



FRIENDS OF Old Parliament House ROSE GARDENS

a quarterly newsletter

Issue N° 2 — Spring 2011

The Broinowski Rose Garden

By Jenny Moore

Coordinator of the Broinowski Team

This garden on the Senate side of Old Parliament House, is named after Robert Arthur Broinowski.

He had the original concept of beautifying the grounds around the new Parliament House, built in the Federal Capital Territory for occupation by parliamentarians in May 1927. It was a dry, dusty and barren scene they came to, compared with the beautiful Treasury gardens adjacent to their previous workplace in Melbourne. Sheep from nearby properties even still grazed on the bare grasslands in front of the House. The campaign he began so successfully in 1931, for Australians to buy roses for planting in gardens, led to the establishment of the 'Rex Hazelwood', 'Ladies' and 'Macarthur' gardens by 1937. They were used to provide flower arrangements in the House, and became important venues for official functions and a place of recreation for parliamentarians and their families. After our new Parliament House was built and occupied in 1988, the gardens fell into disuse.

When the gardens were reconstructed and opened to the public in December 2005, the Broinowski Garden was chosen to feature modern shrub roses, most of which were bred by the prominent English rose breeder, David Austin.

These roses are delightful! David Austin combines the beauty and fragrance of the Old Fashioned Roses with the repeat flowering characteristics and wide colour range of Modern Roses. The shrubs are

healthy and disease resistant, and surprisingly are also very adaptable to the much hotter and drier climate of Australia.

In the Broinowski Garden, blooms cover the rose bushes from top to bottom, almost continuously from late October until June. Since rose varieties for this garden were chosen by 2004, many of Austin's more recently bred roses do not appear. The revised edition of his book "The English



Broinowski Rose Garden volunteers

Rose" was released early in 2011, and it describes in detail, over 80 of the newer varieties Austin has bred, with beautiful full page photographs of each rose. Despite the Broinowski Garden featuring the older varieties, the show of colours from white, lemon yellow, gold and orange, copper pink, rich red, and various hues of paler pink,

make the garden a spectacular sight. All the English roses have distinct fragrances, making a walk through these plantings even more delightful.

The team of Horticulture Volunteers managed by the National Capital Authority (NCA) who tend this garden, work on Wednesdays.

In the past 3 months of winter, our team has been assisting with rose pruning, cutting back the vigorous pentstemon mounds, weeding and maintenance of the garden, in readiness for the coming of the abundant display of fragrant blooms in late spring. We have also been dividing and replanting the cottage garden perennials (lavender, pentstemons, foxgloves and delphiniums) that complement the rose plantings.

This year, we noted that there were many varieties still flowering late in June – John Clare (bright pink), Winchester Cathedral (white), Eglantyne (pale pink), Anne Boleyn (pink), Leonardo da Vinci (a dusty apricot-pink rose bred by Meiland for the new millennium - 2000) and Sir Edward Elgar (bright cerise-pink).

David Austin chooses interesting names for his roses – among them characters from English history, royalty and literature, Austin family members and prominent horticulturists.

In my next article I will describe some of the Broinowski roses in the four groups Austin has chosen to classify his roses – English Old Rose Hybrids, The Leander group, English Musk Roses and Alba Rose Hybrids.



Dear Friends

Since we were last in touch your committee has undergone some membership changes with the departure overseas of the treasurer Svetlana Manns and her replacement by Mette Davis. We also welcomed Joan Crook and Sarah Walker to our ranks. These reinforcements will add expertise and assistance to your workforce to provide activities to members.

Granted Canberra's weather does not allow outside activities over twelve months as befits an organisation dedicated to roses, nevertheless we try to accommodate as the seasons permit. Thus our forthcoming February 12 St Valentine's Day soiree coming up next year.

Our mid-year AGM was preceded on May 8 by a very successful Mother's Day lunch attended by over 50 people at Pork Barrel where John Woodfield, well-known Canberra gardener, addressed us.

This was followed by a rose garden walk led by Graham Evans and Duncan Howard of Citywide provided a pruning demonstration in the Ladies Garden the following month on July 24.

Several activities for next year are in the planning stage and a Friend's website is being prepared.

The commitment to four issues each year of this newsletter has not yet been met however your expanded committee looks forward to reaching this goal as soon as possible.

Happy rose gardening.

Greg Cornwell AM
President



Mother's Love

The palest of pink petals with a sophisticated and classy fragrance – that is a pretty accurate description of the Mother's Love rose. Worn with pride by the then head gardener Graham Evans at the Friends of Old Parliament House Rose Gardens Mother's Day lunch.

Generously supported by Bruce Gibbs of The Lobby – who put on a delicious three course lunch, to celebrate our wonderful Mothers – and the central role they play in our lives. As written in the Canberra Times "Guests were sharing lots of mother love as Mums of all ages enjoyed some indulging and relaxation".

John Woodfield provided a historical oral tour of early Canberra, gardening and its

pleasures. He spoke of pioneering the new suburb of Hughes in the 60's and the enduring relationships he has formed through gardening.

A tour of the rose gardens followed, ably led by Graham Evans – to walk off some of the sumptuous lunch and to learn of the history, stories and botanic information behind the gardens.

