



The Rose Society of New South Wales Inc

Northern Sydney Region

March 2026

Dear Members,

Do join us for our next meeting to be held at **2pm on Saturday, 14 March** in Meeting Room One, adjacent to Gordon Library, 799 Pacific Highway Gordon. Our guest speaker will be Judith Oysten, a Life Member of the Society. Judith is an extremely well respected member of our Society and was one of the founding members of the Illawarra Region. Now more than fifty years since the inception of the Illawarra Region, she remains a very active and involved member of the Region and the Society more generally. Judith will speak to us about one of Australia's most prolific, well known and respected rose breeders, Alistair Clark. A man of many parts and interests aside from rose breeding and exhibiting. We hope this will be the first in an occasional series of meetings where we will focus on our current and past Australian rose breeders, their work, interests and of course their roses.

Rose Display

We are hoping to create a wonderful display of Alistair Clark roses grown by our members to welcome Judith to our meeting. In a step away from our last two display tables, if you grow or have access to Alistair Clark roses, please bring as many different Alistair Clark roses as you like to contribute 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. If the name of the rose is unknown, write "Unknown." 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.

Let's welcome and impress Judith with a display table to admire. Alister was a prolific breeder but not all the roses he bred are still commercially available or grown. However, a list of some of the roses that are known to be in existence in Australia are included at the conclusion of this email as a starting point and guide.

March meeting RSVP

Confirm your attendance at our March meeting **no later than Wednesday, 11 March** by email to northersydneyrose@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 Averil Smith, Sue and George Marshall and Vered Wagmann all of whom have already volunteered to assist with setting up and Elle Wyatt-Spratt who has volunteered to assist with cleaning up at this meeting. We still require a couple more members to volunteer to assist with cleaning up at the conclusion of the meeting so if you are willing please let us know when you confirm your attendance. 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 March 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

Thank you to Kim Ward who brought along heart shaped sandwiches to our Valentines Day meeting. They were much admired, positively commented upon for their appropriateness and enjoyed by those present! They certainly went well with the red roses on our display table.

At the conclusion of Judith's presentation please join us for afternoon tea. This will be an opportunity to meet and speak with Judith 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 **8am on Monday, 13 April**. Orders may be placed anytime from now on, with delivery of orders anticipated in May.

Australian National Rose Championships

In 2026, New South Wales will host the Australian National Rose Championships at the Camden Civic Centre from Friday, 16 October to Monday, 19 October.

This event presents all regions of the Society with an opportunity to draw on the collective skills of their membership to work together organising and running a successful and enjoyable event for all

attendees. Much work has already been done by a team of enthusiastic volunteers but there is still more to do including opportunities for the members of the Northern Sydney Region to contribute.

The Committee of our Region has recently agreed to sponsor the B Grade Championship at a total cost of \$65.00. This sponsorship has been pledged in honour of our founding member, Aubrey Knowles. As a new region every dollar we raise is valued and we seek to spend it prudently.

Establishing this region would not have been possible without the ongoing support and encouragement of the current Executive and membership of the Society and many individuals within it. Our support of the Championships through this small financial contribution is a most appropriate way for us to demonstrate our support of the Society as a whole and this important event in particular.

Once the Show Schedule and programme of activities is finalised and available, we will circulate them and would encourage you to consider participating in at least one or two of the activities or events on offer over the four days.

Member numbers

Each member of the Society, on joining, is allocated their own unique member number. Each of these numbers contains a prefix which relates to the region to which each member belongs. As a new region, to date, we have all been numberless! However, that is about to change.

In recent weeks all members of the Northern Sydney Region have been allocated a member number by the Society's Subscription Secretary Jacqueline Tweedie. All member numbers for the Northern Sydney Region are in the range 1000 to 1999.

Your unique member number has been allocated based on your date of joining. It has been agreed the first number allocated to the Northern Sydney Region will be left vacant in perpetuity in honour of our founding member Aubrey Knowles.

In the coming weeks you will receive an email advising you your unique member number. When you receive it, note it and keep it somewhere safe so you can refer to it when you come to renew your membership later this year.

If you have transferred your membership to Northern Sydney Region from another region or the unattached list of members your member number has been reissued to reflect your new affiliation with Northern Sydney. You no longer need to keep details relating to your former member number.

Website

At the State Council meeting in November last year it was agreed the Society would release the funds necessary to create a new website for the Society with enhanced functionality for members.

This project is under the leadership of our Web Manager Intan Kallus, a member of the Illawarra Region together with our appointed web designer. You may recall Intan took on this new role following the Society's 2025 Annual General Meeting so it is fair to say in the few months since assuming this role she has been extremely busy and will continue to be so until the new website is launched in late April or early May this year.

Our new website will enable members or prospective members to join or renew their membership online. A facility for secure payment of membership dues will be included within the site. Downloading and printing forms, manual completion, scanning, uploading or posting them will be a thing of the past unless you choose to renew your membership that way.

Biographical member information will be fed through to a new member database which will ensure details held on file for each member are correct – assuming they are correctly entered by the member! There will be no need for the membership secretary to manually enter these details saving much time. This information can then be fed through for the efficient distribution of the journal, reducing the current number of bounce backs that occur because of incorrect email addresses resulting from the need to interpret handwriting on membership applications or renewals. A science in itself with many pitfalls along the way!

We will share more details about the new website and its enhanced capability for members as the project progresses and more information becomes available.

Intan will join us at one of our upcoming meetings to take us through the new website.

