

Newsletter

November 2025

THE ROSE SOCIETY OF NSW UPPER NORTH SHORE & HILLS (UNSH) REGIONAL

UNSH Signature Roses



Kardinal



Sambreuil

Upcoming events

13th December 9.00 am - 4 pm

Mother Earth Plant Fair and Garden Club
Gathering
Baden Powell Activity Centre, Ponomia
Street in Pennant Hills

14th December 12 noon

Christmas Meeting @ Birchgrove
Paul & Bek's home
16 Fishburns Rd, Galston NSW 2159

28th February 4 pm

Muthu's home
4 Victor Close, Baulkham Hills,
NSW 2153



Next Meeting details:

**Sunday 28th February 2026,
4 pm**

**@ Muthu's home
4 Victor Close,
Baulkham Hills,
NSW 2153**

The latest edition of the
NSW Rose Journal was
issued on 7 January 2026

Members who prefer a hard
copy journal may receive
one by paying a small
additional fee.



Monthly meetings are held on the 3rd Saturday/Sunday of each month



Message from the chair

David Smith, Chairman - UNSH Regional

Dear Members,

As we approach the close of another remarkable year, I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to each of you for your dedication and passion for roses. Your commitment has kept our society thriving and inspired countless enthusiasts to appreciate the beauty and heritage of these extraordinary blooms.

I would like to thank **Richard & Ruth Walsh** for their kind hospitality in holding our November meeting. It was a fantastic day and a joy to wander around their amazing garden and listen to the many stories about their roses. We also had the pleasure of purchasing some of their roses—and of course, I came home with four new additions to my collection! Ruth and Richard also put on an amazing lunch, and we are all so very thankful to them. For those who attended, we can now fully appreciate the time and effort it takes for Richard and Ruth to attend and support our meetings. We are truly blessed to have them in our UNSH family.

I also want to thank the many members who took the time to head up to Richard and Ruth's for the meeting. From the discussions and the amazed looks on our members' faces, it was clear that the trip was well worth it.

As you are all aware, we have had some very hot days—some as high as 40°C—so please remember to water and provide your roses with a dose of Seamungus.

Our Christmas Meeting and Luncheon

 Date: Sunday, 14 December

 Time: 12:00 PM

 Venue: Birchgrove 16 Fishburn Rd Galston

I look forward to catching up with you at this festive gathering.

Wishing you and your loved ones a joyful Christmas and a prosperous New Year! May your gardens bloom beautifully and bring you happiness throughout the festive season and beyond.

Take care and happy gardening!

Warm regards,

David

A Day Among the Roses

Insights from Our Visit to Richard and Ruth's Breeding Garden.

Our November meeting was a truly special occasion, as members of the society gathered at the home of Richard and Ruth, two of our most experienced and dedicated hobbyist rose breeders. Working from their “granny flat” and a purpose-built seed house, they generously gave us a rare behind-the-scenes look into what they affectionately call the “crazy habit” of breeding new roses.

The Art — and Logic — of Rose Breeding

One of the highlights of the visit was seeing the contrasting yet complementary approaches Richard and Ruth bring to their breeding program. Ruth describes herself as a “picture person”, often naming her roses after friends and family. This helps her visualise relationships between seedlings and mentally map their “family trees”.

Richard, on the other hand, is very much a “numbers man”, preferring a systematic coding method. One example he shared was “1-81”, representing his very first cross made back in 1981. Despite their different styles, the pair work seamlessly together, trialling thousands of seedlings over the years. Mature plants are often removed to make space for new trials, which are grown in a range of challenging conditions — including shade and under gum trees — to test their resilience.

Practical Tips for the Home Gardener

Richard and Ruth shared a wealth of technical advice that members can readily apply in their own gardens:

Miniature Roses

Ruth explained that miniature roses often struggle when planted in the ground due to their shallow root systems. She recommends growing them in large pots positioned facing east to avoid harsh afternoon heat, or alternatively ensuring they are budded onto strong understocks such as multiflora.

The Benefits of Budding

While many modern roses are now grown on their own roots to reduce production time and cost, Richard and Ruth emphasised that certain varieties — including classics like Mr Lincoln — perform far better when budded, resulting in stronger, healthier plants.



