



# FRIENDS OF Old Parliament House ROSE GARDENS

Issue N° 4 Winter 2012

## Discover the Rex Hazlewood Rose Garden

**The Rex Hazlewood Garden is the largest of the Old Parliament House Rose Gardens and was the first to be planted in 1931.**

The present garden has been reconstructed to the original layout. It is the historical garden reflecting the development of the rose through the ages.

This article brings together information on the evolution process, the general design of the garden and the specific location of roses in the garden. We hope that it will assist a fuller understanding and better appreciation of the garden.

*Evolution:* A chart is attached redrawn from --'The Evolution of Garden Roses' ('The Rose', Jennifer Potter, 2010, pages 458 & 459). The following entries on the chart can be seen in the Rex Hazlewood Rose Garden:

- five of the original species (wild) roses shown;

- all of the successive classes of roses (except 'Pemetianas'); and
- the four 'Stud China' roses listed, which had a significant role in the development of the modern rose.

*Design:* The concept and design of the garden are explained in the following terms on the information panel attached to the rear wall of the garden's adjoining kiosk.

"The design of the Rex Hazlewood Rose Garden portrays the international history of rose cultivation. There are more than 40,000 roses registered internationally. This garden is a representative display of the extensive hybridization which has taken place globally over centuries.

"The western half of the Rex Hazlewood Rose Garden includes early European rose varieties and hybrids of rose species native to southern Europe and the eastern Mediterranean. These include the Gallica, Damask and Alba roses grown since ancient times, the sixteenth century Centifolia rose and the later Moss and Portland roses.

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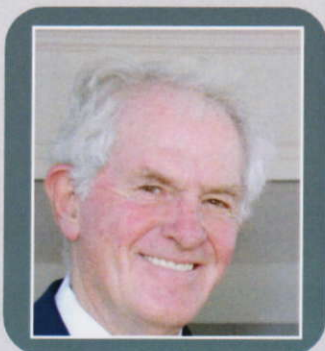


### From top

Tuscany superb  
Lady Hillington  
Guinee



# FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Friends,

For this our Winter Issue of the Friends' Newsletter I can report upon a successful third Annual General Meeting held 3 May at St John the Baptist Anglican Church, Reid.

Highlights were:

- With 2012-13 memberships due and 84 renewals then received our bank balance stood at \$4272.26.
- A report from Gary Rake, Chief Executive of the National Capital Authority was read to the meeting complimenting us for our efforts. Your committee subsequently was pleased to learn of increased funding for the embattled Authority in the federal budget.

- Lorraine Gentle delivered a Horticultural Volunteers report including advice that a new intake of volunteers is planned for September.
- Megan Douglas advised upon a promotional plan for the Friends being undertaken (free) by final year public relations students with the report due in July.

Finally I am pleased to confirm all members of your committee offered themselves for re-election and were willingly accepted. Megan Douglas, our hard working secretary, stepped aside from this position but remains on the committee and we are grateful to committee member Sarah White who has moved up to replace her.

Happy rose gardening

Greg Cornwell AM  
President

## New sponsor

### The Heritage Nursery

Banks Street, Weston Park  
Yarralumla ACT  
Ph: (02) 6281 7373

The Heritage Nursery has generously offered 10% off purchases for Members of the Friends of Old Parliament Rose Gardens. If you present your Friends red membership card, you can either ask for the 10% saving toward buying more plants or a cash discount. For more information, visit their website at [www.heritagenursery.com.au](http://www.heritagenursery.com.au)

## High Tea at The Green Herring

The Friends enjoyed a sumptuous high tea at the Green Herring restaurant at Federation Square on Sunday, 15th July. T'was a very cosy scene with open fire and a fine musician strumming his guitar.

Max put on an excellent spread - first a delicious selection of savoury morsels, followed by shared platters of sweet delicacies. You can see that the Friends are enjoying the fine fare.

A wonderful raffle prize of flowers, books and other goodies was won by Judy Skelton. So we thank all the Friends who supported the event and helped to raise more funds for the gardens through the raffle.

Our next event will be in Spring in the rose gardens in early November.





