large and flat, inner excessively crowded, erect and inclined to be blotched or striped, very like ‘Vesta’, very waved. Orthographic variant: ‘Marianna’, Synonym ‘Red Waratah’...

At Stangate we have cultivars with both names and they appear to be two distinctly different cultivars, raising many questions, which may never be solved without the knowledge of where the Stangate camellias were sourced in the 1970s. The most important question being - does Stangate have the extinct C. j. ‘Palmer’s Red Waratah’?

CSAH had a very successful Royal Adelaide Show in September 2013.

*C. japonica x C. reticulata* Harold L. Page’ was awarded Grand Champion Camellia while C. pitardii hybrid ‘Adorable’ was awarded Champion Non-Reticulata hybrid.

**A cruel winter at Park ar Brug, Brittany, France**

Roger Salaun

A particularly wet but mild autumn followed by a more clement but equally wet beginning to winter, promised a very good flowering season for the camellias. The latter part of the winter, however, was very harsh in some parts of Brittany, especially the Côtes d’Armor where the beautiful Garden of Excellence, Park ar Brug, is located.

Heavy falls of snow occurred between 10th and 12th of March causing damage to many magnificent camellia flowers. Many plants were at the peak of their flowering season and laden with blooms; these were crushed under the weight of the wet, heavy snow, rupturing main branches and in some cases, even the trunk itself. It was a scene of desolation. This degree of damage can only be repaired after many years of patient and careful nurturing. Fortunately, the camellia is a vigorous plant with a great capacity for regeneration and can rebuild itself to flower again after two or three years.

Camellia in full flower snapped by weight of the snow

Sadly, this was not the only misfortune to affect Park ar Brug in this terrible winter of 2013. In May, a new freak of nature struck the garden that had already suffered so much. On the night of May 25 to 26, a late spring frost destroyed many of the new shoots, resulting in a new disaster that will affect the flowering season of plants in the winter of 2013/2014.

New shoots damaged by late spring frosts
We do know, however, that Fânch and Anne Le Moal are armed with the patience of good gardeners, especially of camellia specialists. They are well aware that if nature can be cruel, it can also be generous in rewarding patience and perseverance. We must be optimistic: Park ar Brug will recover and the misfortunes of 2013, if not forgotten, will be largely healed. It must be remembered that, thanks to the painstaking work of Fânch and Anne, Park ar Brug produced fourteen new cultivars between 1979 and 1998 that have contributed to the reputation of this garden and are admired by all lovers of camellias in Brittany. There is more good news for lovers of our favourite flower: Fânch has announced that there are seven more that have been created between 2005 and 2012.

The lovely ‘Fleur de Pommier’ raised in 2010

Park ar Brug is now recognised as a Garden of Excellence and will continue to develop new varieties that make this a special place for study and a garden of interest to all lovers of the camellia, the emblem of Guingamp.

Pretty pink and white single flower raised in 2011

News from the FLORA, the Botanical Garden of Cologne, Germany

Dr Stephan Anhalt

The First Mayor of the City of Cologne, Mr Jürgen Roters and his wife, opened the Camellia Exhibition on the 18th of January. He expressed again his pride on the Flora becoming an ICS Garden of Excellence. The exhibition lasted until April 14th and recorded about 65,000 visitors.

We were delighted to include a very generous gift of 45 Camellias, ranging in size from 1m to 2.5 m, donated by the Klotz Egelsbach nursery. The gift includes many old Italian cultivars, e.g. ‘Francesco Ferruccio’ 1848; ‘Paolina Maggi’ 1855; ‘Ninfa del Tebro’ 1858. These were planted in our Camellia Forest during 2013.

The project being conducted with the German Camellia Society, the Collection of German Cultivars, continues. The aim is to gather together all historic German cultivars, some of which may already be lost, as well as modern German-bred camellias, each accompanied by full written documentation. These cultivars will become a permanent feature in the Botanical Gardens of Cologne. With the financial help of the Daenhardt family, the project has acquired several new cultivars from the Fischer / Wingst nursery including C. j. ‘Frieda Petersen’ 2008, C. j. ‘Fischer’s Jubiläums Rubin’ 2008 and the hybrid ‘Dagmar Berghoff’ 2005. These camellias are going to be planted outside, to test their hardiness in Cologne’s climate.