



FRIENDS OF Old Parliament House ROSE GARDENS

a quarterly newsletter

Issue N° 3 Autumn 2012

Clea's Rose launched nationally

Last month, the National Brain Injury Foundation launched Clea's Rose at the Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show.

Named in memory of Clea Rose, the vibrant and fragrant rose provides a symbol of hope, resilience and survival.

In 2005, Clea suffered severe brain injury when she was hit by a car fleeing a police pursuit in Canberra. She lost her life three weeks later.

Clea's family gave the rose to the National Brain Injury Foundation to help raise awareness of Acquired Brain Injury.

Clea's Rose is a beautiful, healthy and disease resistant shrub, bred in the UK by the late Colin Horner - a successful amateur rose breeder.

The rose produces clusters of large, full-petalled, and old-fashioned style blooms and comes in shades of orange, apricot and pink. It has a pleasing mild fragrance set off brilliantly by the dark green glossy foliage.

Clea's Rose was launched in Canberra last year by the Chief Minister, Katy Gallagher (pictured) who officially named the rose in celebration of Clea Rose and also,

to raise awareness for Acquired Brain Injury (ABI).

ABI refers to any damage to the brain that occurs after birth. The damage can be caused by motor vehicle accidents or trauma, brain infection, work and sporting accidents but can also arise from stroke, cancer, degenerative diseases, drug and alcohol abuse.

Paul Cubitt, Operations Manager of the National Brain Injury Foundation says that ABI affects more than 1.6 million Australians.

"ABI is often called the hidden disability because its symptoms are so broad as to

include epilepsy, physical impairment, or even changes to our personality and way of thinking."

"When the brain is damaged, some other part of ourselves will also be affected. Even a mild brain injury can result in a serious disability that will interfere with a person's daily functioning and personal activities - often for their rest of their lives."

The National Brain Injury Foundation is the peak body in the ACT who provide support to brain injury survivors as well as their families and friends. They are committed to raising awareness of ABI to government and communities.

Clea's Rose will be available at nurseries from June 2012. Part proceeds from the sale of each plant will be donated to organisations supporting people with acquired brain injury.

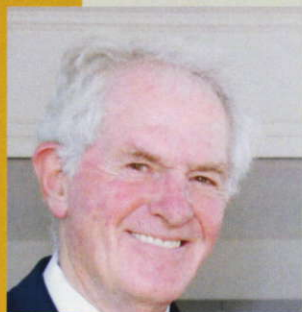
The rose is also available for viewing at the National Rose Garden in the House of Representatives Garden.

For more information on Clea's Rose, visit www.cleasrose.com

If you would like to learn more about the work of the National Brain Injury Foundation, visit their website at www.nbif.org.au



Chief Minister Katy Gallagher and Malcolm Beazley at the ACT launch of Clea's Rose.



Dear Friends

Welcome to your Autumn 2012 Newsletter where I can report a successful St Valentine's Day garden party was held in the Rose

Gardens on the afternoon of 12th February.

We were entertained by the enthusiastic Sing Australia Choir who not only romanced the crowd but also managed to recruit many in attendance to their number.

We are very grateful to our sponsors Mt Majura wines, who provided the chilled white wine and rosemary rosé and The Lobby who produced the delicious canapés.

We also appreciated those who attended, around 80 of you, and for your generous donations. Your support for the Friends made the afternoon a success.



From left: Kay Patterson and Margaret Reid at the St Valentine's Day garden party.

The Friends also arranged a bus trip to Cowra on March 18, with 30 members and friends making the journey. I am told the participants devoured a marvellous morning tea put on by the Boorowa courthouse cafe, then proceeded to the Rose Gardens in Cowra. Lunch was enjoyed at the Japanese Gardens and people peacefully wandered about the gardens – with the exception of some who were seen gracing the crowd with a royal wave from a golf cart. Back to Boorowa park for an afternoon tea accompanied by a jelly bean counting competition won by Robert James and Bronwyn Williams. The bus driver also received a gift for his fabulous service including side trips to see where the camp originally was, the replica of the guard's tower and the cemetery. Everyone declared the trip a great success.

Our Committee member, Joan Crook deserves a special mention for organising both the St Valentine's Day soiree and the bus trip – I am not sure what we would do without her.

Since I last wrote, your committee has been joined by Elizabeth Grant AM and rejoined by Treasurer Svetlana Manns back from an overseas sojourn. The website is up and running www.fophrg.com (thanks to those who have registered) and the committee has laid down a minimum number of annual events - one for each season.

Finally our Annual General Meeting is on Thursday 3 May at 6pm in the Robertson Room, St John's Reid – we encourage you all to attend. It is also membership renewal time: application form enclosed.

Happy rose gardening

Greg Cornwell AM
President



The Macarthur Gardens

By Gwen Souter

Coordinator of Macarthur Garden

The original Macarthur Rose Garden, was planted in 1937 and was the last rose garden to be constructed under the direction of Robert Broinowski (Secretary of the Joint House Department and Usher of the Black Rod). It exhibits the Tea, China and Noisette roses first Hybridised during the early eighteen hundreds - about the same time that John & Elizabeth Macarthur established their garden at Elizabeth Farm at Parramatta.

