



HRiA Sydney Group Newsletter

August 2026

From our Group Coordinator,
Glennis Clark

Sunday 23rd August 2026

Dear Members,

Here I am back from a holiday to Iceland and Greenland and yes I did find a couple of heritage roses in Iceland but more about that another time. We have had a very mild winter in Sydney and the tea roses at Rookwood have not stopped flowering. We had our final **big** working bee at Rookwood yesterday and I am very pleased to say that the cardboard laying and mulching is finished and the weeding is under control! We, the working bee team, would not have been able to do it without the help of Tracey's gardener Lucas, his energy and sense of humour kept us on the move! We did have information on the Barbara's Garden, Rookwood project in the last newsletter and I will be doing a full report for the HRiA Summer Journal. As you will see on pages 7 and 8 we are having an open day at Barbara's Garden, Rookwood on 10th October and it will be great if as many of you as possible can participate in the day and view the progress made.



Titian

(Deep pink [Climbing] Floribunda, before 1955, Frank Riethmuller, Australia) – in Kodja Place, Australian Rose Maze, Kojunup WA

Photographed by Susan in November 2018

A very warm welcome to new member Ursula Walters who lives in Georges River LGA. We look forward to meeting Ursula at perhaps one of our future meetings and / or working bees.

In our last newsletter I asked if someone would volunteer to research what would be involved for our Sydney Group to become incorporated. This was an exercise we needed to do just in case it becomes necessary to go down this path. Marcia Lusted volunteered and has done an excellent job. She has put together a paper covering the pros and cons, eligibility and process steps. This document will be an attachment to our January newsletter and be on the agenda for discussion at our AGM in February. Thank you Marcia.

Susan Wade was the speaker at our meeting on the 8th August and she gave a very informative talk and PowerPoint presentation on Frank Riethmuller, his life and roses. It was interesting to hear his story and in particular to hear about his roses many of which were bred not far from where I live in Turrumurra. It was lovely to have Mary Davis as a guest at our meeting and many of us remember Mary from when she had that wonderful Cottage Garden Nursery at Kenthurst. Mary has a special connection to the Riethmuller roses in that she named, one of Riethmuller's unnamed roses 'Chips Apple Blossom'.

As you will see we had a lovely collection of roses brought for our 'show and tell' discussion. A big thank you to Susan for being the editor and for getting every thing together for our newsletter before taking off on holiday. Also thank you so much to Marcia for putting together a very interesting article on rose propagation – refer pages 5 & 6.

Very best wishes to all, *Glennis*

From the Editor

Welcome to the August newsletter, and especially a warm welcome to any new members. Several of our members have enjoyed overseas trips in recent months. Safe travels to those about to venture further afield. Between late August and early September Ken and I will be doing a 17 day guided road tour between Darwin and to Broome. I don't expect to find too many heritage roses there, but I might be surprised!

Do you have a topic which you would like to be covered or any news to report in our Sydney HRIA Newsletter? Also, stories about members' gardens (with photos) are very welcome. Please contact the editor well before the closing date, preferably by email (*details on p. 8*), for more information.

The next and final newsletter for 2026 will be sent out in late October. The closing date is 17th October.

Do try and bring a few (heritage) roses to our meeting on 12th September for 'show and tell'. For each of your blooms, 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. Enjoy the delights of early spring. Susan.

Earth-Kind® Roses

Quoting the Earth-Kind website <<https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/earthkindroses/>>

Earth-Kind is a special designation given to select rose cultivars by the Texas AgriLife Extension Service through the Earth-Kind landscaping program. It is based on the results of extensive research and field trials and is awarded only to those roses demonstrating superior pest tolerance, combined with outstanding landscape performance.

Earth-Kind roses do well in a variety of soil types, ranging from well-drained acid sands to poorly aerated, highly alkaline clays. Once established, these select cultivars also have excellent heat and drought tolerance.

The use of Earth-Kind roses provides the opportunity to enjoy these wonderful flowering plants while limiting the use of fertilizers, pesticides, and water. These sustainable practices are excellent examples of how Earth-Kind landscaping is working to preserve and protect our natural resources and the environment.

