



The Rose Society of New South Wales Inc

Northern Sydney Region

April 2026

Dear Members,

Do join us for our next meeting to be held at **2pm on Saturday, 11 April**, (the Saturday after the Easter long weekend), in Meeting Room One, adjacent to Gordon Library, 799 Pacific Highway Gordon. With ANZAC Day falling only two weeks to the day after our meeting we will focus on two important matters related to our servicemen and women and our ANZAC tradition. Our guest speakers will be two of our own members Lorraine Emerson and Jan Bartlett. Lorraine is the President of The Garden Clubs of Australia and also a member of The Remembrance Driveway Committee. She will speak to us about Margaret Davis, the founding President of the Garden Clubs of Australia who provided the inspiration for the Remembrance Driveway, the special and ongoing connection between the Remembrance Driveway and The Garden Clubs of Australia, the evolution of the Remembrance Driveway since its inception, the current fundraising project of The Remembrance Driveway Committee to honour our four most recent recipients of the Victoria Cross and how you can become involved.

Following Lorraine's presentation Jan, who has worked with the Office of Australian War Graves within the Department of Veterans' Affairs, will speak to us about Rosa 'In Perpetuity.' This special rose was brought to our attention last year by Jan following its release by the Office of Australian War Graves to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the Office and the important work they do to honour our veterans. Learn a little about the rose, who is eligible to access the rose and the plans for where you might see it growing.

Rose Display

Before the cooler weather hits and as a last hooray for this rose growing season we are hoping to create a display of veterans, Defence Force and ANZAC themed roses grown by our members. As there is a relatively small pool of roses from which we may draw each member may bring as many roses as they wish to add to our display. Each cut of rose should be in its own vase or bottle. There is no need for anything fancy. Just choose a vase or bottle that is suited to displaying one cut of your chosen rose to best advantage.

Tables will be set up at the front of the meeting room for you to place your roses when you arrive. We ask for each cut of rose you contribute to our display that a piece of paper or card about the size of a standard business card (9cm x 5.5cm) accompanies it. This piece of paper or card should be placed in front of each of your roses on the display table. On the **front of the card or piece of paper** write the name of the rose. On the **back of the card or piece of paper** write your name. When placing your roses on the display table, place the card or slip of paper with the name of the rose in front of the vase or bottle facing up.

A selection of some of the known roses that are related to veterans, the Defence Force or ANZAC Day include Veteran's Honour, Spirit of Gallipoli or ANZAC Rose, "We Will Remember Them," National Pride and Remembrance Rose. However, there are bound to be more!

To continue with the ANZAC theme if you grow Rosemary please bring some along cut into sprigs for us all to wear and in longer lengths to help compliment and decorate the roses on our display table?

April meeting RSVP

Confirm your attendance at our April meeting **no later than Wednesday, 8 April** by email to northernsydneyrose@gmail.com or phone 0409 548 561 and leave a message.

If you do not plan to attend the meeting but find at the last minute or even the day before that you are now able to attend please let us know, if possible, and do come along despite not having registered. You will always be welcome and we will always find a seat for you!

Remember to register early and don't wait for the reminder email to prompt you to register as we are **no longer circulating reminder emails a few days before our meeting.**

Meeting Roster

Our meeting roster will once more be operational at our March meeting. Thank you to Carolyn Hughes, Jill Fraumeni and Naida Illes all of whom have volunteered to assist with setting up and Averil Smith who has volunteered to assist with cleaning up at this meeting. We still need a couple more people to assist with cleaning up following the meeting so if you are available and willing please let us know when you register to attend. For those assisting with setting up we look forward to seeing you a little earlier than usual at 1pm on the day of the meeting.

The sign-in sheet for member volunteers for future meetings will be available at our April meeting so why not consider registering when you sign in and collect your badge?

Thank you to all who have already assisted us, some at more than one meeting! We are most grateful and do appreciate your assistance and have noticed in the months since our member roster has been operational how much more efficient we have become.

Afternoon Tea

At the conclusion of Lorraine and Jans' presentations please join us for afternoon tea. This will be an opportunity to share a cup of tea or coffee and catch up with your fellow Northern Sydney members.

Please remember to **bring a mug with you** if you would like to enjoy a cup of tea or coffee. If you happen to forget there is no panic as we have a small number of paper cups available.

