

# Queensland Rose Bulletin

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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.

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## The Good, The Bad and The Excellent

Paul Hains, Queensland (concept copied from Kitty Belendez, Santa Clarita USA)

It's that time of year again when the rose catalogues appear in the mail and you start selecting new varieties. Last weekend we tagged about 40 rose bushes with electrical tape. Yellow signifies removal, red means under strong consideration for removal. I thought this was a good time to reflect on the good and not so good performers from last year. Some roses do wonderfully in Melbourne and Adelaide, but don't cope with our humidity and year-round heat. I have attempted to review recent releases and have added a couple of old favourites.

### HYBRID TEAS

#### EXCELLENT

**CITY OF NEWCASTLE:** I know it's not new, but I simply can't say enough good things about this rose. The bush grows large so give it plenty of room. Its 1 1/2 to 2 metres tall and grows to this size in its first year. Perfect huge red blooms held on long stems. Soak the bush with liquid potash to encourage strong stems to hold the large flower heads.



#### EXCELLENT

**GOOD SAMARITAN:** This Rose has been out for two years now and is a great cut flower for exhibiting and vases in the house. The hot pink is striking. It does have a tendency for thinner stems holding the blooms, but makes up for it with the abundance of perfect flowers and strong disease resistance.



#### GOOD

**HEAVEN SCENT:** This very light pink rose took some time to establish itself but is now running away with large highly fragrant



blooms. It has few thorns, and growth like Aotearoa, with an intense old damask fragrance. It does grow tall to around 1.5 metres so put it somewhere at the back.

#### FAIR

**MAGMA:** This rose showed so much promise with its first perfectly formed flower that we immediately bought a second one. We removed one after 12 months and



the other will follow this year. It never grew in size as a bush and failed to produce quality flowers or even flowers that could go in a vase. I look at this photo I took and try to find an excuse to keep this one.

#### BAD

**LANTERN:** I loved the gentle orange and yellow blooms of Lantern when we saw it at Ruston's Roses in Renmark. It never established itself and didn't produce many blooms. I have had similar feedback from another Qld grower. The blooms were borne on weak stems that drooped their heads.



### GRANDIFLORAS

#### EXCELLENT

**ABOUT FACE:** This is the flower in the top banner of the bulletin. This is a giant! Around 2 metres tall although it responds well to pruning lower. Plant it in its own space and somewhere you won't be walking past as it is also a thorny b....c. Having said that, I think it's worth it. The flowers are constant, in multi-head blooms and hybrid tea sized. It makes a statement at the end of any garden path. I have two at the end of the path in my



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*Honeybee, an unregistered mini-flora that Len's daughter was given by Eric Welsh*

*"The crowning glory came for me with the arrival of the mini-flora"*

## My Potted Garden

Len Johnstone, ARA, Reprinted from the Roselovers' Association Newsletter, Autumn 2010

I have been intending to write about this for a long time so now might be as good a time as any.

I have about one hundred and fifty miniature and mini-flora roses growing in pots and another thirty in the garden. It has taken me a while to gather them.

Most of them are from Kordes or Poulsens and are available in Australia if you know the right people.

I have been growing, showing and judging roses for over fifty years so you certainly get to know some great people.

The crowing glory came for me with the arrival of the

mini-flora, the rose of the future in my opinion. As people move into units and settlement villages and family gardens become smaller some great mini-floras became available.

I was the first person to show mini-floras at the Queensland Rose Society shows and did most of the spade work in promoting the little gems. I now have a great collection and I am just about ready to put them on show.

Most of the miniatures were bred by the late Frank Benardella. Ones like Figurine, Baby Boomer, Orchid Lace, Kate's Delight or others

by my great mate Eric Welsh, who's creation Delicious I think is arguably the best of all.

Now to the mini-floras. My favourite is Ruffled Pink an off-white with blushes of pink and pink edges. You would kill to get this one. It was given to me as a gift by a nursery-woman at a trade day.

I have been doing some cuttings to give away as gifts to friends but lost them all the Bid (my wife) was in hospital as I forgot to water them. Sorry Terry but I will do Honeybee again and hope with more success this time.



