

Edition: February 2026

Elina Newsletter



Photo: Picture of “Superstar Rose” – Super Star is a very vigorous, healthy rose that is very fragrant. This rose is superior, fresh salmon-orange colour that will not fade even in full sunshine. The flowers give off a beautiful raspberry fragrance, and the buds are gorgeous to behold.

CHAIR PERSONS REPORT: Dear members, I hope your roses and gardens are surviving the heat, rain, humidity, and in areas, hail. My blooms have been a little burnt. Feeding and keeping up with watering, especially the pots, sometimes twice a day has been beneficial for healthy-looking roses.

We are excited to announce our first member meeting for 2026, to be held on Saturday, February 28th.

At this meeting we are encouraging you to bring your beautiful rose blooms. Kristin Dawson and Jill Millburn will be available to guide you with presentation for the Show Bench. Not feeling competitive you can display roses on the Display table for the members to view and discuss. Page 4 -5 Show Bench article by Kristin

Local Agricultural Shows. Several of our members presented roses and flower arrangements at shows in Albion Park, Kiama, Berry, and Nowra. Congratulations to all who entered and your wins. It is lovely to see that local agricultural shows are being supported and revived, as they play a vital role in bringing the community together and celebrating local talent. Show entries page 3.

Floral art: this month’s theme for arrangement. Shades of colour from your garden with roses to predominate. All members (men and women) are invited to display an arrangement.

Trading table: if you have any items you would like to donate, please bring with you and give them to Judith. Will also have some Rose Books from our library for sale and many other goodies.

Welcome to new members: Pam and Neil Billington from Shoalhaven Heads, Pam has been busy entering her beautiful roses in Kiama and Berry Shows winning many prizes. Congratulations Pam.

Peace Park: rose entries from the garden won many prizes at Albion Park and Kiama shows including Championship Rose Kiama, First Prize Albion Park with floribunda Golden Beauty. The hard work, regular feeding and dedication from Friends of Peace Park volunteers is rewarded. Well, done to all.

Save the Date:

National Rose Championships and Conference: October 16th – 19th 2026 Camden Civic Centre, Oxley St, Camden schedule, and details to follow.

Meetings the fourth Saturday of each month at North Kiama Neighbourhood Centre 28 Meehan Drive arrive 1.00pm - 1.30pm - **bring a plate to share for afternoon tea.**

February 28th, 2026, featuring Show Bench and sharing roses and stories. **Floral art** – Shades of summer from the garden with roses to predominate.

March 28th, 2026, we will celebrate our 52nd anniversary of the Illawarra Rose Society demonstration how to make labels for rose garden.

April 18th, 2026, change of date from our usual 4th Saturday because of Anzac Day – Excursion to Shoalhaven Heads Native Botanic Garden – guided tour by the community volunteers 1.30 pm – 2.30pm

Stay in touch and want more rose information from other regions.

Check out Facebook page [Roses in the Illawarra](#) and newly established Instagram [peacepark_kiama](#) for updates. New Website for NSW Rose Society is under development.

Paul Hains Growing Roses – book available at the meeting \$30 for members.

Sincerely Lorraine

CONTACT DETAILS: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

CHAIR: Lorraine Vost: Mobile No. 0411 241 421 Email - illawarrarosechair@gmail.com

Secretary (Minutes): Janet Bowden

Treasurer: Trevor Phillis - illawarrarosetreasurer@gmail.com

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Buying new roses - suppliers have been discounting their roses. This is a good time to pre-order and plan the garden. Replace old roses and add them to your current collection. Soil preparation important. I.

Preparation for Roses

Give your roses the best possible start by preparing their new position well in advance of planting, at least two months prior. The position should be in a sunny spot with little competition, have good drainage and plenty of nutrients.

Choosing where to plant your roses:

- All roses require an open, sunny and well drained position.
- Roses need at least **6 hours** of direct sunlight per day, preferably more. Although shaded areas will allow roses to do well, the quantity of flowers will diminish with the percentage of shade.
- Protection from wind is essential for good blooms but remember to allow for movement of air.
- Avoid planting too close to established shrubs and trees as they will compete for water and nutrients with your roses.
- Consider the type and variety of roses that you are planting as roses grow in all shapes and sizes. Make sure to allow enough room for the rose to grow without becoming overcrowded, including the root systems. Remember whatever grows above the soil is mirrored below the soil in the root growth (just like a tree).
- If planting roses in groups, take note of the recommended distance that they should be planted. Most roses need to be planted a minimum of 1m apart, however some smaller roses, such as miniatures, can be planted closer together.



Monolepta Beetle (Red Shoulder Leaf Beetle) – beware of these in your garden.

The beetle appears in large numbers after the hot humid days, and heavy rain. The beetles feed on leaves and flowers causing significant damage. Very hard to control as they arrive in large numbers. You can control with heavy sprays, check with Google or

use an alternative.

To control:

“They are very difficult to control in plague numbers - Spray with pyrethrum - target the “scouts’ as you see them - Spray with neem oil- a drench around susceptible trees could break the cycle by acting on the larvae - Cover seedlings until they are established (though last season’s beetles may have already laid their eggs in the soil) - Manage weeds - They are attracted to yellow and white. Using sticky traps may help to control them and white containers filled with water to lure and drown them.

Web page: incestsandgardening.com.au

If the beetle attacks your roses, cut off and dispose (not in compost) and spray of choice.



Albion Park Show 2026 entries Jill Millburn, Intan Kallus Peace Park.



