

VSRG SUPPORTERS BOOKLET

Wal Johnston 2016

The Victoria State Rose Garden would not exist had it not been for the Supporters Group. This is an attempt to tell their story from its origins back in 1993.

Readers are advised that to learn the history of the Rose Garden and its origins they should consult the VSRG Booklet "*History and Origins of the Victoria State Rose Garden*" by James Lyall Priestly OAM.

The origin of the Supporters group was a talk and public pruning demonstration at the Melton Garden Centre (now defunct) in January 1993. The demonstrator, Mr James L. Priestly OAM (Jim) was asking visitors to sign a petition to save the Victoria State Rose Garden.

The Garden was being looked after by five stalwarts of the Rose Society of Victoria, but it had got beyond their capabilities as they all resided in the Eastern suburbs and were all of retirement age. The five were James Priestly, Sam Gough, Arthur Haynes, Ted Phillips, and Ern Pietsch (The Pioneers). The grass was out of control and the plants were covered in hips and deadheads.

Because of this the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works, who controlled Werribee Park at that time, were seriously considering their options. Hence the petition by Jim Priestly who, as founder of the Garden, had a vested interest in keeping the Garden going. One visitor suggested a public appeal in the local newspaper, Werribee Banner, for volunteers to assist in maintaining the garden.

The Banner entries are so significant to the origins of the Supporters that they are reproduced here.

WERRIBEE BANNER

WEDNESDAY 10 FEBRUARY 1993

HELP OUR ROSES

Volunteers are needed to help save the Victoria State Rose Garden at Werribee Park. Meanwhile the man who designed it wants to be allowed to finish what he started.

By Caroline Overington

Melbourne Water is considering a plan to build a two-story rotunda in the centre of the Victoria State Rose Garden at Werribee Park.

The proposal put forward by ground staff includes fencing a section of the rose garden earmarked for an observation mound and sundial.

Areas originally earmarked for stages two and three of the garden would be fenced and used as sheep pastures.

The proposal has stunned the man who designed the rose garden, James Priestly OAM.

"Before the rose garden, visitors to Victoria would contact the rose society wanting to know where they could go to see roses. I had to send them to the Springvale Crematorium", Mr. Priestly said. "I wrote to Premier Hamer and said it was stupid to be the Garden State without a rose garden and he said okay; make one".

Mr Priestly designed the garden to look like a Tudor rose. The completed stage one is in the shape of a rose head with five petals separated by paths. The stem of the rose pokes out between petals B and C. Stage two would be in the shape of a leaf and planted with Australian raised roses.

Stage three would be in the shape of a smaller leaf planted with historical and miniature roses.

There would also be trial beds in the shape of thorns.

The centre of the rose was to be marked by a water fountain.

“We wanted a fountain, not a rotunda. We wanted something that would dribble water, something subtle and classic.” Mr Priestly said.

Mr Priestly said the rotunda would be out of place in the rose garden.

“It is supposed to be a place of peace and quiet, a place to contemplate.” he said. “Imagine how much thinking you could get done with jazz bands playing and others on electric guitars”.

Supporters of the Melbourne Water plan say the rotunda would attract more people to the rose garden, particularly for weddings.

Money would be saved if land earmarked for stages two and three were used as sheep pastures.

Melbourne Water currently spends about \$48,000 on the maintenance of the garden.

Melbourne Water is responsible for weeding, deadheading, trimming, spraying and watering the roses and pays about \$48,000 a year to have this done. Summer trimming and winter pruning is left to a group of five volunteers, including Mr Priestly.

“All the volunteers currently come from the eastern suburbs”, Mr Priestly said.

“What we really want is some people from Werribee to lend a hand. Volunteers are needed to ‘deadhead’ the roses, or remove dead flowers from the plants, which encourages

repeat flowering. We can teach volunteers how to dead head." Mr Priestly said.

"All they need is enthusiasm, willingness to work and a few spare hours once a fortnight."

Mr Priestly wants Melbourne Water to donate \$40,000 of the \$48,000 it spends maintaining the garden to the volunteers.

"We would put that money straight back into the rose garden" he said. "We would soon have the garden we planned".

WERRIBEE BANNER

WEDNESDAY 17 FEBRUARY 1993

THANK YOU FOR SAVING THE ROSE GARDEN

The man who designed the State Rose Garden thanks those who want to save it.

