



eNewsletter No. 13 May 2023

Northern NSW Branch

It's Autumn in New England and the deciduous trees are putting on a great show!

Coming Events

Presentation

Saturday 27th May 4.00pm

Speaker: Lou Forsyth - History of the Armidale Garden Club Historical Society Centre
Faulkner St (next to old Library)
followed by dinner at the Cotswold. All welcome.
Please send Helen Wilson your RSVP for dinner
g.wilson42@bigpond.com

AGHS Conference

29th September - 1st October
Ipswich - You need to be quick!
Bookings opened 1st May
Online conference bookings can be made via the AGHS website.
<https://www.gardenhistorysociety.org.au/product/aghs-conference-registration-2023/>

Send articles & photos to:
Reports/Newsletter Editor
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Acer rubrum 'October Glory' Image: M. Hitchcock

Walcha Council put forward four suggestions for the naming of their **Rose Garden**. They created a survey and invited the community to choose a name. The survey is now closed and a decision is forthcoming. **Olga Lisle**, a well-known Walcha gardening identity was one of the four suggestions.

Join AGHS Northern NSW Branch
<https://www.gardenhistorysociety.org.au/membership/>

The Rumsey Rose Garden - Parramatta Park

Site of a convict lumber yard and later the Rosehill Bowling Club

Text and photos by Maria Hitchcock OAM

For generations this site was part of the home territory of the Burramatta clan of the Darug Aboriginal people. With the establishment of the colonial settlement of Rose Hill, it became the site of a busy government lumberyard. In 1790 Lieutenant Watkin Tench recorded that 24 convict carpenters and 16 convict sawyers were employed here.

When the lumber yard was relocated by Governor Macquarie in 1815, this area became part of the entry to the Governor's private Domain, with a guard house built at the gate.

In the 1880's the Maquarie St Gatehouse was built to replace the guard house, and the Rose Hill Bowling Club established a club house and bowling greens, croquet lawns and tennis courts. The buildings were demolished in the 1980s.

The Rumsey Rose Garden was established when Heather and Roy Rumsey donated their collection of heritage rose species to the City of Parramatta and was opened in 1995.



Rosa 'Lady Hillingdon'
Image: Wendy Pankhurst
gardentags.com

This fragrant semi-double tea-shaped rose was hybridised by Lowe and Shawyer by crossing 'Papa Gontier' x 'Madame Hosteand' and was introduced in 1910. It blooms repeatedly from late Spring to early Summer and is resistant to black spot, mildew and rust. The climbing sport is very popular. Alice, Lady Hillingdon (1857 - 1940) was born the Hon Alice Harbord-Hamond and married the second Lord Hillingdon. As a wedding present her father gave them property in Norfolk, where they built Overstrand Hall.

<https://the-history-girls.blogspot.com/2013/05/the-ladies-of-roses-part-four-lady.html>

(From interpretation board at the entry to the garden)

It all started with Tiffany Bignold who rescued a climbing 'Lady Hillingdon' rose which was growing over the chimney of an old Box Hill farmhouse being demolished. She subsequently joined Heritage Roses of Australia. Heather Rumsey, a founding member of Heritage Roses, together with her husband Roy ran a specialist rose nursery near Dural for over 30 years.

When the Rumseys closed the nursery in the late 1980s, Heather gave an ark of roses, two of every variety she had in the nursery, to Heritage Roses. Her gift came with a request that the roses form a public garden so that everyone could share in their beauty. The garden was opened in Parramatta Park in August 1995. Heather had died earlier that year, so never saw visitors enjoying the Rumsey Rose Garden, where the climbing queens Lamarque, Albertine and Crepuscule, are draped in great curtains over mighty steel pergolas, and Mme Alfred Carriere climbs over the arches of a large central dome. Tiffany Bignold held a fine arts degree with a diploma of aboriculture. Like other members of Heritage Roses, she had worked in the Rumsey Rose Garden on working bees. In 2019 she took on the job of managing both the garden and the rest of Parramatta Park. She was enthusiastic to take on the role as it gave her new opportunities for developing her passion for heritage roses.

