

# Elina



PHOTO- The Children's Rose, taken by Colin Hollis at Peace Park in May 2025

**PATRON- JILL EAST**

## **CONTACT DETAILS: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE -**

Chair: Kristin Dawson M:0422157353 E:  
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SECRETARY: Jill Millburn M:0409849534  
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Assistant Treasurer- Robert Coady

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## **IMPORTANT DATES**

May- date TBC – Collection of Neutrog orders

May 24 -Illawarra Rose meeting- guest speaker is Gary Wootton who wil speak on green mulching

June 28 -Illawarra Rose Meeting guest speaker- Mark Massey from Mother Earth Nurseries

July 26 Gerard Oldfield (TBC) on growing dahlias

August 23 AGM

**MEETS ON THE FOURTH SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH AT THE NORTH KIAMA NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE, MEEHAN DRIVE – 1.30-3.30P.M. **NEXT MEETING 24 May**-: KIAMA NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE- SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER- GARY WOOTTON ON GREEN MULCH**

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

We had a most enjoyable meeting at the home of Diane & David Westagate on April 26<sup>th</sup>. Not only were there some beautiful roses in their garden, but we were provided with information about hybridising roses, including a very instructive session on removing the seeds from the hips and preserving them until ready to be planted out after they begin to sprout. Esther also brought along a banana heart, and some further instruction on cooking methods for this exotic part of a bunch of bananas. Thank you to Diane & David and to Intan and Esther for giving so much to our enjoyment.

Our roses will now be beginning some dormancy with a few autumn roses remaining. Don't be surprised if there is some yellowing of leaves, and some blackspot around, with heavy dews and some drizzly rains.

We urge you to come to our meeting on next Saturday 24 May. Gary Wootton who is a well regarded rose breeder and rose grower, will speak with us about green mulch and respond to any queries we may have about growing roses and mulching. He is coming all the way from Western Sydney so we want it to be a worthwhile experience all round.

Delivery for our last Neutrog order is May. We have yet to receive notification of the delivery and will be in touch when we find out.

See inside re our AGM & future leadership

**MEMBERSHIP IS DUE NOW BY 30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE- see inside**

*Kristin*

## ROSE GARDEN IN MAY

**Thank You to Lorrie Zammit for putting together this article for us on our May in the garden.** The month of May marks the transition from spring to the cooler months, and rose care should focus on preparing for winter. This includes, removing spent blooms to encourage further flowering, monitoring for pests like spider mites, and preparing the soil for potential planting or replanting in June/July when bare root roses become available..

### Key Rose Care Tasks for May:

**Watering:** Continue regular, deep watering, especially for potted roses, as the soil will dry out more quickly.

**Pest and Disease Monitoring:** Keep an eye out for spider mites, which can be prevalent during this time. If scale insects are present, treat them with a suitable pest oil.

**Spent Bloom Removal:** **Remove** spent flower heads to encourage the plant to produce new blooms.

**STOP Feeding:** (Clue- only fertilise in months that have an 'r' in the name- except sometimes with warmer weather in August foliage appears and they are ready for food. The roses now need to go dormant and as the weather cools will no longer pick up nutrients from the soil. It is a good time to mulch and put in compost once roses are pruned in June-July.

**time to prepare tools** ready for pruning- sharpening, cleaning secateurs and loppers. Prepare beds for new roses, or to transplant roses that are planted in the wrong place or are in pots, ready for the garden. More on pruning next month.

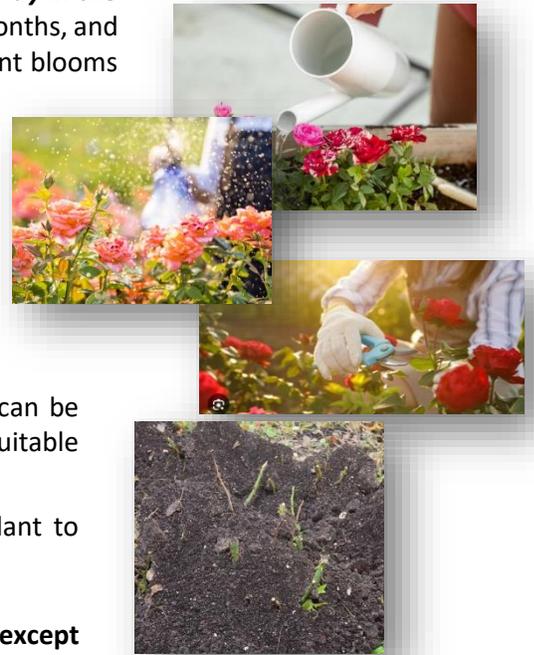
**Soil Preparation:** If planning to plant or replant roses in June/July, prepare the soil by adding dolomite for acid soils or iron sulphate or gypsum for alkaline soils, according to the NSW Rose Society.

