

# Queensland Rose Bulletin

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#### Disclaimer:

This Bulletin may suggest some controls for pests and diseases. This does not mean endorsement of a particular company's product. The suggestions are intended as a guide only and the choice or controls is yours. The information is gained from sources we deem reliable. However, we cannot guarantee its accuracy, and interested persons should rely on their own enquiries.

## Coming Events

**Sunday 26th July  
Christmas in July**  
Lunch at Oxley Golf Club. RSVP and **pay by 6th July**. No late RSVPs unfortunately as catering must be booked by this date.

Send your money to  
QRS, GPO Box 1866,  
Brisbane Q 4001.

\$10 per head for QRS  
**Now also \$10 for  
DDRS & GCRS!!!**  
\$25 each for others.

## Souvenir de Mme Leonie Viennot

Laurel Sommerfield, Rose-mere Farm, Yandina, Qld (QRS member since 1967)

Ever since, in 2002, the first luminous peachy/apricot-cream informal double blooms appeared on my sprawling evergreen climber, I have been enchanted. It begins to bloom in June and continues with sporadic clusters of delight all through winter until its final dramatic salute to Spring in October. I have planted the climbing pink cluster rose *Cherub* so that it intertwines and carries on the display from October to Summer. Climbing *Lorraine Lee* used to add her lovely biscuit pink to the display through winter but sadly last year *Lorraine* gave up. At the other end of my courtyard, *Tausendschon* (*Thousand Beauties*) scrambles up a trellis with *Blue Petrea* –I think the effect is stunning. I considered putting a *Petrea* with *Mme Leonie* but

I think that they might spend all their energies battling it out for supremacy!

In August 08, I planted another *Souvenir de Mme Leonie Viennot* with *Cherub* and *Lorraine Lee*, *Manita*, *Smooth Prince*, *New Dawn*, *Elsie May*, and *Handel* in attendance on a large arbour (the first of 7 arbours that each hold 8 roses) and I am awaiting the first burst of glory in Spring. The climbers are growing strongly despite the winds, constant rain and high humidity that are frequently our lot on the Sunshine Coast and I have never felt compelled to spray these beauties although *Manita* is showing signs of black spot damage. *Mme Leonie* simply defies diseases and sends out lovely red shoots with great panache. I do regularly feed with extra potash and magne-

sium.

If there is space in your garden and you love roses that glow like silk in sunshine then I can't speak highly enough of this easily grown charmer.



## How to get climbing roses to bloom more?

Reprinted from the Orlando Historical Rose Society March-May 2009 Newsletter

All rose plants manufacture a "blooming" hormone at the top of the cane that signals the plant to bloom-- at the top of the cane. If you bend the cane horizontally, that hormone travels down the cane, signalling the plant to bloom all along the length of the cane, rather than just at the top.

Climbing roses, as you know, don't attach themselves to a support as vines do, but

have to be tied to their support by the gardener. If you attach the canes horizontally to a fence, or spread them slightly when you attach them to an arbor, you'll be delighted with many more flowers, blooming all along the cane.

Be sure to deadhead the spent flowers on any everblooming rose. This encourages new blooms to develop faster. Prune off the spent flower or flower cluster, and its short stem, right down to the leaf

axil on the main cane. New flowers and stems will grow from that same leaf axil.



Toni's *Pierre de Ronsard* and *teapots*

# Transplanting a Rose

Patsy Williams, Houston, USA

*“Stake the bush to keep it upright until the roots begin to grow and get established.”*

The longer we grow roses, the more we realize when a rose is planted in the wrong place. June and July (in Australia) are ideal times to move a rose bush from one location to another. Prepare the spot where you want to replant the rose. If another rose has been in that place recently, you will want to remove some of the soil and replace it with new soil. New soil gives new life to the transplanted rose.