The function was a fund raiser for the building of a Friend's website. We are happy to report that the website is close to "going live" and the web address will be www.fophrg.com

Members will receive an email to ask you to register for the website shortly, or if you wish to be included – please send an email to our email account.



Lorraine Gentle & Graham Evans

A tribute to Allen Black

By Gwen Souter - Coordinator
Macarthur Garden Team

With Allen's family approval I have been asked to write some words in memory of Allen Black from the Macarthur Garden Team.

Allen, father, grandfather and good friend to so many died quietly and at peace in Clare Holland House on Sunday evening, 17th April 2011, ending a brave and spirited fight against cancer. When reflecting on his life over the past year Allen (aka Big Al to the family) commented that his



Allen Black

life had been personally and professionally successful and memorably indulgent in many ways and as a long time friend remarked a few days ago; no one could do it as well as he could!! (from his family).

From when he joined our group in 2009, Allen thoroughly enjoyed his time at the Gardens and we all felt for him when he became too ill to come any more. We did not know him very well but he was always a thorough gentleman and was a great asset to our team. We will miss his help but more importantly his company, cheery sense of humour and willingness to do his bit.

Feature Rose: Just Joey

The Rose

Just Joey was introduced by Cant of the UK in 1972. It is a modern large flowering Hybrid Tea Rose in a unique blend of coppery shades with orange. It has a rich spicy fragrance and is great for cut flowers and garden display. Its parents are 'Fragrant Cloud' crossed with 'Dr AJ Verhage'.

History

The UK city of Colchester is famous in history as the seat of the warrior queen Boadicea. This past century it has also become famous for its roses, especially from the firm Cant of Colchester. Star among these roses is 'Just Joey'. It was raised by Roger Pawsey and named as a tribute to his wife Joanna.



Our
Sponsor



King George Terrace,
Parkes ACT (opposite the rose gardens of Old
Parliament House) Ph: (02) 6273 1455

Pork Barrel cafe has weekly blackboard specials, afternoon happy hour and more. Situated in the national parliamentary rose gardens and adjoining The Lobby Restaurant. Pork Barrel and The Lobby pride themselves as a green experience using renewable energy and recycling almost everything.

SPECIALS

2 FOR 1 PIZZAS

Monday and Tuesday lunch, Tuesday to Friday evenings*

**not valid with any other loyalty or discount offer, dine in only second pizza (free pizza) must be of an equal or lesser value. You must order the pizzas together and mention you want the special otherwise the discount offer will not be applied, valid until December 30th 2011.*

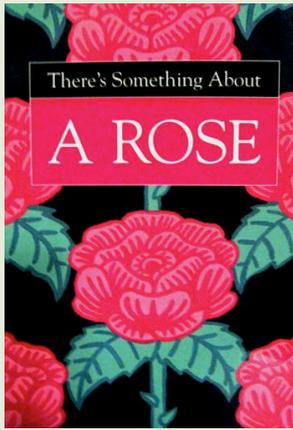
2 FOR 1 COFFEE

Monday to Friday before 11am*

**not valid with any other loyalty or discount offer, second coffee (free coffee) must be of an equal or lesser value. You must order the coffees together and mention you want the special otherwise the discount offer will not be applied, valid until December 30th 2011.*

Join the mailing list at www.porkbarrel.com.au for your chance to win a \$50 Pork Barrel.

The perfect gift this Christmas



Compiled and edited by
Dr Malcolm Beazley
and Judith Pugh.

An anthology of rose poems and artwork by Australian writers including Les Murray, Barbara Blackman, Michael Kirby, Chris Wallace-Crabbe and Anne Edgeworth and artists including Chris Dyson,

Kristen Headlam, Tim Maguire, Robert Mendham and Jenni Warren. With a Foreword by Tamie Fraser AO.

**Proceeds to support Friends of Old Parliament House
Rose Gardens**

\$15.00 plus \$3.00 postage for each copy

Dates for your diary

St Valentine's Day soiree

Sunday 12 February 2012



On the evening of Sunday 12th February 2012, 4pm - 6pm, we are hosting a St Valentine's Day garden party.

There will be seductive entertainment and delicious canapés and refreshments.

We have invited many of our patrons and hope you will bring those you love to

support our gardens. The roses will still be blooming and romantic and the company grand - so block out this date and more information will come to you shortly.

Place your order

I wish to order (no of copies) @ 15.00 each (plus \$3.00 each for postage).

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CURTIN ACT 2605



Bus trip to Cowra

Sunday 18 March 2012

Price: \$82.50 per person, for 35 people

The price includes:

- Bus hire
- Entrance fee to Gardens
- Morning Tea: Devonshire Tea at the Old Courthouse, Boorowa
- Lunch: Sandwiches, tea & coffee
- Visit to 'Stocks' on the way home - open garden
- Afternoon Tea: Biscuits, tea & coffee supplied by Friends.

Could we have expressions of interest by Christmas. Money by the end of January 2012. (If more than 35 then the price will be cheaper).

Enquiries to Joan Crook
Ph: 6281 4833