## Rose of the Month – Aotearoa

Name: Aotearoa syn New Zealand (MACgenev)

Introduced: 1991 New Zealand

Hybridizer: Samuel McGredy IV

Type: Hybrid Tea

Parentage: Harmonie X Auckland Metro

ARS Colour: Pink

Blooms: 25-34 petals

Fragrance: Strong Old Rose Fragrance

This is one of the best roses in our garden. Our oldest bush stands 2 metres tall. It takes a year for a new bush to settle in and then watch out. Over 50 blooms at a time on the larger bushes, with tightly held buds that open into tremendously scented flowers. We now have four of these and are constantly picking flowers. A very disease resistant bush in the Queensland humidity with dark green foliage.

## Hints for the Newcomer

Len Smyth, reprinted from The Queensland Rose, Winter 1969

*"we have proven that roses can be grown and grown well in Queensland"*

How many times have you heard this phrase - "I don't like gardening very much it takes up too much of my spare time. I'll stick in a few rose bushes, they are hardy and don't take much looking after." There are so many fallacies with which we as a Rose Society have to contend, but the message seems to be gradually spreading in the right quarters.

Having joined the Society indicates that you appreciate that

there is equally as much involved in growing roses as any other flowers.

In years gone by we have proven that roses can be grown and grown well in a sub-tropical to tropical climate. At one time it was thought that roses could only be grown successfully in colder climates. We in Queensland only have to look at our gardens to realise that we can have the beauty of our roses with us almost throughout the

year compared with the limited season experienced in those colder areas.

With five to six flushes our bushes surely need more than twice a year feeding you have heard about...

*We fertilise 4 times per year with Sudden Impact for Roses and use Seamungus alternating four times per year. We supplement this with foliar feeding with Flourish or Phostragen.—ed.*



# The Good, The Bad and The Excellent cont...

Paul Hains, Queensland (concept copied from Kitty Belendez, Santa Clarita USA)

garden and it gives pollen easily if you are interested in breeding. Word of warning though: the seedlings are also heavy on the thorns and tall.

## FLORIBUNDAS

### EXCELLENT

**DAYBREAKER:** This was the year for trying orange roses. Daybreaker is an orange blend with pink edges. It is always covered in flowers and comes back with a vengeance when cut back. The flowers are borne on solitary stems with a hybrid tea style, but more diminutive size. Very good disease resistance and an upright ht form to about 1.3 metres.



### FAIR

**JANE MCGRATH:** We don't have this one but take feedback from other growers in Queensland. As a sport of Bonica it has very similar growth and flowers although growers here claim Bonica to be the better plant. A sport is a genetic mutation of the original plant that forms a different flower. A but is taken from this new stem and the "new" variety is grown. Many climbers are sports of hybrid teas or floribundas.



### BAD

**LIT'L ROMEO:** This plant flowers well but remains a small sized floribunda in our garden. I have had it for two years and it produces nice pink and orange flowers in abundance. It's lack of strong growth is what lets it down. It does not compare in size or robustness to something like seduction.



### EXCELLENT

**LOVE POTION:** This is one of my favorite floribundas. It is very similar in look and perfume to Angel face. This heavenly scented mauve rose has nice multi headed stems and starts of with a hybrid tea form, opening to a frilly bloom. Very disease resistant. I have used the pollen from this one for breeding this year to get some scent and colour into some hybrid teas.



## MINIATURES

### EXCELLENT

**DELICIOUS:** Not a new one, but still one of the best minis you can find. Bred in Australia by Eric Welsh, this pretty pink flower grows abundantly all over a bush that grows to around 70cm tall and 50cm wide. This one can be picked up at Bunnings in small pots.



### EXCELLENT

**RAINBOW'S END:** This is another good grower that covers itself with yellow flowers, edged with bright red. We have it in both standard and climbing form. It is a compact mini growing to about 40cm and about the same width.



### FAIR

**WALTZ:** This is a small mini, growing around 40cm in height. It doesn't open its flowers enough for me as it keeps all of the petals bunched in a point in the centre and a single row on the outside. There are better choices out there.



