



HRIA Sydney Group Newsletter

March 2026

From our Group Coordinator,
Glennis Clark

Sunday 22nd March, 2026

Dear Members,

Autumn has now arrived, however we are still getting some humidity. Our roses cannot be complaining about the lack of rain in our part of the world but in some parts of Australia there is just either too much or not enough. I do hope this finds you all well and enjoying being out in the garden now that the days are just a little bit cooler.

A very warm welcome to two new members: Salle-Ann Ehms from Glebe who has got to know us by coming to Rookwood and photographing the roses. Recently she started weeding and has decided to join. Jacki Fletcher lives in Walcha and was searching online for some of her favourite old roses when she came across the Heritage Roses website. She then thought 'I should join this group' and so she did. I do hope you both continue to enjoy these beautiful old roses and being part of our Heritage Roses organisation.

Our AGM was held at my home during our February meeting. I won't go into the detail of this meeting because we have attached to this newsletter a copy of the Draft Minutes, Coordinator's report for 2025 and Financial report as at 31st December 2025. A very big thank you to Susan Wade who has taken on the role of Newsletter Editor. Susan did an excellent job when she last had this role and we all look forward to her very informative newsletters. Our March meeting was at the home of Sue and Bob Ballinger. We had a most enjoyable afternoon discussing roses and walking around Sue and Bob's extensive and floriferous garden with many members taking home cuttings of a variety of plants. Thank you to Sue and Bob for making your home available and for sharing your garden.

Rookwood was in need of us when we had our first working bee of the year early February as with the heat and rain the weeds had taken off. We have decided to employ a gardener to help us get on top of the influx of weeds. Sally's gardener came and gave us a hand on 3rd March, and on 23rd March we will have some help from Tracey's gardener. By the way, the roses are looking fantastic with many in full flower. We will have approximately 15 roses to plant out at Rookwood at the end of April or early May, but more about that next time.

During February I gave talks to two garden clubs – The Shire Garden Club at Castle Hill and The Vaucluse Garden Club. During March Judith Oyston gave a talk on Alister Clark and his roses to the Northern Sydney Regional Rose Society Group. So, more gardeners are hearing about heritage roses.

Our 2027 Heritage Roses Conference will be held in Armidale between Thursday 11th & Monday 15th November. What a spectacular city and surrounds this will be for a conference all about heritage roses. Planning has commenced: Lynne Walker and Dar Brookes are organising the garden schedule, John Maurer is in charge of the buses, Marian Crambrook will be Conference Registrar and I will be Conference Convenor. Armidale is part of Sydney Group and you will be kept up to date and, as we progress, may be asked to volunteer for some tasks.

As mentioned in our AGM minutes, we are going to prepare some documentation to have ready in case it becomes necessary for our Sydney Group to incorporate. The NSW Government department we would need to go through is the Department of Fair Trading and Ken Wade has given us a website link. What I



*Crépuscule, with a garden-friendly bee
– in Susan's garden, February 2026
Read more about this rose on page 6.*

need now is for someone to volunteer to prepare an action plan and maybe some draft documents that we can keep on file should incorporation become necessary. The department does have a model constitution we can adapt / use and we do want to keep this as simple as possible. If you are prepared to volunteer for this task please give me a call to discuss.

Keep enjoying the roses, *Glennis*.

From the Editor

Welcome to the March 2026 newsletter. I am pleased to return as Sydney HRIA Editor, following a four-year break.

Do you have a topic which you would like to be covered or any news to report for our Sydney HRIA Newsletter? Also, stories about members' gardens (with photos) are very welcome, especially for editions which do not have an item about members' roses brought to meetings. Closing date for the next newsletter is 15th May. Please contact the editor, preferably by email (*details on p. 8*) for more information.

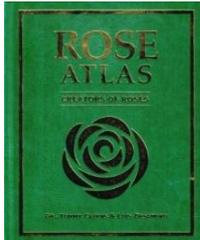
Future newsletters will be sent out the last week of May, mid-August, and the last week of September and November.

Do try and bring a few (heritage) roses to our upcoming meetings for 'show and tell'. Share with our members: the name of the rose, when and where you obtained it, how it performs in your garden, a description of its perfume and any other interesting information. To ensure freshness, it is advisable to place the stems in a container of water as soon as you cut them.

Happy gardening and enjoy the autumn weather. *Susan*.

General Business

Fundraising raffle for an exceptional book, not available for purchase in Australia



Following the 2025 HRIA Conference held in Toowoomba, we have had the 422 page book *ROSE ATLAS: CREATORS OF ROSES*, by Dr Tommy Cairns & Luis Desamero, donated to our group to use as a fund raiser. This is a beautiful book which we will raffle over our next few meetings – it will be drawn at our Rookwood meeting on 16th May. Tickets are \$2 each or \$5 for three.

