

Southern Highlands Regional Rose Society
Newsletter

December 2019



Southern Highlands Region Rose Society wishes all members, their families and loved ones best wishes for a peaceful and joyous Christmas. Enjoy the serious side of Christmas and may Santa bring you many roses and lots of rain.

ψψψψψψψψψψψψψψψψψψψψψψψψ
OUR MEMBERS DO WELL

Illawarra Rose Society Show results

Southern Highlands Rose Society members scooped the pool at the recent successful Highlands Garden Society Rose Show on Friday 15 November.



Ralph Parsons



Ros Parsons



Sally Gaudry

Ralph Parsons won the trophy for the Champion Exhibit of the Show with a stunning bud to full bloom with our signature rose “Best Friend” while Rosalyn Parsons took out the Award in the Floral Art Section. Ray Bradley took out Reserve unit Championship with the exhibition rose “Isn’t She Lovely”. Our hard working Treasurer Annette Lane won Champion Exhibit in Novice with the rose “Red Intuition” and Rose Show Convenor as well as Convenor of our monthly Show bench Sally Gaudry was the most Successful Exhibitor of the Show. Congratulations to the winners.



Isn't she Lovely



Best Friend



Red Intuition



Ray



Annette

The Show this year was the first held during the day and proved to be successful with a great display of blooms and many stunning Floral Art entries.

Ralph and Ros Parsons and Annette attended the Rose Society Exhibitor's Workshop held at Mt. Annan in October. Annette said it gave her the confidence to enter and according to Ralph he picked up some exhibiting skills in regard to the Bud to Full Bloom. The Workshop is held each October where participants learn how to stage their roses for exhibiting at shows.

Considering the difficult weather conditions the Highlands Garden Society especially President Jane Stockel, also a member of our regional, and Show Convenor Sally Gaudry can be very pleased with their show.

What better plant to put with roses than beautiful bearded Irises?



Members who attended the meeting in November were treated to an informative talk by Barbara Levy and Michael Barnes from the Iris Society of NSW. As well as the very interesting presentation Barbara and Michael had a range of Irises for sale, an opportunity too good to miss for many of the members present.

Here are a few points from the presentation

- There are many types of Irises with the most common being bearded Irises which are also known as old fashioned Irises, Purple or Pogon Irises.
- Bearded Irises have three beards as shown in the photo.
- Barbara's introduction to Irises was via her grandmother's compost heap where old fashioned purple bearded Irises had grown unexpectedly and she fell in love with them.

- Irises were hybridised after World War 11 and there are thousands of colours and choices.
- Iris Pallida is a grown for the root (rhizome) and is used in perfumery
- Small Irises flower first in the season and are those that are less than 40cm tall (dwarf)
- Intermediate follow the dwarf Iris and are in turn followed by the tall Irises which can be up to 1.2 metres tall
- Dwarf Irises require a cold winter to flower and will therefore flower in the Southern Highlands but tall Irises will tolerate a bigger range of temperature
- Irises are "flowers of the rainbow" - **Iris**, the rainbow messenger of the Greek goddess Hera.
- Hybridised iris must have good qualities to be registered. They must be unique and have a pattern which has not been seen before so breeders go for colour and form.
- A top quality stem will have four or five flowers on the spike.

How do you use them in the garden?

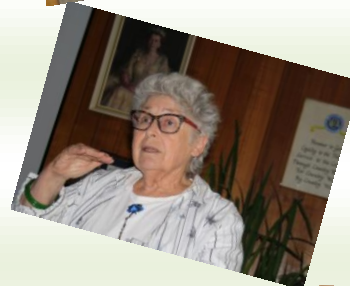
- Similar growing needs to roses so they are compatible with roses. Bearded irises are very drought tolerant. Michael and Barbara have found that they are surviving the new climate and can cope with hot summers and cold winters. Irises originate in climates with rocky poor soil. Bearded Iris hate damp feet.
- Grow well with lupins in some places. Look great with double aquilegias and with lavender.
- Trial garden at Millthorpe. In Australia the hybridisation is done with tweezers manually and a bloom can usually be achieved in about two years. There are 2500 new irises registered each year.
- Black Irises cannot be bred but there are some very dark purples being bred

aimed for. They have a rhizome. Ensata love a rich medium. Japanese are deciduous so it is important not to submerge the rhizome in winter because being deciduous they will rot if left in water. The trial gardens are at Everglades. One plant had 73 spikes after three years growth.

