HRIA Sydney Group Newsletter
October 2026

HERITAGE ROSES IN AUSTRALIA

From our Group Coordinator,
Glennis Clark

Tuesday 20th October, 2026



A collection of heritage roses, collected (in the rain) by Judith Oyston from 'Barbara's Garden', Rookwood Necropolis early on the morning of our open day on Saturday 10th October and beautifully arranged by Judith.

Dear Members,

We are enjoying a very typical spring in Sydney with some days the sun shining and the temperature over 30°C and then it rains and the temperature drops to under 20°C. Well, the result is a lot of growth and the roses are blooming and I do hope you are all enjoying your gardens.

In September we had a most enjoyable visit to Angela's home in Galston. Angela has many heritage roses all labelled and looking very healthy, showing great promise for the months ahead. As you are aware, we are keen to get the roses in 'Barbara's Garden' labelled and have previously gone through several attempts which have not been successful. We are now looking at a new method which has been suggested by Marian and involves a metal label and a machine that creates an 'outdoor vinyl' imprint. At the meeting at Angela's, we were able to see some samples, discuss and decide on the size of the print and also to discuss and decide on the format of the labelling. The sample labels are currently being tested for weather worthiness e.g. heat, rain etc. The meeting participants discussed all formats for the labelling and it was decided that for the purpose of practicality we needed to keep it simple and the rose name only would be used on the label. We currently have a tabulated plan which will give the extra information. When complete, all members interested will be given a hard copy and it will also be loaded on to our webpage. Thank you to Marian and her daughter Bonnie for their input into the labelling project; as it progresses we all will be looking to volunteers to help. I will keep you up-to-date. Over all, it was a very productive meeting. Thank you to Angela and Nigel for having us at their home and garden.

On 10th October we had our open day at Rookwood and after all the work we have put into the garden this year this was our opportunity to showcase 'Barbara's Garden'. The Rookwood staff had set up for us on the forecourt of the chapel which was a great venue when you consider we started off with rain and

then came the heat, so we were appreciative of the shelter. Our main guests were from the Northern Sydney Regional Rose Group and there were also a couple from the Southern Sydney Regional Rose group, Ku-ring-gai Horticultural Society and several visitors. Judith Oyston cut roses from Barbara's Garden and did a lovely floral arrangement *(see Susan's photo above).* Our group put on a delicious morning tea for our guests after which I gave a talk on Rookwood and the story of 'Barbara's Garden'. We then took a walk around the garden and talked about some of the roses. After all the weeding, cardboard laying and mulching the Garden is looking its best for years. We had our picnic lunch up on the Chapel forecourt and then drove over to the Old Anglican Heritage Section where we could see roses still growing on graves and appreciate the wonderful old Victorian structures. Over all a successful and enjoyable day. *Refer to editor Susan's photo gallery on pages 4-5.*

On 17th October we had a most enjoyable visit to a beautiful garden in Pymble. Judith had many roses in bloom in what is a naturally styled garden which suited the house and the street. I know that many felt, as I did, that this is 'my style of garden'. We came away feeling that not only have we seen a lovely peaceful garden but have made a new garden friend.

You will be aware that Marcia from up on the north coast has been propagating roses for us to use as either replacement roses in 'Barbara's Garden' or sell as a fundraiser for this garden. She has a number potted up and ready but we do not want to plant out or sell them until, say, May. Marcia will be coming down to Lillian Barry's garden on 7th November (*see page 6)* and will bring the potted baby roses with her. So, would those of you who are planning to come up to Lillian's mind taking a few of these baby roses back with you to babysit until we are ready to either plant or sell in May? This will mean mainly watering, or in some cases you may need to pot some of them on. If you are able to assist with this, perhaps obtain one those low vegetable boxes to put in your car boot to make it easier to transport the potted roses.

Another thing I wish to discuss is a new gadget which I purchased at the beginning of September. It is called a ChatterVox and can best be described as a mobile speaker microphone system. We used it at Angela's garden visit for the walk and talk around her garden and again at Rookwood for the talk up on the forecourt of the chapel and also for the walk and talk around 'Barbara's Garden', followed by the walk and talk around the Old Anglican Heritage Section. The feedback I have had in all cases is that it works well and makes it easy for people to hear. It is easy to operate and the charge lasts 6-8 hours. The ChatterVox is made in USA and cost $648 AUD. As this is an out of the ordinary purchase for our group, I would like to feel that our members are comfortable with the purchase. We do have sufficient funds in our bank account and as long as there are no relevant issues we will process through the bank account before the end of the year. This is a tool we plan to use regularly and in particular on garden visits. If you have any questions, please give me a call.

Thank you to Susan for being a fantastic editor and thank you to all who have participated in events and working bees during 2026.

I know it's early, but this will be the last newsletter for 2026. If you are not planning to come to our Christmas Lunch *(details on page 6)*, I will take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Very best wishes, *Glennis.*

From the Editor

Welcome to the October newsletter. No doubt your garden has benefitted from the recent rain. As mentioned in my last editorial, between late August and early September Ken and I did a 17 day guided road tour between Darwin and to Broome. During the trip I was hoping to see a few heritage roses, namely Chinas or Teas, in some of the inland towns. Alas, no roses were seen but we did see and visit some amazing places!

