



# Hunter Valley Rose News

The Rose Society of NSW Inc

1/25/2020

## *Keeping you up to date – February 2020*

The rain has been very welcome.

This month some history on the "Peace" rose.



The Peace rose, formally Rosa 'Madame A. Meilland', is a well known and successful garden rose. It is hardy and vigorous and relatively resistant to disease, making it popular in gardens and the floral trade.

It was developed by French horticulturist Francis Meilland in the years 1935 to 1939. In 1935, Meilland the third generation in a family of rose growers near Lyon, selected 50 promising seedlings from his seedbeds. One was tagged 3-35-40 and over the next four years Francis and his father watched its development in spite of war clouds gathering. The unnamed rose was introduced to friends and professional rose growers who gave it an enthusiastic 'thumbs up'. Three months later Hitler invaded France and with the nursery under threat of destruction, three parcels of budwood were hastily sent out of France, one of which was smuggled

out in the diplomatic bag to America.

For the duration of the war the Meilland family had no idea whether any budwood had survived.

In America the rose was planted into trial beds testing in all climatic zones throughout the USA. The rose did so well it was released in the USA 29<sup>th</sup>

April 1945. On the same day, two doves were released into the American sky to symbolize the naming of the rose, Berlin fell and a truce was declared. It was sheer coincidence. In naming the rose, this simple statement was read: "We are persuaded that this greatest new rose of our time should be named for the world's greatest desire: 'PEACE'.

'Peace' went onto receive the All American Award for roses on the day that the war in Japan came to an end. 8<sup>th</sup> May 1945. (Ref: For Love of a Rose, by A. Ridge)



For your stock of Neutrog products please contact Geoff Johnson on ph: 4937 2635 to place orders.



*Governor Macquarie Rose – Signature Rose of the Hunter Valley Regional Rose Society*

**Members of the Hunter Valley meet on the second Saturday of the month at 1.30 p.m. at: **The Community Hall – Green Hills Retirement Village** – turn left from Mitchell Drive into Stronach Avenue to the hall**

**Next meeting-8<sup>TH</sup> Feb 2020**

**AT 1.30pm.**

*For further information contact:*

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