

“Illawarra Regional Rose Society”

Edition: March 2026

Elina Newsletter



Photo: Picture of “**Golden Beauty Rose**” – is a prolific bloomer and a Gold Medal winner both internationally and at the National Rose Trial Awards. It also received People’s choice award in 2018. The glowing amber, high centered blooms are produced in large clusters on a very healthy compact bush of dark green leaves. A great performer in hot dry climates with fragrant blooms that don’t fade. From the classic to the romantic this rose is a great addition to any garden.

CHAIR PERSONS REPORT: We welcomed new members and guests at our first meeting of 2026. Many brought beautiful roses for the Show bench presentation. We were delighted to welcome special guest Braidan Swan, who joined Kristin, Jill and Colin for the workshop on presenting roses for Exhibition. During the session, our presenters managed to share a wealth of knowledge in just an hour-content that would typically fill an entire day’s workshop. Thank you to everyone who contributed their expertise and made the workshop so valuable.

Building on the skills and tips shared during the workshop, we encourage all members to participate in this month’s Show Bench, which will be held on March 28th at the community centre 12.45pm. Members will be available to guide you with your presentation. Display table for roses and the most perfumed rose will be available for members who want to share their roses.

Floral arrangement theme: Easter arrangement with roses, clean egg shells, chocolates or Easter decoration can be used in the arrangement.

This last bout of hot humid weather and rain is bringing on black spot and leaf defoliation on the roses. Deadhead and remove fallen leaves from around the base of roses. Preparing for a new flush of blooms, fertilize and mulch, I still had blooms in May last year.

Thank you to Paul Walsh who helped me with processing the Neutrog order at UTJ Interiors, this was one of our larger orders.

Neutrog ordering: Winter ordering deadline 13th April 2026 - **Spring** ordering deadline 13th July 2026. Reminder no Summer orders. Illawarra will be only receiving 3 deliveries this year.

At the March meeting we will be celebrating 52 years of Illawarra Rose society. Regionals where “formed to give members who live too far away from Sydney opportunities to take part in regular meetings and to encourage rose lovers in these areas” Illawarra established 1974. Booklet Celebrating 50 years of the Illawarra Regional Rose Society 1974 – 2024 will be available for members interested in the history. Power Point presentation from Illawarra Rose shows and You tube videos.

Demonstration making name labels for your garden plants. Samples will be shown from the most expensive to the cheapest.

Welcome to new member Taisha Wilson from Kangaroo Valley.

Save the Date:

Macarthur regional - Celebrating 40th anniversary May 30th 2026. – see attachment for venue details and times. Members are invited to share the celebration.

National Rose Championships and Conference October 16th – 19th 2026 Camden Civic Centre, Oxley St, Camden. Visit the NSW Rose Society Website for schedule, and details.

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.**

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.

May 23rd, 2026, Guest speaker John Gabriele well known Horticulturist and Host of the Compost Heap ABC

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

Check out Facebook page Roses in the Illawarra and newly established Instagram peace park Kiama for updates. New Website for NSW Rose Society is under development.

Paul Hains Growing Roses – book available \$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

POST: PO Box 3 JAMBEROO NSW 2533.

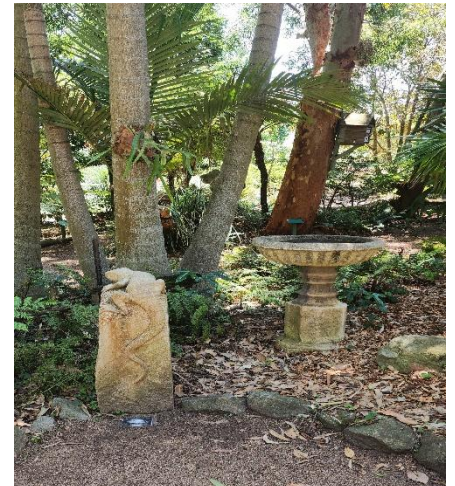
Shoalhaven Heads Native Botanic



Garden Excursion April 18th 2026



(No meeting 25th April 2026)



