

Volume 24 • Number 1 • April, 2013

# **COUNTDOWN TO**

# **SANGERHAUSEN – 110th anniversary**



# WFRS 13<sup>th</sup> International Heritage Rose Conference

### 19 – 24 June 2013

### SANGERHAUSEN, GERMANY

World Rose News

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FRONT PAGE: Sangerhausen

EDITOR: Sheenagh Harris

#### EDITORIAL

It is about 4 months since the last World Rose News and not a great deal has happened in the rose world during that time. The busy time with rose trials in Europe is ahead of us as is the much looked forward to Heritage Rose Conference in Sangerhausen which coincides with their 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary. This gives another opportunity for rose lovers the world over to come together to enjoy roses and to make and renew friendships.

Since we last met in South Africa and for those who visited my rose garden, we have moved to the coast, 1300 km south of Johannesburg where the climate is not conducive to growing our favourite flower! The new owner of Mary Rose Court does not want the roses so in the last few weeks before moving, friends and friends of friends came to dig up the 400 roses for their gardens. I pruned each one lovingly ready for transplanting and am happy to think they have gone to good homes. It is probably the most difficult time of year to move a rose but from all accounts they are doing well.

I am continually hearing of rosarians who do not receive World Rose News despite the fact they belong to a Rose Society. It is no use telling members they can find World Rose News on the website. Members need to have it sent directly to them with a few words of encouragement about what will interest them in the publication. I am once again appealing to Presidents of Member Countries and our all important Vice Presidents to make a conscious effort to reach all members in your area.

In this issue of World Rose News we pay tribute to Jill Bennell and Stefan Wagner who have been involved with the WFRS since its inauguration in 1968. They have served the WFRS for 44 years and have a deep knowledge of its history. It is appropriate therefore to include a detailed description of that very first Convention held in London when Baroness Lily de Gerlache de Gomery was acclaimed Founding President.

We also pay tribute to the memory of Peter Beales – a much loved, admired and respected rosarian. He will be missed the world over and in particular at Chelsea this year as they celebrate their Centenary.

I would like to thank all those who have contributed to this WRN and hope there is something of interest for everybody.

SHEENAGH HARRIS Immediate Past President and Editor



I hope everyone had a wonderful and safe holiday season and New Years. 2013 will be a busy year for the WFRS with Regional Conventions in Sangerhausen, Germany in June and Palmerston North, New Zealand in November. In October Susie and I will be travelling for a grand tour around Australia to see their country, gardens, and participate in rose society events just prior to leaving for New Zealand.

When I took over as your President, we did not have a Regional Convention for 2014. Now we have two requests that have been recently approved by the Executive Committee. The first is in May 2014 in Barcelona, Spain. The second is in November/December in Hyderabad, India. It is great to have these conventions in countries that we haven't been to in some time.

Speaking of Regional Conventions, I want to clear up a common misconception. Regional Conventions are not mini-triennial World Rose Conventions. The requirements for a Regional are not as onerous as a World. A World Convention is intended to have people and speakers from all around the world attend and meetings are required to be held. At a Regional Convention, there are no required meetings, and speakers should be covering subjects on rose culture and interest for that country, as many of the attendees will be from that area. Although many people from outside the country will attend anyway, it should not be the sole basis for the convention.

A PhD student from Hungary, Viktor Kerenyi-Nagy, sent us a link to his monograph on species roses in Hungary. The document is in Hungarian and English and has some very good sketches of the characteristics of each species rose.

The link is <a href="http://www.botanika.hu/ekonyvek/Kerenyi\_Nagy\_Roses.pdf">http://www.botanika.hu/ekonyvek/Kerenyi\_Nagy\_Roses.pdf</a>

We were saddened to learn of the death of Peter Beales, which is covered in this issue. Peter passed away just months after his beloved wife Joan. Losing Peter is a blow to all of us old garden rose aficionados. He was a leading proponent of old garden rose identification, conservation, and making them available to the public. It was always a thrill to visit with Peter and talk roses; he will be missed.

Also in this issue are tributes to two long time serving WFRS officers, Jill Bennell and Stefan Wagner. The latter has attended most of the WFRS functions since its inception.

See you in Sangerhausen!

Steve Jones

### TRILOGY

# **Steve Jones - WFRS President**

#### **Steve Jones –** APPRECIATION

Jim Delahanty - Ventura County Rose Society - Immediate Past President Chairman ARS Editorial Advisory Committee

I am sure that there will be people writing about Steve Jones' terms as PSW District Director, or American Rose Society Vice President and President and his political and administrative gifts in those arenas. The person I knew from early Internet chat and list server groups and local rose societies shared my enthusiasm for polyanthas, old rose books and a certain catholicity in favour of all roses. He still exhibited locally at that time and so our paths would cross at this or that rose show in the preparation area; at one show he gave me cuttings of 'Nypel's Perfection,' which I have nurtured for over 10 years and recently transferred to the San Jose Heritage Rose Garden.

My connection with Steve was primarily as a rare rose enthusiast and in the context of low key exhibiting. Somehow out of this background, he offered me the role as Chair of the ARS Local Society Relations Committee. He said it would be an easy gig: all I had to do was to supervise the re-writing of the Guidelines for Local Rose Society Leaders, evaluate some materials in the accumulated videos and other presentations and start a monthly e-mail directed to and for local societies (ARS & YOU). His orientation technique was very much like my grandfather's method of teaching us all to swim. He took us to the centre of a bridge over a local pond, threw us in the water and said: Swim.

I still swim, and a half-dozen years later, I am still paddling in the ARS pond. Steve must have done something right. His methods have some merits.

#### **Steve Jones -** ROSE SOCIETY COLLABORATOR

Kitty Belendez - Co-founder of Santa Clarita Valley Rose Society Editor and Web-mistress

Although Steve and I live only 5 miles apart, we did not know each other until a chance encounter at a rose show of the Pacific Rose Society in Arcadia, California. The show was around 1989 and it was located about 45 miles from both of our homes. We both lived in the Santa Clarita Valley ... he lived in the Valencia area, and I lived in the Saugus area. At that time, there was no rose society in Santa Clarita. Steve was a member of the Pacific Rose Society, and I was a member of another rose society in Southern California, so we both were commuting not only long distances to work, but also long distances to our respective rose societies. At that show, Steve noticed my name and address on many entries at the rose show, and was curious to find out who I was, since we lived so close. We chatted that day and laughed at how close yet far apart we were.

About two years later, Steve decided to form a new rose society in the Santa Clarita Valley. He asked me if I would help out, and to be honest I wasn't so keen on it because I worked many hours full time, travelled frequently all over the United States for my job, and by that time I was very involved with my own local rose society. Well, Steve persisted and prevailed, and with a little gentle nudging, he got me on board with the new Santa Clarita Valley Rose Society. I volunteered to produce their first newsletter and have been their editor ever since. That would not have been possible without Steve's prolific writing skills, as he provides articles almost every month even to this day.

Steve, I, and my husband Bob have been giving an Annual Rose Care Seminar to our members and the public for about 18 years. The society is still going strong and celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2012.

Meanwhile, it was obvious that Steve had specific goals in sight in the Rose World. Whatever he set out to do, he accomplished it very well and without hesitation. I am always amazed at his energy and

perseverance, and he never gives up no matter the roadblocks. Steve loves roses and rose people, and I am very proud of him for winning the American Rose Society Klima Medal, and being elected as President of the World Federation of Rose Societies. Well done, Steve!

#### **Steve Jones** — ROSE STAR

Linda Kimmel - Indianapolis Rose Society, Illinois-Indiana District Director & Editor Member of the ARS Editorial Advisory Committee

Once upon a time, back in the mid 1990's, I attended my first ARS National Rose Society Convention and Rose Show. The Welcoming Party was underway. I sat at a table, sipping a glass of wine from a clear plastic cup, and watched people as they mingled. As the new kid on the block, I was feeling a bit of a wallflower. I noticed Steve Jones standing along the side of the room, chatting freely with the many passersby. Being a new ARS member, I was a faithful reader of the "Beginner's Column" in the American Rose, of which Steve was the author. I recognized him from his photo. Standing before me is a **rose star**! I was awestruck. I was surprised when he approached me, reached out his hand, and introduced himself. Steve presented himself with a big smile, firm handshake and warm manner. He did not talk about himself, but asked ME about the roses I liked, and the growing conditions in Indiana (USA). We found camaraderie in the old garden roses and shrubs. This is common scenario for Steve, as he often makes an extra effort to introduce himself to new attendees. How nice to be greeted with a warm welcome, especially when you are new and surrounded by strangers. In the words of Maya Angelou, an African-American poet: "People will forget what you said. People will forget what you did. But people will never forget how you made them feel." Steve has that unique ability that makes people feel special.

Steve lives in Southern California with his lovely wife Susie. They grow over 400 roses, and prefer organic methods of growing. He also collects rose-related items such as stamps, coins and rosaries, holiday villages and accessories, and has one of the largest private rose book collections in the United States. Steve enjoys a diversity of activities, such as travel, photography, fishing, hiking, playing softball and golf. Besides roses, he enjoys all kinds of gardening, including fruit, vegetables, perennials and other types of flowers. Steve and Susie enjoy wine tasting, and will be soon making wine from their half- acre vineyard.

Steve became the ARS Vice President 2003, President 2006, WFRS Vice President 2009, and WFRS President 2012. Steve is an ARS Consulting-Master Rosarian, Horticulture and Arrangement Rose Judge. He is a creative author, and preferred rose lecturer. Steve's good nature and sense of humour makes him a popular guest at any event.

We are friends through roses. Over the course of the years, I have shared horticulture judging assignments with Steve, worked on ARS committees and the ARS Board of Directors with him. Steve is an intelligent and talented man. He will serve the WFRS with all of his heart and passion.



Steve Jones was elected President of the WFRS while in South Africa

# **ROSAFRICA 2012**

### Day Tour to Soweto

#### Jennie O'Brien-Lutton, (Australia)

On Sunday 14 October two busloads of ROSAFRICA delegates took off on the optional extra of a day trip to Soweto and what a wonderful experience it turned out to be. We boarded unusual buses - a very narrow, off-centre aisle with 2 seats one side and 3 the other. It turned out to be a great icebreaker, separating some pairs and facilitating chat with our neighbours who over the course of the day became our new friends.

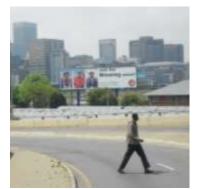


First off we headed to the upmarket residential area of Houghton and passed the current home of Nelson Mandela. No stopping was allowed but our driver slowed down enough for keen photographers to get a few shots. Little stones around the footpath plants were painted with South African flags and words like "Peace", "Love" and "Forgive". Proximity to one of the great men of our time prompted many positive and reflective comments.

#### Nelson Mandela's House

An enormous Chorisia speciosa (Silk Floss Tree) framed the fantastic views of Johannesburg from a lookout on Munro Drive. Stone walls and fences built by Italian POWs during the 1940s lined much of our route. St John's College, an Anglican school for boys established in the 1880s and built on the current site in 1906 was pointed out, the first of many Herbert Baker designed buildings we saw on our travels. Stone wall built by Italian POW's





**Johannesburg City** 

Next we crossed Mandela Bridge near the railway yards, then passed Museum Africa, located in historic fruit market buildings. Our bus drivers dropped us at the bottom of the main street in the centre of Johannesburg for a walk and talk. Our guide (a paid professional) was very knowledgeable and even without consulting her folder of fascinating facts, she had those of us interested in history listening to every word.



