



The Rose Society of South Australia Inc.

Bulletin

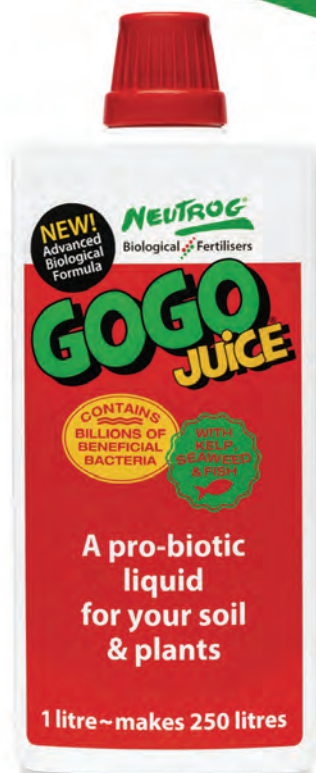
Volume 62, Number 2

April, May, June 2023

*Queen
of Sweden*

Image: David Austin Roses (UK)

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The Rose Society of South Australia Inc encourages, fosters, and extends the cultivation and appreciation of the rose. It also arranges, sponsors and conducts talks, demonstrations, exhibitions and shows, in line with its Constitution.

ABOUT

The Rose Society of South Australia's *Bulletin* is the official publication of the Society for members. It is produced quarterly in hard copy and digital formats.

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This and previous editions of the Rose Society of South Australia's *Bulletin* are available to members in digital format in the Members' area of the Society's website www.sarose.org.au

CONTRIBUTIONS

Members of The Rose Society of South Australia and invited guests provide content for this publication. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Rose Society of South Australia Inc or the Editor.

www.sarose.org.au

Members login: Peace

Wagner's code: 100%ROSES!

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COVER PHOTO *Queen of Sweden*, provided by David Austin Roses (UK)

This rose is among those named after royalty, celebrated by Rose Society member, Gwen Moxham, in an article entitled *Royal Roses* (p 13). Gwen's article is being published to co-incide with the Coronation of King Charles III.



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President's Message

Our Members' Meetings recommenced in February when we enjoyed a visit to the collections of the State Herbarium of South Australia and a presentation led by Chris Brodie, South Australia's weed specialist and Weed Botanist at the State Herbarium, Adelaide Botanic Gardens. It was lovely to meet some of the Rose Society's newer members at this meeting.



Rose Society President, Diane vom Berg

Our March meeting was hosted at Neutrog. Approximately 50 of us were treated to lunch and tours at the Kanmantoo site. This gave us the opportunity to get an insight into the operations of arguably our most enduring corporate supporter. I know it was also a pleasure for many members to be given a chance to meet and hear from key figures, among them Neutrog's Managing Director, Angus Irwin, and the Research and Development Manager, Uwe Stroehrer. They spoil us again.

Surviving the late February heatwave, we now look forward to our Autumn flushes of blooms. Maybe consider exhibiting at one of the upcoming rose shows: the Barossa Rose and Flower Show at Barossa Nursery, 1st and 2nd of April; and the Society's Autumn Rose Show and National Rose Trial Garden of Australia's People's Choice weekend, at the Noel Lothian Hall and Adelaide Botanic Garden, on the 15th and 16th of April. Both are highlighted in this edition. These events will require the assistance of members. If you are able to help, it will be most appreciated. Contact Aileen Scott scottssana4@gmail.com to help at the Autumn Rose Show and Mary Frick maryf8@bigpond.com to assist at the Barossa Rose and Flower Show. These are opportunities to promote the rose, educate the public and answer questions from attendees.

Pruning demonstrations are planned for June and July. Details of these are also in this *Bulletin*.

The Rose Society's Annual General Meeting is in July. Please consider nominating to serve on Council for the coming year. It's a way to contribute to the operations

Highlights in this edition

Annual General Meeting	8
Your society needs you	9
Members Meetings	10–11
New release roses	17–19
Royal Roses	13–16
Australian Rose Breeders	20–24

Regular features

Rose of the month	25–27
International Rose Garden	30
Cultural notes	32–34
Branch reports	35–39
My View	40–41

and development of your Society. Council meetings are held bi-monthly and they are conducted by Zoom (computer). This makes involvement in Council easier for people near and far—especially for those living in rural areas—to participate.

The National Rose Society of Australia's National Rose Championships and Annual General Meeting will be held in Perth from the 20th October. If you would like a registration form please email me at president.rssa@gmail.com

Forthcoming World Federation of Rose Societies (WFRS) events include the 15th International Heritage Rose Conference in Brussels in June 2023; the Regional Convention in Sweden in 2024, and the 20th World Convention in 2025 in Japan.

Our global sponsorship agreement with FELCO will greatly assist the WFRS. The company is a worldwide leader in the production of high precision professional secateurs and pruning tools. See advice from FELCO in this *Bulletin*.

Please also continue to support our mutually positive relationship, of over 20 years, with Neutrog and its significant benefit to the Society and its members.

Autumn is an exciting time for rose growers with new releases for 2023 coming onto the market. Many are featured in catalogues available online. Surely we can all add another rose or two, or three or even more to the garden? To avoid disappointment don't forget to place your order/s as early as possible. Nurseries are experiencing high demand for their roses and many are selling out quickly.

I look forward to seeing you at our events in 2023. Until then, happy gardening.



Change to Ordering and Delivery

Neutrog's online store is always open

You can order at any time but there are changes to collection date notifications

Metropolitan and Kanmantoo collection points: it's "business as usual". The dates and times will be provided with the order confirmation.

Regional collections: when ordering, a more general collection date (eg late February) will be given. You will be contacted by a collection coordinator to arrange collection once the delivery has been confirmed with Neutrog's carrier.

**Questions regarding ordering should be referred to Neutrog
or Paul (RSSA) on 0409 096 758.**

Members duck the destruction of fires and floods in the regions

Roses on Eyre Secretary, Karen Miels, advises that no gardens or homes of members were directly impacted by the fire that ravaged 142 hectares just outside Port Lincoln in mid-February.

Meanwhile, Chaffey Rose Club Secretary, Dale Kerin, tells us that no gardens or homes of members in the Riverland were impacted, to the point of serious damage, by the floods that devastated so many

when the water levels of the Murray River rose to worryingly high levels over the Christmas and New Year period. Emergency services were applauded by both.



The image during the fire from the kitchen window of Roses on Eyre member, Karen Miels, just outside Port Lincoln.

Nominations now open for Life Memberships

The Council of the Rose Society of South Australia Inc (RSSA) invites nominations proposing members for Life Membership of our Society. Nominations need to be received by RSSA's Secretary, John Humphries, by midnight on **Wednesday 3rd May 2023**.

Any member may submit a nomination for another member whom they feel meets the criteria of **"special, outstanding and exemplary service to the Society"** and deserves our highest honour.

To assist you, a "Life Membership Nomination Form" has been formulated detailing all information required when nominating a person for the prestigious award—Life Membership.

The form is available from Society Secretary, John Humphries, by phoning 08 8270 7949 or 0478 107 260 or emailing rssasecretary@gmail.com. Alternatively, you can download the form by going to the Society's website at sarose.org.au and signing into the Member's section (password Peace). Find the words: "To download a guide to writing Life Membership citations [click here](#)"—and click. This opens a document which is the form. The form should then be downloaded and filled in. You will need to repeat some of the information when you are writing the citation that should accompany it.

