

Southern Highlands Rose Society Newsletter

October 2019



Robin Bible Geraniums and Pelargoniums



On Wednesday 18 September Robin delighted us with her informative talk on geraniums and pelargoniums. Although I took copious notes and wrote furiously I think I missed a lot of what Robin was conveying to us. So I will just put in a few points that Robin made and hope she will forgive me for any omissions and/or inaccuracies.

Robin's collection is very extensive. I heard her say that her collection goes back to 1648 but I think that must be one of my first inaccuracies. I would love to be corrected on this.

In Europe geraniums and pelargoniums are used as annuals whereas here we can use them as perennials. In Europe some growers are able to take the plants to a glass house during winter for safe keeping and reuse them in summer.

The difference between a pelargonium and a geranium is in the seed pod. Many plants that we describe as geraniums are in fact pelargoniums.

There are many different types and they can be used for many different effects and positions with ivy pelargoniums even being used as a hedge. Erodiums have scented leaves and can be used in cooking: coconut, lemon, apple nutmeg and peppermint. They are great for confusing pests with the array of scent.

Pelargoniums do not have invasive roots and if grown in a pot require being off the ground for aeration and like a cover of sugar cane mulch.

Many varieties originate in South Africa with many being at their best in winter and being dormant in summer. Some store water and have thick stems.

Geraniums like sun and shade and once established don't need much water. Three feeds a year of a teaspoon of potash, dolomite and Osmocote will meet their fertilising needs.

Robin described her method of taking cuttings and is a fan of using methylated spirits to seal the wound.



Peter Miller thanked Robin for her presentation. Members were very pleased to be able to purchase some different and exquisite plants from Robin's sale table. Many thanks Robin.



My Love Is Like a Red Red Rose

Robbie Burns (1759 -1796)

O, my luv'e's like a red, red rose,
That's newly sprung in June.
O my luv'e's like the melodie,
That's sweetly played in tune.

Kathy's Harvest

(Story and photos supplied by Neutrog.
Previously published on Facebook)



Kathy, her husband and 5 year old daughter (who is also a very helpful gardening apprentice) live on a suburban block in Melbourne's eastern suburbs, along with 2 Bengal cats and a pond of fish.

Kathy has a large following on her 'kathysharvest' Instagram page. "I've always had a passion for gardening" says Kathy. "I think it came from my late mother, as she loved to take cuttings from other people's gardens when we were on our walks 🤔. I didn't study horticulture until I was in my late twenties, whilst still working full time in the banking industry. Being determined, I never doubted that I could manage both jobs together. I just love growing my own food as it tastes so much better. Growing chemical-free is so easy and you know exactly what you're eating. I'm planning on going back to school next year to study landscape design, as you're never too old to study."

Kathy says she's not sure when she started using Neutrog, but remembers being attracted to the names of the products. After looking into how much research goes into every product, she was keen to trial. Kathy started using Whoflungdung when it was first released, along with GOGO Juice on her veggie beds and seedlings. "I immediately saw a huge difference in the health of these plants, and have since used Bush Tucker on my natives, and have just

applied Gyganic on my veggies” said Kathy. We’ll follow up with Kathy in a few weeks to get her feedback on Gyganic.

You can find Kathy on Instagram @kathysharvest, and Neutrog @neutrogaustralia



Feature Garden of the Month

Selected because it was the only garden willing to be featured – certainly not because it is a good garden. Whose garden? The garden of the hapless newsletter producer!



About Whoflungdung - Whoflungdung is a biologically activated, nutrient rich, weed free, absorbent, super mulch. It’s composted, inoculated with eNcase and filled with nutrients, so that when added to soil it introduces a wide diversity of beneficial bacteria. These beneficial bacteria readily proliferate through the soil, acting as a barrier/deterrent to pathogenic bacteria, providing a safe environment for healthy plant growth.

Additionally, Whoflungdung is sustainable - it is a recycled waste product, made up of straw and wood shavings screened from chicken manure. In many instances Neutrog supplies the fertiliser that grows the crop from which the straw is sourced...now that's sustainability! Most significantly, Whoflungdung reduces, if not eliminates, the nitrogen draw-down which is often reflected in plants after mulch has been applied. Apart from reducing weeds, many users also happily report that blackbirds don’t like it.