More than 20 have volunteered to tend the plants at the Victorian State Rose Garden at Werribee Park. The man who designed the garden, James Priestly, last week called for volunteers to trim and prune the roses.

Melbourne Water, which owns Werribee Park and the garden, is responsible for weeding, trimming, spraying and watering the roses.

However, summer trimming and winter pruning is left to a group of five volunteers, including Mr Priestly. Prior to a story in the Werribee Banner last week, all of Mr Priestly's volunteers were from the eastern suburbs. Mr Priestly wanted people from Werribee to lend a hand.

"I was very happy with the response," Mr Priestly said. "Myself and Werribee Park, got heaps of calls" Dozens of people also called the Werribee Banner.

Now Mr Priestly has about 10 committed volunteers but still wants more.

He believes the enthusiasm for the garden shown by locals, means his original concept for its completion might go ahead.

There will be a meeting for volunteers at 2.30pm this Sunday at the Rose Garden.

So, on the 21st February 1993, 50 volunteers met with Jim Priestley in the Garden and the Victoria State Rose Garden Supporters (VSRGS) started.

The volunteers were trained in the basics of rose culture and it was carried out with rigorous discipline by the Pioneers. Jim Priestly, Ted Phillips, Sam Gough, Arthur Haynes and Ern Pietsch were all members of the Rose Society of Victoria and had well over 200 years of experience between them, so were very able to train others in rose culture. The new volunteers would cringe and try to hide when the cry went up “Who did this?” They learned quickly to do the right thing. Before long they were working two days a week and relying less and less on their instructors.

Facilities were limited in the Garden. The volunteers would supply their own buckets, gloves, secateurs, and other equipment needed. At morning tea, they would sit around on their buckets in the central grassed area of the Tudor Rose with their thermoses and the training would continue. The Pioneers regarded the volunteers as the “hired help” and ignored formal meetings of the group. These would be held in the members’ own homes with the Secretary, Christine Gulliver, taking notes.

By the 21st June 1993, the group was incorporated using a Constitution based on that in use by the Melbourne Botanic Gardens. The first formal Meeting of the Group was held in September 1993 with Mr Priestly being elected President, a position he held until September 1996. The Secretary was Joan Broadstock and the Treasurer Chris Dennis. The same month, the first Newsletter was produced.

In 1993, the Pioneers were asked if they would pass on in writing their store of expert knowledge. A set of booklets were proposed. Five were written and finally produced in 1998. These are:

“The Folklore of the Rose” by Sam Gough

“Propagating Roses” by Sam Gough

“Pruning Roses” by Sam Gough

“Pests and Diseases in Roses” by Rod Cantrill

“Mineral Deficiencies in Roses” by Sam Gough.

Over the years, as the Supporters’ expertise grew, further booklets were produced. These are:

“A Guide to Growing a Friends’ Group” Joan Broadstock 2002

“History and Origins of the Victoria State Rose Garden” Jim Priestly 1999 (released posthumously)

“Pruning Old Roses” Wal Johnston 2004

1994 saw a Government policy change with the public to be charged entry fees to the Mansion Grounds. Entry to the Rose Garden was to remain free to the public, so a cyclone fence was erected between the Mansion and the Rose Garden. The year also saw Werribee Park management move their unwanted first aid ‘container’ to

the northern corner of the Rose Garden for the use of the volunteers. This became the Supporters' first office and general storage area.

In late 1994 Melbourne Parks and Waterways took over the control of the Werribee Mansion and surrounds, including the Victoria State Rose Garden. In November of that year the first Annual General Meeting of the Victoria State Rose Garden Supporters was held in the Garden adjacent to the work shed. Twenty-nine members attended with nine apologies.

The membership had climbed to over sixty volunteers by the end of 1994 and had recorded a total of 2,614 hours worked.

At this point of time, the signs identifying the roses for the public were metal spikes with plastic signs riveted on, placed in each bed. They were easily moved, and it was considered fun by some of the public to change the signs from bed to bed.

Research showed that the botanical signs used by the Melbourne Botanic Gardens were more suitable. They came on an aluminium spike which was made more secure in the ground with a cupful of concrete. These were progressively installed from May 1995. They had one major problem for the volunteers in that they were not readily visible in the beds and many a gashed leg from the signs resulted.

In conjunction with the first Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show of April 1995, Melbourne Parks and Waterways designed logos for all their Parks. They issued the Victoria State Rose Garden logo which we use today. This is not to be confused with the official seal of the Supporters which has an outline of

the completed Garden. Some of the Rose Garden volunteers assisted with manning the Parks exhibit at the Show.