You may wish to scan your completed form and send it as an attachment, with the written citation also attached, to rssasecretary@gmail.com or post it to John Humphries at 7 Bluebell Court, Flagstaff Hill SA 5159.

Candidates deemed by the selection committee to have met the criteria will be announced at the 2023 Annual General Meeting.



The Rose Society of South Australia Incorporated

Notice of the 2023 Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the 115th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of The Rose Society of South Australia Incorporated will be held on **Wednesday 12th July 2023** at the Goodman Building lecture room, Hackney Road—adjacent to the State Herbarium and International Rose Garden in the Adelaide Botanic Garden (ABG)—at 6.30pm. Ample free parking will be available in the ABG car park.

Business of the Meeting

1. Confirmation of the Minutes of the 2022 Annual General Meeting held on 3rd July 2022.
2. Receive the President's report.
3. Receive the Treasurer's report.
4. Approve the Audited Financial Statements.
5. Election of Officers and Council positions:

President

Three Vice Presidents

Secretary

Treasurer

Six Members of the Society who, together with the above elected officers, form the Council of the Society with the Immediate Past President Ex-Officio.

Members are reminded of Clause 10.1 of the Society's Constitution that nominations for the above positions (excepting Immediate Past President) shall be in writing and lodged with the Society Secretary prior to the commencement of the Annual General Meeting.

6. To consider any other business referred by the Council.

John Humphries, Secretary

The Treasurer's report will be available at the AGM; or following the AGM, an email copy can be arranged by contacting the Treasurer.



Attention all Members

Your Rose Society needs you!

At the 2023 Annual General Meeting (AGM), the term for our current President, Diane vom Berg, will come to an end and a new President will need to be elected.

There will be a number of other positions that will also need to be filled at that time.

Your consideration is particularly sought to nominate to serve on The Rose Society of South Australia's Council. The Council meets bi-monthly, via Zoom.

The positions which need to be filled at the AGM are:

President

3 Vice Presidents

Secretary

Treasurer

Six Councillors

We would very much welcome the opportunity to discuss the possibility of your involvement on Council and we would particularly like to hear from any member who has secretarial and/or financial skills or aptitude.

Should you volunteer to assist your Society by joining the management Council, you can be assured of a warm welcome and the full support from other Council members as well as those members who have stepped down from Executive roles.

Please contact Diane vom Berg, phone 0416 073 957 or email president.rssa@gmail.com, or John Humphries, phone 0478 107 260 or email rssasecretary@gmail.com

to discuss or obtain any further information you may need.

John Humphries
Secretary



Brodie is the name and weeds are his game



Corina and Shahid Gul with Weeds Botanist Chris Brodie (centre).

enthusiasm of Chris Brodie, South Australia's only weed specialist, employed by the State Herbarium of South Australia.

Chris entertained and educated a packed house of Rose Society members with tales of collecting and storing plants for identification. He is one of an elite group—among them Matthew Flinders and Joseph Banks—who have collected plant specimens for storage using the simplest of tools, like newspaper and a press, to dry and flatten each sample. With collections being hundreds of years old, they are valuable educational resources used to chart the changes to plants and our landscape as the environments around them change.

So why is it important to collect weeds? Perhaps an example explains it best. Chris spoke about spending time at the town of Leigh Creek, collecting samples from old gardens and remnant blocks of land, using the town as a classroom to study changes to the town's environment as houses were removed and land was left to its own devices. He was searching mostly for garden plants that might become feral weeds, documenting these and advising authorities, where necessary.

We also learnt that importantly, Chris is deployed to "survey" the impact of some major disasters, such as the 2020 Kangaroo Island bushfires. With 45% of the island affected by fire, many plants devastated and foreign species became invasive. It was Chris's responsibility to identify the feral weeds that have potential to smother out the local species. The most invasive on Kangaroo Island is the Tasmanian Blue Gum. He also outlined the massive effort underway to rid the island of this beautiful tree that has become a menace.

February Members' Meeting

By Paul Flavel

Imagine this: you are "Mrs Brodie" out on a drive with the family having a lovely time, speeding down the road in country South Australia, when suddenly you hear: "STOP, STOP THE CAR!" It's not one of the kids yelling but husband Chris. As the car comes to a sudden halt he leaps out and dashes back down the road. The kids groan: "Ooh Daaad, it's just another weed!" "Such is the skill and



Chris Kelly, Pam Gregory (winner of the A Grade Bench Competition with Red Dwarf Fairy), Pam Kelly and Tatiana Drewniak.

A great day visiting Neutrog

March Members' Meeting



The sun shone on Bill and Marlene Dunthorne from Murray Bridge at the visit to Neutrog.

Approximately 50 Rose Society of South Australia members did the “Neutrog Dance” on a sunny March day at a Members’ Meeting on Neutrog’s 20 hectare Kanmantoo site.

We lunched, learnt, traversed the site—by way of bus—and were even treated to a visit to Neutrog’s lab, where the Head of the Research and Development team, Dr Ewe Stroehrer, introduced us to the “world of microbes”.

Members had come from near and far, among the latter Bill and Marlene Dunthorne from Murray Bridge, Shann Hausler and Fleur Carthew from Chaffey Rose Club in the Riverland, and Jill and Geoff Eckermann, plus Penny and Jack McGorm, from the South East Branch.

Neutrog’s Customer Relationship Manager, Paul Dipuglia, spoke about the company’s growth before answering questions many of us have, such as: “Do I need to use all the Neutrog products?” Dr Stroehrer did similarly, answering questions like: “If my product gets smellier over time, should I continue using it?”

Both have been invited to contribute to future editions to address these and other questions.

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CARRICK HILL

46 Carrick Hill Drive Springfield
Sunday 18th June
1.30 to 3.30 pm

EVANSTON (GAWLER)

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Sunday 9th July
1.00 pm to 3.00 pm



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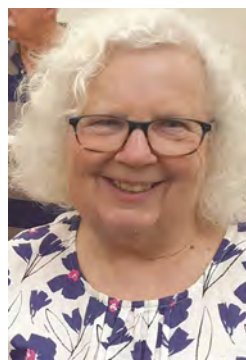
Italian Roses by *Wagner's*
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Royal Roses

With Gwen Moxham



A scramble to hybridise roses worthy of the King's name is, no doubt, underway, as the world's attention is drawn to the Coronation of the new English monarch. Competition will be vigorous as Charles III is passionate about gardening and a well-known lover of roses.

Monarchy's link with roses is longstanding. From Edward 1st (1272–1307), each monarch up until the present time has used the rose as a personal symbol of royalty.

However, before Edward 1st, the early English kings had lions as their symbol—usually three—and a lion with a unicorn is still part of the English Coat of Arms. Edward 1st, who was known as the *Hammer of the Scots* and who “subjugated” the Welsh, was the first King to take a rose—a golden rose—as his emblem. The golden rose remained as a royal symbol until the terrible Civil War which lasted over 30 years, from 1485 to 1487, labelled by historians as the *War of the Roses*. Two rival royal houses fought for the crown and each took a rose to represent them—the Red Rose of Lancaster and the White Rose of York.

The *Battle of Bosworth Field* in 1485 ushered in the dominance of the Lancastrians with the defeat of Richard 3rd by Henry Tudor. Henry had a very thin claim to the throne but strengthened his right by marrying Elizabeth of York. For the first time, a rose was created as a combination of the Red and White Roses and as a sign of peace within the kingdom. This is the so-called *Tudor Rose* which still has pride of place on the English Coat of Arms and features one of each rose on either side.