I’m married to a non gardener. He has many redeeming features including that he is sometimes a willing labourer. It is just as well because we moved to our present house about three years ago and we haven’t stopped working since! The property had had only one set of owners who lived there for forty years until they were no more. And clearly they loved it.

The inside of the house was relatively easy – builders, painters and curtain makers made easy work of that. But the garden was to be my hobby. No paid workers at all. The garden had good bones. At some point it had been much loved and beautifully set up. A steep block, the former owner had installed tiers and wonderful drainage.

Some rather ordinary looking but very affective concrete testing cylinders had been used to create retaining walls all over the garden.



The garden in the photo above was a jungle of agapanthus (throughout the whole yard and self sown), African daisy and lots and lots of wildly growing succulents, self sown pine trees and all overgrown. Out they all came. Ute load after ute load all off to the green waste (How I laughed when I saw nurseries selling for quite large prices agapanthus, succulents and daisies. I was paying tipping fees to get rid of them.) Since then the garden has seen the re-emergence of camellias, azaleas, daffodils, cumquat and other things – some uncovered but many added. It is one of my favourite spaces in the garden. Many hours of digging by the willing labourer saw the huge amount of asparagus weed removed. I have rendered many of the concrete cylinder retaining walls and painted them and although they are still a bit rustic looking they are much better. (the willing labourer can't do rendering because of hand surgery but those heavy bags of render would have been the devil without him)

The rest of the garden was in a similar state. Getting rid of unwanted African daisies is going to be a lifelong pursuit. They are the hardiest of all plants. I have allowed some of the prettier succulents to come back but all the agapanthus have been removed. Lots and lots of roses have gone in and the least attractive of the retaining walls has been covered by a stone and wire fence

making it look much nicer. I have added hundreds of daffodils which are planted under newly planted weeping maples in front of one of the less appealing retaining walls. The removal of an old yew hedge which refused to be rehabilitated and in its place the panting of roses, irises, lilies and lots of annuals adds a great splash of colour. Lots of pruning, feeding, trimming and planting and it is now, in my very humble opinion, a very pretty garden.



The addition of a fish pond and pergola (yes, we did have to have that built for us) and a water feature have enhanced the whole garden. My willing labourer is awaiting the next project (vegetable garden enclosure, I think) but in the meantime I keep him busy with those pesky African daisies.





PATRICK
of COONAWARRA

NEW ROSÉ Vintage 2019

“After countless customer requests (mostly from my Mum and my wife) to bring back our Rosé, it is great to have one back in the range. In the early days our Toccas Rosé wines had a cult following and were enjoyed by many.

I have evolved the style since those early wines and crafted this dry, delicate Rosé to complement any light lunch. It’s a style that I like to drink, being dry, interesting and refreshing. The grapes were picked, crushed and left on skins for 8 hours to enhance the floral aromas and berry fruit flavour, whilst releasing some of the vibrant colour.”
Luke Tocaciu, Winemaker



...se funds towards the 2021 WFRS World
...osé wine from the Limestone Coast Region represents amazing
...at a special price of \$13.50 per bottle for rose society members.

HOW TO ORDER:

Online: Visit this link: www.patrickofcoonawarra.com/rose

Phone: (08) 87373687 **Email:** vip@patrickofcoonawarra.com

Mail: Patrick of Coonawarra, P.O. Box 11, Coonawarra SA 5263

*\$13.50 per bottle in any mixed 6 or 12 pack, including freight



Photo courtesy of Jane Stockel from Chelsea Gardens 2019. Jane has provided a few beautiful photos but my skills are not up to including them for you.



Southern Highlands Rose Society

General Meeting

18 September 2019

CWA Hall, Mittagong – 10.30am

Minutes

Chair: Peter Miller

Secretary: Joanne Babb

Members in attendance: 18 (as per attendance book) **Apologies:** 7 **Visitors:** 2

Peter Miller welcomed members and guests and introduced himself and the new executive.

Peter then called Colin Hollis and Carol McVeigh to the front and thanked them for holding the Southern Highlands Branch together over the past 12 months. A small presentation was made to each in recognition of their efforts especially in travelling long distances to attend.