Kiama Show 2026 Entries from members Jill Millburn, Intan Kallus, Dianne Westgate and Peace Park, Rosemary Singleton Floral arrangements



Congratulations to the Peace Park Volunteers for their hard work, feeding, nurturing and dedication to Peace Park, roses worthy to enter in the local community show. Champion Rose



Berry show 2026 congratulations to Jenny Swan Champion Rose and new member Pam Billington on her winning entries in Kiama and Berry shows. Images: Lorraine Vost and Jill Milburn

SHOWBENCH – A TIME TO SHARE OUR BEST ROSES

One of the enjoyable moments of our meetings is the sharing of our roses. We learn about the best roses to grow in our gardens and see the roses that really appeal to us in their beauty and form.

So please bring along your roses

Roses can be shown according to competition standards, or otherwise as a rose (s) from your garden on display for others to enjoy.

This article will explain the types of classes for each of the main varieties, for those interested in practising for competition in agricultural or regional shows.

Hybrid Tea Roses:

These are roses that usually have a bloom on the end of a longer stem. Such roses are Elina, Firefighter, City of Newcastle, St Patrick, Pope John Paul II, Moonstone, Mother's Love, Kardinal etc. [Classes for Hybrid Tea Roses:](#)



Exhibition Rose: The rose is three quarters open, with pointed mid centre and rounded petals:

Bunch Roses (3or 6 stems) – These roses are just one quarter open – a bud that has just opened and need to be similar in size in the vase.



Three full bloom roses : These roses are fully open but need to be fresh with bright yellow stamens untouched by sun or insects

Bud to full bloom: This class includes the three stages of roses above plus a bud.

They are usually arranged in a line but it is important that each stage is there.



Modern Decorative Rose: These are hybrid tea roses that

often have not as large a number of petals such as Duet, but also have more than one bloom on a stem. They are arranged in a decorative form. There can be either 3 stems/cuts or 1-6 stems with 10 blooms.



Floribunda Roses – These are a variety of roses that cluster with more than one

bloom on a stem. Such roses would be Iceberg, Golden Beauty, Seduction, Ebb Tide, Apricot Nectar, Brass Band etc. These roses provide a lot of colour in the garden as they cluster. On the Show bench there can be three classes under this heading:

A Vase with 1-6 stems and at least 10 blooms, an opened bud unfurled can count as a bloom. Or/ a vase with any number of stems or cuts but no more than 25 blooms. A single cut of a floribunda rose with buds and blooms can also be placed on the bench here.



MINIATURE & MINIFLORA ROSES Miniatures are the smallest roses and the miniflora are usually a size between the floribunda and the miniature. The classes in these varieties are the same as for the hybrid tea and floribunda. The varieties

are more often in clusters but single stems with a bloom also are found on the bush. Miniature roses include roses such as Baby Jack, Irresistible, Figurine, Magic Show and others. Minifloras include roses such as Black Tie, Sarah Anne, Joyce Abounding etc.

These roses can be exhibited as an exhibition

rose, a bud to full bloom and more. In the photos here there are five bunch miniature roses of Magic Show, and an exhibition of three vases with three cuts/stems of miniature roses.

These classes can be placed in the Miniature/Miniflora section of the show bench.



DAVID AUSTIN ROSES – these are old fashioned type roses

and can be exhibited as a single bloom in a float bowl or as a vase of DA roses. The photo is of the David Austin Rose Graham Thomas which has been exhibited as a floribunda.

OLD FASHIONED/ HERITAGE ROSES – These are any

roses that were bred more than 75 years ago. Judith Oyston and Intan Kallus are our experts here. Roses such as any of Alister Clarke, Crepuscule, etc arranged in a vase

DISPLAY ROSES (NOT FOR COMPETITION) - Any rose(s) from my garden - Article Kristin Dawson





Featured Rose: Superstar Rose - The 'Super Star' rose (also known as 'Tropicana') is a highly acclaimed, award-winning Hybrid Tea rose celebrated for its luminous, fragrant salmon-orange to vermilion blooms. Introduced in 1960 by Rosen Tantau, this hardy, vigorous, and free-flowering variety features large, double, high-centered, and fragrant flowers that bloom in flushes from summer through autumn, making it ideal for cut flowers.

<https://www.google.com/search?q=supersatr+rose+deatils&sca>

SUMMER Rose Growing Tips

WATER FREQUENTLY:

As summer is often a very dry, hot season across Australia, watering your roses correctly and frequently is vital to keeping your roses alive and healthy through the tough conditions. This is especially important for potted roses and roses planted in spring.

SPRAY REGULARLY: Pests such as spider mite are very common in hot dry weather. Spray regularly to prevent pests or diseases rather than treating them after they have become present on your plants. If there are pests that are present on your plants, spray at first sign and perform a follow up spray a few days later. Remember to always use ecofriendly or organic sprays where possible. There are plenty on the market and many home remedies that have been proven to work.

DEAD HEAD: Dead heading is the process of removing spent flowers. Old flowers left on the bush will begin to turn into hips and seeds, taking up most of the plant's energy. The removal of spent flowers encourages more blooms to grow, maximising flower production. Snap or cut off the flower where the first leaflets are found.

PRUNE: once flowering roses, such as Albertine, banksia roses and some heritage roses. Continue to tie up and train climbing varieties. Remember to keep the canes as horizontal as possible to encourage flower production.

CUT BACK: any dieback and spindly growth.

Rose growing tips - <https://www.treloarroses.com.au/Seasonal-Rose-Care-Calendar>

Article: Lawrence Zammit



Colin Hollis Peace Park

Image Jill Millburn



Intan's Highly Commended

Nowra Show Image Lorraine Vost