



The Rose Society of New South Wales Inc

Northern Sydney Region

November 2025

Dear members,

Our next meeting will be at **2pm on Saturday, 8 November** in Meeting Room One, adjacent to Gordon Library, 799 Pacific Highway Gordon. Our guest speaker will be the well known gardener, experienced rose grower and enthusiast Sandra Ross. For the first time at this meeting we invite members to participate in creating a display of roses. Following the success of our first gardening book sale at our AGM in August we will hold a further sale this month including vases into the mix. It will be a full and interesting meeting so why not join us?

Rose Display

We are hoping to create a wonderful display of our members' roses to welcome our speaker Sandra Ross to our meeting. We ask that you bring one cut of up to three different roses that you grow in your garden to contribute to our display. Each cut of rose should be in its own vase or bottle. 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.

Perhaps you might choose your best performer, your favourite rose, your most fragrant rose or the rose that means the most to you. There are no specific criteria. Just select those you like and bring them along.

We will have tables set up at the front of the meeting room for you to place your roses when you arrive. We ask for each rose you contribute to our display 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.

We have requested Sandra review our rose display and prizes will be awarded. This is **not** a competition and we will not be judging the roses as would occur at a rose show. Do join in and make this a really spectacular display. If you do not grow roses in your garden, come along and be inspired by fellow members' contributions.

Book Sale

Did you miss our last book sale in August? It was a treat for those who attended purchasing some fabulous gardening books, in near new or very good condition for a very reasonable dare we say "cheap" price. At the conclusion of our meeting there was still a good selection of books available and rather than donate them to Lifeline for their next book sale our member Anne O'Neill very kindly offered to take them home and store them until we were ready to hold another book sale later in the year.

Anne will be returning with the stored books to once again run our book stall at the November meeting. Thank you Anne. Perhaps you are yet to review your collection, perhaps you couldn't bring all the books you were wanting to recycle to our last sale or perhaps you have read the books you purchased in August and are now ready to donate them back to our November book stall! Whatever the case, now is the time for a pre Christmas sort through of your no doubt extensive library of gardening books!

Consider giving those no longer loved or wanted books a new lease of life and donate them to our book sale? Rose themed books will be especially welcome!

All books donated will be priced to move. The aim of the book sale is to share gardening knowledge while raising some much needed funds to defray our operating costs. You may even pick up a book or two to replace those you have donated at a very reasonable price. A win, win outcome!

Vase Sale

In addition to the book sale we will hold a sale of vases as we have been gifted a collection of rather lovely vases. These will be offered for sale at very reasonable prices alongside the books. If you have vases you no longer need or want please consider donating them to our sale.

If you are in need of a few vases you might just find what you have been seeking. Any vases left at the end of the meeting will be donated to one of the local charity stores.

Why not take advantage of this opportunity to review your vase collection and bring along those that you no longer love or need and give them a new life with a new owner?

Monies raised from the sale of vases will also be used to defray our operating costs.

November meeting RSVP

Confirm your attendance at our November meeting **no later than Wednesday, 5 November** by email to northernsydneyrose@gmail.com or phone 0409 548 561 and leave a message.

Meeting Roster

Our meeting roster will once more be operational at our November meeting. Thank you to Sue Dunston, Trish James and Katie Walsh all of whom have already volunteered to assist with setting up and clean up at this meeting. We look forward to seeing you a little earlier than usual at 1pm on the day of the meeting.

With three willing volunteers already signed up we are in no need of further volunteers for November but we have no names on the list for our December meeting! The sign in sheet for member volunteers for that meeting will be available at our upcoming meeting so why not consider registering?

Afternoon Tea

At the conclusion of Sandra's presentation please join us for afternoon tea. This will be an opportunity to meet and chat with Sandra and catch up with your fellow Northern Sydney members.

Please **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 be easily 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.

Please **do not** bring unsliced or sliced whole cakes. Please **do not** bring any item that will require cutting or any additional preparation at the meeting. There are no facilities available for this.

This is not meant to be a cooking competition so only cook something yourself if this suits you. Bought items including packet biscuits are absolutely fine.

Just remember 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.

