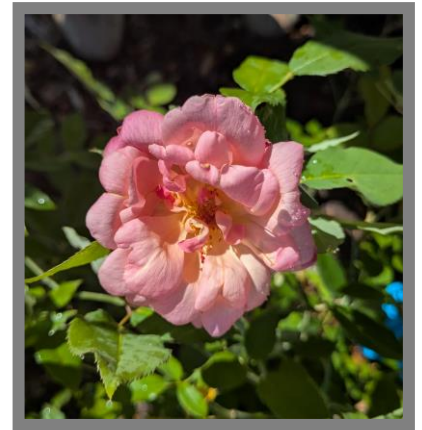




HRIA SYDNEY GROUP NEWSLETTER April 2025



Comtesse du Cayla;
China; Guillot; France 1902
Photo: Susan Wade

Monday, 21 April 2025

Dear Members,

We are now well and truly into autumn and with the humidity now gone we are all a lot happier to get out into the garden. I have noticed that the nurseries and garden centres are getting busy again and that is a good sign.

Since our February newsletter a few things have happened with the first being on the 5th March when a group of us went to the Stanton Library in North Sydney to listen to Janelle McCulloch talk about her recently released book 'Where the Old Roses Grow'. She was certainly interesting and inspirational and I think we all bought a signed copy of her book. I have just finished reading the book and in my opinion it has the wow factor and is the best book I have read on discovering and saving old roses. The book is biographical in style, easy to read, informative and entertaining. This book will continue be one of my favourite rose books which will have a special place in my bookcase. 'Where the Old Roses Grow' is readily available at most bookshops and online. Thank you to our members Tahira and Eve who discovered the Stanton Library event which enabled me to pass the message on to members.

On the 8th March we had our monthly meeting at Helen Meares' home in Killara. It was a lovely day and we not only enjoyed seeing Helen's beautiful garden which compliments her stylish federation home but we were also able to see a lovely selection of Helen and her daughters paintings. A very big thank you to Helen for having us at her home. Also thank you to Angela who has written an excellent article for this newsletter on Helen's Garden Story.



Our 5th April meeting was a joint meeting with Illawarra and Southern Highlands Group at Barbara's Garden in Rookwood. The theory being that the old tea roses would be in the middle of their autumn flush but the season decided otherwise and even though there some roses blooming not as many as we would have liked. However, we had a lovely day showing our visitors around and we were able to do a ceremonial planting of the china **Comtesse du Cayla**. We do have 2 plants of this rose in Barbara's Garden but one is getting very old so it is great to have a young plant. This new plant was propagated from cutting by Peter Rezek, Coordinator Illawarra and Southern Highlands and Peter and Rod Broadhead were able to do the planting. Photo of Peter Rezek in action was taken by Susan

Wade. Thank you to our members who provided morning tea.

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

Very best wishes to all,
Glennis

Helen's garden – Angela Morgan

From the street Helen Meares' garden is hidden behind quite a high fence and trees, so that one expects to see a shady garden. However the garden sits in warm sunshine, with a deep green lawn surrounded by bright flowers in beds and pots, and roses blooming beside sandstone steps.



A front view of Helen's home



Potted purple torenia, beside the driveway

Helen remembers being always interested in gardening, but it was her friend Judy Andrews who fostered her interest in heritage roses. Judy was an early member of HRIA, and one of the group who founded Barbara's Garden in Rookwood. It was through Judy that Helen *also* joined HRIA, and began adding heritage roses to her garden.

Helen feels heritage roses have a charm of their own, loves the way they are so hardy and disease resistant, and wonders why anyone would be crazy enough not to grow them!

Her first deliberate purchase of heritage roses were all Tea roses: delicate silvery pink **Comtesse de Labarthe** (often sold as **Duchesse de Brabant**) (1857), apricot blend **G. Nabonnand** (often sold as **Jean Ducher**) (1874) and **Mrs Dudley Cross**, light yellow with pink or crimson highlights (1907). All three of these roses are rated as 'Excellent' in *HelpMeFind Roses*, so Helen chose well.