Ref: Robin Powell <https://www.smh.com.au/culture/art-and-design/garden-where-rose-passion-keeps-blooming-20191004-p52xmu.html>

This garden was designed by a member of Heritage Roses of Australia, Judy Andrews, and the original planting was done by the Sydney Group of Heritage Roses. The Sydney Group of Heritage Roses still have working bees at this garden. This garden is open to the public at no cost for 365 days of the year. It sits on the edge of Parramatta Park beside the old Gatehouse.

The garden is laid out in a semi formal design with island beds often containing a mass planting of only one species and large steel pergolas. There is a single dome whose arches are covered in Mme Alfred Carriere and others which form a semi-circular walk. These provide a scaffold for several climbers such as Lamarque, Albertine and Crepuscule.

When I visited the garden at the end of April 2023, the roses were past their prime but were still fairly colourful. They were well pruned with overlapping canopies and no dead branches. One of the best features was the labelling at the base of each bed or bush, giving the name of the rose, its species name and origin. Being a public garden such labelling encourages people who have little knowledge to seek out heritage roses for their own gardens and perhaps even start a passion similar to that of Tiffany Bignold.



The edges of the beds are well finished with a concrete paver laid on end and mortared in. Other concrete pavers are laid horizontally to support them beside the gravel pathways. An organic mulch suppresses weeds.



The steel dome, powder coated in black, appears to have been underplanted with Iris. The infrastructure in this garden has to withstand unsupervised public usage and minimal maintenance. No expense has been spared on the structural elements.

Roses which feature in this garden



Rosa 'Catherine Mermet'

Image: Sue Brown www.davesgarden.com

Bred by [Jean-Baptiste André \(fils\) Guillot \(1827-1893\)](#) (France, 1869). Descendent of 'Adam'. Introduced in Australia by [George Brunning - St. Kilda Nurseries](#) in 1882 as 'Catherine Mermet'.

Fragrant tea rose with large high-centred to cupped bloom. Flowers in flushes throughout the season.

<https://www.helpmefind.com/rose/pl.php?n=1021>



Rosa 'Marie van Houtte' Image: M. Hitchcock

Tea rose bred by Claude Ducher of France (1820-1874) in 1871. It has fragrant cream petals with a pinkish edge. Blooms throughout year. It was named after the French Resistance fighter who worked at the French-Belgium border as a secret agent during World War 1.

<https://www.wagnersrosenursery.com.au/>



Rosa 'Baronne Henriette de Snoy'

Tea rose bred by [Alexandre Bernaix](#) (France, 1897). Fragrant light pink rose with a rose pink reverse.

Baronne Henriette Snoy was the daughter of Baron Georges Snoy and Comtesse Alix du Chastel de la Howarderie, her husband, the Comte Fritz (Frédéric van den Steen de Jehay), was minister plenipotentiary of Belgium at Luxembourg in 1902.

<https://www.helpmefind.com/rose/l.php?l=2.537.3>



Rosa 'Rêve d'Or' (Golden Dream)

Image: M. Hitchcock

Medium yellow Noisette. Bred by [Claude Ducher \(1820-1874\)](#) (France, 1869)

<https://www.helpmefind.com/gardening/l.php?>

Australian Garden History Society
Northern NSW Branch
EVENTS CALENDAR 2023



JUNE

Sunday 4th - To be confirmed:
Heritage Rose Garden working bee

End of June – to be confirmed:
Visit to Roto House
Port Macquarie

JULY

Saturday 1st - Heritage
Rose Garden working bee

Sunday 30th - Annual
General Meeting and dinner

AUGUST

Sunday 6th - Heritage Rose
Garden working bee

Sunday 27th - General Meeting
and dinner

SEPTEMBER

Saturday 2nd - Heritage Rose
Garden working bee

Friday 29th – Sunday 1st Oct
AGHS Annual Conference –
Ipswich Qld

OCTOBER

Sunday 1st - Heritage
Rose Garden working bee

End of October – visit to
Peony farm and Uralla
gardens

NOVEMBER

Saturday 4th - Heritage Rose
Garden working bee

Saturday 18th & Sunday 19th –
New England Garden Festival

End of November – Christmas
event

DECEMBER

Sunday 3rd - Heritage Rose
Garden working bee

**No meeting or event at end of
December**