- **Iris Laevigata** are also Japanese Irises. They have variegated foliage and flower later. They don't have as much of a colour range as Ensata Irises. Laevigatas do well in ponds in big pots. Rhizome does not mind being submerged.
- Dutch Iris - these have bulbs and are annuals - Iris x Hollandica known as Dutch iris
- Reticulate Iris. Flowers Spring or late winter and is known as Winter Iris

Other types of Iris

- **Beardless Iris Louisiana** - Beardless love having damp feet. Not terribly demanding but do need weekly water. They have the same water requirement as vegetable growing. Louisiana come from Louisiana. Full Eclipse is a very deep dark purple. Sinfonietta is beautiful blue. Frogs like them. Dean Lee is rich rusty colour while Heather Pryor is a pinky colour. Louisianas are all about colour. White blue, pink, Stop and Go is a red one. They bloom about the same time as the tall bearded Iris. They are evergreen, hardy and disease free.
- **Ensata (Japanese)** Ensata can get very tall and are mostly grown in pots. They bloom after tall bearded. The bloom under the first bloom grows up so that the next flower is on top. This is what is



Relatives of Iris : Dietes - Orange drops; Patersonia Sericea; neomarica caerulea.

- Australia has no true Iris. True Irises are all from northern hemisphere. The closest to an Australian Iris is the Patersonia Sericeae.

For more information visit: www.irissocietynsw.org.au

(Please note: These points were taken in haste and I cannot guarantee the accuracy. Alas many points were missed. – Jo)

FEATURE GARDEN OF THE MONTH

GLEASTON COTTAGE, RENWICK



Five and a half years ago we sold our home in Bowral leaving behind what we considered a beautiful garden with over 150 roses, mature trees (Plane tree, Tulip tree, Magnolia, Blue Cedar, Maple trees, Golden Elm, Claret Ash, several types of Wattles, many shrubs and gardens full of Daffodils and Tulips, a big pond full of Water lilies and a replica of Monet's bridge over the pond. 22 years of development.



We built a new house in the then new village of Renwick. A new start.

We did not want a garden full of roses: Four out the front of the house and possibly six out the back.



Iceberg



Raised beds prevents the drowning of roses

To the planting, anyone who gardens at Renwick would know the soil is not soil but compacted rubble that has to be dug with a crow bar.



In full bloom the roses are a joy to behold

So you fill the holes with imported garden mix from the Landscape supplier and plant your roses. Then it rains, and what happens, the holes you planted your roses in just fill with water and it stays there for a week. The roses are drowning because all the rubble on the site has been compacted and will not drain.

Back to the drawing board and plan some drainage for the site, then dig it (thank goodness it's only a small site 784 sqM) then lay the drainage and run a line down to the front kerb, and while you are at it install an automatic sprinkler system.

Then set about making some planter boxes, remove the roses and replant the roses into the

planter boxes located over the holes that would not drain previously. Success, no more drowning roses.



All worth the effort to have this beautiful Just Joey

Then set about raising all the gardens around the boundary of the site. No big trees this time around, a bit over raking up leaves from deciduous trees at Bowral.

After five and a half years, sixty roses (someone must have come in during the nights and planted them), but they are an absolute source of joy when they are in full bloom.



Who could

live without Double Delight?

There was a requirement by Landcom that we have some Australian Native plants, and we had to submit a plan showing where we would plant them for their approval. Having planted a Native garden I have become a fan. They are drought tolerant; I only watered them during the first six months and have not watered them since. There is always a plant in flower and they attract all types of birds and always bees.



Kings Park Special provides a welcome home for bees

The rest of the garden is now maturing and in another four or five years should give us as much satisfaction as our old Bowral garden.

We now have a Home and Garden, not just a house.



Hannah Ray- Callistemon viminalis

Article and Garden by Peter and Robyn Miller



Fill your home with the sweet scent of roses using a simple four ingredient recipe for scented candles. This recipe can easily be modified to make candles with the scent of your favourite essential oil.

If you buy a candle-making kit from a hobby or candle shop, follow the packet instructions for quantities.

You Will Need

- 350 g paraffin wax
- 35 g stearin (helps the wax to harden)
- 1 sachet pink candle dye powder
- 20 drops rose essential oil

What to Do

1. Prepare the candle moulds according to the manufacturer's instructions.
2. Melt the wax in a double boiler over a low heat.
3. Melt the stearin and dye in a second double boiler, and then add rose essential oil.
4. Stir in the stearin mixture.
5. Mould the candles and trim the wicks, according to the manufacturer's instructions.
6. Polish the hardened candles with cotton wool that has been dipped in rose essential oil.