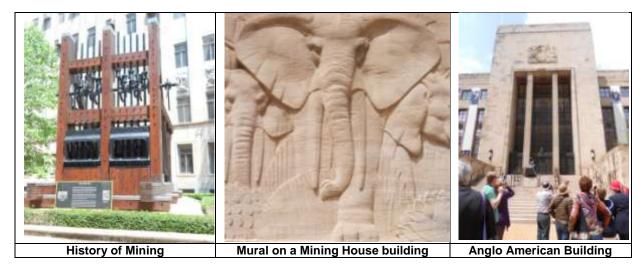
**Museum Africa** 



Impala Stampede

World Rose News

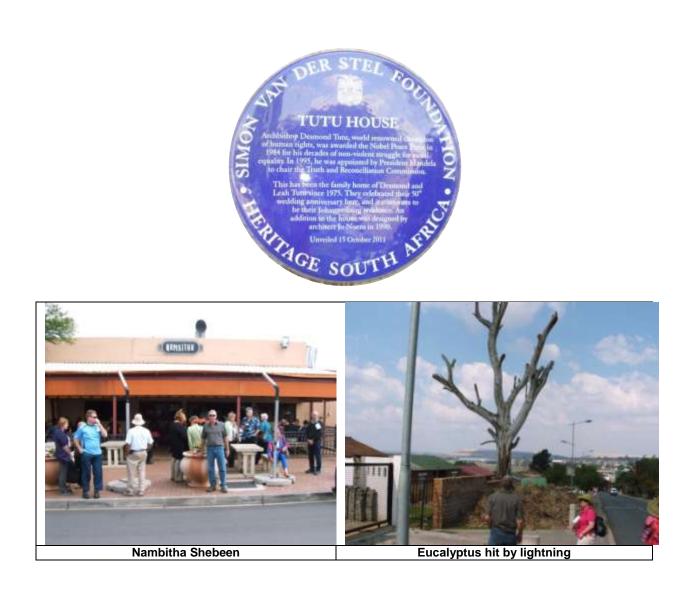
A lot of the world's big mining companies had and continue to have offices in this area. Many remarkable photographs with accompanying text on viewing boards and mining equipment from long ago gave a great insight into the past.



Several sculptures including an "Impala Stampede" - a tribute to Sir Ernest Oppenheimer and a bronze statue of Mohandas K Gandhi in the eponymous square were much admired. Modern skyscrapers surrounded the square which is an important bus interchange and exhibition and meeting location. As usual, there was so much still to see and time was up. Our buses were waiting and we were off to Soweto.

In 1963 the name Soweto was adopted from the combined **SO**uth **WE**stern **TO**wnships. The group had a quick walk to the Memorial in Freedom Square, noting the charter for the way forward. A proud, young local came to tell us the history of the struggle in his own words. Back on the bus and our guide pointed out Baragwanath Hospital, reputedly the largest in the world. It boasts 3200 beds and is a major centre for training and research. The number of significant landmarks we saw in the next 30 minutes or so was astonishing. Vilakazi Street is the only one in the world that can claim two Nobel Peace Prize recipients, Nelson Mandela and Desmond Tutu. Round blue plaques are strategically placed to tell stories at important sites. The Mandela family home is now a museum. Unfortunately we did not have time to visit. Desmond Tutu is still in residence.





Nambitha Shebeen proved to be the highlight of the day for many of our group. Although it was jam packed with locals and tourists, food and drink appeared without confusion. The fare was as vibrant and exciting as the people serving it. Dish after delicious dish arrived: bread, salads, spicy chicken, creamed spinach, butternut, lamb curry, mealies and carrots cooked with ground nuts and chilli. When all at a table had served themselves, the platter was lifted and deposited on another table. Any further requests arrived courteously and promptly. Ice-cream and topping followed for some.

A walk down the hill provided many more photo opportunities of colourful market stalls, plaques, museums, monuments, old power station towers now colourful artworks and a big eucalypt killed by lightning. Everywhere we went there was a lot of friendly banter between the South Africans and the Australians about who has provided the other with more weeds and feral plants.

Our visit to the Hector Pieterson Museum was a very moving experience. It commemorates the 1976 student protest against education in Afrikaans. The footage of the young Hector being carried by a fellow student after being shot has been replayed many times on documentaries about struggles in South Africa and would be familiar to many. Apparently this event was a turning point in the struggle to free political prisoners. The museum houses an extensive collection of photographs, video footage, interviews with participants and witnesses and artefacts from the era.

Gwen Fagan was the key speaker at the Geelong Heritage Rose Conference in Australia in 1999 and I will always remember her talk and images (slides in those days) she displayed of rugosa roses among some of the shanty dwellings in Cape Town. Perhaps I thought I would see something similar in Soweto. There was the occasional rose but if there was room for plants the focus was on

something edible. In the daily struggle for survival growing food is more important than growing roses.



South Africa is a big sporting nation and we travelled by Orlando Stadium (capacity 40,000) and Soccer City Stadium (capacity 95,000) in fairly close proximity.

The contrast between the exclusive wealthy suburbs we had seen early in the day and the poverty of the shanty towns was extreme. At a rose gabfest one expects to see many, many roses, hear good speakers, enjoy sharing meals and catch up with old friends. On this trip we were fortunate to have so many opportunities that were not rose or garden related. This day outing to downtown Johannesburg and Soweto was an unforgettable experience. I will not view the term "high density living" in quite the same way ever again. Smiles and waves are free and we received most of both from those with the least.

I send another huge bouquet to Sheenagh Harris and Di Girdwood and all their team who did so much to make ROSAFRICA 2012 such a wonderful event.

**AT THE OPENING CEREMONY** of the ROSAFRICA 2012 Convention at Vodacom World, 3 generations of one family were represented - Mrs Eko Tanakamaru and her husband Mr Yoshiyasu Tanakamaru, their daughter Cromwell, and her daughter, Keira.

Mr & Mrs Tanakamaru came from Japan for the Convention, whilst Cromwell and Keira, came from their home in the USA, . Keira could be the youngest person to attend a World Rose Convention! We were delighted to welcome them. Wendy Trimper – Australia



Mrs Eko Tanakamaru with her daughter Cromwell; and granddaughter Keira

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### WORLD FEDERATION OF ROSE SOCIETIES

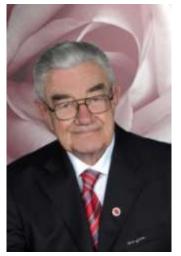


#### DIARY OF EVENTS

19 – 24 June, 2013	WFRS 13 <sup>th</sup> International World Rose Conference - Collecting, Identifying and Maintenance of Heritage Roses - Sangerhausen, Germany. <u>www.europa-rosarium-sangerhausen.de</u>
22 - 27 November, 2013	WFRS Regional Rose Convention – Roses Down Under – the Kiwi Experience – Palmerston North, New Zealand. www.nzroses.nz
8 – 15 May, 2014	WFRS Regional Rose Convention – Barcelona, Spain.
21 November – 5 December, 2014	WFRS Regional Rose Convention – Hyderabad, India.

## **STEFAN WAGNER - ROMANIA**

David Ruston (Australia)



I met Dr. Stefan Wagner Phd. in London at the inaugural meeting in 1968 when the Baroness Lily de Gerlache de Gomery called a meeting to form the World Federation of Rose Societies. Fifteen countries were represented including Dr. Thomas and me from Australia, Jack and Mary Wise (parents of Sheenagh Harris) from South Africa. Dr. Wagner came from Romania. He had a lot of trouble getting approval from Romanian authorities and he crossed Europe by train and boat taking 45 hours. We from Australia only took 30 hours!

There was no rose society in Romania at the time, but we considered that Stefan would be the official delegate. Stefan visited Harkness Nursery at Hitchin and Gregory and Wheatcroft at Nottingham where he got on very well with the jovial Harry Wheatcroft. He was delighted to visit The Gardens of the Rose at St. Albans, which were at their most magnificent which was at a time when the RNRS had over 100,000 members. He went to the Summer Rose Show at Alexandra Palace and had never seen such a spectacle. The roses were displayed in

large bowls of one variety against a black background and reached from floor to ceiling. There were 25 trade displays from Harkness to Wheatcroft, Dickson, Mc Gredy, Le Grice, to Taung. Twenty-five exhibits, the largest being 60 feet long and 10 feet high. A number of gold medals were awarded plus silver gilt, silver and bronze.



Stefan had trouble getting visas until 1983 when he attended the conference in Baden-Baden where the new roses from Kordes and Tantau were on display and we visited more rose nurseries where millions of rose plants were in full bloom. 1985 was Toronto in Canada where Stefan delivered a paper and made many new friends from all over the world.

#### 'Wagner's Favourite'

In 1990 the newly formed Romania Rose Club was welcomed as the 23<sup>rd</sup> member. At this time the communist regime had ended and travel abroad was much easier. After this Stefan attended conferences in New Zealand 1994, Benelux 1997, USA 2000, Scotland 2003, Japan 2006, Adelaide 2008, Vancouver 2009 and South Africa 2012. He is one of the most travelled of our delegates.

He has delivered lectures in Canada, Benelux and Japan and is very fluent in English. Now Stefan has been the co-ordinator for the WFRS for Southern Europe and Israel. He has been to Austria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Russia, Greece, Poland, Serbia, Slovakia and Slovenia and has helped them form rose societies and become members of the WFRS. This is an amazing feat. He is respected and honoured by us all. He has organised trips for members to several countries including Australia and South Africa, bringing a lovely lot of friendly, hospitable people all with a great sense of humour. They mix well with us all and shower us with gifts. Their small bottles of vodka, we were given were very potent!

At the 2000 WRC in Houston, Texas, Stefan was awarded the WFRS World Rose Award for Dedicated Service to the Rose and in 2009 at the WRC in Vancouver, Canada he received the Silver Medal for Outstanding Service to the Federation. These are prodigious awards that were thoroughly deserved. At the age of 80 he has just retired from his position as Vice President for the WFRS for Central Europe. I consider he has done as much for the WFRS as anyone else in the world and surely must be one of our most ardent lovers of the rose and those that grow them.

In an article in one of our bulletins he tells us when young he loved the game of handball, swimming and above all skiing which he has performed in the French Alps, Slovenia, Austria, Italy, France and Slovakia making friends wherever he goes and he is still doing it. Stefan has also helped create many public rose gardens in the Balkan state and he has bred 47 new roses which are grown in many gardens. We all wish him a happy retirement, but I am sure he will go on giving help to people who grow roses. We are lucky to have three keen rose lovers to carry on with his work.

### REMINISCENCES

Ann Bird (Great Britain)

This year so far has been marred by the passing of my dear friend and world rosarian "par excellence" Peter Beales, about whom I write elsewhere in this publication. However, having known him for so many years, I feel he would wish us to carry on as normal enjoying all the activities and friendships in the rose world to which he made such a contribution in his lifetime.

Two major events this year – at opposite ends of the world, and with completely different themes. The first is the WFRS Heritage Rose Conference which is taking place in Sangerhausen, Germany, from the 19<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> June. Also being celebrated is the 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the rose garden there, and if the centenary event 10 years ago is anything to go by it will be something spectacular. Early booking is recommended to avoid disappointment.

Secondly, a WFRS regional rose convention is being held in Palmerston North, New Zealand from the 22<sup>nd</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> November, and this also promises to be an extravaganza of roses just at the right time for them to be at their very best, assuming that their Spring is more congenial than ours. At the moment in the UK we are still enduring bitter winds and snow showers which will not go away! Full details of both these events are posted on the WFRS website .

On to a completely different subject, but one very dear to my heart. I think everyone around the world knows the name Jill Bennell, if not the lady herself. She has recently retired from the position of WFRS Treasurer but her untiring work for the Federation in various capacities goes back to its

inauguration. However, she was absolutely adamant that she did not want any form of official tribute, which I respect and would not dare to argue about, so what follows is the story of the fun and adventures we have had travelling together over a considerable number of years to International Rose Trials in Europe - so far!

I met Jill in the 1970's when I joined the RNRS and as an amateur exhibitor at the National Rose Shows at St Albans my first recollection of her was preparing a huge pile of prize cards in the night, all handwritten, to be given out to the exhibitors in the morning after judging - it was a mammoth task. Over the years our friendship developed and once I became an RNRS rose judge the subject of going to International Rose Trials came up, about which I knew nothing. Jill was already on the circuit, and our first expedition together was to Baden-Baden - what a wonderful place to start, not only for the magnificent roses but the immaculate West Highland Terriers everywhere - nothing like my two at home! Our hotel arrangements were changed to the sumptuous "Belle Epoque" former summer residence of Empress Elizabeth of Austria, the ultimate in exquisite décor and room key tags with long velvet tassles which we waved about at every opportunity just to make our fellow judges jealous!



Jill Bennell accepts the WFRS Garden of Excellence Award in South Africa on behalf of The Gardens of the Rose

Ten years ago another German trip was to Sangerhausen for the Centenary celebrations of the Rosarium. The first problem for me was the size of the plane on which we were flying from the UK to Leipzig – a mere 40-seater which filled me with horror especially as we had a thunderstorm to contend with en route. We arrived unscathed to find our hotel accommodation was a suite with bedroom, kitchen and bathroom, which we thought was wonderful, but the beds were extremely narrow and, thankfully, reasonably low, as on the first night I turned over in my sleep and carried on rolling to the floor! I am hoping our visit to Sangerhausen this year will be more dignified, with wider beds.