There was another early rose which Helen saw growing wild near Merriwa (in the Upper Hunter Shire). A single white rose which Helen found irresistible. She took a cutting which struck and flourished, covering her front fence in her previous home. The flowers resembled the **White Rose of York**, a strongly fragrant Alba, white with yellow stamens (1623). Helen left it behind with regret, and decided to return to see if another cutting would strike. Alas, it was gone, all the garden gone too, and a redevelopment in progress.

In this original garden Helen also grew popular old Hybrid Teas like **Peace** (1935). **Comtesse de Labarthe** and **G. Nabonnand** remain to this day in Helen's lovely garden in Killara, but **Mrs Dudley Cross** has been overgrown. The apricot Tea Noisette **Crépuscule** (1904) is now flourishing along the driveway.

*Left: A single bloom of Helen's **G. Nabonnand***



Photo: Susan Wade

Which rose is Helen's favourite? Such a hard question! Perhaps that single white rose ... flowering in memory and imagination? To choose between **Comtesse de Labarthe** and **G. Nabonnand** is difficult too, but Helen decides on **G. Nabonnand**.

'It's so hardy, so willing, so beautiful. It grows the best here, and is very rewarding. I love painting it.'



Photos: Susan Wade

Crépuscule

– overall bush and a single bloom

G. Nabonnand grows on the north side of the garden, climbing high, delicate blooms glowing against mellow brick and timber-framed windows, the essence of romance.

It was this rose which Helen painted for her first exhibition at the gallery in the Royal Botanic Garden Sydney, part of a fund-raising effort organised by the Foundation and Friends of Botanic Gardens of Sydney. She was introduced to this group by her friends Elizabeth and Jeff Davis, who provided the frames for many of Helen's paintings. This first exhibition was a great success, with all of Helen's paintings sold, and a happy relationship established, lasting for more than thirty years.

G. Nabonnand, against a window



Roses and flowers feature inside Helen's home as well as in the garden outside. Helen and her daughters are all artists, and the paintings reflect their individual styles. On our recent visit (8th March, 2025), members of Sydney HRIA group had the delightful opportunity of seeing Helen's bright and airy studio above the garage, looking down onto the eastern garden.

Helen's rose cards – prints of her watercolour painting of a collection of heritage roses – have also been a long running fundraiser for our Sydney HRIA group.



Above: Helen's painting of nasturtiums
R.: Helen's studio, above the garage



The collection of heritage roses featured on Helen's cards

This eastern garden is a warm secluded space, with lime and lemon trees, bright salvias, and a white mandevilla flourishing in a pot against the garage wall. The creamy white Shrub rose **Sea Foam** (1963) has turned itself into a small climber against a background of greenery on the high fence. Every possible space along this side is occupied.

Helen has found that her membership of HRIA has long provided friendship with a group of people who are easy to bond with, sharing a common interest.



Photo: Susan Wade

*White mandevilla in front of the garage and **Sea Foam** – growing along the back fence*



Helen, in her back garden

Thank you, Helen for opening your garden, art, home and studio to us, sharing your stories, and for being such a supportive member of HRIA for so many years.

Unless otherwise acknowledged, photographs are by Angela.

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

Text and photos are by Susan Wade (unless otherwise acknowledged).

Due to space restrictions, extra details and photos of one only of each member's roses are included here. To ensure clarity, the photos in this item may not necessarily be the members' roses brought to the meeting.

Brought by Sally Price: Buff Beauty, Cornelia, G. Nabonnand (often sold as **Jean Ducher**), **Léonie Lamesch, Le Vésuve, Rosette Delizy** (*details below*), **Souvenir de la Malmaison, Climbing, Sparrieshoop**, and an unknown pink rose (possibly **Pink Gruss an Aachen** – more information about this rose in a later item).

Rosette Delizy (yellow/carmine-pink/apricot Hybrid Tea, 1921, Paul Nabonnand, France).

Information from Sally: This is one of Sally's first roses, purchased at least 35 years ago from the late Jane Zammit who owned Remontant Roses Nursery, East Kurrajong. (Jane moved to Canowindra in approx. 2002, but sadly died in 2016). Sally has two bushes of this rose, the other purchased more recently.