At the end of the International Flower and Garden Show, a large gazebo which had been a feature of the Melbourne Parks exhibit, was relocated to Werribee and, in 1997, moved to the grassed area in the centre of the Tudor Rose.

With the number of visitors to the Garden increasing, there was a decision to create a donation tube. Funds were constantly needed to supply tools and equipment for the use of the volunteers. Up to this point, when tools were needed, the volunteers would supply their own. It was just as well that most of the rose replacements were supplied free of charge by Treloar Nursery, for the funds of the Supporters was very limited. In conjunction with the donation tube a leaflet box for self-guided tours of the Garden was installed.

The Equestrian Centre was located alongside the Garden and in 1995 they staged the first Asia/Pacific Equestrian Championships. The three day show included jumping events which went through jumps in the Garden and, in particular, on the viewing mounds.

The third Annual General Meeting was held in September 1996 at the Mansion and Graham Otte was elected President. Joan Broadstock retained the position of Secretary, a title she kept until 2002. Chris Dennis kept the position of Treasurer.

The Supporters recorded a total of 4,034 hours worked in the Garden in 1996. The totals do not include the hours spent by individual volunteers behind the scenes, sourcing grants for capital works and equipment,

researching roses, administrative duties, writing and preparing newsletters and so on.

The first colour brochure for advertising the Garden was produced using a grant from Parks West and Werribee Park. Dolores Skowronski-Malloni, a botanical artist and member of the Supporters, exhibited paintings of Victoria State Rose Garden roses in the Mansion at Werribee Park. In conjunction with this exhibition, Shirley Johnston, another member, displayed a collection of dolls. These exhibits were to raise funds for the Garden.

The beds in the Tudor Rose had been kept tidy by spade-cutting the edges. It was decided, in 1997, that a grant would be sought to permanently brick the edges of the beds. To ensure that the beds were accurately sited relative to the original plan, Victorian University students carried out a survey and placed the beds on the National Grid, thus ensuring their accuracy.

It was also discovered that the contractor who supplied the bed signs was going out of business, so a new method of identification of the beds was going to be needed. In line with the brick edging proposal, it was decided to seek brick signs, to be incorporated into the edging.

It was during this period that the second constitution was developed by a sub-committee and approved at a general meeting. Changing legislation made this move necessary.

The cyclone fence between the Rose Garden and the Mansion was too tempting to be left vacant, so in 1997 using a grant from Parks Victoria and with the help of Werribee Park a Heritage Border was created. A sub-committee of the Supporters researched suitable roses and

forty-four varieties of climbing Species and Old Roses were planted to form a hedge on the fence.

In 1998 a front row of bush Heritage Roses was planted containing forty-nine varieties. The Victoria State Rose Garden Supporters Regional group of Heritage Roses in Australia was formed with Joan Broadstock being the first coordinator, followed by Jen Smythe and then Wal Johnston, who handed the role to Anne Long in 2022.

In September 1998, the fifth Annual General Meeting was held and Shirley Cameron was elected President. Nola Bradford was elected Treasurer, a position she has held up to the present day.

A City of Wyndham Community Partnership Grant was used to permanently brick the Garden beds and paths in the Tudor Rose. Engraved brick identification signs were installed as part of the edging process. The Grant was based on a 'one-for-one' basis, with the Supporters matching the grant money with labour.

In addition, a wheelchair friendly ramp was made into the gazebo, through an Access for All Abilities Grant. This was named 'The Bev Garnett' ramp in memory of one of our Members who was confined to a wheelchair before her death. In her memory, it has become a tradition for Supporters to give anyone in the Garden, in a wheelchair, a rose.

The volunteers are an inventive lot. Prunings would be piled up on the ground so that Parks staff could collect them and take them away. This made for double handling and was not very efficient, so Shirley Cameron experimented with using opened hay bags. Good idea but they kept blowing away and the thorns would catch on the hessian. So experiments with tomato stakes and shade-

cloth lead to the use of “prayer mats” – politically incorrect but accurate description of a system still in use today.

In 2000, applications for grants to celebrate the Centenary of Federation were called for. The VSRGS obtained a Centenary of Federation grant for the establishment of the Australian Leaf, an integral part of Stage Two of the original plan of the Garden. This was to contain fifty beds of Australian roses bred over the years 1901 to 2001, with representations from every State and as many breeders as possible. The centre of the Leaf is a grassed area with five Callistemon planted in the shape of the Southern Cross. It is connected to the Tudor Rose by a gravel path representing a rose stem.

