



FRIENDS OF Old Parliament House ROSE GARDENS

Issue 14 – Winter 2018

President's Report

We had a sad loss when our wonderful President Genevieve Jacobs stood down from being the President as she was finding that her life was becoming so full. Genevieve decided to remain on the committee but not as President.

It was not long after that we got the sad news to say that Genevieve was no longer needed at the ABC and informed our committee.



President of the FOPHRG, Ellnor Grassby (middle) with guests at the Melbourne Cup function

Well, I am happy to report that as the saying goes 'One door closes, and another one opens'. I understand Genevieve has formed her own company and is doing very well, thank you. We salute Genevieve.

So I took over. For my first function as President, Genevieve had already set up the "Fireside Chat" at the Mercure Hotel in 2016. Genevieve had arranged a wonderful event with speakers John and Edwina MacArthur-Stanham, who spoke about and showed

photos of their historic property in NSW, 'Camden Park'. The day was a great success. Thanks to Genevieve!

Our year went on to an exciting Melbourne Cup lunch in the Senate garden. I was so lucky to come across an 'angel' who sang with a voice that would have raised the roof (if we had one). Her name is Kaitlin Nihill. She has moved to Queensland to further her studies in music. I hope one day we will be able to bring her back to sing for us again.

Vice President Malcolm Beazley arranged a wonderful lunch and with many bottles of Champagne. I managed to be saved from a hanging when I was asked to turn up the sound only to switch stations. It was only through the love of God and someone on the committee who was able to get the big race back before it finished.

In the month of June, we invited members to a pruning display at the Horticultural Society of Canberra, and



Kaitlin Nihill singing at the Melbourne Cup function

although the weather was the coldest Saturday that month we learned a lot about Rose and tree pruning. We hope to do the same this year, so remember to put your name down!

This brought us back to St Valentine's Day held in the Reps Gardens. This was such a great occasion as I was able

to arrange seven young Irish Dancers to dance for us. I went to their headquarters looking for Irish dancers - and came out with a chef from the "Wattle Cafe"! This café is run by Keith and Amanda who put me in touch with the teacher at the Leanna McGrath Dancing School. They were the highlight of the evening and people just loved them. Some told me they had never seen Irish Dancing so it was new and exciting for many. The girls stayed and talked to many about the dance. I could not thank Leanna enough for such a great evening.

We are now planning our Fireside Chat in August at the Mercure Hotel again, so get ready to come as we will have quite a show for all. Of course, we are arranging the Pruning demonstration again in June so keep that in mind too.

I want to thank my wonderful committee for all the hard work they put in to make our functions interesting. They are the best. And a special thank you to Amanda Hynson, our helpful liaison with the NCA.

In the coming year we will be trying to run without committee Secretary Jacalyn Luby. She will be working very hard for the National Australian Dragon Boat Championships 2019, which are to be held in the ACT in April 2019. Jacalyn will leave us after the AGM in June, and if anyone is interested in filling in for one year as our Secretary please get in touch with the committee before June. We have a lot of fun so maybe there is a member who would like to join the committee and become the Secretary. We hold a monthly, one-hour meeting. We do it with lots of laughs, and, I think, enjoy coming up with great things to do.

Ellnor Grassby

President

Friends of Old Parliament Rose Gardens

Coming Up

Pruning Demonstration

A pruning demonstration will be held at the Horticultural Society's Trial Garden at CIT Bruce on Saturday 28 July.

Fireside Chat and High Tea

Another fireside chat and high tea will be held at the Mercure Hotel in Braddon in Sunday 12 August. There will be three guest speakers: John Feehan (entomologist), Catherine Chapman (Nutritional Coach) and Hajar Gala (couturier).

Keep an eye out for the invitations to these events.

Romance and Roses



Members and guests enjoyed a beautiful summer's evening at the event set in the House of Representatives Gardens on Saint Valentine's Day 2018, Wednesday 14 February at 5.30pm.

The talented young dancers from McGrath Irish Dance; and singers, Tony Hayley and Mimma Memmolo, entertained members and guests with appropriately romantic tunes.

A delicious buffet was supplied by the Wattle Café, and one or two glasses of bubbly completed the relaxed gathering.

Melbourne Cup 2017



The Friends of Old Parliament House Rose Gardens enjoyed an exciting Melbourne Cup Day on Tuesday 7 November 2017 in the Senate Garden.