(Recipe and instruction copied from internet. Please use caution if attempting this recipe)

Rose Cake - perfect for a Christmas celebration



- 350g butter, softened
- 500g golden caster sugar
- 6 large eggs
- 200g full-fat natural yogurt
- 500g plain flour
- 2 tsp baking powder
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 1 tsp rosewater

For the rose syrup, icing and cream

- 140 gms caster sugar
- 1-2 tsp rosewater (depending on taste)
- 85gms raspberries, defrosted if frozen, plus 100gms to decorate
- 250gms icing sugar
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 300 ml double cream
- rose petal pieces and crystallised rose petals (the internet will tell you how) to decorate

Method

1. Heat oven to 160C/140C fan/gas 3. Grease and line the base and sides of 3 x 20cm round loose-bottomed cake tins with baking parchment. Tip all the ingredients for the cake into a large bowl and beat with an electric whisk until well combined. Divide the mixture between the 3 cake tins and smooth the tops. Bake for 45 mins, swapping the tins halfway through so they cook evenly. Leave to cool for 10 mins in the tins, then remove and transfer to a wire rack to cool completely.
2. To make the rose syrup, put the sugar in a pan with 100ml water and heat until the sugar has dissolved. Turn up the heat and bubble for 1-2 mins, then

remove from the heat. Add the rose water: start with 1 tsp and taste, as some varieties are much stronger than others – just be careful as the syrup will be really hot. Spoon half the syrup over the 3 sponges and set aside.

3. Add 2 tbsp of the syrup to the raspberries and crush them with a fork. Push the raspberries through a sieve into a bowl and discard the seeds. Sift in the icing sugar and mix to a smooth icing. In a second bowl, add another 2 tbsp of the syrup and the vanilla to the cream and whisk until it holds soft peaks. Chill until needed.
4. To assemble, place one cake, flat-side up, on a plate or cake stand, and top with half the cream and a third of the remaining raspberries (see tips, below). Sandwich another cake on top and add the remaining cream, another third of the raspberries, then the last cake. Smooth the raspberry icing over the top, letting it drizzle down the sides. To decorate, we used a mixture of rose petal pieces (available from cookshops or online), homemade crystallised rose petals (see the internet for how to) and the reserved raspberries.

Recipe from *Good Food* magazine, [May 2013](#)



Song of the Rose

by *Elizabeth Barrett Browning*

Attributed to Sapho

From "ACHILLES TATIUS "

If Zeus chose us a King of the flowers in his mirth,
He would call to the Rose and would royally crown it;
For the Rose, ho, the Rose! is the grace of the earth,
Is the light of the plants that are growing upon it:
For the Rose, ho, the Rose! is the eye of the flowers,
Is the blush of the meadows that feel themselves fair,
Is the lightning of beauty that strikes through the
bowers

On pale lovers who sit in the glow unaware.

Ho, the Rose breathes of love! ho, the Rose lifts the
cup

To the red lips of Cypris invoked for a guest!

Ho, the Rose, having curled its sweet leaves for the
world,

Takes delight in the motion its petals keep up,

As they laugh to the wind as it laughs from the west!



????????????????

How do we manage in drought?

An article about how the Canadians have been managing.



As California enters its 4th year of drought, we will be living under mandatory state water restrictions – the first ever for the state. The restrictions will affect mostly urban areas, and therefore what happens in the garden.

Roses in the Drought was also the topic of a talk I attended a while ago, before the restrictions were established. It was a very timely presentation by Jolene Adams, the current president of the American Rose Society. She was speaking at my local Public Library. What she presented was not only valid for roses, but for most plants when water supply is very limited.

When dealing with drought, you are dealing with water stress in the plant. You want to reduce the water loss of your plants and increase the efficiency of their water uptake. When water is limited, plants do not have the energy to sustain normal growing so you should expect less than stellar results, but you will still be able to keep your plants alive while they are waiting for better (and wetter) days.

I always learn (or re-learn) a lot during this type of presentation. For me it was the concept of layered composting that most avid organic gardeners are very aware of. The use of compost helps a lot in drought by helping the development of the mycorrhizae fungi which are the biggest factor in water conservation in soils.

When composting, you can achieve the best results when you alternate a nitrogen layer (food and waste) with a carbon layer (paper, egg cartons, dry leaves, etc.). Since the nitrogen layer tends to release unsavoury smells, covering it with a carbon layer reduces the effect to almost nothing. This is very important in an urban

environment where your neighbours may not appreciate your efforts otherwise.

Some of the other tips are below (and are not just for roses):

Water deep, slowly and infrequently.

This helps develop a strong and deep root system that will take up water more efficiently. If you cannot use drip irrigation, try to spot water as much as possible and keep the water close to your plants.

Large plants will need more water than small ones.

So climbing roses will need more water than Hybrid Tea roses which will in turn require more water than Miniature roses.

Water early in the morning.

This is a key point. Plants will uptake the water more efficiently, and it will reduce the chance of diseases. Evening watering results in water sitting on the leaves, which together with darkness and the cooler overnight temperatures creates the perfect conditions for fungal diseases such as mildews and rust.