The trip to Professor Fineschi's wonderful Roseto in Cavriglia, Tuscany, Italy, was an adventure before we even arrived. It was a train from Florence and then a bus journey, but unfortunately quite late in the evening, and the last bus was revving up to leave. Jill rushed to get the tickets and I stood outside the bus with my foot close to a front wheel in case the driver took off – when we got on we were the only passengers! However, our accommodation was excellent, as was the Roseto – and a special highlight for me was photographing the unique Tuscan light at dusk with the hills and valley bathed in a golden glow – and all from our bedroom window.

Another Italian visit was to the interesting Rome Trials, and the hotel there was unique, having been a monastery centuries ago, and bedrooms which were the original sleeping quarters for the monks. The term "untouched by time" comes to mind with uneven stone floors, massively high ceilings and windows, hard beds, and the original version of a "wet room"! But there was a very small television on an ancient cabinet, which I suppose represented the modern world.

This situation provoked endless giggling but very little sleep. Next morning we were to be taken to a highly recommended new trials garden being established in the foothills of Rome – La Tacita. Unfortunately, the coach went without us but undeterred we decided we would attempt to get there. This involved a metro and train journey, followed by an endless wait for a village bus which would drop us off somewhere in the vicinity. We eventually arrived over three hours later only to find we had missed the entire judging proceedings, and everyone was enjoying a sumptuous lunch, but I was so glad we made the effort just to see the setting of this wonderful rose garden and its potential for the future. To add to the atmosphere we were greeted like lost explorers returning from the dead – and given the lunch!



#### Sheenagh Harris, Jill Bennell, Ann Bird and Rosario Algorta judging roses in the rain in Rome - 2010

The Le Roeulx trials in Belgium will never be forgotten – we had made our own hotel arrangements and arrived late at night at a very desolate destination surrounded by wire fencing. The accommodation was sparse, and it was not until the next morning that we discovered we were in a "hotel " for truck drivers and the only women around, but the breakfast was hearty and set us up for the day. The rest of the visit was most enjoyable lovely roses, excellent hospitality, and a ride in the late Joe Timmerman's old car with no seat belts !

Two trips to France stand out for very differing reasons. The first was to a convention in Orleans at which I was due to give a lecture. When we met up at Eurostar in London for the train journey it was obvious Jill was struggling with a heavy cold, but said she would be fine. When we arrived at the hotel in Orleans we had been allocated an exceptionally small bedroom with two single beds pushed together and one corner of the room made into an en-suite. Now mindful of the fact that I ought to try and keep well for my lecture a few days later, we decided to move the beds further apart. This resulted with the head of my bed being in the en-suite! Jill quickly recovered, the furniture moving was reversed, and we thoroughly enjoyed the rest of our visit, with wonderful roses on display in their rose trial gardens.

We have been to Paris together several times for the Bagatelle rose trials, but on one occasion changed accommodation as we thought it was nearer the gardens and within walking distance. It turned out to be a route march of nearly four miles in melting heat and somehow passing the famous Longchamps racecourse on the way. We arrived in a state of severe disarray as the first entrance to the gardens we encountered was the furthest away from the rose trials, but this was all soon forgotten at the sight of the glorious roses at Bagatelle and our fellow judges.



Henrianne de Briey, Jill Bennell and Ann Bird Geneva Rose Trials - 2011

This is a random selection of the adventures Jill and I have had in the name of the rose over a considerable number of years, and my abiding memory is not of the difficulties we sometimes encountered but the giggling and laughter which ensued once we had solved them! Long may it continue.

As a final comment, how could I have ever imagined when I first met Jill, who at that time was already well known in the rose world and I was a complete novice attempting to become an amateur exhibitor, that one day, during my Presidency of the RNRS, I would present her with the Society's most prestigious award, the Dean Hole Medal – so well deserved.

# THE 4<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL ROSE CONFERENCE LONDON 1968 UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE ROYAL NATIONAL ROSE SOCIETY

The late Mary Wise (South Africa)



This International Rose Conference had been widely advertised amongst the Rose Societies of the world and as Maj. Gen. RFB Naylor, the President of the Royal National Rose Society wrote in his welcome in the Souvenir programme "The Aim in holding these conferences is to bring together leading rosarians, amateur and professional, from all over the world to discuss together how the culture and cultivations of the rose may be improved. At the same time they will have an opportunity of seeing our roses and of making new friends in the rose world, a world that knows no business."

#### 'Mary Wise'

It must be indeed very gratifying to the President and Council of the Royal National Rose Society to know that their superb organisation and smooth running of the International Conference more than justified the original objects and aims.

As many as 600 delegates attended the Conference, a large proportion of which came from overseas. Australia, Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Holland, Israel, New Zealand, Poland, Romania, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, USA and USSR were all represented.

The Conference started on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June with the Summer Show at Alexandra Palace which lasted for 2 days. A detailed description of this really lovely show deserves an article devoted entirely to itself. In passing, I would like to say that at this Rose Show, to honour the International Conference as a tribute to rosarians from all parts of the world there was a special exhibit staged in the entrance of the Great Hall. The exhibit comprised an island site divided into eight sections, each section containing only roses raised in a particular country.

The Countries represented were, Ireland, France, Germany, England, America, Great Britain and the Commonwealth, Holland and Denmark. Various Horticultural and Floral Societies were responsible for the arrangements in the sections. It was a most spectacular display and the beautifully arranged roses were supported by specific "props" relating to their particular country. For example France had a model of the Eiffel Tower amongst the roses, The Statue of Liberty for the USA., a picture of the little mermaid for Denmark, a golden harp for Ireland and a windmill for Holland and so on. This exhibit attracted much attention.

The Nurserymen's stands in the Great Hall were as colourful and as breath taking as ever, with their 1000's and 1000's of beautiful roses so tastefully and attractively displayed. It was feared that due to bad weather prior to the show that there would not be the number of exhibits to fill the stands to capacity. If there were any discrepancies in numbers, they were not noticed by the onlooker. The Amateur Section staged in the Palm Court did have several blanks on the exhibition benches, but these blanks were more than remedied by the high quality of the roses which were exhibited. Without exception the standard of the roses in all divisions was superb. There were such large blooms, with good stems and excellent foliage. A box of 6 specimen blooms of 'Super Star' was quite outstanding.

The opening of the Show to the Public was at noon, Conference delegates were privileged to a Preview at 11 am. Near the Information and Advice Bureau in front of the stage was the Registration Centre at which two charming and helpful young ladies, members of the RNRS Secretarial staff efficiently distributed to delegates their packets containing name tabs, tickets for tours and lectures, invitations, maps of London and the underground and a host of other useful information.

The name tabs were worn by delegates throughout the conference and helped to identify the wearer to the country to whom he or she belonged by different colours as well as by name.

All the delegates from Great Britain had their names printed on a black band. Members of staff and Council of the RNRS in Royal Blue, USA on a gold band, Australia and New Zealand Red, Europe and South Africa green.

Speakers at the lectures had an additional name band attached to their name. This made getting to know each other very much easier.

On Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June tours to Nottingham to visit Rose Nurseries of C Gregory and Sons and Wheatcroft Bros. were arranged and on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> a tour to Harkness Nurseries Hitchen. Four coach loads of delegates took part in both the Nottingham and Hitchen tours where the Nurserymen and their helpers extended to the delegates a most warm and hospitable welcome. Excellent lunches were served and the weather was more than kind. The sight of literally millions of rose bushes in full bloom in the fields of the nurseries as well as the display gardens was a memorable experience. Some of the roses were old favourites, others were new cultivars, only just on the market, like 'Duke of Windsor', rich orange gold in colour, 'Lady X', pale pink, 'Pharoan', deep red, 'Brasilia', orange, 'Pamela's Choice' yellow, 'Peer Gynt', 'Apricot Silk', 'City of Leeds' and many more. Some were not yet named and were only identifiable by numbers.

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> July will probably stand out as the most memorable day of the Conference for most of the delegates. The coaches for the tour to the Society's Display Gardens and Trial Ground at St Albans left Hamilton Place London at 9 am in brilliant summer sunshine and as the day progressed so the temperature increased, until eventually 92°F was recorded in the shade, humidity was almost as high. The discomfort of heat and humidity was completely forgotten by the glorious wealth of colourful roses grown to perfection in the gardens surrounding the Headquarters building of the RNRS. The formal layout of the Display Gardens offset by smooth green lawns was soon filled with admiring delegates who wandered round enjoying the beauty of colour, form and scent. Every shade and type of cultivar

was represented and at the end of each pathway a new vista of beauty was unfolded. The glory of the Queen of Flowers was truly displayed in this magnificent garden. The time passed all too quickly and it was with great reluctance that everybody had to leave this scene of rose joy and beauty.

Maj. Gen. and Lady Mary Naylor kindly invited several of the delegates to their lovely home Dancer's Hill at Barnet, not far away and we had the opportunity of walking round their pretty garden before luncheon was served. The climbing roses made a lovely display of colour against the grey stone of the walked garden which must have been many, many years old.

After this delightful function, our host and hostess drove us up to London and on this drive as well as when we travelled by coach through the lovely English countryside and the residential areas surrounding London, it was roses all the way. Every garden, no matter how small, had roses blooming in profusion making a colourful display showing that the Rose is indeed the well loved national flower.

At 4.30 pm promptly on this memorable Monday 1<sup>st</sup> July, the overseas delegates assembled in the State Apartments of St James' Palace (by gracious permission of Her Majesty the Queen) for the reception at which her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, the patron of the Royal National Rose Society was present.

The State apartments were elegantly decorated with bowls of most lovely roses, which included the cultivars 'Elizabeth of Glamis' 'Carla', 'Queen Elizabeth' and others. All these blooms had been cut from the Society's Garden at St Albans and had been arranged by Mrs Clacy of the RNRS and her helpers.

Added to this regal atmosphere of lovely draperies, carpets and famous oil paintings were the white damask clothed tables laid with exquisite china and silver tea ware, dainty sandwiches, small cakes, strawberries and cream.

Her Majesty the Queen Mother, escorted by Maj. Gen. Naylor graciously received the delegates that were presented to her and to each of the representatives of the various countries she gave a welcome and made reference to the particular sphere.

When the great moment arrived and the Representatives of the Rose Society of South Africa was presented, Her Majesty remarked "You grow so many beautiful flowers in South Africa, we were just a bit too early to see the lovely Cape heather when we visited your country."

Appropriately dressed in apricot pink, the colour of the rose that bears her name – "Elizabeth of Glamis' and wearing exquisite jewellery, the Queen Mother had tea served to her at one of the little side tables before making her departure.

To the delegates who were privileged to attend this reception, the atmosphere of elegance, dignity and graciousness will always remain as a greatly valued memory.

This great day was not yet over and from St James' Palace a coach load of delegates were driven to the Apothecaries Hall, Black Friars Lane where the Master, Wardens and Court of Assistants of the Worshipful Company of Gardeners held a reception. The Master received each delegate at the entrance of this lovely old beamed hall which is claimed to have survived the Great Fire of London. The walls are decorated with ancient banners, flags and oil paintings. On tables surrounding the Hall were placed beautifully made silver vessels which Past Masters through the ages have donated to the Society. All the guests were served with wine and snacks and an atmosphere of fellowship and goodwill prevailed. It was a most enjoyable and delightful experience in very historic surroundings.

The next day – Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July the lectures on the various aspects of "Modern development of Roses" started at the Hilton Hotel and continued each day until Thursday 4<sup>th</sup>. These lectures embraced many different subjects and provision was made for the interests of everybody ranging from Rose Propagation, to Flower Photography, Disease control and feeding Roses, Arranging and Judging of Roses at shows, Rose classification and a Quiz on the General Cultivation of the Rose.

Speakers from all parts of the world took part and there were many and varied diverse opinions on the different subjects.

No doubt the subject matter of these lectures will be published later in the Royal National Rose Society Annual.

The two lecture rooms at the Hilton that were made available for the conference were most beautifully decorated with massive arrangements of roses and the delegates were served with light refreshments between lecture sessions both morning and afternoon.

On Wednesday evening a most delicious Buffet supper was served for those who wished to attend, after which the premiere of the Rose Film made by the RNRS took place.

The Banquet on Thursday evening was a magnificent formal function at which the Right Hon Cledwyn Hughes PC Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food proposed the toast The Rose.

It was a gay happy evening and made a fitting end to a week of festivities and entertainments that so many from far and wide had enjoyed.

