

World Rose News

The Newsletter of the
WORLD FEDERATION OF ROSE SOCIETIES

March 2021 / Volume 32 / Number 1



'Solar Flare'
JPMattia Cover

EDITOR'S MESSAGE

Spring is finally here with new hopes for a better year. My photograph for this issue is 'New Dawn', which I hope is a harbinger of good things to come.

Our cover rose for this issue by John Mattia is 'Solar Flare', (Miniflora, Benardella 2004) [BENbaas]. From *Modern Roses*: Miniflora, Patio. Butter-yellow, red edges. Mild fragrance. Double (17-25 petals), exhibition, high-centered bloom form. Blooms in flushes throughout the season. USDA zone 5b through 10b. Height of 2' to 3' (60 to 90 cm). Frank A. Benardella.

John's photograph of 'Neil Diamond' on the cover of the December 2020 edition, won the Gold Medal (top award) for the American Rose Society National Photography Contest. Congratulations John!

In our first edition for 2021, we are featuring more "Secret Gardens" from all over the world, reports from WFRS Vice Presidents, updates on rose trials, and an update on the World Rose Convention 2022 on naming a rose (please note the new date for entries).

Enjoy!

Steve Jones, Fiddletown, CA, United States



'New Dawn' (LCI, 1930), 1st US Plant Patent

Note: All photos and articles, unless otherwise noted, are by the Editor

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Do you receive our sister publication
by any other name?

This publication is from the WFRS Conservation & Heritage Rose Committee and covers species, old garden, and historical roses and the efforts to collect and save them.

Copies can be downloaded from the WFRS website:

www.worldrose.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



2018-2022

March 2021



Photo: Henrienne de Briey

Henrienne de Briey
WFRS President

Dear Rose Friends:

Despite the pandemic situation we need to keep a strong resolve and wait for mass vaccination throughout the world to gradually get back to some sort of the “new normal”.

Fortunately, we have our roses and they definitively embellish our daily life.

I wish with all my heart that despite the restrictions, the main International Rose Trials will occur in 2021 as they are an anchor for our breeders and a fantastic occasion to meet each other around the rose beds.

Our National Rose Societies remain very active despite confinements and lockdowns.

I would like to congratulate the Rose Society UK for their new website and thank Derek Lawrence for a beautiful page describing WFRS activities.

I had the honor to be invited recently by the South Korean Rose Society for a video conference and I was pleasantly surprised by the enthusiasm of their members.

The South Australia meetings are underway to offer us a great WRC in 2022. Updates are in this edition of WRN.

I warmly recommend a wonderful new book, *Luxemburg - Land of Roses* written by landscape designer Heidi Howcroft and marvelously illustrated by Marianne Majerus. Many cultivars created by Luxembourg breeders are highlighted in the book.

It is undeniable that we are witnessing a never as before craze for gardens and flowers with many nurseries selling out their stock.

The human talent and their creativity combined with what nature can offer us will allow us moments of pleasure in the middle of the grayness in which we find ourselves facing the pandemic.

I have a special thought for all our breeders and the joy they give us when they introduce us to their new novelties.

I wish all of you the best in the coming season wherever you are in the world taking care of your roses.

Enjoy this edition of WRN and stay safe.

With all my kind regards,

Henrienne

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



Derek Lawrence

New scientific research has found that exposure to plants positively contributes to improved health and wellbeing. Gardening and connecting people with nature has never been more essential than during these unprecedented times. A study conducted by the UK's Royal Horticultural Society suggests that having just a few plants in a garden, can significantly reduce stress levels. Medical experts measured concentrations of cortisol (a hormone that regulates human response to stressful situations) with volunteers. Prior to the experiment, 24% had healthy cortisol patterns and this vastly improved to 53%, after the participants were introduced to the benefits of growing plants, over a three-month period of time. It simply confirmed that even a tiny patch of nature has measurable beneficial effects for our welfare. Personally, during lockdown, I've found my garden to be a comforting refuge. It has unpinned how therapeutic growing roses are.

From the moment we undertake our annual pruning regime in springtime, the roses develop new shoots in the increasing daylight. My childlike fascination for plant-life is reignited as the bushes surge into new growth from the warmth of the rising sun. As summer dawns, our efforts are reaped by an abundance of majestic blooms that emit heavenly fragrances. We rosarians have been truly blessed by our sheer appreciation of the 'Queen of All Flowers'.

Never before has this positivity and wisdom been so fundamental as the world remains in the grips of the COVID-19 pandemic. We must share our love for roses and passion for gardening with others whom have not yet discovered the sheer pleasures that plants can give. We should encourage them to grow plants, particularly roses. The subsequent greening of our remarkable planet would make it a happier and healthier place long after the affects of the coronavirus have vanished.



Rosemoor Garden, Devon, England

ROSE NEWS

From Derek Lawrence, Executive Director

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The World Federation of Rose Societies welcomes contributions from its Members and friends.

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We thank you for your understanding and continued support of our organisation.

Happy 50th Anniversary!

We are pleased to see that Ludwig's Roses of South Africa is celebrating their 50th anniversary this year. Congratulations for your many long years of service to the community and roses around the world.