Earth-Kind® Rose Cultivars as listed and classified on the Earth-Kind Roses website

There are 21 Earth-Kind® Rose Cultivars listed on the Earth-Kind® Roses website, and of these **17** could be described as 'heritage'. While definitions vary, a 'heritage rose' is here considered as any rose hybridised/introduced at least 75 years ago. Roses in **coloured text** are considered to be 'heritage'.

• Dwarf Shrubs

Marie Daly (a sport of the 1888 Polyantha **Marie Pavié**) (medium pink Polyantha, before 2002). **Souvenir de St. Anne's** (light pink Bourbon, before 1916). **The Fairy** (light pink Polyantha, 1932).

• Small Shrubs

'Caldwell Pink' AEN **Pink Pet** (light pink Polyantha, uncertain year). **Mlle Cécile Brünner** (light pink Polyantha, 1880). **Perle d'Or** (yellow blend Polyantha, 1875).

• Medium Shrubs

Belinda's Dream (medium pink Shrub, 1992). **Carefree Beauty** (medium pink Shrub, 1979). **Ducher** (white China, before 1859). **Comtesse de Labarthe (Duchesse de Brabant)** (light pink Tea, 1857). **Else Poulsen** (med. pink Floribunda, 1924). "**Georgetown Tea**" (pink blend Tea, found in 1983 (possibly the same rose as **Mme Lambard** [Tea, 1877])). **Knock Out** (medium red Shrub, 2000). **La Marne** (pink blend Polyantha, 1915). **Madame Antoine Mari** (pink blend Tea, before 1890). **Mutabilis** (yellow blend China, before 1894).

• Mannerly (= polite) Climbers

Pinkie, Climbing (medium pink Climbing Polyantha, discovered in 1952). (A Sport of **Pinkie**, 1947.) **Sea Foam** (white Shrub, 1964).

• Vigorous Climbers

New Dawn (light pink Large-Flowered Climber, 1930). (A Sport of **Dr Walter Van Fleet**, 1899.) **Rêve d'Or** (medium yellow Noisette, 1869).

Note: The Earth-Kind® Rose Research and Outreach Program is ongoing, and the above list of Earth® Roses is by no means final.

Also refer to my article about Earth-Kind® Roses on pp. 15 -17 of the Summer 2022 HRIA Journal. Susan.

Roses brought to the Sydney HRIA meeting on 8th August 2026

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

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

Taking into account that we are still in winter, what an amazing variety of roses was brought by two members and also a visitor to our August meeting which was held at Glennis Clark's.

Roses brought by Angela Morgan

Angela brought six varieties of roses, in three containers. Except for **Fortuniana**, they are all bush form.

Container 1

- **Comtesse de Labarthe** (light pink Tea, 1857, Pierre Bernède, France) (often sold as **Duchesse de Brabant**). *Earth-Kind* rose.
- **Lorraine Lee** (pink blend Hybrid Gigantea, Alister Clark, 1922).

Container 2

- **Old Blush** (medium pink China, before 1793, China).
- **Souvenir de St Anne's** (light pink Bourbon, before 1916, Andrew Campbell, Ireland). *Earth-Kind* rose.
- **Marie van Houtte** (pink with cream centre Tea, 1871, Claude Ducher, France).

Container 3

- **Comtesse de Labarthe**
- **Fortuniana** (white Species Cross, c. 1850, discovered Robert Fortune, England).



Angela's favourite of these six roses is **Lorraine Lee**. *'It's the first Alister Clark rose I ever knew, I saw it growing in an old garden at Glenorie. No one had looked after the garden for years and here in the midst of overgrown weeds was this glowing rose, flowering in winter. I love the perfume and the clear warm pink of the unfurling flowers. It has elegant buds that stand up straight on slender stems.'*

Roses brought by Tracey Fleischner

Tracey brought a container laden with ten varieties of roses of assorted colours and classes.

- **Marie van Houtte** (pink with cream centre Tea, 1871, Claude Ducher, France).
- **Lamarque** (white Noisette, 1830, Maréchal, France).
- **The Children's Rose** (light pink Hybrid Tea, before 1994, Alain Meilland Ducher, France). A smooth-stemmed, highly fragrant and robustly growing modern rose.
- **G. Nabonnand** (often in commerce as 'Jean Ducher') (orange-pink Tea, 1888, Gilbert Nabonnand, France).
- **Ballerina** (medium pink Hybrid Musk, Ann & John Bentall, 1937, England).
- **Mutabilis** (yellow to pink, ages to crimson China, unknown, before 1894). *Earth-Kind* rose.