- **Membership:** The majority have paid their 2026 membership but there are still a couple overdue. If your payment is not received by 30th April you will not receive subsequent journals. If you need to clarify whether your payment has been received please phone Glennis (*details on p. 8*).
- **Booklet – Heritage Roses in Our Gardens:** This booklet has been updated. Glennis has a complimentary copy available to members and also booklets for sale to the public at \$10.00 each
- **The 2027 HRIA Conference:** Will be in Armidale, NSW – 11th to 15th November – details TBA.

World Federation of Rose Societies (WFRS)



WFRS, founded in 1968, holds regular Regional Conferences and triennial World Rose Conventions in various member countries around the world. For more information, check out the WFRS website www.worldrose.org/

World Rose News (WRN) and By Any Other Name (BAON), Newsletter of the WFRS Heritage Committee: Heritage Roses in Australia is an Associate Member of the WFRS, so HRIA members are entitled to have access to *WRN* and *BAON*. Currently, a password is **not** required to view and download current and past editions of *WRN* (quarterly) and *BAON* (biannual) – click on the MEMBERS SECTION of the WFRS website.

Another informative heritage rose-related newsletter is: ***Singularly Beautiful Roses*** – accessible on the HRIA website: www.heritageroses.org.au/category/articles/

Vale Gil Teague

Many HRIA members and other keen gardeners would be saddened to hear of the passing on 12th February 2026 of Gilbert Robertson (Gil) Teague. Gil was the owner of Florilegium Garden Bookstore, an iconic bookshop in Glebe which ceased trading in December 2019 after 30 years of delighting gardening book lovers Australia-wide.

Roses brought by members to the Sydney HRIA meeting on 14th February, 2026

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

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

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

We had a great start to the year! Six members brought roses to our AGM and February meeting held at Glennis Clark's. This item includes information about five members' roses.

Roses brought by Sally Price

Sally brought five roses, all bush form and most were Teas – obviously thriving in Sydney's hot summer.

- **Anna Olivier** (pink blend Tea, 1872, Claude Ducher, France).
- **Monsieur Tillier** (orange-pink Tea, 1891, Alexandre Bernaix, France).
- **Penelope** (light pink Hybrid Musk, 1924, Rev. Joseph Hardwick Pemberton UK).
- **Rosette Delizy** (yellow blend Tea, 1921, Paul Nabonnand).
- **Lady Hillingdon** (yellow blend Tea, 1910, Lowe and Shawyer, UK).

In the words of the late Robert Calkin, quoted on p. 7 of the May 2025 edition of *BAON**: '**Lady Hillingdon** is an "outstanding" example of a true tea rose "with its characteristic fragrant blend of tea and violet".'



L. to R.: **Anna Olivier**, **Mons. Tillier** (flower faded due to the hot weather), two **Penelope**, **Rosette Delizy** (two, at back), **Lady Hillingdon**, another **Anna Olivier**

Information from Sally about her **Lady Hillingdon**:

*'I purchased this rose from Green E Roses in 2021 and planted it in a sunny location, but in recent years there is some shade due to my neighbour's shrubs. With a height of 1.5m and width of 90cm, it is smaller than most of my roses. Nonetheless, it's a good performer, repeat flowers for most of the year and is well-suited for the vase. **Lady Hillingdon** was the favourite rose of the world-renowned rosarian David Ruston.'*



Editor's note: **Lady Hillingdon** is planted in the beds surrounding David Ruston's sculpture, unveiled in October 2010, in Jarrett Memorial Gardens Renmark, SA. David died in May 2019.

Lady Hillingdon – on one of many bushes surrounding the David Ruston sculpture in Renmark – in late autumn 2025

* *By Any Other Name (BAON)* is the Journal/Newsletter of the WFRS Heritage Committee of the World Federation of Rose Societies (WFRS). Refer to p. 7 of this newsletter for more information about *BAON*.

Roses brought by Glennis Clark

Glennis brought two roses – **Pink Grüss an Aachen** and **Radiance** which were in an attractive floral arrangement with Chocolate Queen Anne's Lace (*Daucus carota*).

- **Pink Grüss an Aachen** (orange-pink Floribunda, 1929, Rudolf Kluis, Netherlands). Interestingly, although the two blooms are from the same bush they have a different form.

*There's more information about **Pink Grüss an Aachen** in our June 2025 and January 2026 Newsletters.*

- **Radiance** (light pink Hybrid Tea, 1908, John Cook & Sons, USA).

