



HRIA SYDNEY GROUP NEWSLETTER October 2025

Sunday 26th October 2025

*Photo and arrangement by Marian Crambrook;
Roses - Climbing Lorraine Lee' Hybrid Gigantea Tea, 1932
and G Nabonnand; tea 1888 with alstroemeria and pelargoniums.*



Dear Members,

When I wrote 2 months ago I said I thought spring was nearly here and then what a lot has happened weather wise in the last couple of months. The heat arrived, the rain stopped and for the first time in over 3 years I have had to switch my back courtyard watering from tank water to mains water!

A very warm welcome to new members Patricia Shergis from the Lower North Shore and Alan Bradney from the Sutherland Shire. We do hope you will be able to join in with some of our activities and meetings. Alan was able, whilst on holiday, to come out to one of Rookwood working bees and hopefully he will be able to get to some of our Saturday meetings. Patricia's involvement with heritage type roses started with the rose **Paul Ricault**; Hybrid Bourbon, Hybrid Perpetual; France 1845. This rose was brought to Australia by Patricia's German ancestors in the 1800's and is grown by many members of her family. In our June newsletter we welcomed Mary Choy who lives on the Northern Beaches and it was lovely to meet Mary at our recent conference in Toowoomba. Welcome to Debra Keller, who lives in Gerringong. Due to practicalities Debra has transferred her membership to our Sydney Group region.

As you will see at the head of this newsletter we have another flower arrangement. Marian Crambrook was so impressed with the arrangement done by Marcia Lusted for our last newsletter that she thought it would be a great idea if we could continue featuring an arrangement of heritage roses in our newsletters. So those of you out there in the land of heritage roses give it a go and email me a photo of your flower arrangement featuring heritage roses.

In September we met with the Northern Sydney Rose Society Group and heard a speaker from Searles talk about the Chilli thrip, which we were aware of being a problem in WA. Searles advised that the problem is now in Queensland and northern NSW and they have a very rigorous spray programme they recommend to eradicate and control the thrip. There have been several articles in our HRIA Journal regarding the thrip in WA and it has been mentioned that the tea roses don't appear to be affected as much and predatory mites are recommended. I would be interested to hear if any of our members have seen evidence of the thrip in their garden.

At the end of September we visited Steve and Adrienne Abrahams garden in Maitland. It was amazing to see this established looking garden which had only been planted two years ago. The roses were looking great and those not in flower were absolutely covered in buds. We also had the opportunity to see the Wilga Abrahams memorial garden at Grossman House and again this was a garden of very healthy well cared for roses. Thank you so much to the Abrahams for having us to visit.

Early October we visited Susan and Ken Wade's garden in Westleigh. The roses which were growing in pots and in the ground, due to the late spring, were just beginning to bloom. However, they were covered in buds and very healthy. There was a mix of modern and heritage roses and Susan had curated her garden with everything labelled as well as detailed lists. Thank you to Susan and Ken for having us to visit.

On the 17th October there were sixteen of our Sydney Group members who arrived in Toowoomba to attend the HRIA Sixteenth National Conference titled Gardens of the Range and Plains. We had a wonderful four days, catching up with old friends, visiting some fantastic gardens and seeing some beautiful roses growing in a different soil and climate to our own. This was a well organised and happy conference and as a comprehensive write up will be covered in our summer journal I will not go into the detail in our newsletter.

In our April newsletter we talked about the rose **Comtesse du Cayla**, china, France 1902. Peter Rezek Group Coordinator, Illawarra Southern Highlands has a couple more of these propagated plants which they will be selling as a fund raiser for their group. If you would like a plant please contact Peter direct on email prezek15@gmail.com.

As you will be aware from the spring journal we do have a particular rose we are trying to identify. It is now on Help Me Find with a study name 'Mystery of Rookwood'. The write up is loaded in but as yet due to some Help Me Find technical issues I cannot load the photos. I have been told to leave it for another week before trying again so if you wish to check say by the end of next week it should be completed and maybe someone will be able to identify this rose. We are in the process of ordering two **Radiance**, HT roses, USA 1908 from Reuben Nieuwesteeg's Wild Rose Nursery. These are replacement roses for Rookwood as we lost our 2 Radiance in the big wet.

A very big thank you again to Susan Wade who has done the write up on the roses members brought to our meetings at the Abrahams and Wades. 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.

It is a little early to say this but as this will be my last newsletter before Christmas I will take the opportunity to wish you and your families my very best wishes for the festive season.