Photo from Ludwig's Roses *Talking Roses*

Jean Pierre Hounie

By Inés Díaz de Licandro (in part)

Jean Pierre Hounie was a prominent member of the Uruguayan Rose Society and the World Federation of Rose Societies, in relevant institutional hierarchical roles. His kindness, generosity in serving and technical rigor generated in all of us who knew him a deep sense of respect. But beyond that, he was a person very dear to all of us.

The rose was his passion, and his estate, "La Sorpresa", his paradise. The farm was founded by Juan Hounie and has a beautiful old house. His grandmother Juana Bidegain de Hounie, gave it its current appearance, in the late 1910's in the Art Nouveau style. With blueprints brought from Paris in 1917 a rose garden was then designed in front of the main house. Juana, who

loved all kinds of plants, also had a vegetable garden, which provided fruit and vegetables to the estate. In the 1940's, Jean Pierre's father, Roberto Hounie, planted tipuanas and trees in the driveway to protect the house from the strong summer heat. Then in the 1950's, Jean Pierre's parents introduced cypress and pear trees to the park. It is in this place where later, Jean Pierre would introduce more than 120 rose bushes of more than 100 different varieties, a reference collection in the country and worldwide.

Jean Pierre always showed us with delight his gigantic 'Souvenir de Madame Léonie Viennot', which his grandmother Juana had planted separating the garden from the orchard and which in the months of September and October presented its marvelous and profuse flowering.

Just as his collection was able to receive the contribution of many Uruguayan rose-lovers, Jean Pierre was lavish in providing botanical material to study varieties, as well as to be reproduced. A clear example of this is the rose 'Follette', which currently adorns several gardens in Uruguay and Argentina and in particular the Rose Garden in the city of Mercedes, where one of the streets bears the name of Jean Pierre Hounie.

It is not easy to put into words the memory of a person, less in the case of Jean Pierre Hounie whom we have to thank so much. We do have the certainty that he leaves a very deep void. We are going to miss him.

Editor: Former WFRS Vice President Jean Pierre Hounie of Uruguay passed away in December 2020 from Covid. Our hearts go out to his family and friends. He served three terms as WFRS Vice President from 1997 to 2006.



Above: Jean Pierre Hounie in his garden with 'Altissimo', photo courtesy of Inés Díaz de Licandro

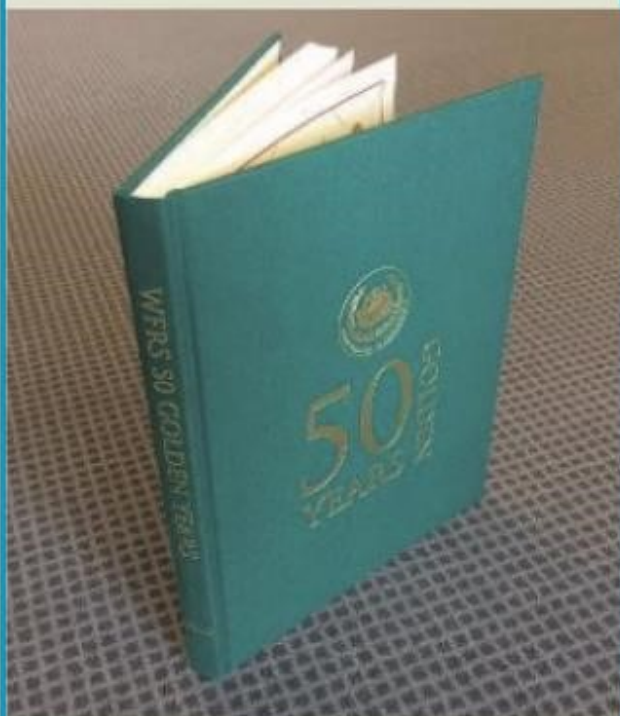


Pergola named in Jean's honour, Mercedes, Uruguay, photo courtesy of Rosario Algorta de Carrau

WFRS Publications for Sale

WFRS 50 GOLDEN YEARS

Editor: Jolene Adams



Sumptuous hardback volume fully illustrated in color commemorates the Golden Jubilee of the WFRS celebrated in Copenhagen July 2018.

The 180 pages describes the Federation's fascinating history from its founding in London on 4th July 1968 to the present. The book explores the triumphs and achievements of an organization whose charitable aim is to promote the sheer beauty and allurements of the rose around the world. The book chronicles past Conventions, International Trials, Gardens of Excellence, and much more. A must for any rose enthusiast.

COSTS:

£20.00 (twenty pounds sterling) plus, postage and packing charges: UK £4.00; Europe £15.00 (By Air); Rest of World £22.00 (By Air).

We are unable to process payments by credit or bankers' cards.

CONTACTS:

info@worldrose.org
or
dereklawrence@talktalk.net

INTERNATIONAL PRINCIPLES OF EXHIBITING & JUDGING ROSES

Editor: Luis T. Desamero



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CONTACT:

BeverlyHillsRose@aol.com

2021 INTERNATIONAL ROSE TRIALS

By Marga Vermer, Chairman of the WFRS International Rose Trials

Editor: These are the current dates for the 2021 International Rose Trials. Due to Covid, these dates may change, be cancelled, judged by invite only, or have the permanent judges do the awarding.