Please bring a **small** plate to share, with no more than six to eight sweet or savoury items, that may easily be picked up and enjoyed in your fingers with your tea or coffee. If you are attending the meeting with a friend, one small plate between the two of you will be ample.

As this is not meant to be a cooking competition, only cook something yourself if this suits you. Sandwiches and bought items including packet biscuits are all absolutely fine.

Don't forget to collect your plate, the plastic that covered it and any leftover items and take them home with you at the conclusion of the meeting.

Neutrog

The ordering deadline for Winter orders is fast approaching. If you are planning to place an order the cut off is **8am on Monday, 13 April**. Orders may be placed anytime from now on, with delivery of orders anticipated in May.

Australian National Rose Championships

All members of the Society with an email address would have received an email from our Society Secretary and Chair of the Organising Committee for the 2026 Australian National Rose Championships and Conference, Stefica Bikesh, last week. Amongst the topics covered was a call out for volunteers to assist in the lead up to and over the weekend of Friday, 16 October to Monday, 19 October when the 2026 Australian National Rose Championships and Conference will be hosted by New South Wales at the Camden Civic Centre. .

We ask that you seriously consider supporting your Society and giving a little of your time to ensure this event is a success for New South Wales and all attendees. Aside from encouraging you to register to attend some or all of the events on offer we would like to encourage you to consider volunteering. It is a positive way to become more involved with and support your Society and will be greatly appreciated by Stefica personally and in her capacity as Chair of the Organising Committee together with the other members of the Organising Committee and the Society more generally. We all have skills we have learned or developed over time so why not put them to good use? While some of the assistance needed requires no particular skills others like assisting with Marketing do.

Supporting this important event through participation is an excellent way to learn more about your Society, its operations and meet fellow rose enthusiasts from other regions and states while having an enjoyable time in the process. Many lifelong friendships between rosarians are born at such events.

If time has been against you and you are yet to read Stefica's email of **Friday, 20 March** or need to refresh your memory on its contents we have included the relevant sections relating to the 2026 Australian National Rose Championships and Conference at the conclusion of this email.

If you have any questions relating to the 2026 Australian National Championships, their organisation or are willing to offer your services please contact a member of the Committee or Stefica Bikesh by email nswrossec@gmail.com.

Exhibiting Roses

Have you ever considered exhibiting your roses? An invitation has been extended from our friends at Southern Sydney to all members of Northern Sydney to attend a Rose Exhibiting demonstration to be held at the Loftus Community Hall on Saturday, 16 May from 12midday until 3pm. If you are tempted to become an exhibitor or are interested in learning what is involved in exhibiting you would be most welcome to attend the demonstration to enable you to obtain a better understanding and learn from experienced exhibitors. If you have ever exhibited roses or any other cut blooms, this demonstration will provide you with the opportunity to improve your skills.

The demonstration is being held with the upcoming Rose Championships in mind. To ensure your place you will need to register by emailing the Secretary of the Southern Sydney Region, Denise Butcher at RoseSocietyNSWSouthern@outlook.com.

Reaching Loftus is easy by road or rail with the Loftus Station immediately opposite the Loftus Community Hall. Should you attend you are assured of a warm welcome from your hosts and fellow

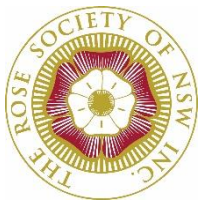
rose enthusiasts who are members of the Southern Sydney Region. We can attest to this from our own experiences when visiting Southern Sydney meetings and events during the last couple of years.

We have included the information relating to this event in Stefica's email at the conclusion of this email.

In the meantime, we wish you all the best for a happy and enjoyable Easter break and look forward to seeing you on Saturday, 11 April.

Regards

Kym Swaby, Kim Ward, Penny Whipp and Judith Williamson
Committee
Northern Sydney Region



The Rose Society of New South Wales
Mobile: 0409 548 561
Email: northernsydneyrose@gmail.com

If you have never attended one of our meetings you are assured of a warm welcome so do come along and enjoy the fellowship of your fellow rose enthusiasts. Below are some details to help make getting to our meeting easier.