Do you have a topic which you would like to be covered or any news or a story about your garden (with photos) to report in our Sydney HRIA Newsletter? Please contact the editor well before the closing date, preferably by email *(details on p. 7*), for more information. The next newsletter will be sent out in late January 2027 – the closing date is 15th January.

Do try and bring a few (heritage) roses to our meeting at Lillian and Lindsay Barry's on 7th November 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 – this is particularly important for the long drive from Sydney to Ellalong.

Happy gardening. May you and your family enjoy Christmas and the summer season. *Susan.*



Roses brought by members to the Sydney HRIA meeting on 12th September, 2026

Text by Angela Morgan and Susan Wade. Photos are by Angela.

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

In addition to roses which were shown to members as Angela led a tour of her garden, three members brought roses to our September meeting, held at Angela Morgan's garden in Galston.

Roses brought by Sue Ballinger

- Sue brought three blooms of **Comtesse de Labarthe** (light pink Tea, 1857, Pierre Bernède, France). (This rose is sold as **Duchesse de Brabant**.) *Earth-Kind rose.*



Pictured on right: A vase with a combination of Sue's **Comtesse de Labarthe** and Tracey's **Climbing Comtesse de Labarthe**; Sue's bush roses are lower in the photo, and lighter in colour than Tracey's climber.

Roses brought by Tracey Fleischner

- One stem of **Climbing Comtesse de Labarthe** (a sport of **Comtesse de Labarthe**, discovered c. 1900 by Lewis who was connected with **Royal Nurseries** in Homebush, NSW.)
- *Rosa banksiae alba-plena* (known as **Lady Banks Rose**, **White Banksia** and other names) (white Species, discovered in China in 1807 by William Kerr, on a plant-hunting expedition sponsored by Sir Joseph Banks.)
- **Mutabilis** (yellow to pink, ages to crimson China, unknown, before 1894). *Earth-Kind rose.* As indicated by the crimson colour, the pictured **Mutabilis** is an aged bloom.



White Banksia



To add to the colour and perfume on the day, Marian Crambrook brought a bunch of highly fragrant sweet peas, pictured above in her beautiful black vase.



Mutabiils



Comte de Chambord

Comte de Chambord

Angela noted that the exquisite pink rose was **Comte de Chambord**, but we don't know who brought it.

- **Comte de Chambord** (a very fragrant continuously blooming pink-lilac coloured Portland, before 1858, Moreau and Robert, France).***** *Please contact Susan (details on p. 7) if this is your rose.* At the 19th World Rose Convention held in Adelaide in 2022, the WFRS declared **Comte de Chambord** to be inducted into their Old World Rose Hall of Fame.

***** As explained in *HelpMeFind,* 'Comte de Chambord' in commerce seems to be 'Madame Boll'.

From the delicate pink of **Comtesse de Labarthe** to the multi-petalled depth of **Comte de Chamborg**, the fading crimson of single-flowered **Mutabalis**, and an extravagant spray of white clusters of the spring-flowering Species **White Banksia**, this month's roses demonstrate the range of possibilities brought by heritage roses. There was something for everyone – all beautiful and all different – in form, habit and flower.

One of Angela's roses seen by members on 12th September



- Being early in the season, **Zéphirine Drouhin** (medium pink Bourbon, 1868, Léon Bizot, France) was one of the few of Angela's roses blooming on the day.

Information from Angela about her **Zéphirine Drouhin**:

'I have had this rose for many years, but had to move it from the pool fence (to the front garden) when I realised that position did not meet safety regulations.

It continues to grow and flower, with its deep pink scented blooms, however I feel it hasn't regained its previous vigour. Needs more TLC.'

Photo gallery of the Open Day at 'Barbara's Garden' on 10th October *Susan Wade*



We enjoyed morning tea, heard Glennis Clark's talk about the history of Rookwood Necropolis and 'Barbara's Garden' and had lunch in the covered forecourt of All Souls Chapel.

After morning tea Glennis, wearing the recently purchased 'ChatterVox' (portable amplifier), led a guided tour of 'Barbara's Garden'.



Behind Glennis on left is **Climbing Ophelia** (Climbing Hybrid Tea, before 1920).

Some of the roses blooming in 'Barbara's Garden' on the day



Papa Hémeray (China, 1912)



Cramoisi Supérieur (AKA 'Lady Brisbane' et al – Ref. *HMF*), (found China Rose, before 1823)



Sunny South
(Hybrid Tea, 1917)



Perle d'Or (Polyantha, 1875) – one of three propagated by Marian Crambrook



Penelope
(Hybrid Musk, 1924)



Mrs Herbert Stevens
(Hybrid Tea, 1910)



"Mystery of Rookwood" (found at Rookwood – Centifolia, Hybrid Perpetual)



"The Bird Children" found by Barbara May on an 1895 grave at Rookwood



Attendees (Angela Morgan and Susan Wade missing) at the 'Barbara's Garden' Open Day – mainly members of the Sydney HRIA and Northern Sydney and Southern Sydney Regional Rose Society groups, plus a couple from Ku-ring-gai Horticulture Society and three visitors.

