



FRIENDS OF Old Parliament House ROSE GARDENS

Autumn 2022

President's Letter



Well, here we are into 2022.

COVID kept us very much with restrictions and lockdowns over the past two years, hopefully, we can return to a little more normal living.

Four years ago, I was diagnosed with cancer in the neck of my pancreas, which was held in check until now. The cancer has now spread to my bones. Three months ago, nothing showed up on the scans but two weeks ago I was told it is in my spine, jaw, sternum, shoulder and hip. The next three weeks means lots of tests and scans.

I start radiotherapy next week for pain but treatment for the cancer will have to be at St. George's Hospital, Sydney. So, my time as your President will depend on how I cope with the treatment. Back to nicer things.

We held a very successful St Valentine's Soirée in the gardens and although the numbers were not as good as last year those that attended had a great evening. The weather was perfect.

David Young spoke to us on roses, and Ross Di Bartolo gave a very interesting talk on 'Rosé' wine and its history.

Our entertainment for the evening was provided by a piano accordionist who played while we enjoyed the great food provided by Keith and Amanda, from the Wattle Snack Bar, Phillip.

Mimma Memmola ended the evening for us singing some of her favourite songs and, with her encouragement, we all joined in. It was a great fun ending to a lovely evening.

Photos were taken by Malcolm Beazley.



Volunteers working in the garden.

Our next official event will be a "High Tea" at Mercure Hotel, Canberra, on 21 August. Our guest speaker will be Paulene Cairnduff OAM and her topic is "Garden Therapy for Volunteers". Further information will be sent closer to the event, along with an Invitation.

Here's hoping 2022 will see us back to normal as much as possible.

Joan Crook

President FOPHRG

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Volunteers Report

This year has been a very frustrating and disappointing time for the Horticultural Volunteers in the Old Parliament House Rose Gardens. After the long lock down in 2021 which lasted from July to October as a result of covid restrictions, volunteers were again barred from working from the new year until March due to the potential health problems from the omicron pandemic and security difficulties caused by the anti-vax demonstrators outside Old Parliament House. In the absence of the Volunteers, Citywide did a great job in keeping the roses blooming.

The lawns throughout the gardens looked green and lush during this period but the weather conditions proved ideal for the growth of weeds and the Citywide team struggled to keep them under control in the absence of the Volunteers. The conditions also favoured the population growth of insects and diseases such as spider mite, aphids, thrips, black spot and powdery mildew and extensive spraying was maintained to keep these pests and diseases under control. Citywide have also mulched all the gardens and fertilised them this year.

We were very sorry to have Natasha Naughton, our Volunteer Coordinator, leave us at the start of the year but we look forward to working with her replacement, Peter Hay. Peter is widely experienced in horticultural matters having worked as a landscape adviser with the Hornsby City Council. We anticipate that he will be able to coordinate the revival of our roses to their former glory.

The installation of extra benches around the bowling green in the Representatives Garden has been well received by all visitors to that area. These items of furniture were partly paid for by the Friends of OPHRG out of funds donated to the memory of Alan Black and Jeff Miles. Both these gentlemen were volunteers in the Macarthur Garden.

Late last year the Friends once again organised the purchase of fertilisers and soil improvers from Neutrog Limited for the Friends and Volunteers. One hundred and thirty-three 20-kilo bags were sold in this exercise at greatly discounted prices.



There are at present about 70 active Horticultural Volunteers working in the gardens but there is always room for extra helping hands, especially with all the catch-up work required. Uniforms and training are provided and you will be joining a happy team of enthusiastic and dedicated gardeners working in beautiful surroundings.

If you are interested in volunteering please contact Peter Hay at 0417 249 751 or email him at Peter.Hay@nca.gov.au.

Ann Knowler



Ann and Fred Knowler.

Piano accordionist with Malcolm Beazley



Guests Ross and Fiona Di Bartolo



Wisteria in the gardens



Guests at our Saint Valentine's function



Keith and Amanda, Wattle Snack Bar Mimma Memmolo, Jacalyn Luby

Featured Rose

As Autumn sets in and the roses show their last flushes for the season, there is one rose that is starting to put on a different show.

A rose called Morletii, also known as *R. pendulina* 'plena' although it flowers in Spring with the occasional scattered bloom, it is its foliage that has prompted me to choose this rose. It can put on an Autumn foliage show with beautiful colour in its leaves.

Although I have not witnessed it yet there is a spot in the Rex Hazlewood Garden where it once stood and hopefully one day replanted.

The Autumn leaf colour has been described from bright yellow orange with photos also showing red to burgundy colours.

The colours remind me that of Japanese Maples although not as stunning as a Maple. Non the less this rose is unique in its own right.



Unique autumn foliage of Morletii, also known as *R. pendulina* 'plena'.

Morletii (also Morlettii) is a Boursault rose and was bred before 1883 by an unknown breeder and discovered by Morlet in France 1883.

It is described by HMF (HelpMeFind), with fuchsia / magenta to deep pink flowers that are medium to semi-double (9-16 petals) blooms. Flowering in Spring or Summer with a scattered later bloom. This rose can grow to a range of 105 to 305cm and width of 185cm.

Nadene Edwards

A call for help. If anyone is growing this rose or knows the location of one, the Old Parliament House Rose Gardens would love to hear from you.



COMING EVENT IN AUGUST

HIGH TEA AT THE MERCURE

The Friends annual High Tea will be held at the Mercure Hotel, Canberra on Sunday 21 August 22 from 200 to 430pm. Bookings open 1 July 22.

Look out for your invitation!

Membership renewal is due July each year

FOPHRG 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 of 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 5112 Garran ACT 2605

Membership category per annum (please tick)

Single member for \$30.....

Family for \$40.....

Concession rate \$25*

**available to pension card holders or full-time students*

Active NCA Volunteers \$15.....

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



The Heritage Nursery at Yarralumla

The nursery offers a 10% discount to the Friends and has been most generous in their support of our events.



Mercure Hotel

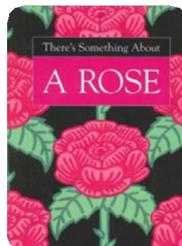
Kindly provide assistance to the Friends through the use of its facilities for our events. Mercure Hotel are offering a 10% discount on the price of their rooms to Friends.



Greeting Cards

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.

"Sunshine and Roses"

A CD of 24 favourite old tunes also plays upon the rose theme.



Both are priced at \$15.

Please email the Friends for further details.