



ILLAWARRA REGIONAL ROSE SOCIETY IS 50 YEARS OLD THIS
YEAR: LET'S CELEBRATE 1974-2024

Photo – L.D.Braithwaite rose taken in the Mornington Rose
Garden in Victoria in 2015. **PATRON- JILL EAST**

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IMPORTANT DATES

30th November – Christmas Party at Warilla Sports Club

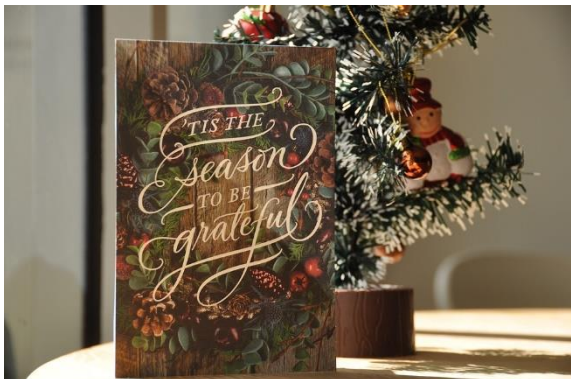
18-19 January – Albion Park Agricultural Show

24-25 January – Kiama Agricultural Show

31Jan-1 Feb- Berry Agricultural Show

7-8 February- Nowra Agricultural Show

14-15 February- Kanagaroo Valley Agricultural show



HAPPY CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR MEMBERS

MEETS ON THE FOURTH SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH AT
THE NORTH KIAMA NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE, MEEHAN
DRIVE – 1.30-3.30P.M. **NEXT MEETING:** at Kiama Centre
February 22, 2025

Message from Chair: **Dear Members**

It's been a very busy October-November in the rose world of the National and State Rose Societies and some members have participated in or visited rose shows at our neighbouring regions of Macarthur/Sydney and the first rose show at Southern Sydney. About six Illawarra members enjoyed the visit to Rookwood Cemetery on the 26th November and many thanks to Judith Oyston OAM and Heritage Rose Member Glennis Clarke for organising this event. I was present with Geraldine Shea, Marg Kennedy and Colin Hollis at the National Rose Conference held in Melbourne on 8-11 November.

During the Gala dinner at the Conference Colin Hollis was awarded a very prestigious T A Stewart Award, and Ted & Meryl Morphett were each awarded the Australian Rose Award. Congratulations to all three on a much deserved recognition for hours and years of dedicated to the Society

Then on November 17 the new North Sydney Region was launched at the Gordon library with 67 in attendance. The next day at the AGM for the Rose society of NSW Colin Hollis was once again returned as the President- and during the meeting, Jim Cunningham and Jacqueline Tweedie were both recognised for their years of dedicated service with life membership. Congratulations to all three. Photos of all these events will follow in the newsletter.

Also at the end a letter from Gary Bickford & Judi from South of France- send in October... they home now.

We welcome new members- Nicki Melville & Stephen Astill from Lake Heights who joined at the Southern Sydney Rose Show.

This newsletter is later than usual. Unfortunately I became unwell during the National Rose Conference, and ended up spending a week in Wagga Hospital through Emergency during our return home. I am still recovering, a heart problem, and will be on fewer cylinders for awhile. We also think of Peter Goodger who finally came out of hospital after 3 months. We look forward to Peter's cheerful greetings again soon.

All have a peaceful and happy Christmas and a healthy and safe New Year - *Kristin*

ROSE GARDEN IN DECEMBER-JANUARY

Our November has been hot and dry with a few cooler days in between, and now some very welcome days of rain.

So what does this mean for our rose gardens? Watering is the most crucial during those hot dry days. Deep soakings are the most beneficial to help water penetrate to roots deep down in the soil. Light waterings are lucky to wet the soil a little over 10cm deep and this causes the roots to congregate in this area which is not what you wish for if you want the best growing results for your plants.

When the weather is very hot, I tend to refrain from applying fertiliser as the bush is stressed managing the heat. I wait for cooler days as we are having at the end of November with lots of rain. A handful of fertiliser around the drip line about every six weeks.

For those who grow roses in pots, extra care is needed during these hot dry days and small pots may need watering a couple of times a day. On rainy days as we have had at the end of November, the nutrients in the pots can leach out with the excess water running through the pots. A good liquid fertiliser, such as Sudden Impact for Roses and a follow up with GoGo Juice or Popul8, and Seamungus can quickly restore the nutrients needed to keep the plant happy.