With the passing of the years, the rose is not just a part of royal symbolism; it has



Lancaster Rose



York Rose



Tudor Rose

Royal Roses 2/4

become fashionable to name a rose to honour a particular person. Many roses marketed, therefore, have, or have had, royal connections.

One of the more obscure examples is **Queen of Sweden**, bred by David Austin, which acknowledges the 350th anniversary of a *Treaty of Friendship, Trade and Navigation* between the learned Christina, Queen of Sweden, and Oliver Cromwell!

The background to this began with the execution of Charles 1st in 1649 when Oliver Cromwell assumed his role as Lord Protector of the Commonwealth, with Parliament controlling legislation instead of a king. The news of the execution of a king was received with horror in Europe and among other things, trade was suffering. Cromwell sent an Ambassador to Christina's Court to try to use her influence and the Treaty was the result.

Another of the David Austin bred roses is **Crown Princess Margareta**, named after a granddaughter of Queen Victoria. Princess Margaret of Connaught married Crown Prince Gustavus Adolfus of Sweden in 1905. Princess Margaret was an accomplished landscape gardener who established beautiful gardens at the palace in Helsingborg, Sweden. The rose is a climber, or tall bush of a lovely apricot garden, and in my garden, it is robust and hardy.



Crown Princess Margareta

Image: David Austin Roses (UK)



We do have a rose called **Prince Charles**, a crimson-purple Bourbon, named after a member of the Bourbon royal family, in fact the last of the family. Unusually for a Bourbon, it flowers only once and in Summer. It was bred by Julien Alexandre Hardy in France before 1837. The Prince, whose title was Prince Charles (or Carlo) of Capua, was the second son of Francis 1st, King of the Two Sicilies (r1825–1830). Prince Charles married “unsuitably”—Penelope, an English/Irish girl. They fled to Gretna Green to be married (so romantic) and he

L: Princess of Wales— Image Knight's Roses



Jubilee Celebration

The magnificent rose, **Queen Elizabeth**, from the 1950s, celebrated the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II and is still a favourite. It is a well-deserved member of the *Rose Hall of Fame* and is a standout in my garden. It flowers continuously and even manages to survive the predations of the parrots.

The Queen's sister, Margaret, has a very pretty pink rose named after her which reached Australia in 1933. After all, the Princess's name was Princess Margaret Rose!

Jackson and Perkins came up with the pink, cream and yellow **Diana, Princess of Wales**, in 1998. The wreath on her coffin was her favourite rose, the white **Princess of Wales**, bred by Harkness in 1997.

Princess Anne, the Princess Royal, was honoured



Royal Roses 3/4

was debarred from the succession (not so romantic). Prince Charles, who had been popular and outgoing, was forced into exile and poverty, however they lived happily in London and Europe. When his brother died, he had hopes of being king, but in 1860, Garibaldi annexed Sicily and later unified all of Italy. Charles died two years later. His life is not "happy reading"!

It is with relief that we turn to more our modern times!



Queen Elizabeth

with a rose in her name after her work with Riding for the Disabled, her best known charity, in 2010. **Princess Anne** is a popular Austin rose and one I love.

The wedding of Prince William and Catherine Middleton in 2011 produced a white rose, bred by David Austin, called simply, **William and Catherine**.

A red rose, **The Duke of Edinburgh**, was planted in the border of the East Terrace Garden at Windsor Castle in 2021.

David Austin has bred several roses to celebrate milestones in the life of the

L: Princess Alexandra of Kent

Royal Roses 4/4

Queen—**Jubilee Celebration** in 2002 to mark the Queen's Golden Jubilee, **Royal Jubilee** (pink) for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, and **Elizabeth** (very pale pink) in 2022. Peter Beales produced **Queen's Jubilee Rose** in 2012. Also from David Austin, we have **Princess Alexandra of Kent**, a cousin of the Queen and also a keen gardener.

European royalty has also had roses named after them in modern times with **Princess de Monaco** (Grace), **Princess Charlene de Monaco**, **Princess Claire of Belgium** and our own princess from Australia, **Crown Princess Mary** (from Thomson 2006). Roses and Princesses do seem to go together.

Questions remain. Which English breeder will bring us the **King Charles III** rose? The naming of the rose is likely to be difficult if several special roses appear. The many possibilities could be **Coronation** rose, **King and Queen Consort** rose, or just plain **King Charles**. Another big question is what colour will it be? Will it be golden in the tradition of several hundred years or red, inspired by the Red Rose of Lancaster? It has been said publicly by some in the King's households, that the King is not so keen on yellow blooms. Charles III has also said publicly that he shies away from fiery coloured roses...so perhaps it will be a right royal surprise.



Princess Anne



Princess de Monaco



King Charles III

Behind the lens

Images of roses on pages 14 to 16 were adapted from photographs taken by
Melanie Trimper



New Rose Releases in 2023

The ripple of excitement dedicated rosarians get with the release of new roses is well known, and it seems to be spreading. More people than ever are becoming intoxicated by roses and are ordering up "big". That, on top of ruinous rains last year, has some cultivars in short supply. So order NOW.

There's lots to tantalise in 2023: Knight's Roses *Lady of the House*, *Continued on page 18*



Vintage, HT with classic high centred blooms, height to 150cm, delicate fragrance, good vase life, bred by Carruth—Swane's Nursery now, coming to Wagner's Rose Nursery in 2024.

Image: Benedetta Rusconi



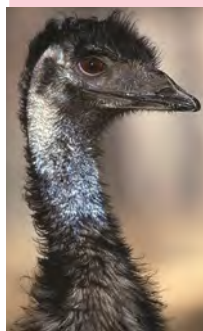
Lady of the House, HT, 120 X 80cm, good disease tolerance, prolific repeat flowering, strong fruity fragrance, top performer in warm weather, long vase life, bred by Guillot—Knight's Roses.

Image: Melanie Trimper

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New Rose Releases in 2023



Graham Ross AM, HT, up to 120cm, slightly cupped single or small clusters of blooms, sweet fragrance, heat resistant, great cut rose, from the Kordes' Eleganza Collection—Treloar Roses, Wagner's and Newman's nurseries.

roses from Italy—the first producer in Australia to do so. Just before that there was the organisation of Bruce Brundrett's roses. **Bruce's Dream**, a rose considered by the revered hybridist (1940–2022) to be one of his best creations, is among Wagner's new releases this year.

Here are details of some new releases. Details of full ranges are on nursery websites.

recognising Ursula Hayward of historic property, Carrick Hill, with part proceeds going to the Carrick Hill Development Foundation, **Graham Ross AM**, named by Treloar Roses after Australia's most awarded Horticulturalist, with part proceeds going to the NextSense Foundation, or one of Wagner's Rose Nursery's new Italian beauties or Bruce Brundrett bred lovelies.

There have been dynamic happenings at Wagner's. It recently announced it has taken on the agency for Delbard Roses in Australia. That came hot on the heels of its release of a collection of Rose Barni



Lucciola, means like a fire-fly, Miniature, up to 50cms in height, vigorous yet compact growing habit, intense bright and sharp coloured blooms that do not fade with age, repeat flowering, has a light fragrance, bred by Barni—Wagner's Rose Nursery.

*All Wagner's images by
Benedetta Rusconi.*



Delizia, means delight, Groundcover, up to 70cm, can spread or be trained as a climber, double cupped blooms, repeat flowering, light and sweet fragrance, bee magnet, bred by Barni—Wagner's and Newman's nurseries.

