earlier than usual as we will be hosting the Illawarra and Southern Highlands group at Rookwood. The teas at Rookwood should be looking their best with their autumn flush in full bloom – that is if the season is normal! Full details are under The Up and Coming Events section of this newsletter.

Our website is progressing and we are now in the process of updating the articles that Angela and Susan wrote on our Sydney members garden stories during COVID. As each article has been re-edited we will obtain the approval of the garden owner and then upload the story onto the website. In April I will be taking on the national role of Membership Secretary so will have some new things to learn and challenges ahead.

A very big thank you to Susan Wade who has done the write up on the roses members brought to our February meeting. This 'show and tell' rose segment will be a continuing feature so don't forget to bring your favourite bloom to the meeting in March.

Very best wishes to all,
Glennis

Members' roses brought to the Sydney HRIA meeting on 8th February, 2025

Text and photos are by Susan Wade. Background information is from *HelpMeFind* and other references.

Roses brought by Sue Ballinger



Felicia



Mademoiselle Cécile Brünner



Sombreuil

Felicia – a pink blend Hybrid Musk, bred by Rev. Joseph Hardwick Pemberton (UK), in 1926:

Pemberton developed the Hybrid Musk class of roses using **Trier** (Hybrid Multiflora, 1904) and Hybrid Teas in the breeding. Following his death Pemberton's gardeners, Ann and John Bentall, continued his work. The term 'Hybrid Musk' is based upon a tenuous link* between **Trier** and *Rosa moschata* ('Musk Rose').

* 'More like a remote ancestor', according to the renowned English rosarian Jack Harkness.¹

Contrary to popular belief, **Felicia** and some of his other Hybrid Musks, including **Cornelia** and **Penelope**, are not named after his daughters; Pemberton did not marry and had no children. He lived with his younger sister Florence with whom he exhibited at rose shows. He began budding roses when 12 years old and as an adult grew about 4,000 different varieties of roses. *Pemberton's Hybrid Musks were his only children.*²

Felicia has been growing in Sue's back garden for about 30 years, where she says it's 'a good flowering bush.' She later explained: 'I prune it hard every few years removing old stems and I train the new canes clipping them horizontally which I find encourages strong growth with profuse flowering, far better than the old wood flowering.' All members present agreed that **Felicia** had a lovely strong perfume.

Mademoiselle Cécile Brünner – a light pink Polyantha, bred by Marie Ducher (France), before 1880:

Growing in her front garden for 35 years, Sue propagated **Cécile Brünner** from a cutting obtained from the garden of her late parents who had two bushes, on either side of their front gate.

Her bush is about one metre high and wide and blooms in flushes throughout the season. The three small, perfectly shaped blooms brought to our meeting had a strong, sweet perfume.

Sombreuil – a cream-white Large-Flowered Climber, bred by Unknown, circa 1940: †

† As summarised in *HelpMeFind* and explained in more detail in 'The Tea Roses book'³, **Sombreuil** sold today is not the 1851 Tea **Mademoiselle de Sombreuil**, nor is it the 1820 Alba **Sombreuil**; those two old white roses both have pink shading and are not climbers.

Growing for about 30 years over an arch on a path leading from Sue and Bob's front entrance to a garden in front of the lounge room windows, **Sombreuil** is seen as you walk to the front door. Sue explains: 'I originally planted two bushes, one either side of the arch, but only one survived and after many unsuccessful attempts to strike it planted a **Veilchenblau** on the eaves side. My surviving **Sombreuil** is definitely not a vigorous grower and only because the flowers are so beautiful do I struggle to keep it growing well. In retrospect, I wish I had planted it in a different position.'

Roses brought by Susan Wade



L. to R.: **Mrs R. M. Finch**, **Marjory Palmer** (buds only) and **Mutabilis**



Marjory Palmer in Susan's garden, October 2023



L. to R.: Hips of a seedling of **Trier**, **Mrs Oakley-Fisher** and **Queen Elizabeth**

Mrs R. M. Finch – a medium pink Polyantha, bred by Mr Roland M. Finch, (NSW, Australia), in 1923: This rose was named after the wife of the breeder, who was manager at the Concord Nurseries of Arthur Yates and Co. Ltd.

Note that **Mrs. R. M. Finch** is often sold as **Australia Felix**, a pink Hybrid Tea bred by Alister Clark.

I purchased this rose from Green E Roses, Galston in 2013, on the advice of Brigitte Eckardt when I enquired about a 'not too wide' bush rose, suitable for growing beside our front entry steps. My **Mrs. R. M. Finch** blooms in clusters throughout the season – a very friendly welcome to visitors! As shown in the photo, the medium pink buds and new flowers fade to light pink/almost white as the flowers age.

