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Annual

2025

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ROSA
Annual
2025



Editorial: Sheenagh Harris (editor); Shireen Deoraj (assistant editor);
Sue Sandrock (layout and production) Joy Webb (advertising)

Bouquet – Susan van Zuilekom
Cover: 'Raubritter' (Sheenagh Harris)

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From the President



Every second year ROSA hosts a National Convention and this year the Midlands Rose Society was responsible for organising and hosting the 21st ROSA National Convention. The National Convention is a very special time for us to get together, to meet old friends and to make new friends who all have a passion for roses. It was the highlight of the year and was attended by Rose Societies throughout South Africa. Being a member of ROSA means having access to incredible knowledge and this year's event was extra special. We were honoured to receive mail from the World Federation of Rose Societies newly elected President, Sushil Prakash that he would like to join us for the Convention.

We organised a trip to see parts of South Africa during his short stay, arriving in Cape Town and hosted by Vivienne Black and Joy Webb. Then to Johannesburg, where Sushil was hosted by Elizabeth Thornton-Dibb and he was able to visit Ludwig Taschner on his farm. He was joined by Rosario Algorta from Uruguay who also attended the MRS Convention.

This year's ROSA Annual will feature articles on the ROSA Convention as well as The World Federation of Rose Societies (WFRS) National Convention in Japan.

Rosa Council was able to meet face-to-face at the Convention and were able to discuss important matters related to our organisation as well as discuss the ROSA Annual. It had been brought to our attention by members that they would like to see all entries for the Photographic Rose Show in the Annual. We really appreciate getting feedback from all our members in all the Rose Societies in South Africa and if you would like to make any suggestions related to your society or to ROSA, please let us know.

In May 2024, The World Federation of Rose Societies (WFRS) to which we are affiliated, hosted a National

Convention in Japan. Vivienne Black, Vice-President for Africa, represented us at the Convention. Vivienne kept us up to date from the time she left South Africa and throughout the Convention. You will be able to read about the World Convention in this Annual. The next WFRS World Convention will be hosted in Bhopal, India in January 2028. As affiliated members of the WFRS, we can attend all Conventions hosted by the WFRS.

I asked all Chairpersons to send me information related to their Societies including membership numbers and ages of their members. The average age throughout South Africa is 65-70 years. Over this year, we have focused strongly on membership retention and growth particularly among younger members. This growth is crucial for the future of ROSA, and we are committed to making our activities welcoming and accessible to all generations.

Another area of concern is the reluctance of members taking on leadership roles within their Societies. It is always good to get new ideas and inspiration from different people, and I appeal to members to come forward and take more responsibilities within their society.

Susan van Zuilekom took on the position of Chairperson of the Heritage Rose Society of South Africa (HRSSA) during the year and has done a most wonderful job, introduced new ideas and is producing wonderful and regular newsletters to her members. I encourage all former members to rejoin. Susan also has encouraged those with Heritage roses to keep in touch with one another and share lists of their roses and to swap cuttings.

The rosarium in Bedford was in the news this year, when Kim van Niekerk received an invitation to attend the Annual General Meeting, to be Chaired by Michael Marriott (past employee of David Austin) of the Heritage Rose Group in York in the UK. Kim van Niekerk, a member of the HRSSA, was able to attend this meeting and put the SA Rosarium in Bedford on the world map. In November, I was glued to the TV when the Rosarium was shown on the programme Kyknet. Well done to Kim who was interviewed for this programme. The SA Rosarium took part in Open Gardens again this year as well as the Midlands Rose Society Heritage Garden.

Thank you to Sheenagh Harris, our Editor for ROSA newsletters and this ROSA Annual and to Shireen Deoraj, the sub-editor. This will be Sheenagh's last year as the editor and Shireen will take over from her. We are now looking for someone who will take on the position as sub-editor.

Financially, the Society remains in a stable position, primarily due to the management of our resources and I thank our treasurer, Elizabeth Thornton-Dibb.

Thank you to every member, committee members, chairpersons, treasurers and secretaries for their tireless dedication. It is your passion and love of the rose that keeps our Societies vibrant and strong. It also reminds us why the rose remains the world's most beloved flower!

Happy rose gardening.

Gail Birss

Editorial



The latter half of 2025 and into 2026 will be remembered by rosarians throughout the country as feast or famine – floods or drought, neither of which is advantageous to our roses but as heart breaking as it is for each one of us, our resilient favourite flower will survive. Each year, as the first buds begin to unfurl, we are reminded why the rose continues to reign as the queen of flowers. This annual publication is more than a record of our activities – it is a celebration of dedication, learning, friendship and the shared joy that binds our Rose Societies together in ROSA. ROSA in turn, together with thirty-nine other countries, is a member of the World Federation of Rose Societies. To understand the all-important umbrella societies we need to take an interest and give support by reading what is available and this means the ROSA Annual and World Rose News.

Last year I asked members for an article on well-known SMALL rose gardens. Nobody responded, but fortunately I managed to get one ROSA member and a member of The Rose Society UK to write for me. I hope you enjoy them and it may even inspire you to write for the next annual. My thanks go to all those who contributed to this annual. Without contributors there would be no annual.

My second term of office as Editor will come to an end at the ROSA AGM. I have enjoyed it and will be sorry to give up the contact with members through this medium, but the Assistant Editor, Shireen Deoraj will take over and by the time you receive this Annual you will have received her first edition of World Rose News as the new Editor. I have enjoyed working with Shireen and know she is enthusiastic about her two new roles so please give her all the support you can by following editorial rules and submitting on time! Through these two publications you will learn more

about all it takes to run these two organisations for our benefit and with it will come support and loyalty.

Beyond blooms and trophies, however, what truly defines us is fellowship. Gardens bring people together. Conversations that begin over pruning techniques often blossom into lasting friendships. In sharing our successes and even our setbacks, we cultivate something far more enduring than flowers – we cultivate community. Despite this it concerns me that there has only been a growth of 2 members throughout South Africa this last year. For as long as I can remember, and since we are continually hearing it said, we must introduce younger members. It is time we faced the fact that younger members nearly all have jobs and they get all the information they need via technology. Concentrate on the middle aged and retired and help to grow our societies. Despite modern technology I am delighted at the number of members who prefer a hard copy – over 92%.

It just remains for me to thank Shireen for her expert help and support and I wish her joy and success with the 2026 ROSA annual and with WRN. I have so enjoyed working with Shireen and with our layout person, Sue Sandrock, and will miss this contact.

As you turn the pages of this Annual, may you find inspiration, knowledge and memories of a year well spent among roses. May your coming season be filled with healthy plants and abundant blooms. Let us continue to nurture not only our roses but also the spirit of camaraderie and curiosity that makes our Societies thrive. With warm regards and best wishes for a blooming year ahead.

Sheenagh Harris



'Mary Wise'

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- National Newsletters from ROSA
- ROSA annual with news and views from all over South Africa and abroad
- Affiliation with The World Federation of Rose Societies and all the benefits derived therefrom
- The opportunity to travel to world rose conventions

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COUNCIL OF THE FEDERATION OF ROSE SOCIETIES OF SOUTH AFRICA

WEBSITE: roses.org.za
ROSA FACEBOOK PAGE: facebook.com/ROSA.southafrica

PRESIDENT
Gail Birss
gailbirss8@gmail.com
082 470 0619

VICE PRESIDENT
Joanne Johnstone
jjohnstone07@outlook.com
082 859 6334

SECRETARY
Joanne Johnstone
jjohnstone07@outlook.com
082 859 6334

TREASURER
Elizabeth Thornton-Dibb
elizabethtd.rosa@gmail.com
083 590 2041

EDITOR
Sheenagh Harris
rutherg@iafrica.com
082 325 4888

WFRS VP FOR AFRICA
Vivienne Black
vivienne@globalsourcingafrica.com
083 300 6402

ROSE SOCIETY REPRESENTATIVES

GAUTENG: Lizette Jonker
GARDEN ROUTE: Joanne Johnstone
HERITAGE ROSE SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICA: Susan van Zuilekom
KWAZULU-NATAL: Gail Birss and Bronwyn Roe-Scott
WESTERN CAPE: Joy Webb



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1960-1962	Fred Ziady
1962-1964	Claude Maynier
1964-1966	Egmont Behrens
1966-1968	Jack Wise
1968-1970	Bokkie van der Spuy
1970-1972	Herman Buss
1972-1973	Jack Wise
1973-1975	Fred Ziady
1975-1976	Peter Fornby
1976-1978	Sid Cywes
1978-1980	Mary Wise
1980-1982	Ludwig Taschner
1982-1984	Dick Lindner
1984-1986	Herbert von Malittz
1986-1988	Esther Geldenhuys
1988-1990	Duncan Henderson
1990-1992	Des Wright
1992-1994	Margaret Dams
1994-1996	Ludwig Taschner
1996-1998	Esther Geldenhuys
1998-2000	Johan Moll
2000-2002	Esther Geldenhuys
2002-2004	Ludwig Taschner
2004-2006	Sheenagh Harris
2006-2008	Des Wright
2008-2010	Jeanne Stoltz
2010-2010	Johan Moll
2011-2013	Stefanie Seydack
2013-2015	Joy Webb
2015-2018	Gail Birss
2018-2020	Barbara Wood
2020-2023	Lizette Jonker
2023-2025	Gail Birss
2026-	Gail Birss

ROSA ACCREDITED JUDGES

CAPE PROVINCE	Marie Favard; Ian Findlay; Sheenagh Harris; Duncan Henderson; Alta Nel; Stephanie Seydak
FREE STATE	Johan Moll
GAUTENG	Ludwig Taschner
KWAZULU-NATAL	AP Austen Smith; Allyson Enslin; Gill Wilson; Sally Morning

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Awards

ZOË GILBERT MERIT AWARD

The establishment of this award, in memory of Zoë Gilbert was proposed by Professor Ziady and agreed upon by all Council members at the 13th Council Meeting of ROSA on 12 March 1988. It was decided it should be given to a person who has done exceptional work for the Rose Society of South Africa. At the Council Meeting on 17 March, 1991 it was further agreed this award would only be presented to a member who had contributed to and promoted the growing and love of roses.

This award has been presented to:

1988	Ludwig Taschner
1994	Duncan Henderson
1996	Esther Geldenhuys
1998	Dick Lindner
2004	Des Wright
2005	Gwen Fagan
2008	Sheenagh Harris
2010	Alan Tew
2012	Bill Horwood
2014	Barbara Long
2016	Jackie Kalley
2018	Gail Birss
2021	Gill Wilson
2023	Joy Webb
2025	Alta Nel

PRESIDENT'S TROPHY

The President's Trophy is to be given entirely at the President's discretion to whomever the President considers worthy of it. The member receiving the award will have done a great deal to promote roses and will have been a member of a society for a number of years.

The award has been presented to:

1994	Basil Webb
1996	Arthur Tintiger
1998	Duncan Henderson
2004	Lynn Kepler & Chris Dams
2006	Des Wright
2009	Sheenagh Harris
2012	Alan Tew
2014	Sid Cywes
2016	Ludwig Taschner
2018	Sheenagh Harris
2023	Gwen Fagan
2025	Cathy Esterman

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National Rose Conventions

YEAR	PLACE	HOST SOCIETY	NAME	SPEAKERS
1979 WRC	PRETORIA	ROSA	ROSAFARI 79	
1982	CAPE TOWN	WCRS	ROSA CAPENSIS	Jack Harkness
1984	PRETORIA	NRS	ROOSPRET	
1986	KROONSTAD	VRV	ROOS ORANJE	Wilhelm Kordes
1988	PORT ELIZABETH	ECRS		Pat Dickson
1990	DURBAN	NRS		Pernille Poulsen
1992	CAPE TOWN	WCRS		Sean McCann
1994	PRETORIA	NRS	ROOSPRET	Peter Harkness
1996	BLOEMFONTEIN	VRV		Frank Bernardella Henry Delbard
1998	ADDO	ECRS		Koa Hollow Helga Brichet
2000	DURBAN	NRS		Ken Grapes
2002 RE-GIONAL	SOMERSET WEST	WCRS	ROSES AT THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE	Sean McCann Thomas Proll Tommy Cairns

2004	PRETORIA	NRS	Rose Fantasia	Robert Harkness
2006	PIETERMARITZBURG	MRS	A Rose Affair	Beatrice Barni
2008	BLOEMFONTEIN	VRV	Rose Celebrations	Gerrit van Tonder Johan Grobbelaar Karen Gardelli
2010	KNYSNA	KRS	Garden Route 2010	Thomas Proll Sheenagh Harris Ludwig Taschner
2012 WRC	SANDTON	GRRS	ROSAFRICA 2012	
2014	PIETERMARITZBURG	MRS	The Magical Mystery Midlands Tour	Lizette Jonker
2016	JOHANNESBURG	GRRS	The Golden Rose	Rae Gilbert
2018	DURBANVILLE	WCRS	Roses in Bloom	Cobus Coetzee
2021	KNYSNA	KRS	Knysna Roses 2020	Michael Marriott Inger Schierning Ludwig Taschner Owen Williams
2023	FRANSCHOEK VALLEY	HRSSA	Roses at the Cape of Good Hope	Charles Quest-Ritson Peter Knox-Shaw Pieter Diener
2025	MIDLANDS	MRS	More Magic in the Midlands	Sushil Prakash, Sandra Threthewey, Sally Bairstow Earl

International Honours Awards

WORLD FEDERATION OF ROSE SOCIETIES HONOURS

~ PAST PRESIDENTS OF THE WORLD FEDERATION OF ROSE SOCIETIES ~

1976 – Fred Ziady
2009 – Sheenagh Harris

GOLD MEDAL
In recognition of outstanding service to the Federation and the Rose by serving and/or retired officers of the Federation and to Rose Breeders whose work is paramount to the evolution of the Rose.

