

GARDEN NOTES

## DIANA'S GARDEN

254 LA PEROUSE STREET, RED HILL



24-25 OCTOBER  
2020

### HISTORY

We were the third set of owners of this house. What garden there was had been established by the first owners. When the house was purchased by News Corp for the editor of The Australian, the garden was simply maintained as was.

When we moved in to 254 Canberra was in drought. The lawns had survived but the fresh green of the trident maple certainly sold me the property. We were to find that it looked so good because the roots had penetrated the storm water drain and had to be removed. Fortunately, it seeds freely and I had nurtured some seedlings, one of which is in the back garden today.

Red Hill beyond Alexander Street was a new extension of the older original suburb and was set up as a garden suburb in the American model. Hedges were not permitted, although a garden along the front boundary was permitted. This house had such a garden to the south side of the drive – a row of Queen Elizabeth roses and they looked like a row of flamingos – long bare brown legs a tuft of green and then high above, a forest of tall stems ending in pink buds. At right angles along the drive was a bed of small polyanthus in a clashing salmon pink. Both beds were cleared of these as a priority. We had never heard of rose replant problems and the front bed was replanted with Red roses to match our neighbours in 256: Moulin Rouge and Alain. These have struggled in recent years as the street trees cast more and more shade and were removed recently. The box hedge and camellias replaced a bed of shasta daisies. A rose bed along the house between the steps to the terrace and the drive was removed because the roses were a trap for the unwary.

Behind the house there was lawn and a hedge of variegated euonymus interplanted with cotoneaster along the back boundary. The only trees to have survived are the liquidambar, the acer negundo along the back and a cypress and a Japanese maple on the northwest boundary. The triangular trellis in the bottom corner replaces an original cypress and the triangular trellis on the south east boundary replaces a crabapple.

The garden has evolved as a stroll garden with vistas to be viewed from a series of stopping places such as the gates and sitting places. Thus, there is a seat at the bottom corner of the garden for a diagonal view across the garden.

The higher (south east) side of the garden is pure shale with a thin cover of clay. We called it a stone mine and my husband excavated many a large boulder. The other half is deep topsoil that has silted up a valley. In an adverse weather event, water from Endeavour Street still cascades across the block to the bottom corner.

We originally planned to have natives along the south east and exotics on the north west. For a variety of reasons, we eventually abandoned our attempts to grow natives. Naturally, from time to time changing conditions in the garden force one to face the fact that change is needed.

It was always our aim to have a garden that was of interest in every season. Since summers are always the most challenging, the emphasis is on contrasting foliage colour, mainly of the trees and shrubs, but including the bronze/black of the dahlia Bishop of Llandaff (much used by Gertrude Jekyll and rediscovered in 1922. The sasanqua camellias begin in March and continue through winter until the bulbs and then japonica camellias come into bloom. Tulips and rhododendrons and the dogwood precede the climbing roses and they are followed by the hybrid musks. If I deadhead these promptly, there will two further flushes before winter sets in.

## PLANTINGS

### CAMELLIAS

#### *N/W Side back*

Henry Price – Japonica (Waterhouse)  
Thomsons' Rosea -- Japonica  
E G Waterhouse -- Japonica  
Lady Loch -- Japonica  
Oderatissima -- Japonica  
Unnamed white self-sown single fragrant -- Japonica  
Tinsie -- Japonica  
Prince Eugene Napoleon -- Japonica  
Hiryu -- Sasanqua  
Plantation Pink -- Sasanqua  
Setsugekka – Sasanqua  
Wahroonga type -- Sasanqua  
William Bull -- Japonica  
Elegans (Chandleri) -- Japonica  
Jennifer Susan – Sasanqua (behind R. White Pearl)

#### *Back*

Margaret Waterhouse  
Lady St Clair – Japonica  
Exquisite – Sasanqua (Waterhouse)

#### *S/E Side Back*

Caroline (Paradise) x 2  
Elizabeth ditto  
Diana ditto

### **Side Front**

Magnoliaflora -- Japonica  
Jean Lyne -- Japonica  
Sparkling Burgundy -- Sasanqua  
Lady Clare -- Japonica  
Nuccio's Gem  
Brushfield's Yellow -- Japonica  
Sawada's Dream -- Japonica  
Frances Council? -- Japonica  
Night Rider -- Sasanqua  
Egao – Sasanqua/ vernalis

### **Front**

Paradise Petite (pink) -- Sasanqua  
Shishi Gashira – Sasanqua/vernalis  
Front – behind hedge  
Emperor of Russia Variegated -- Japonica  
Beatrice Emily -- Sasanqua  
Great Eastern -- Japonica  
Czar -- Japonica

### **Climbers**

Altissimo 1966 Hybrid Tea pillar rose Delbard-Chabert (France) repeats  
Awakening 1935 Hybrid Wichurana sport of 'New Dawn' found in Czechoslovakia repeats  
Banksia double white Species (China) not recurrent  
Devoniensis 1838 Tea Bred by George Foster UK introduced in Australia 1857 by John J Rule, Victoria Nursery repeats  
Felicité et Perpetue 1828 Hybrid Sempervirens Jacques France  
Golden Showers 1956 Hybrid Tea x Rambler Dr Walter E Lammerts USA pillar rose repeats  
Graham Thomas 1983 David Austin Hybrid Musk  
Iceberg climber 1968 A sport of the shrub rose found in England  
    Blooms on old wood only  
Kathleen Harrop 1919 Bourbon Dickson UK sport of Zéphirine Drouhin  
Lady Hillingdon 1917 Tea Hicks UK  
Laevigata 1759 Species (China) Rambler not recurrent  
Madame Alfred Carrierre 1879 Noisette Schwartz France  
Milkmaid 1927 Noisette Alistair Clarke Bred from R Crepuscule  
Nancy Hayward 1937 Alistair Clarke Bred from R gigantea