**Certificate of Merit 2021
National Rose Trial Garden
of Australia**



Paolo, named after Italian architect landscaper, Paolo Pejrone, Floribunda, up to 90cms, uniquely cupped flowers, repeat flowering, delicate fragrance, bred by Barni. Paolo has won important European medals—Wagner's and Newman's.

**Bronze Medal 2022
National Rose Trial Garden
of Australia**

New Rose Releases in 2023



The Mill On The Floss (Austulliver), English Shrub, height to 140cm, clusters of deeply cupped pink-lilac blooms, pale pink when opening, carmine edges to petals, sweet fruity fragrance, gently arching growth, bred by David Austin Roses—Treloar Roses and Newman's Nursery.



Emily Bronte (Ausearnshaw), English Shrub, height to 120cm, neat flat blooms with button centre, strong tea scent, upright growth habit, named to celebrate the bicentenary of the novelist's birth, bred by David Austin Roses—Treloar Roses, and Wagner's and Newman's nurseries.

R: ***Bruce's Dream***, HT, in the category of Modern Shrub, 120cm, classic shaped yellow-apricot buds that fade to cream, light fragrance, bred by Bruce Brundrett who considered it to be one of his best.

Best Hybrid Tea 2018, National Rose Trial Garden of Australia



L: ***Australian Beauty***, Floribunda, to 120cm X 100cm, flat, multi-layered blooms, slight fragrance, named as the rose of 2022 World Rose Convention, bred by Bruce Brundrett—Wagner's and Newman's.

Bronze Medal 2020, National Rose Trial Garden of Australia

R: ***Bright Smiles***, MF in the Bush Rose category, height approx 60cm, deep yellow semi-double blooms that are brushed orange, acclaimed as disease and heat resistant, mild fragrance, great for pots. This rose is from the Kordes' Fairytale Roses® collection—Treloar Roses





Autumn Rose Show and People's Choice Weekend 15th to 16th April 2023

*Choose your 5 favourite roses for the National Rose
Trial Garden of Australia People's Choice Award*

**Noel Lothian Hall and National Rose Trial Garden of Australia
Adelaide Botanic Garden Hackney Rd Adelaide**

Open

People's Choice Saturday and Sunday 10 to 4 pm
Rose Show Sat 11 to 4 pm, Sun 10 to 4 pm

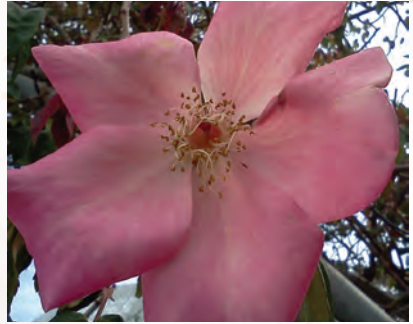
Roses under Southern Skies: 1900 to today

Rose Society of South Australia member, Tate Hancox, has distilled a presentation he gave at the World Rose Convention in Adelaide in 2022 where he provided an overview of activities and influences of rose breeding in Australia over 130 years.

Rose breeders have produced cultivars that have been popular as well as fashionable for their times while they have embarked upon patient journeys of discovery, to our benefit.

Pre 1900s to 1920s

In the late 1800s and early 1900s, Hybrid Tea roses were steadily increasing in popularity thanks to the introduction of **La France** in 1867 and the subsequent class based on the new characteristics it brought to the rose world. With the rise in popularity of Hybrid Teas, came the beginning of the fall of Tea roses. A few were still bred by Australian breeders—most famously **Lorraine Lee**—but far fewer than Hybrid



Jessie Clark Image: Tate Hancox



Black Boy Image: Les Johnson

Teas. Some of Australia's earliest and possibly most famous Australian bred climbers began to be released, primarily by Alistair Clark, among them **Black Boy**, **Jessie Clark** and **Milkmaid**.

A few Hybrid Perpetuals, just over half a dozen Polyanthas, and one of the first Australian Floribundas, **Salmon Spray**, were also released.

1930s and 1940s

Rose breeding in the 1930s and 1940s was primarily focused on production of Hybrid Tea roses. Polyanthas such as **Babe** and **The Allies** were also being developed by Australian rose breeders as these were the next most popular class, nationally, to be released. Alistair Clark continued to produce excellent climbing roses using his **Rosa gigantea** breeding lines.



The Allies....Image: Margaret Furness

1950s

Rose breeders of the 1950s focused primarily on Hybrid Teas, producing varieties such as ***Mrs Fred Danks*** and ***Lady Woodward***. Many of these varieties have since been lost or are only cultivated by the most dedicated of rosarians.



Titian....Image: Les Johnson

1960s

Hybrid Teas continued to be the most popular class released by Australian breeders in the 1960s with the colours of flowers becoming more intense and diverse. One of my favourites of the decade was George Dawson's ***Great Venture***. Polyanthas and Hybrid Polyantha breeding had mostly fallen out of fashion. However, one of the last of Frank Riethmuller's roses to be released, and likely one of the most popular of his releases was ***Carabella***, in 1960. Floribundas continued to be released with George Dawson releasing ***Imp*** in 1969.



Carabella....Image: Les Johnson



Great Venture....Image: Tate Hancox



Imp....Image: Les Johnson

in rose breeding trends from 1900 to today

1970s and 1980s

Throughout the 1970s and 80s, Hybrid Teas were again the most popular rose. George Dawson and Ron Bell released some lovely classic Hybrid Teas such as **Rae Dungan** and **April Hamer**.

A few Floribundas were also bred. Among them were **Iced Parfait** and **Cecilia 89** (not released until 1991).

However, a new wave of Miniature, Mini-flora and Patio roses was starting to take shape as Aussie breeders such as Eric Welsh and Richard Walsh embarked upon experiments.



April Hammer....Image: Les Johnson

1990s

The nineties marked an explosion of new Australian bred roses in a variety of classes. New Hybrid Tea varieties continued to be produced by breeders, but it was Miniature and Mini-floras that would steal the show. At least 25 Miniature and Mini-flora roses were released in the 1990s by Australian breeders, including **Chameleon**, Eric Welsh's most famous rose. The breeding of Shrub roses also became popular with approximately 20 new varieties being released. Rose Society of South Australia member, and sadly the recently late Wendy Mather, released her first rose, **Dove Dale**, a Shrub rose, in 1998.



Chameleon...Image: Les Johnson

Continued p 24



A little about Tate Hancox

Rose Society of South Australia member Tate Hancox takes an active and studious interest in plants. Research into *Leptospermum* and its role in Bioactive Honey production in South Australia, saw him conferred with a PhD in December 2022. However, Dr Hancox cites roses as his number one passion and especially rose pruning and the nuances between pruning different cultivars. He also has a unique collection of antique secateurs.

Roses bred under Southern Skies *continued*

A new millennium—the 2000s

With the turn of the century, more new rose breeders have emerged, providing us with a “delicious” smorgasbord of Australian bred varieties, in all classes, to choose from. Many avid hobbyist or amateur breeders have bred and released very impressive roses. We have also seen a couple of professional breeders and nursery people start releasing roses.



Lady of Australia....Image: Les Johnson
their techniques and the quality of their roses has continued to increase. In 2018, the also recently late Bruce Brundrett was awarded a plethora of medals for his rose ***Lady of Australia***, but most importantly, he was awarded the Trophy for *Best Rose of the Trial* in the National Rose Trial Garden of Australia—the trial beds being located in the Adelaide Botanic Gardens.