2012 – Sheenagh Harris

ROSE PIN
For service to the WFRS

1985 – Mary Wise • Ludwig Taschner
2000 – Esther Geldenhuys

~ WORLD ROSE AWARD ~

BRONZE MEDAL
In recognition of dedicated service to the Rose by officers of The Federation and in particular officers of our National Member Societies.

2006 – Egmont Behrens
2025 – Gail Birss

~ WFRS COMMEMORATIVE MEDALS ~

SILVER MEDAL
In recognition of outstanding service to the Federation by serving and/or retired officers of the Federation only.

2012 – Di Girdwood

BRONZE MEDAL
2012 – Georgie Currie

~ AWARDS OF GARDEN EXCELLENCE ~

2003 - Fresh Woods

2015 - Bosky Dell

~ LITERARY AWARDS ~

2012
Veld, Vlei and Rose Gardens: Inspiration from South African Gardeners
Sheenagh Harris and Jacqueline Kalley (editors)

2015
Old Roses: Survival and Revival in South Africa
Jacqueline Kalley (editor)



‘Charles Darwin’ ™ PBR

The flowers are very full and rounded at first, later opening up to shallow cups. They are yellow in colour, tending almost towards mustard and have a strong delicious fragrance, varying between soft floral tea and pure lemon.

keith kirsten
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Member Countries

The World Federation of Rose Societies (WFRS) is comprised of 40 national rose societies from all around the world. The list below also annotates their year of joining the WFRS.

Argentina (1977) - Rose Society of Argentina
Australia (1968) - National Rose Society of Australia
Austria (2001) - Österreichische Rosenfreunde in der Gartenbau-Gesellschaft
Belgium (1968) - Société Royale Nationale 'Les Amis de la Rose'
Bermuda (1981) - Bermuda Rose Society
Canada (1968) - Canadian Rose Society
Chile (2000) - Asociación Chilena de la Rosa
China (1997) - Chinese Rose Society
Czechia (1994) - Czechia Rosa Club
Denmark (1994) - The Danish Rose Society
Finland (1997) - Finnish Rose Society
France (1979) - Société Française des Roses
Germany (1968) - Gesellschaft Deutscher Rosenfreunde
Great Britain (2018) - The Rose Society UK
Greece (1997) - The Hellenic Rose Society
Hungary (2008) - Hungarian Rose Friends Society
Iceland (2007) - Icelandic Rose Society
India (1968, 1982) - Indian Rose Federation
Israel (1975) - The Jerusalem Foundation
Italy (1968) - Italian Rose Society
Japan (1968) - Japan Rose Society
Luxembourg (1983) - Luxembourg Rose Society
Monaco (2012) - Société des Roses de Monaco
Netherlands (1976) - Nederlandse Rozenvereniging
New Zealand (1968) - New Zealand Rose Society
Northern Ireland (1982) - Rose Society of Northern Ireland
Norway (1988) - Norwegian Rose Society
Pakistan (1992) - Pakistan National Rose Society
Poland (1981, 2017) - Polish Rose Society
Romania (1992) - Asociatia Amicii Rozelor din Romania
Russia (2007) - Russian Association of Rosarians
Slovakia (2023) - Rose Society Maria Henrieta Chotek
Slovenia (2000) - Slovenian Rose Society
South Africa (1968) - Federation of Rose Societies of South Africa
South Korea (2018) - South Korea Rose Society
Spain (1992) - Asociación Española de la Rosa
Sweden (1994) - The Swedish Rose Society
Switzerland (1976) - Gesellschaft Schweizerischer Rosenfreunde SA
United States (1968) - American Rose Society
Uruguay (1985) - Asociación Uruguaya de la Rosa

Note: for website information on the above Member Countries, go to the WFRS website – www.worldrose.org

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Society Annual Reports for 2025

Heritage Rose Society of South Africa (HRSSA)

Members: 40
Facebook: www.facebook.com/heritageroses.sa
Email: heritageroses.sa@gmail.com

Honorary President:	Gwen Fagan
Chairperson and Secretary	Susan van Zuilekom • 082 716 5341 susanvz@klr.co.za
Treasurer:	Gail Birss • 082 470 0619 gailbirss8@gmail.com

The Heritage Society of South Africa has had a fascinating year full of changes and interest with new members bringing some fresh energy and news to share with into our midst. Of course, our long-standing members are very valuable, and I hope you have had a good year with us all enjoying and discussing Heritage Roses and making new friends. We are encouraging past members to re-join us in our never-ending fascination and learning curve where experienced members can tell us fascinating stories from the past and expose us to amazing heritage roses and gardens to visit in all areas of South Africa. It was very exciting and a great pleasure to see Kim van Niekerk of the S.A. Rosarium in Bedford – Eastern Cape featured on TV recently. It all looked really interesting and inviting and Kim presented it beautifully. I think our members would love to visit the garden when they travel that way and know more about it.

We have taken on new committee members to help us with various things,



'Mozart'

all three of whom have vast experience and knowledge of Heritage Roses, gardening and landscaping etc. It is so very interesting to see what they have achieved in their own gardens with advice and help given out in other circumstances. The new committee members are Gill Wilson, Sally Bairstow Earl and Barry Slabbert. Congratulations to Gwen Fagan who has now celebrated her 101st birthday.

During the event-filled days at the convention here in KwaZulu-Natal in October we learnt so much about Heritage Roses as well as modern roses that have their ancestry in Heritage Rose varieties. Most people had beautiful Heritage Roses in full flower in the gardens that we visited.

The President of the World Federation of Rose Societies, Sushil Prakash, who joined us for the convention has an amazing knowledge of Heritage Roses and of course all roses and was so interesting to talk to. He told us delightful stories of his journeys and discoveries of Heritage Roses around the world. He was presented with a copy of Gwen Fagan's special book. We were captivated by all the heartfelt speakers who totally held our attention and interest. His Worship the Mayor, Christopher Pappas, opened the convention with a delightful introduction. Hebron Haven (the conference hotel) has many Heritage Roses in the garden. Sally Bairstow Earl takes care of this garden which is a joy to wander through and has a great historical background.

We often visit the Heritage Rose Garden in the Garlington Estate, Hilton, here in KwaZulu-Natal, which is a Heritage Rose masterpiece, so very interesting and beautiful. All the roses are labelled and there is a large variety to view, and one can learn a tremendous amount about them there. This year as always, the roses were amazing. When the garden is open for public viewing there are seeds, heritage rose plants, (cuttings grown by members) calendars, cards and other lovely items to buy of which this year all were sold out. To view this special garden contact Gail Birss.

Susan van Zuilekom, Chairperson

~ We can't have the new without the old ~



Christopher Pappas, Mayor of Umgeni, with his Grandmother, Susan van Zuilekom.



This rose still to be named, from Susan van Zuilekom's garden.

Knysna & Garden Route Rose Society (K&GRRS)

Members: 77
Facebook: facebook.com/Knysna-Rose-Society
Instagram: Instagram.com/knysna.rose
Email: knysnarosesociety@gmail.com

Honorary Life Members:	Carol Kennedy Sheenagh Harris
Chairperson:	Vacant
Vice Chairperson:	Prudence Cooper • 081 376 2556 jandpcooper@gmail.com
Secretary:	Gill Goodall • 082 652 3668 gill@goodall5.co.za
Treasurer:	Leslie McCallum lesliemcclum@yahoo.co.uk

Knysna and the Garden Route Rose Society began the year with a public Summer Pruning and Rose Care Demonstration at Rosenhof in George on 25th January. Over 90 attendees learned from Tumelo Moyo, who covered summer pruning, deadheading, and essential rose care like watering, feeding, and spraying. On Friday 28 February, 45 K&GRRS members and guests attended the Rose and Bubbles Lunch at Kay & Monty's Vineyard Restaurant. The event featured roses from members' gardens paired with the new 'Sweetheart' MCC, a cellar tour, and a Harvest Table lunch. Six finalists were chosen for the best rose, with a tie between Joy Taylor's 'Double Delight' and Heather Holt's 'Thuli Madonsela' after K&M staff's deliberation.

In April, forty members and visitors enjoyed a walkabout in the beautiful Hunter's garden, with Kim Fichardt, one of our members who is the full-time horticultural consultant at Hunters, and Jill Hunter who answered the many questions from our members. During tea, Jill then shared the interesting history of Hunters Country House and how this Family business is run on 'respect' for one another.



'Albertine' at Bosky Dell.

On Saturday 17 May, K&GRRS members and guests enjoyed a garden visit to Narnia Guest House, where Stella Sohn warmly welcomed everyone and discussed her garden's evolution over 20 years, especially following the 2017 Knysna Fire. Inspired by Stella's resilience, attendees had tea and explored various themed gardens, taking in the peaceful atmosphere and scenic views.

At the end of June, Pam Millard presented 'England in Springtime' at Knysna Hollow Conference Centre, highlighting visits to notable gardens, historic houses, landmarks, and cathedrals across Somerset, Wiltshire, Dorset, Cornwall, Devon, Windsor, Winchester, The Cotswolds, Liverpool, and London. The K&GRRS AGM on 16 August saw 30 members attend. After the meeting, Gill Goodall and Sheenagh Harris presented on rose growing in New Zealand, highlighting Sam McGredy IV's work and South African varieties.

Four K&GRRS members attended the ROSA National Convention, hosted by the Midlands Rose Society at Hebron Haven in the Dargle from 16 to 18 October. They met WFRS President Sushil Prakash and enjoyed various presentations and garden tours.

Despite rain on Saturday, 25 October, K&GRRS members and guests appreciated the gardens at Formosa Garden Village in Plettenberg Bay.

K&GRRS Members supported Rae Gilbert's Bosky Dell Open Garden event in mid-November with the Year End Function. Members and guests enjoyed a walk around the gardens and especially the beautiful display of Heritage Roses followed by a picnic lunch whilst enjoying the background music of Jo Dazely who entertained them with song, saxophone and flute.

K&GRRS Committee



Joan Spencer at the Registration Desk for the MRS Convention with MRS Committee Members Karen Braithwaite and Bronwyn Roe-Scott.



Committee Members, Pam Millard, Pru Cooper, Gill Goodall and Joanne Johnstone with some of the roses that were paired with the Pink MCC, Sweetheart.

Midlands Rose Society

Members: 186
Facebook: www.facebook.com
Email: midlandsrosesociety@gmail.com

Honorary Life Members:	Ludwig Taschner Debbie Battershill Sheenagh Harris Gill Wilson Gail Birss
Chairperson:	Gail Birss • 082 470 0619 midlandsrosesociety@gmail.com
Secretary:	Karin Braithwaite • 082 454 9091 midlandsrosesociety@gmail.com
Treasurer:	Bronwyn Roe-Scott • 082 967 2621 Soleyrs21@gmail.com

It was an extremely busy year for the Midlands Rose Society, starting in January with the first of 3 orders for fertiliser. The other two are in June and September and members continue to receive a monthly newsletter.

In February we welcomed Halmar Taschner who gave a very interesting and informative talk and demonstration not only on summer pruning but the general care of roses throughout the season. We hope that he will visit us again in the not-too-distant future.

In March, we were very spoilt as Louwrens Bosch from Atlantic Fertilisers from Cape Town gave us a wonderful presentation on Soil Health and Fertiliser at Blackwoods. Members received samples of different fertilisers and there were special lucky draws.

In April, we drove up to Mooi River to view Susan van Zuilekom's beautiful, farm garden. It was worth the long drive on farm roads.

In June we hosted the MRS Annual General meeting and Andrew Line delivered a fascinating demonstration on using art to design a garden. Gill Wilson received Honorary Life membership for her outstanding contribution and long-standing service and commitment to our Society. Following this, the committee announced my name, saying that I would also be granted this distinguished honour for years of hard work, leadership and tireless dedication.

In July, a new committee member, Barry Slabbert, expertly demonstrated effective pruning methods as well as showing us his method for propagating roses. After this demonstration, we decided that we would dedicate all our time and energy to prepare for the hosting of the ROSA National Convention in October.

The theme was 'Local is Lekker'. For the goodie bags, we had such a choice with products like Wedgewood Nougat, BON skincare and others. The speakers included Sandra Trethewey, Sally Bairstow Earl and Tanya Visser (who had to cancel at

the last minute). The gardens to visit were mostly members gardens and the MRS Heritage garden.

A very special thanks to those committee members who went the extra mile to make the convention extra special – to Sandra Trethewey and her team of special ladies for their floral work, which was stunning; to William and Claire Meyer for hosting us in their beautiful home and garden and for lunch; to Karin Braithwaite, our secretary and Bronwyn Roe-Scott our treasurer, for all the extra work they had to do before, during and after the convention.

We ended the year on a special relaxing morning on a perfect day in November, seeing the amazing work that Wayne Devitt (committee member) has achieved in such a short time to create a magnificent, large garden planted with hundreds of roses!!

Lastly, thank you to all the Midlands Rose Society members!

Gail Birss, Chairperson



Rosario Algorta, Vivienne Black and Sushil Prakash in Gill Wilson's garden.



Barry Slabbert giving a rose-pruning demonstration at Val Frankish's (Past Chairperson) garden.