Pollen and Seed Collection

For members interested in trying their hand at breeding, Richard advised that the best pollen is collected during the first flush in October, while the second flush often produces better-quality seeds. Pollen can also be stored for future use by freezing it in dry, sealed containers.

Challenges in a Changing Industry

The discussion also touched on broader issues affecting rose breeding in Australia. Increasing biosecurity restrictions and the high cost of importing roses from overseas mean that Australian-bred roses are becoming increasingly important. Richard and Ruth also explained the commercial realities of the industry, noting that professional breeders rely heavily on label royalties, which can cost nurseries close to \$2 per label.

Downsizing, but Still Giving Back

As they begin to downsize their garden and reduce maintenance — including removing climbing frames — Richard and Ruth remain deeply committed to supporting the rose community. They continue to supply budwood to nurseries such as Wild Rose Nursery at cost.

The day concluded with a raffle and the opportunity to purchase some of their unique trial roses. Members went home not only with new plants, but with a renewed appreciation for the patience, dedication, and passion required to breed the perfect rose.

A heartfelt thank you to Richard, Ruth, and their grandson Louis for their warm hospitality and for so generously sharing their knowledge and life's work with us.

A Day Among the Roses



A Day Among the Roses





Market Stall

A monthly UNSHkin fundraiser, to share + enjoy

Our Market stall is where we share or grab a nice bargain! Each month at our meetings the market stall is set up and bountifully laden by our UNSH members. It's the best place to grab a new little plant/seedling/cutting, or yummy local produce.

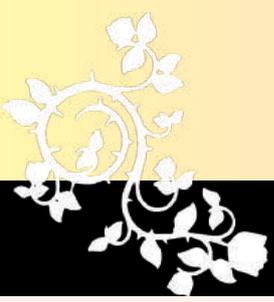
You can donate: We'd love you to contribute if you have some plants or produce to share. Bring along plants that you have propagated, special cuttings, surplus bulbs, gardening books, vases, or homemade produce like jams, various kinds of honey, eggs, fruit, and veggies.

Please price-mark your goodies before bringing them. Reminder to kindly set prices to what you think is fair for the item. All Great value! All funds raised go to UNSH.



It's not only roses we love - some of the UNSH Gerberas selling for \$12 ea - if you'd like some contact Sandy or leave a comment here. Lots of different colours.





Raffle Winners

And the Winners Are...



Lisa
Powerfeed liquid fertilizer



Antoinetta Destro
Rose plant



Emerita Groves - Amgrow Nutrafeed fertilizer



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, Ponomo Street in Pennant Hills. It will be a fantastic community day with notable speakers talking 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, Cactus 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 plants man, 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 **Protea flora**, 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:

[Purchase Tickets](#)

Alternatively, you can call one of our stores and buy a ticket directly from one of our friendly team members.

Cranebrook:02 4777 4227
Point Clare:02 4324 1874

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



Paul Hains has produced another book on roses which builds on the information in his book Growing Roses in a SubTropical Climate -

The Rose Society of NSW will soon receive a delivery of a supply of these books from Paul and will be available for sale at \$30 per Rose Society of NSW member and \$35 for non members

For purchase please contact any of the UNSH committee members.

Birthdays



- Chris Lau 2 Nov
- Kimberley Crichton 10 Nov
- Barry Leithhead 15 Nov
- Ping Shi 17 Nov
- Shanmuga Priya Hariharan 21 Nov

November Birth Flowers



Chrysanthemum

Chrysanthemums are planted for their spectacular blooms that symbolise fidelity, optimism, joy and long life.

Plant your chrysanthemums in spring to allow the plant to establish a strong root system before the first frost for your area.

Plant them in well draining, evenly moist soil in an area that receives full sun. Once established, fertilise them throughout the growing season with Sudden Impact for Roses if planted in the ground, or Strike Back for Orchids if planted in pots. Water all applications in well with GOGO Juice.



Flannel Flower

Native to the bushlands around Sydney, Flannel Flowers are an iconic Australian native with velvety white petals that bloom beautifully throughout spring and summer.

They grow best in full sun or part shade in most areas of Australia except for the tropics and can be planted into the ground or in pots.