To allow for the laying out of Stage Two of the original plan, including the Australian Leaf, the southern portion of the cyclone fence was re-aligned. The crew doing the layout was overseen by Jim Priestly and Mervyn Hayman-Danker who were delighted to see the fruition of their plans. A small sub-committee of volunteers researched and located the roses for the Leaf. The Australian collection was started on January 26th 2001 (Australia Day).

The fence re-alignment also allowed for the preparation and planting of a further 170 meters of the Heritage Border.

Len Broadstock was elected President of the Supporters at the Annual General Meeting in September 2000.

Four months after the AGM, the Supporters farewelled the original Pioneer of the Garden, Mr. James L. Priestly OAM. He would have been delighted to see the

strong support group he had founded and the Stage Two concept coming into being.

Back in 1999, a representative of David Austin Roses visited the Garden to see the David Austin roses growing there. The Company was so surprised at the growth patterns in the Australian climate, they asked for the opportunity to plant a special section of their roses. The Stage Two of the original plan allowed for a rosebud, so David Austin Roses offered to donate the entire structure to showcase their roses. This offer was accepted by the Supporters. In conjunction with the Australian Leaf, the Rosebud went ahead in 2001.

2001 was a busy year for the volunteers. A further grant allowed for the path to the Leaf and Rosebud to be bricked. The 'catering' shed was erected and installed by the volunteers. A small gazebo was offered by Parks and installed in the Australian Leaf.

The Year of Volunteers was held in 2001 and the Supporters were successful in obtaining a grant of \$5,000 from the organisation. This was put to good use in buying the first uniforms for the volunteers. Each Supporter received a hat, shirt, pullover and either trousers or overalls.

In August 2001, Marilyn and Arthur Taylor planted a rose named after their daughter, in the Leaf – *'Angela Rose Taylor'*. Only one was available at the time but the bed is now fully planted. Angela Rose Taylor, the daughter, was a policewoman who died from extensive burns suffered in the Russell Street bombing.

In November 2001 the Federation Leaf was officially opened by Ms Sherryl Garbutt, Minister for Conservation and Energy.

To show that age was no barrier to volunteering with the Supporters, Edna Dunn joined the Group at age 86. However she was not the oldest recruit as Cath Perks had joined in 1998 at the age of 89. Both spent many years working in the Garden. Regrettably, no one under the age of 15 can volunteer, as there is no insurance cover for such persons. With the growing number of volunteers, the shelter accommodation was insufficient so the 'red hat' brigade sourced the materials and carried out the first of several extensions.

At the Annual General Meeting of 2002, Marlene Duggan was elected President of the Supporters Group. Joan Broadstock stood down as Secretary and was replaced by Margaret Murray.

In 2002, the Supporters in their tenth year, recorded a total of 6,999 hours worked in the Garden. The next year, the work carried out by the Supporters over those ten years was recognised by leading rosarians of the world.

In 2003, the World Federation of Rose Societies granted the Victoria State Rose Garden the award of 'Garden of Excellence' status. This was the fifth Garden in the world to be granted this status; the first outside of Europe and the first run by volunteers. The Award was presented by Margaret McGregor, WFRS representative for the Australasian region, to the VSRGS President, Marlene. The commemorative bronze plaque was mounted on a sandstone plinth in a permanent position at the entrance to the Gazebo.

September 2004 saw Colin Hilder elected as President of the Supporters. All the Presidents to this point of time were amongst the first volunteers to join the Supporters. It also was becoming a tradition, though

unwritten, that successive Presidents would be male/female.

The second shed extension was carried out during the following year. This necessitated the removal of a tree, but the 'red hat' brigade was becoming expert at achieving the desired end results, so the tree, somehow, disappeared.

The original concept of the Australian Leaf was that the beds would be mulched with eucalyptus mulch and the edges would be casually defined. Realistically this proved to be an error with the mulch being scattered by the birds over the gravel paths. It was decided that the edges would be bricked. A Parks Victoria grant was obtained and over a two year period, the bed edges were bricked in.

2006 saw Kath Cunningham elected as President for the next two year term. Cheryl Brookes was elected as Secretary. In the full year the Supporters recorded 9,374 hours worked in the Garden.