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"The early Asiatic roses are located in the eastern half of the garden and include the China roses bred in China before their arrival in Europe during the eighteenth century. Those roses derived from rose species native to China represented in the collection include the Tea, Noisette, Bourbon and Rugosa roses (from northern Japan and Siberia), Hybrid Musk and Polyantha roses. East meets West at the central beds of the garden, with the culmination of cross-breeding resulting in the Hybrid Tea and Floribunda roses.

"Those roses grown by internationally renowned Australian rose breeder, Alister Clark, are planted at the centre of the garden. Clark's roses were bred for Australian conditions."

*Locations:* A locations plan, prepared by the garden's volunteers to assist their activities, shows the specific locations of the various classes of roses` and the individual roses mentioned. You can

download this map by visiting the Friend's website at [www.fophrg.com](http://www.fophrg.com). The map will enable you to go direct to classes or plants of particular interest or to trace the evolution of the rose in the garden.

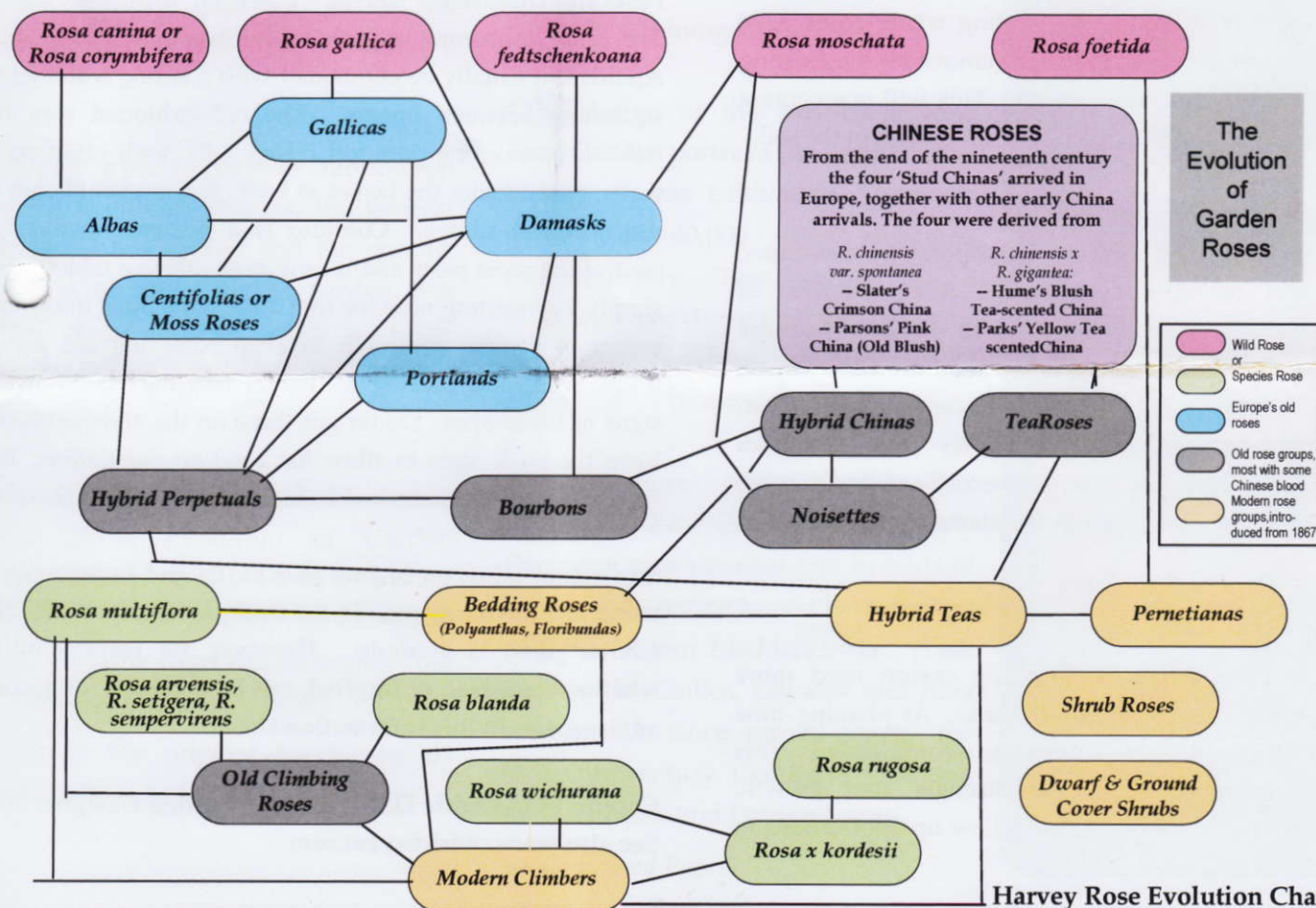
Depending upon the season, the garden's first rose blooms in early October and the whole garden is well into bloom by the end of the month; however, the old roses may not bloom until late spring. You will need to visit the garden more than once to see all the roses at their best. As well as the flowers, do look at the whole plant, particularly for the old roses because their general growth habit and particular features, such as thorns and leaves, can be quite distinctive. Also, do use your other senses, for example, feel the sticky calyx and mossy stems of a Moss rose and smell the fragrance of a Damask rose.