Northern Sydney Region - Signature Rose

Each region of The Rose Society of New South Wales Inc(The Society) has a signature rose. This is a rose that is particularly associated with that region. No two regions have the same signature rose. The Northern Sydney Region is yet to select their rose. The members of the Steering Committee and now Committee felt that this was a decision that should involve and belong to the membership and not be one that was taken on behalf of members by the Committee. With twelve months of operations under our belt by the end of 2025 it seems appropriate that this decision should be one that members consider in 2026. We will talk a little about our signature rose selection at our November meeting. Perhaps we may even be inspired by a rose or two in our display. There are no specific criteria to guide the selection of our signature rose. In the meantime you might like to look at the newsletters of other regions, which are included on the Society website, www.nsw.rose.org.au to gain some idea of the roses that have been selected by other regions.

Given the geographic area our region covers it might be fitting to select a rose bred by a rose breeder who resided in this part of Sydney. There are two such breeders - Frank Riethmuller and Olive Fitzhardinge - both with a selection of their roses still in production. But more on this in 2026!

Facebook

Thanks to the very generous efforts of our member Naida Illes, the Northern Sydney Region is now on Facebook. This is a **private** Facebook group open only to our members. With roses at the peak of their spring flowering, why not consider posting some pictures of your roses in full flight for others to admire and enjoy?

December Meeting - Advance Notice

Our December meeting will be held a week earlier than usual on the first Saturday of December to accommodate those who may wish to attend the "reboot" of the Cottage Garden Club which is being organised by Mark Massey of Mother Earth Nursery. Those of you who attended our launch in November 2024 will recall Mark was our very popular speaker at that event. Even if you were not a member of the previous Cottage Garden Club you will be very welcome to attend this event so keep the second Saturday of December free and when we know more details of the arrangements we will circulate them. It is sure to be a day filled with interesting speakers and the odd plant or gardening related item available for purchase!

Our December meeting will be held in our usual meeting room at Gordon on **Saturday, 6 December commencing at 12.30pm**. We will abandon our usual format of having a guest speaker and instead we will share a celebratory Christmas lunch together. To ensure the participation of as many members as possible we will self cater our lunch with each member nominating an item they are willing to contribute from a list of options which will be available at the November meeting. As with our afternoon tea it is not meant to be a cooking contest so there will be a selection of items from which to choose to suit all levels of interest and skills! Of course, as it must be, it will be a case of those who nominate early having the greatest selection.

If for some reason you are unable to join us in November but would like to attend our Christmas lunch the list will be circulated with the email that is distributed prior to the December meeting. You will be more than welcome to contact us once the November meeting is over by email or phone to make your selection and add your name to the list.

As the meeting will move forward by a week, registrations for the December meeting will be open at the November meeting and thereafter. There will be a cut off date for registration as is our usual practice. The cut off date will be advised in our December meeting email.

Illawarra Region Rosy Day

Our colleagues in the Illawarra will be holding their second Rosy Day at Burnetts on Barney Nursery, 80 Barney Street Kiama on **Saturday, November 1** (flyer attached). Aside from the rose focused talks and demonstrations one of the key features of the day is the rose display in the Palm Pavilion. Together with members of the Illawarra Region, members of other Regions and the public are invited to contribute to the display by taking along roses from their gardens. This is not a competition rather an opportunity to display the beauty and diversity of roses on a large scale. The result is truly magnificent and one we can only hope to emulate with our display at our November meeting.

The members of the Illawarra Region have asked that anyone wishing to contribute roses to the display arrive at the nursery between 7.30am and 9.30am. Roses should be in a container in which they might be displayed. Members of the Illawarra Region will be on hand to assist with placing your contributions.

The members of the Illawarra Region work hard to ensure this is a really interesting and informative day in a wonderful independent garden centre. Even if you do not wish to contribute to the display we can highly recommend attendance. Not only would you have the opportunity to meet some of your friendly fellow Society members on the south coast but you will find the variety of talks and demonstrations on offer really interesting and informative.

There is a lovely cafe on site to keep you well fed and hydrated too!

We look forward to seeing you at our November meeting.

Regards

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



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

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.