It was, and is, the practice to replace a small number of poor performing beds in the Tudor Rose each year. This involved the digging out of the old roses and, with the help of Werribee Park staff, preparing the beds for the new roses. Consider the effort required of Supporters in replacing an average of eight beds, averaging 25 plants per bed, per year over ten plus years.

Selections of replacement roses were made by a sub-committee of the volunteers, (Marlene Duggan, Veronica O'Brien and Graham Otte), their choice to be approved by Council. The selection process relied heavily on prior knowledge of performance or the information supplied in catalogues. It was becoming very obvious that a better evaluation process was needed.

In 2006 one bed in the Tudor Rose was set aside for trialing roses being considered for replacement. A group of three of each potential replacement rose was planted in the trial bed for a two year period to see its growth patterns, disease resistance, and flowering capacity. Nine rows of three gave the volunteers a good idea of what roses were good park roses for the future – and what roses should not be permanently planted.

Victoria was now in the grip of a four year drought with severe water restrictions. Parks Victoria decided that recycled water would be used throughout the precinct, including the Rose Garden. Use of recycled water eventually lead to soil levels potentially toxic to roses. As an example, one section of the Heritage Border lost more than 100 roses over the next four years.

The trial bed in the Tudor Rose proved so successful that a second bed was set aside for trialing potential replacement roses in 2007 and a bed in the Australian Leaf was also set aside in 2008 for trialing five groups of three new Australian bred roses.

Wal Johnston was elected President in September 2008 with no change to Treasurer. Sue Myers took over the Secretary role in 2009.

While on a visit to the Garden in 2009, Kit Boyd, the daughter of Kitty Kininmonth, could not find the rose named after her mother. Bred by one of Australia's biggest rose breeders in 1922, Alister Clark, he named the pink semi double pillar rose after his family friend, Kitty Kininmonth. Subsequent correspondence with Kit Boyd resulted in her officially planting a replacement rose of *Kitty Kininmonth* in the Heritage Border.

Bushfires ravaged large parts of Victoria in February 2009. A group of Heritage Roses in Australia people started a campaign to supply roses to those who had lost everything. The Victoria State Rose Garden Supporters joined in the campaign and assisted with providing plants, budwood and transport.

In February 2010 a local web producer, Lukas White from MC Webs offered to build the Supporters a website. This offer was accepted and a sub-committee of Wal Johnston and Veronica O'Brien liaised with Lukas in the setting up of the site. Wal became the initial webmaster. The site became an immediate success and has proven to be well used by the public, here and overseas. When pressure of Garden work forced Wal to resign as webmaster, Cheryl Brooks took over the responsibility.

September 2010 saw Veronica O'Brien elected President with no changes to Secretary or Treasurer.

One of the Supporters, Fay Bromley, was a victim of Motor Neurone Disease. She donated a bed of *Mother and Daughter* and, in 2012, officiated at the planting of the rose. The rose was bred by David Rankin who also had MND. It was released by Rankin Roses and Melissa King an MND victim, and a portion of each rose sale is donated to MND research. Fay died on the 30th November 2012 and the rose remains in her memory.

On the 20th year of the Supporters Group, a total of 8,117 hours was recorded and the membership had reached 146 members. As previously stated the totals do not include extraneous work over the years. Administrative work, website updates, data base updates report writing and similar activities do not get included. Every year a large number of service and garden clubs request talks on the Garden. These are given by a small

group of volunteers whose love of the Garden has them driving miles at night to deliver the message. Nor does it include the regular and frequent guided tours of the Garden by similar organisations.

It was co-incidental but very appropriate that Alex Quinn should be elected President in 2012.

The Rose Garden is hidden behind a screen of pines and other trees. Entry was via the Mansion car park, but signage was so concealed that it was not unknown for visitors to leave, never finding the Garden. The Supporters had been lobbying for better signage for many years and in particular becoming more intense in their pleas over the last seven years. On the 19th September 2012, a new entrance arch was erected.

Alex played a large part in the entrance arch negotiations, the planning, getting quotes, negotiating a grant and liaising with Parks Victoria, government officials, and reporting back to the Garden Council on a regular basis. The new arch was a huge success and has been complimented by a signage tablet, giving visitors details of the Garden.

Offers had been made to the Victoria State Rose Garden for rare and endangered roses. It was decided that where space was available such offers should be accepted. A large number of such roses now reside throughout the Garden. The rescue action by the volunteers will ensure that the roses have a future.