*Graham Harvey, Rex Hazlewood Rose Garden assisted by John Meulen*



From top

Scorcher  
Alfred de Dalmas





# Hints on growing roses

## Follow these tips for a great rose display

### Aspect

Roses require full sun for a minimum of eight hours a day. They will flower in less light, however this can result in leggy growth and inferior quality blooms.

### Soil

Roses will grow in most soils with good results. It is often said that roses prefer clay soils. No plants like heavy clay soils, although roses will tolerate clay more than many other plants. The use of a liquid clay breaker such as **Multicrop 'Ground Breaker'** will be of benefit. Plus the addition of washed river sand, well-rotted organic matter such as composted cow manure will lighten heavy soils. Good drainage is vital. Do not put fresh animal manures or chemical fertilizers near the roots at planting time; these can cause severe root damage. If planting where roses have been grown previously it is vital to remove all the existing soil, say a barrow full and replace. This will overcome a disease known as 'rose sickness' that can remain in the soil.

### Mulching

Essential for both weed control and evaporation in summer, plus keeping the root zone cool. A combination of composted cow manure combined with shredded **Lucerne hay** is ideal [refer to my Cedfacts Garden Information Sheet "What's so special about Lucerne hay?" at [www.cedricbryant.com](http://www.cedricbryant.com)]. Alternatively use **Canberra Organic Mulch** available from Canberra Sand and Gravel. Keep mulch 100mm away from the stems to prevent collar rot.

### Fertilizing

Roses with their extended flowering season need more regular feeding than most other plants. At planting time **Maxicrop 'Seaweed Plant Nutrient'** is recommended. This specifically promotes new and stronger root growth, essential for young plants. A few follow up applications in

the first season will be beneficial. Approximately every six weeks apply **Neutrog 'Seamungus'**, a combination of chook manure [from free range hens] and seaweed in pelletized form. This meets AS 6000 Australian Standard for organic fertilizers. Spread around the drip line, not close to the stem.

### Watering

A good deep soaking once a week is preferable to light watering every day. Light watering encourages surface root that can dry out quickly in summer. Surface roots can cause the rose to be unstable and could cause it blow out the ground. Overhead watering is to be avoided at any time, particularly in the evening. Leaves that remain wet overnight on warm summer days encourage black spot and mildew fungal diseases. The most effective way of watering all plants is with a drip system placed on top of the soil and under the mulch.

### Pests and Diseases

The main problems are aphids, mildew and Black Spot. Aphids can usually be eliminated with a strong water jet or squashing between fingers. The old-fashioned way for mildew is mix one part full cream milk with eight parts water, spray under the leaves as well. It is preferable not to use chemical sprays. **Confidor** is a systemic method of controlling most pests and is now available in a tablet form, simply by inserting near the root zone. The most important aspect of disease control is to keep collecting old leaves under roses and picking off leaves that may be showing signs of Black Spot. Do not put these on the compost heap. Keep the bush open to allow for good air circulation. DO NOT use glyphosate herbicide within the root zone of roses.

The reader relies on his/her own skills and judgement in using any advice given. To the best of my knowledge the advice given is accurate. However, no responsibility, whether expressed or implied, can be accepted for garden advice given in this information sheet.

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See also [www.cedricbryant.com](http://www.cedricbryant.com)