The future of rose breeding looks bright with technology allowing rose breeders across the world to connect at the click of a button. Breeders continue to focus on disease resistance, perfume, floriferousness and reducing the size of plants. They are experimenting with new species and heritage varieties to create unique and interesting varieties.

2010 to now

In the last 12 years, we have continued to be spoiled for choice as new and experienced Australian rose breeders have released their roses. The more experienced breeders have refined



Lacy Parasol (2012) Image Les Johnson

Acknowledgements

Australian Roses: Roses and Rose Breeders of Australia by Peter Cox
The National Rose Society of Australia *Australian Rose Breeders 1880-2016*

HelpMeFind.com

Discussions with Australian rose breeders.

Rose of the Month

January—*SHIRLEY'S ROSE*, Modern Shrub

Shirley's Rose is an intensely fragrant modern shrub rose bred by an award-winning Australian rose breeder, the late Bruce Brundrett ARA (1940-2022), in Victoria, before 2012. The rose was introduced in 2016 by Wagner's Rose Nursery, located in South Australia's South East.

This rose produces large, fragrant, fully double blooms with a romantic old-world rose appearance. Each bloom has up to 40 petals in an unusual rich peach-apricot colour, framed by the softer ivory coloured outer petals.



The bush is vigorous with good disease resistance and features long stems and long-lasting flowers, making it ideal as a cut flower. It grows to a height of 1.5m, and typical of a modern shrub, has excellent repeat flowering throughout the growing season.

Shirley's Rose was named in honour of Bruce's wife and was released as a fundraiser for research into pancreatic cancer.

Bruce Brundrett passed away on 11 November 2022 and will be remembered as one of Australia's most successful rose breeders. Bruce left a legacy of 10 successful roses he released commercially and there are still many more to come. These are currently maintained by his agent, Brian Wagner.

Shirley's Rose is available as a bare rooted rose in winter months and a potted bush rose from spring onwards and is currently in stock at Wagner's Rose Nursery. www.wagnersrosenursery.com.au

Text: *Melanie Trimper* **Image:** *Benedetta Rusconi* ©/Wagner's Rose Nursery

Website refreshed for the World Federation of Rose Societies

The World Federation of Rose Societies (WFRS) has a "new look" website, www.worldrose.org, created in late 2022.

The website highlights up-and-coming rose conventions, the purpose of the WFRS, member countries, details of international rose trial information and much more. There is a welcome statement by the WFRS President, the Rose Society of South Australia President, Diane vom Berg.

Rose of the Month

February—*Tranquillity*™, English Shrub (Ausnoble)

Known for its prolific flowering and well-shaped bush, *Tranquillity* can be a lovely feature plant in your garden. This rose was bred by David Austin (Snr.) in Shropshire, England, in 2004, and it was released in 2012.



Over the past 62 years, David Austin Roses have achieved a world-famous reputation for roses with an “old-world” appearance and fragrance combined with the qualities of modern roses such as repeat flowering, disease tolerance and a wide colour range.

Tranquillity has well shaped, circular blooms with abundant petals that

make up perfect rosettes, enhanced by a light fruity fragrance. The blooms are often produced in clusters of five to seven on each stem. The buds are pale yellow, opening into medium sized, fully double pearl-white blooms, with a charming old-fashioned look, typical of David Austin English Shrub Roses. Occasionally, due to weather, blooms can have a touch of pale lemon in the centre.

The bush is vigorous and upright with good sturdy stems. It is almost thornless with attractive healthy foliage, except in excessively rainy seasons when Black Spot may appear and need treatment.

Tranquillity grows up to 1.3m x 1.25m. It has great repeat flowering ability, making it a very attractive plant.

Tranquillity is truly an English rose in the Austin tradition.

Available from Wagner’s Rose Nursery in South Australia and Silkies Rose Farm rosesalesonline.com.au in Victoria.

Text: *Melanie Trimper*

Photos: *David Austin Roses*

*Rose petals are said to be
the stained glass windows
of the natural world*



Rose of the Month

March—*Sunny Sky*, Hybrid Tea (Koraruli)

There are some roses which really excel in our climate. *Sunny Sky* has a proven track record—performing well in spring, summer and autumn, producing flushes of quality blooms as well as demonstrating excellent resistance to blackspot and mildew.

This variety is a great example of Kordes' strict breeding program and "no spray" policy which aims to create and release vigorous healthy roses.

Bred by Kordes in 1999 and introduced in 2009, *Sunny Sky* is a multi-awarded, Gold Medal winner in rose trials around the world.

Sunny Sky is one of Kordes *Eleganza Series*.

This rose is admired for its large, classically shaped, rich yellow blooms with a sweet fruity fragrance showing citrus, apple and peach notes. It has long pointed buds, large flowers (41+ petals) and mostly a single bloom per stem but occasional small clusters.

This bush produces a prolific number of blooms throughout the season, has a neat upright shape growing to 1.2m tall and healthy semi-glossy foliage. It's great in the garden but also as a cut flower. Deadhead finished blooms to encourage the next flush of roses.

Available from Treloar Roses in Victoria. Visit the website www.treloarroses.com.au



Sunny Sky's impressive list of awards

Gold Medal	Monza 2010
Gold Medal	Belfast 2012
Gold Medal	The Hague 2014
Gold Medal	Glasgow 2014
City of Belfast Award	Belfast 2012
Trophy Best HT	La Tacita Italy 2012
Trophy Best HT	Société Nationale d'Horticulture France 2014
ADR Trial Award	Germany 2015
Rose of the Year	Royal Horticultural Society UK 2016
Excellence Rose	Royal Boskoop Hort Society (KVBC) Dutch-Belgian Award 2021

Text: Kelvin Trimper AM

Photo: Courtesy of Treloar Roses

How to pick the right FELCO Tool for you



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Picking your FELCO Tools starts with looking at the the ones that match your dominant hand.

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S (under 17.5cm)
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Next measure your hand to find the right size tool for you.

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We recommend fixed handles for lighter pruning jobs and rotating handles for more intensive pruning as they are designed to reduce muscle strain.

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Use anvil cutting action tools for hard wood and bypass cutting action tools for green wood.

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Rose Society members



2023 Barossa Rose & Flower Show Saturday 1st and Sunday 2nd April

Barossa Nursery
3186 Barossa Valley Way, Nuriootpa
Show Opening 12:30pm Saturday 1st

For further information and Show Schedule
Contact: Mary Frick
Ph: 8563 0521 email: maryf8@bigpond.com



Volunteers in the International Rose Garden

By Deb Curtis—Rose Society Supervisor of Volunteers at the garden



The weather has been reasonably kind to volunteer activities at the International Rose Garden with only a few cancellations of our weekly "clean-up" due to high temperatures. Cooler morning temperatures have been wonderful.

I am very grateful to team members who have been beavering away, deadheading roses and raking up fallen leaves and petals. They are as keen as I am for the rose garden to live up to its Award of Garden Excellence, bestowed by the World Federation of Rose Societies in 2022.

There is always good cheer and plenty of cheeky fun happening. You can see evidence of this in the photograph above—sorry Scott Eames (sculptor of the recently installed Queen Adelaide statue). Importantly, the photograph records the "arrival" of new volunteer jackets provided by the Adelaide Botanic Gardens. It's now easy for visitors to the garden to identify us and it seems to make them even more comfortable to start a conversation or ask questions.