- **Cornelia** (pink blend Hybrid Musk, 1925, Rev. Joseph Hardwick Pemberton, UK).
- **Gay Vista** (bright pink with white centre Polyantha, 1955, Frank Riethmuller, Australia).
- **Archiduc Joseph** (pink blend Tea, 1892, Gilbert Nabonnand, France).
- **Sophie's Perpetual** (pink blend Bourbon, before 1921, George Paul, UK).



Back L. To R.: **Marie van Houtte, Lamarque, The Children's Rose, Jean Ducher**
Front L. To R.: **G. Nabonnand, Ballerina, Mutabilis**



Back L. To R.: **G. Nabonnand, The Children's Rose, Lamarque**
Front L. To R.: **Cornelia, Gay Vista, 2x Archiduc Joseph, Sophie's Perpetual, Marie van Houtte**

Tracey's favourite of these nine roses would be **G. Nabonnand** or **Archiduc Joseph**: 'My favourite rose changes depending on what is looking best at the time. On Saturday 8th August **G. Nabonnand** was covered in roses as was **Archiduc Joseph**. Both are very good doers and garden worthy.'



Tracey's bringing **Gay Vista** to our August meeting was very fitting for Susan's PowerPoint presentation 'Frank Riethmuller – his life and roses', which preceded the 'Show and Tell' segment. Tracey also grows the Riethmuller roses **Carabella** and 'Chip's Apple Blossom'. Pictured are two views of the tall growing Polyantha **Gay Vista** growing in Tracey's Dural garden.

L.: Massive Clusters of **Gay Vista** flowers on tall-growing stems, supported by a pergola – photographed by Tracey in May 2026.

R.: Close-up of a single **Gay Vista** flower – photographed by Susan when the Sydney HRIA group visited Tracey's garden in October 2024:



One stem of roses, brought by Neg Jolly

Neg, a visitor at our meeting, brought one stem of a light pink climbing rose which she calls 'Rookwood'. Neg told us that she grew the rose from cuttings of discarded rose prunings which she found at Rookwood Cemetery about 10 years ago. For many years Neg worked at the (former) Cumberland College of Health Sciences Campus of the University of Sydney in East St, Lidcombe – across the road from Rookwood Cemetery – and often went walking in the cemetery.

At the meeting, Glennis recognised Neg's rose as **Climbing Comtesse de Labarthe**. Neg's rose would be the same variety found growing in Rookwood Cemetery in 1984 by Sylvia Hannah, who later identified it as **Climbing Comtesse de Labarthe**.



An Experiment in Rose Propagation by Semi-hardwood Cuttings

Marcia Lusted's account of her propagation of heritage roses from cuttings obtained from 'Barbara's Garden', Rookwood Cemetery.

In the past I have always propagated roses using hardwood cuttings from winter prunings. I would put them in a shady part of the garden and ignore them. Often the labels would disappear and I never knew what was what until they flowered. My success rate was about 30%. After a garden visit during the Heritage Roses New Zealand Conference in November 2024 and discussion with those who run the HRNZI National Register, I was persuaded by some very successful rose propagators to try semi-hardwood cuttings in Autumn.

Having read numerous different methods of semi-hardwood rose propagation and watching MANY YouTube videos on the subject, as well as consulting with other members of HRIA, I decided to undertake an experiment using some of the methods said to work readily. I used **Champneys' Pink Cluster**, a Noisette, which I have always found to be easy to strike via hardwood cuttings. I live in a subtropical climate so I am not sure if this has an impact on success rates.

I took semi-hardwood cuttings from branches that had already flowered as this seemed to be the consensus. I took them on 13th February 2026. I took cuttings of about 20 cm (8 inches) long, that were still flexible and left a few leaves at the top. I cut just below a leaf node. I used a rooting hormone gel.

I undertook the following trial using five different options. I put six cuttings in each option. The mediums were moistened only (see below).

- Plastic pot of potting mix and perlite.
- Terracotta pot with potting mix and perlite. I used terracotta as I thought this would keep the roots drier and prevent the cutting rotting, which I have found to be a problem in the past.
- Sawdust.
- River sand.
- Zip lock bag containing a 50/50 mix of potting mix and perlite.