Visit to Susan's Garden: Lisa Thompson; Chris Withers, Susan van Zuilekom and Adee Varney.

Pretoria Rose Society

Members: 23
Facebook: www.facebook.com/pretoriarosesociety
Email: pretoriarosesociety@gmail.com

Chairperson: Lizette Jonker • 076 332 2009
lizettejonker@gmail.com

Treasurer: Duard Jonker • 072 989 8740

In 2025 the Pretoria Rose Society members had beautiful roses in their gardens, but thrips put a dampener on most of the last half of the previous summer. Thrips has become a major issue in the capital city, and drenching with Koinor does not make a difference at all.

The spring of 2025 brought us a spectacular flush, with reports of powdery mildew here and there, due to a very dry and hot spring. Our flush was very early, and also over very soon, as a result of the early heat. We looked on with envy as the cooler climate areas in the country enjoyed later and longer first flushes.

October was a busy month for our society. As usual, it started off with the iconic annual rose show at the Ludwig's Roses main farm north of Pretoria. Members of our society visit the show at various times, but we managed to get a few people together to pose with Ludwig and Halmar on the first Saturday of the show. The spectacular show, named *Rosafari*, was designed by Halmar. The theme was roses and vintage Landcruiser vehicles. These collector's vehicles were draped in roses – rose bouquets on the bonnets and number plates, and even inside the vehicles on the seats, steering wheels and in the back too. Lifesize bronze statues of animals between tall trees and rose displays added to the safari experience.



PRS Members at the Tzaneen garden talk: Wilma Nel, Gwenn van Schalkwyk, Benita Hartman, Lizette Jonker, Charlene Maree and her granddaughter, and Machel Lombard. Minnie Jansen, another Tzaneen member, could not attend.



PRS Members at the annual Ludwig's Roses rose show in Pretoria: Dominica Kok, Ludwig Taschner, Doné Alberts, Halmar Taschner, Lizette Jonker and Duard Jonker.

As always, gorgeous flower containers filled with stunning rose bouquets were on sale, and there were two rows of tables with small containers where each rose had a tag to identify it – a wonderful initiative for people who came to buy roses and wanted to compare different ones in the colour groups.

I travelled with Wilma Nel, one of our members, to Tzaneen to give a garden talk to the Letaba Tuinbouklub on 10 October. We have a few PRS members in the Tzaneen area, and they all attended the talk, enjoyed by about 80 ladies at the new spectacular venue at The Olive Tree nursery. It was wonderful to see our members and chat about roses after the garden talk.

On 14 October I had the privilege of joining, as representative of our society, Elizabeth Thornton-Dibb, ROSA treasurer, at the Ludwig's Roses main farm north of Pretoria to welcome the President of the World Federation of Rose Societies, Sushil Prakash. Sushil came all the way from India to attend the ROSA convention in KwaZulu-Natal. Another international guest, the bubbly Rosario Algorta de Carrau from Uruguay – WFRS Vice President for South America from 2012-2022 – also came for the ROSA convention and joined us on that day. We were taken on a golf cart by Ludwig on a tour of the entire rose farm. It was very special seeing the heritage roses in full flower, and wandering through the trial garden and huge new greenhouse with Ludwig and Halmar.

Unfortunately no members of our society could attend the convention. We all saw the lovely photos on social media and wished we were there.

Pretoria had extremely wet weather in November and December, and this brought us a good second flush of roses. We are all very thankful for the buckets of water from the sky, as it means we do not have to water our gardens at all.

I would like to wish all members of ROSA a prosperous 2026, filled with healthy and spectacular roses! Remember – the rose is a forgiving plant, and there is always next season!

Lizette Jonker, Chairperson



Halmar Taschner, Lizette Jonker (PRS), Elizabeth Thornton-Dibb (ROSA treasurer), Rosario Algorta, Ludwig Taschner and Sushil Prakash (president, WFRS), standing behind a bush of the new rose, 'Ludwig's Favourite'.

Western Cape Rose Society

Members: 27

Honorary Life Member:	Duncan Henderson
Chairperson:	Joy Webb • 082 332 0545 joyawebb@gmail.com
Secretary:	Camille Forder • 073 831 8839 camkit@mweb.co.za
Treasurer:	Isabel Tuffs • 072 136 3002 isabel@vkp.co.za

The Western Cape Rose Society visited the home of Vivienne Black, a WCRS member, in De Hoop, Paarl in early March. We enjoyed the lovely roses like 'Duet' and 'Warm Wishes', and the beautiful views across the mountains of Paarl.

In Mid-March Francois Prinsloo gave us a talk about his product Agriboost. Basically, it is made from blood sourced from abattoirs, dried and filtered with some added kelp.

On 15 April we visited Buh Rein Retirement Village. The garden covers a large area, and the beds have been made of concrete raised to waist level so that residents can easily care for the plants. It's an amazing garden – there are vegetables of every kind imaginable, herbs and flowers, as well as lots of beautiful rose bushes which are flourishing.

Ludwig's Winter Pruning demo in July was done by Halmar. It is always interesting. He told us not to be scared to prune as it is difficult to harm our rose bushes.

The WCRS AGM was held at the end of August, with guest speaker, Tina James, who spoke about her journey to becoming a gardener. It has taught her patience and perseverance, acceptance of change and the cycle of life.

On 16 September Louwrens Bosch from Atlantic Fertiliser spoke about Know your Soil. Louwrens is an excellent speaker. He also discussed their five different products.

On 28 October we visited Alta Nel's lovely rose garden. Beautiful cheesecake and savoury muffins were served with tea/coffee before we started walking round Alta's garden. The garden is full of amazing roses with glorious perfume, in excellent condition and all are labelled. Everyone enjoyed strolling around the garden. Many questions were asked and Alta gave a lot of advice on how to care for the rose. It was a perfect way to spend a morning.

Sushil Prakash, President of the WFRS, visited Cape Town. Many gardens were visited, including Babylonstoren, Old Nectar and Chart Farm.

Three WCRS members attended the National Rosa Convention in the Midlands. There were outstanding speakers and the gardens we visited were beautiful. Alta Nel was awarded the Zoë Gilbert Merit Award. Well done, Alta!

We would like to say a big thank you to Atlantic Fertilisers for their support.

Joy Webb, Chairperson



'Golden Celebration' and 'Cocktail' in Alta Nel's garden.



Louwrens Bosch and Joy Webb at the Atlantic Fertilisers function.



Joy Webb opening the function at Alta Nel's garden.



ROSA AGM – President's Report

Welcome to the Federation of Rose Societies Annual General Meeting. Welcome to ROSA members from the Western Cape Rose Society, Knysna and Garden Route Rose Society, The Heritage Rose Society of South Africa and our members from the Midlands Rose Society. A very special welcome to the President of the World Federation of Rose Societies, Mr. Sushil Prakash, from India. It is a great honour for us to host you at this ROSA National Convention in the Midlands of Kwa-Zulu Natal. I would also like to welcome our special visitor from Uruguay, Rosario Algorta. It is lovely to host overseas visitors in South Africa.

ROSA was founded in 1961 and in 1968 the World Federation of Rose Societies was established. South Africa was one of the Founder members represented by Mr. Herman Buss, the President of ROSA and Mr. & Mrs. Wise, parents of Sheenagh Harris. Sheenagh was President of ROSA from 2004 to 2006 and then President of the World Federation of Rose Societies from 2009 to 2012. Hosting the current President of the WFRS makes this ROSA Annual General Meeting and Convention extra special and we look forward to getting to know you, Mr. President, in the next few days.

The last ROSA Annual General Meeting was held online through Microsoft Teams and 10 members joined. It is so much better meeting face-to face.

During this year, as in previous years, ROSA members in all Societies have received 2 newsletters from ROSA as well as the ROSA Annual. I thank Sheenagh Harris, the editor of these newsletters and the ROSA Annual for her hard work producing an Annual of a high standard and with interesting articles, not only from our members but from members of societies around the world. Sheenagh will edit the next Annual with the assistance of our member, Shireen Deoraj who will take on the position of Editor once Sheenagh has completed her 3 years in office. We will then need to find someone who will assist Shireen as a sub- editor. Thank you Sheenagh, Shireen and our layout lady, Sue Sandrock.

Joy Webb is responsible for contacting companies and people to take an advertisement in the Annual as well as the website. I know she spends hours writing emails and phoning people to get advertisements. A very special thank you to Joy Webb, who has been responsible for getting all the advertisements for many years. These advertisements cover some of the cost of printing the annual.

Ludwig and Halmar Taschner also need to be thanked for judging the Photographic Rose Competition and for sponsoring all the prizes in both competitions. Congratulations to Alta Nel of the Western Cape Rose Society whose rose, 'Admiral Rodney', was named Queen of the Show. It is the second consecutive year that Alta's rose has won this award.

During the year, Cathy Esterman resigned as the Chairperson of the Heritage Rose Society of South Africa.

Susan van Zuilekom agreed to fill this position, and she has done a most wonderful job. Her newsletters are so very interesting, filled with wonderful information and lovely photographs. Quite a few of her photographs are taken of her own roses in her beautiful garden in Mooi River.

The Knysna Rose Society decided to spread their wings and incorporated areas along the Garden route, including George and Plettenberg Bay, hosting functions in these areas and increasing their membership. To achieve this, they renamed themselves the Knysna and Garden Route Rose Society. Congratulations to all those involved. K&GRRS also hold an Annual Rose Show in Spring, and they will be celebrating their 20th anniversary next year. Joanne Johnstone ended her term of office as Chairperson at their AGM and Prudence Cooper, the Vice-Chairperson and the committee of the K&GRRS will be responsible for the running of the Society. Joanne will continue to be their representative on the ROSA Council.

In May this year, the World Federation of Rose Societies World Rose Convention was held in Japan. With the value of the Rand so low, it has become too expensive for most South Africans to attend these World Conventions. ROSA Council decided that we had to have a representative at the Convention. It was a unanimous decision by the ROSA Council to cover the cost of the registration for this Convention. Vivienne Black, V.P for Africa who represents ROSA on the WFRS agreed to attend and we thank her for covering the remainder of the cost to attend this very special convention in Japan.

Vivienne kept us up to date from the time she left Johannesburg, to landing in Tokyo, Japan and her trip on the Bullet train to the Convention in Fukuyama. We had updates and photographs sent to us every day and Vivienne attended most of the meetings. Vivienne also sent me a photograph during the Closing Ceremony of my Rose Award received from the WFRS. The only thing missing was a photograph of Vivienne herself, receiving the Award. Thank you, Vivienne, for representing ROSA at the World Rose Convention.

During her term of office as Vice-President for Africa, Vivienne has attended WFRS Conventions in other countries. At the Convention in Denmark in 2018, she met Martin Vissers who is a renowned rose breeder from Belgium and is known for his excellent contribution to horticulture. He has bred many award-winning roses over the years. Through Martin Vissers she met Jan Oprins, who is one of the largest commercial bamboo growers in the world with plantations in Indonesia and Spain. He contacted Vivienne in March this year and asked if he could stay with her. Vivienne then hosted him for 2 days and took him to many of the beautiful rose gardens in the Cape. Since this visit both Jan Oprins and Martin Vissers have communicated with Vivienne and they and a few other people from Belgium will be coming to South Africa in November. Jan Oprins is interested in bringing new rose varieties to South Africa together with Martin Vissers.

While they are in South Africa, Vivienne will be taking them on a similar tour which she and Joy have just done with the World President.

The ROSA website is updated every month, and I thank Joanne Johnstone who collects all contributions and sends them to the Webmaster.

ROSA Council decided after many years to change the banking account. The bank asked to add another point in the Constitution, which was concluded before this meeting.

I asked all Chairpersons to send me certain information recently regarding membership, average age of members and members attending functions. The

average subscription cost is R130 a year and the average age is approximately 65-70 years. Membership varies with The Midlands Rose Society having the most members, which entitles them to appoint 2 delegates to the ROSA Council. The Midlands Rose Society welcomes Bronwyn Roe-Scott as the second delegate. Reading through old newsletters dating back to the 80s and 90s, nothing seems to have changed regarding attracting young members. How to attract younger members remains a problem.

This past week, I received some exciting news from Kim van Niekerk which I would like to share with you. Kim is a member of the Heritage Rose Society of South Africa and one of the ladies involved in the running of the SA Rosarium in Bedford. During the year they had a visit from a member of the Historic Rose Group in the United Kingdom. She was so thrilled to visit a Rosarium she had never seen before and shortly afterwards, both Kim and Dr Comyn, a trustee of the Rosarium, were invited to the Historic Rose Group's Annual General Meeting, in York, England. Kim was able to combine the visit in September with a visit to her family and Dr Comyn represented the rosarium virtually.

The Chairperson of the Historic Rose Group is Michael Marriot, who has now retired from David Austin Roses and has become very involved with Heritage roses.

About 2 weeks ago Dr Comyn received a personal invitation to attend the World Heritage Rose Convention in China in April next year where he will represent the South African Rosarium. Since then the Rosarium has remained in the spotlight with Kwela who films for Channel 144 on TV. Then on 7 November, Kyknet will also be going to the garden for filming.