**See Wagner's May newsletter on soil preparation for new roses - Major online nurseries are now taking orders for bareroot roses**

"The best type of soil for planting roses in is loam – its essentially a mix of organic materials (compost, old animal manure, leaf litter) soil, water and air. An easy way to test for the quality of loam is to take a handful of soil, squeeze it and it should generally stick together.

Getting the soil to this consistency is easy but takes a bit of time. Tackling the project now when the soil is still warm but moist and easy to work with allows plenty of time for the new bed to decompose ready for planting in a few months.

- First add loads of organic matter to the bed, as it will only do great things for your rose garden. This could include decomposed compost, leaves, dried vegetable matter or grass clippings mixed in with animal manure, or a healthy dose of blood and bone.
- Adding gypsum and liquid seaweed into the mix will go a long way to adding nutrients to the soil. Liquid seaweed (or Seamungus) is an excellent soil conditioner and can be applied weekly. It will also feed the worms.
- Next till the soil in the rose bed, making sure not to disturb the roots of any existing plants.
- Finally mulch the area and water weekly the patch will 'bed down' and decompose ready for the new rose."



## AROUND THE RIDGES- EXCURSIONS & EVENTS CLOSER TO HOME

### WORKSHOP - CREATING OUR OWN ROSE held on April 26

Our thanks to Diane & David for hosting the meeting at her home. Thank you to Intan for leading the workshop. Following are some photos of the workshop and also an interesting video you can click on sent by Moira Etheridge that goes through the process of breeding your own rose in an easy-to-follow process.

#### [Breed Your Own Rose: Hybridize in 4 Steps](#) (Click on the link to view the video)



roses on display and Diane&David seated



Jill had collected pollen the day before from her roses and placed in glass jars with name of the rose on each jar. Intan took one of the only partly opened roses that had not been touched by bees and took away the pollen to reveal the stigma. The stigma when sticky has pollen placed on it and then labelled with the name of the pollen parent and the female parent left on the bush until hips are formed after a few months. (see video clip above). You can collect any ripened hips you have on your rose bushes and open to see if there are seeds you can dy rubbing off the outer layer gently and then placing on paper towel that has been splashed with vinegar to prevent bacteria forming. Wrap carefully, then with plastic film and place in the refrigerator for about six weeks and check for sprouting when ready for planting.



Photo to left Esther's banana heart and Intan describing how it can be used in cooking.

## ROSES AT PEACE PARK – THE AUTUMN DISPLAY

With thanks to those who work diligently every Tuesday, the roses at Peace Park are looking beautiful, and so thankful that there was no thief this year cutting the roses on Mother's Day. It's always so sad when roses or other equipment are stolen from the park, and disheartens the volunteers.



1. Golden Beauty 2. Firefighter 3 Gallipoli Rose

3. Little Suzie (Sue Kingsford memory)

4. Seduction 5 Pascali 6. Mr Lincoln (donated by and in memory of Gordon Streek)

**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.

## NEW LEADERSHIP TEAM IS SOUGHT FOR AGM- AND THE NEXT YEAR OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE IRS

In our committee discussions we expressed hope that there may be some members who will share some of the responsibilities so that the burden doesn't fall on just a couple of people only.

1. Whilst we need to be able to designate at a minimum a Chair, Secretary and Treasurer, it doesn't mean that anyone must take on all the roles and responsibilities of these jobs.
2. We are aware that members have many calls on their time and energies and would not want to be stuck with a job no one else will do.
3. There is no oneway to do anything and each comes with their own personality and talents.
4. So would anyone out there be happy to take on a task as listed, even for a couple of months at a time-
  - NEUTROG ORDER- twice a year to liaise with Neutrog and with Lorraine and whoever will organise the order for collection. You receive a list of orders with member names, and it will need a notice to let members know the order has arrived and a follow-up to ensure that the orders are collected.
  - Membership of the Illawarra- to maintain the EXCEL spreadsheet of members so that new members are added and unrenewed members are deleted. Any contact details are changed. Some liaison with the NSW Subscription Secretary is needed to send up to date spreadsheet.
  - Newsletter- Perhaps 4 or 5 people could take turns producing a newsletter for the month. It can be as long or as short as desired. Though a few copies are posted out so not too long. This will bring some variety. They don't have to be the same as Kristin's newsletters.
  - A small team to organise activities - Just an exchange of ideas and once set up each half year – ready to go. Kristin has an assorted lot of videos and can add to them on various rose topics.
  - Minute writing – meetings - perhaps a few people could take turns doing this. A Secretary position could coordinate these minute takers.
  - Raffle and gift person for meetings- a couple of people could organise raffles in turns, and gifts for special guest speakers.
  - Treasurer- make payments online, organise banking and be in contact with Kiama Council re payment and booking of the Centre. Organise an audit at end of financial year; show balances at least quarterly.
  - Chair for the meetings- keep the meeting flowing. And to coordinate people doing various jobs
  - Showbench - just leading the showing of roses, catering- afternoon teas.