Remove any dead, dying or declining canes before digging the bush. If there is one which you cannot remove while it is in the ground, remove it after digging. Canes are easier to

remove while the rose is still in the ground than on a newly planted bush. The leaves do not have to be removed unless you just want to. They will turn yellow and fall off. However, removing them will keep your rose bed cleaner. Dig the bush with a spading fork, shake the soil off the roots, and trim the roots to remove any jagged ends and any broken roots. Do not prune the bush at this time. You may have to trim a little off the top to make the bush more manageable.

Plant the bush in the prepared spot. Be sure to keep the bud union a little higher

than you might like. The soil will settle and the bush will be a little lower after settling, making the bud union at the right height. Stake the bush to keep it upright until the roots begin to grow and get established. The stake can be removed at pruning time if it is no longer needed. A newly planted (or transplanted) bush should not be fertilized when planted. Allow the plant to establish a root system before encouraging it to produce blooms.

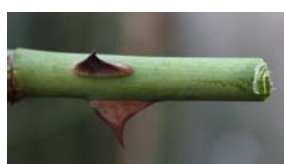
Water well after planting. Keep canes, as well as the soil, moistened. Canes dry out very fast as the wind blows.



*Hold secateurs with blade at the bottom*



*Cut same distance above the bud as stem-thickness*



*Bruising from anvil on secateurs (right)*

## Top Tips for Pruning Roses

Paul Hains, Mt Gravatt East, Qld

The purpose of pruning is to create stronger and healthier bushes. Traditionally roses in cold climates also need pruning to protect them from elements such as snow. In Queensland it is to provide them with time to rest and recover along with tidying up the older wood within the bush to enable the new year's energy to go into producing newer, stronger shoots.

### Things you need before you get started:

- Good SHARP secateurs. I use Felco as I have found them to be the best.
- Pull-saw and loppers for cutting large canes.
- Tetanus Shot (seriously).
- Gloves and protective clothes.

### How do I do it?

- Stand back and look at the bush (one bush at a time)
- Remove unproductive canes. Those that look old, tired and produce only

small twiggy weak branches should be removed. The exception is where this would leave no stems at all - the plant wants something to survive.

- Cut with the blade facing downwards. The anvil on the secateurs (blunt bit) will bruise the stem so make sure the bruise is on the bit you are removing.
- Put the secateurs as far in as you can, rather than cutting on their tips.
- Cut above a bud. The distance should be the same as the thickness on the stem (usually 5-10mm)
- If your stem comes off another one, make sure there are at least 2-3 buds on the stem.
- The general rule is cut stems at least a pencil thickness. This does not apply to minis and floribundas which will produce new growth from

much smaller stems.

- In Queensland you DO NOT have to cut the bush to knee height. This is a tradition in areas where frost and snow is present. The suggested amount is removing 1/3 to 1/2 of the height of the bush.
- New water shoots (soft, often red, growth from the base of the plant) should be left and protected.
- Remove all leaves except those on water shoots.
- Spread a handful of epsom salts around the bush and water in to encourage new basal breaks (water shoots)
- Spray all stems (except water shoots) with lime sulphur and spray the ground too. This kills fungus spores that over-winter.
- Prune old garden roses lightly. Miniatures can be pruned like hybrid teas or pruned heavily to encourage growth - I am gentle.



## Christmas in July Lunch – 26th July

With Guest Speaker, Peter Long

Have you ever heard of the sensational rose, Brisbane Blush? Well, Peter Long created it and has been breeding roses since 1967. We had the opportunity to catch up with Peter and his wife Jenny recently. It was a real pleasure. Peter has a great passion for rose hybridizing (breeding). His garden consists mostly of roses of his own creation.

Peter has the most amazing records of every cross he has ever done. One year he planted over 25,000 seeds!!! We even spotted an entry in his journal for crosses he did on Christmas day in 1976. Now that is dedication.

Come along to the Christmas

in July for a great two course roast lunch at the Oxley Golf Course conveniently located on Boundary Rd at Oxley and with plenty of parking and disabled access. We are starting at 12 midday.