Parking

Free parking is available in the Wade Lane car park which may be accessed from St John's Avenue or Park Avenue or in the Gordon Centre, 802 - 808 Pacific Highway which may be accessed from Dumaresq Street. Both car parks are an easy walk to our meeting room.

Public Transport

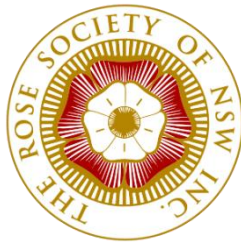
The meeting room is located an easy walk from Gordon Station and bus interchange. Exit the station on the west (Pacific Highway) side. The bus interchange will be on your left. St Johns Avenue will be straight ahead.

Turn right and head north along Wade Lane which runs between the rear of the shops facing Pacific Highway and the multi storey car park. Walk all the way along the lane to the end where you will reach Park Avenue. Turn to your left and walk towards Pacific Highway. Once at the intersection, cross Park Avenue with the lights and Gordon Library will be directly in front of you.

Accessing the meeting room

To assist with room set up prior to the meeting, we ask if you arrive early you wait in the foyer outside the library, in the library itself, or if the weather is fine, in the Secret Garden adjacent to the kitchen at the end of the hall where we meet. There is ample seating in all these locations.

Entry to the meeting room for sign in and name badge collection will be available no earlier than 2pm with a view to commencing the meeting proper promptly at 2.15pm.



Dear Rose Society of NSW Member,



I hope this email finds you well. I have a few items to cover in this email and they are all rather exciting...

2026 Australian National Rose Championships

Firstly, let me start with the 2026 Australian National Rose Championships.

In February I was appointed as Chair of the 2026 Australian National Rose Championships Committee. Every year the National Championships are held in a different State - last year they were held in Brisbane, 2024 in Melbourne and so on, and this year NSW will be hosting the event.

The venue for the 2026 Championships is the Camden Civic Centre on the 17th and 18th of October 2026.

While the rose show goes for two days, we have numerous functions as part of the conference to go with the show, these include a welcome function on Friday 16th October, our gala dinner on Saturday evening 17th October, farewell dinner on Sunday evening 18th October and a full day excursion to the Southern Highlands on Monday 19th of October.

You can download our registration form and show schedule **Error! Filename not specified.**[here](#).

There will also be various talks over the weekend, thousands in raffle prizes, various market stalls including Mother Earth Nursery and coffee and cakes for sale.

Attendance

I encourage you all to attend at least one of our National functions and of course the National rose show. This is a great opportunity to meet other rose lovers from interstate and from our other NSW regions.

This is a whole of New South Wales State event and we want members from every regional to come along and support the National Show.

I also encourage you to bring along your friends, family and neighbours, take a drive to Camden and make a day of it.

Volunteering

If you have a couple of hours to give us during the National Rose Show, we would appreciate it. I need people on our raffle tables, making coffees, selling cakes, welcoming members of the public, selling memberships, stewards and runners for the show.

Anything you can manage would be appreciated, and if you have any special talents from baking to marketing and want to help, please let me know.

If there is anyone out there who is good at joinery, I need you to build something special so please let me know.

Exhibiting

As well as attending, I would love for you all to exhibit your roses at this National show. It is a great opportunity to exhibit at a National show, and apart from flying to another State you won't get another chance in NSW for five years.

If you or anyone you know loves floral art, check the schedule, there is an incredible floral art section for you!

Don't know anything about staging roses? Complete novice? That's ok! (we have novice sections too).

And our Southern Sydney regional will be running a Rose Exhibiting Demonstration on Saturday the 16th of May 2026 from 12pm to 3pm at the Loftus Community Hall.

These are for beginners and anyone who wants to up their game in exhibiting.

Please contact Southern Sydney Regional Secretary Denise Butcher at RoseSocietyNSWSouthern@outlook.com to book your place.

Flyer

This is the flyer for the National Rose Show. Print this out, put it on your fridge and save the date for the 17th-18th of October 2026.



If you have any places in your community that you think our flyers could be placed, let me know and I will send you our professionally printed ones in either A5, A4 or A3 sizes.

Donations

Own a business? Or know of a local business in your area that would like to donate to our raffle? Let me know.

Stefica Bikesh

0450 074 443

Secretary - The Rose Society of New South Wales

Chair 2026 Australian National Rose Championships and Conference

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