The **Radiance** bloom was from one of the two potted **Radiance** roses which have been purchased from Wild Rose Nursery and are will soon to be planted in 'Barbara's' Garden', Rockwood Cemetery. As Glennis explains on p. 2 of the October 2025 Sydney HRIA Newsletter, these roses will replace the two **Radiance** bushes which died during the big wet of 2022.



Glennis' floral arrangement
 L. to R.: Two different-looking blooms of **Pink Gruss an Aachen**, Chocolate Queen Anne's Lace, **Radiance** (at top)



Photo: Margaret Furness

Radiance – in another garden

Roses brought by Angela Morgan

Angela brought six roses, of various classes and colours, from her wonderful garden in Galston.

- **Duchesse d'Auerstädt** (medium yellow Tea Noisette, 1887, Alexandre Bernaix, France).
- **Suitor** (light pink Polyantha, c. 1940, Alister Clark, Australia).
- **Spring Song** (deep pink Shrub, 1954, Frank Riethmuller, Australia).
- **Souvenir de St. Anne's** (light pink Bourbon, before 1916, Andrew Campbell, Ireland).
- **Madame Alfred Carrière** (cream/light pink Noisette, 1875, Joseph Schwartz, France).
- *Rosa roxburghii* f. *plena* (medium pink Species).



L. to R.: **Duchesse d'Auerstädt**, **Spring Song** (top L.), **Souvenir de St. Anne's** (mid-centre), **Suitor** (lower centre), hip of *R. roxburghii* f. *plena* (top R.), **Madame Alfred Carrière** (upper centre)
 Not in photo – flower(s) of *R. roxburghii* f. *plena*

Information from Angela about her *Rosa roxburghii* f. *plena*:

'I've had this rose, which I think I purchased from Green E Roses, for a long time. I bought it because I had read about its unusual chestnut like buds, and they are very cute. Over a few days the buds expand to a multi-petalled flower which doesn't seem to have a perfume. (Some references describe its perfume as 'light, sweet, and pleasant' – Ed.) It usually flowers only once; it does have a few flowers after the initial all-over-flowering, but no recurrence in other seasons. I don't consider it a great shrub for a small garden. Interesting rather than beautiful, although the flowers are a lovely deep pink. They are about 3 inches (7cm) in diameter.'

Angela's photos of her *Rosa roxburghii* f. *plena*



Bud



Flower



Hip (resembling a chestnut burr)

Roses brought by Marian Crambrook

Marian's floral art skills produced a beautiful arrangement, in an equally beautiful white porcelain jug, with three different roses, as listed below, and other assorted flowers from her picturesque garden in Kurrajong.

- **G. Nabonnand (Gilbert Nabonnand)** (orange-pink Tea, 1888, Gilbert Nabonnand, France).
- **Perle d'Or** (yellow blend Polyantha, 1875, Joseph Rambaux, France).
(The French phrase 'Perle d'Or' translates to 'Pearl of Gold'.)
- **The Fairy** (light pink Polyantha, 1932, Ann and John Bentall, UK).

Two different views of Marian's floral arrangement



L. to R.: *Solanum* spp. (purple flowers), **The Fairy** (at back), **Perle d'Or** and several dahlias
Not in photo – **G. Nabonnand**



L. to R.: **Perle d'Or**, **The Fairy** (at back), **G. Nabonnand**,
Also, on L. & R.: berries and trailing stems of *Ampelopsis glandulosa*, pink-red Abutilon and several dahlias

Note that while the purple flowers of this *Solanum* spp. and the trailing stems and decorative green and purple speckled berries of *Ampelopsis glandulosa* are useful in floral arrangements, both these plants may be invasive and are classified as weeds in some regions.

Marian says that she loves all three of these roses for different reasons:

'**G. Nabonnand** for looking beautiful in the garden when it covers itself. I also love its new growth. It's not a good cut flower as the stems are too weak and the flower disintegrates easily, especially in the heat.

Photo: Bonnie Crambrook



G. Nabonnand in Marian's garden, spring 2021

Perle d'Or for its lovely ruffled shape and good cut flower qualities. I find it has the best colour in Autumn for me. I also love that you can cut this rose back very hard and it will still come back very well.

The Fairy is one of the first roses I grew and also I grew this one from cuttings, so I have a soft spot for it. It is a great cut flower and when it's in full bloom it's really a picture. Another good rose to cut back hard if necessary and it will come back nicely. It is hardly ever without a flower.'

