

Harper's Mansion and Heritage Roses

The two-acre garden that surrounds Harper's Mansion has been established since the National Trust took over the property in the late 1970s. Prior to that there was only a paddock and a scattering of fruit trees. The first group of Volunteers who opened the house to the public in the 1990s enclosed the garden immediately in front of the house and planted the long bed leading down to the front gate. To complement the house the latter was designed as an herbaceous border and included heritage roses selected with the advice of well-known rosarian Heather Cant. Many of these roses remain, most notably those along the fence line and over the pergolas.

The main garden to the side of the house along with the maze is more recent, designed and laid out by Michael Jackman, a local landscape gardener, who rented the house from 1999 to 2006. Michael established the garden to augment his nursery and design business and it is to him we owe the present layout of the garden.

Following Michael's departure and the re-opening of the house to the public the contents of the two main beds he laid out have been changed to better reflect the history of the property and to reduce maintenance. One bed is planted with fruit trees, vegetables and herbs: the other has become the Heritage Rose Garden. In establishing this garden in 2012 the committee at Harper's Mansion considered a National Trust property an ideal venue to safeguard some of the species and older hybrid roses that are becoming less common in private gardens. The collection also serves to differentiate Harper's from the many excellent cool-temperate gardens in the Southern Highlands.

Ray Harrison, then the horticulturalist employed at Berrima Gaol, selected the roses and together with Volunteers laid out the new garden. To date there are 84 heritage roses on display – see overpage for listing. This is only the garden's fourth season and Volunteers are still learning how to look after them and identify which might be more comfortable in a different position.

Although space for further acquisitions is limited we have plans to extend the rose plantings into the area immediately opposite the pond, at present being kept under control by a ground cover of comfrey.



Harper's Mansion Rose List (October 2016)

Aimée Vibert	Honorine de Brabant	<i>Rosa damascena versicolor</i>
Alba Maxima	Irish Rich Marbled	(York and Lancaster)
Alba Semi-Plena (2)	Jacques Cartier (4?)	<i>Rosa dupontii</i>
Alister Stella Gray	Jenny Duval (2)	<i>Rosa foetida persiana</i> (3)
Baroness Rothschild (4)	John Hopper (2)	<i>Rosa gallica 'Officinalis'</i>
Belle Isis (3)	Juno	<i>Rosa gallica versicolor (Rosa Mundi)</i>
Belle Poitevine	Königin von Dänemark	<i>Rosa laevigata (Michaux)</i>
Blairii No. 2	Lamarque	<i>Rosa rugosa alba</i>
Blanc Double de Coubert	Léda	Rose de Resht
Blush Noisette	Little White Pet (6)	[Rugspin (6)]
Bon Silène	[Lorraine Lee]	Sombreuil
Boule de Neige (3)	Louise Odier (6)	Soupert et Notting (3)
Bullata	Maiden's Blush	Souvenir de la Malmaison
Cardinal de Richelieu	Mlle Cécile Brünner	Souvenir de Mme Léonie
Céline Forrestier	Mme Alfred Carrière	Viennot
Celsiana	Mme Ernst Calvat (1+1)	Stanwell Perpetual (several)
Centifolia Muscosa (Communis)	Mme Hardy	Tuscany Superb
Chapeau de Napoleon	Mme Isaac Perreire	Variegata di Bologna
Charles de Mills (2)	Mme Lauriol de Barny	Vick's Caprice
Climbing Devoniensis,	Mme Legras de St Germain	William Lobb (2)
Commandant Beaurepaire	Mme Pierre Oger (2+4)	Zéphirine Drouhin
Complicata	Mme Plantier	
Comte de Chambord (2)	Monsieur Tillier	
Desprez à Fleur Jaune (?)	Mrs John Laing (2)	
Duchesse de Brabant	Mrs Paul (1+1)	
Duchesse de Montobello (2)	Paul Neyron	
Félicité Parmentier (3)	Quatre Saisons Blanc	
Fellenberg	Mousseux	
Gènèral Gallieni	Queen of Bourbons	
Gloire des Mousseux	Reine des Violettes	
Hébé's Lip	Reine Victoria (5)	
Heinrich Schultheis	Roger Lambelin (2)	
Hermosa	<i>Rosa bracteata (Wendland)</i>	
	<i>Rosa brunonii</i>	

Rose supports were kindly provided by Berrima residents Lyn and Ken Wilson



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