Happy gardening and may your roses continue to bloom,
Glennis

Roses brought by members to the Sydney HRIA meeting on 27th September, 2025

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

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

On Saturday 27th September two members brought roses to our meeting which was a most enjoyable and interesting morning visit to the barely two years-old garden of Steve and Adrienne Abrahams at Bolwarra, near Maitland. Following the meeting, Steve gave us a very informative guided tour of the nearby Wilga Abrahams Memorial Rose Garden which is lovingly and expertly cared for by him.

Roses brought by Tiffany Bignold

Tiffany brought four roses:

- **Bleak House** (deep pink Hybrid Rugosa, found in 1995 by Maarten Reinalda at *Bleak House*, in Kyneton Victoria, formerly owned by Susan Irvine – purchased from Green E Roses, Galston.
- 'Hollyhocker' (purple-red Hybrid Rugosa, *Suzanne de Pelsen*, Koo Wee Rup, Victoria, c. 2000) – purchased from Wild Rose Nursery, Victoria.
- "Parks' Yellow Tea-scented China (in commerce as)" – purchased from either Mistydowns (now closed down) or Reliable Roses (Silvan, Victoria) in about 2016.
- An unnamed **Trier/Seduction** cross with small light pink flowers (bred by Dr Stephen Abrahams) – given to Tiffany by Steve, when our HRIA group visited his former garden at South Maroota in 2019.



L. to R: **Bleak House**, 'Hollyhocker', **Trier/Seduction** cross, (small light pink flowers, on long stem) and "Parks' Yellow Tea-scented China (in commerce as)"



A long stem of the **Trier/Seduction** cross, with unopened buds of its small light pink flowers

A 'Mystery Rose' from 'Barbara's Garden', Rookwood Cemetery brought by Glennis Clark



After discussion during the meeting, it was thought, based on its flowers – red with white centre – that this rose might be **Fabvier** (medium red China, before 1829, Jean Laffay, France), although **Fabvier** is a considerably smaller growing rose and less prickly.

However, on further checking the rose's growth habit a few days later, Glennis reported: *'I think our rose is more likely to be "Joseph Falconer" (Found Rose, Hybrid Bourbon, Hybrid China). Its description on **HMF** – Armed with thorns / prickles, bristly, climbing ... silver(y) reverse petals – is a much better fit'. It is on the original plan and appears to be located near where our bush is. It's not remontant (i.e. does not repeat flower), so that may be why we have missed it before'.*

Conclusion: The 'Mystery Rose' is "Joseph Falconer".

Roses brought by members to the Sydney HRIA meeting on 4th October, 2025

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

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

Three members brought roses to our October meeting held at Susan and Ken's garden in Westleigh.

Roses brought by Angela Morgan

Angela brought five roses:

- "Katie Pianto's Rose" (light pink with white centre Rambler). Growing beside Angela's front driveway and mainly spring-flowering, this rose had been 'a mystery' for several years but in 2022 Angela finally worked out its identity. This is a found rose, discovered in South Australia and elsewhere. Refer to *HMF* (click on **References** for more information).

"Katie Pianto's Rose", in October 2022



Photo: Angela Morgan

- **Kathleen Harrop** (light pink Bourbon, 1919, Alexander Dickson II, Northern Ireland).
- **Fortuniana** (white Miscellaneous OGR, c. 1850, Robert Fortune, UK). **Fortuniana** is the rose used as rootstock in WA, because it's good in sandy soil. Purchased from Honeysuckle Cottage Nursery (now closed), Grose Vale, owned by the late Dr Judyth McLeod. Angela saw it covering a shed and looking spectacular! It has 'wonderful fat buds' (Angela's words) and flowers for a long time in very early spring.
- **Nur Mahal** (medium red Hybrid Musk, 1923, Rev. Joseph Hardwick Pemberton UK).
- "Almerta Orchard Pink" (medium pink Tea, found in South Australia at a 1901 house). Refer to *HMF* (click on **References** for more information). Purchased from Roses & Friends (now closed), Fitzroy Falls.