All Chairpersons share their Society newsletters with other Societies in South Africa, and I always find it very interesting to see what others are doing, and it is also wonderful to share ideas. I would like to thank all chairpersons, Joanne Johnstone of the K & GRRS, Joy Webb of the WCRS, Lizette Jonker of PRS and Susan van Zuilekom of the HRSSA for all their hard work during this past year. Thank you to all Chairpersons who give up so much of their time writing newsletters, organising functions, attending meetings and writing reports. We all do it for the love of the rose!! Thank you to Elizabeth Thornton Dibb, our treasurer, who looks after the ROSA funds and a special thanks to Joanne Johnstone, our wonderful ROSA Secretary, as well as my Vice-president these last 2 years. Joanne is so calm and helpful and someone that I could go to at any time when I needed advice. She is a very special person but unfortunately owing to other commitments she is not taking over as President but fortunately for ROSA and especially ROSA Council, she will remain as ROSA Secretary.

So ends my report and thank you to everyone attending the ROSA AGM today.

I would just like to tell all members that after the Council meeting, we will be meeting out in the garden, where the President, Sushil Prakash will be planting the 'Sheenagh Harris' rose. This rose was bred in India by Viru Viraraghavan.

Gail Birss

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MAKHRO HOME AND GARDEN

~ PRESIDENT'S TROPHY ~

Cathy Esterman



Looking at the names of the people who have in the past been awarded the President's Trophy, I recognise some wonderful Rose people.The Presidents trophy is given entirely at the Presidents discretion to whoever the President considers worthy of it. The member receiving the award will have done a great deal to promote roses and would have been a member of a society for a number of years.

I have chosen a very special person, who is never in the limelight, but has for years been involved with roses under very difficult circumstances. Whatever life has thrown at her, which includes drought, fires, deaths and moves, she has persevered, and her collection of Heritage Roses has survived.

Her mother, Heather Leppan, was a founder member of the Heritage Rose Society of South Africa. She had a large Heritage Rose Nursery in the town of Somerset East. When she died, her nursery, Heatherby, was inherited by her daughter, Cathy Esterman.

In the ROSA Annual 2009, Barbara Long, the Chairperson of the Heritage Rose Society wrote: 'Cathy has her mother's genes'.

The following year, Barbara Long wrote after Cathy had to move all the roses to another site in Somerset East, saying: Cathy Esterman moved all the Mother Plants and also took thousands of cuttings of all the prunings – 'not for the faint- hearted' Cathy is a worker and has green fingers – she only lost 3 Mother Plants the story continues …

A few years later, all the Mother Plants and cuttings were once again dug up and replanted at Goededacht Farm in Riebeek Kasteel. The soil and location were bad and so they were moved to the grounds of a hotel in Riebeek Kasteel. In this new place, there was a lack of water.

Cathy was then asked to move her roses to the Rhode Garden at Boschendal Wine farm. It was on the grounds of the 2nd Manor house. And it wasn't long and the roses had to be moved yet again.

This was about 5 years ago, when they were all moved to a farm in the Paarl Valley. Things got worse – during the drought in the Cape, many of the roses died, then, the Cape South Easter winds arrived and the fires began. The fire swept through the garden, but Cathy kept working, trying to save as many roses as possible.

Last year, as things were just improving, the pumps on the farm broke down in the middle of a very hot, 40-degree summer heat. She carried buckets of water to try and save her roses once again and then it just became too much.

Luckily, Boschendal Wine Farm approached her and offered her a job on the Farm and she accepted with enthusiasm, once again moving all her Mother Plants to Boschendal where she now cares for Gwen Fagan's Heritage collection. There is no doubt Cathy has earned the coveted President's trophy.

~ ZOË GILBERT MERIT AWARD ~

Alta Nel



The Zoë Gilbert Merit Award is given to a person who has done exceptional work for the Rose Society of South Africa, and it was agreed by ROSA Council in 1991, that it would only be presented to a member who had contributed to and promoted the growing and love of roses.

All members of ROSA are given an opportunity to vote for the person they think deserves this award. Alta Nel joined the Western Cape Rose Society in 1995 and served on their committee for a number of years.

From 1997 to the year 2000 she was in charge of the Durbanville Rose Garden, which was leased by the WCRS and she was appointed the supervisor of the garden by the municipality. She organised the planning and the planting of the roses donated by Ludwig's Roses and other Rose breeders in South Africa. She also organised the pruning, watering and spraying as well as keeping records and labelling the roses.

In 1997 to the early 2000, she oversaw the Rose Trials, which took place in a section of the garden. She also started the 'Friends of the Rose Garden' – a group of volunteers who helped to plant, prune, dead head and spray in the garden.

She planted more than 1000 roses at the Durbanville Rose Garden before the 2002 WFRS Regional and National Convention which was hosted by the WCRS in Somerset West.

Alta gave talks and demonstrations on pruning to her Society as well as to the public and the Technicon students and trained the garden staff at Leeuwenhof Estate, the official residence of the Premier of the Western Cape.

She also gave talks and demonstrations on exhibiting roses and won her first champion in 1996 and continued to exhibit for a few years.

She became an accredited ROSA Judge in 2001/2002 and has judged in the Western Cape, Knysna, Bloemfontein and Greyton at their Rose Shows.

Alta Nel is a most worthy recipient of the Zoë Gilbert Merit Award.



WFRS 20th World Rose Convention Roses for the Future

Vivienne Black (WCRS, HRSSA)
WFRS VP for Africa

In May this year I attended the 20th World Rose Convention in Japan. Four hundred and twenty delegates from twenty-nine countries attended the convention with three from South Africa, Vanessa and Melissa Davidson and me.

I arrived in Fukuyama on the bullet train from Tokyo to attend the convention, which was held in the 'city of a million roses'. It was held at the Fukuyama New Castle hotel which was situated conveniently near the train station. Due to its history of post-war reconstruction centred around planting roses as a symbol of peace, it provided a meaningful backdrop for this prestigious international event. The convention theme was Roses for the Future – a new future begins in Fukuyama.

The city of Fukuyama showcased streets lined with roses, rose beds on every street corner and private gardens, houses as well as the shopping areas and shops adorned with roses and rose products for sale. The city is famous for its delicious food and mouthwatering local specialties, savoury pancakes filled with oysters, pork and cabbage.

The friendly Japanese locals filled us in with the history of where it all began. On the 8th August, 1945, approximately eighty percent of Fukuyama's urban areas were lost to flames in an aerial firebombing. With the cooperation of the city government, the residents planted a million roses in Rose Park. The rose



Sushil Prakash, the newly inducted President of the WFRS with the 3 South Africans – Vivienne Black, Melissa and Vanessa Davidson.



Rose arches on the Rose Road Walk.



Vivienne Black, Yuki Mikanagi, and Mayor, Naoki Edahiro.



Claudia Hacker (Germany) and Vivienne Black at the entrance to the Fukuyama New Castle Hotel.



Fukuyama Castle.

came to be loved as a symbol of hope for the city's reconstruction. The story of Fukuyama, the 'city of roses' cultivated by the people who live there, continues from past to present and into the future

The Fukuyama Rose Society was established in 1956, at the same time as the 'city of roses' movement. Its motto is 'better a 100 people nurturing one rose than one person owning 100 roses'.

The Welcome Reception took place in the late evening at the foot of Fukuyama Castle. We were entertained with a dance performance by Rola-chan and her dance team of 'rose kids'.

The Mayor, Naoki Edahiro, gave the welcome message followed by a glass of 'sake,' a traditional brew called nihonshu in Japanese. One of the activities was to be 'dressed up' in Japanese clothing and given the opportunity to dance with the local dancers, a fun start to the convention which everyone enjoyed.

On Monday 19th May the Opening Ceremony was conducted by Her Imperial Highness Princess Tomohito of Mikasa, the Honorary President of the Japanese Rose Society. The ceremony featured several key addresses that set the tone for the convention. The Mayor, Naoki Edahiro, gave the welcome speech as well as a welcome from Diane vom Berg, the WFRS President and Derek Lawrence, WFRS Executive Director.

After the speeches the naming and induction of the 'Hall of Fame' rose was announced. 'Gertrude Jekyll', a David Austin rose, was named as the World's Favourite Rose, and the Old Rose Hall of Fame was 'Blush Noisette' which had been introduced in 1817.

A performance of the convention cheer song 'Happy Rose' was sung by Aoi Teshima, the ambassador for Fukuyama.

Delegates then moved from the Fukuyama Hall of Art and Culture to Rose Hill (Midorimachi Park Rose Garden), a very



Roses near the Expo Centre.

special venue surrounded by roses in full bloom where lunch was served. Here we were able to network with delegates from around the world. In the afternoon we visited the Rose Expo Fukuyama 2025, which was a grand exhibition showcasing everything from rose painting and cut rose displays to innovative rose gardens and specialised gardening products.

We joined a guided walk in the rose park and a tour through the local park and along the famous 'Rose Road' leading towards the Fukuyama Station.

We also had a guided tour of the inside of the Fukuyama castle as well as a music performance of Japanese soloists. This was followed by a traditional Japanese tea ceremony at the tearoom that overlooked the castle.

In the late afternoon, I attended the WFRS Executive Committee Meeting, Heritage and Conservation Meeting and the Awards meeting.

Tuesday 20 May was the start of the lectures:

ROSES RAISED BY JAPANESE BREEDERS

Dr Yoshihiro Uedo (Japan)

Project Manager of World Rose Convention Promotion Office and Director of Gifu World Rose Garden.

In Japan, rose breeding was not practiced until around the mid-19th century. It was in the late 19th century, with the crossbreeding of old rose varieties introduced from outside Japan, that the improvement of Japanese rose varieties began to flourish. Transitioning into the mid-20th century, this effort was spearheaded by Seizo Suzuki of Keisei Rose Nurseries, who aimed to elevate Japanese rose breeding to a global level. Since then, young rose breeders have been actively pushing forward with their breeding efforts.

THE ROSES DEPICTED IN HISTORICAL JAPANESE

Dr Nobuo Shirasuna (Japan)

In this lecture we were introduced to the history of Japanese rose culture, which spans several centuries. It is understood that roses were brought to Japan from the West during the Meiji era (1868-1921) however through analysis of historical Japanese paintings, it was discovered that the Japanese have cherished and depicted roses since ancient times, and roses have been an important plant in Japan. It was a preconceived notion that roses are a Western plant that has hindered the understanding of Japan's traditional rose culture.

The aim of the lecture was to dispel this misconception by providing an historical overview of roses depicted in Japanese paintings and to convey the beauty of Japan's rose culture and the aesthetic expression of rose paintings to the world.

STORIES OF ROSES WHICH STARTED WITH A WILD ROSE IN JAPAN ROSA multiflora Thunb. and Rambler Roses

Yuki Mikanagi (Japan)

Among the 16 wild roses native to Japan the first to be given a scientific name was 'Rosa multiflora Thunb., named by Swedish botanist Carl Peter Thunberg in 1784. Stories were told of roses originating from R. multiflora, first in Sweden in 2024 and then in Fukuyama in 2025.

WILD ROSES AND OLD ROSES IN CHINA

Zhengzhi Jiang (China)

The lecture introduced some wild and unique roses of China which had been collected, for example, *Rosa kwang-tungensis*, *Rosa anemoniflora* and *Rosa*

chinensis var. *spontanea*. The distribution areas, current survival status, and experience in domestication and cultivation was discussed, as well as what role *Rosa chinensis* var. *spontaneas*, a single petal rose flower, play in the evolution of ancient Chinese roses.

WEDNESDAY 21st May

ROSE CONSERVATION FOR THE FUTURE

Brigid and Charles Quest-Ritson (UK)

The history of gardening is the story of roses that are now extinct. The market for roses is posited on novelty. The cultivation of plants is not just a horticultural phenomenon but an integral part of our civilization's history. The emergence of phylogenetics has made it possible to determine the origins of cultivated roses and the relationship between cultivars. Today's roses will be tomorrow's challenge for conservationists, and no cultivar should ever be allowed to lose its name or fade from cultivation. There is a need for each country to play its part, and we need the World Federation to lead from the front.

THE UK NATIONAL COLLECTION OF *ROSA PERSICA* HYBRIDS

Daniel Myhill (UK)

Rosa Persica hybrids represent some of the most novel and unique roses that have been bred in recent times.

The flowers exhibit a red-coloured 'eye', a characteristic and unique trait not seen in any other species of roses. Groundbreaking breeding work done by Jack Harkness and Alex Cocker in the UK developed roses with this trait.

The National Collection of *Rosa Persica* hybrids was established in 2022 to conserve this unique group of roses, and it currently includes 55 different hybrids.

A HISTORY OF ROSES IN CALIFORNIA

Gregg Lowery (USA)

Roses first appeared in North America twenty to thirty million years ago. Before the arrival of Europeans in California in the mid-1500s native Americans had integrated roses into their lives, exploring their practical uses in daily life and understanding their emotional value.

Europeans brought garden roses with them to California and planted them in enclosed gardens together with food and medicinal plants. The waves of migrants brought with them tools for carving out a life. These tools included rose plants, powerful symbols of settlement, and for the next hundred years roses would have a profound impact in California.

THE COLLECTION AND CONSERVATION OF FOUND ROSES IN SWEDEN

Sven Osen (Sweden)

Nordic roses, a project with the purpose of drawing attention to healthy and garden worthy roses, developed in the Nordic countries. It is the cooperation of five national rose societies in Scandinavia. POM – Sweden's national programme for cultivated plant diversity – ensures the long-term survival and sustainable use of cultured plant resources. The programme was initiated by the Ministry of Agriculture in consultation with national authorities, organisations, the private sector and non-profit organisations were actively involved in these issues. To be recognised by POM for further studies and conservation, a rose must have a documented history dating back to before 1950. All these roses of Swedish origin will be part of the Swedish National Gene Bank.

A presentation of the 17th WFRS International Heritage Rose Convention in China was presented next.