Very tall (over 2.5m) and even wider. It's planted at the top of a garden wall which it overhangs, and has not been pruned *'for years'*. It repeat flowers – *'flowers all the time in the growing season'*.

Sally's **Rosette Delizy** does not have a strong perfume, has very few prickles and is suitable for the vase. Compared to her other roses, Sally reports *'it's a very good rose, though its flowers burn as it gets the hot north wind; it's difficult to trim and keep tidy, due its location.'*



Rosette Delizy, in Tiffany Bignold's garden, October 2020

Brought by Angela Morgan: Duchesse d'Auerstädt (*details below*), **Spring Song** and **Spray Cécile Brunner**.

Duchesse d'Auerstädt (Golden yellow Noisette, 1887, Alexandre Bernaix, France).

Information from Angela: Angela acquired **Duchesse d'Auerstädt** from Steve Abrahams in mid-2023, shortly before he moved from South Maroota. *'Steve gave it to me as a possibility for Netherby. However it's very big and I haven't found a good spot for it up there yet. It's a vigorous rose, producing a large quantity of long arching canes. I have cut it back several times as it is encroaching on my clothes line. It's about two metres wide and one and a half metres high and repeat flowers almost constantly. It's a bit bigger than most of my other roses. It has enough room where I've planted it to grow into a big freestanding shrub, but it wants to get bigger. I think it needs a wall so it can be espaliered along it and then the flowers can be admired.'*

Duchesse d'Auerstädt, in October 2024



Photo: Angela Morgan

Angela further explained that **Duchesse d'Auerstädt** has a slight tea scent and virtually no prickles. It is not particularly long lasting in the vase; *'it's slightly drooping in character, so the bunches don't stand up. Balls quickly in the rain. However, because it is constantly producing flowers there's something fresh coming on as soon as the rain stops'*.

Brought by Sue Ballinger: Lamarque and New Dawn (details below).

New Dawn (Light pink Large-Flowered Climber, 1930, Henry F. Bosenberg/Henry A. Dreer , USA).



L.: Sue's **New Dawn** with hips, brought to the meeting

R.: In glorious spring bloom, growing over a 2 metre high arch in the front garden, in November 2022

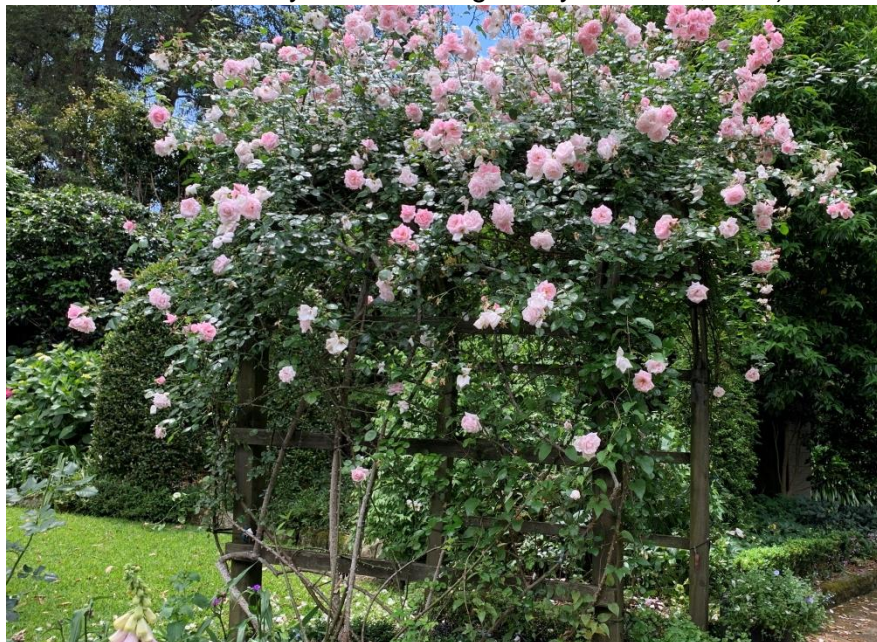


Photo: Sue Ballinger

Information from Sue: **New Dawn** was the first rose Sue planted in her Pymble garden in 1993, and is growing over an arch in her front garden. *'Good grower; given its height and difficult access, an arborist/gardener has assisted to prune it hard; it then re-bloomed well.'* It flowers throughout the season, then has many hips at the end of the flowering season – *'but not the greatest hips'*.

