



HRIA SYDNEY GROUP NEWSLETTER August 2025



*Anna Olivier; tea; Ducher;
France 1872.
Photo taken by Marcia Lusted*

Wednesday, 27 August 2025

Dear Members,

Well I think spring is nearly here as we are getting the odd warmer day but it has been a cold and wet winter and I think our first flush of roses will be a little later this year. A very warm welcome to our new member Carpe Nguyen. It was lovely to meet Carpe and have her participate in our pruning working bee at The Rumsey Garden, Parramatta Park and hopefully she will be able to join in on some of our future activities and meetings.



Our July get together was our annual pruning working bee at The Rumsey Garden, Parramatta Park. We had a lovely sunny day and mainly spent our time dead wooding, dead heading and generally tidying up the teas. Thank you to Tiffany Bignold for organising the day. Even though we were well into July there are always some treasures in bloom at The Rumsey Garden and this little collection of **Reine Victoria**; Bourbon; Schwartz; France 1872 was gathered from prunings by Tracey Fleischner and the photo was taken by Susan Wade.

Our August meeting was at Sue and Bob Ballinger's home and we had a most enjoyable visit with first of all watching Bob's PowerPoint presentation on their visit to Finland in 2024. This was the pre-conference tour as part of the WFRS Regional Convention & Heritage Roses Conference June / July 2024. After afternoon tea Sue escorted us on a walk around her lovely garden with result being that many members went home with cuttings. A big thank you to Sue and Bob.

Thanks to our member Marcia Lusted we have a propagation exercise underway involving the Rookwood roses. Marcia came down in May and took a selection of cuttings and we have since posted up some more. The cuttings are from roses we know are no longer in commercial circulation and also a number of our 'found' roses. The photo featured at the head of this newsletter **Anna Olivier** is one Marcia took of the prunings from her bush in July. It is such a beautiful and prolific tea rose and yes we do have it in Barbara's Garden at Rookwood. Marcia has used a variety of propagation methods and in about 6 months she is going to write an article on her propagation results.

You may have noticed that both the roses featured above were bred in France in 1872, I wonder how many roses were bred in France in 1872 and I wonder how many are still around today? A very big thank you again to Susan Wade who has done the write up on the roses members brought to our August meeting at the Ballinger's. 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

Angela's roses brought to the Sydney HRIA meeting on 9th August, 2025

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

*The descriptions of roses are from **HelpMeFind**.*

While most Sydney HRIA members' roses had been drenched by the overnight rain on this cold and wet winter's day, Angela Morgan 'stole the show' with her vase of five quite different roses – a selection fortunately picked on Friday evening, after noting the forecast of overnight rain, from the many heritage roses growing in her Galston garden.

On this page:

Angela's roses photographed at the meeting

Clockwise from mid. R.:

Comtesse de Labarthe (at rear), **Général Galliéni** (two blooms), **Monsieur Tillier**, **Madame Alfred Carrière**, **Mary Guthrie**



Angela shares some background information about her roses:

*I am not good at giving my roses the regular care they deserve. My earliest requirement was that they could survive despite neglect. I did not have time to look after them. This has never really changed. Despite this, I have never stopped buying heritage roses, constantly seduced by descriptions of their beauty. I tend to plant them and then later realise what their needs really are – e.g. **Madame Alfred Carrière** beside the driveway.*

*They become almost buried under groundcovers and overhanging trees that create too much shade (**Mary Guthrie** in particular). Children and now grandchildren have always kicked soccer and rugby balls around the garden. I move the roses when I realise they are in the wrong place – or understand their needs better – so they have to readjust.*

The strong survive. The weak often do also, to my surprise. They just don't thrive as they probably should. The flowers I brought to the meeting were just the few left that I could find – a few hardy blooms.



Mary Guthrie and (below)
Madame Alfred Carrière



L.: **Général Galliéni** (one of two blooms brought)
R.: **Madame Alfred Carrière**



Comtesse de Labarthe (two blooms)

More information from Angela about the roses she brought to the August meeting

Comtesse de Labarthe (often sold as **Duchesse de Brabant**) (light pink Tea, 1857, Pierre Bernède, France, 1857).

*I first saw it at Gretchen's Farm in Richmond, about 35 years ago, and loved it on sight, but had no idea where to get it. About 15 years ago Angela purchased **Comtesse de Labarthe** – perhaps from Gretchen, or Green E Roses, Galston. Fabulous performer with recurrent flowering (never seems to be without flowers), grows about two metres high and one metre wide. Probably the best of my roses. Has a bushy twiggy growth, new leaves are pink, new stems red. Does have small prickles, but not many. The flowers have a definite tea perfume; there are many of these at Netherby and I often see people inhaling the perfume with pleasure. The flowers tend to droop their heads, so not madly suitable for the vase; I rarely use it inside.*

Général Galliéni (coppery red Tea, 1899, Gilbert Nabonnand, France).

Angela's had this rose for ...Feels like only a couple of years, time flies, maybe 3-4 years. I grew it from a pruning cutting from 'Barbara's Garden', Rookwood Cemetery. It seems very angular and tends to sprawl at this early stage – it's only about one metre high. The sprawling shape is difficult to accommodate. I'm trying to work out how to manage it so it grows more upright. The flowers have a slight tea scent. It repeat flowers well and it seems to be a good winter flowerer. The flower is very interesting and unusual – lovely cherry pink/red colour with a centre that becomes lighter almost pale yellow as the flower opens. It has a pointed quartered centre and outer petals that open more widely. It has small curved-back prickles.