On Thursday the 2nd we had the opportunity to participate in a day tour that took us to visit the Holocaust Educational Centre a peace memorial in honor of Anne Frank where we saw the beautiful Anne Frank rose garden.

We also visited Sera Kogen, a flower park known for its beautiful gardens and landscape. Sera Kogen is known as the 'Town of Fruits and Flowers'. We enjoyed lunch in the Sky Rose Garden which features English roses and perennials in full bloom creating a view that seems to reach for the sky. We then visited the Tomitani Garden (established by a group of volunteers) which won the grand prize in the local rose bed contest.

The next day lectures continued.

ROSE TRIAL IN BOLOGNA AND ROSES IN ITALY

Dr Maria Eva Giorgioni (Italy)

Roses have been the most common flowering plant in Italian gardens since ancient times. In Italy there are 24 native species. The SOI – the Italian Society for Horticultural Science counted 2 certified rose collections, but their number is much higher and includes other rose gardens such as the Botanical Rose Garden of the municipality of Rome and the Gianfranco Carla Fineschi in Cavriglia,also known as the museum of Ancient Roses.

IMPROVING DISEASE TOLERANCE IN ROSES: A Combination of Breeding and Culture

Hayden Foulds (NZ)

The lecture looked at what breeding work has been done to improve disease tolerance and possible avenues for future work, which focused on common diseases – Blackspot, Rust, Powdery Mildew, which cause the most problems for rose growers.

BREEDING FOR DISEASE RESISTANCE: Scientific and Applied Aspects

Dr Thomas Debener (Germany)

Disease resistance in plants is defined as the ability to resist attempts by pathogens to attack and parasitize plant tissues.

Roses are attacked by a wide range of pathogens and pests and do not differ in their basic forms of resistance from other plant species. Over the past few decades, numerous analyses of resistance to the most important pathogens of garden roses have revealed several interesting sources of disease resistance, some of which have already been used in commercial rose breeding. A few examples were presented. However scientific approaches to disease resistance breeding have not been widely adopted in commercial rose breeding. National programmes such as the German ADR trials or the Earth-Kind rose trials in the USA are suitable tools for selecting tolerant rose varieties.

ROSE ROSETTE DISEASE IN THE LANDSCAPE AND ITS MANAGEMENT

Dr David Byrne (USA)

Rose Rosette disease is caused by the rose rosette emaravirus that is transmitted by a minute eriophyid mite. This disease is native to North America and in the early 1900's caused significant death among garden landscape roses. By 2010 garden roses were dying by the thousands and large landscape companies stopped planting roses in their projects. In 2013 the rose industry in the USA convened a Rose Rosette Disease Conference that brought together all the stakeholders to define the problems and work out a plan to resolve it. This resulted in a national programme which initiated a focused research programme in 2014 and has continued until the present.

The last day of lectures concentrated on New Techniques including:

THE GENEALOGY OF FRAGRANCE AND NEW SCENT COMPONENTS IN ROSES
Dr Naomi Okubo (Japan)

THE ORIGIN OF MUTATIONS INTRODUCING RECURRENT FLOWERING AND DOUBLE FLOWER CHARACTERISTICS INTO CULTIVATED ROSES
Dr Koji Kawamura (Japan)

The BREEDERS PANEL team Moderator was Daniel Boulens from France:

Topic: The Roses of Tomorrow

Doug Grant – New Zealand
Tom Carruth – United States
Takunori Kimura – Japan
Ping Lim – United States
Matthias Meilland – France
Martin Vissers – Belgium

This was followed by a presentation of the 21st World Rose Convention to be held in Bhopal, India in 2028.

SATURDAY 24th May was the last day of the convention. I attended the closing ceremony at which we were treated to a spectacular banquet, which concluded with the presentation of awards. The Awards of Garden Excellence were presented to:

- The Rose Garden Rivierenhof, Belgium,
- The Royal Botanical Garden, Burlington, Canada
- Olomouc Rose Garden, Czech Republic
- Mainau Island Rose Garden, Germany,
- Nagaoka Fragrant Rose Garden, Japan
- Tawada Rose Garden, Japan.
- Jeonju Rose Garden, Korea,
- Aflopark Rose Garden, Poland.
- Gothenburg Rose Garden, Sweden.

The Literary Awards were presented to:

- Maurice Jay for his book *La Roseraie de Saint Clair, une collection des roses.*
- M.S. Viru Viraraghavan and Girija Viraraghavan for their book *Roses in the Fire of Spring.*
- Ines Diaz de Licandro for her book *Rosas patrimomiales de Uruguay-Legado de generaciones.*

I was delighted to receive the WFRS Rose Award on behalf of Gail Birss the President of ROSA, in recognition of her dedicated service in the promotion of the Rose.

The evening was concluded with the handover of the World Federation of Rose Societies' flag to the next host city which is Bhopal.





Vivienne Black (South Africa), Rosario Algorta (Uruguay), Yuki Mikanagi (Japan), Marta Blanco (Uruguay) and Miyuki Murata (Japan) at the Closing Ceremony.



The traditional WFRS flag ceremony – Girija Viraraghaven and Dippa Prakash accepting the flag from Japan on behalf of India.


MUFG 三菱UFJ銀行
TOMOTETSU OTEMON



MORE MAGIC IN THE MIDLANDS

Shireen Deoraj (MRS & HRSSA)

The ROSA National Convention took place from 16-18 October 2025 at the Hebron Haven Hotel in the picturesque Dargle Valley of the Kwazulu-Natal Midlands. The theme **'More Magic in the Midlands'** could not be more appropriate as it truly was a magical three days of all things roses.

ROSA had the additional honour of hosting the WFRS President, Sushil Prakash, on his first overseas tour since taking over as WFRS President in May 2025. Rosario Algorta from Uruguay was the second international delegate attending.

Day One of the convention began with the registration of 26 full delegates, and the Annual General Meetings of both ROSA and the Heritage Rose Society of South Africa (HRSSA). This was followed by the planting of the 'Sheenagh Harris' rose, bred by Viru Viraraghavan and carefully transported from India and planted by Sushil Prakash in the beautiful garden at Hebron Haven.

The evening commenced with the Meet and Greet function, during which Sushil Prakash did a presentation on Roses in Bhutan. He related his experience of finding numerous species and Old garden roses growing wild for kilometres at a high altitude of over 3000m above sea level. He was able to identify many, including *Rosa Brunonii.*

Day Two started with the Speaker's Morning, which was very well attended. One hundred and forty five attendees were warmly welcomed by the Mayor, Mr Chris Pappas, who is the grandson of Susan van Zuilekom, the chair of the Heritage Rose Society of South Africa. Sally Bairstow Earl of the Midlands Rose Society started off with a talk titled 'Inspirations from a life and travels of a Rose Lover', a nostalgic and charmingly informative reverie of her travels and gardening memories since picking up her first spade as a child.

The second speaker was Sandra Trethewey, the owner of Farmgirl Flowers in Wartburg. A fourth-generation farmer who grew up on a game farm in Zululand, Sandra is an award-winning floral artist and flower farmer. She shared an inspiring and heartfelt talk on her life and experiences leading to starting her environmentally friendly, small scale flower farm.

The third speaker, Tanya Visser, was unfortunately unable to attend due to a family emergency. Sushil Prakash graciously stood in and did an impromptu presentation on the history of roses in India. He thereafter spoke about the upcoming 21st World Rose Convention in Bhopal, India, which takes place from 7-13 January 2028. He gave a very detailed report on the accommodation and convention venue, as well as the pre- and post convention tours.

The afternoon was spent on rose visits to three gardens.

Gordon Stuart garden, Howick

Set above the sweeping banks of the Umgeni River, this magnificent Howick garden was a showcase of relaxed elegance and layered beauty. Developed more than two decades ago, this large, rambling garden blends the romance of



Sushil Prakash, with Sally Bairstow Earl, planting the 'Sheenagh Harris' rose at Hebron Haven.



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Shireen Deoraj and Joanne Johnstone with Sushil Prakash at Gordon Stuart's garden, Howick.



A beautiful show of rambling roses in Gordon Stuart's garden.

an English park-style design with country living. Wide, rolling lawns frame deep, flower-filled borders where roses, perennials and flowering shrubs tumble together in joyous profusion. A truly delightful start to the afternoon.

Gill Wilson garden, Howick

Gill Wilson, a member of the Midlands Rose Society, opened her beautiful rose garden in Howick. Set in a retirement village, the country style garden is filled with hundreds of modern and heritage roses in all colours, filling scented beds and borders and clambering up trees, pergolas and fences.

Midlands Rose Society Heritage Garden, Garlington Estate, Hilton

The last garden visit was to the Midlands Rose Society Heritage Garden in Hilton. Founded in 2017 by Gail Birss, Gill Wilson and Jackie Kalley, the garden features over 138 varieties of old garden roses, dating back to the early settlers and lovingly curated by the MRS members. The wheelchair-friendly entrance ramp is entered through an arch of highly fragrant Madame Isaac Pereire roses. Roses in the garden include 'Veilchenblau', 'Dorothy Perkins', 'Albertine', 'Russelliana', 'Gypsy Boy', 'The Bishop', 'Charles de Mills, 'Hiawatha', 'François Juranville', 'General Gallieni' and many other favourites. A small gazebo and borders filled with companion plants including poppies, foxgloves, forget-me-nots and daisies add to the charm of this serene garden.

The last day of the convention began with a series of garden visits, starting at the beautiful Brahman Hills nestled on the doorstep of the famous Midlands Meander.



Gill Wilson's country-style garden is filled with hundreds of modern and Heritage roses.



'Jacques Cartier', Midlands Heritage Garden.



'Russelliana', Midlands Heritage Garden.

Delegates were treated to champagne and orange juice, before a guided tour by Elizabeth Steyn, the mother of Tim Steyn who designed the garden.

We then proceeded to the magnificent garden of Claire and William Meyer in Mooi River. This enchanting English country garden, spread over vast lawns under the shelter of majestic, mature trees showcases the beauty of over 3 000 roses complemented by vibrant annuals and lush greenery. A stunning 60-metre pergola is draped with climbing roses including 'Clair Matin' and 'Wedding Garland'.

The last visit was to the Millford Farm Garden. Perched atop a hill, Millford's terraced garden offers breathtaking views of the Dargle Valley. Designed with structured elegance, the garden features a series of beautifully crafted rooms which overlook the surrounding landscape. Herbaceous borders filled with colourful roses, foxgloves, delphiniums, peonies and dahlias create a sense of abundance as lush blooms spill over borders.



Liz Steyn, mother of landscape architect Tim Steyn, who gave the delegates a guided tour of Brahman Hills gardens.



Vivienne Black, Rosario Algorta, Brahman Hills Executive Director, Onwaba Gonyora, Sushil Prakash, and Gail Birss.



Claire and William Meyer in their beautiful garden, Sunset Farm.



Black swans against a backdrop of roses at Sunset Farm.



'Crépuscule' at Millford Farm garden.

Gala Dinner and Awards

The convention ended with the traditional gala dinner, a wonderful live music performance and presentation of awards. Brett Thornton-Dibb was the Master of Ceremonies and did a fabulous job.

The Zoë Gilbert Award

The Zoë Gilbert Award went to Alta Nel from the Western Cape Rose Society (WCRS). Alta has been an active member of the WCRS since 1995, serving on the committee for many years. Alta has given talks and demonstrations on rose exhibiting and is an accredited ROSA judge and champion rose grower.

The President's Trophy

The President's Trophy was given to Cathy Esterman, a very special person who, whilst never in the limelight, has for years been involved with roses under very difficult circumstances. She is currently in charge of Gwen Fagan's Heritage collection at Boschendal.

In the absence of nominations for the next term, Gail Birss stated that she would continue as the President of ROSA for the next 2 years, a decision that was applauded and agreed by the members present.



Alta Nel and Gail Birss.



Sarah Thornton-Dibb's wonderful live music performance.



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The artistic Brahman Hills' beehives, often styled as Zulu huts.



Barbara Wood, the tour leader and Brahman Hills Beehives.



'Michaelhouse' – rose named for the School's Centenary in 1955.

Gold Reef Rose Society visits the Midlands, November 2025
GRRS MIDLANDS MEANDERERS

Janet Sheldon Heeg (GRRS)
Photos Barbara Wood (GRRS & HRSSA)

For some GRRS members this was the third trip to KwaZulu-Natal arranged by Barbara Wood, and it offered the same measure of balm for the soul as the first two – we so hope that there will be others, to equally beautiful destinations, in the years to come.

Our home base was Brahman Hills, to which we were safely driven on Monday, 3 November, by our patient and helpful driver, Tokkie. Having checked in and had a little time to unpack and admire the impressive Tim Steyn-designed gardens, we gathered to hear from one of the directors, Onwaba Gonyora, about how Brahman Hills developed from a truck stop and motel to the landscape within a landscape that it is today. Onwaba recounted how the COVID pandemic had almost destroyed owner Ian Buchan's plans for Brahman Hills, but how the resilience and the willingness of the staff who, confined to the premises during lockdown, agreed to take up spades and shovels and start laying out the garden, allowed the hotel to develop into the haven of tranquillity that guests enjoy today. Onwaba also shared the sustainability ethos of Brahman Hills, its commitment to supporting local artists, many of whose sculptures are to be seen in the garden, and future plans, which include a labyrinth and further tree planting, with outdoor spaces for meditation and contemplation. Dinner followed. A word to anyone planning to stay there – the meals are fabulous!

