



The Rose Society of New South Wales Inc

Northern Sydney Region

December 2025

Dear members,

Please join us to celebrate Christmas and the end of our first full year of operation at our December meeting on **Saturday, 6 December commencing at 12.30pm**. We will meet, as usual, in Meeting Room One of the old Gordon Public School, adjacent to Gordon Library, 799 Pacific Highway Gordon where, if required, we have air conditioning to make the day less drippy and more comfortable!

Even if you have been unable to attend one or many of our meetings during the year we would love to have you join us for this celebratory lunch which we will self cater.

As he was such an integral part of the successful launch of the Northern Sydney Region last year we thought it only fitting we should invite Mark Massey of Mother Earth Nursery to join us for our celebratory lunch. Mark has offered to provide us with the up to the minute details of the launch, the following Saturday, of the new Mother Earth Club. As promised, details for this exciting day are included at the end of this email. In addition, Mark will bring a selection of his well grown plants so don't forget your wallet or purse! Given the time of year and proximity to Christmas it's a fair bet there may be a rose or hydrangea or two among the selection. Perhaps an opportunity to treat yourself or someone else to an early Christmas present.

Catering list

Attached to this email is our catering list. If you were at our November meeting and nominated the item you would like to bring, you will see your name next to that item. Any item with no name against it is still available. From those items that are available please select the item you would like to contribute to our lunch and advise us by return email to northersydneyrose@gmail.com or phone 0409 548 561 and leave a message. We will confirm with you that your selection has been noted on our master copy of the list or if the item is already taken and you need to make an alternate selection.

Those who respond promptly will, of course, have the greatest chance of their preferred selection being available. We appreciate your understanding if your preferred item is not available and you need to make another selection.

When preparing food to contribute to our lunch, please allow enough food for around 8 reasonable sized serves.

Where to put your food or drink on arrival

Please bring all food ready to serve. As you are aware there is no room for food preparation in either the meeting room or the adjacent kitchenette.

If you have nominated to bring an item from the list of Appetisers, Mains, Salads or Bread please bring it into the meeting room and place it on the serving tables. If you are bringing a dessert please take it into the kitchenette where we make our tea and coffee and place it in the fridge or on the trolley or bench.

If you have nominated to provide a drink of any description please bring it cold in a chiller or cooler bag where it may stay until needed. Drinks should be brought into the room and placed adjacent to the food serving tables.

Plates and Cutlery

As we are a new region trying to manage our limited funds prudently, we ask that you bring along the following items to be used for our lunch. We realise this is not as convenient as using disposable plates, cups and cutlery but it has another benefit of not creating bags of rubbish which we will need to remove off site.

- Serving utensils if needed to serve your contribution to our lunch. For example, salad servers, tongs to pick up meat or chicken, knife and slice or spoon to serve dessert.
- A plate for your main course
- A plate for your dessert
- Fork, knife and spoon
- Cup or mug for tea and coffee and glass or cup for a cool drink on arrival

As there are limited facilities for washing up in the kitchenette, we suggest that you bring a plastic bag or container to take these items home to be washed up there. Labelling any item you bring with your surname, particularly those that are to be shared like platters, salad bowls and serving utensils, will ensure that there will be no potential for mix ups when we are cleaning up at the end of our meal!

We understand this may all seem rather cumbersome but it will help our bank balance enormously and avoid anyone having to stand at a sink and wash up, which let's face it is never any fun!

December meeting helpers

We have one name on our list of helpers for December to assist us with setting and cleaning up. If you are willing and able to assist in December please confirm this when you register to attend.

December meeting RSVP

If you registered your attendance at our December meeting whilst at our November meeting your registration is confirmed and you need do nothing further unless you wish to register to be a helper in December. If you are yet to register for our December meeting please confirm your attendance **no later than Wednesday, 3 December** by email to northernsydneyrose@gmail.com or phone 0409 548 561 and leave a message.