However we need to be careful with rainfall as a 5cm drenching from the skies is only good for one extra day. I look forward to the three days in a row of solid gentle rain to reach the roots. Pots need to be put on pot feet to keep them off hot surfaces such as tiles, concrete and pavers. A pot saucer should not be used as water accumulates and eventually bacteria will grow.

If you are going away for several days on holidays during this summer break, ensure your roses are well mulched at least 10cm depth and away from the base of the rose bush. Trim the dead flowers and spray the day before you leave. This is to prevent the fungus that will thrive in damp humid conditions.

It is important to keep the foliage as healthy as possible, as the foliage prevents the burning of canes in the hot summer sun. This shows up with reddish brown edges to

the leaves and brown marks on the canes. When deadheading, cut above the first five leaflet so that the bloom repeats quicker and as much foliage as possible is retained.

Hot dry weather can also bring on red spider mite and the winds bring thrip most visible on pale roses. They dislike water so watering under the leaves can help to control these pests. Miticides are also available but be careful when spraying because of the bees and other beneficial insects.



RUST ON ROSES- A couple of members, including myself have found rust on a couple of our rose bushes. It can be frustrating as this fungus can not only ruin the look of the roses but left untreated, rust on roses can eventually kill the plant.

It is easily identified by the many orange or red pustules on leaves or stems which break open and release masses of spores. Rust fungus grows within the leaf so there is usually a copy of the spores on the underside of the leaf as well. Different rust fungi attack different host plants so rust on geraniums won't spread to other types of plants. The roses in my garden most vulnerable to rust are Baby Jack, Figurine, Transplant Australia's Thankyou Rose and I've found it on my Dr. Bruce Chapman Rose bush. **PREVENTION:** 1. Plant roses in full sun; 2. Space plants well apart; 3. Water from below – no constant moisture left on the leaves.

TREATMENT: 1. At the first sign of rose rust, the affected leaves need to be removed. 2. Apply Fungicide to kill rust, or Horticultural Oil or Neem Oil for Rose Rust, or a homemade remedy. Mancozeb Plus or Eco-Rose sprayed on the underside of the leaves as well as the top of the leaves.

HOME MADE REMEDY:-Mix into one cup of water: 1 tablespoon vinegar, 1 1/2 tablespoons baking soda, 1 tablespoon dish washing detergent and 1 tablespoon vegetable oil. Pour mixture into 3.8 litres of water and

stir. Pour solution into spray bottle and spray on roses' foliage. Reapply every 7 to 10 days or after a rainstorm.

AROUND THE RIDGES- EXCURSIONS & AWARDS – PHOTO GALLERY

ROSE SHOWS IN MACARTHUR-SYDNEY &

SOUTHERN SYDNEY REGION-1st rose show



Ted & Meryl Morphett Spring Champion



Maureen Thackeray- Floral Art



Ted & Meryl Morphett A Grade C in SSR



This was the first Rose Show conducted by Southern Sydney Regional. It was held at Loftus Community Centre ON 26TH October.



The display of roses on the right was at the National Rose Show & Conference in Melbourne. These roses were either Australian bred roses or were named to honour various Australians. The roses come from the Weribee State Rose Garden an internationally recognized Rose Garden of Excellence managed by volunteers.

EXCURSION TO THE ROOKWOOD NECROPOLIS -30TH OCTOBER 2024

It was a beautiful spring day which made the visit to the Necropolis and the Heritage Rose Garden so pleasant. We arrived to a morning tea under the gazebos, and then a most interesting talk in the Chapel nearby firstly by Mark Brudy on the history of the Necropolis and then Glennis Clarke from Heritage Roses spoke about the heritage roses rescued and conserved by members over decades. Illawarra members- Barbara May after whom the garden was named, and our Judith Oyston have been very actively involved in this campaign for the conservation of the roses. We walked around the Barbara May heritage rose garden before lunch. Intan is pictured there with her tubs ready to collect cuttings of these rare roses.



AWARDS TO SOME VERY DEDICATED PEOPLE

Congratulations to Colin Hollis on receiving the TA Stewart Award – one of the highest awards one can receive in Australia for his dedicated service to the Rose society and the promotion of the rose. Watch for more details in the NSW December Rose Journal and in the Australian Rose Journal coming out in April 2025.