The volunteer activities continue, with "work" starting at about 7.30am and finishing at midday. You can start and finish when you like and car parking, at no cost to you, can be arranged.

We work with the support of Adelaide Botanic Gardens staff members, and I and other well-informed volunteers provide new volunteers with guidance on what to do and how to it.

If you would like to join us, you are welcome to contact me, Deb Curtis, on 0408 474 977 or by emailing me at curtisnd@internode.on.net.

FELCO Tool Maintenance



Cleaning

Remove sap build up with FELCO 981 Spray OR using warm soapy water. Thorough cleaning involves fully dismantling the tool and cleaning each part individually before reassembling the tool.



Adjusting

Slowly loosen the central bolt until the handles move freely to a point where the blade rubs against the anvil blade for the last 2/3rd of its length. Adjust further as required.

Sharpening

Sharpen the outside bevel of the blade first with the sharpener at a 23° angle to the blade then sharpen the inside of the blade holding the sharpener at a 5° angle.



More in depth guides at felco.com.au/en_au/services/maintenance

Essentials for rose growing success

Rose growing culture notes for Autumn in South Australia

In South Australia, roses are a favourite choice for the garden because they are easy to grow and maintenance is relatively simple. The frequent balmy days, particularly later in Autumn, are ideal for producing a magnificent Autumn flush of high quality, colourful flowers.

March often sees a continuation of Summer-like conditions with some very hot days and lower rainfall. Milder days generally appear in April and continue into May. Seasonal opening rains often occur in late April or early May, heralding the onset of the wetter, colder months.

The average daily temperatures in Adelaide in March are 26.5°C, April 22.8°C and May 19.0°C. Average rainfall in Autumn is about 26mm in March, 40mm in April, and 61mm in May.

Evaporation rates decrease from their Summer highs and daily sunshine hours reduce from around 10 hours per day in January and February to 8.6 hours in March and continue to decline to 5.4 hours in May.

So, what does this mean for our roses and how can we care for them in Autumn?

Watering

It is essential to maintain a regular and thorough watering regime. We can be easily misled by milder days and cooler nights. However, the average March and April rainfalls are generally insufficient to maintain healthy Autumn growth in our roses. Like Summer, it is best to look at the forward weather forecast for the next seven days. If the weather forecast is for warm to hot and dry conditions, hydrating roses with a weekly thorough irrigation is recommended. If rain accompanied by lower-than-average temperatures occurs, irrigation may be halted for a period and recommenced when a dry, warm to hot period is forecast.

Generally, irrigation is needed until the opening seasonal rains occur late April early May. If unsure whether watering is required, scratch down 3 to 5cm below the ground under a rose plant. If dry at this depth, apply water immediately. Remember, the rose has many roots just below the surface and these can dry out, hindering optimum performance.

Roses in pots also require regular watering during the Autumn months.

Mulch

The mulch which was applied late Spring or early Summer will be breaking down in Autumn and its thickness reducing. Providing sufficient mulch was initially applied, adequate cover will remain to reduce evaporation, continue to cool the roots and feed the earth worms and beneficial microbes in the soil during Autumn. However, if all mulch has disappeared, a fresh application of Neutrog's



Whoflungdung (a certified organic mulch) in early Autumn is recommended. This mulch is biologically activated, nutrient rich and weed free. It comes in convenient 20kg compressed bales and can be taken to and easily spread where it's needed.

Flowering

Autumn is an excellent flowering period for roses. A light, late Summer or early Autumn trim will ensure a great flush of flowers around 55 days later. This trim is simply removing the spent Summer blooms and a portion of the stem down to a healthy pin-head sized bud nestled between the leaf and stem. Stem removed is generally around 15–30cm. Importantly, this is a trim and not a prune and sufficient foliage must remain to avoid exposing the stems to sunburn.

The Summer – Autumn trim is far more effective if it is completed two or three weeks after an application of Neutrog **Sudden Impact for Roses**. Don't be concerned if Autumn colours are different to Spring colours of the same variety. The on-set of cooler nights and less sunlight through Autumn often produces more intense colours in some varieties.

Fertilising

If an application of **Sudden Impact for Roses** was not applied in February, ensure the rose plants receive it in March. Once applied, it should be "watered in". If possible, and given favourable weather, apply just before forecast rain, which will assist in ensuring the fertiliser is taken to the root zone. If you can't rely on rain or a sprinkler system, use **Sudden Impact for Roses** Liquid Fertiliser, applied fortnightly until the end of March. Neutrog **Go-Go Juice** will certainly provide an additional boost to plants after enduring a long hot dry Summer.

Pests and diseases

Our Autumn seasons are generally warm to hot and dry until the end of April and these are favourable conditions for rose growing. As far as pests and fungal

Essentials for rose growing success continued

diseases are concerned, usually no preventative or curative remedies are required. With the change in season to wetter weather, cooler nights and even heavy dews, in late April or early May, some fungal diseases may emerge. You can choose to do nothing and tolerate some infected foliage or apply a preventative organic oil or fungicide spray mid to late April to ensure plants remain clean well into late Autumn and early winter.

New rose plantings

Autumn is the best period to commence soil preparation for new rose plants, including the removal of underperforming old plants. Where a rose plant is to be removed, commence the process in April or early May by removing the old plant. Endeavour to dig-up as many of the old rose roots as possible. If you can, take a half a barrow of old soil out and replace with soil from elsewhere in the garden which has not grown roses. Then apply an application of 10cm of **Whoflungdung** plus **Neutrog Seamungus** and **Go-Go Juice** to the area to be planted with the new rose(s). This should be dug into the ground to at least the depth of the spade or even deeper if possible. If the soil is lumpy from a high clay content, an application of gypsum maybe required.

Repeat the application of **Go-Go Juice** every few weeks until the end of May. Keep on digging over the soil to reduce weed growth and to encourage the earth worms and beneficial microbes to remain very active.

New rose beds or locations should be prepared in the same way, except the removal and replacement of soil is not required. These should be in full sun and free of root competition from trees or shrubs. Preparation should commence on or before Easter.

Recommended Specialist Rose Retailers

Autumn is also the best time to pre-order new rose cultivars. Rose plant producers and specialist retail nurseries release their catalogues listing and describing the varieties available. Order early to ensure you don't miss out on the roses you wish to purchase. Watch out for release information on new varieties in garden magazines and on social media.

If you want to purchase bare root roses in winter, it's time to order them now. Contact South Australian specialist rose nurseries such as Wagner's Rose Nursery www.wagnersrosenursery.com.au, Knights Roses www.knightsroses.com.au, Newman's Nursery or your local garden centre. Look at their websites and also interstate specialist rose suppliers. Not all varieties are in abundant supply especially the new releases. Therefore, order early in Autumn to avoid disappointment.

Autumn is a great time for roses, and gardeners who provide the care necessary to maximise performance will be rewarded.

Chaffey Rose Club

Text by Dale Kerin Images by Chaffey Rose Club members

The great Winter/Spring rains enjoyed in the Riverland disappeared once Summer hit. Our gardens are now dry and struggling, and we are again watering by hose and sprinklers, even though we have been surrounded by water from the flood. It doesn't quite seem right—so much water!

We have survived the Murray flood pretty well, thanks to our great Renmark Paringa Council and contactors with trucks and heavy equipment, as well as volunteers, with everyone pulling together to keep our towns and people safe.