## MODERN SHRUB

### EXCELLENT

**JUBILEE CELEBRATION:** I pirated this review from Terry Burke. It grows to be the perfect modern rose bush height. Even though it is a David Austin rose its growth is quite normal at around 1.4 metres. The big pink flowers are produced endlessly. There is one main stem that produces 5 or 6 branches with a bloom at the end of each. It even has a pleasing fragrance with no disease problems. It even has lovely foliage, something uncommon in most modern roses.



## MUST HAVE ROSES EXCELLENT

There are some roses that I have to add here as essentials for anyone who loves admiring roses in the garden or cut flowers in the house.

**ELLE:** The perfume of this hybrid tea rose is stunning and is the stand out in any bunch of flowers it is in. Its blooms are predominantly pink with peach and gold. It is very disease resistant and grows to 1.2 metres.



**MOONSTONE:** I have reviewed this before. Can't repeat enough though. Get yourself at least one Moonstone and it will reward you with around 50 flowers at a time on each bush.



**MARCHEN KONIGEN:** Also known as Fairytale Queen, this one is a prolific grower of cut flowers with almost no thorns on the cut stems. If cut at 1/3 open, the flowers last a long time in a vase.



# The Good, the Bad, and the Rubbish Bin (Seedling Review)

Paul Hains, Queensland, Australia

9-85-10 **EXCELLENT**

## Moonstone x City of Newcastle

This seedling has been outstanding and I have now budded two of these on for trial in the ground to see how they perform on multiflora rootstock. It has 74 hard exhibition quality petals with a gentle aroma. Strong stems and foliage similar to Moonstone.



9-62-1 **GOOD**

## Honeybee x Marilyn Monroe

This seedling is an exact replica of Marilyn Monroe but around mini-flora size and with less vicious thorns. Cuttings strike well and it appears to be disease resistant.



9-67-1 **RUBBISH BIN**

## Honeybee x Rhapsody in Blue

I had high hopes for this one and thought the colour would be useful for future breeding if nothing else. Unfortunately, it sends out long canes with a small flower on the end and the flower collapses back on itself quickly.



9-16-1 **GOOD**

## Ruby x Melinda Gainsford

This is a perfect light magenta mini-flora with a dark edge on the outer petals. Each flower has replicated this precisely and it has perfect exhibition form. I have only recently re-potted this one so I am waiting for the plant to grow in size to make a full evaluation.



9-78-9 **RUBBISH BIN**

## Melinda Gainsford x Holy Toledo

This one unfortunately is not going to make it. Has nice colour but the plant gets powdery mildew and the flowers haven't developed form that make them stand out from other miniature roses out there.



9-91-14 **EXCELLENT**

## Moonstone x Honeybee

Another seedling from Eric Welsh's unregistered seedling. This is a miniature yellow Moonstone with a delicate pink edge. The foliage is light green and so far showing disease resistance. It strikes easily from cuttings.



## What's going on at the Hains Garden?

Paul Hains, Queensland, Australia

We are at the crossroads of deciding whether to move to a larger block of land. We have around 250 roses planted in the ground on our 1000 sq meter (1/4 acre) block that is cut into a 30 degree slope.

The satellite image is on the left, taken while the front garden was under construction. The brown box in the front is a paved path with stairs coming from the footpath. As you can see, not much room left. I have 100 seedlings in pots in the back yard and a tiny greenhouse.

What is next? This is where the insanity comes in and the obsession with roses takes over. We are looking at acreage and went to the bank on Monday to get preapproval to bid for acreage at upcoming auctions. We have our eye on a place that has a relatively blank block of 2 1/2 acres but will have to wait and see how eager other bidders are for it at auction. Unfortunately, the house is ne-

glected and would need an immediate cash investment. Sorry, Terry, it's not on the Gold Coast.

We are at the stage of writing "for" in one column and "against" in the other and writing down our thoughts to make the decision to move or not.

If we don't move we have 40 bushes to remove and some of the seedlings above may get a trial in my garden. Toni has already claimed my St Patricks and a couple of the Peter Frankenfelds and Cardinals for her garden.

**IF** we end up moving the plan is to get a dumptruck of soil dumped into the backyard as a temporary home for some of our must keep roses that we would be taking with us prior to selling our house. Most will be left behind for the new owners. It is still a very big if though.