TRIAL	COUNTRY	YEAR 2021
Monaco	Princ.of Monaco	4/30/2021
Barcelona	Spain	5/7/2021
Rome	Italy	5/15/2021
Madrid	Spain	Cancelled
Nantes	France	5/28/2021
Bologna	Italy	5/29/2021
Tokyo	Japan	May/October
Lyon	France	6/4/2021
Hradec Kralove	Czech Republic	6/12/2021
Nyon	Switzerland	6/12/2021
Baden-Baden	Germany	6/15/2021
Saverne	France	6/16/2021
Paris	France	6/17/2021
Kortrijk	Belgium	6/25/2021
Nagaoka City	Japan	May/October
Den Haag	Netherlands	7/3/2021
Hertfordshire	Great Britain	7/16/2021
Belfast	Northern Ireland	7/23/2021
Glasgow	Great Britain	Cancelled
Le Roeulx	Belgium	9/3/2021
Orleans	France	9/10/2021
Warsaw	Poland	9/18/2021
Rose Hills	USA	Pending
Adelaide	Australia	October
Gifu	Japan	May/October
Hamilton	New Zealand	11/11-14, 2021
Palmerston North	New Zealand	11/28/2021

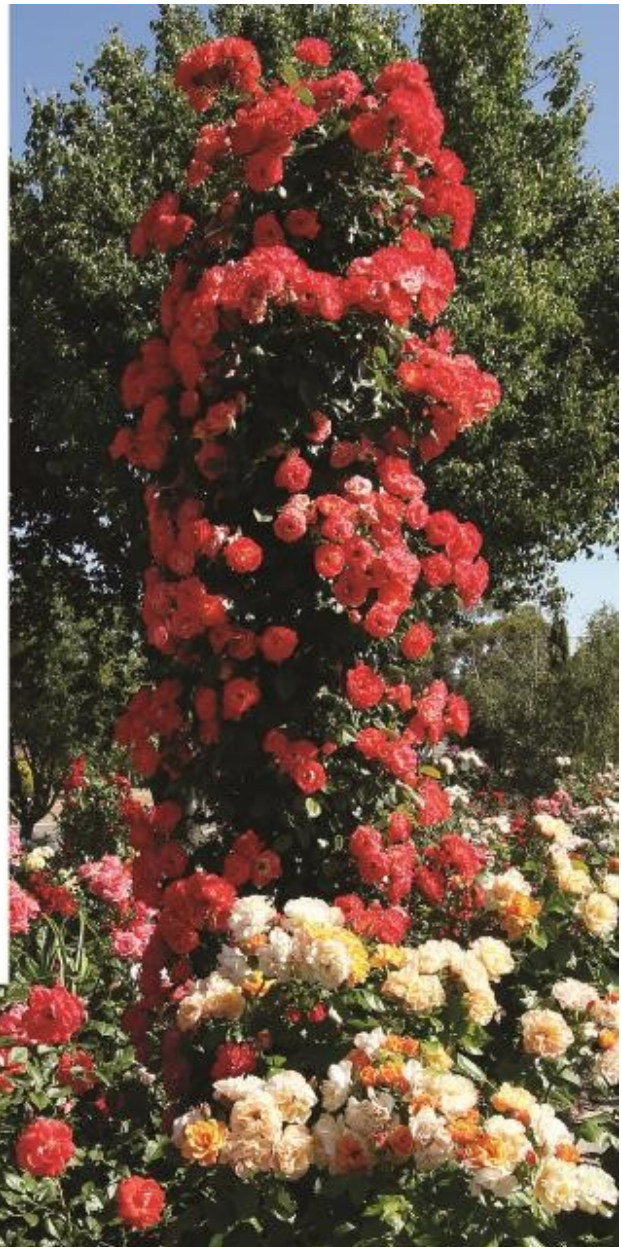
2022

World Rose Convention

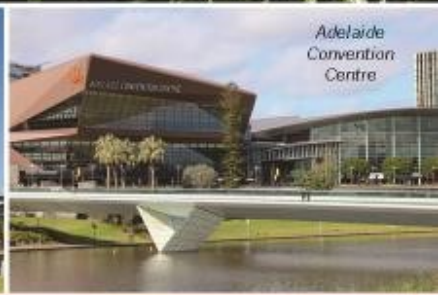
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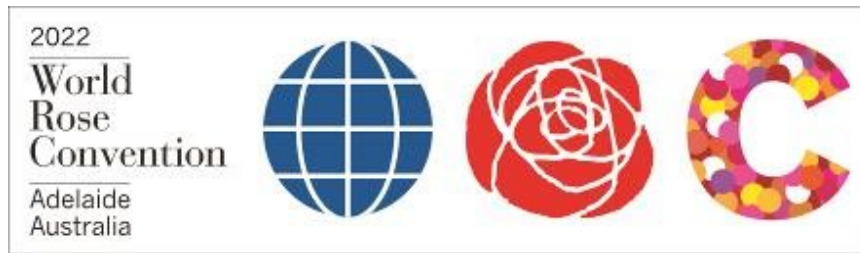


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2022 WFRS WORLD ROSE CONVENTION - ADELAIDE, AUSTRALIA



THE 2022 WFRS WORLD ROSE CONVENTION 'NAME THE ROSE' COMPETITION (NEW CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES)

Have you ever wanted to name a rose? Rosarians around the world are invited to invent a suitable name for the Australian bred rose selected as the official Convention rose to be promoted at the 19th WFRS World Rose Convention in Adelaide. The 2022 Convention is named 'Celebration '22' and will be a massive celebration of all things roses!