I placed the four pots in a lidded storage tub to maintain humidity as there seems to be consensus on this point. I placed the storage tub underneath the nursery bench in partial shade.

The zip lock bag was placed in semi shade.



Storage tub on 19th March, 5 weeks later.
Note leaves falling off the pot with river sand (pot on left).



Zip lock bag option

On the 20th March, 5 weeks after taking cuttings, roots were seen in the zip lock bag. Six weeks later the cuttings in river sand and sawdust had died.

On 14th April, two months after the experiment began, all remaining cuttings were potted up. Only one rooted cutting remained in both of the storage tub pots (plastic and terracotta) and 4 remained of the zip lock bag method.

I have also been using the zip lock bag method for other cuttings taken at Rookwood on 1st April. I put all these cuttings in the refrigerator wrapped in newspaper to get the callus forming. I thought this would prevent rot of the cutting. At the same time I also put fresh cuttings of Champneys Pink Cluster in the fridge. All of these cuttings were placed in zip lock bags after the bases had callused over. Some took two weeks and some took three weeks

In comparing **Champneys' Pink Cluster** using the fridge preparation method followed by the zip lock bag method I did not find any difference in success rate or speed of rooting.

The zip lock bag method has been very successful for Champneys Pink Cluster (60%) in the experiment as opposed to 16% in the pots.

The strike rate of the Rookwood roses in zip lock bags varied by type (about 20% strike rate with most, although **Isabella Sprunt** and **George Watson**, both Teas, had the highest rates of success (about 50%).

I feel it would be better to take the cuttings earlier in the season – at least February – as this gives the cutting time to root, shoot and get some growth before winter dormancy. Not all types of roses root quickly. The teas and noisettes are fastest and more successful for me. Some of the other types that have not been successful may root better in the ground as hardwood cuttings.

In conclusion, I am sold on the zip lock bag method of rose propagation for semi hardwood cutting taken in early Autumn. I now have about 35 roses which will be given to the Sydney Group to add to or replace roses in Barbaras Garden at Rookwood or used as fund raisers. These are "George Watson", **Isabella Sprunt**, 'Rookwood's Sanguinea', 'Serratipetala – in commerce as', "Mystery of Rookwood" (Hybrid Perpetual), "Bird Children" and, of course, **Champneys' Pink Cluster**.

Some of the roses featured above – mostly photographed growing in 'Barbara's Garden,

Unless otherwise acknowledged, these roses have been photographed by Susan Wade.

Photo: Andrew Ross



'Serratipetala – in commerce as'
Hybrid China



Champneys' Pink Cluster
Noisette



"George Watson"
Tea



Isabella Sprunt
Tea



'Rookwood's Sanguinea'
China



"Mystery of Rookwood"
Hybrid Perpetual

Photo: Glennis Clark

Pruning Heritage Roses: Climbing and Rambling Roses *Cont'd from the May newsletter*

Climbers are a diverse group of roses varying from low shrubby climbers (2.75 m/9 ft) to huge climbers (9 m/30 ft).

For the purposes of pruning, Trevor Nottle has put the Climbers into three categories:

Group 1. Recurrent and Perpetual blooming roses, such as the Climbing forms of Teas, Hybrid Teas, Noisettes and a few vigorous Bourbons and Hybrid Perpetuals.

Winter pruning is the general rule with this group of roses. All spent and twiggy growth should be taken out along with any dead wood and any new basal growth should be shortened back and tied into position against the wall or any support you have. Do not allow the canes to whip around in the wind.

Group 2a. Once-flowering Ramblers such as are usually sold as weeping standards. Facing up to a Weeping standard, for the first time – with its mass of thin, tangling stems cascading from overhead – can be rather daunting.

The following steps for pruning may be of assistance:

- Start by getting inside the bush and removing all the dead canes. You can be quite ruthless if the Weeper hasn't been pruned for years.
- Next work on the live growth. Begin by taking out all twiggy growth right back to the base.
- There should now be long drooping canes at various stages of development, from new shoots with no side growth to those with a well-developed framework of short side-shoots. Look over the whole bush and decide on a balance between the new and older branches. The rest can be cut out completely. The canes which remain can be tied onto the rose ring and the growth cut back to your preferred length.