Sue's **New Dawn** has a very sweet and pleasant perfume. *'It is quite prickly, including under the leaves (prickly leaves).'* It is definitely suitable for the vase – *'can cut the lower stems if in flower, but flowers on high-up stems are not easily accessible.'*

Compared to Sue's other roses, **New Dawn** is *'a good performer, relatively easy to care for, and a fast grower. Does well if left alone.'*

Brought by Susan Wade

Beauty of New South Wales (crimson, white centre Polyantha, George Knight, Homebush, NSW, 1931).

Information from Susan, including the Hungarian connection:

I first heard about this rose from members of Rose Society of NSW who sighted it (clearly labelled) in the Budatétényi Research Garden near Budapest, Hungary during the Post-Post Convention Tour to Eastern Europe (following the Regional Convention in Ljubljana, Slovenia) in June 2017. Fortunately I was then able to purchase it from Roses & Friends Nursery, Fitzroy Falls in July 2017 (R. & F. closed in 2023).

Growing to a height and width of 90 cm, this medium-sized Polyantha thrives in my front garden where it repeat blooms from October to May. Its unusual shaped, red with a white centre-coloured blooms often attract comments from visitors, and when placed on the display table at Beecroft & District Garden Club.



Beauty of New South Wales,
in October 2021

Beauty of New South Wales has a faint, almost insignificant perfume and very few prickles. It is very suitable for the vase where it adds 'a different' colour and flower form to a collection of roses.

I would definitely recommend this rose, but unfortunately I don't know where it would be purchased as it's not currently listed by any Australian rose nursery. However, being a Polyantha, it would probably be quite easy to propagate from cuttings; please contact me if you would like any cuttings. *Susan.*

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. If you have not paid for 2025 you will not receive the winter journal.

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 on 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 newsletters are planned to be weeks ending 7th June; 23rd August and 31st October.

Rookwood planned activity and working bees:

The Rookwood groundsmen have been doing some work for us in Barbara's Garden and the nut grass has had a couple of sprays with some of our large bushes getting an extra trim. The teas we still treat delicately though there are a couple that need dead wood removing and a gentle re shape.

Working bees have usually been 1st Monday of the month commencing approximately 10:00am. As discussed we are also going to programme in a couple of Friday working bees. At this stage we plan to work on Monday 5th May; Monday 2nd June; Friday 20th June; Monday 7th July and Friday 25th July. 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.

If you are planning to come on either of the above dates please email me as it assists with scheduling.

Neutrog:

Things are looking possible for a Neutrog delivery this coming winter / spring. Information will be in the June 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'. Would love to have some feedback plus ideas for future articles.

Up and coming events:

- **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.
- **Saturday 14th June 2:00 pm –**
Topic: Roses Growing Elsewhere
Venue Turramurra
Please contact Sydney Group Coordinator for details should you be interested in attending.
- **World Federation of Rose Societies 20th World Rose Convention 18-24th May 2025**
Fukuyama, Japan.

- Saturday 12th July from 10:00am**
Annual Working Bee at The Rumsey Garden, Parramatta Park.
 Please come even if you are not in a position to do any pruning as it would be great if you could join us for lunch and a chat. Enter the main gates at Cnr of Pitt and Macquarie streets. Go left and you will see a parking area. The rose garden is behind the parking area. Please bring your own morning tea and lunch and a chair. If you are going to be pruning you will need to bring your own tools.
- Saturday 9th August 2:00 pm**
Topic: The Roses of Finland
Venue Pymble
 Please contact Sydney Group Coordinator for details should you be interested in attending.
- 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