

# Heritage Roses Northland Road Trip to Hawke's Bay

28th November –  
2nd December, 2016



**MONDAY, 28TH NOVEMBER, 2016**

## Woodlands

At last, our long awaited trip to the Hawke's Bay dawned, and it was a lovely day with the weather gods smiling on us. Our first stop was Woodlands, where the café had a delicious boxed lunch and hot drinks (real coffee) much to members' surprise.

Woodlands, a historic villa built in 1872, sits in the centre of 15 acres of sports fields and gardens, the remains of a 98,000 acre estate bequeathed by Irene Riddell to the Presbyterian Social Services and later transferred to the Waikato County Council.

Approaching the white house with its warm grey trim, one was drawn in by the roses – standard white **Iceberg** and red **Dublin Bay**. Meandering paths edged with box led us in many directions through the large trees which included the gorgeous magnolia **Ashia** with its huge, paddle-like leaves and striking blooms. Underplanting was varied as we strolled the paths - azaleas, hellebores, renga lily and hydrangeas in drifts, leading eventually to the river at the bottom. Plantings of *R. rugosa Alba* and a pink-and-red *Rugosa* complemented a bed of Austin roses, all looking spectacular and smelling divine. Along the riverbank was a walk of weeping mulberry alternating with red weeping maples. There were more trees behind the house, including a large plane tree, underplanted with pink

alstroemeria, ajuga and violets.

This was a welcome lunch stop before we continued our long journey to Havelock North, where we arrived ready for dinner and then bed.

*George and Olga Yuretich*

**TUESDAY 29TH NOVEMBER, 2016**

## John and Chris Purdie's garden

This was our first stop for the day. Greeting us on arrival, John and Chris told us they had 33 species of trees and that their pride and joy was on display- 'Poppy', an 86-year-old Model A Ford.

Walking the garden, we came to a beautiful exhibit of the Wedding Tree in all its glory, against a background of taller trees and with a beautiful lawn in front. Just some of the highlights were a spruce festooned with its neat cones (good to use in floral art), a grapefruit tree that we estimated to be 15-20 feet high, and the sight of **New Dawn**, scrambling up a Toon Tree. Thank you, John and Chris, for showing us your wonderful collection.

*Paul and Sonja Mrsich*





**Just Plants Nursery**

Special parking for the bus had been saved, with orange cones fending others off, and Brock welcomed us to this little family-owned business. The bus emptied quickly and as warm descended on the team of Danah, Ann, Kelly and Brock, who looked after us well. We all bought lots more than we intended from their huge range of small but well-grown plants, most priced at \$4.00, many of which were in flower making them irresistible. We'll be online when we get home to buy more from [www.justplants.net](http://www.justplants.net)

*Virginia Holder*

glowed in spite of the misty rain drifting in from the hills. Altogether a delightful place to wander.

*Bob and Lynnette Mullins*

**Linda McEntire's garden**

As we entered through the gate we were greeted by drifts of gold, yellow and lemon perennials and roses. The wide colonial verandah was festooned with grapevines and wisteria at one end, while the other accommodated two climbing roses. After



**Mike and Julie Russell's garden**

The Russells have integrated some amazing topiary and sculptures into their large park-like grounds so that as we moved under the beautiful old deciduous trees new scenes appeared. Autumn must be amazing. In contrast, the massed beds of roses, wafting clouds of perfume, fairly

passing through the old fence we were treated to a wide border featuring red and wine irises and perennials, and an old copper with a flared rim that was planted with zinnias. A recently developed pond was complete with frogs. The disused quarry was planted with conifers and other trees, and included several rock features, perennials and ground covers. The vista was of rolling paddocks to a mountain range beyond. We strode past swathes of perennials in shades of white to gold, more rustic features, a circular wall of stacked firewood blocks, and an old garden roller. A side path led to trellises covered in masses of climbing and rambling roses, plus flowering shrubs, peonies and the



Top: Just Plants Nursery, Above Right: Veilchenblau archway at Linda McEntire's; Above Left: Wildflowers at Mike and Julie Russell's

yellow fern Tanacetrau.

More borders of various-coloured daylilies, alstroemeria, hostas and mock orange featured at the back of the house, along with a well-used birdbath. A pathway made from old fence battens laid side by side led to a lush vegetable patch. Altogether, a completely charming garden.

*Ken and Gayle Brown*

### Birdwoods

- A great display of stone and metal sculptures from Africa's internationally acclaimed stone sculptors.
- A gallery displaying New Zealand and African art and crafts, collectables, furniture, textiles, jewellery and ceramics.
- Several easily controlled sheep-wire frames covered in ivy.
- Close by, a traditional sweet shop and ice-cream parlour, both of which were well patronised, making this an attractive place to visit for the young and old.