Use mulch.

Lots of mulch. Mulch helps with water retention, reduces evaporation, and when it decomposes naturally over time, it increases the number of micorrhizae (see above).

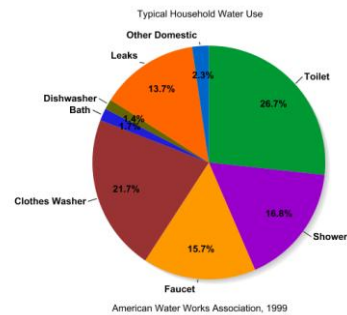
Quit feeding.

Feeding increases plant growth and therefore the use of water. Also too much feeding with too little water can result in salt build up in the soil. You can feed in early spring, but should quit as soon as water availability is reduced.

Get rid of weeds.

Weeds are usually adapted to the climate and are very efficient at taking resources away from plants. By removing them, you leave more water available for the plants you want to keep. It is also good exercise.

If the situation gets extreme and your community implements drastic water regulations, you can use wastewater from cooking or showers, etc. The chart below illustrates how we typically use water at home. There is a good possibility that you can reuse some of it to water your plants if needed.



Well-established plants need less water than newly planted ones.

Nobody really knows how much water a rose needs — I have heard they can use up to 10 gallons per week in peak summer, but then again it will depend on the type of rose, if it is grafted or own root, how good or poor the soil is, etc. However, there is anecdotal evidence that suggests some roses are more tolerant to water stress, including [The Knock Out® Rose](#). Keep in mind though, that they are not succulents and will need watering once in a while to keep blooming.

There is a lot of work being done these days on how to increase drought tolerance of roses, but the results will probably take years, if not decades, until they are available for your garden. So the final advice when you are dealing with roses during a drought: use common sense! (lifted from the internet)



IF YOU HAVE MANAGED TO GET THIS FAR INTO THE NEWSLETTER YOU ARE AN ENTHUSIASTIC MEMBER AND YOU WILL WANT TO ATTEND THE CHRISTMAS FUNCTION!

SO A REMINDER THAT THE ROVING CHRISTMAS LUNCH IS TO BE HELD ON

WEDNESDAY 11TH DECEMBER IN RENWICK

SEE THE ATTACHED FLYER FOR DETAILS. PLEASE RSVP ASAP

PLEASE BRING A PLATE TO SHARE

THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 2019 MEETING WILL BE CIRCULATED IN JANUARY 2020.

The next meeting of the Southern Highlands Region Rose Society will be held on Wednesday 19th February 2020 in the CWA Rooms, Mittagong. Guest speakers will be Rob and Peter Miller. We will enjoy morning tea and catch up with Christmas news. With luck, we will have had some rain by then and will be able to tell happy tales about how many roses we managed to keep alive in the drought. Please put it in your diary now.

The Newsletter editor is looking for a garden to feature in February. Are you hiding your light under a bushel? Members would love to know your garden story. A courtyard or an acre – all gardens are good. I'm happy to take the photos and will even write the story if you feel you cannot (using information provided by you, of course).

. Call me on 0408958866 or email me: jo.babb@bigpond.com



Jo Babb Secretary/Newsletter Editor

And I will make thee beds of roses,

And a thousand fragrant posies -

Christopher Marlowe (1564-1593) from 'A Passionate Shepherd to his Love.'

Don't forget to get your Neutrog orders in. Orders accepted up to 16/12/19



The Rose Society of NSW Inc
 ABN: 91 336 797 824 www.nsw.rose.org.au
 www.facebook.com/rosesocietynsw

Invites you to Kiama to celebrate
Roses by the Seaside
 2020 NATIONAL ROSE
 CHAMPIONSHIPS AND CONFERENCE
 23rd to 26th October 2020 - At the Pavilion Kiama



Sponsors Strategic Sponsor



More information about this exciting event as it comes to hand



And last but not least.....



Roses from the garden at Wingecarribee Shire Council Civic Centre.

As yet there is no set date but it is likely to be before Christmas. If you are interested in re-homing an old rose please send me an email (jo.babb@bigpond.com). I will compile a list of interested people. Please note that you will need your own transport (possibly a trailer) and the date will be absolutely non negotiable when we are given it and it could be at short notice. The roses will be dug out with large root balls so you will need some muscles to help you unload and very large holes and plenty of water at the other end. There are 43 roses but some are so large/old it is hard to imagine that they will be successfully moved in summer. When I have a list of those interested I will keep in touch with you so include your contact details, please. As some will be more popular than others I am devising a fair way to distribute the roses. Keeping the roses going at this time of year and in this weather will be no easy task so please give it due consideration when answering. Not a job for the faint hearted. Lots of Seamungus may help.