Madame Alfred Carrière (white/light pink shading, Noisette, 1875, Joseph Schwartz, France).

***Madame Alfred** was my first rose purchase. I read about it climbing up the walls of Sissinghurst Castle. That sounded wonderful. I've had it for 40 years, but not the current bush. I struck it from my earlier shrub ... I don't remember where I obtained my original bush, perhaps Green E Roses. A very vigorous, tall grower, wants to find a castle wall to conquer. This bush, which does have some prickles, is about four metres high, half a metre at the base of the bush, but spreading out as it gets higher. It puts out many long canes, some from the base, others from higher up. My original bush was heavily pruned ... I managed to keep it from growing more than about two metres high, but I don't think that's ideal as it really does want to climb. Repeat flowers in flushes. Compared to my other roses, it's excellent. The colour is lovely, a soft buff to pale pink in autumn, almost white in summer. It's lovely in a vase, lasts well and the beautiful perfume fills the air.*

Mary Guthrie (medium pink Polyantha, 1929, Alister Clark, Vic. Australia).

Angela's had this rose, purchased from Green E Roses, for about 7-10 years. My bush has small prickles and is one metre high and wide, but is a bit sparse of foliage. It does repeat through the seasons in flushes, but it is never covered in flowers, just has a few bunches of two or three flowers. Compared to my other roses, it's not fabulous. The pink has seemed a bit too bright and lolly pink for me. I do like the single form, however. For the vase ... It's looking pretty here in front of me. Single, maybe slightly double petals, with full butter yellow stamens, just picked and looking perfect after a night of heavy rain! It's interesting as an Alister Clark rose, but not a rose I think I would plant again.

Monsieur Tillier (carmine red Tea, 1891, Alexandre Bernaix, France).

Angela's had this rose, purchased from Green E Roses, for about 4-5 years. Very vigorous, upright and spreading. Mine is about two metres high now, one metre wide and spreading. I am constantly cutting it back so Nige can mow; he has suffered many attacks from its large strong prickles. If I can manage it so that it grows further up before it goes out it will be better. On large strong branches, it is a formidable presence in the garden. It repeats in flushes throughout the year. It's very floriferous, and strong and has a light tea perfume. For the vase ... It looks good but I seem to recall it doesn't last well.

Other ... comments: It's almost too strong because of the rapid wide growth plus prickles. I think it should be planted in a side bed against a fence so that no one has to mow around it.

Photos: Angela Morgan



Monsieur Tillier, a few days after the meeting: a rain-affected flower and a stem with formidable prickles.

General Business and planned activities:

Conference Raffle:

Our conference organisers are running a raffle as a fund raiser for the conference and I do have raffle tickets available at \$2.00 each. The raffle as fully detailed on page 14 of the Winter Journal is:

- 1st prize - A shawl created by Pauline Dunne which she has titled 'Roses on a Misty Hillside'. The photo above right taken by Susan Wade is a close up of the pattern.
- 2nd prize – Rose Atlas: Creators of Roses – Pioneers & Dynasties. Donated by Dr Tommy Cairns and Susan Wade.
- 3rd prize – Choice of rose plant **Mrs Graham Hart** donated by Leonie Kearney or a \$50 Bunnings voucher.

If you wish to purchase tickets I will have them available at our meetings on 13th September, 27th September and 4th October.



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 newsletter is planned to be week ending 31/10/25.

Rookwood planned activity and working bees:

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 1st September; Friday 26th September; Monday 6th October and Friday 24th 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.

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

Neutrog:

Neutrog are still to organise a Sydney Depot and this may happen in 2026?

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 13th September 2:00 pm**
Joint meeting with Northern Sydney Rose Society Group.
Topic: How to Achieve Maximum Success with Roses this Spring – Speaker Rohan de Britt, NSW/ACT Area Manager for Searles.
Venue: Meeting Room 1 of the former Gordon Public School adjacent to Gordon Library, 799 Pacific Highway Gordon.

Northern Sydney Rose Society Group are hosting us for afternoon tea so you do not need to bring a plate to share as we usually do. However, in order to fit in with their requirements you do need to:

- Saturday 27th September**
Venue: Maitland – garden visit.
 This is a wonderful opportunity to visit a new garden which will be quite different to their previous garden in South Maroota but I am sure there will still be many roses. Also they do have a Japanese garden so that will be added interest. We will also be able to pay a visit to the Wilga Abrahams Heritage Rose Garden at Grossman House.
Please contact Sydney Group Coordinator for details should you be interested in attending.
- Saturday 4th October 2:00pm (note this is the 1st Saturday of the month and not our usual 2nd Saturday)**
Venue: Westleigh – garden visit.
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.
- Saturday 8th November**
Venue: Berrima – garden visit.
Please contact Sydney Group Coordinator for details should you be interested in attending.
- Saturday 6th December**
Venue: Beecroft - Christmas lunch.
Please contact Sydney Group Coordinator for details should you be interested in attending.
- Saturday 13th December**
 The inaugural meeting of Mark Massey's / Mother Earth new garden club. Hopefully I will have details for our October newsletter.

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.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 Phone 02 9653 1745 Email info@greeneroses.com.au