

## 2017 REGISTER TEAM ANNUAL REPORT

**Murray Radka**

Our year ends with the bud wood collection in January and this season saw the completion of five very busy, productive and successful years by the Register Team and the members who support us. Our first comment must be to thank those people plus members of the public and staff at several Public Gardens for generous verbal and practical support.

The Register Team's primary aim, when we began, was to halt the decline of heritage rose supply, to discover as many lost roses as we could and to set up a Register. In this we are very satisfied with our progress. In excess of three hundred roses that are out of commercial production have been identified and registered. The majority of these have been propagated and spread around several gardens as insurance, a complete collection of all varieties has been gathered at Brandy Hill, strong relationships have been built with the managers of the major public collections and a comprehensive Register of heritage roses in New Zealand has been published online for the benefit of all members. We are not aware that such a resource exists anywhere else in the world. I cannot think of any Registered rose that has been lost since we began our work but can think of many that would have gone by now if we had not taken action.

### KEY DECISIONS:

1. We reaffirmed that our key role is to secure the roses ahead of supplying them. All of our decisions start from that premise. We recognise that years of rose sales have not secured the roses. Nurseries don't save roses once they cease to have economic value and individuals don't save roses when fashions change or they shift house. We need a collection of reserves that are stocked, monitored and treasured from which to draw bud wood and we are well on our way of achieving this.

2. With the slowdown in discoveries we were able to concentrate on a method for distribution to members which includes a "no cuttings" policy from us because of the overwhelming demand, high failure rate and potential damage to the rare roses. Instead, a list of roses will be advertised in the annual report that members may order. They will be budded the following January and delivery will be the year after that. Order to [roserequests@gmail.com](mailto:roserequests@gmail.com)

### LIST FOR 2018

**Aard's Rover, Burbank, de Meaux White, Elizabeth of York, Marie Bugnet, Miss Lowe, Polyantha Grandiflora, Etoile de Lyon, Charles Lawson, Mme Wagram, Cramoisie Picote, Helen Knight, Jenny Duval, The Bride, Baronne Prevost, Alice Hoffman, Rose d'Hivers, Reine des Saxes.**

**NOTE:** The propagators have limited us to 20 varieties a year and insist that all budding material should be inspected by me and posted in one or two shipments. The free-for-all that existed in the past was unsustainable for them.

We are aware that there has been some criticism of the propagating process with the mistaken belief that roses for Brandy Hill and The Dunedin Northern Cemetery only, are propagated. This is quite untrue and in the interest of member scrutiny and accountability I can report that the following people will receive roses this July from the 2016 propagation:

**Jenny Druzianic, Olga Yuretich for historic garden in Northland, Rachel Solomon for Bolton St Cemetery, Angela Weston, Fran Rawling for Dunedin Northern Cemetery, Murray Radka, Georgina Campbell, Sarah Howell, Sally Allison, Dunedin Botanic Garden, Jessie Calder Garden, Trevor Griffiths Garden, Timaru Species Garden, Rosemary Paterson for Pauatahanui Burial Ground.**

Late last year roses from the programme were sent to **Trevor Griffiths Garden, Olga Yuretich, Rosemary Paterson for Pauatahanui Burial Ground, Penny Seyb, Pioneer Park Heritage Rose Garden.** These were in addition to the roses members received from the propagators in July. I shan't go back any further but have the records for anyone who is concerned.

The lists above do not include the roses I send, at my own expense, to members as appreciation for their support; something I do at regular intervals. **Delphine Lomas, Eileen Warth, Virginia Holder, Penny Kilmartin and Elysse Jones** will receive roses from me when they are ready.

### ACTIVITIES

1. Each year Inger undertakes to check the current catalogues against those of previous years and record additions and losses. This is a key component to keeping the Register relevant. She reports the following in 2017:

**Tasman Bay Roses:** Additions-0. Deletions- 6. Tasman Bay are the only source.

**D&S Nurseries:** Additions 12 - 8 of these are Register roses. Deletions 6 - 3 are Register roses and D&S the only source.

**Trinity Farm:** Additions 20, plus ten more that TF the only source. Deletions - 28 plus six that TF the only source.

**South Pacific Roses:** Addition - 4. Deletions - 3

**Southern Roses:** Deletions - 15.

**Grass Roots Roses:** Additions - 3. Deletions - 4.

It is clear that we are continuing to lose varieties from commerce but all of the losses are safe in at least one of our reserve gardens.

Inger was delighted to receive a copy of an 1892-3 Christchurch Nursery Catalogue and wants to thank members and Convenors who support us with such treasures.

2. We are still finding 'lost' varieties and at present the following are with me awaiting positive identification:

**Rosa amblyotis, Rosa hemisphaerica flora plena, Rosa canina 'Pfander', Amy Robsart, Ceres, Rosa laevigata 'Rosea', Rosa willmottiae, Rosa pisocarpa, Rosa beggeriana, Rosa heckeliana sub sp. orientalis, Rosa californica, Rosa koreana.**

We were grateful to receive several varieties from members this season and grateful to Tasman Bay Roses who propagated **Comtesse Vandal** specially for us.

3. In May, '**Project Rescue**' was published. The Executive received the first copy and then at least one copy was sent to most Regions. Cost prevented me sending it to everyone but I ensured that anyone who might be interested had access to a copy by requesting that the receiver in each Region pass the book around interested readers or to smaller groups in neighbouring Regions. The book tells the story of the Register so far and was a useful exercise for the Team with each member reflecting on the work achieved. I am grateful for the warm and encouraging feedback I received throughout the country. The book has been gifted to the organization as a fundraiser and members may order copies.

4. In December we were delighted to welcome Olga and Judy to Dunedin to meet with us. It was a very positive meeting and helpful for both sides to discuss the work and have questions answered. Gratifying also for us to receive full Executive support.

5. We are very pleased with our strengthening relationship with the staff of Public Collections. Last year roses were replaced by us in The Trevor Griffiths Garden, The Timaru Species Garden and Pioneer Park Heritage Rose Garden. I monitor all of the southern Public Gardens from Canterbury south at least twice a year and note any losses or sickly plants and then offer to help the staff replace them

As can be seen from the list above many public collections will benefit from our work this year.

Recently we received a request from the Jessie Calder garden for help to source fourteen lost varieties they want for that garden. I found a supplier for six of these roses and bud wood for the other eight will come from Brandy Hill.

**NB.** With the exception of newly discovered roses the majority of bud wood providing roses for members and public collections now comes from Brandy Hill which will be backed up by our supply gardens in the future justifying the long view we took to secure the roses first and resist the short sighted pressure to concentrate on supplying members and simply recreate the old cycle of loss.

## **CONCLUSION**

Our Team still gains a sense of pleasure and reward from the work we are doing and while this report indicates that we work hard we also have fun and find much to chuckle over.

One positive little story to end the report. Daphne has been working with the new owner of a large, neglected collection to identify and rescue some rare varieties. There are many treasures in this collection including '**Reine Marie Henriette**', one of the earliest if not the earliest climbing rose - 1878. I grew it on an arch with '**Soldier Boy**'. It has long been out of circulation and when I lost my plant a few years ago I wasn't able to replace it. I am confident that if it is still alive, Daphne will find it and I may yet see Reine Marie back on her arch where she has been sorely missed and members who wish to grow it will have access once more.

Murray Radka – for the Register Team.

**The Register Team: Fran Rawling, Inger Gledhill, Daphne Whitfort-Smith, Murray Radka**