From 27 October to 3 November, 2022, the National Rose Society of Australia (NRSA) and the State of South Australia with the support of its five State Rose Societies, will welcome rose enthusiasts from around the world and across Australia to participate in the World Federation of Rose Societies' World Rose Convention. This special occasion is held every three years and has only been hosted in Australia on one previous occasion in 1988.

The NRSA and the 2022 World Rose Convention Organising Committee commissioned a search for an as yet unreleased Australian bred rose to be named and promoted as the official Convention rose. Australian rose breeders were invited to enter their roses for judging in the trials conducted by the National Rose Trial Garden of Australia to be in the running.

A beautiful Floribunda rose (codenamed '*Brunmarj 4092*'), bred by Bruce Brundrett was chosen as the Convention Rose.

This impressive rose produces clusters of medium-sized, delicate pale pink flowers. It has a very circular form with many symmetrical rows of small petals and a slight fragrance. The bush grows to 1m and has attractive, healthy foliage and good disease tolerance and repeat flowering.

Looking for the perfect name – Name the Rose Competition

The competition is open to all Rose Society members worldwide. Potentially the rose name chosen may capture the sense of occasion and the coming together of rose experts, amateurs and friends or perhaps it will be named for the characteristics of the rose or for someone special, the possibilities are endless.

For the person who comes up with the winning name, he or she will receive a free rose and help preside over the launch of the rose during the Convention.

To Enter the Competition:

- Entrants are invited to submit up to three names each.
- Entries close on 31 October, 2021.
- Gavin Woods will act as Competition Convenor; all entries to be emailed to gbwoods@adam.com.au.
- The winning entrant will be advised early in 2022.

Conditions of entry will include a release to allow free and unfettered use of the name selected. The successful entrant will be required to maintain secrecy of their success and the name until officially announced.



Photos: Gavin Woods

Gavin Woods
2022 World Rose Convention Committee
Vice-President, National Rose Society of Australia Inc.

For further information contact Gavin Woods, Email gbwoods@adam.com.au



HIP, HIP, HOORAY!

All photos of rose hips in the Editor's garden.



Left: 'Aptos', Right: 'Ballerina'



Left: 'Night Owl', Right: *Rosa stylosa*



Left: 'Maria Liesa', Right: 'The Charlatan'



Right: *Rosa multiflora inermis*, Right: 'Francis E Lester'



Right: 'Robinette', Left: 'La Fraicheur'



Left: 'The Garland' with Caroline Jessamine, Right: *Rosa eglantheria*

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORTS

By Vivienne Black, VP - Africa

Despite Covid the roses continue to blossom and bloom in the South African gardens. Covid has changed our lives, in some ways beyond even the immediate impact. It has changed the way that rosarians can gather together and socialise in meetings and rose shows and only time will tell how this will effect rose societies down the track. However there has been huge positives coming out of last year. We are glad that roses have been there to replace many of the other things lost. Roses have thrived and the nurserymen tell us they have had a bumper year, struggling to keep up with the demand. Gardening and roses have been amongst the winners.



Above: Rose garden in Johannesburg designed by Shirley Wellington



Above: More Rose Gardens in Johannesburg designed by Shirley Wellington



This beautiful rose was named after Gloria Mthunzi my housekeeper (on left). It is dedicated to Gloria and all housekeepers for their loyalty, hard work and dedication to our families and homes.

Ludwig Taschner is the breeder of this magnificent rose. It is a tall hybrid tea rose with long beautiful stems and huge buds.

A fairly new rose garden is the Midlands Heritage Rose Garden in Natal, South Africa. From Gail Birss: We started the garden in July 2017 and it was opened in September 2017 by WFRS Vice President Paul Hains. Most of the roses were donated by Ludwig, Tarr Roses, Rustenberg Wine Farm and then from members; cuttings taken from old farms in the Midlands, Cape. Run by Volunteers the first opening to the public was in November 2018 then 2019 but not last year due to the pandemic. It is a popular spot for functions in the community.

(All photos courtesy of the author.)



Left: Entrance to Midlands Heritage Rose Garden, Right: Gazebo

Below: Photos of the author's garden. The roses on the arbor on left are the darker coloured 'Towering Rose Magic' and the lighter 'Perfume Breeze'



VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORTS

Report from Rosario Algorta de Carrau, Vice President – South America

As Vice President for South America, I kept in contact with the members of the three countries when the pandemic arrived during March 2020 and everybody was asked to stay at home.

In Uruguay, we did not have a lockdown, but it was not possible to meet so we moved to virtual life! We had Zoom video conferences and shared “Stories of My Favorite Rose”. A special recognition to our very dear Past Vice President Jean Pierre Hounie, great promoter and unconditional collaborator in all these activities, who unfortunately passed away, a victim of Covid in December.



Gardening in Uruguay during the pandemic

We prepared a Virtual Show and members sent us photos that far exceeded our expectations, that were judged by several panels. And when Spring arrived, we did the Garden Contest for the first time with gardens from all over the country: really a delight!