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our celebratory lunch. If you are unable to join us in December we thank you for being a member of the Northern Sydney Region in this our first year of operation. Your support of the region has enabled us to grow and operate successfully thus far and has set us up to approach 2026 confidently. Wishing you, your family and loved ones all the very best for an enjoyable and relaxing Christmas and a happy and healthy 2026.

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

Mother Earth Plant Fair and Garden Club Gathering

Hello and a warm welcome to all previous Cottage Garden Club Members and new ones alike! Firstly please accept our apologies for the delay in sending out this information - we have been super busy - getting all the background work done and finalising stallholders, hunting for the right venue, adding all the emails to our database, working out how to get tickets out to you and lining up a super line-up of guest speakers!

We are focused on making this event a fun-filled day with lots of like-minded plants people and really hope you will join us at the first Mother Earth Garden Club Event!

If you would like to, please bring something special from your garden for display and as a conversation piece. We'd love to see a special flower from your garden or an unusual plant! We will have a table set up inside near the Speaker Hall where these can be displayed.

With your support we're hoping to stoke the enthusiasm and grow the joy that our gardens and plants bring to us all.

Please spread the word.

Many thanks and we hope that you can join us in this celebration.

MOTHER EARTH PLANT FAIR AND GARDEN CLUB GATHERING

Saturday, 13th December 9.00am-4pm

We're thrilled to announce our first Garden Club Meet and Fair will be held at the **Baden Powell Activity Centre, Pomona Street in Pennant Hills, Sydney**. It will be a fantastic community day with notable speakers talking about all things plants and gardens.

There will be Tropical Plants, Geraniums, Tools both new and vintage, The Rose Society and Roses, Proteas, Hydrangeas, Orchids, Candles and Cut Flower Bunches, Botanical Art, Garden Ornaments, Pottery, locally grown Mushrooms, Coffee and Ice cream, Sausage Sizzle, Muffins, Live Music, Cacti and Succulents and much more.

And of course, Mother Earth will have a curated display of rare, unusual, and seasonally flowering plants that we are proud to grow and share with you.

INTRODUCING OUR SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKERS

First off the block - **Mark Massey**, owner of Mother Earth Nursery, will share his love and practical wisdom on *All About Hydrangeas* – looking at the different varieties, and how to prune, feed, and keep them thriving. There will also be a huge flowering hydrangea display!

David Fripp, celebrated plantsman, and collector and conservator of rare and unusual plants will present *"Hiding in Plain Sight"* – an intriguing talk on plant mimicry not to be missed.

David Mathews, MD of **Proteaflora**, Australia's leading grower of proteas and waratahs will talk about this fascinating genus. How to grow proteas successfully; what they need, where to plant them. He will also deep dive into their history, their use as a cut flower and give a demo on shaping proteas and how to use them in a container garden. David has so much knowledge to share with you. And of course, there will be a fantastic array of proteas to buy on the day.

Tammy Huynh, Gardening Australia Presenter will be talking about her new book, *The Plant Book - the ultimate guide to thriving houseplants*. Tammy will also be book-signing her beautiful book after her talk.

Doug Purdie, Beevangelist, of **Backyard Bees** fame will talk about how to encourage bees into our gardens and give a taster on keeping hives. A very pertinent presentation considering our recent decline in bee numbers.

Entry to the fair will be free. Tickets to the Speaker Hall are \$29 so get in early and book here!

LINK TO EVENTBRITE TICKET PURCHASE HERE:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/mother-earth-nursery-xmas-garden-fair-garden-club-meet-and-speaker-event-tickets-1957321213439?aff=oddtcreator>

Alternately, you can call one of our stores and buy a ticket directly from one of our friendly team members. Cranebrook: 02 4777 4227 or Point Clare: 02 4324 1874

WE REALLY HOPE YOU CAN JOIN US AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU!

Attending a meeting of The Rose Society of New South Wales - Northern Sydney Region

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 of these 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 of these locations.

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