Shoalhaven Heads Native Botanic Garden is the Work of Volunteers “Whilst some people are able to offer botanic / horticultural / proficient gardening skills, many of our volunteers become involved because they simply wish to contribute to a good community project and / or learn about gardening and horticultural matters”. Images Lorraine Vost

Exhibiting workshop presenters Kristin, Jill, Colin and guest Braidan Swan Feb 28th 2026



Kristin & Jill preparing for workshop



Braidan, Colin and Jill



Members Roses



Apricot Nectar

Braidan's beautiful display



Floral arrangements 1st Janet Bowden (right)

2nd Pat Bleuel (left)



Members Roses

Images: Lorraine Vost & Facebook Roses in the Illawarra

Soil Preparation for Roses

Soil: Roses are very adaptable and can be grown in almost any soil type given it is well drained, deep and full of humus (decayed organic matter). However, the **best soils** are those of a medium to heavy loam to a minimum of 35cm, over a good clay sub-soil. This type of soil is ideal as it has the natural advantage of retaining moisture and nutrients and requires little preparation.

Drainage: Your first step into preparing your soil is to ensure it is well drained. To ensure the soil is well drained, dig a test hole and fill it with water to see how long it takes to drain away. Wait approximately 15 minutes, if the water is not

significantly draining away or has not completely drained within an hour there is a drainage problem. If so, you now have two options, select a better location to plant your rose or improve the drainage in this location.

Soil PH: Before adding anything to the soil, perform a soil pH test. Testing kits can be purchased from hardware stores / garden centres and are easy to use. The soil pH for roses should sit between 6.5 and 7. Variations of this can result in the nutrients binding with the soil and becoming unavailable to the plant. This can result in many health issues from nutrient deficiencies and in some cases, death.

To **increase** the pH add agricultural lime to the soil. To **decrease** the pH add organic matter, iron chelates or powdered sulphur. The quantity you add will depend on your soil type, pH level and product. We suggest you do some of your own research regarding the quantities and various types of products.

Changing the pH of your soil is a gradual process and can take several months, depending on your application, it can take as long as six months. Be patient and retest the soil after a couple of months.

Roses can adapt to almost any soil type **except light, sandy soils**. One of the biggest problems with this soil type is water retention, with water and nutrients quickly draining through it before the rose has a chance to absorb what is needed. Sandy soil requires more preparation for this reason. To prepare the soil, introduce copious amounts of organic matter, digging it thoroughly. Applying a good layer of mulch will also help retain moisture. It is important to remember that light, sandy soil require lighter, more frequent fertilising and watering. Be careful as very sandy soils can become Hydrophobic and will not allow water to penetrate the ground but rather let it run off to lower areas of the garden.

Do not fertilise at time of planting. Wait until the rose has formed significant growth and blooms before applying the first application. Generally, this is late Spring for most newly planted roses, depending on the climate, variety and planting time. If you have sufficiently prepared the soil, there will be no need to fertilise prior to this. Fertilising at the time of planting will not only change the soil pH and burn the new roots but may encourage them to grow during the dormancy period. This is not ideal as the new growth will easily become damaged by frosts and extreme Winter weather.

Mulching is highly recommended for all types of roses, even if they are planted in pots.

Mulch acts as an insulator, not only protecting from temperature variation but also helping to retain moisture in the soil. Therefore, your garden will require less watering and weeding. Mulching your roses will also help to provide them with necessary nutrients as the matter begins to break down into the soil. Source: www.treloarroses.com.au

These are the mulches we recommend for roses.

- Sugar Cane mulch
- Mushroom compost
- Garden Compost
- Sheep Dags
- Who flung dung by Neutrog



Application: Mulch is best applied during winter to early spring while the soil is still moist from the winter rains.

Provide a good thick layer of mulch, approximately 3 to 5cm thick. Anymore than this will prevent water reaching the soil as the mulch will soak it up first. Make sure to keep the mulch at least 2 to 3 cm away from the base of the stem to avoid collar rot.

Avoid any form of rocks or pebbles around your roses. This will do the opposite of what you want to achieve, heating up the soil and drying moisture away from the roots. It will also leak unwanted nutrients into the soil.