Australis -- Japonica

Wahroonga -- Sasanqua

Mino-no-yuki according to label but could be Mado-no-tsuki – Sasanqua

Shishi Gashira – Sasanqua/vernalis

Ginryu – Sasanqua -- near Bookleaf cypress

### **ROSES**

#### **Hybrid Musk**

Autumn Delight 1933

Ballerina 1937

Bishop of Darlington 1926

Buff Beauty 1939 x 2

Cornelia 1925

Felicia 1928

Lavender Lassie 1960

Moonlight 1913

Penelope 1924 x 2

Prosperity 1919

Sally Holmes 1976 x 4

Pierre de Ronsard 1987 Meilland Honours the poet 1524–1585

Phyllis Bide 1923 S Bide and Sons UK Rambler Recurrent

Pinkie 1947 Polyantha Dering USA China Doll x sport of Pinkie

Sombrieul 1850 Tea Robert

On Red Gum -- climber erroneously supplied as Kiftsgate. which has distinctive ref foliage in spring. This plant does not. Possibly the evergreen Species Rosa Mulliganii (7 leaflets and orange red hips) or R Sempervivons (5-7 leaflets) almost evergreen.

### **Miscellaneous**

Weeping Seafoam c1963 polyantha Ernest W Schwartz USA

Boule de Neige 1867 Bourbon La Charme France

Cecile Brunner 1881 Polyantha

First Love 1951 Hybrid Tea Herbert C Swan (USA?) (in pot)

Iceberg x 6 1958 Kordes (one parent hybrid musk 'Robin Hood') therefore classifies as shrub rose

Little White Pet 1879 China Sport of Felicite et Perpetue discovered by Peter Henderson (USA)

Lorraine Lee 1924 Tea Alistair Clarke

Old Blush 1789. China rose. First Asian rose to reach Europe. Introduced in UK commercially in 1793.

Rugosa Alba Species (recurrent)

Stanwell's Perpetual Chance cross between the Scotch rose (R pimpinellifolia) and an Autumn Damask. Introduced 1838 by Lee of Hammersmith UK

### ***Miniature Roses in bank bed (from left to right facing bank)***

Pink – Cupcake?? Pretty Polly??

White -- Green ice

Pink – Babyboomer??

Apricot -- Peach Sunblaze x 2

Red – Redbubble??

Orange – Bambino??

White -- Green ice

White -- Baby Jack

### **TREES**

Anticlockwise beginning with the Red Gum

\* = original planting \*\* original planting but moved

\*Eucalyptus blakelyi Red gum

Chamaecyparis Lawsoniana Lawsons cypress

Taxusboccata aurea Golden (English) Yew

Cupressus macrocarpa 'Lutea' Weeping Golden Cypress

Liriodendron tulipifera Tulip Tree

Hakea ericifolia

Acacia rubra (a local variety)

Magnolia 'Elizabeth'

\*Malus coronaria Golden Hornet Crabapple

### **Back boundary**

\*\*Juniper

\*Liquidambar styraciflua Sweet Gum

Amalanchier canadensis

\*Acer negundo Box Elder

With hydrangea petiolaris Climbing hydrangea

Hakea ericifolia

Cornus capitata Evergreen dogwood

Magnolia 'Elizabeth'

Acer buergerianum Trident Maple

Prunus bliereiana Flowering Plum

Cupressus sempervirens Pencil pine x 2

### **N/W Side**

Malus hupehensis Apple blossom x 2

\*Acer palmatum Japanese Maple

\* Cupressus sempervirens Pencil pine

Acer palmatum Japanese Maple

Thuja Lawsonii x 3

Thuja Oriental x 2

### **In back lawn**

Acer palmatum Senkaki Coral Bark Maple

Prunus subhirtella pendula rosea Weeping cherry

Cornus florida Double white dogwood

### **In front garden**

Betula or Silver birch

\*\*Betula or Silver birch

Magnolia

Ginkgo biloba

Amalanchier canadensis

Thuja Orientalis Book leaf Cypress

Prunus 'Shogetsu' Mid to late flowering cherry

(Recently replanted in Camellia bed) Chimonanthus  
praecox fragrans Winter sweet

### **In nature strip**

Red Oak x 2 (Govt trees)

Cedrus deodara

## **GARDEN OWNER**

Diana Carroll

### **Acknowledgements**

Since my husband died, I have maintained this garden with professional help, to whom I owe a great debt of thanks for their interested and enthusiastic support for my gardening efforts. Graeme Wilson does 3 (generous) hours per fortnight. Besides lawn mowing etc he prunes my climbing roses and the hedges. The various pergolas were made, and in two cases, repaired by Will Huxley. Additions to original rock work and some of the corten edges were by At Home Landscaping and Greg Rathbone of Yardchores has undertaken a variety of specialist jobs, including rock work repairs, wooden and corten edging, and a significant and impressive upgrade to the compost bins.