*Alison Sampson and Val Dunn*

### Green Door Nursery and Gift Shop

Green Door Garden and Gifts was established by Gillian Thrum and Phil Carson nearly 20 years ago and is recognised as Hawke's Bay's premier garden centre – well known for quality and variety. It is a gardener's dream, with

a wide range of roses, shrubs, perennials and trees. There are masses of flower and vegetable seedlings, along with potted plants and hanging baskets. Beautiful giftware, pots, and garden hardware are also available.



*Lyn Tancock*

### The Village Club

A sumptuous smorgasbord, two-course dinner (if you enjoy rare beef you were in luck) was prepared for us. Salads and hot vegetables filled our plates. Desserts were many and varied – all good for the palate and bad for the body. Some of us managed to walk 'home' all of six minutes and every inch downhill.

**WEDNESDAY 30TH NOVEMBER 2016**

### Jo Emslie's garden

Jo's garden is a true heritage-rose-lovers garden. A rose-covered structure in the form of a Celtic cross dominated a large, square garden filled with heritage roses. An archway walk was smothered in some of the following roses – Albéric Barbier, Sanders White, Paul Transon, Jersey Beauty, Russelliana, Paul's Himalayan Musk (which enshrouded the centre of the cross), May Queen, Souvenir de Mme Léonie Viennot, Balmain and Veilchenblau. The centre of the cross



accommodated four seats connecting the four arms. All the rose beds were edged with lavender *spicata* hedges; and were underplanted with companion plants including irises and lilies.

On the northern wall of the garden a native lemonwood hedge backed a long border of *pimpinellifolia* and species roses, all beautifully labelled, including the soft yellow *Rosa foetida*, *Rosa moyesii*, *Rosa dupontii*, Stanwell Perpetual, *Rosa sanctii* (Rosa Richard II), Falkland, Canary Bird, *Rosa glauca*, and *Rosa roxburghii*. On another wall were the Damask roses – *Gloire de Guilan*, *Saint Nicholas*, *Kazanlik*, *Omar Khayyam* and a few centifolias like *The Bishop*.

We recognised our old favourite, *Joseph Liger*, growing over a water tank. From the house looking west across an expansive lawn there was a beautiful mixed border of *Rugosas* and *Gallicas*.

*Judy Webster and Elizabeth Halford*



### Val Joll's Two Mile Garden

Well-established mature trees including pin oaks and deodars all underplanted with bluebells, hostas and hellebores greeted us as we entered this country garden. *Veilchenblau* tumbled and cascaded under the trees. Near the house were several old gnarled cherry trees with delphiniums, camellias and rhododendrons. White roses against the black walls of the house were outstanding.

A well-grown copper beech also made the pale roses really stand out. Brick paths, edged in places with undulating box hedges, led to different garden 'rooms'. Many perennials intermingled in wide borders. An oak-leaved hydrangea, planted as a hedge along with red roses was particularly eye-catching.

More formal box hedging was grown to display garden art - including orbs made from horseshoes, wooden garden seats, and a weather vane that sat atop a structure made from steel and wood. There were several archways throughout the garden, with one using two olive trees, wood and steel. Another special feature was a seat carved from a fallen pin oak which had started re-growing.

Roses featured strongly in this garden, including *Nancy Hayward* reaching skyward through tall trees. More roses festooned the veranda of a lovely rustic cottage set in the garden grounds. An ornamental quince was one of the more unusual trees in this garden. We couldn't have been in a more delightful place to enjoy our lunch.

*Pat McFadden and Noeline Hillier*

Top: Part of the Celtic cross at Jo Emslie's. Above: Horseshoe sculpture at Two Mile Garden.



**Springvale - David and Sharron Holden's garden**

Picture this – mound after mound of bright pink **Rosy Cushion** roses in full bloom, softened by the white of massed marguerite daisies, **Iceberg** roses, mignonette, foxgloves and gladiolus nanus. A hint of azure in cornflowers, violas, garden furniture and a shady summer-house. A towering, mature stand of cedars, blue spruce, silver

birch, grey and green conifers lit by golden elms. Overlooking all this and much more, a graceful homestead built in 1903.

Stepping to a lower level edged with a batten fence were pale pink roses, valerias, phlomis, and a large curved lawn graced by red maples, cherries, dogwoods, copper beech, magnolias, gleditsias and liquidambar, with shady seats built between stone filled gabion baskets.