Uruguay Virtual Rose Show, Left: 'Compassion', Right: 'Odessa'

Rosacultura Argentina, in spite of the lockdown, kept in touch with all their members (even with us from Uruguay) by way of online courses, that were greatly enjoyed and replaced their Spring Show, creating a photo contest where roses were stars, they had different categories, such as roses in landscapes, arches, windows, secret places and by themselves. Here are some of the winners...



PRIMER PREMIO - ROSAS EN CANTERO
Norma Pariente
 Rosa Les Amoureux de Peynet
 Lugar: Ingeniero Maschwitz



2DO PREMIO
Nelba Noemi Cardenez
 Rosas: Dorey Russell, Evelyn, Crown Princess Margareta,
 William Morris, más atrás The Pilgrim
 Lugar: Mar del Plata



PRIMER PREMIO - PÉRGOLAS
Florencia Zorraquín
 Rosas: New Dawn, Cesar, Pierre de Ronsard,
 Sombreuil, Viking Queen

Above: Rosacultura Argentina Virtual Rose Winners

In Coyhaique, Chile, the members of Agrupación de la Rosa, also were in contact virtually. In June, wearing masks, members planted new roses in wooden barrels at the hall of the Regional Museum of Aysén, using masks. In September, at the same place, although it was closed to the public, they pruned the roses respecting the sanitary protocols, without any inconveniences.

During July, some members of the Chilean Rose Society pruned the roses of the Rose Garden of Parque Araucano in Santiago de Chile. They planted 740 new rose bushes and since 2020, a new iron fence protects them from thieves.

Sad news from The Chilean Rose Society. Their first President and founder, Mrs Nora Fuenzalida de Pies, passed away suddenly on the 4th of March 2021. Although she was over 90 years old, she was greatly enthusiastic and still worked hard until the last moment with projects in the rose garden of the Parque Araucano. Members of the Garden Club and friends covered the coffin with roses.

Hope you are all well and safe!



(All
 of the author.)

Above: Chilean Rose Garden during pandemic

photos
 courtesy

WFRS 'SECRET GARDENS'

HATTON GRANGE

By Michael Marriott, England

Hatton Grange is a large country house set deep in the Shropshire countryside. It was built in 1764 for Plowden Slaney and is still owned by the same family today. Access is down a long driveway through the 1000-acre estate and surrounding the house is a very beautiful garden covering several acres that includes woodland, pools, a large walled garden and many roses.

I first became involved with helping develop the garden about 10 years ago when the owner asked me to choose roses for the outside of the South East facing wall of the walled garden. The 10ft high wall was built at the same time as the house and stands as firm and upright as the day it was built. I chose a mix of ramblers and climbers, the former to cover the wall quickly and the latter to provide flowers through the summer and into the autumn. I also love the mix of the ramblers' small flowers with the large flowers of the climbers. Some of the ramblers I chose, like 'Francis E Lester' and 'Rambling Rector', also set a wonderful crop of hips in the autumn and last well into the winter, that is until the birds feast on them. The climbers were all David Austin selections as they have the wonderful ability to flower more or less from the ground up. They included 'The Pilgrim', 'Mortimer Sackler', 'Strawberry Hill' and 'The Generous Gardener'. I did include a few repeat flowering ramblers as well – 'Malvern Hills', 'Ghislaine de Feligonde', 'Paul Neyron' and 'Alberic Barbier'. At the foot of ramblers and climbers I selected various perennials to give further interest, they included Geranium Rozanne, Verbena bonariensis, Aster Monch and Stachys byzantina planted in large repeated groups.



From Left to Right: 'Rambling Rector', 'Strawberry Hill', 'Paul's Himalyan Musk' and 'Belvedere'

More recently I was asked to draw up a planting scheme for the outside of the South West facing wall. The owners wanted a slightly different look with only about half the wall covered with climbers and then a mix of David Austin shrub roses and perennials in the 1m wide border below. For shrubs I chose the likes of 'Lady Emma Hamilton', 'Jubilee Celebration', 'Princess Alexandra of Kent', 'Desdemona' and 'Kew Gardens'. The latter rather surprisingly sent up a long 2.5m/8ft shoot which has been trained against the wall! It would make an excellent and very user-friendly climber as it has no thorns at all. The border has been a great success as long as the rabbits and pheasants are kept away.

On my latest visit I was asked to extend the border even further, the wall here though only being about 6ft/2m high. Previously it had 'Mme Alfred Carriere' growing up it which was far too vigorous and ended up as great long stems 6ft/2m plus long sticking way up above the wall. I have chosen 'Bathsheba' as a replacement as it is not too vigorous and the stems are quite pliable and so can be fanned out. It also has a really strong fragrance.

There is a large area of woodland, mostly big lime trees under which there is, in February and March, a magnificent carpet of the wild daffodils and in some areas a mix of these with blue and white crocus. Around the edge are an assortment of shrubs including Rhododendrons, Azaleas, Magnolias, Witch Hazels and three specimens of the rarely seen but well worth growing Halesia carolina – the Snowdrop tree. To these I have added various species roses including *R. forrestiana* and *R. sweginzowii*.



Left: Hatton Grange, Right: 'Mortimer Sackler' along the wall

The Blue Pool, so called because of its colour when the sky is blue, has a huge specimen of *Rosa filipes* 'Brenda Colvin' at one end. It is thought to be a seedling from 'Kiftsgate' and it certainly shares the same vigour. The flowers are a soft pink, semi double and emit the most wonderful fragrance which can be detected at some distance away.

