

“Illawarra Regional Rose Society”

Edition: January 2026

Elina Newsletter



Photo: Picture of “Christmas Rose” – the flower that symbolizes Christmas is the Christmas Rose, actually a type of Hellebore (*Helleborus niger*), representing hope, purity, and new life for blooming in winter, often white like the shepherdess's tears in legend, though it comes in many colors. It's not a true rose but a hardy winter perennial from the buttercup family, known for emerging through snow with rose-like blooms.



CHAIR PERSONS REPORT:

Hello, hoping you all enjoyed your Christmas with family and friends. Happy New year wishing everyone Peace for the coming year.

Members celebrated Christmas Luncheon at Lyn and Hans Van de Haar property November 22nd, 2025. We welcomed Meryl and Ted Morphett from Macarthur, Helen Curl Quirindi, Ian Roxby past Vice chair and member of Illawarra living in the Southern Highlands, and Carol and Wal from Southern Sydney regional Society. See photos and notes page 3

Colin Hollis presented Helen Curl the Bert Mulley Memorial award Helen joined Illawarra Rose Society 2004, see notes page 5

It was my pleasure to present Kristin Dawson, Jill Millburn and Robert Coady Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of their outstanding dedication, commitment, and invaluable contributions to the Illawarra Rose Society 2019 – 2025.

Group 5 Judging Seminar at Nowra Showground Nov 15th, 2025, Janet Bowden, myself and members of The Jamberoo/Kiama Floral Art group attended Judging seminar at Nowra Showgrounds. Diedre Hill gave 3 presentations during the day on how to set up for display and judge Floral arrangements and Cut flowers. Contact your local show if you are interested in becoming a steward or judge.

Neutrog - Illawarra Rose Society congratulates Neutrog for receiving Business Impact Award 2025 South Australia in recognition of innovation, growth, and positive global impact. We appreciate Neutrog's innovation and commitment to creating a better future for our community and beyond.

We wish Neutrog continued success in all future endeavors.

Ordering deadlines - Members are reminded to check their supply of Neutrog ahead of ordering for 2026. This year we will be processing three (3) orders and no summer order.

- Autumn – Ordering Deadline 12th January 2026 - pick up February.
- Winter – Ordering Deadline 13th April 2026 – pick up May.
- Spring – Ordering Deadline 13th July 2026 – pick up August

Peace Park- Friends of Peace Park arrived Nov 11th to see garden beds vandalized, roses torn up, smashed, and destroyed. Five roses destroyed including a Standard donated by Colin Hollis, so sad that the destruction continues. The volunteers put so much work into presenting a beautiful public area for the community to share.

On a happier note, I attended a Xmas gathering for the Friends of Peace Park on Tuesday 16th Dec 2025. The roses look beautiful, especially Golden Beauty and of course Seduction Standards. We shared a lovely morning tea; few even dressed for the occasion adding to the Christmas spirit.

The extremely hot weather has been a challenge for rose growers. I have been watering my 30 potted roses twice a day. Lost 19 Firefighter blooms to sunburn. The temperature has been between 30 – 40 degrees in Nowra. I remember my grandfather putting up umbrellas to protect his dahlia blooms before the local show. Hoping your gardens are surviving the summer heat.

Sincerely Lorraine

Agricultural shows. We encourage you to support your local show by exhibiting your roses and floral art.

Attached Show schedules for Albion park and Kiama shows.

Local Agricultural Show Dates 2026

Albion Park Show – Main show Saturday 17th January 2026

Kiama Show - Friday 23rd Saturday 24th January 2026

Berry Show - Friday 30th Saturday 31st January 2026

Kangaroo Valley - Friday 13th February, Saturday 14th, 2026.

CONTACT DETAILS: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

- **CHAIR:** Lorraine Vost: Mobile No. 0411 241 421 Email - illawarrarosechair@gmail.com
- **Secretary (Minutes):** Janet Bowden
- **Treasurer:** Trevor Phllis - illawarrarosestreasurer@gmail.com

POST: PO Box 3 JAMBEROO NSW 2533.