Fanning out on the next level **Rosy Cushion** mounds backed by kowhai were on one side and a farm vista on the other, leading to a streambed with wooden bridges and a pond featuring many contented mallard ducks, again

**Awatea - Shirley Limbrook's garden**

A lovely country garden, full of beautiful roses and many perennials. Tucked away down one side was a very restful, cool woodland area - Annabel and Willy's walks. Big old camellias and pittosporums were underplanted with a variety of green, white, pink and blue plants - hostas, Japanese iris, hellebores, a double white campanula, silene, variegated hydrangea and tradescantia.

In the centre of the garden was a large, spreading cherry, and beside this were buxus-edged potagers which led the eye up to the house. The swimming pool borders were planted with **Gruss an Aachen** roses interspersed with a very pretty and unusual purple cranesbill geranium. Shirley had planted many unusual perennials in this garden and she and her son sold some of these. True to form, our plant fanatics shopped well and came away with yet more plants to be stowed in the bus.

*Lynette Gumm and Deane Spiro*



surrounded by those glorious pink mounds.

Well beyond the pond were a group of very old 1857 buildings, including the original tiny, shingle-roofed two-bedroomed cottage, with newspaper-covered walls, where Jonathan Holden and his wife lived with their eight surviving children. Our hostess, Sharron, explained that 34 years earlier when she arrived as a new bride the homestead was sitting at the top of a bare paddock and hadn't been lived in for ten years. The garden design, colours and artistic touches were hers – the Rosy Cushion theme of pink, white and blue, an obvious love of birds which featured in statues of all shapes and sizes, and the use artistically of old farm tools within the garden.

This delightful setting has in recent years hosted a family wedding, and the Holden family reunion celebrating 150 years.

*Clare Stevenson, Tricia McKinnon, Jacky Ancliff*

### **Sawyers Arms Hotel, Tikokino**

Here we had another meal to enjoy, having earlier made individual choices from the menu. Outside the front door of this hotel a lovely unscented rose made its presence known. A very large, gnarled stump seemed to indicate that it was very old. We will try to identify this rose for those who wanted to know what it was .

### **THURSDAY 1ST DECEMBER 2016**

This was the day we were guests of Hawke's Bay HR, and Georgina Campbell who joined us on the bus kindly organised a day visiting members' gardens around Hastings and Havelock, finishing in her garden for a pot-luck dinner with HR members.



### **George and Marina Richter's garden**

With Georgina on board, our half-hour drive was enlivened by her enjoyable commentary on places we passed. Our first garden for the day was the Richters' on the coast at Waimarama and we were greeted warmly by Marina. As we wandered through the garden, admiring the profusion of lovely roses in tiptop condition, it was hard - impossible even - to imagine that in late April 2011 a terrible flood had swept down the valley and through this property. The road where our bus was parked had become a river three metres deep that had swept away all the terraces the Richters had made and destroyed an orchard of two hundred trees. People had to be rescued by boat. When they returned there was nothing left and so they began again. Marina says, "Everything has been rebuilt by my husband and the wonderful WWOOFers." The standout features of this garden are the many climbing roses, growing on rows of imaginatively constructed pergolas, reminding one of the Trevor Griffiths garden in Timaru - two rows of climbers with a narrow path between.

Marina asked for our help in identifying some of her roses, since some enthusiastic WWOOFers had mistaken the labels

for weeds and pulled them out. Marina's favourite rose is **Fruhlingsmorgen** (Spring Morning).

For interest there was poultry, and usually these would have patrolled the gardens for slugs and snails. However many were locked away, including the peacock which was in disgrace and confined to his pen.

We were treated to a tasty morning tea of German specialties prepared by Marina's daughter and served in a spacious room that took up the greater part of the ground floor of one of the chalets. We were invited to explore the chalets further. Georgina had said on the bus, "When I visit I never know what I am going to see next - it's all so imaginative." We could see what she meant as we climbed up a curved wooden staircase to the two bedrooms above, so bright and welcoming, with the beds covered in gaily coloured patchwork quilts, ceramic tiles everywhere and quaint objects on display. Somehow we managed to squeeze in time to eat morning tea and left after a most enjoyable visit, marvelling at all that had been achieved - from flood to a unique holiday haven in five years.

*Ian and Jenny Stoddart*

### **Margaret Walmsley's garden**

Our tour guide for the day, Georgina Campbell, mentioned Margaret as being an excellent plantswoman. Northland members were amazed at the plethora of plants in her immaculate garden. The wide range of fine examples of hydrangea, fuchsia, cannas, hypoxis, poppies, hostas, ferns and modern roses occupied the members' attention for an hour. Near the goldfish pond was a copper beech in a large pot, double Shasta daisies, a fine example of a purple clematis, but the main interest was on the new-release salmon-pink rosebud geranium. A raised garden bed at the rear of the section contained lettuces, herbs and alliums, with a good crop of lemons on a nearby tree. A large-stalked rhubarb was on the eastern side of the house. Thank you, Margaret, your garden must give you many rewards in return for the hours you obviously spend in it.

