



**PATRON- JILL EAST**

**CONTACT DETAILS: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE -**

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**IMPORTANT DATES**

**July 26** -Illawarra Rose Meeting guest speaker-Gerard Oldfield from Highlands Dahlias

**August 23** – AGM and information session on Scams(TBC)

**September 27**- visit to the garden of Esther Hernandez.

**October 16-19**- Rose information table at the Berry Garden Festival- check in with Lorraine Vost if you could give a couple of hours during the Festival at the information stand.

**November 1**- Display of Roses & information at Burnett's Nursery on Barney St Kiama. We have a display day instead of a rose show.

**November 22** – Christmas Pary (details to be confirmed)

**BRING ANY FLOWERS FROM YOUR GARDEN TO JULY MEETING ARRANGED IN WHICH EVER WAY YOU LIKE**

# Elina



*Photo- Kathleen Gannon pruning The Children's Rose at Peace Park on 13<sup>th</sup> July whilst Geraldine Shea looks on*

**MEETS ON THE FOURTH SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH AT THE NORTH KIAMA NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE, MEEHAN DRIVE – 1.30-3.30P.M. **NEXT MEETING** 26 July-: KIAMA NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE- SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER- Gerard Oldfield – Highlands Dahlias- on growing dahlias**

***Message from Chair: Dear Members***

Now we are past the mid of a very cold winter, and many have already pruned their roses, we can look forward once again to the arrival of green foliage and the rose blooms of spring.

Thank you to all who came to assist with pruning at Peace Park on 13<sup>th</sup> July. There was a good turn up both of members, and others from the public coming to learn about pruning. All roses were pruned within a couple of hours. We now await the beauty of those long rows of Seduction standards and the greeting from the Golden Beauty rose bed.

At the June meeting we welcomed Mark Massey from Mother Earth Nurseries who brought along some of his wonderful plants many from a time past and not always readily available now. He also spoke about roses and I'll try to remember some of the key information that I heard and place in the July Garden information. We thoroughly enjoyed Mark's presentation and some, like Moira Etheridge were able to buy some plants they had been seeking for over ten years.

As roses are sleeping now in winter, we will focus on dahlias at our July meeting and look forward to a great presentation from Gerard Oldfield from Highland Dahlias. I hope he will bring along some tubers of his exquisite dahlias that we can buy. Please come along for a very good session and to ensure Illawarra's support of his long-distance travel to our meeting.

Members of the Committee had an excellent meeting on 8 July and have found a succession plan which will keep the Illawarra Rose Region alive and viable.

*Kristin*

**MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL EXPIRED ON 30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE**

## ROSE GARDEN IN JULY

*Thank You to Lorrie Zammit for putting together this article for us on our JULY in the garden*

**MINIATURE ROSES** – (Details provided by Lorrie Zammit) – For spring planting, you can find miniature roses from several reputable Australian nurseries. Treloar Roses is a large rose grower with a wide selection, both as bare-root roses in winter and potted roses from spring.

- Wagner's Rose Nursery also offers a large variety of miniature roses, including those from international breeders, with bare-root options available in winter.
- Garden Express Australia is another online retailer with a range of miniature roses.
- Penfield Gardens Rose Nursery offers a selection of miniature roses suitable for various garden spaces. You can also check with local nurseries like Spring Park Nursery or Cedar Nursery + Design for their current stock.



Magic Show - Miniature  
Rose

### Where to find "Miniature Roses":

- **Treloar Roses:** Known for quality bare-root and potted roses, with a large selection.
- **Wagner's Rose Nursery:** Specializes in a wide range of roses from various breeders, including miniature varieties.
- **Garden Express Australia:** An online retailer with a variety of miniature roses available.
- **Penfield Gardens Rose Nursery:** Offers a diverse selection of miniature roses, including Mandarin and Snow Kiss.
- **Spring Park Nursery:** Local nursery with a range of roses, including miniatures.
- **Cedar Nursery + Design:** Local nursery with a focus on miniature roses for pots and borders.

### Tips for planting in spring:

- Miniature roses are generally hardy and can be planted in spring.
- They prefer cool locations, especially during winter.
- Ensure the soil around them doesn't dry out, as they have shallow roots.
- Overwatering can be a problem, so be mindful of the soil moisture.