# FIFTH CHINA ROSE EXHIBITION and FIRST SANYA INTERNATIONAL ROSE FESTIVAL

Takamasa Tsuge (Japan)

The 5<sup>th</sup> China Rose Exhibition and 1<sup>st</sup> Sanya International Rose Festival were held from 12<sup>th</sup>~15<sup>th</sup> December 2012 at the Rose Valley, Yalong Bay Sanya-city Hainan Island China. This event was jointly sponsored by the China Rose Society and the Sanya Municipal People's Government in cooperation with WFRS. More than 200 delegates gathered including rosarians from 27 Chinese rose sister cities. Mrs.Helga Brichet and Mr. Andre Brichet were the chief delegates from WFRS.



At the Opening Ceremony Mrs. Helga Brichet delivered a message of congratulation to the newly opened Rose Valley and a speech about vital importance of 'china rose' in the history of the rose. Mr. Wang Yong, the Mayor of Sanya city, made a remark. The city is highly proud of construction of this huge Rose Valley (200 hec.). This project is aimed not only to supply roses to the northern part

of China in winter (November to April), but also to step up Sino-foreign cooperation and exchange on production and research. It is a fact that the total demand for roses in the whole of China annually is approximately one billion. This project of Sanya is expected to provide 15 million, especially in winter. To our great surprise, they say, the peak demand is concentrated on only 10 days before Valentine's Day in February.



Huayu Resort and Spa Yalong Bay Sanya Conference Hotel





**Opening Ceremony** 



Takamasa Tsuge, Andre and Helga Brichet Prize Award Ceremony

A lecture programme which included an Australian Team - Mr. Lawrence Newman, Mr. Ian Spriggs, Mr. Warren Millington and Mr. Peter Burton, had a discussion session about Australian breeding streams, followed by Mrs. Helga Brichet about the enjoyment of china roses. Mr. Hendrik Verschuur, Dutch Rose Society, Mr. Matthias Meilland, France and 6 lecturers from China.

Let me add my observation about their project. For conventional knowledge of growing roses it is unbelievable to grow rose in the tropics. Actually this Rose Valley in Sanya is located at 18 degree N. latitude and not so high from sea-level. Annual mean temperature 25.8 C (max.29.0~min.23.0), the coldest month is January. Therefore I think it is a very interesting experimental project to follow, not only for the Chinese Rose Society but also for the WFRS.

# The 5<sup>th</sup> China Rose Exhibition and The 1<sup>st</sup> Sanya International Rose Festival

Ian Spriggs (Australia)

I have always wanted to visit China, so when the opportunity came to attend the 5<sup>th</sup> China Rose Exhibition at Sanya on the Island of Hainan, I felt deeply honoured and grateful to the China Rose Society and the People's Government of Sanya for making this visit possible.

On the morning of 11<sup>th</sup> December, 2012 four Australians (Laurie Newman, Peter Burton, Warren Millington and myself) boarded a China Southern Airlines flight in Melbourne and flew to Guangzhou in China. After a brief stopover in Guangzhou, we boarded a connecting flight and flew to Sanya on the island of Hainan. After clearing customs, we were met by our friend Zhao Peng of the Beijing Botanical Garden and a lovely lei of frangipani and tropical orchids placed over our heads.



Happy welcome to travellers to Sanya

We were then transported to our hotel, Huayu Resort and Spa on Yalong Bay where we were met and greeted by Zhang Zuoshuang and his wife Hongyou Jin in the foyer of the hotel, along with Ling Guo who had done much of the arrangements for our trip. It was great to see our friends again. Laurie presented Zhang Zuoshuang with a framed enhanced photograph of 'China Sunrise', a rose that he had bred in his honour. We arranged to meet for breakfast the next day. As it was late when we arrived at the hotel the previous night, I had not had the chance of reading the conference brochure to see who was attending. On the way to breakfast, I met Takamasa Tsuge, WFRS Vice President for the Far East and shortly thereafter Mrs Helga Brichet and her husband Andre. Helga mentioned it was the first time that Andre had accompanied her to a WFRS event.

Following a delicious breakfast with our friends, arrangements had been made to take us to Yalong Bay International Rose Valley where the Opening Ceremony was to take place at 11am. It was a most lovely venue for the exhibition, a large valley surrounded by mountains. There were many hectares of roses growing on the flat plains for the cut flower industry and the displays and features were simply out of this world. Many features must have been constructed for the events and it was an absolute credit to the organizing committee. Sincere congratulations from a visitor from Australia.



Wedding Archway – Rose Bride Photography Exhibition

We were greeted with a bamboo dance with young people dressed in traditional costumes, and then I tried to see as much as I could of the exhibition in the short time that was available. The "Rose Bride" Pre Wedding Photography Exhibition was absolutely superb all decorated with roses. There were massive displays, arches decorated with roses, massive arrangements and roses staged singularly.



I came across a bloom of a rose which reminded me very much of my own 'Annie's Song'. Even the foliage was familiar. There were varieties that I could recognize and many that I could not. There were many roses that had been bought in, in pots. There were roses of every description. There was a large mounted display of red roses in the shape of a map of the World, where visitors could sign the board beneath the display. There was a large display of cars both modern and vintage all decorated with roses - a truly spectacular sight.



By this time we had also met up with Zhao Shiwei and other members of the Beijing Botanical Garden who I had not met previously. I also met the President of the Dutch Rose Society Henrik Verschuur and his wife Johanna together with Theodorus Ruijs also from the Netherlands. Matthias Meilland and his wife Asrini were also great company.

The Opening Ceremony took place on a large stage with a background of red roses. Several dignitaries were introduced to the stage by Master of Ceremonies Zhou Yingqi. A representative of the Sanya Municipal Government gave a welcome speech. Zhang Zuoshuang on behalf of the China Rose Society, China Flower Association spoke passionately, and Helga Brichet gave a speech on behalf of members of the World Federation of Rose Societies. The opening ceremony concluded when a number of invited dignitaries pressed the launch button to set off the special effects on the spot. Unfortunately, it was fairly windy which did spoil it a little, but the effects of smoke, ribbons and fireworks were still stunning.

Following the Opening Ceremony, we were taken on a guided tour by electric car around the exhibition area, which included a visit to glasshouses to view roses and other plants growing under cover. We then returned to our hotel.

Mid afternoon, I had arranged with Zhao Peng for a short visit to Sanya City to do some shopping. It certainly was busy, but I enjoyed it very much.

In the evening, we were taken to the downtown area of Sanya City to the Beauty Crown Theatre. It was a very large theatre/restaurant and we firstly enjoyed a delicious Chinese meal. The theatre show followed and it was something quite special. The many acts of different kinds, including acrobats, dancing, and lots of special effects including pyro techniques. A thoroughly enjoyable evening.

Early the next day, we were taken to the Cactus Resort Sanya where the 2012 International Forum on China Rose was to take place. Zhao Shiwei was to act as Chairman with Ling Guo to act as interpreter for the overseas speakers. Laurie Newman was to speak first to a power point presentation on Rose history in both China and Australia.



I followed and spoke briefly on my work for the National Rose Society of Australia and for the World Federation of Rose Societies. I mentioned how proud I was to see two Chinese Gardens receive the WFRS Award of Garden Excellence during my two terms as Chairman of the Awards Committee - Shenzhen Renmin Park in 2009 and Zijing Park, Changzhou in 2012.

Ling Guo interprets for lan Spriggs

I also mentioned that Australia had also two gardens that have received the Award - Victoria State Rose Garden in 2003 and Morwell Centenary Rose Garden in 2009. Australia and China had much in common in its love of the Rose and its willingness to share in its beauty, together with the friendliness and togetherness it creates amongst its people. I felt that was so important within the member countries of the Federation.

Warren Millington spoke on his breeding programme and Peter Burton on the National Trial Garden in Adelaide. Helga Brichet, Matthias Meilland and Hendrik Verschuur also gave excellent talks. There were also a number of excellent Chinese speakers.

The Prize Award Banquet and Closing Ceremony took place that evening on the outdoor lawn area of the Sheraton Hotel at Yalong Bay. It was a lovely event in a relaxed venue in a beautiful setting. I remember white and red being the featured colours of the evening. There was dancing in traditional costumes and speeches of appreciation by members of the Sanya Municipal Government and China Rose Society, China Flower Association.



Prize winning exhibitors from the Rose Festival were presented with their Awards, and during the evening a special presentation was made for services to the Rose in China to Mr. Laurie Newman. As you are no doubt aware, Laurie helped re-introduce old roses with which they were not familiar. This is a most wonderful honour for Laurie to receive.

Lawrie Newman receives award from Zang Zuoshuang, President of the China Rose Society

As mentioned earlier, the evening ended in a very relaxing way and we were all looking forward to the cultural and study tour that was to take place the next day.

We departed early the next day for the Hainan Yanoda Rainforest Cultural Tourism Zone which was located high in the mountains. It was a beautiful drive along the hilly mountain road, and our guide gave us a lot of information about the area and the ethnic minority communities that were its inhabitants. She was also from the area, which would also make it easier to understand the culture and the people.



Eventually we came to a large village and were taken on a tour of the many different types of houses. Most of the local people were dressed in local costume and some of the older people were chewing betel nut, which I had not experienced since visiting one of the Pacific islands many years earlier. At least two of the buildings contained some most exquisite tapestries.

**Zhao Peng with Hercules** 

Some of the weaving and embroidery of cloth done by the local people was quite extraordinary. I purchased a large piece of embroidered cloth for Sadie and it now adorns a coffee table in our home. This was also the area where we were to meet the elderly tattooed ladies, who were busy at work with their chores. At least two were well into their nineties.



It was time for the culture show, and we were taken to a large open seating area where we were to experience an incredible display of dancing and local folklore. It was very colourful and informative, and a most happy and rewarding time was had by all.



Hainan Yanoda Rainforest Cultural Show

Unfortunately, it was then time to leave the village and we were taken to a large hotel on the edge of the rainforest, where we enjoyed a delicious lunch.

Following lunch, we were taken further into the mountains to experience the wonders of the rainforest. Eventually we were to be divided into two groups with one group (the one I was in) to undertake a hike/ climb high into the rainforest. I was a little reluctant to go on this hike, but I was so glad I did. Helga Brichet, Zhao Peng, Hendrik and Johanna Verschuur, Matthias and Asrini Meilland and I all took part in this awe inspiring adventure.

We were eventually to meet up with the others who had gone on a shorter walk. Earlier, I had gone through an archway decorated with flowers where two lovely young girls had pulled your ears as you entered. Little did I know, it was the custom that if you pulled their ears back, you had to take them as your wife. We have laughed a lot about it, and yes I have a photo of me going through the arch with my ears being pulled (an old man like me).

It was time to go, and we returned to our hotel by the lovely mountain route, tired but relaxed. A barbecue had been arranged for us in the evening (more food) and it was to bring to an end a most enjoyable day. It also gave me the opportunity to say farewell to Takamasa Tsuge who was leaving early the next morning and have a most interesting talk with Likhit Maneesinthu from Thailand on the development of cut flower roses in Thailand.

Sadly, all good things must come to an end. After breakfast next day, we gathered to say farewell to our Chinese hosts who had been so good to us. They were returning to Beijing about two hours before we were catching a return flight to Australia. I sat down with Zhang Zuoshuang and Mrs Hongyou Jin, for about half an hour before they left. I was just so thankful and honoured to be part of this wonderful experience.

To my Special Friends in China, I will close this article with the words I used in closing the Australian Rose Annual when I was Editor:

"In All That Is Good, In All That Is Kind, In All That Is Beautiful,-

----Until We Meet Again"

### Sanya – on a Tropical Island with Roses

Helga Brichet (Italy)

Sanya is the second largest city on the large island of Hainan, second only in size to Taiwan, situated in front of Hong Kong, and lying between the Gulf of Tonkin and the South China Sea. Historically these waters were feared for their pirates, to whom the island afforded convenient coves for shelter and from which to launch attacks upon trading vessels. In fact the coastal lands are flat, but the inland area is covered by densely forested peaks of the Wuchih Mountains, the peaks of which arrive at 7,000 feet in altitude. The island has a tropical monsoon climate and in the fertile valleys rice, sugar cane, corn, vegetables and tropical fruits are cultivated. It is also rich in mineral deposits.

What has all this to do with roses? Over some years the local municipal government has been implementing an ambitious programme to encourage international tourism – in fact, being the southernmost city of the nation, it is named the Hawaii of China – but also the beauty industry and the implementation of green development. And here was a good reason to host the Fifth China Rose Exhibition and the First Sanya International Rose Festival in December, 2012.