We have decided to have the **AGM in August this year** to give some time to find people to take on the various tasks.

### MEMBERSHIP information

EFT: The Rose Society of NSW BSB: 012-429 Account No: 2784 41863. Reference with: Your Last Name, Initial and Rose Society Region. Cash payments can only be made at your regional meeting. To ensure finalisation of your membership, after completing this membership form, either post or email this form to the NSW Rose Society Subscription Secretary at: Mrs Maureen Thackeray, 31 Tallow-Wood Avenue, NARELLAN VALE NSW 2567 Email: mth37405@bigpond.net.au or Phone: 0417 699 846 (**Note membership form is attached with the email. You can fill out on a computer**)

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE ILLAWARRA ROSE SOCIETY ON SATURDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2025 HELD AT DAVID AND DIANE WESTGATES HOME.**

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\$4,522.57, Term Deposit \$10,000. Moved as correct by Robert, Seconded by Colin.

**5. GENERAL BUSINESS:**

- a. Colin thanked 4 members from Illawarra who attended, Jenny Swan, Intal Kallus, Hans Buskermolen and Judith Oyston. Colin thinks the Neutrog offer for new members may be too generous and putting people off.
  - b. Next Meeting Gary Wootton who will speak on green mulch and roses.  
June – Mark Massey, Roses and other plants.  
July AGM AND Gerard Oldfield speaking on dahlias though TBC as he is having surgery.  
November- Rose Display at Burnetts.
  - c. It was again mentioned that members are needed to take on key roles as ageing members no longer able to Lorrie said Succession planning is needed by that has been ongoing over the years.
  - d. Discussion on having an Educational Display at Berry Garden Show, Lorraine has been speaking to Erin. Suggestions are 30-minute talks, Colin happy to do this. A Rose Display, Information Session. Still to decide what's needed.
  - e. Esther brought along some Banana Flowers and gave an interesting talk with Intan who is going to use them in cooking.
  - f. Intan gave a very informative talk on hybridizing roses, members brought along many different types of roses and pollen for her to work with.
- Meeting concluded at 3.30 followed by a delicious afternoon tea.

CHAIR Kristin welcomed 15 members to David and Dianas' home in Glenbrook Drive Kiama which commenced at 1.35 pm.

1. **APOLOGIES:** Judith Oyston, Janet Bowden, Pat & Horst Bluel, Shirley Coady, Geraldine Shea and Peter Goodger.
2. **MINUTES OF LAST MEETING Moved** as correct by Jill, seconded by Robert Coady.
3. **CORRESPONDENCE:**
  - a. Secretary Rose Society. Reminder to send newsletters to Judith Cahill b. Call for more volunteers for Sydney Royal Easter Show. c. Thankyou letter from Kangaroo Valley Show for sponsorship
  - b. . 4. Passing of Alan Read
5. December Journal will not be printed but next journal will be digital with members able to have a hard copy, cost to be decided by the number printed.
6. Neutrog Winter advertisement
7. Email forwarded from Chris Kelly re entries for 2027 Rose Trial (National Rose Gardens of Australia) Kristin forwarded it to Intan.
8. Stefica/Colin, reply re journal, Kristin had sent minutes to Stefica saying Illawarra was happy with the present system.
9. Neutrog Autumn Advertisement re Chockablock
10. Kiama Show Tax Invoice for sponsorship \$100
11. Lorraine Vost sending photos of the Floral Arts Group arrangements for Easter
- 12, Peter Goodger has resigned as Treasurer due to ill health, Thanks to Robert for stepping in until the end of the financial year.
4. **FINANCIAL REPORT:** Show Account \$5,952.34, General Account \$3,917.43, Peace Park \$968.93, Education