When planting, be sure to not disturb the roots too much. Flannel flowers are prone to fungal diseases, so regular applications of biological fertiliser like Bush Tucker and soil pro-biotics like GOGO Juice is recommended to ensure your plant thrives. Finish with a layer of Whoflungdung to protect the sensitive root system, especially in summer.

Spring Fertilising Tips



Year round fertilising for year round health

Like humans and animals, plants require regular feeding throughout the year - at least once each season.

Happy, healthy, well nourished plants are more resistant to pests, diseases, heat stress and frost.

Planting and General Garden

Let the change in season be a reminder to **POPUL8** your entire garden, including your lawn. Identify any stressed plants or struggling areas of the garden so that you can treat or remove them. If you plan to plant this season, prepare the soil by incorporating **Seamungus** or **Rapid Raiser** into the soil and water it in well with **GOGO Juice**.

Lawns and Non-Flowering Plants

Spring signifies the start of new growth for lawns. Feed lawns and non-flowering plants now with a nitrogen boosted fertiliser such as **Sudden Impact for Lawns** for lush and healthy lawn. Now is also a great time to fix any bare patches in your lawn. Rejuvenate with a top dressing of **Seamungus Lawn** and water in with **POPUL8**.

Flowering Plants

Sprinkle some **Strike Back for Orchids** over any potted colour you have or are planting out this season. You'll be rewarded with cascades of colour over spring and summer. Feed your roses and all other flowering plants (except natives) with **Sudden Impact for Roses** and water in with **GOGO Juice** to encourage faster uptake of the nutrients by the plant.

Acid Loving

Keep acid loving plants such as Camellias, Rhododendrons and Azaleas well-watered throughout spring, and feed with **Kahoona** to provide a balance of nutrients for strong growth. The high levels of potassium within Kahoona will also strengthen the connection between the stem and flowers, reducing flower drop and giving the appearance of more blooms.

Vegetables, Fruit and Citrus

Mix in some **Rapid Raiser** or **Rooster Booster** throughout the soil prior to planting spring vegetables and herbs to give your seedlings the best start in life and boost the soil microbiology with **GOGO Juice**. Feed edibles like tomatoes and capsicums with **Gyganic for Veggies, Fruit and Citrus** which contains potassium, calcium and magnesium to help produce large and tasty produce during summer.

Natives

As natives finish flowering, prune them back by up to one third and feed with **Bush Tucker**. Ensure that plants such as Kangaroo Paws that are budding up with lots of flowers are not allowed to dry out and become water stressed.



🌹 UNSH Christmas Lunch 🌲

Date: Sunday, 14th December

Time: 12 noon

Venue: Paul & Bek's place, Birchgrove
16 Fishburns Rd, Galston NSW 2159

Well, it's almost that time of year again! Join us as we come together to celebrate Christmas with good company, great food & plenty of festive cheer.

We will be running it along the same lines as last year - it was a great and a fun day for everyone.

What's Provided: Meat, Soft drinks, Water, Tea & Coffee

BYO: Drinks

We'll have plastic plates and cutlery ready for everyone. Feel free to bring your own cutlery and drink glasses for added comfort.

Either a salad or a dessert (please let us know what specific item you'll be bringing so we can plan accordingly)

Let's make it another memorable Christmas gathering.

Contact either Judy on 0414342225 or Sandy on 0438 713861

We will again be having a bench on the day.





President's Report to State Council November 2025

As usual New South Wales provided the most interstate visitors to the 2025 Nationals in Brisbane, with 14 members from NSW. Many took roses and participated in the National Championships. NSW members also assisted with the judging.

Congratulations to Graham Wright who was awarded the T.A. Stewart Memorial Award 2025 and Jim Cunningham who received the Australian Rose Award. These awards were made during the gala dinner over the weekend.

Meryl and Ted Morphett won six Championships while Graham and Janet Wright won the NSW Championship. NSW members and their blooms contributed significantly to the success of the weekend.

As members are aware New South Wales will host the National Rose Championships and National Conference in 2026. This means I am the current National President.

Congratulations to Southern Highlands Region who have obtained a grant of \$5,000 from the local council to establish a Rose Garden on land adjacent to their meeting venue at Renwick. I look forward to the progress of this exciting initiative. A special shout out to Southern Highlands Chair Annette Lane who has been the driving force behind the project.