A group of foreign guests at the Opening Ceremony – Helga Brichet, Hendrik and Johanna Verschuur, Mathias and Asrini Meilland, Ian Spriggs and Peter Burton with their Chinese hosts

The opening ceremony and spectacular launching were staged at the Yalong Bay International Rose Valley, where guests were welcomed by colourful local dancers, representatives of the Municipal Government, as well as the local branch of the China Flower Association. An introduction to the development plan for the rose industry in Sanya, which envisages energetic investments in the year-round cut-flower trade, was presented. There were beautiful displays of floral decoration, sponsored by local and international growers as well as a photograph exhibition and stands with pottery, jewellery and other articrafts featuring the rose. Many visitors were attracted to the exhibition of mini-gardens sponsored by the garden departments of various provinces of China. We were also shown the area and greenhouses where the development of the cut-flower project is being carried out.

The second day was dedicated to a series of lectures by foreign and local speakers. Amongst the foreign speakers, Australia was particularly well represented by Laurie Newman, the Registrar of new roses in that country, Peter Burton, the Secretary of the National Rose Trial Garden, Warren Millington, the most prolific rose breeder in Australia and also Ian Spriggs, the Immediate Past President of the Australian Rose Society. One of the most interesting lectures was given by Hendrik Verschuur, President of the Dutch Rose Society, who illustrated the history of roses in The Netherlands before the arrival of repeat-blooming varieties from the East. Two of the fascinating lectures presented by local specialists were those of Prof. Ge Hong, who spoke of New Rose Breeding in China and Prof. Zhao Hui'en regarding Compatibility in Rose Hybridization. Ample room was also given to the heritage rose collection as well as ancient Chinese varieties.

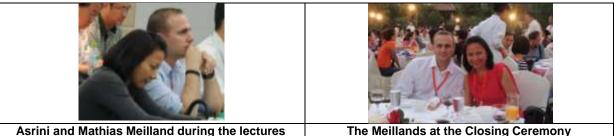
Chinese hospitality is legendry and indeed guests were enthralled to have the opportunity to visit a village still occupied by the original, native inhabitants of the island, a section of which remains in their control. It was absorbing to see their lifestyle, clothing and culinary habits, but also to learn about their beliefs and customs. The visit came to an end with an animated show with dancing and music depicting a number of their tribal legends.

Another treat was a visit to one of the few remaining pluvial or rain forests on the island. Visitors were permitted to stroll through the dense forestation along well indicated paths along which plants of particular interest were signalled. This is obviously a tourist attraction which also draws many holiday makers from the Chinese mainland, undoubtedly as happy as we were to be so casually dressed in cotton shirts as this time of the year, not to speak of savouring the local tropical fruit!



A guided tour of a village belonging to the native inhabitants of the island of Sanya

The final evening was given over to an extraordinary banquet at a luxurious waterside hotel along the edges of beautiful sandy white beaches. Music and dancing was spectacular, many awards were presented to rosarians of merit, and promises were exchanged to meet soon again in a spirit of friendship and goodwill.



### A Day Full of Roses

Andrew Hornung – (Great Britain)

In March, for the third consecutive year, a day of lectures was organized at La Tacita, the country club owned by Dr. and Mrs. Giorgio Mece north of Rome, where the International Rose Trials for new rose varieties in commerce for not more than three years are staged annually. The title, "A Day Full of Roses," certainly seems to have the right effect of wetting the audience's appetite for spring around the corner.

Outside a dull day, brooding iron skies over grey olives and the roses only just coming into leaf, none yet in flower. But inside, colour, variety, sparkle. Some 75 visitors listened to five excellent contributions at a meeting at La Tacita country club entitled "A Day Full of Roses".

The title, it must be said, was a little misleading since only two of the five excellently presented and stimulating talks were about roses. The first, by Lauro Marchetti, director of the Giardino di Ninfa, near Latina south of Rome. This fabulous "romantic" garden, recently described in a new book by Charles Quest-Ritson, was created starting in the 1920s by the Caetani family on the ruins of the medieval town of Ninfa. This is a garden, explained Marchetti, where "the soul can express itself", it is "a portion of paradise", created by a vision that is more that of the painter than of the gardener.

Marchetti spoke of the difficulties of uniting the architectural with the plant world and the challenge of creating the illusion of spontaneity. Here the rose is not queen, but the rose-lovers present delighted at extraordinary images of a soaring 'American Pillar' and a huge bush of Nabonand's 'General Schablikine'.

One of the most inspiring aspects of this contribution was the emphasis the speaker laid on the conservational and commercial viability of this project, its expansion and its contribution to the local economy.

Massimo De Vico Fallani, author of several important works on Italian gardens, spoke on "Flowers in Italian Renaissance and French Baroque gardens". The extent and role of flowers, in particular in Italian Renaissance gardens, has long been a subject of discussion among those interested in horticultural history. The speaker was particularly illuminating in pointing to the connection between the work of Italian XVII century figures like Bartolomeo Bimbi with their often Arab-influenced designs and the French gardens like those at the Chateaux of Blois and Gaillon with their elaborate parterres. The speaker pointed to the emergence of colour as a central factor in the flatter gardens of France, to the use of brightly coloured plants in conjunction with coloured sands and crushed coal-waste and to the influence of tapestry design on garden design and vice versa.

And then to roses! Giorgio Giubbino delivered an engaging and entertaining talk entitled "Stylistic Movements and Roses" in which he examined the parallel development of rose styles and artistic movements. "The rose", insisted the speaker, "is in itself a work of art...the result of human intervention not just in terms of horticulture but in terms of artistic style". He developed his theme by taking the audience through the roses in the time of Botticelli, those in the Baroque still life paintings of Van Huysum to the Pre-Raphaelites, Fantin Latour and the formal geometry of MacIntosh. Giubbino went on to draw parallels between the form of roses produced between the two world wars like Kordes' *Fruehling* series and the HTs of Aicardi and contemporary art styles, going on to apply his approach to the roses of current breeders like Enrico Barni and David Austin.

An extended article developing this idea is to be published in ROSANOVA, the art and garden history quarterly edited by the speaker, whose talk ended with his insisting: "Gertrude Stein wrote 'a rose is a rose is a rose' but in fact a rose is not a rose, is not a rose, is not a rose."

Then back to basics! "Terra terra", as they say in Italian. Marc Alberici of Rosepiacenza, winner of an Award of Merit at Madrid in 2011 with '*Angel Eyes*', spoke on "Bio-roses – Breeding and Cultivation". He explained the techniques and criteria that guide his work, that allow the breeder to take the road from genetic material to "ideotype", the desired outcome.

We learned about direct sowing of seeds, the maturation of hips, standard castration techniques, "open pollination" and seed stratification.

The final contribution was a wonderfully illustrated talk on Carl Linneaus, the great 18<sup>th</sup> century Swedish scientist. whose binomial system lies at the basis of modern plant codification. The talk, given by Paola Lanzara of the Botanical Garden of Rome, was much enlivened by images of the beautiful frontispieces of various editions of his work. We learned of his education at the University of Uppsala, his move to Holland where he published his first edition of his "<u>Systema Naturae</u>" and his move back to Sweden.

Paola Lanzara, never at a loss for audio-visual aids, showed portraits of Linnaeus, images on stamps and banknotes and even produced a tapestry cushion with Linnaeus' emblematic phrase "Without the name, we have no awareness".

Then out of the convivial chatter, away from the exchanges of addresses, last questions and hurried goodbyes, back through the spattering rain to the car park. Grey again outside, but bright with memories of five excellent talks to accompany us through the labours of spring.

# New Zealand National Rose Show 2012

Hayden Foulds (New Zealand)

One of the highlights of the rose calendar each year in New Zealand is the National Spring Rose Show held in November. A different local rose society hosts this event each year and for 2012, it was the Horowhenua Rose Society who decided to hold the event in Levin having never hosted this event before.

Levin is a town of around 20,000 between Palmerston North and Wellington in the lower North Island and has a long and proud tradition with the rose. The late Nola Simpson grew up in the area and for many years, Avenue Nurseries were a supplier of top quality rose plants to New Zealand gardens and introduced many varieties from overseas breeders.

Back to the show itself which the local organising committee had spent many, many hours over the last two years organising. But the success of any rose show comes down to the roses entered which often is at Mother Nature's mercy. Spring had been cool and damp over much of New Zealand but in the final few weeks, things came right.

Rosarians travel from all over New Zealand with many bringing blooms to exhibit so it was probably a relief to the organisers that the Levin Memorial Hall started to fill with so many lovely blooms on the Friday afternoon. A quick welcome and some refreshments were provided before many got back to work on their roses. Staging continued on the Saturday morning before the hall was closed only to the judges and stewards involved in judging the entries. It was a busy time as results came in, recording the results and sorting out the certificates.

Rose shows in New Zealand have a wide range of classes to enter from single blooms through to novelty arrangements involving roses, both large and small. There are also seedling classes as well and the local rose society hosting the event nominates classes, often around the theme they have chosen which for this show was 'For love of roses'.

Once the show opened, the hall was soon filled with people who have come to see the roses. By the time the local mayor opened the show, it was very much standing room only - a great result for all the hard work that has gone into the show and great promotion of the rose.

There were many outstanding exhibits, too numerous to mention. It was good to see the champion awards spread around several exhibitors from different parts of New Zealand.







In the evening, the convention dinner was held at the local council offices which included the presentation of prizes and trophies. Several would have just about needed a trailer to get everything home!

The Sunday of a National Show is often when many head home but there are other activities on to cater for those who stay on. This year, a bus trip was organised to visit local gardens in the Levin area. This included visits to four private gardens, all with beautiful roses and owners on hand to guide us around and answer any questions. The tour also stopped at the Levin Public Rose Garden, not far from the centre of town. Several years ago, the local council wanted to remove the gardens as they were costing too much money. There was quite an uproar from the local community and the council was forced to back down. In the end, they upgraded the gardens, moved the old Levin Courthouse on site (which is now a coffee shop) and the local rose society assists with maintenance. A pergola has recently been constructed and will look great when fully covered in climbing roses. The post tour for the WFRS Regional Convention will make a stop at this garden in November.



Across the road, we also visited the local cenotaph which had been upgraded in recent years to allow better access and also to correct and update the list of names of those who did not come home from various wars.

The bus trip arrived back in time for the pack up of the show, a huge job but one where many hands make light work and within an hour, the show was no more. Members of the public when seeing the roses being taken out, came and helped themselves to the blooms.

Many thanks must go to the Horowhenua Rose Society for hosting a great show and ensuring everyone had a great weekend. The 2013 National Rose Show in New Zealand will be held as part of the WFRS Regional Convention in Palmerston North this November and as part of the organising committee, we are hoping to have a great show for all our visitors.

### DISCLAIMER

The opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the World Federation of Rose Societies.

# 61st Annual Rose Show in Argentina

Diana Macgibbon (Argentina)

On Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> October, the Argentine Rose Society held their annual show at a venue in downtown Buenos Aires. This venue had been chosen for shows in previous years so the layout and facilities were given.

For the 2012 show the theme chosen was "Wine, Opera and Roses" and the scene was set! From the artistic point of view, the theme was interpreted with beautiful table arrangements, masks, niche arrangements and miniatures covering different Argentine wine types and well known operas. The actual horticultural show was, as usual, a mass of fabulous specimens which had defied the rather early spring we had, and which would have guaranteed a better show one or two weeks earlier.

Miniature roses were shown off wonderfully as were baskets and others.

An added attraction to the show was the screen at the end of the hall which displayed a constant stream of photos of members' gardens and private visits to gardens such as Bagatelle and similar public gardens from all over the world and added to that, wonderful opera music was played throughout the event.

Many of the roses in the slide show were identified by name, making it easier for the rose lover visiting the show to identify possible future purchases.

Before the show closed a wine tasting event took place which fitted in perfectly with the theme of the show and at which lots of ideas of how to make the 62<sup>nd</sup> show even more memorable were discussed!



#### THE NEXT ISSUE OF WORLD ROSE NEWS

will be the end of August,2013. Anybody wishing to submit articles should send them to the Editor by the middle of July. Thank you.

### Forty Years of the National Rose Society of Australia

Ian Spriggs (Australia)

The inaugural meeting of the National Rose Society of Australia took place on the 4<sup>th</sup> November, 1972 at 13 Orion Street, North Balwyn. under the Chairmanship of the President of the Rose Society of Victoria, Mr B.J.T.Stone. Dr.A.S. Thomas was elected the first President at that meeting with Mr H.Graham as Vice President.

An Australian Society had been first mentioned as far back as 1946, but it had never come to fruition until a concerted effort over a two year period, particularly by Mr.Stone to bring all States together in this historic event.

It also became imperative that a National Body be formed with Australia being one of the nine founding members of the World Federation of Rose Societies. The founding meeting of the World Federation took place in London in 1968 with the First World Convention taking place in Hamilton New Zealand in 1971.