The Fairy in Marian's garden, spring 2021



It is worth remembering that **Perle d'Or** and **The Fairy** are Earth-Kind roses. There'll be a brief item about Earth-Kind roses in the next newsletter.

Roses brought by Susan Wade

Susan brought five cuttings of rose blooms and two stems of hips from a spring-only-flowering rose.

- Seedling of **Trier*** (white Hybrid Multiflora) – hips & long stem (it's spring-flowering). * Its parent plant, **Trier** (white Multiflora, before 1903, Peter Lambert, Germany) had self-pollinated. The full story about this rose is in our March 2024 Newsletter.
- 'Little Suzie' (Lilac-pink/white Hybrid Multiflora [or possibly a Polyantha], before 2005, Colin Horner, UK). While not a heritage rose, according to the '75 year rule', I have included it as it was named in 2007 (by Steve Beck) for the late esteemed rosarian Sue (Suzanne) Kingsford, who died in 2020. This rose was acquired in 2020 from HRIA member Robyn Coupland, who propagated it from stem cuttings.
- **Beauty of New South Wales** (crimson/white centre Polyantha, 1931, George Knight, NSW).
- **Queen Elizabeth** (medium pink Grandiflora, before 1951, Dr Walter Lammerts, USA)..
- **Marjory Palmer** (medium pink Polyantha, 1936, Alister Clark, Victoria).
- **Crépuscule** (Apricot Noisette, 1904, Francis Dubreuil, France). It has no prickles and its perfume, described in some references as 'an intense, sweet musk fragrance' depends on the temperature, season and time of day; I could not detect any perfume on a hot afternoon. Flowering for most of the year, this is one of my favourite roses. I was first introduced to **Crépuscule** in 2005 at my former garden in Berry where a magnificent weeping standard, planted by a previous owner, welcomed visitors to our front door.



At front: 'Seedling of Trier' hips
'Little Suzie'



L. to R.: Beauty of New South Wales, Crépuscule,
Queen Elizabeth (rear), Marjory Palmer

Crépuscule – in Susan's garden

The pictured bush is a 'predecessor' of my current **Crépuscule** and was photographed in October 2021.

Very sadly, that bush died in early 2023 due to water-logged clayey soil following almost continual rain in Sydney during 2022 – Sydney's wettest year ever recorded. On the advice of Klaus and Brigitte Eckardt at Green E Roses, in May 2023 the rose was dug out and discarded, three 10 litre buckets of soil were removed and put aside and liquid (not powdered) gypsum was applied to both the buckets of soil (covered against any rain) and garden bed, to break down the clay in preparation for a replacement **Crépuscule**. In addition to aged cow manure, the three buckets of gypsum-treated soil were dug into the garden bed shortly before the new **Crépuscule**



was planted in July 2023. Two-and-a half years later, the replacement **Crépuscule** (pictured on p. 1) is looking almost as good as its predecessor. I purchased **Crépuscule** from Green E Roses.

Roses brought by members to the Sydney HRIA meeting on 14th March, 2026

Text by Susan Wade and Angela Morgan. Photos are by Angela (unless otherwise acknowledged).

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

Three members brought roses to our March meeting held at Sue & Bob Ballinger's. This item contains information about two members' roses.

Roses brought by Sally Price

Sally brought three quite different roses, including a beautiful white/light pink modern single rose.

- **Marie van Houtte** (pink with cream centre Tea, 1871, Claude Ducher, France). Sally's bush is very prickly and has a lanky form. *Below: The second Marie van Houtte was photographed in another garden.*
- **Mademoiselle Cécile Brünner** (bush form) (light pink Polyantha, before 1880, Marie Ducher, France).
- **Roseromantic** (white/light pink shading Floribunda, 1984, Reimer Kordes, Germany).

It's a beautiful single rose with prominent stamens, as shown in the photo. Described in catalogues and on websites as 'spreading', at the moment it's acting like a climber in Sally's garden.



Marie van Houtte



Photo: Susan Wade



Mademoiselle Cécile Brünner



Roseromantic

Rose brought by Glennis Clark

- **Grüss an Aachen** (light pink Floribunda, 1909, Wilhelm Hinner, Germany). Named after the city where the breeder of this rose lived – 'Gruss an Aachen' is German for 'Greetings to Aachen'.

Glennis purchased this rose, which is growing in a large pot in her sunny courtyard, from Wild Rose Nursery in Victoria (by mail order).

Pink Grüss an Aachen (Floribunda, 1929), which Glennis brought to our February meeting, is a Sport of **Grüss an Aachen**.

The three blooms of **Grüss an Aachen**, all from the same bush, which Glennis brought to the meeting. As shown in the photo, it has a pink bud and as the flower opens it gradually fades to cream.