Always avoid any mulches containing eucalyptus leaves or Pine needles. Roses do not like eucalyptus as it changes the acidity of the soil, decreasing the plants immunity to infections and pests – it may eventually kill your roses.

HELP PEACE PARK GROW

Colin recently received the good news that Neutrog will provide all the fertiliser and mulch (Who Flung Dung naturally) for Peace Park in Kiama.

Have you ever considered joining Colin, Jill and Sue in spending a couple of happy productive hours at Peace Park each week, or when you can?

You don't have to be an expert

The group meet each Tuesday morning for a couple of hours and would welcome any additional volunteers.

We are keen to expand the plantings of roses and other plants, but it is difficult without more volunteers to help

If you have recently downsized and are missing the garden. This might be the answer,

If interested come along to Peace Park in Manning Street Kiama any Tuesday around 10 am, or talk to Colin, Jill or Sue at our monthly meeting or telephone Colin on 0408295223

Golden Beauty Rose is putting on a beautiful display in PEACE Park, winning awards in the recent Local Agricultural Shows.



Featured Rose: 'Golden Beauty'

- **Type:** Floribunda Rose
 - **Height:** Up to 1.5m
 - **Blooms:** Glowing amber/gold blooms in large clusters
 - **Fragrance:** Lightly fragrant
 - **Climate:** Performs well in hot dry climates
- **Care:** Requires regular care for disease resistance This rose in Peace Park Kiama and flourishing.



UNIQUE, BIOLOGICALLY ACTIVATED **SUPER COMPOST**

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CHOCKABLOK is free from green waste, supports healthy plant growth, boosts microbial activity, and encourages earthworms.

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Biological Fertilisers
neutrog.com.au

MINUTES - 28th FEBRUARY 2026 MEETING OF THE ILLAWARRA ROSE SOCIETY.

OPENED: at 1.30pm by Chair, Lorraine Vost who welcomed everyone. Special welcome to new members Pam & Neil Billington and visitors Braidan, Luke, Maxine and Taisha.

Lorraine thanked Hans and Lyn for hosting the Christmas Party which was our last get together. A great day was had by all.

APOLOGIES: Frans Buskermden, Moria Etheridge, Bruce Robertson and Esther Henedez.

PRESENT: 24 members and 4 guests.

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING. Moved by Janet and Seconded Kristin Dawson. Carried

FINANCIAL REPORT: General , \$8,631.29, Peace Park \$888.21, Education \$4,554.72, Term Deposit \$10,431.56. Total Balance \$24,505.78 Moved: T Phyllis. Sec: Kristin Dawson. Carried

CORRESPONDENCE:.

IN

- Email State from Secretary re Royal Easter Show Volunteers.
- Neutrog Orders & invoice
- Several emails regarding guest speakers for the year

OUT

- Elina Magazine to members
- Congratulations to Braidan Swan Judges award and invitation to Feb meeting
- Welcome letter to Pam & Neil Billington
- Shoalhaven Heads Native Botanic Garden April 18th Garden Visit

BUSINESS ARISING:

- Change of Date for March meeting which is to be held at the Shoalhaven Heads Native Botanic Garden.
Meeting will be held on 18th April.
- Neutrog Orders

GENERAL BUSINESS:

- Volunteers for Rose Society Promotion at Royal Easter Show – See Colin
- Macarthur region having 40th year celebrations on 30th May.
- Intan spoke about renewal process online and new website.
- National Rose Show 16th, 17th, 18th, & 19th October in the Camden Civic Centre. Need volunteers to help. Program & Schedule is online.
- Colin reported on the 5 local shows and on presentation and understanding the class you enter.
- Kristin, Jill & Colin with Braidan's help gave a presentation on the show bench, when to pick your roses and what tools you need to have to get your roses to the show bench.

PEACE PARK: No Report

Everyone enjoyed fellowship over a cuppa to end the meeting.

Next Meeting 28th March our 52nd birthday celebration –

Topic Labelling our Roses in the Garden