"Katie Pianto's Rose"



Lower and upper left: **Kathleen Harrop** (two stems)
Lower centre: **Fortuniana** (white)



Left: **Nur Mahal** Lower right: "Almerta Orchard Pink"



Close-up of "Almerta Orchard Pink"

Roses brought by Sue Ballinger

Sue also brought five roses:

- **Sombreuil** (cream-white Large-Flowered Climber, bred by Unknown, circa 1940). (Information from *HMF*). Though not a vigorously growing rose, in Sue's garden it flowers throughout the year. There is more about this rose in the March 2025 Sydney HRIA Newsletter.
- **Lamarque** (white Tea Noisette, 1830, Maréchal, France). This is the first flower of the season on Sue's **Lamarque**; it is smaller than and a different shape compared to the flower of **Sombreuil**.
- **New Dawn** (light pink Large-Flowered Climber, 1930, Henry A Dreer, USA). **New Dawn** is growing over an arch leading to Sue and Bob's front lawn. This is first bloom of **New Dawn** this season.
- **Mademoiselle Cécile Brünner** (light pink Polyantha, before 1880, Marie Ducher, France). **Cécile** is quite prolific in Sue's garden, where she's growing over *Magnolia figo* (port wine magnolia).
- **Comtesse de Larbarthe** (often sold as **Duchesse de Brabant**) (light pink Tea, 1857, Pierre Bernède, France). Sue planted one bush of this rose – it has self-rooted and now she has four bushes. It has been flowering throughout winter.



Lower left: **New Dawn**

Lower centre: **Mlle Cécile Brünner**



Lower right: **Sombreuil**

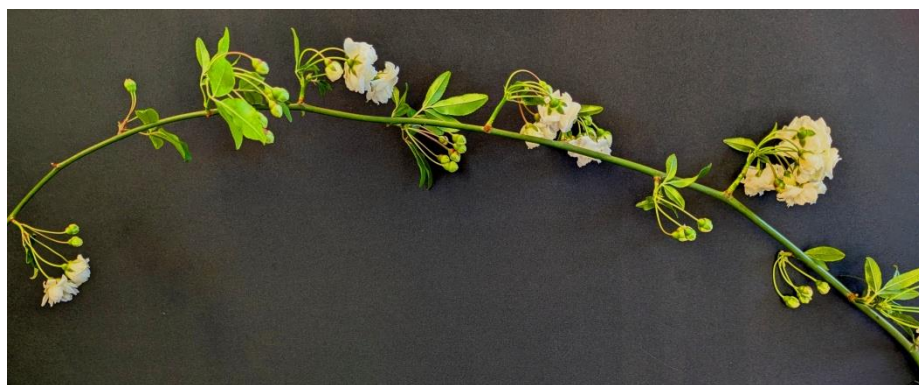


Lower left: **Comtesse de Larbarthe**

Centre right: **Lamarque**

Roses brought by Intan Kallus

Intan brought one long stem of *Rosa banksiae alba plena* (White Banksia Rose). *R banksiae alba plena* was one of the eight roses Intan planted in 2023 on either side her then new rose arbour in her and husband Hugo's picturesque Kangaroo Valley property.



The long stem of *R banksiae alba plena*



Close-up of Intan's *R banksiae alba plena* in late September

Photo Intan Kallus

More information from Intan: '*R. banksiae alba plena*, was acquired from **The Village Green Nursery** in Kangaroo Valley. I thought I had bought two *R. banksiae alba plena* and two *R. banksiae lutea* (Yellow Banksia Rose), but realised when all four plants bloomed that I only had one *R banksiae alba plena*! Against this rose arbour, I also planted two **Souvenir de Madame Léonie Viennot** (yellow-pink Climbing Tea, 1897) which I had struck from cuttings from the late Sue Kingsford's garden and two of my own-raised open pollinated *R. multiflora* hybrids, one with purple blooms and one with pink blooms.'

General Business and planned activities:

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 31/1/26.

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. We plan to work on Monday 3rd November and Friday 14th November. At this stage we do not plan to work in December or January. 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 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'. The following is a direct link to our page on the website <https://www.heritageroses.org.au/hria-regions/sydney/>. I would love to have some feedback plus ideas for future articles.

Up and coming events:

- **Saturday 8th November**
Visit to Clive West and Eric Savage's garden
We will be joining with the Illawarra Southern Highlands Group and meeting from 11:00 am. Please bring a plate to share for morning tea / lunch and also your own mug and folding chair.
Please contact Sydney Group Coordinator for details should you be interested in attending.
- **Saturday 6th December 12:00pm**
Christmas lunch – at Beecroft
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. The full details have not been advised as yet but there will be a meeting on this date at Pennant Hills. I believe most have registered to receive information but if you would like me to advise the details when I receive them please let me know.
- **Saturday 14th February 2026**
AGM – details to be in the January 2026 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