After a scrumptious buffet breakfast the next morning (did I mention that the meals are really good?) we set off for a guided walk through the Michaelhouse gardens. For some it was a second visit to Michaelhouse, and while on the first occasion we focused on the gardens leading up to the main entrance, these too designed by Tim Steyn and including a rill that runs down to a magnificent sculpture of St Michael slaying the dragon, this time we walked through the various quads, of which there are an unexpected number, around which the school is arranged. They were all so different – one spacious, with a central fountain and recognisable to anyone who has seen *Spud*, one tranquil and geometric, and fragrant with star jasmine, another almost completely taken up by a magnificent *Erythrina crista-galli*, glowing with flame red flowers. We were also shown the recent and sensitively integrated extensions to the chapel, which is now double its original size. One of the first stops in the garden, however, was a secluded sunken garden of foxgloves and roses, among them the glorious red 'Michaelhouse' rose. The roses had passed their best, however, and apparently it is difficult to keep them looking lovely, as the buck find the juicy new growth irresistible!

Buck and foxgloves were something of a recurring theme that day, as they came up in conversation at Nguni Estate, where we were welcomed by Wayne and Sharon Devitt and introduced to their roses. Wayne and Sharon relocated from the Cape some years ago, to settle on a property that slopes down to and extends just beyond the banks of the Mooi River, from which water is drawn via solar pump to irrigate the extensive rose garden, begun only three years ago and established from several thousand cuttings that Wayne himself has propagated. The beds closest to the house are the most mature, a happy tumble of Grannies, foxgloves and gaura, with 'Perfumed Breeze' scrambling along every fence and doing what she does best – looking dainty and beautiful, and filling the air with fragrance. Although the predominant colour in the garden is pink, beyond the fact that each of the lower beds is bordered with Icebergs there is no hard and fast rule, and many of the roses are mysteries, grown from unnamed cuttings gifted to Wayne. As we enjoyed delicious home-baked refreshments, Wayne generously shared his tips for successful rose cutting propagation. His method consists in trimming off any spent blooms and most of the leaves, scraping the green bark off the bottom 5 cm or so of the cutting, and then coating this section in a tasty mixture of rooting powder, cinnamon (for its anti-fungal and antibacterial properties) and (of all things) custard powder! Plant the cutting quite deep in potting soil, but make a hole for it first, since if you simply push the cutting into the soil you will remove the coating of rooting powder and cinnamon (and custard powder, if you're including this third ingredient!) An important caution is: *do not fertilise the cuttings* – just keep them well watered, without drowning them. Wayne lost a large number of cuttings on taking the advice of someone who suggested that he sprinkle fertiliser across his trays of grow-bags; the majority of his precious cuttings were burnt beyond saving.



Diane du Plessis and Arina Jackson under an arch of 'Perfumed Breeze', at Wayne and Sharon Devitt's garden.

After lunch at Fordoun and a spot of pleasant shopping at Blueberry Café, we returned to Brahman Hills, where the group was taken on a guided walk through the gardens and grounds.

Following yet another delicious breakfast the next morning (did I tell you that the Brahman Hills breakfasts are heavenly?) the group travelled to the Midlands Rose Society Heritage Rose Garden at Garlington in Hilton. There we received a lovely welcome from the ladies of the Midlands Rose Society, pretty as pictures in their floral aprons, who gave us a brief history of the garden, which was established in 2017 on a plot donated by Garlington and is now a sanctuary for heritage roses. Those of us who had visited the garden previously were just as enchanted as we had been the first time, and went to speak to our favourite roses again ('Albertine' was looking particularly gorgeous, as was *Rosa roxburghii*, the chestnut rose), while for first-time visitors the garden offered an introduction to old varieties that one does not generally hear of. Although there were no rooted cuttings for sale this time, as all had been sold at the Convention, Gail Birss shared with us her recommendations for propagating: like Wayne, she dips the scraped cuttings in a mix of rooting powder and cinnamon, but her recipe omits the custard powder! She often has success with cuttings from stems with a bloom, and plants in a mix of potting and garden soil.

A brief stop at Rose Cottage in Garlington, owned by long-time friend of the GRRS, Elizabeth Thornton-Dibb, and then on to Beulah Rose Garden, Elizabeth's property in Mount Verde Estate, where she has her Natal floristry base and has begun cultivating Lime-Hass avocados. Elizabeth and her assistants treated us to a lovely lunch and a walk around the property, and we left with chincherinchee bulbs and white forget-me-nots as mementos of our pleasant visit.



'Dorothy Perkins' in all her glory, Midlands Heritage Rose Garden at Garlington Estate, Hilton.



A cascade of 'Blossom Magic' in Wayne's garden.





Above: *The 2018 WFRS Hall of Fame modern rose – 'Knock Out' growing at Beulah Rose Garden.*

Left: *Elizabeth Thornton-Dibb and Melanie Serruier checking the newly formed avocados.*



Eileen Stewart's garden, Waterford Hall (Photo: Mike Hammersley).



Entrance to the Summerhouse, Eileen Stewart's garden.

Having left the open vistas of Beulah, we visited the enchanting garden of Eileen Stewart in Howick: a magical maze of hidden pathways, unexpected flights of steps, a clipped box maze, parterres and fountains, a walkway lined with 'Litchfield Angel' roses as high as my shoulder, a summerhouse straight out of a romance novel, and everything green and lush and wonderful. Eileen's gardener of many years was proud to show us his work, urged us to sign the visitors' book, and generously offered cuttings to anyone who wanted any.

Our last stop of this very busy day was Nkosi Nursery in Howick. Owner Alex March focuses exclusively on indigenous plants, and took us on a (by then somewhat muddy, as the day had become increasingly damp) tour of his propagation houses, where he germinates seeds and propagates from cuttings. His stock ranges from succulents through to smaller bedding plants, shrubs and trees, and with new housing developments focusing increasingly on indigenous plantings he sells to the landscaping industry rather than to the public. He is something of a hero in my eyes for undertaking rescue missions to save indigenous plants from sites flooded for dam construction or cleared for construction. A particular project that he mentioned involved rescuing indigenous plants during the Sani Pass upgrade – these were removed and kept safely, and returned to the site once the work was complete, with the caveat that only plants endemic to that area were to be replanted.

Thursday morning after breakfast (gosh – did I remember to mention those delectable Brahman Hills breakfasts?) saw us back on the bus and on our way to landscaper, Gordon Stuart's garden in Howick, where we were welcomed by Gordon, his wife Kim and their two friendly dogs. A pretty front garden, where the blooms of a magnificent yellow climbing rose hang gracefully down on the far side of the pool, opens up into a



Foxgloves, walking irises and poppies in Gordon Stuart's garden in Howick.

serene and beautiful main garden at the back of the house, consisting of curving, sloping lawns and shady trees, with hydrangeas, alstroemerias and more roses offering lovely English-garden colour to complement the soft lines. Those of us who had never seen walking irises in flower had our breath taken away by their height and royal purple flowers, like amethyst stars.

Our next stop was Hebron Haven, a country hotel I remember from my childhood, where Sally Bairstow Earl (MRS) took us on a tour to show us how she has been bringing the gardens back to life, and we saw the 'Sheenagh Harris' rose, planted during the most recent Convention, held at the hotel. Unfortunately the rose was not in bloom, but it has been planted in a lovely spot where it will be admired by all who see it (word has it, it is now doing very well!). Lunch at Hebron Haven and two shopping stops brought us to the end of the day, and we returned to Brahman Hills to pack and for a last dinner together as a group, to which Barbara generously treated us, with Diane du Plessis very kindly sponsoring Dom Pedros for dessert.

A final Brahman Hills breakfast on the morning of Friday, 7 November, and with suitcases stowed in the trailer behind the bus, we visited Sarah Bownam's garden in Hilton; there we admired her magnificent roses, many of which had been propagated from cuttings, although not by Sarah herself. Like Wayne Devitt's and Gordon Stuart's gardens, Sarah's was begun only relatively recently, yet gives the impression of having been there for decades, and many of her roses were as tall as I am, with stems as thick as my thumb. Her garden, which incorporates a centrally positioned swimming pool, includes some more formal features, taking advantage of some hard landscaping elements that were in place when she and her husband bought the property, and some whimsical elements, such as the children's garden and winding paths through a shade



Sally Bairstow Earl, Joan and Alan Walker at Hebron Haven.



'Rose buddies' Karin Braithwaite, Gill Wilson and Gail Birss.

garden under beautiful trees. A final stop at Pépère in Hilton for a last cup of coffee and snack, and the group set off for home.

This trip took us to such a wonderful variety of gardens – from the massive scale of Brahman Hills, which takes in the landscape beyond, to the quiet enclosure of Gordon Stuart's garden; from Eileen Stewart's secret garden with its many levels and hidden paths to the openness of Wayne Devitt's garden, in which in some of the beds the roses co-exist with veld grass; from the Heritage Garden in Garlington, which is a living museum, to Sarah Bownam's garden, where roses form a flowering backdrop against which her children and the family cat play on their jungle gym and a friend gives swimming lessons in the pool. All have been created by people with a deep love of plants and a profound appreciation of the joy that they bring. We thank all of these gardens and their creators – it was an absolute privilege to visit every one.



A colourful hedge of 'Knock Out' roses Sarah Bownam's garden.



The serene and picturesque backdrop of the Mooi River.



A Labour of Love
My Rose Garden along the Mooi River – Nguni Riverside Estate

Wayne Devitt (MRS & HRSSA)
Photos Wayne Devitt

Nestled against the serene backdrop of the Mooi River, our garden has been taking shape over the past 22 months. After clearing 15 years of wild veld growth, I embarked on a journey to create a haven of beauty and tranquility. The result will be a stunning rose garden, where vibrant petals and softly whispering leaves envelop visitors in a sense of peace.

One of the biggest challenges I've faced in creating my garden has been dealing with the poor soil conditions. Many visitors comment on how good the soil must be, but the reality is that we have some of the worst soil you could imagine – lots of shale that makes it incredibly difficult to dig holes. It's a slow and laborious process that can be frustrating, however, I've learned to adapt and work with the soil rather than against it.



Preparing a bed in poor soil conditions.

A Garden of Personal Touch

What makes our garden truly special is the personal touch that has gone into every aspect of its creation. A staggering 99% of the plants have been propagated or grown from seed by myself, showcasing my deep passion for gardening and my newfound green fingers. The garden's design, which incorporates a mix of roses and natural veld grasses, creates a unique and captivating landscape with roses planted in the grass meadows.



Roses planted with grasses and colourful plants.

Unconventional Design

I've deliberately avoided the traditional approach to rose gardens, where plants are grouped in neat rows or symmetrical patterns. Instead, I've scattered my roses and other plants throughout the garden, allowing them to grow and bloom in their own unique way. This approach may be unconventional, but it's a reflection of my personality and my love for the beauty of imperfection. There are no sharp corners in any of the rose meadows.

Seasons of Change

One of the garden's most distinctive features is its experience of four clearly defined seasons. Each season brings its own unique charm, from the vibrant blooms of spring and summer to the quiet introspection of winter. I revel in the stillness and quiet of winter, when the garden 'goes to sleep', and find magic in the promise of renewal that comes with each new season. Our winters are particularly harsh for South Africa, with very heavy frost and average winter temperatures between -8 to -12°C.



Red Hot Pokers and other plants to attract birds.





A colourful mixture of roses, foxgloves and other plants, 'Granny's Delight' in the foreground.



A panoramic view of the garden with the Mooi River in the background (Photo: Duncan Ross).

A Work in Progress

With over 4 000 personally propagated roses and a garden still evolving, there's always something new to discover. We have over 70 different heritage roses, each with its own unique characteristics and beauty. Additionally, we've nurtured over 200 foxglove seedlings this season, adding a touch of whimsy and enchantment to the garden. I look forward to watching the garden come into its own over the next four years. The journey is just as rewarding as the destination.



Above: *'Blossom Magic' can be relied on to give colour for the whole of summer.*



Left: *'Perfumed Breeze' makes a statement as a border.*


ROSE GARDEN KANAE
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Charleston
フランス / France

Small garden treasures in Japan

Kanae School • Anne Frank Rose Garden

Martin Stott (Rose Society UK)

Martin Stott is editor of *By Any Other Name* (BAON) and author of the Storyteller garden blog and YouTube channel: www.storytellergarden.co.uk & youtube.com/@thestorytellergarden

I love going to conferences organised by the World Federation of Rose Societies. We always know we're going to see awe-inspiring gardens with thousands of roses to feast our eyes and noses on. But, if I am honest, these can all blend into one in the memory afterwards. I often find when I return home that it is the small gardens that linger longest.

Japan was amazing for grand gardens. The conference was held in Fukuyama, 'City of a million roses', which is perhaps a bit of an exaggeration but gives a hint at the scale on which the Japanese like to do their rose 'parks'. But one of the most moving gardens we visited was tiny in comparison – in a school playground.

The primary school children at the Kanae elementary school were bouncing with excitement to show us them when we arrived – a small plot at the front of the school featured some lovely arches of pink climbers. There were more rose beds near the ground-floor classroom windows to draw the eye of any child bored with calculus or chemistry on a hot, sunny afternoon. It was great to see the children being taught a love of roses in addition to the classic curriculum.

The garden was the creation of some enthusiastic parents. Here in the UK when parents want to garden at school, they create vegetable plots that need watering and hoeing and maintaining. When their kids move up a school the parents give up. Very quickly those veg patches become a dried-up and neglected weed patch. The genius of planting roses is that, contrary to popular belief, if you plant the right ones, they don't need a lot of maintenance once established. And so can be more easily continued. And the flowers give so much more pleasure than some courgettes and a few stringy runner beans. It means there is more incentive to look after them.