Miss Rosa Sibella Macarthur-Onslow, great granddaughter of John and Elizabeth Macarthur, arranged with Mr Broinowski to donate one hundred red 'Etoile de Hollande' roses to commemorate the major contribution by John Macarthur to the breeding of merino sheep at Parramatta & Camden. Mr Broinowski arranged for the roses to be planted in a circular garden at the centre of the garden. The cost of a rose at this time under Mr Broinowski's scheme was one shilling and four pence.

The Etoile de Hollande began its life in 1919 in Verschuren in the Netherlands. It is one of the family of Hybrid Teas, a classic upright bush with an exquisite shape, height of 80cm and width of 60 cms. The bloom is a rich velvety dark red / crimson to scarlet colour, with a rich highly scented fragrance often described as 'deep and heavy'. Its flowering



Volunteers assist with pruning and weeding to ensure these gardens stay magnificent all year round.



The Macarthur Gardens team working hard to maintain the beauty of the gardens.

period is continuous and it is suitable to be grown in a pot or a tub. In all, a very popular much loved, versatile rose.

As well as roses we have a formal grouping of trees in the Macarthur Rose Garden planted in 1933 under the direction of Alexander Bruce, who succeeded Charles Weston in 1927 as Superintendent, Parks and Gardens. There are pairs of four different species planted: Southern Nettle (*Celtis australis*), Desert Ash (*Fraxinus oxycarpa*), Silver Maple (*Acer saccharinum*) and Honey Locust (*Gleditsia triacanthos*). The Silver Maples, still surviving today, were believed to be a gift from the Canadian Government to the people of Australia and were actually imported from Canada. Originally, there were 2 Honey Locust planted but these have been replaced. There are also 3 Claret Ash (*FRAXINUS RAYWOODII*) clustered around the triangular garden in the NE section of the Garden. These trees are all nearing their best and some years ago young trees of the same varieties were planted to replace, in due course, the original ones.

Another feature we have in the Macarthur Garden is the circular pergola. It was in the original design but was rebuilt during the rejuvenation. The ironbark planks are from an old pub in Queensland - the Woollangabba Pub which was across the road from the Gabba Cricket Ground and which happened to be being demolished at the time this garden was being revived.

As with each garden we do have some difficulties one being the shade from the marvelous trees in one area and of course the birds. However, these nuisances are a small price to pay for the enjoyment the garden brings to many Australians.

Margaret Goode 1 September 1934 to 6 June 2011

Margaret was one of the early horticulture volunteers, joining the Rex Hazlewood Garden team in late 2005 and working with the team for over five years. She was a keen home gardener and on her overseas travels, with husband Rex, she visited world famous gardens such as Butchart (Canada), Bellingrath (USA) and Sissinghurst (England) and exhibitions such as the Chelsea Flower Show. On their Australian tours they visited many botanical gardens.

When Margaret was home in Canberra, a high priority was her participation in the team's weekly session in the Garden to which she brought a wealth of knowledge and experience. She was one of the esteemed group of older members within our team who show an incredible youthful energy.

The accompanying action photo of Margaret was taken in the Alister Clark Garden, the centrepiece of the Hazlewood Garden. The climbing rose she was deadheading is 'Countess of Stradbroke', which team members now call 'Margaret's rose'.

Margaret's funeral service was held on a Thursday morning when, normally, we would have been working together in the Hazlewood Garden. The single rose on her coffin and other exquisite roses and decorative rose hips in the chapel symbolized our bond with the Garden and Margaret's dedication to it.

Rex Hazlewood Garden Team



Cedfacts: Garden Information

What to do with rose hips and petals?

These are taken from 100-year-old recipes that still work today. Note Imperial measurements have been retained for authenticity. Metric equivalents are provided below.

Rose Hip Tea:

Top and tail the hips, make sure they are clean and dry. Spread out in a roasting tin. Place in a slow oven until absolutely dry. Then grind in hand grinder (or in modern times use an electric coffee grinder) and store in an airtight jar. Using about one teaspoon per cup, prepare as you would Indian tea, leaving to infuse for six to seven minutes. Then strain through a very fine strainer. Sweeten with honey to taste if required.

Rose Petal Tea:

Pour four cups of boiling water over three teaspoons full of dried rose petals. Infuse for three to five minutes and sweeten with honey to taste.

Rose Hip Syrup:



The Rose Hip

After picking quickly grate or chop 1 lb of rose hips and put immediately into 3 pints of boiling water. Simmer them for no more than five minutes and then leave stand for fifteen minutes. Strain and measure and add about 10 oz of sugar to each pint of juice. When the sugar is dissolved, pour into pre-heated bottling jars [do not fill too full] and allow to cool. Stand the jars on a cloth or wooden rack in a large pan; slacken the screw bands slightly from the tight position. Then *very slowly* bring to simmering point and hold at that for twenty to thirty minutes, depending on the bottle size. Remove carefully on to a wooden surface and tighten the screw band. This method helps to retain the valuable vitamin C.

Measurement equivalents:

One ounce = 28.3 grams

One pound [16oz] = 454 grams

Therefore 100 grams roughly equivalent to 3 ½ ounces

One pint [imperial] = 4.5 litres

Every care and attention is given to the accuracy of this information sheet. However, the reader relies on his/her own judgement in using this advice. No responsibility, whether expressed or implied can be accepted for advice given. [2011]