



## FRIENDS OF THE OLD PARLIAMENT HOUSE ROSE GARDENS

Autumn 2025

Hello and Welcome to my first Newsletter as President of the Friends of the Old Parliament House Rose Gardens (FOPHRG).

I have been invited by the Executive Committee to take the role on as President for the next three years and am delighted to do so. My tenure will see many events held to raise money for the awareness of the gardens and to support the volunteers and all the hard work that they do in keeping the gardens in the excellent condition that they currently are in.

The Old Parliament House Rose Gardens are going through a very significant time in history with the celebration of the Old Parliament House building turning 100 in 2027 and there has not been a better time to be involved as a member and be a part of Canberra and Australia's history.

There have been some changes on our Committee and firstly would like to formally thank Fred Knowler for his tireless efforts on the Committee over many years and his retirement from the Committee in June has brought some fresh faces to the fold. New committee members that I would like to give a warm welcome to are Pam Behncke, Krysia Szkiela and the ever-hard-working current members, Malcolm Beazley, Jacky Luby, Chris Parks and Mimma Memmolo, the past president. With a new team and fresh ideas, we all look forward to working together to bring events together for the Friends of the Old Parliament House Rose Gardens.

In the short time that I have been President I have hit the ground running and we have had a productive meeting with the Chief Executive of NCA, Karen Doran to strengthen our commitment to the gardens and how we can assist in the future with input and commitment for the rejuvenation of the National Rose Gardens that will commence works in the second half of this year. While the National Rose Gardens are not part of the Old Parliament House Rose Gardens, we feel there is a strong connection between both and the relationships can only be strengthened from here. The Consultation report has been completed by the NCA, it will be exciting to see the gardens reinstated to the original layout including rejuvenating the grounds and the inclusion of 7,500 roses.

Coming up on our calendar of events on 15 June is our annual High Tea, an event not to be missed. The Members of the Executive Committee will warmly welcome you to the event and as the guest speaker, I will talk about my horticultural journey with a focus on roses and how they have helped shaped my career. By then I will have returned from the Chelsea Flower show in England 2025 and will talk about any new release roses and any information that will be launched at the show and when they will be available in Australia.



FOPHRG Committee.

L-R: Fred Knowler, Mimma Memmolo, Jacalyn Luby, Chris Parks, Pam Behncke, Krysia Szkiela, Dr Malcom Beazley AM, Jackie Warburton.



Jackie Warburton meeting Karen Doran.

### International Guest in the Gardens.

Late last year I had the privilege of walking around the Old Parliament House Rose Gardens with the International Business Development Manager for David Austin Roses from the UK, Stefanie Williams. She was touring Australia and passing through Canberra, and I wanted to showcase the beautiful Broinowski Rose Garden that at the time was full of colour, fragrance and beauty and truly it was a delight to see all the roses when they were flowering at their best. She was delighted to see a dedicated garden just for David Austin Roses in our grounds and shared valuable information to how the rose breeding process works and how they are developed and how new releases are brought to Australia. My favourite new

release variety for 2025 is 'William and Catherine' and 'The Lady of the Lake' and are available for purchase. More information can be found on the website [www.davidaustinroses.com](http://www.davidaustinroses.com).



### Memberships are due.

A gentle reminder that Membership is due 1st July and we appreciate the support from our members and look forward to meeting you at our High Tea this month or at another event that we have coming up throughout the year.

Please check our updated website for further details: <https://www.fophrg.org.au/>

*Jackie Warburton*

President  
Friends of the Old Parliament House  
Rose Gardens (FOPHRG).



Pictures of the Rose gardens, November 2024.