The Executive have been involved with the winding up of Central Coast and Hunter Regions. It is particularly sad to see Hunter close, as this is our second oldest region, but it has been impossible to find people with the enthusiasm and drive to keep the region going. Details will be given to the State Council Meeting.

Neutrog have confirmed that they will sponsor the Rose Section of the Sydney Royal Easter Show in 2026. Thank you to Robin East who has negotiated with the Royal Easter Show officials in regard to our increased sponsorship.

A special thank you to Secretary Stefica for the arrangements in regard to the Jacaranda cruise.

Because of the National Meeting in Brisbane, I was unable to attend the Nepean/UNSH Show and prior commitments prevented me attending the Macarthur/Sydney Show. Reports I have received indicate both were a success.

I was able to attend the Southern Sydney Show which built on the success of the 2024 show. I attended the Illawarra Rosy Day held at Burnetts Nursery at Kiama.

Northern Sydney continues to grow in membership, they recently held a very successful meeting in the Sydney Botanic Gardens. It is this "thinking outside the box" that attracts new members. If we are going to attract new members as well as retain existing members we must make our meetings interesting as well as provide activities to retain interest.

Congratulations to all involved in these activities of promoting the rose.

I have received some questions about how the new Neutrog ordering system works for new members, I have checked with Monique Page and she has informed me "Members will receive an activation email when Neutrog sign them up, which outlines how the ordering works. This is how they are aware of their accounts."

Neutrog continue to seek articles about our promotion of their product. The relationship with Neutrog is worth many thousands of dollars each year, not only in sponsorship such as the Royal Easter Show but savings to members, just go into any nursery and see what the public are charged for the Neutrog products that we obtain at greatly reduced prices.

Neutrog now supply the products used in Peace Park Kiama. Their Annual report featured a not very flattering photograph of me spreading WhoFlungDung at the Park. Southern Sydney recently held a Working Bee at the neighbouring Loftus Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade, where they look after a bed of Fire Fighter roses which they donated. Neutrog provided the Sudden Impact for Roses, ChockABlok and WhoFlungDung used during the day. Neutrog will be supplied with an article and photographs of the exercise. According to Neutrog's Annual Report there has been a 42% decrease in Neutrog royalties paid to NSW over the past three years, why?

Colin Hollis
President
Rose Society of New South Wales Inc.
November 9 2025

2025 Bert Mulley Memorial Award

The Society's highest honour was awarded to Illawarra member **Helen Curll** at the region's Christmas celebration. Helen has served as Illawarra Secretary, long-time Show Secretary, and State Council delegate. The award was presented by President Colin Hollis, who worked closely with Helen for many years.

Member Benefits

Check out these discounts for members of UNSH

Organisation	Details	Notes
Rose Society of NSW INC website nsw.rose.org.au	To log in simply enter: Username: rmember Password: Seduction	
Wagner's Rose Nursery discount website wagnersrosenursery.com.au	USE discount code: 100%ROSES! (Remember to include '!')	
Neutrog As members of the NSW Rose Society, we enjoy an ongoing partnership with Neutrog.	Members have access to Neutrog discounts online at shop.neutrog.com.au You can order ANY time - your orders accumulate and are bundled together for dispatch.	Orders for the next delivery are OPEN
Beeman	UNSH members can purchase honey from nswsydneylocalhoney@gmail.com or call 0421 945 593	\$10 for a jar of honey \$15 for a rack of assorted small honeys



Contact Details

Please don't hesitate in reaching out, for questions or a chat!

Please make sure that you have emailed the UNSH secretary's email box to ensure that we have your correct email address for receiving correspondence.

For questions, feedback, article ideas, or story contributions,

✉ Email: unsh.secretary@gmail.com

☎ Phone: 0419 247 655 (9am–6pm)

Facebook: [Upper North Shore and Hills NSW Rose Society Regional](#)

2025–26 UNSH Executive

Position	Name
UNSH Chair	David Smith
Vice Chair	Judy Satchell
Secretary	Shanmuga Priya Hariharan
Treasurer	Sandy Crompton
NSW State UNSH Representatives	Scott and Kimberley Crichton
UNSH Patron	Sandra Ross
UNSH Advisors	Richard and Ruth Walsh Klaus & Brigitte Eckhardt