Toni is making her secret recipe fruit mince pies and rum-balls. There will also be raffles and Christmas cake.

The cost to QRS, GCRS & DDRS members is \$10 per person. Non-members are \$25 per head.

**PAYMENT IS REQUIRED BY MONDAY 6TH JULY.**

This is simply because this is the date we have to advise numbers to the Gold Club.



*The picturesque Oxley Golf Club*



*Peter Long with one of his creations*

## Some Thoughts on Rose Growing

Laurel Sommerfield, Rose-mere Farm, Yandina, Qld

In recent Bulletins there have been recommendations by Bev and Toni of lovely roses: *William Morris* and *Maurice D'Utrillo* (also called *Tiger* at Brindabella Roses). These I am now growing and enjoying, thanks to Bev and Toni. This reminds me of the value of recommendation if a rose is very successful in your garden. While I have been a member of the QRS Inc since the late 60's (then living in Kin-garoy) and delight in reading and re-reading the Mags, unfortunately I have rarely attended

QRS meetings at which members can share their favorites among the bewildering number of roses in catalogues.

About twenty years ago I visited the garden of the late George Matthews and that visit stays among my most treasured memories. George kindly introduced me to *Dublin Bay* and *Altissimo*, climbers that have since then been essential plants in my gardens. He also showed me a trial rose *Cham-pagner* that was then living very

happily under a mulch of *Camphor Laurel* leaves and the *Mini Green Ice* that had formed a stunning mound of snow under his expert care. Later, I encountered George at shows perambulating and demonstrating to us novices how to make "Bunches" for the Show bench – need I say making it look too easy! I will miss George for his wonderful warm enthusiasm and his rose- wisdom all so generously shared "for the love of a rose".

*"This reminds me of the value of recommendation if a rose is very successful in your garden."*

## My Hybridizing Update

Paul Hains, Mt Gravatt, Qld

They keep popping up each day. I have now passed the 200 point with well over 100 reotted in individual pots. Each seedling has a code allocated and written on the pot to tell me the date it germinated and its parentage. I am still optimistic that I will come up

with something nice, having been selective with parents.

My most successful cross to date for germinating is Moonstone crossed with City of Newcastle (Veteran's Honor). Next Bulletin, I might have some flowers to show!





## Curator Record Tenure

Brisbane City Council Botanic Gardens

The Curator-in-Charge of the Brisbane Botanic Gardens – Ross McKinnon AM, has just reached a personal milestone, with a record tenure in the position of twenty-six years and fifteen days, reached in mid-June 2009.

Actually Ross has been working in the Brisbane Botanic Gardens now for a record thirty-six years, the first ten years as 2iC to the previous Curator.

Walter Hill was the Brisbane Botanic Gardens' first Curator – from 1855-1881 (26 years, 8 days) and Harold Caulfield was Curator from 1956-1982 (26 years, 13 days). Ross passed both of these records on the 15<sup>th</sup> of June 2009.

Quarterly visitor surveys show that the Brisbane Botanic Gardens at suburban Mt Coot-tha are now that city's second largest tourist attraction after only the combined attractions of South Bank.

Reflecting on the growth of the new Brisbane Botanic Gardens during his Curatorship, Mr McKinnon said that he was most proud of the doubling in size of the Botanic Gardens from approximately 25 to 52 hectares, with the addition of the 25 hectare Australian Native Plants Gardens, which now contains the worlds largest collection of Australian Native rainforest trees, numbering more than 2,500 labelled species.

The Brisbane Botanic Gardens also have reputable and internationally significant collections of Palms, Bromeliads, Cacti and Succulents, Ferns, Exotic Tropical Plants, the largest public display of Bonsai in Australia, Conifers, Cool Temperate and Tropical Display Dome collections and a significant collection of sub-

tropical fruiting trees.

"So equitable is Brisbane's climate that we believe we have the ability to grow more species of plants in the Brisbane Botanic Gardens than any other Capital City Botanic Gardens in Australia", Mr McKinnon said.

