

Caring for Old Roses

It's easier than you think!

In fact, old roses, unlike modern hybrid tea roses, resent hard pruning. A light trim in winter (or just after flowering if it is once only spring flowering type), a bit of fertiliser in the growing season (spring), the occasional soak of water in the dry times and some space and sunlight to grow. Easy.

If your rose sends out long canes, peg them down - you'll get more flowers along the horizontal stems. Don't forget, roses are one of the toughest, most drought hardy plants once established (usually after 2 years) which is why these oldies have survived despite neglect for many years.

No rose, however, likes the commonly used glyphosate herbicide, which is the biggest destroyer of "mother plants". The chainsaw and whippersnipper come a close second.

Please do not use them near your roses. If a really old plant has to be removed, try to get it growing from a cutting in autumn or contact your local Heritage Roses in Australia Group!

About The Heritage Roses Group

The Barossa Old Rose Repository was established in 2003 and is cared for by members of the Heritage Roses in Australia Barossa & Beyond Regional Group.

The aim of this group is to encourage others to appreciate and grow some of the older types of roses – available through specialist rose nurseries-or group members- and to educate the public about the importance of preserving these old plant treasures for future generations.

Heritage Roses in Australia Inc has 20 regional groups across Australia with a quarterly journal and regional newsletters linking the members with details of events, conferences, discoveries, 'old rose' news, information and forthcoming events both here and overseas.

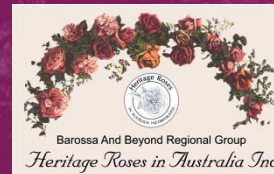
Where is the Repository?



Where can I get more information?

Barossa & Beyond Regional Group
Heritage Roses in Australia Inc
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ANGASTON SA 5353

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Barossa Old Rose Repository

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smell the roses...*



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Repṓsitorý (-z-) *n* receptacle, place where things are stored or may be found...; recipient of secrets etc. (*Oxford dictionary*)

What is a Repository and why is it here?

There are many secrets attached to the origins of the roses in the Barossa Old Rose Repository. Many of the “mother plants” were believed to be brought out by the early settlers of the region. Some keep their identities secret and so remain a mystery, while others have already been positively identified as an early rose variety.

The Barossa Old Rose Repository is currently the only garden of it's kind in Australia. A garden of locally grown, pre-loved and often forgotten roses brought together in one place for the public

to appreciate some of the roses our forefathers grew.

A place where people can wander freely to see some of these special beauties, and perhaps be inspired to plant some in their own garden.

The roses have been grown from cuttings taken from the “mother plant” which may have been found in a cemetery, along roadsides, or in the gardens of old homesteads and cottages.

Old survivors!

Types of Roses

Many of the roses you find in the nurseries today are Hybrid Teas, or David Austin roses, but roses grown in the 1800s or early 1900s included Teas, Chinas, Hybrid Perpetuals, early Hybrid Teas, Polyanthas, Gallicas, Mosses, Bourbons, Centifolias, Damasks or Noisettes.

These are classes that have been overlooked or unknown by the majority of rose growers today.

Roses are distinguished by their growth habit, colour, form, texture and number of leaves, stems, buds, flowers and hips. Flowering times are also taken into account.

The actual colour of the flower is only a small part of the assessment, since seasonal changes, climate and soil type, nutrients and moisture can alter the appearance of the bloom.

When a rose is located it is given a study name such as “Gomersal Cemetery Rose ROR” or “Miss Ackland’s Pink HT ROR”.

The letters R.O.R usually follow the study names in double quotes to indicate it is a renamed old rose.

The Posts

The 100 year old redgum posts came from Mader’s hay shed in Flaxman’s Valley when it blew down in a storm in 2004. With the help of local artist Harry Makris and sculptor Michael James, the posts were prepared and installed with chain swags, renewing the life of the old wood cut by the early settlers.

A few rose stories from the Barossa

Roses used to edge a small vineyard at the ‘Almerta’ homestead in Flaxmans Valley in the early 1900s. This Heggie property was photographed in the 1920s, with sizeable roses already evident. Several original roses remain, among them the unusual “Mrs Heggies’ Red Tea ROR”, ‘Fortune’s Double Yellow’ (1845) and another unknown, “Almerta Orchard Pink ROR”

Miss Hatch had a cottage surrounded by a loved garden in the main street of Nuriootpa. When she died in 1997 aged 97, the cottage was sold and demolished. Although only one original rose from her garden remains - the lovely apricot/yellow tea rose ‘Lady Hillingdon’ (1910) a number of cutting grown roses continue to live on in the Repository.

“Ebenezer Cemetery Pink ROR” was collected in the 1980s as a cutting from a sickly sprayed rose growing on an old grave. It is believed to be the highly perfumed Hybrid Perpetual ‘Caroline de Sansal’ (1849). While the mother plant has since died, the legacy of this rose continues.

Intertwined with honeysuckle when it was found in an abandoned garden near Angaston, the “ABC Howard Quarry Yellow Tea” is a beautiful old rose with very double, mid yellow with darker pink guard petals. It is possibly the 1902 Tea ‘Souvenir de Pierre Notting’.



‘Gloire des Rosomanes’

‘Anlaby Station Yellow HT ROR’

‘Mrs Heggies Red Tea ROR’

‘Mme Alfred Carriere’

‘Sue No1 Damask Perpetual ROR’

‘Lady Hillingdon’