Marjory Palmer – a medium pink Polyantha, bred by Alister Clark (Victoria, Australia), in 1936:

I purchased **Marjory Palmer** at Roses & Friends Nursery, Fitzroy Falls in June 2020. (This nursery closed in 2023.) Growing to a height and width of one metre, beside the path leading to the front steps, this colourful and fragrant Polyantha thrives in my garden. Blooming from October to May, it is often cut 'for the vase'.

Queen Elizabeth – a medium pink Grandiflora, bred by Dr Walter Lammerts (USA), before 1951: ‡

With a PhD in Plant Genetics, Lammerts did research on other plants but rose breeding was a major part of his work and research. As a result of his efforts, in 1954 the American Rose Society created an entirely new class of rose known as Grandiflora. **Queen Elizabeth** was the first member of this class.

‡ Bred more than 75 years ago, so 'heritage' according to the '75 year rule'. Also, given the significance of our late queen, **Queen Elizabeth** may be considered 'heritage' following the death of Her Majesty on 8th September 2022. For articles in HRIA publications, 'heritage' encompasses: All species roses and species crosses, all found roses (until they are better identified) and roses of historical importance. Also included are any roses 75 years old or more.⁴

I purchased my **Queen Elizabeth** from Green E Roses on 10th September 2022, in memory of Queen Elizabeth II who died just two days previously. In addition to 'her' significance, **Queen Elizabeth** is widely documented to be a robust rose and she has certainly fulfilled my expectations. At the time, I did not have a suitable in-ground spot, so my rose is in a large (50cm diameter) pot but given her height, currently 160 cm tall and requiring staking, I'm on the look-out for a location in my garden. She has few prickles, a distinct but not strong perfume and, importantly, well-formed flowers which are excellent 'for the vase'.

Note: Susan brought several of the roses pictured on the previous page to the February 2024 meeting. Information about **Mutabilis**, **Mrs Oakley-Fisher** and the **Trier** seedling was in the March 2024 Newsletter. Please contact Susan (E. susannwade49@gmail.com) if you would like a copy of the 2024 article.

References:

1. Jack Harkness, *Roses*, J. M. Dent & Sons Ltd, London, 1978, p. 131.
2. Pemberton Rose Garden, *Pemberton Family History*, <https://www.pembertonroses.org.uk/pemberton-family-history>, accessed 11 February, 2025.
3. Lynne Chapman et al, *Tea Roses: Old Roses for Warm Gardens*, Rosenberg Publishing, Kenthurst NSW, 2008, pp. 58-59.
4. Susan Wade, 'What is a Heritage Rose?', (2024) 46 (1) (Autumn) *The Journal of Heritage Roses in Australia*, pp. 12-13.

General Business and planned activities:

Heritage Roses Membership:

If you have not paid your membership for 2025 it is now overdue. Please contact me if you have any queries.

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.

Newsletters: At this stage the next newsletter is planned to be week ending 19th April with subsequent newsletters to be weeks ending 7th June; 23rd August and 31st October.

Rookwood planned activity and working bees: - Working bees are usually 1st Monday of the month commencing approximately 10:00am. At this stage we plan to work on Monday 3rd March; Monday 7th 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. Consideration is being given to changing this Monday but this will not happen before May.

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.

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 8th March 2025 2:00pm**

This meeting will be at the home of one of our members. If you are planning on coming please bring a plate to share for afternoon tea. We will not only be looking at Helen's beautiful garden but will also have the opportunity to see Helen's and her daughters' paintings.

Please contact Sydney Group Coordinator for details should you be interested in attending.

- **Saturday 5th April 2025 from 11:00 am** Please note that this is the first Saturday of the month and not the 2nd and that the start time is different to usual. We will be meeting at Rookwood to celebrate the autumn flowering of the teas and our guests will be The Illawarra and Southern Highlands region. We are planning to meet under the shelter of the old café which is just off the roundabout in Hawthorne Ave. Please bring something to share for morning tea and we will hopefully have access to a power point so we can plug in a hot water urn. You will also need to bring your own mug and a picnic lunch. As our guests arrive we will have morning tea and then take them on a tour of the garden. After lunch we will go over to the old Anglican Heritage section and walk through this historic area.

Please contact Sydney Group Coordinator for details should you be interested in attending.

- **Saturday 10th May from 10:00am – Rookwood annual pruning day.**

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

- **World Federation of Rose Societies 20th World Rose Convention 18-24th May 2025 Fukuyama, Japan.**
- **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 number of our Sydney Group members have already booked and are looking forward to a great few days.

HRIA Sydney Group Committee for 2024			
Group Coordinator	Glennis Clark		
Treasurer	Pauline Dunne		
Calendar Organiser	Sue Ballinger		
Committee Members	Susan Wade Ros Bignold Tiffany Bignold		

HRIA Website and Facebook:

www.heritageroses.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