Congratulations also to Ted & Meryl Morphett who received the Australian Rose Award at the National Rose Conference. They also won medals for their exhibitions during the Rose Conference as did Graham & Janet Wright for their Miniature Rose Championship.

Diane Vom Berg (SA) also was awarded the Australian Rose Award



OTHER BITS & PIECES OF NEWS



1. Visitors from Macarthur Region to Peace Park in October
2. Newly elected executive of RSNSW- Stefanic Bikes(Sec); Jacqui Tweedie(Treasurer) Colin Hollis (President) Braidan Swan(Vice President)
3. Launch of North Sydney Region -Colin with launch Committee

4. Alison Byrnes MP visited Judith Oyston at her home to see her rose garden

5. Dot Hennessey organized the planting of the rose Inspiration Women at Wollongong Botanic Gardens. Rose bred by Vivienne Dixon

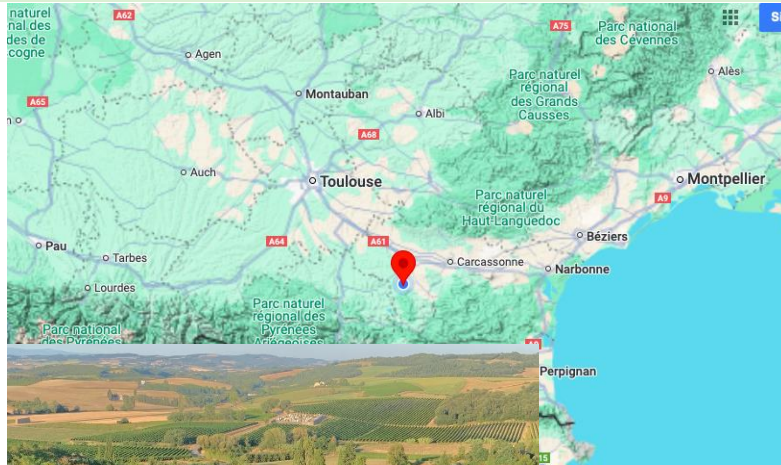


SOME PHOTOS OF ROSES FROM GARY AND JUDI IN SOUTH OF FRANCE -SEE NEXT PAGE FOR THE STORY



NEWS FROM GARY BICKFORD & JUDI- AUTUMN IN THE SOUTH OF FRANCE IN OCTOBER IT IS A VERY BUSY TIME

HERE IN SOUTHERN FRANCE IN THE AUTUMN.
HERE IS WHERE WE ARE LOCATED.



Not too far from Spain and Andorra. Not too far from the Mediterranean and close to

Carcassonne and Toulouse with the Pyrenees just to the south of us.

We are in rich farming lands. The farms are very productive and as soon as one crop is

finished the next are being planted.

This is the view from the terrace of the house where you can see the variety of crops being grown along with areas

of natural forest being left for biodiversity.

This is a very historic village as many are in the surrounding area. It is called a perched village as it rests on top of a hill with winding roads leading up to the church. This was to provide fortification for the village.

As you can see from the image below, the village was ruined in 1210 as a part of the eradication of the Cathers (a crusade by the Catholic Church) and then ruined again in the 1600s. The house we are living in is some 400 years old.



Autumn has been very busy. The days are getting shorter and colder. Our lowest overnight temperature has been 5C and the days in the teens and up to low 20s. Currently the Sunflowers are being harvested, along with Sorghum. Once harvested, the land is then prepared for the next crop. Lucerne is often planted as a rotational crop which adds nitrogen back into the soil. We are in the Languedoc wine region. The grapes are nearing the end of harvest. You need to be aware of the tractors towing trailers full of grapes to the co-operative for processing. And often the grape harvesting machines will pass through the village. Much of the harvesting is done by these machines, which quickly remove the grapes from the well-manicured vines. Or else harvesting is done by hand and of course the product has to be checked by the winemaker.

And yes, let's not forget the roses. For those folks who managed to prune their roses a few weeks ago, they have been well rewarded by a lot of new growth and a new flush of blooms. And those who did not prune, have a beautiful crop of rose hips. And some of us can have a beautiful collection in their living room. Oh, and my planted rose is doing well.

We are now looking forward to coming home to some warmer weather. See you soon!! Judi and Gary