Up until the formation of the NRSA (National Rose Society Australia), Australia was comprised of six individual State Societies, with the oldest being the National Rose Society of Victoria (as it was then known). The Victorian Society had published the national publication The Australian and New Zealand Rose Annual since 1928. After about 20 years the New Zealand Society decided to publish their own Annual and it became known as The Australian Rose Annual. On formation of the NRSA, it was decided that they would assume the responsibility of the publication of the Australian Rose Annual.

Several of the State Societies (including Victoria) had the words National in their title and this would progressively be dropped on formation of the National body.

Since its inception, the National Rose Society has always maintained that the State Societies maintain their own autonomy, and this I believe has contributed to the success of the National body. Each year the Annual General Meeting of the Society, rotates to a different State and the Presidency is for one year only. This seems to work effectively in Australia.

Australia has had elected delegates to all WFRS World Rose Conventions as well as attendees at most Regional Conventions. This is an important part of keeping Australia to the fore in rose matters on the World scene. Several of the office bearers of the World Federation are, or have been Australian and this is a natural progression from involvement in the National Rose Society. This certainly has benefited the rose in this country.

One of the most important steps was the establishment of the National Rose Trial Garden within the grounds of the Adelaide Botanic Gardens in 1996. With involvement from the National Rose Society and in particular Mr. Dean Stringer and in later years Mr. Kelvin Trimper, this has been an unqualified success. Every country needs a National Trial Garden and in a country as large as Australia, it is hoped that in the years ahead, a second garden may eventuate on a permanent basis.

The National Rose Society of Australia has nominated two volunteer-run gardens for the prestigious WFRS Award of Garden Excellence both of which were successful. The Victoria State Rose Garden received the award in 2003 and the Morwell Centennial Rose Garden in 2009. It is expected that the third of these volunteer-run gardens, the Mornington Botanical Rose Garden will be nominated in 2015.

The National Rose Society has maintained a highly informative handbook for judging roses. This handbook was revised in 2011 and is now a most comprehensive guide to the Showing and Judging of Roses.

We have come a long way over the last forty years. As the rose has grown and developed, so has the National Rose Society.. It is the people who love roses that make it all worthwhile, the friends we have made and meet to discuss common ideas and to enjoy each other's company.



### **The Europa-Rosarium Sangerhausen**

Hella Brumme and Hans Schreiber (Germany)

The historical significance of the Rosarium is the maintenance of the diversity of Roses for posterity and has been carried out for more than one hundred years. Therefore it is a living museum and a gene bank for roses with a priceless value. This is of great significance because the rose, as queen of the flowers with it's unique beauty has cast a spell over people for many years.

More than 8,300 different roses are growing in an arranged system in an area of about 13 hectares. Framed with a splendid backdrop of woods and surrounding trees and shrubs it offers the visitors a park for relaxation and education. Representing the unique history of the rose the garden is also a monument to the history of gardening. Also located within the grounds are 320 varieties of trees, shrubs and flowers, some of them quite rare. Mostly the roses are planted according to the category of roses.

Various theme gardens have been planted: a rose climber garden, the ADR (All German Rose Trials) Show Garden, a garden of fragrance and a Jubilee Garden illustrates the development of roses during the last hundred years.

A Gene Bank Network for Roses was set up in Sangerhausen in 2009. The cooperation with other gardens and institutes is organized with the aim of collecting and preserving the genetic resources of the genus Rosa scientifically and on a long-term basis. This will help to enable the definite identification of roses, verification of authenticity of rose species and wild roses, in order to save and protect the collection and to avoid a complete loss of rose species.

Since 1903 the Rosarium Sangerhausen has not only been a place of maintenance and to improve the standard of roses but also a place for information about the subject of roses for rose friends all over the world. The more extensive collection of rose literature was the foundation of the Sangerhausen Rose Library. Unfortunately this library got lost after the Second World War.

With the New German Rose Library a new reference library exists in the Europa-Rosarium Sangerhausen. It was possible to buy a certain number of lost books again. Gifts and donations have brought the number of books, special editions, magazines and newspapers to almost 3,500 today.

In June 2012 the Europa-Rosarium Sangerhausen received the Green Flag Awards in recognition of quality of gardening and for the benefit of historical and contemporary parks and gardens.

For many years the Europa-Rosarium has been a venue of successful and very popular seminars and lectures under the title "Sangerhausen Rose School – meet and discern roses". The lectures pass on worthwhile knowledge of roses with different subjects throughout the year.

The WFRS 13th International Heritage Rose Conference will be held in the Europa-Rosarium Sangerhausen from 19<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> June 2013. The title is "Collecting, Identifying and Maintaining Heritage Roses". The German Rose Society is supporting this conference with the help of two volunteer organizations: "Kassel Roundtable Talks About Roses" and the aid association "Friends of the Rosarium Sangerhausen". Speakers and experts from all over the world will give reports about their experiences to save and protect Heritage Roses.

For more information about the programme please see the internet : <u>www.http://europa-rosarium.de</u> The Heritage Rose Conference has 220 registered guests at present. Only a few places are free for registration at the internet address above.





World Rose News

### WFRS BREEDERS CLUB

Gérald Meylan – Chairman (Switzerland)

Members of the Breeders Club met in Lyon on 1 February 2013.

**The following members were present**: Mrs Avelyne GAUJARD, Messrs Markus BRUNSING, Fabien DUCHER, Dominique MASSAD, Richard LAPERRIERE, Alain MEILLAND, Matthias MEILLAND, Pierre ORARD and Franck REUTER.

**The following were excused** : Mrs Beatrice BARNI and Matilde FERRER, Messrs Arnaud DELBARD, Jean-Pierre GUILLOT, M Rateau (EVE Old Roses) and Chris Warner, as well as the Vice-President for Southern Europe, Mrs Henrianne de BRIEY, and the President of the French Rose Society, Professor Maurice JAY.

On this occasion, the following items were discussed:

**Summary of the World Convention in Johannesburg**: mention was made of the main nominations to positions of responsibility and the few changes in the statutes. Members of the Breeders Club thanked Sheenagh Harris for taking part in the different International Rose Trials. They wish every success to Steve Jones and look forward to meeting him. The dates of future conventions were given, particularly the World Convention in 2018 which will be organised by the Danish Rose Society and will be held in Copenhagen.

**Fees for the Breeders Club**: the members thanked the WFRS Executive Committee and the delegates for the change made to the fees. The annual fee is now fixed at £70.

**Experimental Station in Shenzhen (China)**: the experimental station set up to study the behaviour of garden roses in the region of the 20 N parallel is in operation and the first results are interesting. Judging takes place along the same lines as those used in International Rose Trials. The next judging period will take place at the beginning of April 2014.

In order to follow up this first experiment, the breeders present decided to study the establishment of an association based on BARB (British Association of Rose Breeders), in order to facilitate commercial ties with Chinese growers. A working group under the responsibility of Dominique Massad, and in collaboration with Pierre Orard and Richard Laperrière, will contact those concerned with the aim of seeking a maximum amount of information to facilitate the development of this project.

**New experimental stations in China**: Beijing, and later on Changzhou, are interested in developing trial stations based on the model set up in Shenzhen. The breeders present are in favour of these extensions, but first of all wish to create their commercial association and afterwards study the possibility of setting up new experimental stations.

**International Rose Trials of Monaco**: these trials take place every two years and the next one will be held on Saturday 3 May 2014. The roses for these trials should be sent in December 2013.

**International Rose Trials of Beijing**: the City of Beijing is extremely interested in setting up their own international rose trials. The breeders are in favour of this initiative based on the trials in La Tacita (Italy) and Huis Ten Bosch (Japan), where varieties already in commerce for less than five years at the time of sending the plants, are judged.

**Collaboration with the Website of the WFRS**: the WFRS Executive Committee is in favour of publishing on its website a one-page article of each breeder. The information will be sent to Ethel Freeman.

**Collaboration with World Rose News**: WRN is published in April, September and December. A programme of articles written by the breeders will be introduced, starting with an article by Dominique Massad, followed by Pierre Orard.

April, 2013

**Individual Proposals**: Ties with the International Rose Trials Committee will be strengthened. The breeders had the pleasure of welcoming to their meeting the new Chairman, Markus Brunsing, and his presence amongst them was highly appreciated. Markus Brunsing informed the breeders of the measures already undertaken since his nomination at the head of the International Rose Trials Committee:

A request has been made to all 28 international trials to send in their rules and regulations concerning the work of the judging panel, the marking chart and the upkeep of their rose beds. 18 trials have already replied.

Research will be carried out to standardize regulations in order to have a better comparison between trials. An identical chart will be introduced and filled in by the breeder as regards the description of each variety on trial. The breeders present are particularly in favour of these initiatives. A meeting of breeders and those responsible for rose trials will take place on Saturday 7 September 2013 at Le Roeulx (the day after their International Rose Trials) to discuss the above items.

Members of the Breeders Club would like other breeders to join the WFRS committee. A request will be made to all WFRS Vice-Presidents to contact the different breeders in their region.

Members of the Breeders Club will study the possibility of setting up a special stand during Lyon 2015 and organising a lecture for the general public, delegates and residents of the Lyon region.

Three breeders have asked to join the Breeders Club: Messrs Arnaud DELBARD, Fabien DUCHER and Matthias MEILLAND. The relevant information regarding their membership will be sent to them by the WFRS Executive Director, Malcolm Watson.

### **MY LIFE AMONG ROSES**

Dominique Massad (France)

I was born in Marseille on 28 July, 1955, and was drawn at an early age to plants and gardens. Wanting to make that my career, I did graduate studies for a master's degree in Botany, then obtained a diploma as an agronomist engineer at the *Ecole Nationale Supérieure d'Agronomie* at Montpellier, followed by special studies at the *Ecole Nationale Supérieure d'Horticulture* at Versailles in 1978. After obtaining my degrees, the city of Marseille employed me as an engineer in the parks ("*espaces verts*") service, and since then roses, at first only a hobby, have become my passion.

It was while at Versailles, reading in their library the book "Les plus belles roses au début du siècle," that I fully appreciated the great heritage and contributions represented by five generations of rose breeders of the Guillot family of which I am a descendant from Pierre Guillot by my grandmother Marguerite Guillot and my mother Paule Jeunet. My desire to rediscover some of these earlier Guillot varieties prompted me to re-establish contact with Jean Pierre Guillot (distantly related through our parents), and finding that we shared a passion for heritage roses led to our close collaboration. Several trips abroad helped us reconstitute a collection of Guillot varieties and other remarkable specimens. One of my favourites to this day is "Comtesse du Cayla," found through Léon Goarant's catalogue. The step from collecting to creating was quickly made, and in 1980, after having worked first with irises, I made my first hybridization of roses.

My first hybrids were from *Chinensis* (Bengal) and *Wichuraiana* roses especially chosen for their prolific blooming, with a goal of obtaining rambling roses with good remontance. These first efforts yielded, as might be expected, a very mixed progeny, of which one was chosen to commercialize: 'Topaze', a small *Polyantha* scented and remontant. As a good parent plant, 'Topaz" was used to

fertilize a hybrid of *Rosa Filipes* whose seeds were obtained from the botanic garden in Beijing. From their offspring, crossed with *Moschata* hybrids came the variety 'Rose Delacroix,' a remontant liana which in turn became the ancestor of 'Belle de Sardaigne', a hardy remontant with pompom flowers of a lavender pink.



'Belle de Sardaigne'

David Austin was for me the model rose breeder, and his first creations reminded me of *Gallicas* or sometimes *Centifolias* or certain *Bourbons*, which were the shapes that attracted me even more than those of the remarkable Hybrid Teas.

So, beginning with English varieties, like 'Graham Thomas', 'Fair Bianca' or 'Abraham Darby', I started crossing them with Kordes varieties chosen for their colours and qualities of growth and resistance to heat and dryness, with 'Poustinia' for its pinkish white flowers, with 'Goldtopas' for its golden yellow tones, with 'Magneta' for its mauve colour, with 'Festivity' for its geranium red, and 'Angela" for its globular flowers.

Other crossings were with old Tea Noisettes such as 'Mme Berard', 'Rêve d'Or' and 'Crépuscule', chosen for their flowering and long growing season, as well as their colour variability (for example: changing from a warm yellow in cooler weather to salmon pink as temperatures rise), with traditional Guillot creations such as 'Comtesse du Cayla', 'Le Vésuve Climbing' and 'Mme Laurette Messimy', and with varieties of unusual colours such as Tysterman's 'Julia's Rose'.