### Some examples of Popular Miniature Roses.

***Baby Boomer***



***Baby Jack***



***Carrot Top***



For further details please visit the rose society of NSW SharePoint site at this address - [Miniature & Miniflora Roses | NSW Rose Society](#)

## SOIL HEALTH

*Whilst checking out newsletters from some of the other regions, and especially the Macarthur that has some expert rose growers there, I found an article by Gary Wotton which I thought would be very helpful for our members at this time as we prepare our rose beds for the coming of spring. (Taken from the July 2024 edition of the Macarthur Regional newsletter.*

### Soil Health Part 2 - Gary Wotton

*“Soil amendments are products we add to our soil to help the roses grow better.*

*Soil can have several issues which prevent roses from reaching their peak performance...”*

Now that spring is approaching, our attention is turning back to the rose garden and getting ready for the growing season. Since we are always looking for new products to grow our roses better, we are always checking catalogues, garden centres, home and garden shows and local hardware stores to see what is being sold.

Occasionally we'll also do online search for 'Soil Amendments' or soil improvers to see what is new for gardening that isn't being sold in our area. Soil amendments are products we add to our soil to help the roses grow better. Soil can have several issues that can prevent roses from reaching their peak performance, including poor drainage, insufficient levels of macro or micronutrients, suboptimal soil pH, lack of beneficial microorganisms, etc. Newer products are also always coming onto the market, so let's look at a few products that are new or unfamiliar.

**Biochar** One newer type of commercial soil amendment that would likely be unfamiliar is biochar. Biochar is a charcoal-like material that is made from a wide variety of waste products, including wood, crop waste, grass clippings and even manure. Although relatively new to the commercial market, using a charcoal-based product in agriculture to improve soil is not new and can be traced back thousands of years to South America where early Columbian natives used charcoal from their hearths to amend their soils.

**Biochar** is made by heating organic waste materials at temperatures ranging from 350°C to 700°C in a low oxygen atmosphere, a process called pyrolysis. During this process, water and volatile organic materials are removed, and the residue remaining is a carbonized material known as biochar. Biochar has an alkaline pH, tends to be porous and has both fixed and available carbon.

**Biochar** produced at higher temperatures (>500°C) is better for absorbing heavy metals and other organic pollutants in the soil, while lower pyrolysis temperatures produce a biochar that provides carbon to soil microorganisms. The porous nature of biochar helps with water retention and the surface area of the particles helps prevent leaching of nutrients from fertilizer applications.

There are several reports that biochar can help rejuvenate soil, particularly clay and/or acidic soils. Since charcoal products decay very slowly, they remain in the soil for hundreds of years. One concern that has been expressed about biochar is that because of its ability to absorb or bind a wide range of substances, it can also bind up other chemical soil amendments.

The beneficial effects of biochar specifically for roses in a home garden are less clear than for agricultural soils. However, if you decide to try a biochar product for your garden, there are a few of those available in Australia, either online or in store; Triple R Enhanced Biochar, from Enfield Produce. Charboost Biochar, from the garden. Biochar Soil Conditioner, from Seasol, just to mention a few.

**Humic Substances** Another trend we are seeing in soil amendment products is the inclusion of humic substances. These organic compounds are found in all soils and are produced through the decomposition of organic matter such as leaves. These compounds are normally divided into humin, humic acids and fulvic acids, with their salts known as humates or fulvenes.

One good source of humic acids is leonardite, an oxidation product of lignite found in deposits near the surface of the ground. Leonardite may contain up to 90 percent humic acids. The benefit of humic and fulvic acids lies primarily in their



ability to bind (chelate) and bring essential cationic substances, such as magnesium, calcium and iron, to the roots of the rose bush and present them in such a way that the plant can readily absorb them.

Rose roots have a higher affinity for these cations than the humic acids, so these nutrients are 'transferred' from the humic and fulvic acids to the rose, along with some water. Humic acids also contain about 60% carbon, which is beneficial for the sustainability and growth of soil microorganisms, and can be a source for nitrogen, oxygen, hydrogen and sulphur. In addition, humic acids can stimulate the production of plant growth hormones such as auxin and cytokinin. There are also several interactions between humic acids and soils that are beneficial for the plants, although these soil interactions are often complex.