A pupil at the Kanae Primary School stops to smell a rose planted outside his classroom.

In Fukuyama we spent quiet time in one of the most unusual gardens I think I will ever see. It was at The Holocaust Education Centre. Again, it was only small – it featured just one tree and one variety of rose. The tree was a sapling of the horse chestnut that stood outside the house in Amsterdam in which Anne Frank hid from the Nazis during the Second World War. The rose – maybe 50 of them – was Belgian breeder Hippolyte Delforge's 1960 floribunda, 'Souvenir d'Anne Frank', with its deep peach/yellow blooms.

The centre features a replica of Anne Frank's hiding place and moving exhibits of the Holocaust, including articles of clothing and items donated by Anne Frank's family. It focuses particularly on the 1.5 million children who died in the Holocaust. Walking from there out onto this small garden terrace and seeing the roses in full bloom was as calming and freeing as you can imagine.

Elsewhere, in Hokkaido – 1 200km north of Tokyo – on the post-post tour, the roses were not in bud yet, but we saw a couple of small gardens that will help shape my own in the coming year.

In both – belonging to Ms Kiho Tsuchiya and Ms Katsue Takahashi – there were lovely winding brick paths, roses up pergolas and trellises, corners to hide in with a cup of tea and a book (as if any of us could ever read in the garden with all those jobs staring at us!) and small multi-stem trees adding height but not shade. Charming and inspiring.

Thank you Japan – for leaving us moved as well as awed.



The shoe of an unknown child who was killed in a gas chamber – the focal point in the Remembrance Room.



'Souvenir d'Anne Frank' roses near Anne's statue at the Holocaust Education Centre, Fukuyama.



Waterford Hall front garden.

A Most Rare Vision: Eileen Stewart's Garden Waterford Hall, Karkloof

Jacqueline Kalley (MRS, HRSSA)
Photos Mike Hammersley

Pure theatre, this garden could serve as a backdrop to a play – *A Midsummer Night's Dream* perhaps. It started off as a steep drop from a little house (originally destined to become an abattoir) fronted by a narrow veranda, with the view as the only mitigating factor; two dams below and plantations of gums and pines decorate the landscape.

The owner moved into the house and immediately the transformation began. The changes indulged her every fancy and instead of the house's bland frontage now gables joined with the baroque and Grecian curlicues to give it a startling importance; the veranda was extended to create two large sitting rooms divided by a stylish hallway with a mosaic mandala set within the terracotta tiled floor. Two patios flank the house – one for tea whilst enjoying the view, the other serves as an interesting luncheon or outdoor dining room on a beautiful evening. The interior now resembles a sultan's palace reflecting the owner's eclectic taste.

The garden has a dreamlike quality with plants jostling for attention. The first task was to terrace the slope and install a dual stairway either side of a baroque inspired fountain. The bold leaves of



Steps leading to the front of the house.



A statue creating a sense of harmony and elegance.



The enchanting summerhouse.



'My Granny' on the left and 'Aloha' in the opposite bed.

gunnera manicata add drama to the striking entrance. Roses hold pride of place along with other old-fashioned perennials. The Old Rose, *R. Roxburghii*, commonly known as the Chestnut Rose because of its prickly bud, and cerise pale pink colouring form a mass of colour. David Austin roses abound and perfume the air, 'Abraham Darby' loves this garden as do the deutzias, irises, dark purple heliotrope, agapanthus, buddleia and lilies that present themselves almost as a bouquet in shades of blue, maroon, purple and pink.

Follow the path to the right of the house to an extraordinary belvedere – a small summer house from which to view the dams and trees. It has its own indoor fountain supplying a round koi pond built into the floor. The interior is painted a Chinese yellow highlighting the exotic ornaments and furniture. It is indeed a wondrous place that leads on to yet another dining area.

A white garden has been created at the back of the house – a space that showcases roses 'Memoire' and 'Lichfield Angel' lining the steps up to an ornate gazebo and is a far cry from its original purpose as the washing line area. At the bottom of the steps a terrace provides a view of the orchard and the trees beyond.

The garden has mellowed with age but still, the overall picture is one of exuberance – of plants, trees – cherry trees – soft pink in the spring; acers bright red in the autumn – of statues and the collective perfume of contented flowers. The beautiful, the unusual and usual come together as an unforgettable flight of fancy, designed to inspire the senses.

Owner, Eileen Stewart has every reason to rejoice in the transformation from a desolate hillside.

This garden forms part of the Blackwoods Open Midlands Gardens circuit.





Jiang Entian Memorial within the Rose Park.



Mr Pu – 2008 - Gérald Meylan, (WFRS President 2006-2009) planting the newly named rose 'Madam Entian' in the company of the Secretary of the Chinese Rose Society.

Entian Rose Park, China

Sheenagh Harris (K&GRRS, MRS)
Photos Gérald Meylan and Sheenagh Harris

The Entian Chinese Rose Garden is a renowned Rose park located within the Taicang Modern Agriculture Park in Changzhou not far from Shanghai. This Rose Park within the Taicang Park was named for Jiang Entian who was also known as the Rose Lady, a prominent Chinese rosarian recognised for her significant contribution to the study and preservation of Chinese Rose ancestry.

Jiang Entian was born in 1908. Her work was linked to the cultivation of the Chinese Rose (*Rosa chinensis*), which is significant in Chinese culture for the symbolism of love, beauty and passion. She also contributed greatly to Rose Research in China and she developed new varieties, thus earning the name Rose Lady or Chinese Rose Lady. Apart from designing the rose garden in front of the Great Hall of the people, she helped build four large Rose gardens in Beijing and she traced the lineage of garden roses back to China, proving that 90% of the worldwide popular Hybrid Tea's originated in China. It was her enormous contribution to the rose world that prompted the Taicang municipal government to set up the Jiang Entian Memorial within the Rose Park.

Wu Laixi, a Chinese-Singaporean who studied at Cambridge University in the UK, established the first Chinese rose garden in Beijing in 1920. Some years later when he fell ill, Wu entrusted Jiang Entian, (whom he referred to as a female horticulturist and nicknamed her Lady Chinese Rose) with the responsibility of caring for the roses and left his collection of English gardening books to her.

In 2008 a beautiful red rose, 'Madam Entian', was named in her honour and planted by the then President of the WFRS, Gérald Meylan – a symbol of admiration for a great Rose Lady.



'Madam Entian' – a beautiful red rose named for the Chinese Rose Lady.



Engraved plaque depicting the 'Madam Entian' rose bred by Meilland in 2003 and named by the WFRS in 2008.

In 2011, the WFRS Immediate Past President, Gérald Meylan, Executive Director, Malcolm Watson, and his wife Ruth, and I were invited to China to evaluate the Zijing Rose Garden in Changzhou, China for the WFRS Award of Garden Excellence to be nominated in October 2012 in South Africa. We also visited the rose experimental station at Shenzhen, cared for by Wang Hui, where 6 rose breeders had provided 85 varieties (20 plants of each variety) for testing. While in China we were well entertained and among other places we were taken to was Laising to see the Entian Rose Garden by none other than Dean Chen, the son of the late Jiang Entian.



The WFRS group were driven everywhere – Dean Chen can be seen in the front beside the driver.



A portrait of Jiang Entian inside the museum.

Apart from large beds of roses, the Entian Rose Garden included the Memorial, a museum that was built to resemble her home, and in among the roses named in her honour is a beautiful sculpture of the lady who did so much to preserve roses in China.

The park has become a popular wedding venue and provides a wedding chapel and church, accommodation for the bridal party and the gardens are decorated with wedding ornaments such as hearts and rings entwined in each other.



The wedding Chapel and wedding rings entwined in the garden.

In 2014, the Entian Chinese Rose Garden in Taicang was honoured by the American Rose Society as one of the most famous Chinese rose gardens around the world. Jiang Entian died in Tianjin in 1975 aged 67.

(Conference delegates to the Regional Conference in China who choose to take part in the Shanghai post convention tour will have the opportunity to visit this interesting garden in Taicang.)



The museum designed to resemble Jiang's home and a sculpture of Jiang.



Sculpture of 2 people coming together in the shape of a heart for love.

WORLD ROSE NEWS

www.worldrose.org

WORLD FEDERATION OF ROSE SOCIETIES REPORT ON THE FEDERATION – 2025

VP for AFRICA REPORT – Vivienne Black

The 20th World Rose Convention was held in Fukuyama, Japan. More than four hundred and twenty people attended from twenty-nine countries. There were three delegates from South Africa, Vanessa and Melissa Davidson and me.

There have been three issues of World Rose News and two of BAON in the last year. Members should take a look at the excellent article and photos which were submitted by Marga Verwer on the International Rose Trials. Marga is retiring as Editor to become the Executive Director and our very own Shireen Deoraj will be the new Editor from January 2026.

The following are the new WFRS Officer appointments –

Executive Director:	Marga Verwer The Netherlands
Treasurer:	Claudia Hacker Germany
Editor *World Rose News*:	Shireen Deoraj South Africa
Federation Archivist:	Henrianne de Briey Belgium
Executive Advisor:	Derek Lawrence UK

Sushil Prakash, the WFRS President, attended the unveiling of the WFRS Award of Garden Excellence for the Mainau Island Rose Garden in Germany before coming to South Africa for the National Rose Convention held in the Midlands. During his visit he spent time in Cape Town, Johannesburg and KZN. Sushil gave 2 lectures at the Convention and after the AGM planted a 'Sheenagh Harris' rose in the beautiful garden at Hebron Haven.

WFRS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

17th Heritage Rose Conference,
Nanyang & Shanghai, China
25–29 April 2026

WFRS Regional Convention
San Diego, CA, USA,
April/May 2027

WFRS 21st World Rose Convention
Bhopal, India
7–14 January 2028

For results of the Rose Trials visit
www.worldrose.org

FROM THE EDITOR

Richard Grabowski (USA) and Martine LaBele (USA) who were appointed as Executive Director and Treasurer respectively in Japan resigned shortly thereafter, hence the changes in the WFRS Officers above.

In Japan at the Convention, nine gardens worldwide received the WFRS Award of Garden Excellence and three authors received Literary Awards. Diane vom Berg, the outgoing President, received the WFRS Gold Medal, outgoing Executive Director, Derek Lawrence and VP, Shi-wei Zhao, the Silver Medal, and World Rose Awards were presented to Ray Martin of England, Hayden Foulds of New Zealand, Jim Cane of Tasmania and Vivienne Black on behalf of Gail Birss of South Africa.

DEDICATION

Ian Spriggs passed away on 24th July 2025. Ian was a member of The Rose Society of Victoria Inc. Australia for 55 years. He was a noted rose breeder, exhibitor, consultant and rose judge. He also held an important position internationally as World Federation of Rose Societies Awards Committee Chair from 2006 to 2012 for which he received the World Rose Award Bronze Medal in Lyon in 2015. Ian and his wife Sadie attended the WRC in South Africa in 2012. Ian received the WFRS Silver Medal in 2015.

Lois Tabb passed away in September 2025 at the age of 94. At the time of her passing, she was the Patron of the New Zealand Rose Society having played a significant part in rose affairs in NZ and internationally. She was VP for Australasia from 1991 to 2000 and then after convening, at very short notice, the outstanding World Rose Convention in Christchurch, New Zealand in 1994, she became Convention liaison Chairman from 2000 to 2009. A record number of more than 1 100 delegates attended this WRC. In 2000 Lois received the WFRS Rose Pin for Service to the WFRS.





Debbie Johnson, Kim van Niekerk, Wendy Kroon and Michele Basson at the Garden Club meeting in Debbie's garden.



Maeve Heneke in the SA Rosarium Garden in Bedford



John West, Kim van Niekerk and Michael Marriott

Global Connections for Historic Roses of South Africa

Kim van Niekerk (HRSSA)

In November 2024 I had a phone call from a lady I had never met who introduced herself as Maeve Heneke, the current secretary of the Historical Rose Group (HRG) based in London, UK. She described herself as a passionate Old Rose person who thought she had heard of all Rosariums, or old rose sanctuary gardens that existed.

She was in Cape Town at the time doing her dissertation on the Castle garden at the Cape of Good Hope. She came across an article about the South African Rosarium in Bedford and told me she urgently needed to visit it. Well, 2 days later she and a friend drove from Cape Town, via St Francis Bay to meet David Comyn, chairman of The South African Heritage Rose Trust, in our village of Bedford.

What a delightful time we had getting to know each other which felt like we were long lost friends reunited. Maeve's visit coincided with the Bedford Garden Club meeting in Debbie Johnson's garden which sports a host of old roses grown in very harsh conditions. Maeve was entranced by this, by the people she met and by the Rosarium garden itself. It was a treat to share time with such an enthusiastic rosarian.

We parted company feeling sure we would meet again. This was to happen sooner than I imagined. Maeve called me in December 2024 saying that she had made a few commitments on our behalf which she hoped we agreed with. She is that sort of person who really gets things moving fast. She offered membership of the HRG to the South African Rosarium, which we gratefully accepted, as it benefits the networking of information and exposure for the collection. She then continued to offer a virtual presence at the HRG AGM in September 2025, saying that they would value a presentation on the motivation behind the development of the SA Rosarium, some information about the collection and the aims for the garden. The end result was that as I was going to be in the UK in September for my granddaughter's 10th birthday only 3 days after the AGM meeting, so I replied I may be able to come in person. David Comyn was not able to attend live but he could do a virtual drop in. And so the plans began.