It certainly was amazing and scary; watching the water rising every day, flood levee banks appearing, big pumps swinging in around town, roads being closed off, and the force of the water as it flooded over flood plain terrains.

There was water everywhere in the Riverland—as far as you could see. The river level peaked in early January. Now the water is receding, leaving lots of damaged infrastructure, flora and mess in its wake. There is a big clean-up ahead. As I write this, some roads are still closed off and some flood banks and pumps have been removed. The Riverland's two caravan parks have reopened to visitors and activities are slowly returning to normal.

Continued page 36



THE ROSE SOCIETY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA INC
INVITES YOU TO CELEBRATE THE
2023
NATIONAL ROSE SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA
CHAMPIONSHIPS AND CONFERENCE
FRIDAY 20 OCTOBER
TO SUNDAY 22 OCTOBER 2023
AND POST CONFERENCE EVENTS

Rose Show (including guest speaker) held at:
South Perth Community Centre,
South Tce and Sandgate St, South Perth

Accommodation, Welcome Cocktail Party and Gala Dinner held at:
Pagoda Resort & Spa, 112 Melville Parade, Como



Anxious "stares" saw water levels rise quickly on flood level indicators.



One of many effective flood banks created quickly throughout the district.



Fleur Carthew and Marilyn Schier at Chaffey's Rose Club's Christmas breakup.

During this time the Riverland had many day visitors and there were lots of scenic flights for tourists keen to view the flood from the air. We didn't reach the 1870 or the 1956 flood levels but we surpassed the 1931 and the 1974 levels. I think it was certainly hard to comprehend the amount of water that came down the Murray River from the beginning to the Murray mouth, and how far it spread. There was truly a great effort by all, not forgetting the many people who kept us updated with information and great photographs, by posting these on social media.

The gardens of Chaffey Rose Club members were lucky to escape the flooding. I know that members who received enquiries from Rose Society members living elsewhere, about the flooding situation and the impact on our lives, homes and gardens, greatly appreciated these enquiries.



The Climbing Jasmina in the Renmark home of Dale Kerin is a spectacular showpiece.

Ironically, it was unfortunate that we had to cancel our outing to Murtho Gardens and lunch at the Woolshed Brewery because of extreme heat, rather than there being too much water. We are hoping to reschedule this at a later date.

On an even brighter note, we congratulate Fleur and Allan Carthew upon receiving their 25 Year Certificates at the Rose Society's Christmas Party in Adelaide. Well done to you both.

Events on Chaffey's calendar

Some future Events planned are: April 16th—Chaffey Rose Club's Annual General Meeting; May 25th—the Chaffey Rose Club/Renmark Garden Club Biggest Morning Tea Fundraiser; and June 18th—a soup and bread lunch, raffle and trading table.

South East Branch

Text by Ione Saint Images by South East Branch members

We had a great start to the new year and year ahead with the South East Branch holding its first meeting in the colourful garden of breeder and member, George Thomson.

Despite the extreme heat conditions of the previous week, no-one would have guessed. The bountiful collection of roses held copious amounts of blooms, beckoning us all to explore and inhale their intoxicating fragrances. George's garden is very orderly and well-kept. There is nothing out of place and everything is so healthy and robust. This was/is definitely the home of a knowledgeable gardener. The afternoon went quickly as members enjoyed the day and each other's company.

At our meeting, Betty and John McKee were thanked and presented with a gift voucher from the South East Branch in appreciation of their diligence and time in being the Mount Gambier distribution location for members' Neutrog orders. They have been in this role for over 20 years.

Our next meeting will be our Annual General Meeting on Sunday 28th May at 11.30am. It will be held at the Royal Oak Hotel, Penola. Members and guests are asked to please order meals from the general menu upon arrival.



Lois Hodge, John McKee, George Thomson and Geoff Eckermann.



Jill Eckermann, Betty McKee, Jane Hodge and David Hodge at the branch's first meeting for 2023.

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Roses on Eyre—Spring Meeting

Text and images By Karen Miels

Seventeen members attended the Summer meeting at Port Lincoln on 19th February. After the general meeting, Karen gave a PowerPoint presentation on the World Rose Convention held in Adelaide 2022. This covered the speakers/topics, highlights and many photos.



Mosaics feature in Julie and Butch Aldridge's garden

The first garden visit of the meeting was to a new garden, created by Julie and Butch Aldridge, that features roses, dahlias, salvias and hollyhocks. Julie is accomplished at mosaics and this was evident throughout the garden. Her pieces add colour to the garden for winter.

Eyre Peninsula experienced extremely strong 43C and northerly winds for days before the meeting. Consequently, the gardens suffered with windblown and burnt bushes.

The second visit was to my garden which I had been nurturing since the last week in December with deadheading, watering and fertilising. It was in full of colour but blooms out on the Wednesday were gone in half an hour on the Thursday—ahh the joys of gardening. However, **Bonica, LaSevilla, Gold Bunny, Sweet Intoxication, Stainless Steel** and **Queen Adelaide** did manage to shine on the day!

The third visit was to Lynne and Ken Walmsley's garden at North Shields. It was also looking lovely despite the weather. The blooms were stunning with the garden full of perfume. Lynne has a visual impairment and all the roses have been selected for their perfume. This is how Lynne is able to name them all. The garden is a credit to Ken and Lynne.

The competition was low on entry numbers. Results were: Floribunda—1st Raelene Harradine with **Fire star**. 2nd Janys Asser with **Courage**; Single—1st Raelene Harradine with **Solero**, 2nd Raelene Harradine with **Dame Edna Murdoch**; Miniature—Raelene Harradine 1st unknown, 2nd Janys Asser with **Cecile Brunner**. The show bench is pictured below.



Roses on Eyre's Autumn gathering will be its Annual General Meeting. This will be held at Cummins on 23rd April 2023. Details will be provided at a later date.

Roses in the Heartland

Text and image by Mary Frick



The Grand Champions and Special Classes winners table of the 2023 *Barossa Rose & Flower Show* is expected to look as spectacular as the table of 2021 (pictured above).

As I write this report, the Roses in the Heartland (RITH) committee is working tirelessly on the 2023 *Barossa Rose & Flower Show* (BR&FS) which will be held once again at the prestigious *Barossa Nursery*, Nuriootpa, on the 1st and 2nd April.

The *Barossa Nursery* has again been recognised by taking out three major awards at the 2023 *Nursery Industry Awards of Excellence*, including *Best Garden Centre*. If you haven't been to the *Barossa Nursery*, come to the BR&FS. I am sure you will not be disappointed. Entry is free.

It will be quite an exciting event, especially for me and the Australian Lions Hearing Dogs as the rose I donated to the Australian Lions Hearing Dogs organisation will be officially named at the opening. The "Baptising" or "Christening" of a rose is a regular occurrence in Europe, but not so in Australia.

Our next event is an evening at the Tanunda Town Band's *Melodienacht* on **Friday 26th May**. Attendees had such a great time last year that the Committee was asked to again organise a table at this popular event. See the advertisement elsewhere in this Bulletin for further information.

RITH's annual pruning demonstration will be held on **Sunday 9th July** at the home of RITH member Lyn Williams, 3 Para Road, Evanston, at 1pm. Roses in the Heartland's Annual General Meeting will commence following the pruning demonstration. There will be more on this in the next edition of the *Bulletin*.

So, for now, enjoy your gardens, attend the numerous Autumn floral shows (especially the *Barossa Rose & Flower Show*) and don't forget to "stop and smell the roses".