In 1995 the first rose introduced from these crossings was 'Sonia Rykiel', which inaugurated the series Generosa® by the Guillot rose growers and supplemented in 2008 by the series Provencelles® by the firm Pétales de Roses.

The roses of both collections are remontant and fragrant with shapes recalling those of heritage roses.

Those with globular flower shapes include 'Rosamane Janon', a chartreuse yellow pink; 'Cybelle,, a climber with fuchsia pink flowers; 'Fiona Gelin', yellow and pink; 'Hella', pale yellow; 'Elisabeth Stuart',

salmon-coloured; 'Gene Tierney', a dark yellow; 'Eliane Gillet', milky white with red edges; 'Jardins de Vielle Maison', yellow and raspberry; and 'Casteu Gombert', a sulphury yellow. Quartered-blooms like 'Georges Danjean', golden yellow with red edges; 'Bicentenaire de Guillot', dark red; and 'Emilien Guillot', orange. red; and 'Emilien Guillot', orange.



'Emilien Guillot'

Star-shaped flowers such as 'Nadine Xella-Ricci', white with yellow centre; 'Belle d'Espinouse', purple splashed with yellow and white; 'Paul Bocuse', salmon-colour, 'William Christy', old pink; 'Dan Poncet', carmine red; and 'Michel Joye', yellow.

Camellia-like flowers such as 'Durance Ancian Rosa', in lavender pink; 'Griselis', dusty violet,'and 'Florence Delattre', violet.

Peony-like flowers such as 'Esprit de Jardin', dark pink; and 'Marc Antoine Charpenier', pale yellow.

Frilled flowers like 'Elodie Gossuin', dark lilac pink; 'Froufroutante Jacquie', salmon-coloured; 'Souvenir d'Eugène Maubert', dark pink; 'Louise de Marillac', candy pink; 'Les Blouses Roses' a fluorescent pink; and 'Docteurs Massad', raspberry and white.

Apart from the *Generosa* collection, other varieties introduced as *Les Contemporaines* roses by the Guillot group with interesting characteristics include 'Edouard Guillot' and 'Isabele Mainoz'.

Just as hybrids of *Sempervirens* were used in the 19th century, I explored ways of using others species to breed climbing roses. Starting with two Chinese botanical varieties Rosa filipes and Rosa helenae of which I had received seeds from the Beijing botanical garden, I crossed them with *Bengals* 'Comtesse du Cayla' and 'La Vésuve', with *Moschata hybrids* 'Cornelia' and 'Buff Beauty', and with the *Polyantha* Topaze'.

These crossings over several generations have yielded a number of varieties of seedlings with new characteristics in the forms of their flowers, such as 'Parc de Maupassant', in their colours like the amber-yellow 'Gunsho' and red-pink 'Eridion', and their remontance tendency, like the flesh-pink 'Rose Delacroix', which is in the series *Lianambelles*® available through the Pétales de Roses, the nursery of Jean Pierre Dittiere near Angers. The hybridizations are continuing with an emphasis on backcrossing to improve the varieties' continuous blooming on healthy plants.

The series *Les Eglantelles*® with large single or semi-double flowers also harks back to the older, botanic roses. The idea was to create varieties like the old roses found in wild gardens of the past but with new colouration and remontance. Varieties used were 'Artiste' (from François Dorieux), 'Dainty Bess', 'Céline Delbard', 'Mikado', 'Sally Holmes', plus dwarf seedlings from crosses with *Rosa filipes*.

The first rose introduced was 'Anne Laure' with large blood-red flowers, followed by 'Francine Royneau', golden yellow with red stamens, 'Souvenir de Robert Schuman' with amber flowers,

'Christophe de Combejean', red variegated yellow and white, 'Danielle Arcucci', poppy-red and fragrant, 'Françoise de Grignan' red and gold, 'Marie Louise Drevon', candy-pink, and 'Jardiniers du Paradis' with fringed petals. My crossings continue with the aim of obtaining large flowers whose colours and size of stamens contrasts sharply with that of the petals, such as 'Florian Massad' and 'Nimet'.



In summary: from 1985 to 2012, more than 140 new varieties have been put into commerce.

My methods of cultivation are on very small scale. My "artisan" garden is small, less than 1,000 square meters. Most of the roses are grown in pots. The crosses (500 to 600 each year) are done *in situ* from May to July 14th. The fruits are collected as they mature in early September and chilled during the winter. The seedlings are planted outdoors in early March. Each plant is transplanted from pots to containers several times, and that is when the selection commences in a process that lasts two to three years. Finally, cuttings of these selected varieties are sent to Jean Pierre Dittiere at the Pétales de Roses, where they are grafted and the selection process continues for several more years.



'Casteu Gombert'

World Rose News

## Peter Beales 22 July 1936 – 2 January 2013 Torben Thim (Denmark)





'Peter Beales' (photo –Torben Thim)

Peter Beales MBE (Most Excellent Order of the British Empire), rose grower, rodologue, author, artistic master gardener, breeder, and *gentleman*. Peter Beales was all that, and as such he tended the roses. He received a score of gold medals from the Royal Horticultural Society for his championing of garden culture, and for his wonderful design with roses throughout the years at the Chelsea Flower Show. Beales was adviser to Queen Elizabeth II as well as to the Queen Mother at Windsor Castle. He wrote a number of wonderful books, one of which, "Classic Roses" from 1985, is regarded as his opus magnum. Beales was one of the great in the Rose World, with a wonderful distance to his own worth and with much self-irony. If you asked him if he was the greatest rose grower in the World, he would answer: "Probably no 2!" "Well, Peter, who is no 1?" "I am sorry, he is not of my acquaintance!"

At the age of 15 Beales became apprenticed as a gardener at the Le Grice Nursery, where he received the testimonial that he had a natural aptitude for plants and their propagation. Before he started on his own, Beales did 2 years of military service, during which he met his wife to be, Joan. Here you can talk of the "inner wheel". She was the hub of *Peter Beales Roses*, and in every way his love and best friend. After 51 years of marriage Joan Beales died in September 2012. Let us pay tribute to her memory. Perhaps Peter's strength also gave way after his rose disappeared. Peter Beales died from heart trouble on 26 January 2013, aged 76, at The Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital. Peter Beales leaves his son Richard Beales, who is in charge of the company today, his daughter Amanda Beales, and four grandchildren.

The rose adventure began in 1967, and after a couple of years on a few acres of land at Swardeston near Norwich in Norfolk, Peter and Joan moved the rose nursery to Attleborough, and began anew on open land, where you now find a large rose centre with a flowering visitors' garden. Apart from winning prizes, travelling round the world, and giving talks, Beales brought many new roses onto the market, among others: 'James Mason' (1982), 'Jill Dando' (1999), 'Clarence House' (1999), 'Sir John Mills' (2005). One of his first new introductions from 1969 he named 'Penelope Plummer' after the Miss World of that year. As well as breeding new roses, Peter Beales had plenty of time and space for "heritage roses" and historic roses. The "classic roses" were closest to his heart. My rose friendship with Peter Beales had two peaks. The first time, and the last time. On both occasions we were together for several days in succession. On outings in the capacity of humble servants to the rose. From the first handshake in 1985, when I visited Peter at Attleborough, and we looked each other in the eyes, we understood each other immediately, as people do who share interests and ways.

I mirrored myself somewhat more in him than he in me – after all Peter had so much more knowledge and experience. Our time together was exceptionally easy. For instance, I accompanied him to

Windsor Castle on a visit to the Queen Mother. We performed errands, and we visited St. George's Chapel. We talked roses all the time. Every new angle to which the rose and its history could be subjected was dealt with, castigated, and polished. We planned fantasy rosaria at 95 mph down the M5, or in the queues on the roads.

I am sure that Peter Beales would have no objection to my bringing a couple of experiences from our acquaintanceship here. The first day of my first visit to The Beales' turned into evening. Beales and I brought wine from town, and wonderful Joan served supper. The children Richard and Amanda filtered through the room in turns. Peter, Joan, and I were sitting in deep armchairs in front of a fireplace with a grill, as is the custom in the UK. We discussed everything between Heaven and Earth. Drank whisky. I cannot tell whether it was under the influence of this drink that I suddenly exclaimed: "I am convinced that 'Rose de Resht' is the genuine 'Rose du Roi' and that the rose bearing that name is an entirely different rose"! Peter looked at me long and hard, Joan got up a little nervously, and I thought to myself, "Oh dash it! Now I have put my foot in it." Peter straightened up in his chair, "Torben, that is a theory I myself have been nursing, but I have never openly spoken to anybody about it!" The rest of the night was spent sorting out the threads and arguing in favour of this common theory. I was ushered to a bedroom, and it was almost dawn when I tumbled into bed.

I woke up to the sounds of the house, which I barely knew. Put on my clothes and sneaked out of the bedroom. I found Beales, I doubt he had gone to bed, bent over a heap of letters of gigantic proportions. I had never seen anything like it. Rose questions and garden projects. Beales told me that he would get through it all, it would just take time, and meanwhile people are pressing for an answer, and then it takes twice as long. "What's a few black spots between friends?" With a reference to black spots on roses, it was the affectionate term for disagreements between friends – roses and people. I did not always agree with Beales – especially not when it came to the quality of plants. Beales used a grading which he called 'field grading', with 50 rose plants in each bundle. If I took such a bundle home to DK, I had to discard approximately 10 that had one stem only, 20 that had 2 stems and the rest had 3 stems. The latter category we can sell as A-quality on the Continent. When I complained to Beales about this grading, he just replied, Torben, these are rare roses, it has nothing to do with qualities.

Beales possessed more of a temper than you would immediately imagine. One day a rose enthusiast came into his office. She had phoned beforehand, and Beales had made sure to be present, as she wanted the answer to a question. She had brought with her a strong sprig of a rose with large sprays of white flowers and asked, "Mr. Beales, which rose is this – I have found it in my neighbourhood?" She further elaborated about its height and width. She handed it to Peter, staring at him hard and fast. Peter studies the rose for a short moment, after which he declares, "This is a 'Sir Cedric Morris'"! The guest scowls a little, "No it isn't!", she exclaims. Beales is in no doubt and tells her about the characteristics of Sir Cedric. "It is *not* that rose"! the woman persists. Beales tries again in a friendly manner. But the woman insists she is right. Then Beales takes the rose from her, throws it on the floor and jumps and tramples on it, till it is smashed to smithereens. He tells her off, "Why do you come here, asking questions, wasting my time, when you already know the answer! Get out!"

In 1998 Beales visited Copenhagen and gave a talk to the Rose Society, Region East, as it was then. We met at the then chairman Lillian Allingbjerg's for dinner. The same thing happened – we fell at ease and talked as if we had been in frequent company over the past dozen years, which we had not. I drove him to the hotel, and the next day we went on an outing, saw Copenhagen and castles of North Zealand. We took a trip to Love, and before the talk in the evening at the Royal Veterinary and Agricultural High School, I took Peter, at his firm request, to see The Little Mermaid. I knew well that her head had been sawn off, and that she was in the process of being restored, so I was curious to see his reaction. You could not actually see The Little Mermaid, she was hidden in a wooden box. Peter took a couple of pictures of her, "I am really happy to see her under these unusual conditions"! Peter loved his roses, and one of the best things he knew was to stand in the middle of the rose field before the lifting season and shout, "You are all mine, I love you all!" But the field is emptied, the roses are sold, and replanted in innumerable gardens. Such are the conditions of Life. That is how he behaved towards his own life, his illness, his roses, and his friends, and probably also Death. When you are full of enthusiasm for a cause, nothing can kill you, he told me.

Beales...Peter Beales, your importance and influence will continue far into the Future.

### A Celebration of The Life of World Rosarian Peter Beales 22.7.1936 – 26.1.2013 Ann Bird (Great Britain)

Peter Beales led a remarkable life and it is almost impossible to do justice to all his achievements in one article, so I hope I will be forgiven for any omissions!

Peter was born and raised in North Norfolk where he developed an appreciation of nature at a very early age, leading to a passion for plants and roses in particular. The first rose he was introduced to was the alba 'Maiden's Blush', but he readily admitted this was not the life-changing event which would persuade him to grow old garden roses. He completed a three-year apprenticeship with Edward Le Grice, a well respected rose grower in North Walsham, after which National Service During this time he met his future wife, Joan, and after leaving the Army took up a beckoned. position at a nursery in Surrey under the guidance of Graham Stuart Thomas, acknowledged to be one of the world's leading rosarians who had a special interest in the revival of old roses. This proved to be the inspiration for Peter to return to his native Norfolk with his wife and found his own 15 acre rose nursery, eventually moving to the present site near Attleborough where one of the world's largest commercial collection of old roses now grows. He has also bred more than 70 modern roses all of which are available commercially, and his interest in species roses resulted in his registration as the holder of the National Collection of Species Roses by Plant Heritage.