The HRG represents all countries and not just the UK. Michael Marriot is the current Chairman. There were representatives from numerous countries. I was very privileged to be hosted by the group and on arrival was shown to my room, after which we gathered for cocktails and a meet and greet downstairs. They have their dinner the night before the AGM and there was a very interesting speaker, Henry Robinson. He and his wife, Susie have the national collection of ramblers for the UK on their farm Moorwood. They had spent a few years in Africa with their children many years ago so we had much to talk about.

Part of Henry's talk covered the difficulty in keeping collections going through succession, especially when another generation takes over the land and doesn't have the same passion. Beside his wonderful pictures of his collection, it was interesting to note that in the UK the Historic Rose collection is shared out to interested private persons who offer to house the plants on their land. This has both advantages and disadvantages which were discussed in depth at the dinner and after the talk.

The attendees were very interested to hear how the SA Rosarium worked with the land and found our structure interesting too. It was suggested that we duplicate our collection in smaller sub species to interested private persons for safeguard as well. This is being investigated.

The dinner was delightful and having to talk just about roses, Old Roses, propagation techniques, timing, pruning, and all things rosy was just a treat. It was a time to connect and develop new friendships and share ideas. It is also refreshing to realise that our rose collections in South Africa are not unique in their challenges, and we certainly can hold our heads high with the expertise in this country. All our astute rosarians are well known, have met many of these people directly and are revered for their generous hospitality and sharing knowledge.

The next day was the AGM in the same hotel. It was formal yet practical. David and I did a joint presentation which we had curated ahead via a videoed interview virtually between Maeve and David and then the PowerPoint live presentation after which David, on a live stream could add his comments. Our contribution was well received and in such a friendly and helpful manner. The group are very keen to arrange a visit to South Africa which is currently being explored. The idea would be to experience spaces with Historic Rose interest, visit the Rosarium and also to explore the big 5 or 7 in our wonderful parks. It did make me realise what a wealth of environments, landscapes, towns, cities and people we have here in South Africa. I left with many new connections and very proud to be from South Africa, our beautiful land. Isn't it amazing how the beloved ROSE can be the initiator of so many special trips, conventions, garden visits and ultimately bring like-minded people together from all over the globe.



Kim van Niekerk, Jimmie Horrigan, Henry and Susie Robinson in York.

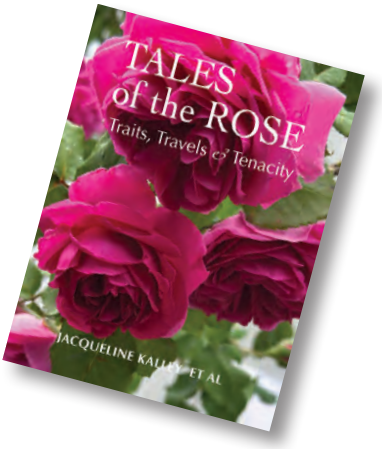
My recommendation is to say YES whenever one gets a chance to be part of the greater whole of the OLD ROSE – she has many experiences to collate for all of us. Just as David Comyn has accepted the Chinese invitation to speak at the 17th International Heritage Rose Conference in April to be held in Nanyang and Shanghai. He will speak about The South African Heritage Rose Trust's contribution to the conservation of Old Roses.

FORTHCOMING

TALES OF THE ROSE:
Traits, Travels and Tenacity

Jacqueline Kalley *et al*
Foreword by Sheenagh Harris

ISBN: 978-1-7764473-6-7



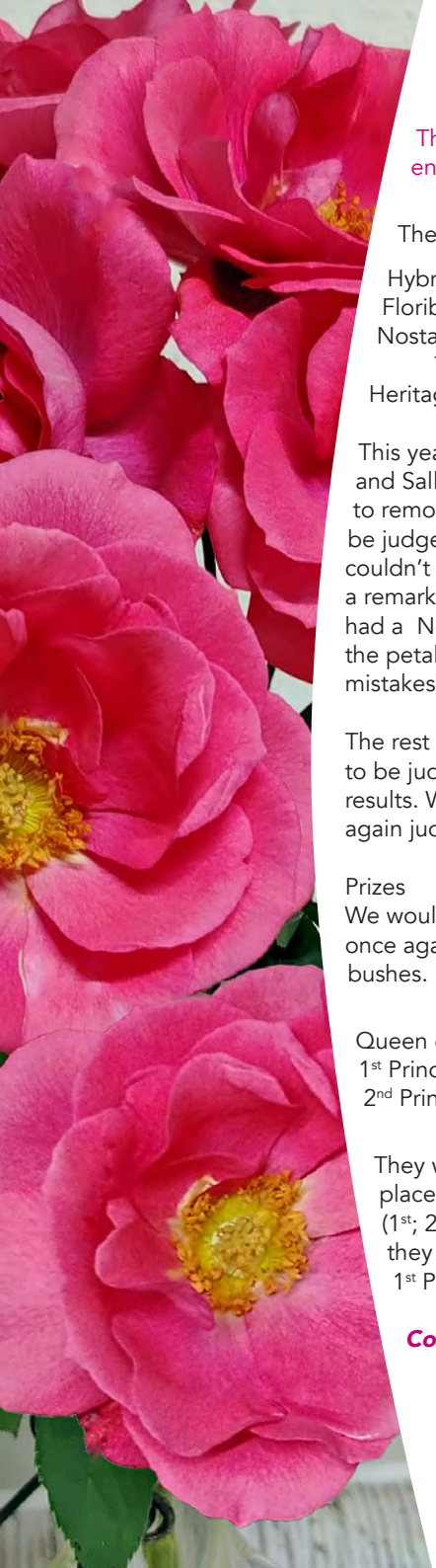
From the wild roses of antiquity to the garden favourites of today, this book traces the long and intricate journey of the rose through history. Roses have travelled vast distances, crossed cultures, and been shaped by wars, trade and human curiosity. Their story is one of beauty entwined with human intervention.

Drawing on the insights of leading experts, *Tales of the Rose* explores how simple wild species gave rise to a remarkable diversity of forms, colours, and scents. It reveals the pivotal role of dedicated hybridisers and the unforeseen consequences of their experiments, which continue to influence rose breeding today.

Blending botanical insight with cultural history, *Tales of the Rose* explores how roses were discovered, named and cultivated, revealing the people, places and passions behind them. It is a celebration of the rose and it offers a thoughtful exploration of one of the world's most enduring and evocative flowers.

A number of experts in the field have been called upon and they have willingly contributed material, giving this work a depth that would have been impossible to achieve without their input: Peter Knox-Shaw, Viru and Girija Viraraghavan, Di Durston, Martyn Rix, Robert Mattock, Behcet Ciragan, Michael Marriott, Darrell Schramm, Jeff Wycoff and Peter Boyd. Each has added distinctive knowledge to this work in the most fascinating, engaging and erudite way.

Enquiries: info@otterley.com



Thank you to all ROSA members for entering photographs of their roses.

There were 4 classes:

Hybrid Tea
Floribunda/Clusters in a vase
Nostalgia (David Austin, Antico Moderno, Fairy Tale and others)
Heritage Roses

This year, all entries were sent to Gill Wilson and Sally Morning (Accredited ROSA Judges) to remove the roses that did not qualify to be judged. Each of the people whose roses couldn't be judged were sent a message with a remark in order to help them for next year. (I had a Nostalgia rose disqualified as some of the petals were not shown. We all learn by our mistakes).

The rest of the photographs were sent to Ludwig to be judged, and within days, we were sent the results. We thank Ludwig and Halmar for once again judging the Photographic Rose Show.

Prizes
We would also like to thank Ludwig's Roses who once again kindly agreed to give the winners rose bushes.

Queen of the Show: 10 Rose bushes
1st Princess: 5 Rose bushes
2nd Princess: 3 rose bushes

They will also give 1 rose bush to each of the place winners.
(1st; 2nd & 3rd) in each of the 4 classes, provided they have not won Queen of the Show, 1st Princess or 2nd Princess with that rose.

Congratulations to all the winners!

Gail Birss

Photographic Rose Show Competition 2025

~ QUEEN ~



'Sophies Rochas'
Susan Van Zuilekom (MRS & HRSSA)

~ 1ST PRINCESS ~



'Ace of Hearts'
Alta Nel (WCRS)

~ 2nd PRINCESS ~



'Amber Panarosa'
Susan Van Zuilekom (MRS & HRSSA)

Hybrid Tea • Class Winners

1



'Ace of Hearts'
Alta Nel (WCRS)

2



'Brigadoon'
Alta Nel (WCRS)

3



'Warm Wishes'
Kate Wallace (MRS)



'Creme Caramel'
Heather Batchelor (MRS)



'Duftwolke'
Heather Batchelor (MRS)



'Elina'
Susan Van Zuilekom
(MRS & HRSSA)



'My Darling'
Heather Batchelor (MRS)



'Pandora'
Bridget Fitchon (MRS)



'Peace'
Joy Taylor (K&GRRS)



'Rahle's Rose'
Teresa McCormack (WCRS)



'St John's College' (1)
Alta Nel (WCRS)



'St John's College' (2)
Alta Nel (WCRS)



'Tournament of Roses'
Sheenagh Harris (K&GRRS)



'Vroufederasie Roos'
Susan Van Zuilekom
(MRS & HRSSA)

The HYBRID TEA Rose: One bloom on a stem with no side shoots or buds. The photo needs to be taken from an angle to show the classic high centre.

Cluster • Class Winners

1



'Ashley Callie'
Susan Van Zuilekom (MRS&HRSSA)

2



'Fishpond pebbles'
Alta Nel (WCRS)

3



'Forever Delight'
Kate Wallace (MRS)



'Blooms for Joy'
Joy Webb (WCRS)



'South Africa'
Joy Webb (WCRS)

FLORIBUNDA (CLUSTER): rose must be photographed in a glass so that the judge can see that it is only 1 stem. There must be a minimum of 3 open blooms

A bit of fragrance always clings to the hand that gives you roses

Chinese Proverb

Nostalgia • Class Winners

1



'Sophies Rochas'
Susan van Zuilekom (MRS & HRSSA)

2



'Amber Panarosa'
Susan van Zuilekom (MRS &HRSSA)

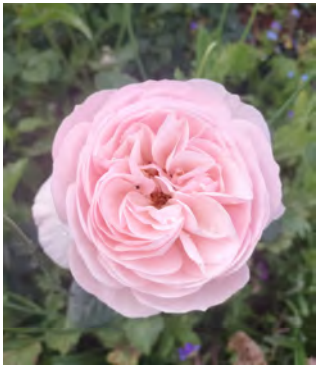
3



'Marzipan'
James Barry Slabbert (MRS)



'Boscobel'
Gail Birss (MRS)



'Constance Spry'
Joy Webb (WCRS)



'Manuel Crabbia'
Gail Birss (MRS)



'Natalie Douglas'
Shireen Deoraj (MRS)



'Roy McAllister'
Kate Wallace(MRS)



'The Huntington Rose'
Shireen Deoraj (MRS)



'Tuis'
Heather Batchelor (MRS)

NOSTALGIA: All David Austin (except single petalled) roses, Antico Moderno, Fairy Tale and roses with the following shapes: deep cup, shallow cup; rosette; quartered rosette and pompom.

.

Heritage Rose • Class Winners

1



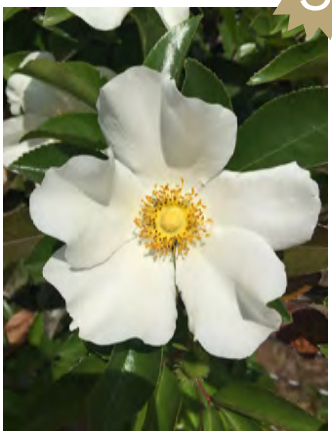
'Mme Isaac Pereire'
Shireen Deoraj (MRS)

2



'Buff Beauty'
Carolyn Kewley (MRS)

3



Rosa laevigata
Gail Birss (MRS)



'Cecile Brunner'
Carolyn Kewley (MRS)



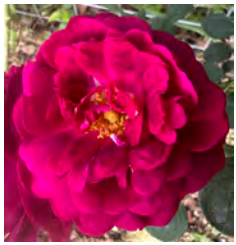
'Compte de Chambord' (1)
Shireen Deoraj (MRS)



'Compte de Chambord' (2)
Shireen Deoraj (MRS)



'Dainty Bess'
Carolyn Kewley (MRS)



'Gypsy Boy'
Carolyn Kewley (MRS)



'Penelope'
Carolyn Kewley (MRS)



Rosa roxburgii
(Chestnut rose)
Gail Birss (MRS)



Rosa rugosa (1)
Sheenagh Harris
(K&GRRS & MRS)



Rosa rugosa (2)
Sheenagh Harris
(K&GRRS & MRS)

HERITAGE. Roses bred before 1945. Must be a single stem.

Creative Photographic Rose Competition 2025



BOUQUET
Susan van Zuilekom (MRS & HRSSA)

This year, an independent judge, who has judged many photographic competitions over the years was asked to judge this competiton

Unfortunately, not many entries were received, so please look at these 3 winning creative photographs to help you with next year's competition.

Ludwig's Roses has agreed to give the winner of this competition a voucher which she can use at Ludwig's Roses.



EMBRACED
Susan van Zuilekom (MRS & HRSSA)



HEARTFELT
Susan van Zuilekom (MRS & HRSSA)

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Ludwig's Roses



Ludwig's Favourite