At the other end of the pool is an arbour covered with 'Adélaïde d'Orléans' and 'Félicité Perpétue'. The former is one of my very favourite roses, the flowers are so beautiful and produced so abundantly it more than makes up for the lack of repeat flowering, a light to medium fragrance and no hips. In this climate it is evergreen, gets no disease and has very lax stems perfect for growing into trees and covering pergolas and (very) large arches.

To the left are various small trees and shrubs like Acer, Betula, Skimmia and Prunus, the ground underneath carpeted with Aconites in spring and later with a tall blue Campanula. Close by is a magnificent specimen of one of my very favourite trees Malus hupehensis. It is smothered with soft pink flowers in spring which are followed by small red fruit in the autumn.

The walled garden contains a wide range of fruit trees and, in three large circular beds, the rose 'Ballerina' in its bush form and as a standard/tree. They are complemented beautifully by the lavender next to them.

Being such a big house there is plenty of space for climbers on the walls although it does mean going quite high up a ladder! There is a very big and old Wisteria along with various roses including 'Rambling Rector', 'Phyllis Bide', 'The Generous Gardener' and 'A Shropshire Lad'. There are quite a few specimens of the latter as Hatton is in the county of Shropshire and the David Austin Nursery is only two or three miles down the road.

From the house and much of the garden one can look across the classic park land with mature oaks with either sheep or cattle grazing these being kept out by the invisible ha-ha.

There are many more roses in other parts of the garden, notably a large 'Buff Beauty' about 2m tall and across and looking very happy even though it is quite close to a large conifer. In an enclosed area close to the cricket pavilion there are about 20 large shrub roses, a mix of Gallicas, Damasks and Albas along with some Rugosas.

There is something of interest in the garden the year round but of course is at its best from mid-June to mid-July when the roses are in full flower. It is not open to the public but private tours can be arranged by emailing Christina Kenyon-Slaney cks@hatton-grange.com



Right: 'Ballerina' in the walled garden,



RECENT ROSE BREEDING IN NEW ZEALAND

By Hayden Foulds, New Zealand

There have been many fine New Zealand bred roses released onto the market over the last 15 years and by in large, have been well received by rose enthusiasts and the general gardening public as well. Roses in general have been maintaining their popularity and certainly good publicity in the media has helped with maintaining their profile. New Zealand bred varieties have also been winning many of the awards at both the rose trials held in New Zealand.

On the downside, we have had several long-time breeders pass away or hang up the pollen brush so that brings to an end their work creating roses. The rose industry has retrenched further with several nurseries closing down resulting in fewer avenues for roses to make it to market and less choice for customers. Changes in the retail industry has led to Big Box stores dominating the market place and they often stock few roses and in general, don't put much effort into keeping them looking good.

Tougher biosecurity and import regulations also mean it is harder and more expensive to bring new varieties in from overseas and while this could mean more New Zealand bred roses being sold, it deprives the breeders of new genetic material to work with. I am however optimistic that there will still be rose breeding done in New Zealand well into the future. It is still frustrating that many New Zealand bred roses don't make it onto the market overseas but then competition is tough, especially in Europe and import regulations also are an added barrier. But there have been some make it and that is encouraging.



Sam McGredy with a bloom of 'My Girl' (middle) and 'Hamilton Gardens' on left, 'Paddy Stephens' on right

Before I give you an update, I must acknowledge the passing in 2019 of Sam McGredy who was a great mentor and friend to many in New Zealand. Perhaps Sam's greatest legacy to New Zealand roses and New Zealand breeders is that he left the rose breeding scene in better shape than what is was when he arrived here in 1972. His successful lobbying for Plant Variety Rights (PVR) legislation in New Zealand also left a legacy for plant breeders of a range of horticultural and agricultural crops, not just roses. Sam did have one final rose to release – 'Hamilton Gardens' (Macpadspo) in 2008. A sport of 'Paddy Stephens', the blooms are a blend of cream, apricot and pink with all the attributes of its parent. It has been very popular all-around New Zealand.



Nola Simpson (middle) with 'Snow Queen' on left, 'Chocolate Ripples' on right

We must not forget either the late Nola Simpson who passed away in 2011. Nola did so much for roses in New Zealand and her breeding work was an inspiration to many. Among her last creations was 'Chocolate Ripples' (Simbrownie), a very novel brown and cream striped climber that has been introduced by Meilland. 'Something Different' (Simsodiff) lives up to its name and is hard to describe – a blend of mauve and fawn is perhaps the easiest while 'Mysterious' (Simpansy) is brown orange with cream edges to the petals. Another novel rose is 'Copperlights' (Simligh) with large copper toned blooms with stunning dark bronze new foliage. Nola also still loved selecting roses that would be good for exhibition. A fantastic new white is 'Snow Queen' (Simseen) a fantastic white with excellent form that has been well received by exhibitors in New Zealand while 'Baz' (Simbaz) has well-formed blooms of cream edged pink and 'Lady Ingrid' (Simgrid) is a mauve pink of excellent form. 'Jelly Tip' (Simelli) has large single blooms of cream edged red in clusters while 'Flash Gordon' (Simgord) is a hand painted cream and pink rose with large clusters of blooms.