Journal

Each member should have received the Summer edition of the Journal. If you do not remember receiving it or think you may not have received it check the emails you received on 7 January when it was circulated to all members. If you cannot find it there check your Spam file or Recycle Bin in case it landed there. Once you have checked thoroughly and if you still cannot find it, please email us at northernsydneyrose@gmail.com or phone 0409 548 561 and leave a message to let us know. We will follow it up for you.

We have received no notification that there was any difficulty with the distribution of the journal to any email addresses for Northern Sydney members.

Together with taking on the role as Web Manager Intan Kallus assumed the role of Journal editor at the same time. The design and content of the journal is under Intan's leadership working together with our graphic designer Daniel Webb, a keen rose enthusiast and member of the Society. The Summer edition of the Journal was a step change from previous editions and contains some very interesting articles. It seems that Intan and Daniel make a formidable team.

We have sent Congratulations to both Intan and Daneil on behalf of Northern Sydney on the successful production of their first journal. We look forward, in anticipation, to future editions.

When Intan joins us she will share her plans for the journal and how we as members may become involved with contributing to it.

Meeting Speakers and activities

Please let us know if there are any activities or speakers you would recommend or would like us to try and include at upcoming meetings. While we have a list of ideas there is always room for more! Share your thoughts with a member of the Committee at our next meeting or email us at northernsydneyrose@gmail.com or phone 0409 548 561 and leave a message.

Mother Earth Event

You may recall the first Mother Earth event was held in early December 2025. We are very pleased to share that a very special Mother Earth Event for rose enthusiasts will be held at the former Eden Gardens Nursery in Macquarie Park on **Saturday, 21 March**. Among other activities Mark Massey has organised for a representative of David Austin Roses to speak at this meeting. To secure support and such a high profile speaker from this internationally recognised, United Kingdom based company has required a significant undertaking from Mark.

Given he has been so supportive of us, other Regions of the Society and the Society more generally on multiple occasions over a long period of time, it would be terrific if, we in turn, could support him, his business and this event by attending.

Flyers providing details of the event have just arrived from Mark Massey today and are attached.

Southern Highlands Region - April Meeting

An invitation has been extended by the Southern Highlands Region to the members of the Northern Sydney Region to attend their April meeting on **Wednesday, 15 April** when their guest speakers will be respected Society members, breeders and exhibitors Richard and Ruth Walsh. The Southern Highlands group meets at the Community Centre at Renwick just north of Mittagong at 10am for a 10.30am start. If you decide to attend you will be assured of a warm welcome from your fellow rose enthusiasts.

For more details about this meeting please speak with one of the members of the Committee at our March meeting, email northernsydneyrose@gmail.com or phone 0409 548 561 and leave a message.

Macarthur Region celebrates 40 years!

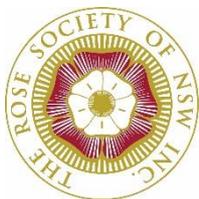
This year will mark 40 years since the inception of the Macarthur Region of the Society. They are marking this special milestone by hosting a celebratory afternoon tea on Saturday, 30 May. An invitation to join the celebrations has been extended to all members of the Society and is included in the attached flyer. The cost for this event is \$30.00 which may be paid in cash on the day or by direct debit prior to 30 May. Why not take the opportunity to join fellow rose enthusiasts from other regions on this special occasion? We rose lovers are a friendly lot. You are assured of a warm welcome and a delicious afternoon tea.

It's been a busy few weeks for the Society. Thank you for taking the time to read through what has turned out to be rather an epistle!

We look forward to seeing you at our March meeting.

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.

Alistair Clark Roses

This is not meant to be a complete list of Alistair's roses so if you grow a rose not on this list you believe might be an Alistair Clark rose do bring it along to the meeting.

Not all Alistair Clark roses are grown in all states of Australia. Some on this list are known to exist as they are grown in private or public gardens but are now or perhaps never were propagated or released commercially. Some of Alistair's roses are no longer available or grown in Australia but are known to be grown overseas.

The list of those that are considered lost far exceeds those still known to be growing in Australia.

Amy Johnson, Australia Felix, Baxter Beauty, Billy Boiler, Black Boy, Borderer, Busybody, Cherub, Cicely Lascalles, Cicely O'Rorke, Countess of Stradbroke, Courier, Daydream, Diana Allen, Dividend, Doris Downes, Editor Stewart, Emily Rhodes, Fairlie Rede, Flying Colours, Gladsome, Glenara, Golden Vision, Gwen Nash, Harbinger, Herbert Brunning, Janet Morrison, Jessie Clark, Kitty Kininmonth, Lady Huntingfield, Lady Mann, Lady Medallist, Lady Somers, Lorraine Lee, Mab Grimwade, Madge Taylor, Margaret Turnbull, Marjory Palmer, Mary Guthrie, Milkmaid, Miss Madden's climber, Mrs Albert Nash, Mrs Alston's rose, Mrs Fred Danks, Mrs Harold Alston, Mrs Harold Brooks, Mrs Hugh Dettman, Mrs Murray's seedling, Mrs Norman Watson, Mrs Oswin's gigantea, Mrs Richard Turnbull, Nancy Hayward, Nancy Wilson, Nora Cunningham, Pennant, Princeps, Queen of Hearts, Restless, Ringlet, Scorcher, Sheila Bellair, Squatter's Dream, Sutor, Sunlit, Sunny South, Tonner's Fancy, Traverser, Zara Hore-Ruthven.