After lunch, Glennis led a tour of Rookwood Necropolis' heritage-listed Old Anglican Section



In addition to historic graves and heritage roses, other notable features in the Old Anglican Section include heritage-listed trees and the Serpentine Canal *(pictured above)*, built between 1874 and 1881 as a drainage system and landscape feature.





A medium pink (Tea?) rose, beside the almost 100 year-old graves of Sydney & Emily Cary

Planned Activities

Working Bees in 'Barbara's Garden', Rookwood Necropolis

We usually work on the first Monday of each month between 10.00 am & 12.30 pm (followed by lunch). **Our next two working bees during 2026 will be on:** 2nd November and 7th December. **We do not plan to work in January 2027.** 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. 7).*

Up and Coming Events for 2026

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

- **Saturday 7th November: Members' Garden Visit to the home of Lillian and Lindsay Barry – Plan to arrive between 10:30 & 11:00am.**

  Note: Park in the street in front of the house or around the corner. DO NOT PARK in the driveway or in front of the driveway as the local council has been issuing parking tickets!

  Please bring a plate to share for morning tea and your own picnic lunch. Lillian has an urn and will supply tea and coffee etc.

  We will have morning tea on arrival after which Lillian will take us on a tour of her garden. Lillian may also be able to arrange for us to see another garden down the street; the gardener (Cathy) does not have roses but she is a knowledgeable gardener with an interesting garden.

  We will then have our picnic lunch before heading for home. Lillian said the local shop in the village does very good hamburgers if you don't want to bring your own lunch.

  You may wish to revisit Lillian's Garden Story **Relocating & Reinventing a Garden** which is on the Sydney Group Heritage Roses web page. You can use the following link:
  https://www.heritageroses.org.au/regions/sydney/relocating-and-reinventing-a-garden/

  If you are planning of coming please phone or email Glennis (details p. 7) by Thursday 5th November and we can then advise Lillian numbers for chairs and cups.

- **Saturday 12th December, 12.00pm: Christmas lunch – Beehive Café Restaurant – 4/1A Wongala Crescent, Beecroft 2119**

  We will have entrée to share – Empanadas, mushroom fondue and warm bread.
  A choice of four mains – Pork Belly, Barramundi, Blue Ocean Salad and Vegie Feast.
  A choice of two desserts – Lemon tart OR Sticky fig and walnut pudding.
  Table water. Coffee and tea.

  Cost per person: $68.00 – includes gratuity.

  This is a fully licensed restaurant and not BYO. Drinks such as wine soft drink or juice will need to be ordered and paid for at that time.

  We need final numbers & payment by Friday 4th December. Please email or send an SMS or phone Sue Ballinger ***Em.*** *suzannemb17@gmail.com* ***Mob.*** *0424 563 435.* Partners are of course welcome.

  Bank details for lunch payment: Westpac St Ives BSB 032-188 Account Number 557383. Please enter your name and the number you are paying for in the description or reference section.

  The Beehive may have another group on the same day as us and orders will be taken at 12:00 so please ensure you arrive on time.

  Parking – There is a parking area in Wongala Crescent where the café is located. If this parking area is full, drive into Hannah Street and park under Woolworths.

  This is the same venue as last year and there is small increase in price. We had good feedback on the quality of the food and the venue is air conditioned which is a big plus at this time of the year. If you have a different venue you would like to recommend for 2027 please let us know when we discuss our calendar at our AGM in February 2027.

Events planned for 2027

- **Saturday 13th February 2027, 2.00pm** – AGM of the Sydney HRIA Regional Group.
  More information will be in the January newsletter.
- **HRIA's 17th Biennial Conference will be held in Armidale, NSW between Thursday 11th & Monday 15th November, 2027.**
  For more information, refer to the recent Spring and the upcoming Summer 2026 HRIA Journals.

For heritage rose lovers looking for more adventures after the 2027 HRIA Conference

Heritage Roses NZ National Conference in Nelson: Thursday 18th to Sunday 30th November 2027

The Modern Allure of Heritage Roses

Full details are still to be released, but there is a summary on the Heritage Roses New Zealand Inc. website:
https://heritageroses.org.nz/whats-on/

Neutrog – Autumn 2027 orders

Our Sydney Group member Tracey Fleischner has again offered her home at Dural to be a delivery / collection site. A big thank you to Tracey and Les. What this means is that the collection site in the Neutrog On Line Store website will show the home of Tracey and Les Fleischner in Dural. If you wish to order you will need to do it via the Neutrog website and the closing date for orders is **11th January 2027**. The expected delivery date to the Fleischners' is late February 2027. The collection day is likely to be a Saturday. Once the order has been received', I will email those who have ordered with collection details.

When you are placing an order on line make sure that it is under Heritage Roses Sydney Group and if you run into difficulty, contact the On Line Store Manager Monique – **Email:** Monique@neutrog.com.au

10% of the Neutrog sales to Sydney Group members will go to Heritage Roses Sydney Group. These funds go towards our projects mainly at Rookwood and Rumsey. *Glennis Clark*.

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