John Ford (middle) with 'Caramel Swirl' on left, 'Southern Beauty' on right

Nola's nephew, John Ford, a well-known rosarian in his own right, is carrying on Nola's work and already has some promising roses to his name. 'Southern Beauty' (Forauty) is a tall growing apricot pink floribunda that won the Silver Star of the City of Palmerston North award in 2011. 'Miss Scarlet' (Forbright) is an attractive scarlet red climber and 'My Nan' (Fornan) is an attractive salmon pink Hybrid Tea. One rose that does catch attention is 'Caramel Swirl' (Forrusty) with its large blooms of an unusual mustard, tan and lavender bloom. So too does 'Simply Gorgeous' (Formaui) with its large lavender blooms with hints of tan. Some of John (and Nola's) roses have been introduced into the UK market by Style Roses.



Rob Somerfield with 'Christchurch Remembers' (middle) and 'Pride of Palmy' on left, 'Green with Envy' on right

Rob Somerfield has been the most successful breeder in the last 15 years in New Zealand and has built a reputation for compact growing plants with good health and plenty of flowers. He has had much success in rose trials with his varieties but is yet to really break into overseas markets, despite much interest in what he is producing.

It is hard to know where to start with Rob's roses and room does not permit to feature them all. I suggest you visit his website www.robsomerfieldroses.co.nz to check out all of his varieties.

In the Hybrid Teas, 'Picture Perfect' (Sompicper) and 'Diamond Design' (Somirevan) are two bicolours of excellent form while Rob also has a good line of yellows including 'Golden Gift' (Somoldglo) and the newer 'Nightlight' (Somserenteen) and 'Otago University' (Somduncel). Look out also for 'Pride of Palmy' which was released as part of the 50th anniversary celebrations of the New Zealand Rose Society trials in Palmerston North in November 2020. 'Crème de la Crème' (Somwarmcent) is an interesting coffee cream blend with a great perfume.

Rob has created many great floribundas since my last article. In the red shades, 'Christchurch Remembers' (Somcrimart) has largish blooms for a floribunda but makes a great display and is well named. 'Love Bug' (Somartlo) has cardinal red blooms on a tallish plant while 'Wild Cherry' (Somsyred) has cherry red blooms in large clusters with glossy green foliage and has become popular with exhibitors. 'Fireball' (Somstrike) is a eye-catching orange with a lighter reverse while 'Tabasco' (Sombousel) is a stunning orange salmon. Rob loves apricot roses and his best to date is 'Strawberry Blonde' (Somnanmar) with its golden apricot scented blooms. In the yellow shades, 'St Mary's Rose' (Somcarlem) and 'City of Lights' (Somcarmas) have excellent bloom production. Rob has also been trying to create a green rose for many years, his 'Lemon N Lime' (Sombeethree) is well named but coming out in 2020 is 'Green with Envy' (Sompounamu) which created much interest when it was in the NZRS trials during the 2013 WFRS Regional Convention.

In the pinks, 'Eye Candy' (Somshabar) is a bloom machine with masses of pale pink blooms with a hint of a white reverse. 'Looking Good' (Somannmac) is a very strong growing two-toned pink rose with very healthy foliage. At the other end of the spectrum in terms of plant size is the aptly named 'Little Miss Perfect' (Somgle07) with full sized coral pink blooms in clusters but on a plant that only reaches about half a metre high. 'Feeling Better' (Somtopteen) is a pink and white bicolor with much promise while the lavender fawn 'Pacific Glory' (Somlinone) has become very popular in New Zealand and has also been introduced in Australia as 'So in Love'. 'Jack Frost' (Somiccart) is an exceptionally healthy white with it retaining foliage well into winter while 'White Romance' (Somgle01) is an outstanding white with good all round performance.

While Hybrid Teas and Floribundas remain Rob's main breeding efforts, he does have some introductions of other types of roses. There is a lack of new climbers coming through in New Zealand so 'Tropical Essence' (Somlucki) a new apricot with a strong scent is a welcome addition to the range. Rob has also introduced 'Climbing Blackberry Nip' (Somwallip) which is a sport of his 'Blackberry Nip' (Somnip). 'Everlasting Hope' (Somnatal) has quite large blooms for a shrub rose but the soft pink blooms have a good scent. 'Cupid' (Somcarflow) is a very healthy patio rose with masses of cherry red blooms smothering the plant. In fact, Rob's other patio roses, the pink and white handpainted 'Picotee' (Somcarpaint) and the fragrant purple and white 'Purple Pizzazz' (Somcarfume) have masses of bloom. 'Forshaw' (Somviolet) has become popular with rose exhibitors with its well-formed blooms of hot pink.



Bob Matthews (Middle) with 'Diamonds Forever' on left, 'Platinum' on right

Bob Matthews continues to also produce some excellent roses which are released by Matthews Nurseries in New Zealand. Run by Bob and his wife Cath, their daughter Samantha is taking on more of the day to day running of the business and also has a good eye for a rose. Bob's breeding is very much focused on breeding healthy varieties which will perform well in the garden. Some of Bob's rose have also reached overseas markets. Check out www.rosesnz.co.nz for more of Bob's roses.