Peter began exhibiting at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show in 1971 and has since won 19 Gold Medals together with the first RHS President's Award for "Best Stand in Show" in 1993. In that year he personally was awarded the highest accolade in the British gardening world – the Royal Horticultural Society Victoria Medal of Honour, and also became the only professional rose grower so far to hold the office of President of the Royal National Rose Society. After his two-year Presidency it gave me great pleasure to present Peter with the Dean Hole Medal, highest honour of the Royal National Rose Society, and finally in 2005 he received royal recognition with the award of an M.B.E. The World Federation of Rose Societies awarded their Gold Medal to him in 2006, presented at a World Rose Convention in Osaka, Japan, and a Lifetime Achievement Award was given to him in 2009 by the Garden Media Guild. Being the modest person Peter was meant these awards were only mentioned on direct questioning.

An earlier highlight in Peter's rose life was being asked to redesign the rose garden at Royal Lodge, Windsor for the late Queen Mother's 85<sup>th</sup> birthday, and for her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday he bred a lovely white climber aptly named 'Clarence House'. The royal connections were strong as each year Peter would attend the Sandringham Flower Show where the Royal Family showed great interest in the new roses on his stand.

Peter was certainly a figure of great importance in the world of roses around the globe with longstanding friendships in many countries. He had a special affection for Japan and its culture, and was welcomed like royalty when visiting there. The staff at his rose nursery in Barakura called him "The King of Roses". Despite such recognition I felt Peter was at his happiest when talking to the public at the nursery, showing them how to look after their old garden roses, and perhaps talking about some of his own newer varieties, with secateurs in his hand and wearing his trademark floppy straw hat which might once have been a panama? This famous hat sometimes formed part of the decoration on his Show stands, placed strategically on a garden table or in a niche amongst the roses on one of his grand displays – it was even seen at Chelsea more than once!

An enthusiastic believer in growing roses with other plants, Peter would encourage people in his lectures and best-selling books to look upon the rose as a shrub which is part of the landscape and not grown in isolation. His idea has now become very popular and when the new "Gardens of the Rose" were designed in 2005/6 mixed planting was incorporated throughout the garden - a great success with favourable comments from our visitors that this is what they want to see. He is described as an "adventurous nurseryman" in a recent publication which would certainly tie in with some of his theories!

Peter was a respected author and his books are a constant source of reference and enjoyment for many people who either grow roses already or are thinking of doing so. He called his association

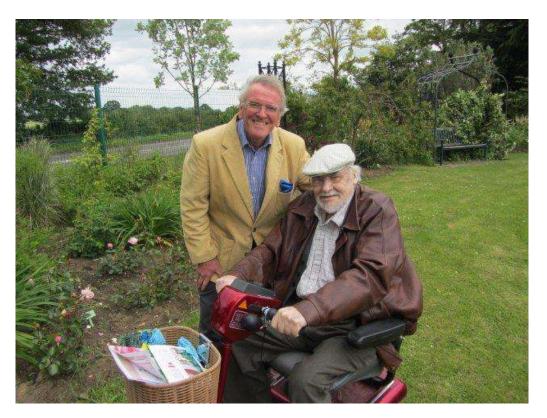
with roses "a lifelong love affair", but he was a truly great rosarian whose modesty about all his achievements is demonstrated so clearly by this dedication in one of his books –

"I dedicate this book to all those around me who have so often accepted second place to a rose, but without whom I could not have grown even a briar".

In later years Peter's health deteriorated to the extent that he spent more and more time in hospital, but he always returned home to the loving care of his wife, Joan - she was his soul-mate to whom he was married for 51 years, and when she sadly died in September 2012 he did not recover from the shock of losing her. Joan had played a pivotal role behind the scenes on all aspects of setting up and running their business, which is now in the hands of their son, Richard, and daughter Amanda, together with the devoted staff whom Peter regarded as his extended family and treated them as such.

The legacy Peter leaves behind is not just the wonderful roses he either bred, reintroduced, or simply just grew, but in the way he looked at life generally – loyalty to those around him, hard work, a sense of fair play, modesty, and kindness – ideals which are perhaps not fashionable at the moment, but hopefully one day will again be recognised as necessary for our wellbeing.

Rest in peace, dear friend.



Rod Petty (Immediate Past President of the RNRS) with Peter Beales and his 'racing car' June, 2012

## WFRS REGIONAL CONVENTION, PALMERSTON NORTH, NEW ZEALAND



Online registration: <u>www.nzroses.org.nz/wfrs2013/</u> Website: <u>www.worldrose.org</u> Convenor – Peter Elliott: gizmo@inspire.net.nz



'Pacific Glory'

# 'Roses down under - the kiwi experience'

Ordinary registration: 2<sup>nd</sup> July to 1<sup>st</sup> September 2013

Late registration: 2<sup>nd</sup> September to 15<sup>th</sup> October 2013

Please note that no registrations will be accepted after October 15<sup>th</sup> and if you arrive unregistered and unpaid, you will NOT be accommodated for any part of the tours or convention.

## PRE TOUR:14<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> November

If participating in the pre-tour, you will need to arrive in Auckland on or before Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November. Full details of the post tour are on the website and registration form. Approximate cost NZ\$2329 per person, twin share. NZ\$ 800 single supplement.

### SUMMARY OF PRE-TOUR

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November: Auckland. You will be transferred from the airport to your hotel. A welcome dinner will be held in the evening.

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November: Auckland. Enjoy a full day tour of Auckland including a visit to the Sky Tower, the Auckland Botanic Gardens and the Parnell Rose Gardens.

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November: Auckland to Hamilton. Travel south to Te Awamutu and visit the rose gardens. There will also be visits to the Waitomo Caves and the Kiwi House at Otorohanga before you arrive in Hamilton.



Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> November: Hamilton. Enjoy a free morning before taking in the Daltons Waikato Rose Show in the afternoon. Join members of the Waikato Rose Society in the evening for dinner.

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> November: Hamilton. Participate in the judging of the New Zealand Rose of the Year competition

and then hear which roses have won awards.

Roger's Garden, Hamilton

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November: Hamilton - Matamata – Rotorua. Depart Hamilton and travel to Matamata and visit the Hobbiton movie set which includes a BBQ lunch. Travel on to Rotorua.

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> November: Rotorua. Travel up the Gondola for breakfast followed by a visit to the Agrodome and then Te Puia to see boiling mud and geysers. You will attend a Maori hangi and concert in the evening.

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> November: Tour the local museum located in Government Gardens. Rest of day at leisure to enjoy the many attractions on offer in Rotorua.

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November: Rotorua – Taupo – Napier. Depart Rotorua and visit Huka Falls and Lake Taupo before arriving in Napier. Enjoy a walking tour of this art deco city.

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November: Napier – Palmerston North. Depart Napier and head to Palmerston North where you will be transferred to your convention hotel.

### CONVENTION WEEK IN PALMERSTON NORTH: 22<sup>nd</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER

You can either book your accommodation on the registration form or do it yourself. The preferred convention hotel is the Hotel Coachman (<u>www.hotelcoachman.co.nz</u>) but there are plenty of other options available.

If flying into Palmerston North, there will be transport provided to your hotel from the airport which is 10 minutes from the city centre.

#### INTERNATIONAL ROSE SHOW

Delegates may wish to register their interest in being part of the judging panels at the rose show. Numbers are limited and it is first in, first served.

The International Rose Show will have a number of WFRS Challenge classes which Rosarians will compete in. There will also be floral art displays, a display of quilts, a world class display of rose stamps, trade exhibits and much more.

#### LECTURE PROGRAMME

Mr Thomas Proll (Kordes Roses - Germany) – 'How to create healthy roses, still charming and fragrant – no magic but lots of hard work'.

Mr David Kenny (Ireland) – 'Amateur rose breeding in the UK and Europe'

Mr Kelvin Trimper (Australia) – 'Maintaining the popularity of the rose down under'

Mr Steve Jones (USA) – 'A history of American Rose Hybridisers'

Mr Doug Grant (New Zealand) - 'Sam McGredy and his roses'

Mr John Ford (New Zealand) - 'The legacy of Nola Simpson and her roses'

Mrs Ann Chapman (New Zealand) - 'A Personal Journey - For the Love of Old Roses'

Mrs Fiona Hyland (New Zealand) – 'Conserving old roses in New Zealand'

Two more lectures are to be confirmed and there will also be a panel discussion on 'The future of the rose'

### POST-CONVENTION TOUR: 28<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER – 5<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER

If participating in the post tour, plan to depart from Christchurch on the morning of Thursday December 5<sup>th</sup> onwards.

Full details of the post tour are on the website and registration form.

Approximate cost NZ\$1879 per person, twin share. NZ\$ 620 single supplement.

#### SUMMARY OF POST TOUR

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> November: Palmerston North to Wellington: Visit the Levin Rose Gardens and the Southward Car Museum before a tour of Wellington, the capital of New Zealand.

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November: Wellington. Visit the Wellington Botanical Gardens which includes the Lady Norwood Rose Gardens and the collection of heritage roses at the Bolton St Cemetery.

Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November: Wellington to Blenheim. Enjoy a tour of Te Papa – the National Museum before boarding the Interislander ferry for your trip across Cook Straight and travel to Blenheim.

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December: Blenheim. Enjoy visits to local gardens including lunch and wine tasting at a local winery

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December: Blenheim – Kaikoura – Christchurch. Visit the seaside town of Kaikoura before travelling onto Christchurch

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December: Christchurch. Following a tour of the city, you will visit the International Antarctic Centre. The afternoon is free to explore the city.

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December: Christchurch - Timaru and return. Head south to the city of Timaru where you will visit the Trevor Griffiths Rose Garden and the Timaru Botanic Gardens, home to an important collection of species roses. A farewell dinner will be held in the evening on your return to Christchurch.

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December: Christchurch. You will be transferred to the airport for your flight home.

#### **BOOK PROMOTIONS**

The organising committee is aware that a number of authors may wish to sell their books at the convention. Due to limited space and time, the organising committee will be taking applications from authors on a 'first in, first served' basis. Authors must register their interest with Peter Elliott (gizmo@inspire.net.nz) and supply full details.



Georgina Campbell's Sam McGredy rose garden

SPAIN

# WORLD FEDERATION OF ROSE SOCIETIES EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2012 – 2015

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# **MEMBER SOCIETIES**

The World Federation of Rose Societies, also known as the WFRS, is the umbrella organisation for 39 national rose societies around the world. Taken together, these member societies have about 100,000 members, all of whom share a love of the rose.

Argentina Australia Austria Belgium Bermuda Canada Chile China Czech Republic Denmark Finland France Germany Great Britain Greece Hungary Iceland India Israel Italv Japan Luxembourg Monaco The Netherlands New Zealand Northern Ireland Norway Pakistan Romania Russia Serbia Slovakia Slovenia South Africa Spain Sweden Switzerland USA Uruguay

Rose Society of Argentina National Rose Society of Australia Österreichische Rosenfreunde in der Gartenbau-Gesellschaft Société Royale Nationale 'Les Amis de la Rose' Bermuda Rose Society **Canadian Rose Society** Asociación Chilena de la Rosa Chinese Rose Society **Czech Rosa Club** The Danish Rose Society Finnish Rose Society Société Française des Roses Verein Deutscher Rosenfreunde **Roval National Rose Society** The Hellenic Rose Society Hungarian Rose Friends Society Icelandic Rose Society Indian Rose Federation The Jerusalem Foundation Italian Rose Society Japan Rose Society Luxembourg Rose Society Société des Roses d Monaco Nederlandse Rozenvereniging New Zealand Rose Society Rose Society of Northern Ireland Norwegian Rose Society Pakistan National Rose Society Asociatia Amicii Rozelor din Romania Russian Association of Rosarians Royal Serbian Rose Society Slovakia Rose Club Slovenian Rose Society Federation of Rose Societies of South Africa Asociación Española de la Rosa The Swedish Rose Society Gesellschaft Schweizerischer Rosenfreunde American Rose Society Asociación Uruguaya de la Rosa

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#### Benefits include –

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Individual electronic copy of World Rose News;

Opportunity to correspond with 'Friends' to exchange rose growing knowledge, information on rose gardens, accommodation and other points of interest relative to their region. Donors form can be downloaded from the Federation's website. Your donation covers the period until the conclusion of the World Rose Convention 2015.

The World Federation of Rose Societies, representing rosarians worldwide.

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