Friends and guests, including a number from Canberra's diplomatic corps, enjoyed a fine lunch supplied by Hudson's Catering prior to the big race. Several sweeps were run, and there was a lucky door prize, a raffle and a prize for the best hat. We were entertained before the televised race by the delightful singing voice of Kaitlin Nihill.

Volunteers Report

The horticultural volunteers continue to do a wonderful job in keeping the Old Parliament House Rose Gardens looking beautiful. This year we have had to contend with the special problems dealing with the hot dry weather and break downs in the irrigation systems throughout all the growing areas. We have also experienced very heavy infestations of black spot and mildew diseases that have required extensive remediation work by Dennis Dempsey and the City Wide crew. These problems are now under control.

In spite of these setbacks the standard of the rose displays improves each year. This situation is also a result of the improved cooperation with our contractors, City Wide and we liaise closely with them to determine the work each team does in their respective areas.

The numbers of horticultural volunteers has increased during the year to just over 60. A successful recruiting campaign since the start of 2018 has resulted in each of the five teams having sufficient numbers to keep on top of all the extensive work required to maintain the high standards in the upkeep of the gardens. However age and other considerations take their toll and new members are always required as replacements. They are promised a very rewarding time in beautiful settings for just two hours work each week. All new volunteers are given extensive rose maintenance instruction before joining their teams. The five teams operate as separate units, set their starting times and work patterns and at the end of their shift invariably all then enjoy a coffee together.

There are thirteen volunteers who are still working in their respective teams from the original recruitment drive fourteen years ago.

Each year in May we receive formal pruning instructions from our horticultural adviser, Dennis Dempsey in order to hone our skills and throughout the year Dennis works closely with each team in improving the specialised knowledge for the caring of the roses and rectifying any

specific problems as they occur. As a result we are kept up to date with developments, maintenance plans and general information and are able to operate as a team unsupervised.

The volunteers this year assisted the NCA in completing a census of all the individual roses through out the Senate and Reps. Gardens. This proved a very onerous task as all 4,300 roses under our control had to be inspected and state of health of each plant noted. This audit is essential to plan future developments and plant replacements in the beds.

The gardens continue to be well used for weddings and other functions throughout the year and are greatly appreciated by visitors and Canberrans.

Anne Knowler
Volunteer Coordinator



Membership renewal

A reminder that membership renewals are due in July. Four categories are available: join as a single member for \$35 per annum; as a family for \$40; and at a concession rate for \$30, available to pension card holders or full time students. Active Rose Gardens volunteers are eligible for a special rate.

Friends membership brings you inclusion in our events, lectures and workshops, and helps us to raise awareness of the Gardens, to advocate for their care and wellbeing and to enhance our own knowledge of rose cultivation.

To renew, or to become a member the Friends, please visit the membership section of our website at www.fophrg.org.au. Alternatively, complete this form and post to:

Friends of the Old Parliament House Rose Gardens
PO Box 213
CURTIN ACT 2605

Membership category (please tick)

- Single (\$35)
- Family (\$40)
- Concession (\$30)*
- Active NCA
- Garden Volunteer (\$15)

**Pension card holders or full time students*

Concession Card Number

Contact details

Name _____

Address _____

Post code _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Payment (Please tick) _____

Cheque Direct deposit

For payment by direct deposit:

BSB: 082 902

Account number: 16770 7016

Account name: Friends of Old Parliament House Rose Gardens

With thanks to our Sponsors

Many thanks to our supporters, who contribute a great deal to our work in promoting and supporting the Gardens.



The Heritage Nursery at Yarralumla offers a 10% discount to the Friends and have been most generous in their support of our rose events.



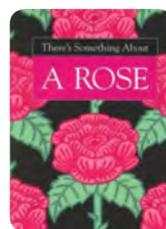
We are also delighted to welcome aboard the **Mercure Hotel**, who kindly provide assistance to the Friends through their use of its facilities for our events.

Greeting Cards



We have a range of beautifully photographed cards made by gifted photographer Margaret Weir. Includes close detail and landscape shots of the Gardens.

They are available either as individual cards at \$4 each or at \$15 for five plus \$3 for postage and packaging.



We also have available "There's Something About a Rose," a book of Australian poems and artwork that celebrate the rose compiled by Malcolm Beazley and Judith Pugh, and "Sunshine

and Roses". This CD of 24 favourite old tunes also plays upon the rose theme.



Both are priced at \$15. Please email the Friends for further details.

For details please email friendsophrosegardens@gmail.com