In the Hybrid Teas, Bob has created some wonderful varieties. The soft yellow 'Diamonds Forever' (Mattdiafor) is one of his best ever and has a good scent for a yellow rose. 'Platinum' (Matmilano) is a very healthy pink with good form while 'Mammia Mia' (Matpavadj) has huge scented blooms of salmon pink. 'Imagine' (Mattanjla) is a very fragrant pink while 'Catherine' (Matlaslo) named for Bob's wife is a scented vibrant pink. The novel 'Cappuccino' (Matcup) has attracted attention in its first year of release with its coffee-coloured blooms.

'My Mum' (Mattmum) has been an outstanding apricot pink floribunda that Bob named for his mother and has inspired a collection of similar roses, the 'My Rose' collection of varieties which has recently been launched. Among the varieties are the scented yellow 'My Dad' (Mattmaf), the lilac pink 'My Grandma' (Mattlewanna) and the magenta pink coloured 'Berry Nice' (Mattjaz). Some novel floribundas from Bob are the cherry red and white 'Akaroa' (Mattanstill), the very novel 'Antique Affair' (Mattfair) with its blooms of lavender, fawn and cream – no two blooms are the same and 'Ziggy' (Mattcawob) with striped blooms of red, yellow and white in an eye-catching display. Other floribundas of note are 'Forget Me Not' (Mattget' with scented lilac blooms; 'In Loving Memory' (Mattlign), very healthy with bright red blooms; 'Kiss the Bride' (Mattliandup) with fragrant white blushed pink blooms and 'NZ Gardener' (Mattypmim) with old fashioned formed blooms of apricot pink.

Bob's breeding also runs to other types of roses. His climber 'Cupcake' (Mattcisa) is a free flowering pale pink with quartered blooms. It won a Silver Certificate at the Hague Trials in 2018. 'My Sister' (Mattmarie) was named for Bob's late sister is a free flowering red patio.



Mike Athy with 'Truly Amazing' (middle) and 'Caroline Bay' on left, 'Hi Ho Silver' on right

Mike Athy is perhaps better known overseas than in New Zealand, having success in various parts of the world. His website www.mikeathyroses.com shows off his creations. His rose 'Athyfaala', known in New Zealand as 'The Daisy Rose' won five awards at the Biltmore Rose Trials in 2013. The white shrub or climbing rose has exceptional health. Also released in recent times are the silvery lavender Hybrid Tea 'Hi Ho Silver' (Athysumo) – sold in the UK as 'Blue Diamond' and the deep purple floribunda 'Caroline Bay' (Athybay).



Doug Grant (middle) with 'Pavlova' on left, 'Candy Kisses' on right

Doug Grant also remains active in rose breeding with 'Candy Kisses' (Graemma) the next in his series of compact climbers with mid pink blooms. 'Pavlova' (Grapaula) is an attractive cream floribunda with large clusters of bloom.

There are also other breeders creating roses in New Zealand that have had varieties commercially launched since my last article in 2005. The late Brian Attfield, another long-time amateur breeder, released four Hybrid Teas – the pink 'Joan Monica' (Attjoan), the white edged pink 'Attfields Babe' (Attrangtot), the dark red 'Attfields Dark Lady' (Attdark) and the pink blend 'Attfields Stella Rose' (Attbricam). Another long-time breeder is George Sherwood, now retired but his last release, the white 'Margaret Sherwood' is another true Hybrid Tea. George and Dawn Agnew have released the apricot pink floribunda 'Pamela Bartrum' and the pink 'Janice Wallis'. Gina Martin is no longer breeding but has released 'Summer Passion' (Marquizzical) an exceptionally healthy apricot pink shrub. Also no longer breeding is David Benny but his floribunda 'Gold Dust' (Camprize) is a striking yellow floribunda.

Others with roses released are Margaret Hayward with the dark red patio 'Dads Delight', Anna Bradbury with the pink rambler 'Titania', Derrol White with the mauve miniature 'Heatwave' and Michael Brown with the amber floribunda 'Candy Crush'

Rose breeding in New Zealand remains in good heart. It seems to have weathered the challenges faced well compared to other countries and there is a small but strong core of breeders creating some great roses. The increasingly difficult process of bringing in new roses from overseas is a double-edged sword and perhaps our biggest challenge going forward. Yes, fewer overseas bred roses mean more opportunities for New Zealand breeders in what is a relatively small local market but then it deprives us of new genetics to use from around the world. We shall see what the future brings.

(All photos courtesy of the author or favourites by the Editor.)



Sam McGredy roses: 'Regensberg' on left, 'Aotearoa' ('New Zealand') middle, 'Sexy REXY' on right



Rob Somerfield roses: 'Blackberry Nip' on left, 'Pacific Glory' on right



John Simpson's 'Mysterious' on left, Nola Simpson's 'Jelly Tip' middle, 'Simply Gorgeous' on right

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Left: Shanghai Botanical Garden

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June 2023	WFRS 15 th Heritage Rose Conference - Brussels, Belgium
May 2025	WFRS 20 th World Rose Convention - Fukuyama City, Japan

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AND FINALLY...



The daffodil 'Ice Follies' is one of nature's many blooms that lets us know Spring is right around the corner

The photo is of the Editor's raised hybrid tea bed after pruning and mulching



WFERS Vice president Rosario Algorts de Carrau showing us how to garden during the pandemic