As well, the Brisbane Botanic Gardens now have one of the world's largest public education programs called 'Lessons

now host national and international plant species conferences in conjunction with these weekend horticultural exhibitions, attracting national and international speakers.

Two-hundred Botanic Artists now meet and receive instruction and conduct exhibitions each year in the Brisbane Botanic Gardens with a number of their members' paintings to be found in national and inter-



*The Japanese Gardens that Ross arranged to relocate from Expo 88*

in the Gardens", some years over 14,000 students a year access these fully self-funding education programs. Six school teachers are now engaged in teaching these lessons in the Gardens programs for preschoolers, right through to university students – with a heavy emphasis on the environment and sustainable living.

Each weekend, some of Australia's largest horticultural exhibitions are conducted in the Auditorium in the Brisbane Botanic Gardens, spawning a whole cottage industry supplying plants not generally available in the nursery trade to eager plant hunters.

Brisbane Botanic Gardens

national art collections.

An outstanding and annual "Arist-in-Residence" program – now in it's fifteenth year, has contributed hugely to the cultural life of the Gardens, along with the annual Queensland Sculptors' Societies annual exhibition "Sculptures in the Gardens".

The Brisbane Botanic Gardens have one of Australia's most successful Volunteer Guides' Programs, with 87 trained Guides providing daily general and specialist walks in the Brisbane Botanic Gardens at suburban Mt Coot-tha and the old Heritage-listed City Botanic Gardens.

*QRS holds its Rose Shows at the gardens each year*

*"Reflecting on the growth of the new Brisbane Botanic Gardens during his Curatorship, Mr McKinnon said that he was most proud of the doubling in size of the Botanic Gardens "*



## Combined Pruning Day 2009

Paul Hains, Mt Gravatt East, Qld

The 2009 pruning day at Ted and Jan Hayes' place was a fantastic day out. The rain was present the day before and kept coming during the night, but managed to clear early in the morning to reveal a beautiful day with sunshine welcoming us for lunch.

Noel Deakin from Swanes gave a great presentation on pruning basics and then took everyone up into Ted's rose garden for a more detailed demonstration.

There were around 100 rose enthusiasts in attendance with an even representation of QRS, GCRS and Roselovers and two members from DDRS even made the trip out. It was so good to see so many new members of QRS there on the day, able to take advantage of the expert advice on hand from Noel from Swanes.

Toni (on her birthday) organised a BBQ lunch with the Rotary boys from the Gold Coast cooking along with Wayne. Thanks to all the raffle sellers.

The major prize in the raffle

was a 30l sprayer from Gold Acres/Blacktrack which was won by Jack Dunne (and his parents Rob and Bonita) who recently joined QRS. Jack had a great day learning to prune along with all the big kids.



## The Tide's Out

Roy Grant, Margate, Qld

3pm—the tide's out—a low of 5 inches of water to expose the reef, seagulls perch and snatch small crabs before the year's highest tide of 9 feet begins to rise.

Yes, all this activity coincides with this pattern of drizzling rain that has calmed the sea and called for binoculars to do my garden research. Water, water everywhere and wondering how my newly planted roses of June 10th will fare. Pity they were the best stock in

years, ordered for late June but arriving early on the 4th of June. Was the hot dry weather in February—March in the Southern States a catalyst in their arrival? Yes, those from a South Australian source available in a noted chain-store were strugglers.

The June Queensland Rose Society newsletter featured a story on grandifloras with their arrival on the market causing much discussion as to their classification in Exhibition.

Their honest growth and long lasting flowers held on strong stems challenge the elements and catch the eye of the passing persons. This contrasts to the pursuit of form, number of petals and lately the vibrancy of colour at the QRS autumn show. Carry forward a fortnight to the Roselovers' Ashgrove show with accent on miniatures, and a display of heritage roses.

No wonder we enjoy the friendship of rose cultivation.

*"Their honest growth and long lasting flowers held on strong stems challenge the elements and catch the eye of the passing persons."*