Planned Activities Working Bees in 'Barbara's Garden', Rookwood Cemetery

We usually work on the first Monday of each month between 10.00 am & 12.30 pm (followed by lunch).

Our next three working bees during 2026 will be on 6th April, 4th May and 8th June. Please bring your own pruning & weeding tools, chair & lunch. Park in the car park opposite All Souls Chapel – the rose garden is behind the car park. We do not work in rain, heatwaves or very cold weather. If you wish to come and are not sure of the weather – and for directions if a newcomer, please contact the Sydney Group Coordinator.

Monday 30th March from 9:30 am Propagation day at Rookwood

Sydney HRIA member Marcia Lusted is coming down from Bonville (near Coffs Harbour) to bring the potted roses she has grown from cuttings since her last visit, and she will also be collecting more propagation material. The Illawarra & Southern Highlands HRIA Group's Propagation Team are coming to collect propagation material so that they can grow some of these rare roses. Our Sydney Group members will be doing general maintenance and/or if any wish to take cuttings for propagation this will be a good time to do it. Successfully grown cuttings will be either planted in 'Barbara's Garden' or sold as a fund raiser. However, if you wish to propagate cuttings for your own garden that is also considered a good idea. *Glennis*.

Up and Coming Events for 2026

Sydney HRIA meetings are usually held on the second Saturday of the month (but there are exceptions).

- **Monday 30th March, 9:30 am – Propagation day at Rookwood** Refer to page 7 for more information
- **Saturday 18th to Monday 20th April – Southern Highlands Autumn Garden Weekend & Plant Fair**
Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens, 1 Old South Rd, Bowral. Also, five open gardens & other events. Please refer to the website for full details: [//shbg.com.au/open-gardens-plant-fair/](https://shbg.com.au/open-gardens-plant-fair/)
The Illawarra & Southern Highlands HRIA Group will be selling their propagated roses and Reuben Nieuwesteeg of Wild Rose Nursery will also have roses for sale.
- **Saturday 16th May, 10.00am – 1.30pm (incl. lunch) – Annual pruning day at ‘Barbara’s Garden’ Rookwood Cemetery** *Changed from the 2nd Saturday to avoid the Mother’s Day weekend.*
Please bring your own tools, lunch and a chair. Park in the car park opposite All Souls Chapel – the rose garden is behind the carpark. If you wish to come and are not sure of the weather, please phone Glennis.

Events planned for later in 2026 – more information in future newsletters

- **Saturday 13th June, 2.00pm** – ‘Frank Riethmuller, his life & roses’ – Susan Wade **Venue:** Glennis Clark’s
- **Saturday 4th July, 10.00am – 1.30pm** – Annual pruning day at Rumsey Rose Garden, Parramatta Park
- **Saturday 8th August, 2.00pm** – ‘Roses Growing Elsewhere’ – Glennis Clark **Venue:** Glennis Clark’s
- **Saturday 12th September, 2.00pm** – Meeting at Angela Morgan’s home and garden.
- **October Meeting** – In the process of being arranged – details in the next newsletter
- **November Meeting (date & time TBA)** – Visit to the garden of Lillian and Lindsay Barry
- **Saturday 12th December 2026, 12.00pm** – End of year lunch at Beehive Café Restaurant, Beecroft

HRIA Sydney Group Committee for 2026			
Group Coordinator	Glennis Clark		
Treasurer	Pauline Dunne		
Newsletter Editor	Susan Wade		
Calendar Coordinator	Sue Ballinger		
Committee members	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 & Jacqui Eckardt

Potted roses only, year-round

Website: www.greeneroses.com.au **Tel.:** 02 9653 1745 **E.:** info@greeneroses.com.au

Green E Roses is our local Sydney nursery for heritage roses. They are true rosarians, have always been very helpful and have our full support. However, if you are unable to find the heritage rose you are looking for at this our local nursery, you may be able to purchase by mail order from one of the following

Wild Rose Nursery – in the Yarra Valley, Vic – Reuben Nieuwesteeg

Bare-root roses – delivered May to July, pre-order year-round Potted roses – year-round

Website: www.wildrosenursery.com.au

Ross Roses – in Willunga, SA

Bare-root roses – delivered June to August, order early (No potted roses sent interstate)

Website: www.rossroses.com.au **Tel.:** 08 8556 2555 **E.:** admin@rossroses.com.au

Wagner’s Roses – in Kalangadoo, SA

Bare-root roses – delivered July to September, order early Potted roses – September to May

Website: www.wagnersrosenursery.com.au