



## HRIA SYDNEY GROUP NEWSLETTER January 2026



*Pink Gruss an Aachen; Floribunda; Kluis  
Netherlands 1929*

**Saturday, 31 January 2026**

Dear Members,

I do hope this finds you all well and that you and your roses are coping with the extremes in weather we have had this summer. First of all a very warm welcome to new member Karen Lang. Karen lives up close to the Queensland border and has joined Heritage Roses after reading that wonderful book 'Where the Wild Roses Grow' by Janelle McCulloch. Back in March last year a number of us attended Janelle's talk to launch the publication at the North Sydney library and I think we all bought the book! If you are down in Sydney at any stage Karen it would be great if you could come to a meeting or perhaps we could take you to Barbara's Garden at Rookwood Necropolis or The Rumsey Garden Parramatta Park.

The above rose, **Pink Gruss an Aachen** is growing in a pot in my front courtyard. I purchased it from Reuben Nieuwesteeg, The Wild Rose Nursery in April 25 and so far it is doing well in a pot. We think it may be the same as the mystery rose Sally bought from Green E Roses last year – we just have try and compare both roses when they are flowering at the same time!

In November last year we visited Clive West and Eric Savage's garden in Berrima. We always enjoy a visit to this wonderful garden which has an abundance of our favourite old roses. This was a joint meeting with the Illawarra and Southern Highlands Group and a most enjoyable day. In December we had our annual Christmas lunch and this year it was at The Beehive Café in Beecroft. A most enjoyable lunch and a very hot day so we did appreciate being inside in the air conditioning. Also in December was the inaugural meeting of The Mother Earth Garden Club Fair. Mark Massey and his team put on a magnificent event and a number of our members did attend and enjoy the day. We will keep you informed of future Mother Earth events as I believe there will be a couple more to look forward to this year.

We have several times mentioned in our newsletters the polyantha rose **Mrs R.M. Finch** bred by Mr R.M. Finch in 1923. Well a few months ago I was contacted by the granddaughter of R.M. Finch, she was doing family research and her son, who was helping her, found our article on Mrs R.M. Finch of the Heritage Roses website. She has since purchased the rose from Ross Roses.

Following the conference we have had the 'Rose Atlas – Creators of Roses' book written by Dr Tommy Cairns & Luis Desamera donated to our group to use as a fund raiser. This is a beautiful book which we will raffle over our next 3 meetings. Tickets will be \$2 each or \$5 for 3. Susan Wade has been busy with some news for you regarding a rare rose brought by Sally to our March 2024 meeting. Thank you Susan for the following update. Don't forget that if you have any special roses in bloom for our next 2 meetings please bring them for our 'show and tell' segment.

Happy gardening and very best wishes,  
Glennis

## Update on stem cuttings of Sally's Léonie Lamesch, supplied to Ross Roses in March 2024 *Susan Wade*

The May 2024 Sydney HRIA Newsletter included information about **Léonie Lamesch** (orange blend Polyantha, 1899, Peter Lambert, Germany), one of several roses which Sally Price brought to our March 2024 meeting. Later in that newsletter I explained that enquiries made to several specialist rose nurseries established that this rose is currently not commercially available however Andrew Ross, owner of Ross Roses in Willunga SA, was keen to be supplied with stem cuttings which would allow him to propagate **Léonie Lamesch**. In late March 2024 nine stem cuttings of Sally's **Léonie Lamesch** were sent to Andrew and since then I have maintained contact with him, to check on the success of the grafts from the stem cuttings of **Léonie Lamesch**.



Photo: Margaret Furness

Léonie Lamesch

### **Update from Andrew Ross on 28<sup>th</sup> December, 2025:**

*We had five grow and this year had a special request from a customer wanting **Léonie** for the loss of her mother Leonie, so sold two. I will be making more from those remaining so others can enjoy.*

To order **Léonie Lamesch** or to enquire about any other 'hard to find' heritage roses contact Ross Roses: **E. [admin@rossroses.com.au](mailto:admin@rossroses.com.au) T. 08 8556 2555**

Phone between 10am & 4pm (SA time is 30 minutes behind NSW time) Monday to Saturday.

<https://rossroses.com.au/>

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

#### **Membership:**

Your membership renewal was due 1<sup>st</sup> January 2026. The majority have paid but just in case you have not quite got around to it I have included the membership form with this newsletter. To pay online sign into the website as a member. If you prefer you may bring the completed form to our meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> February or post to the address on the form.

#### **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 28/3/26.

#### **Rookwood planned activity and working bees:**

**Working bees have usually been 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month commencing approximately 10:00am. . We plan to work on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February and Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> March. We will programme in further working bees at our AGM on 14<sup>th</sup> Feb.** 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.**

**We have 4-6 potted roses sitting my back courtyard and plan to plant these at Rookwood when the weather cools down.**

#### **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 14<sup>th</sup> February 2026 2:00pm**  
**Annual General Meeting**  
**Venue – the home of Glennis Clark**  
Please contact Sydney Group Coordinator for details should you be interested in attending.
- **Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2026 2:00pm**  
**Venue: Home of Sue and Bob Ballinger**  
Please contact Sydney Group Coordinator for details should you be interested in attending.
- **Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March**  
**Mother Earth Garden Club**  
I do not have the details as yet but if you have not registered your interest with the club please let me know and I will forward the information when I receive it.

| HRIA Sydney Group Committee for 2025 |  |  |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| <b>Group Coordinator</b>             | Glennis Clark                                |  |  |
| <b>Treasurer</b>                     | Pauline Dunne                                |  |  |
| <b>Calendar Organiser</b>            | Sue Ballinger                                |  |  |
| <b>Committee Members</b>             | Susan Wade<br>Ros Bignold<br>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)**