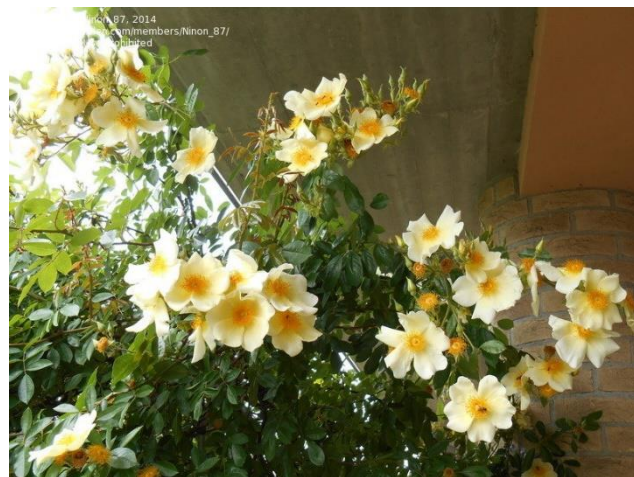
Overall, humic acids and humates are beneficial and can help promote healthy development and growth of roses. Humic acid can be purchased as a sole ingredient or can be found as a component of soil amendment products. Humic acids are available in liquid or granular formulations. There are several available in Australia, either online or in store. Some Humic acids that can be purchased as granules are, Humate/Humic Acid from the Plant Doctor, or Humic Acid Granular from ActiveVista. In a liquid form they are sold as Quantum H, also from the Plant Doctor, or Humic Acid as Humic GLS Pro, from Greenlawns Supplies. Using these products according to the label instructions can provide beneficial effects to your rose garden. Many new products to amend your garden soil and help you grow healthier rose bushes come onto the market each year. As always, some products will work better in your microenvironment than others, but it is worth trying some of these new products to see if they can help in your garden. *Adapted from the American Rose Society Journal May 2024*

However, we are most fortunate to have access to Neutrog products that are well researched, such as Popul8, GoGo Juice, Seamungus and now Chock-a-block, which are all good soil conditioners.

#### Some pointers though from Mark Massey last month-

- A Volcanic soil conditioner, (I will have to find out the name) has been extremely good mixed especially with potting mix for his plants, but also with the rose gardens. Peter Goodger also uses a Volcanic soil conditioner.
- When planting new barerooted roses, he plants the bud union underground to protect it during the harsh summers
- He plants lots of low lying plants, many of which he brought to the meeting amongst the roses to give colour to the garden after pruning.
- His favourite rose is Mermaid – and he has bred roses using this rose as a parent.

(Photos: L Mark at the meeting and  
R. Mermaid



**MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS ARE DUE BY 30 JUNE FOR ALL THOSE WHO WERE MEMBERS PRIOR TO 1/1/25**  
**NOTE THAT THE SUBSCRIPTION SECRETARY, MAUREEN THACKERAY HAS ASKED FOR RENEWAL FORMS TO BE COMPLETED AND SENT TO HER AFTER PAYMENT HAS BEEN MADE.** This is to help her keep track of renewed members if you are having difficulty completing and sending the form- please meet with Lorrie Zammit half an hour before the meeting and he will assist you. Please note your number and write IRS with your name when electronically banking. Contact Kristin or Jill for number if forgotten. EFT: The Rose Society of NSW BSB: 012-429 Account No: 2784 41863. Reference with: Your Last Name, Initial and Rose Society Region. If paying by cash see Robert Coady at the meeting.

## AROUND THE RIDGES- OTHER NEWS



**OUR MEETING IN JUNE WITH MARK MASSEY AS OUR PRESENTER:**



**Mark presenting** some of the plants he brought to the meeting

**Some of Esther's roses**

**Lorraine's roses**

### **PEACE PARK PRUNING DAY**



*Peter Goodger advising Bill whilst onlooker learns. Colin demonstrating; on Australian Beauty; Jill, Frans and Kathleen at work (many thanks to Intan for doing the minutes in Jill's absence )*

### **Minutes of the Illawarra Regional – 28<sup>th</sup> June 2025. Held at the Kiama Neighbourhood Centre**

#### **1. opening**

Meeting chaired by Kristin Dawson Minutes taken by Intan Kallus

#### **Present**

Kristin Dawson, Robert Coady, Shirley Coady, Colin Hollis, Judith Oyston, Geraldine Shea, Peter Goodger, Moira Etheridge, David & Diane Westgate, Lorraine Vost, Jenny Swan, Pat & Horst Bluel, Kathleen Gannon, Esther Hernandez, Tony Jordan, Intan Kallus, Ray Taylor, Elaine

#### **Apologies**

Jill Milburn, Frans Buskermolen, Janet Bowden, Lawrence Zammit,

#### **2. Welcome**

Chair welcomed: Tony Jordan from Albion Park; Mark Massey from Mother Earth Nursery; Jenny Swan who was back from Japan at the recent International Rose Convention.