My View: Gavin Woods—"Rose Fever!"



Gavin Woods

Its symptoms and treatment

A new ailment of our favourite plant perhaps?

We have Black Spot, Rust and Mildew of various troubling persuasions; our roses are susceptible to viral disease and to a variety of deficiency induced conditions such as chlorosis. They are prone to the mysteries of Rose Soil Sickness for which there is a multitude of theories as to the causative factors and cure. Roses are attacked by almost every crawling, munching critter that can fly or crawl their way into our gardens—earwigs, thrips, grasshoppers, red spider, aphids and Japanese beetles making a meal of our precious charges. We are now threatened with the approach of Chilli thrips; well established in Western Australia and surely progressing eastward? As yet we do not have the devastation of Rose Rosetting Disease which has caused a scourge on many American states and which is often fatal to roses.

Breathe a sigh of relief fellow rosarians, *Rose Fever* is NOT a disease of our plants, rather an ailment that befalls us—the rose gardener!

The problem often begins with the purchase of a house with a few roses in a tired garden. They may be old and unkempt, usually lining the front fence and hemmed into a narrow border between the boundary and lawn. The lady of the house delights in the perfume and a few flowers for the house. The man of the house decries the prickles but believes he is up to the challenge of taming these roses and bringing them back to their imagined former glory. Annual pruning is then often better described as “butchering”, often following the once popular “Chainsaw Method”. We have all driven past those gardens!

Sometimes those new homeowners, in the absence of any sign of a “green thumb”, decide there is more to life than a few miserable, struggling rose plants and set about educating themselves to the mysteries of our world. Little do they realise that they are slowly but surely infecting themselves with the fever!

For some the collection is added to annually. Online ordering now allows the allure of those photoshopped images to *entrance* us all year round. Recommendations from fellow infected gardeners are eagerly sought, perhaps with the plan to grow them better than the gardener making the recommendation. “Severe cases” try to minimise their symptoms by purchasing glorious photograph filled texts and might even join a local Rose Society. These actions are counter productive for they only promote symptoms; meeting with like minded individuals will feed the fever rather

than quell it. Discussion ensues around what variety is the best to grow, visits to the gardens of others infected, and passing of this highly contagious fever will surely follow. Spouses of those infected are often immune to the problem and somehow seem to escape contracting the disease. They will however, not escape the endless, often one-sided conversations about the highs and lows of rose growing.

Chronic cases ensure all public outings “happen” upon a public rose garden, visits to other infected rosarians, or trips to the big hardware chains or plant nursery’s carrying the latest in tools and product specific to rose culture. The only group activity keenly attended are Rose Society meetings.

Those with a severe sub-variant of the fever will venture into the world of rose shows and begin exhibiting their blooms. Once one reaches this stage of the illness, it is rare for a cure to be affected. Rose exhibitors are a special breed of rosarian, displaying signs of advanced *Rose Fever*. When not in the rose garden pruning, spraying, disbudding or coaxing their plants, they are inside pouring through lists of rose sales hoping to find something new and wonderful to wow the judges with.

Rose exhibitors tend to be single focussed, concentrating on their plants to deliver Champion blooms for each and every show. Boring, unnecessary chores such as housework, home maintenance and socialising with friends take a back seat to the needs of our roses. Exhibitors tend to be stay-at-home people, adorned in rose-prickle ripped clothing and covered in the “love-bites” that only rose prickles can inflict.

Whilst a lack of interest in outside activities and world affairs (other than the manoeuvrings of other exhibiting Rosarians) might be considered indicative of a more sinister diagnosis, reassurance should be provided that this too is symptomatic of an advanced state of *Rose Fever*.

The cure is complex and problematic. A gradual weaning of rose related activities might eventually achieve an improvement in the condition. Fortunately, there are many books and periodicals that will entertain the infected rosarian way beyond their productive rose growing years. Memories of halcyon days past: a time when roses filled our lives, will tide us in our twilight years.

There are probably health conditions of greater concern than the one discussed. However, I do recommend vigilance as *Rose Fever's* progression is insidious. But then, we wouldn’t have it any other way!



Warning: *Rose Fever* can fester and escalate behind a mask!



Spring Rose Show

Saturday 28th and Sunday 29th October 2023

Changed to not clash with the National Rose Society of Australia's Championships and Conference in WA.

Bulletin Contribution Details

Deadlines for the July, August and September edition

Reserve space by 8th May

Provide material by 25th May

Advertising information:

Please forward diagrams, pdf and word files etc with high resolution jpeg images and fonts used in document.

Cost: Quarter Page (A7) \$30; Half Page (A6) \$60; Full Page (A5) \$120.

Billing: The RSSA Treasurer will forward invoices for payment to Advertisers.

Submitting articles and images:

Articles to be supplied as an email attachment in **word file format** (doc or docx). Full page **Advertisements (A5)** to be submitted as a pdf or jpeg file.

Photographs need to be supplied in their **original jpeg size** larger than 1 MB and up to 10 MB per image.

About 450 words (Font: Calibri size 11) amounts to approximately one (1) page.

Forward articles and images to: **BulletinRSSA@gmail.com**



BACK COVER PHOTO *Mrs Fred Danks*, provided by Les Johnson.

This rose is among many featured in a four page article, by Tate Hancox, about Australian bred roses and their breeders from the beginning of the 20th Century to now. Entitled *Roses under Southern Skies*, the piece features images by Les Johnson, Tate Hancox and Margaret Furness.

An evening of music and fun
2023 Melodienacht

With Roses in the Heartland
Friday 26th May 2023

Tanunda Show Hall

Contact Penelope Ph: 0437 505 010

Calendar of Events

April

Saturday 1st 12 to 5pm Sunday 2nd 9am to 4pm	Roses in the Heartland's 2023 Barossa Rose and Flower Show, Barossa Nursery, Nuriootpa.
Saturday 15th Sunday 16th 10am* to 4pm	Autumn Rose Show and People's choice Weekend, Noel Lothian Hall and National Rose Trial Garden of Australia, Adelaide Botanic Garden. *Rose Show open from 11am on Saturday and 10am on Sunday.
Sunday 16th	Chaffey Rose Club's Annual General Meeting.
Sunday 23rd	Roses on Eyre meeting at Cummins. Details to be advised.

May

Wednesday 3rd	Nominations due for RSSA Life Membership.
Wednesday 10th	Members' meeting, Goodman Building, Adelaide Botanic Garden. Speaker: Alex Czura.
Thursday 25th	Chaffey Rose Club-Renmark Garden Club Biggest Morning Tea Fundraiser.
Friday 26th	Roses in the Heartland's table at Melodienacht.
Sunday 28th 11.30am	South East Branch's Annual General Meeting at Royal Oak Hotel, Penola.

June

Friday 16th	Chaffey Annual General Meeting.
Sunday 18th 12:30 to 3pm	Pruning demonstration, Carrick Hill, 46 Carrick Hill Drive, Springfield.
Sunday 18th	Chaffey Rose Club soupt and bread lunch.
Sunday 25th 12:30 to 3pm	Pruning demonstration, International Rose Garden, Adelaide Botanic Garden.

July

Sunday 9th 1 to 3pm	Roses in the Heartland's pruning demonstration, 3 Para Road, Evanston.
Wednesday 12th 6.30pm	Rose Society of South Australia Annual General Meeting, Goodman Building, Adelaide Botanic Gardens.

Mrs Fred Danks

Image: Les Johnson