A change of government regulations meant that the Constitution of the Supporters had to be re-written. A sub-committee was given the task and the new constitution was ultimately approved and accepted in 2013. The same year, the supporters asked garden guru, Jane Edmanson

(3AW/Gardening Australia) to become the Garden patron. She accepted the offer readily.

The year also saw the first Wyndham Rose and Garden Show, put on by the local Council and held in the Garden. The Show was so popular that it has been repeated over the next two years, growing in size and number of visitors.

Christine Menagazzo, one of the Supporters, started the Rose Garden Facebook page in 2013 and this was instantly popular.

Safety of the volunteers is a major matter. Over the years, specialist speakers have given advice ranging from Staying Safe in Summer, to CPR exercises. Some Supporters have undertaken first aid training and at least one is on duty every working day. Volunteers are not permitted to work alone in the Garden; all volunteers must wear eye protection; specialist ladders are provided and their use restricted. In 2015, a defibrillator was obtained through a partial grant from the Bendigo Bank, with the Group making up the shortfall.

Joan Broadstock was elected as President for the next two years at the AGM in 2014. Sue Myers retained the Secretary but had indicated that she wanted to step down. Margrit Smith took the role in 2015.

One tripod had been erected in the Heritage Border many years before, and it was so successful in creating height to the Border that a further three were made and installed. Climbing roses have been established on them.

The internet firm, Tripadvisor, awarded the Garden a Certificate of Excellence in 2015. It was an unexpected surprise and a recognition of the tourism aspect of the Garden. In November Wyndham City Council held the

third Rose and Garden Show over two days in the Garden. Exhibitors stalls were eagerly snapped up and the weather brought several thousand to the Garden for the spectacle. The Supporters were kept busy offering guided tours and answering all the queries from the public.

As this booklet is about the Supporters it is important to give some details. Here is a band of dedicated people who give freely of their time and effort to maintain a world class garden for the enjoyment of thousands of visitors and internet devotees. Because of their efforts people from all over the world know and enjoy the Garden. They are all volunteers, some of whom have been working in the Garden since the start. Most are retired, from a wide variety of professional careers. They enjoy the camaraderie that goes with a group of similar minded people.

Weather permitting, the Group work two days every week. The average attendance on a Wednesday is 50 during the summer and this increases considerably during the winter pruning. For those who are still in paid employment there is the opportunity to work on Saturdays, where the average attendance is 25.

A recent survey showed that there are over 20 nationalities and Supporters come from 25 postcode areas. The Group is managed by an elected Council who oversee all the activities. Formal elections are held every two years. Teams have been set up for those tasks requiring a specialist skill and volunteers are encouraged to learn new skills in these areas. These include standards, weeping standards, festoons, tripods, and heritage roses.

The longer term members train new volunteers in the methods used in the Garden. The aim of the training is

for the production of mass displays rather than for prize winning roses

One matter that cannot be overlooked is the huge amount of support the Supporters have from Parks staff at the Mansion. There is a strong working relationship between the groups which has kept the Garden flourishing over the years and bodes well for the future.

Secretaries	Treasurers
1993 Christine Gulliver	1993 Chris Dennis
1993 Joan Broadstock	1998 Nola Bradford
2002 Margaret Murray	
2006 Cheryl Brooks	
2009 Sue Myers	
2015 Margret Smith	

Life Members

- 1997 James Priestly AOM (dec)
Ted Phillips (dec)
Sam Gough (dec)
Arthur Haynes (dec)
- 1999 Joan Broadstock
Graham Otte
- 2000 Len Broadstock (dec)
Shirley Cameron
Colin Hilder (dec)
Wal Johnston
Glenis Mackie
Julia Perry
- 2005 Nola Bradford
Kathleen Cunningham (dec)
Marlene Duggan
Max Garnett
John Kemp
Veronica O'Brien
- 2009 Bev Abbott
Bill Bartels
Charles Cull

Aparicio Leon
 2011 Pam Botha
 Mervyn Hayman-Danker
 2013 Alex Quinn
 2015 Brian Bindon
 Valda Bindon

Hours worked

1994	2614	1995	3206	1996
	4034		1997	5551
1998	7253	1999	7012	2000
	7544		2001	6398
2002	6999	2003	6949	2004
	7479		2005	8551
2006	9374	2007	8048	2008
	7539		2009	8063
2010	8063	2011	9354	2012
	8117		2013	8601
2014	7974	2015	10314	