Meets on the fourth Saturday of each month at North Kiama Neighbourhood Centre

Meehan Drive North Kiama 1.30pm – 3.30pm

Next meeting at the Kiama Neighbourhood centre will be February 28th, 2026

February meeting will be our first for the year, bring along your roses for the Show bench or for the display table, expecting a beautiful display from all the members.

Paul Hains Book Growing Roses will be available at February meeting, member price \$30

Peace Park December 16th Golden Beauty

Seduction Display Photo images Lorraine Vost



Christmas Luncheon Nov 22nd, 2025, at Lyn and Hans Van de Haar property Farmborough Heights

Members arrived at the venue which had been beautifully decorated for Christmas Luncheon.



This year our Christmas gathering was a reunion of past members. Illawarra welcomed members and guests from Quirindi, Southern Highlands, Southern Sydney and Macarthur region.

We started the luncheon meeting old friends and nibbles. Lyn supplied and cooked a baked meal for main, and members as usual out did themselves with an amazing selection of yummy desserts. And then the big surprise was the presentation of the Bert Mulley Award to Helen Curril made by Colin Hollis and Kristin Dawson.

Kristin Dawson, Jill Millburn and Robert Coady received a Certificate of Appreciation In recognition of their outstanding dedication, commitment, and invaluable contributions to the Illawarra Rose Society 2019 – 2025. Hans did a guided tour of the garden, which includes an amazing display of cactus and succulents.



Hans showing members the beautiful garden and an amazing selection of Cactus and succulents.

A huge thank you to Lyn and Hans for welcoming the Illawarra Rose Society to your beautiful property and your generous support during the year. Photos images: Kristin Dawson, Esther Hernandez, Hans Van de Haar and Lorraine Vost



Flowering Cactus *Echinopsis spachiana* commonly known as Golden Torch

Neutrog



Who Flung Dung



Helen Curr awarded Bert Mulley Memorial Award Nov 22nd 2025
Bert Mulley Memorial Award Established 1990 and is the most prestigious honour given by The Rose Society of New South Wales (NSW), recognizing exceptional dedication and service to the society. Helen joined the Illawarra Rose Society in 2004, served as secretary and Show secretary and delegate to the NSW State Council. She established the Jamberoo floral art group which is still flourishing. Helen joins the list of other Illawarra members who have received this award over the years, 2023 Jill Millburn, 2016 Kristin Dawson, 2015 Joanne Fisher, 2008 John & Jill East, 2007 Diedre Swan, 2001 Judith Oyston, 1997 Rose Hough and 1996 Sue Kingsford. We congratulate and thank Helen on her hard work and dedication to the Illawarra Rose Society.

Photo Image: Esther Hernandez

Watering Roses TRELOAR ROSES website: treloarroses.com.au

Water is the Key to Life!

Watering correctly is the most important factor in growing healthy roses.

Roses have a reputation of being drought tolerant, and this is true once they are established. However, when planting new roses, it is important they are kept moist through regular watering. New roses that do not receive adequate water will delay breaking dormancy, suffer dieback, or simply wilt and die.

Australia has a history of experiencing drought conditions and in many parts of the country water is scarce. A correct watering technique is vital so as not to waste this precious resource. By training our roses to send their roots deep into the ground they will require less water once established and will be insulated from extreme temperatures. The watering information below will encourage your roses to establish their roots deep into the ground and reward you for years to come.

ROSES PLANTED IN GROUND

In the first year after planting, roses require 10 litres of water, two to three times a week.

Once your rose plants are established, they will only require one deep soak per week in the cooler months. Increase this to twice per week during warmer months or in warm / hot climates. If you receive substantial rainfall of 15-20mm over a period of a week, it should not be necessary to water. There is no better way to water plants than by rain. Resume watering a week after rainfall.

