"Polly E M Blieschke Pink Granny"

At the Burra Heritage Roses in Australia Barossa & Beyond rose and plant stall on 4.11.17 Ruth Opperman of Booleroo Centre who was on a garden bus tour told me about a family rose that she had. I was keen to know more about it as it seemed to be a very old rose. Ruth offered me a potted one which she had raised from a cutting from her plant that in turn came from her grandmother's plant. Arrangements were made for me to pick it up locally from a friend.

Tags in rose pot:'Rose name unknown.Grown by my grandmother at Melrose Polly E M Blieschke'

19.11.17 Rang Ruth Opperman Booleroo Centre 86672179 after she left messages on mobile and left a rose with Steph Opperman 0417887299 Stockwell who also has the Roadhouse on the main road at Melrose. Steph dropped the rose into the Getaways office in Tanunda.

Ruth grew the rose from a cutting (one of two) – not a good rose to strike – and it is a couple years old. Ruth has grown hundreds of roses from cuttings. It was her grandmother's rose and her mother came from Pt Germain and lived at Melrose on a farming property. The mother plant died as the property is not tended. The rose was growing between the rainwater tank and the old sleepout. The rose grew tall, about 5 foot high at her grandmother's but her plant is only about 3' 6" tall. Ruth has very alkaline and clay soils

that don't drain well.

Her grandmother would buy a bunch of flowers and grow her plants from these for her garden. These bunches were available at the Friday sheep sales that are no longer held. She was a Methodist and on this Friday their group was supplying the afternoon teas.

Ruth belongs to a Garden group that used to meet at Booleroo Centre but now that there is not enough people the meetings are held the 4th Monday of each month at the Wirrabirra Hall at 7.30pm. Gardeners come from all around this district. They like to have a speaker. Guess who said she would be willing to do a powerpoint presentation sometime – yes they do have the equipment. They supply accommodation (at their homes??) as it is so far to come for speakers. 21.11.17

"Flower medium pink, nice pointed bud. Not real full, does fall. Repeats, great perfume" – this information was from a phone call to Ruth

24.11.17 the potted rose budded up and then unfolded and these are my observations: Flower 4" x 1.5" expanded, lighter reverse to petals. Darker inside with some white streaks in petaloids. Four outer petals all over light pink. Highly perfumed with a sharpness to the rosy scent. Pleasant. No damask scent detected. Rounded light green leaves which do not suggest a Tea but an older rose. Small, sharp, mainly straight cream prickles with a few declining prickles on the green stems. The stamens are now declining and they have a foliated tips to them. – see Field report sheets and photos for more info.

16.1.18

Flower 4.5" x 2" very light rose perfume. Maximum size flower and it started to drop its petals.

16.1.18

Rang Ruth. Her rose drops its flowers quickly. Her grandmothers always had the rose as long as she remembered and she believes well before the 1930s if she hazards a guess.

Every Friday that the grandmother went to the church stalls she would bring home a bunch of flowers. She would raise them with a glass over the cuttings.

Ruth's plant is about 3' and is not as tall as her grandmother's plant which would have been over 5ft. It was growing in a sheltered position between a tank and a sleepout room. The tank shaded it from the east. The 'mother' plant is no more out on the farm.



Pase 2 of 2

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12.1.18





13.1.18





13.1.18



13.1.18



14.1.18 in comparison to 'Comtesse de Labarthe' from BORR.



14.1.18







19.1.18 The petals have unfortunately started to brown as they were pressed between A4 printing paper but the number and size can be seen. The RH ones were the guard petals which were an overall very light pink.