



FRIENDS OF Old Parliament House ROSE GARDENS

Issue 15 – Spring 2018

President's Report

Not everyone is as lucky as I am being president of the Friends of Old Parliament House Rose Gardens and having such a wonderful committee. Dr. Malcolm Beazley, Ann and Fred Knowler, Joan Crook, Mimma Memmola, Wendy McLeod, and Jacky Luby (on leave for this year) and Benmet, who is helping us with our admin at the moment. Amanda Hynson, is our liaison with the NCA and is a great help. They are all great workers who enjoy what they all do to make our functions so successful.

It has been a very interesting year and I find the people in Canberra really enjoy the Gardens and appreciate the volunteers' hard work. Their work keeps the gardens looking beautiful. We salute and thank them.

Our last function was High Tea held at the Mercure Hotel. We managed to have a great gentleman by the name of John Feehan who is an expert on the Dung Beetle. We could have listened to him speak longer, but in the wings was waiting couturier Hajar Gala who had just arrived back from Paris. Hajar showed her designer collection of Maison De Challie fashion and with her two models, entertained us all. The next speaker was Catherine Chapman who spoke about Nutrition for Children. She captured everyone with her great books on teaching children to eat better. We are now looking forward to our next function which will be our Melbourne Cup lunch.

Regatta Point has a new display of Canberra. Go see where Canberra is heading in the future. It is a must, so take the children as there is something for young and old!

And please don't forget to keep using the Old Parliament Rose Gardens!

Ellnor Grassby

President

Friends of Old Parliament Rose Gardens



Committee 2018: Fred Knowler, Joyce Van Leeuwenhoek (member), Ann Knowler, Jacky Luby, Dr. Malcolm Beazley (Vice President), Joan Crook, Ellnor Grassby (President), Wendy McLeod, Svetlana Manns (member)

Links to Some Interesting Articles

'Six ways to Murder a Rose Bush' is a humorous article by Jackie French in the Canberra Times. Read it online here: canberratimes.com.au/canberra-news/six-ways-to-murder-a-rose-bush-20180828-p500dd.html

"Prune roses any time you like!" By Cedric Bryant in CityNews: citynews.com.au/2018/gardening-prune-roses-any-time-you-like

Coming Up

Melbourne Cup Function 2018

The Melbourne Cup function will be held at the Mercure Canberra Hotel on Tuesday 6 November from 1:00 to 4:00 pm.

Look out for your invitation!

Volunteers Report

After a successful recruiting campaign during the summer, there are now about 60 active horticultural volunteers working in the four Old Parliament House Rose Gardens. Although many of these new volunteers are experienced gardeners, including many with their own large rose collections, everyone had to complete a practical training course conducted by Dennis Dempsey our rose expert, so that we are all operating under the same guidelines and are fully capable of maintaining the high standards of rose growing required. Volunteers were then allocated to a garden of their choice and received further on-site practical training with their teams.

Most volunteers spend two hours per week in the gardens working in a group of about ten gardeners. From late October till early May the 4,500 plants under their care received the full treatment of deadheading, plant maintenance and weed control - a never ending task. This year we started pruning early in June and because of the extra available volunteers, this operation was finished in early August; our deadline being the end of the month. Mulching and fertilising will shortly be completed by our contractors, CityWide and we then will be ready for the first blooms to be on show about the end of October.

The new sprinkler system installed during the winter seems to be operating satisfactorily and has the advantage in that the sprays can be directed onto individual plants and these are already showing the benefits of a regular controlled water supply. Visitors to the gardens will also notice that the original plant identification plaques have been removed and replaced by sticks. This is intended to be a temporary measure until a more permanent plaque can be installed for each type of plant. The removal of the original plaques came as a result of an injury sustained to a visiting schoolboy running through the rose beds and cutting himself on the metal work.

The Old Parliament House Rose Gardens cover a unique, heritage listed area of beauty to visit and enjoy and are well visited by Canberrans and tourists alike. They are much sought after for functions and are extremely popular for the celebration of weddings, where they provide a beautiful setting for a very special occasion.

Ann Knowler
Volunteers Liaison

High Tea at the Mercure – August 2018

Our popular afternoon tea at the Mercure Hotel was a little different this year, with three fascinating speakers to entertain us.

First was John Feehan, the recognised authority on dung beetles in Australia. As a member of the CSIRO team, John was tasked with introducing bovine Dung Beetles into Australia. John has since formed a private company based in Canberra to continue the work of researching, collecting and releasing suitable Dung Beetle species into grazing regions across Australia. John's talk was passionate and very enlightening.

Secondly came Hajar Gala, a wonderful Canberra couturier. Hajar trained at the International Fashion Academy of Europe, and is now heading the prestigious Maison de Challie label. In 2017 Hajar was invited to exhibit two shows of her creations at the Paris Fashion Week. Hajar showed us a selection of her evening and bridal wear to the delight of all.

Our third speaker was the well-known Canberra jeweller and nutritionist Catherine Chapman. Catherine introduced us to the range of characters from her books in the 'Best Food Friends' series. Catherine gives talks at schools in her attempt to teach the young about diabetes and how to eat properly for better health.

The afternoon tea was, as before, delicious and generous. The Friends of Old Parliament House Rose Gardens thanks the Mercure Canberra for its support.

Wendy McLeod
Memberships



Hajar Gala talking about her fashions



Catherine Chapman



John Freehan

QUIZ – Can You Name These Roses? (Answers below)



A---- -- --L--



-N-- -O-E--



--PH--- ---PE----



-IS- -L-E



--IN-- -E-S



--D- --L-G---



--ER-- -- ---SA--



-R-H-- -H--A-



--C---EN- -O- --H--E--



-E---G G---G--



--N--M-- --I-T--



-U-C--- --PE--



K--R-- --RL--



---S--N-- -P--



-UI---



---M--K --S-



-R- --LD-- -I-H--



D---E -O-S



--L---Y-E



--O-U- R---

ANSWERS:
ALFRED DE DALMAIS | ANNE BOLYIN | SOPHIES PERPETUAL | MISS ALICE
Dainty Bess | Lady Hillington | Hérès de Ronsard | Graham Thomas
Excelsior von Schubert | Teasing Georgia | Benjamin Britten | Tuscany Superb
Kathryn Michler | Constance Spry | Guinée | Renmark Rose
Mrs Oalvey Fisher | Deane Ross | Egantime | Crocus Rose

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.



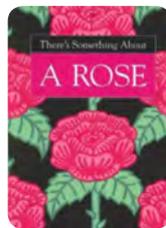
We are also delighted to welcome aboard the **Mercure Hotel**, who kindly provide assistance to the Friends through their use of its facilities for our events.

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