DRIPPER SYSTEMS

We recommend a dripper system as the most efficient way to water roses. Unlike other watering methods it is the ideal way of providing a deep soaking, directly to the root zone. To determine how long the system needs to run in each session, place a bucket under one of the drippers and note how long it takes to fill.

For the time poor, dripper systems also have the advantage of automation by adding a timer. So even if you are busy or away on holidays, the roses will be watered correctly.

AVOID the use a handheld hoses and lawn sprinklers.

DO NOT use soaker hoses as they will not water deep rooted plants efficiently.

DO NOT water each day, it is unnecessary and encourages root growth near the soil surface.

When dripper systems are not practical, try the 'Bucket Technique'.

1. With a bucket that holds approximately 9 litres of water, puncture 4 or 5 small holes in the base.
2. Place the bucket directly next to the rose and fill with plain water. Move aside any mulch so that the bucket sits directly on the soil.

3. Allow the water to completely drain from the bucket. This gives the plant a good deep soaking, without the risk of runoff. **If you are under water restrictions, or water is scarce - USE GREY WATER!! Avoid detergents with high phosphate levels. Water using the above Bucket Technique.**

POTTED ROSES

Potted roses require watering daily.

Provide enough water that it starts to run out the bottom of the pot. Ensure pots are well drained. Never sit your potted roses in a saucer but instead allow the water to drain away.

Pots provide the roots with little insulation from the sun. The potting mix can dry out quickly and the plants become dehydrated and scorched. Ideally, try to keep them out of the midday sun during heat waves. HINT: plant trolleys are a great aid to easily move heavy pot plants.

Heat Scorching and Chemical burn look very similar.

Leaves have brown crispy patches and may have some yellowing around the edge as the leaf tissue dies. Flowers may have burnt petal edges, look shriveled and may not open. In cases where the leaves do not shade the stems you may see dark patches on the sunny side of the branches (sunburn).

Heat Scorching is a watering issue - the plant has not had enough water to defend against an extreme weather event or is simply not being watered enough.

Affected flowers can be cut away. Leaves can be taken off but be aware that even brown and crispy they can give the plant much needed shade so please do not defoliate the plant.

Wait for some new leaves to be produced before taking the old leaves off the plant.

Sunburnt stems will not normally affect the plant but can look unsightly. Wait for new water shoots to grow before removal.

Prevention is better than cure

Ensure you follow the watering guide as this will prevent the majority of damage occurring.

Chemical burn is when a spray is too concentrate. Check the ratio on the back of the pack to make sure you have the concentration correct before spraying the roses.



Featured Rose: 'Christmas Rose' – Lawrence Zammit

The flower that symbolizes Christmas is the Christmas Rose, actually a type of Hellebore (*Helleborus niger*), representing hope, purity, and new life for blooming in winter, often white like the shepherdess's tears in legend, though it comes in many colors. It's not a true rose but a hardy winter perennial from the buttercup family, known for emerging through snow with rose-like blooms.

Symbolism & Meaning:

Hope & Resilience: Blooms in the bleakest winter, a metaphor for finding joy and life amidst hardship, according to a post on the Denver Mendiola films Facebook page.

Purity & Humility: A legend says it sprouted from a shepherdess's tears when she had no gift for baby Jesus, symbolizing the value of heartfelt, simple gifts, as seen on the Gibside NT Facebook page and in a YouTube video from Mahoney's Garden Center.

Christianity: Associated with the Nativity, purity, and even medieval symbols for confession, says Ecclesiastical Sewing.

Appearance:

Not a Rose: A hellebore (black hellebore), from the buttercup family.

Colors: Usually white, but can have pink touches, green hints, or even be darker, notes The Garden History Blog.

Foliage: Dark green, evergreen leaves, notes the Pentland Plants Garden Centre Facebook page.

For further details please refer to: [Christmas Rose Symbol: its Meaning & Origins – Rosaholics](#)