*Vicki Cox and Barbara Johnston*



### **Peter and Eliza Reed's garden**

This was a very large hillside garden with terraced areas near the house filled



with roses and perennials, lavender, cornflowers, aquilegias, mignonette and many other plants. One particular old rose was a massive **Ghislaine de Féligonde**, which was flowering to its absolute full potential.

Fruit trees of every description flowed down the hillside, and a large asparagus bed and berry cage were filled with abundance. There was a pond with goldfish and water lilies, and planted around its banks were ligularia, Siberian irises and roses.

A delightful place to have our lunch, with many tables and chairs set up for us outside, and we were able to meet and chat with many of the Hawke's Bay members who came to share with us.

*Lyn Parker*

### Pat Cooper's garden

Pat has lived on her two-acre property on the outskirts of Hastings for 28 years, with one of her first plantings being the large copper beech in her front garden. The front door was framed by a huge, twisted wisteria trunk and a Clematis viticella. The side pathway was lined with standard loropetalum, edged with box, and the rose **Prosperity** was intertwined with a large purple clematis. This pathway led to a lawn shaded by cherry trees heavily underplanted with a variety of plants,



Above: Clematis in Pat Cooper's garden

including lime-green and variegated berberis, pink flowering hydrangea, abutilon and pink lilies. A vase of Alba Meidiland decorated the afternoon tea table.

**Bloomfield Abundance** was flowering prolifically, set against a dark-green wall on the walk through to the second lawn and garden. Roses seen in this area were **Crepuscule** (climbing through a cherry tree), **Nancy Haywood**, **Sally Holmes**, **Sombreuil**, **General Gallieni** and **Rosa roxburghii**. Meanwhile **Corylus**, **Frau Dagmar Hastrup**, **Calocarpa** and **Roseaie de L'Haÿ** featured in Pat's collection of Rugosa roses. A large patch of blue delphiniums, white poppies, blue salvia, lilies and dahlias added to the soft, colourful plantings in Pat's charming garden.

*Elsa Olla and Gilly Oscroft*

### Cheops - Gary and Georgina Campbell's garden

Within an organic feijoa orchard was a five-acre garden built around a unique pyramid-shaped house constructed one-thirteenth the size of the Great Pyramid at Giza. The house was surrounded by an area of native plants, encouraging tui and moreporks to nest and raise their young.

We passed through a gate and faced a long avenue of cherry trees beneath which were planted hundreds of roses, all grouped in their families. Further out were mountains of climbers and ramblers over three metres high, tumbling like waterfalls over each other, wafting their scent into the warm evening air. This exuberance was contained by trimmed box hedges and punctuated by rows of Thuja occidentalis 'Pyramidalis'.





When we'd had our fill of this wonder, we enjoyed a glass of wine and were able to mix and mingle with other members of HR Hawke's Bay, who provided us with a great dinner of chicken and delicious ham accompanied by a variety of salads, followed by a selection of sweet treats and mouth-watering cherries and strawberries. Thank you, Georgina and your team, for a very memorable end to our short but tantalising visit to the Hawke's Bay.

*Robyn Carr-Smith, Raewyn Daisley and Jill Hudson*

**FRIDAY 2ND DECEMBER, 2016  
Tullamore - Tim and Lynda Birdsall's garden**

This was our last garden of the trip, and included morning tea in a garden of significance, and later another of those wonderful boxed lunches. Roses were everywhere on sheds, up trees, entangled in the tennis court netting, and standing alone with the help of a pergola. Perennials and annuals were all mingled together throughout this wonderful country garden. From the top boundary

one was able to look down across a large pond, old fence posts, lichen-covered gates and stonewalls. From the house we looked out over the ha-ha to view the belted galloway cows with their brand-new calves – cute as buttons.

Lynda is a very talented quilter and had several quilts displayed on the clothesline. All were incredibly stitched together a great skill.

Then there was 'Grandad's Shed' where bikes, toys and treasures are mended while you wait for a payment of cuddles and smiles. In this shed was Tim's collection (the second largest in New Zealand) of hunting memorabilia: guns, ammunition, clothing, decoys – you name it, Tim had it. His oldest decoy found in New Zealand had been carbon dated to 1890, although he didn't think the head was original. He also told us of a decoy being sold in America recently for 1.4 million American dollars- big money.

Tullamore was a wonderful location for our last scheduled garden stop on our trip home to Northland.

*Jennifer Crawford*