When a (once-flowering) Weeping Rambler has been rejuvenated, the object is to maintain a balance between the wood that is one, two and three years old – all the rest is unproductive and should be removed.

Group 2b. Repeat-flowering Ramblers can be pruned along similar lines but the summer pruning should be limited to the removal of the oldest canes only; intermediate aged canes can be let alone to produce the second crop of flowers and may then be trimmed again in winter.

Group 3. Species and allied hybrids are the strongest growing of all roses and cannot be controlled satisfactorily by pruning. So, before planting a wild climbing rose great care should be taken to choose one which will fit into the space you have for it.

The only significant new pruning technique Trevor has seen (since his book was published in the 1980s) is sometimes used in European and English gardens where professional maintenance is the norm. Climbers are taken down from their support frames and completely defoliated before the tangle of canes is carefully 'un-wound'. Pruning is then carried out according to the three year rule described above and the whole plant then very carefully lifted up and tied back on the frame or trellis. However, this process may be less relevant for the 'average' Australian home rose garden.

Wild climbing roses should not be pruned other than to take out dead wood. If pruning must be done to keep pathways clear/free gutters etc, prune as necessary; forget about flowers the following year.

Group 1 – Recurrent Climbers Group 2a – Once flowering Ramblers Group 3 – Wild Climbing roses



Lamarque (Noisette, 1830)



Albertine (Hybrid Wichurana, 1921)
Note: This specimen is not a weeping standard



Rosa soulieana – a prickly, tall, arching Species rose

Photos: Susan Wade

Reference: Trevor Nottle, *Growing Old-Fashioned Roses*, Kangaroo Press, Kenthurst NSW, 1983, pp. 34-38. (Also 2nd ed. 1995.) Trevor has advised that this book is long out of print (only second hand copies may be purchased)

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: 7th September, 5th October and 2nd November.

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 Glennis (*details p. 8*).

Up and Coming Events for 2026

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

- **Saturday 12th September, 2.00pm** – Meeting at Angela Morgan's home and garden in Galston. We will have a short meeting and afternoon tea and then Angela will take us on a walk around her wonderful garden. Do try and bring a few (heritage) roses for 'show and tell'. Please bring a plate to share for afternoon tea.
- **Saturday 10th October, from 10:00am** – 'Barbara's Garden', Rookwood Cemetery
We will be hosting an open day at Barbara's Garden with our guests being the Northern Sydney Regional Rose Society and possibly other Rose Society of NSW Regional Groups. *Details on next page.*

Saturday 10th October, from 10:00am – ‘Barbara’s Garden’, Rookwood Cemetery *Cont’d.***The program will be:**

1. Morning tea and welcome
2. Glennis will give a talk on Barbara’s Garden and Rookwood
3. We will take our guests on a tour of Barbara’s Garden
4. BYO Picnic lunch
5. After lunch we will drive over to the old Anglican heritage section to see the roses still growing on graves and the old Victorian structures.

Please bring your own mug, a plate to share for morning tea plus BYO picnic lunch. Also we will need some people to bring flasks of hot water. The Rookwood staff will be setting up tables, chairs etc for us and if you haven’t been out to Rookwood for a while this will be a good opportunity to see in person all the work that has been done by our working bee people over the recent months.

Please phone or email Glennis (*details on p. 8*) if you are coming by midday Tuesday 6th October at the latest. Please park in the car park opposite All Souls Chapel, the area where we will be set up is behind the car park. If you need any more information please phone Glennis.

If the weather is bad and we need to cancel, Glennis will send an email out Friday pm 9th October.

- **Saturday 17th October, 2.00pm** – Visit to a garden in Pymble.
Bring a plate to share for afternoon tea, and your own mug; tea & coffee provided. If you plan to come, please contact Sydney Group Coordinator.

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

- **Saturday 7th November, 11.00am** – Visit to the home and garden of a member in the Hunter Valley.
- **Saturday 12th December 2026, 12.00pm** – End of year lunch at Beehive Café Restaurant, Beecroft

ADVANCE NOTICE: The 2027 Biennial HRIA Conference will be held in Armidale, NSW between Thursday 11th & Monday 15th November. More information will be provided in future HRIA Journals.

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