

diploma in teaching and taught many students over a five-year period. Most cities do not have a need to employ large numbers of horticulturists, but our nation's capital did. Canberra had Lake Burley Griffin, surrounding landscapes and the national botanic gardens to be developed and the NCDC engaged Dennis from the mid-1970s to the mid-1980s.

He was responsible for planting hundreds of cherry trees donated by the Japanese Government which we all enjoy when driving along any entrance to Canberra, especially in spring.

Dennis was also responsible for the inner-city area — Lake Burley Griffin, including Commonwealth and Weston Park and the lake's foreshore planting. He also worked on the constant upgrade of rural picnic areas along the ACT river banks.

Still pursuing challenges, Dennis then worked as a private contractor for over a decade and a further decade for ACT Government as head gardener at the Canberra Cemetery.

After many years living in Canberra, Dennis and his wife Eileen moved to Braidwood in 2007 and began establishing a new garden, naturally with some of their favourite plants, including roses, camellias and Japanese maples to name a few. Returning to Braidwood requires him to cover many kilometres back and forth to Canberra for private contracts and his consultancy work on roses for National Capital Authority.

Dennis is not someone to sit still for long. Over the years he has worked for various religious denominations, the Braidwood Heritage Committee and Braidwood Community Radio Station, Rural Fire Fighter and hands-on work such as re-building fences at the Cotter Dam after the 2003 ACT Fires. His preference is to be a 'behind the scenes' man and do the actual work.

Dennis is in the advanced stages of completing a book 'Cool Climate Horticulture' which will no doubt assist all the gardeners in the Braidwood district. The book will contain lots of information with a section on older and unique roses. He anticipates publication in early 2018.



Just Joey Rose

Hybrid Tea bred by Cants of Colchester, United Kingdom, in 1972 and performs well throughout Australia. The bush is disease and heat resistant.

The flower is an eye-catching ripe apricot colour with a loose, informal display of pretty frilled petals. Probably its most seductive feature is its intense, spicy fragrance which will quickly fill a room, when a bunch is placed in a vase. When introduced, its colour and size of flowers were considered breakthroughs.

It has been awarded the Royal Horticultural Society Award of Merit 1993 and World's Favourite Rose 1994.

Source: website www.sarose.org.au – 'Rose Society of South Australia'



Buff Beauty Rose

Hybrid Musk Shrub – Modern Tree Rose Introduced in Bentall United Kingdom 1939.

A rose for the enthusiast, flowers are apricot and apricot blend, orange and yellow blooms. Mild to strong tea rose fragrance, with 50 petals and blooms in continuous flushes throughout the season.

Source: Rex Hazlewood Rose Garden, Old Parliament House – Horticulture Volunteers' Guide.

Another local rose lover

Dennis knew the late Ian Robertson all his life, though he didn't know that Ian was also a lover of roses. Dennis recalls meeting Ian as a young boy. As he summarises with one of his own quotes:

'History, our yesterday, is told today so that it is remembered tomorrow.'

"I remember driving home with my family one winter's night (Dad, Mum, Jim and Marguerite (Girlie) Dempsey) when at the big sweeping bend near the Farringdon turn off, a large rock belted up under the vehicle severing our fuel line. My father walked back to a farm house and called NRMA. In due course Ian Robertson arrived in his tow truck and quickly worked on the problem. I still remember Ian sliding under the vehicle onto the cold gravel, fuel dripping. He asked me and my father to pass a half inch spanner, small shifting spanner and a hack saw. Ian then sawed the flattened section of the fuel pipe off, replacing it with a screw-up junction fitting which saw us on our way home. This temporary repair on the side of the road lasted the life of the vehicle which was probably another ten or so years. This was a dramatic event for a young farm boy."



IAN ROBERTSON

The roses at Old Parliament House

In Dennis's own words

There are around ten thousand roses in the precinct; we manage a very large garden. We do everything on a large scale.

In your home garden you might be spraying and mixing up five litres but we mix up eleven hundred litres and go out and spray. I can, on occasion, spray through all the roses in one day, but it's a very long day. I start early and I finish late.

I have modified a lawnmower. I've got a tank on the front of it and a spray unit. I have the ability to either spray with the gun or to spray with what's called a burnless sprayer. I can spray into the roses with some pressure and drive past them. I've been able to cut down the workload greatly by being a thinking horticulturist, if you like.

The other thing that we do there is regularly blow all the leaves out from underneath the roses so that anything that falls doesn't re-infect the rose.

The other thing is that roses love food. As soon as they shoot in the spring, we



apply turkey manure. They love the animal based manure. If I could use a scale of one to ten, turkey and fowl manure is a ten for roses. Cow and sheep manure is around eight and other manures are five or six out of ten. Horse manure is good, but it's not like turkey manure.

Turkey and fowl manure have something in them that roses really love. Save your fowl manure up, compost it across the winter for your roses in the spring and you will have good roses.

Every six weeks feed them with a

liquid fertiliser. In the autumn, we're just about to apply it now, we use a product called **Sudden Impact for Roses**. If you feed roses, you get only a fraction of the diseases that you would normally get.

If you don't feed them and they become unthrifty and unhealthy, they'll get all the diseases in the world. If you feed them and keep them healthy, you don't have to spray them nearly as much.

There's a couple of tips to help people to grow good roses.

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