#### **3. Minutes from May 2025 meeting**

Motion that previous minutes of meeting be accepted. Moved by Judith Oyston; Seconded by Moira Etheridge – Carried.

#### **4. Correspondences**

-Erin Cooper - South Coast Kitchen - Table at Berry Garden Festival (16 – 19 October 2025).



- Neutrog - various in and out re: delivery. Many thanks to those who attended to delivery.
  - Shellharbour Bunnings - invitation for stall 6th September 2025. We responded politely, "No, thank you".
  - Bendigo Bank - signing bank account transfer - show account to general.
  - Kiama Council - Clean up and disposal of items by Council.
  - NSW Rose Society Journal has gone out.
  - Stefica Bikes- positions vacant at NSW Rose coming AGM - Editor and Subscription Secretary
  - Meeting on 8 July 2025 - discussion on job sharing to keep the Regional functioning - Kiama Leagues club Bistro over lunch at 1pm - Looking for people to take on one or two jobs so no one is carrying too much of the load.
- Motion that correspondences be accepted. Moved by Intan Kallus; Seconded by Judith Oyston – Carried.

## 5. Financials

- Robert Coady presented June financials. See attached documentation.
- Waiting on commission from Neutrog at the end of this financial year.

Motion that Society financials be accepted.

Moved by Robert Coady; Seconded by Geraldine Shea – Carried.

## 6. Business arising

- Pruning at Peace Park – Sunday 13 July 2025 – Seeking volunteers.
- Colin Hollis has been on Kiama Community Radio talking about roses and promoting rose pruning workshop:
  - Bring own tools.
  - Children from pre-school has been visiting Peace Park twice a term and planting violas and pansies. Parents are invited to join in the fun.
  - New welcome rose sign put up by volunteer Bill. Rose sign now makes it clear who runs and manages Peace Park all on a voluntary basis
- Illawarra Rose Society table at Burnett's on Barney – 1<sup>st</sup> weekend in November.
  - Display day
  - Information session, no rose shows planned as the Society is not getting enough exhibits
  - Invite people to come and enjoy roses
- Illawarra Rose Society AGM – to be held in August 2025 rather than in July.
  - Gerard Oldfield might come and talk "Dahlias".
- Kris Dawson needs to cull her roses and inviting members who are interested to come and dig them up. All roses were recently pruned – please inform Kris directly if interested.
- Intan Kallus gave a short talk on the "Peace Rose" and its 90<sup>th</sup> birthday this year.

## 7. Rose display

- Esther – a variety of David Austin's, "Eyes for You", 'Dusky Moon', 'Charles de Gaulle' and many more.
- Kathleen – 'The Fairy' and an unknown hedging rose from Digger's Club.
- Jenny – 'Guy Savoy'.
- Tony – 'Blue Moon' – amazingly grown in a pot!
- Peter – 'Munstead Wood'.
- Kris – 'Brass Band', 'Fairy Tale Queen', 'Rotilla', 'Pepita', 'The Fairy', 'Irresistible', 'Rise & Shine'.
- Lorraine – 'Bonica', 'Mrs Dunlop Best'.
- Shirley – 'Happy Birthday'.

## 8. Guest presentation

- Colin Hollis cordially introduced Mark Massey.
- Mark presented an inspiring talk on his journey as an Australian nursery-man and recent challenges as a successful business-person dealing with bureaucracy and red-taping.
- Mark gave an in-depth talk on general garden health which was very well received by members.
- Mark also shared his wide range of rose "underplanting" plants that he had brought to our meeting, as his delivery of bare-rooted roses have not yet arrived at his nurseries. Members were invited to purchase if desired.

## 9. AGM - Saturday 23 August 2025 - 1:30pm – North Kiama Neighbourhood Centre **Meeting concluded at 3:45pm and members enjoyed a delicious spread of afternoon tea**

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