Peter then welcomed and introduced Robin Bible, guest speaker. Robin gave a very interesting presentation on geraniums and pelargoniums. She described their varieties, their history, their functionality and the care and maintenance. Robin has been growing plants for over 40 years and clearly has an enormous expertise in the area.

Robin was presented with a small gift in appreciation of her generosity in addressing the meeting.

Members then broke for morning tea and had an opportunity to look closely at Robin's plants and make purchases.

Morning tea

General Meeting resumed

The minutes of the meeting of 21 August had not been distributed previously and were tabled and read. There being no corrections it was moved that the minutes be accepted.

Moved: Annette Lane Seconded: Noel Dickinson

There was no business arising from the minutes

It was suggested that the minutes of the AGM be received however the meeting did not consider this necessary. No action was taken on minutes of AGM.

Treasurer's Report - was tabled and read out by Treasurer Annette Lane. Annette reported that all signatories for the account had been finalised with Westpac bank.

Annette reported that the Branch has a closing balance of \$3,026.11

General Business

- Delegates to NSW Rose Society State Council meetings. Peter called for nominations Noel Dickinson nominated Peter Miller, Annette Lane and Joanne Babb. All accepted Peter then called for three alternate delegates.

Janet Playfair Redman, Marilyn Dickinson and Robyn Miller accepted. ,

Moved: Ros Parsons Seconded: Noel Dickinson carried

- Non financial members will receive a final reminder that memberships are due by the end of September. They will be reminded that the branch continues to function and that they will no longer receive correspondence or be eligible for Neutrog orders.
- Peter Miller, who took delivery of the large Neutrog order thanked members for collecting their orders promptly.
- Members were asked to consider sending in suggestions and articles for the Newsletter
- The secretary told members that U3A is currently setting up the program for 2020 and if anyone would like to run a garden class, she thought it would be well received.
- Members were requested to email the secretary with any suggestions for a Christmas function and the committee will consider and present a proposal to the meeting
- Neutrog has requested that members who use the products write a review and if possible include some pictures that will then be used for marketing purposes. Any articles can be sent to the secretary who will forward them to the marketing team at Neutrog. Alternatively articles can be sent to marketing@neutrog.com.au

There was no business from the floor other than to include a "question and answer" section on rose/garden issues in the meeting.

Upcoming events:

Orchid Show – Mittagong RSL – 28th September 2019

How to Stage your Roses – A hands on workshop- 6 October 2019

Bus trip – Southern Highlands Garden Club

Rose Show – Southern Highlands Garden Club

Australian Rose Convention – last weekend in October 2020 - Kiama

Raffle – there were two prizes – 1st - tray of seedlings and a hand tool. 2nd – A pot of planted pansies and garden gloves. The raffle returned \$85.00

First Prize was won by Gwynneth Watson. Second prize was won by Marilyn Dickinson

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 16 October 2019 at CWA Hall, Mittagong at 10.30am

Up Coming Events

- **Next branch meeting: 16 October 2019**

CWA Hall, Mittagong. 10.30am - Please consider bringing a plate to share for morning tea
At this stage I am unsure whether or not we will have a guest speaker (the scheduled speaker has requested a change of date). If not we will have a general discussion about rose care and other garden issues led by Colin Hollis. By now some of you will have some roses so don't forget the table display. Please also bring any other flowers/plants etc that you may like to seek advice about.

- **AGM of Rose Society of NSW –**

Sunday 17th November at 9.30 a.m. at Macarthur Centre for Sustainable Living, 1 Mt Annan Road Mt. Annan.

All members are invited to attend and financial members are able to vote at the meeting.
Those unable to attend the AGM in person can vote by proxy through their regional delegate on the official Rose Society of NSW Inc form, or send a confidential proxy vote by post to the Returning Officer.

These forms will be made available to financial members at least 3 weeks prior to the AGM, once it is determined whether there may be more than one nomination for a position (i.e. after 11th October when nominations are due).

- **Mayfield Spring Garden Spring Festival 6 October to 26 October**

<https://mayfieldgarden.com.au/whatson/>

Don't miss the opportunity to see these beautiful gardens at Oberon. The whole garden is only open once or twice a year so if you want to see the best of it you have only until 26 October to do so.

Southern Highlands Open Gardens

<https://www.visitsouthernhighlands.com.au/events/open-gardens>

Don't forget our own local gardens in all their glory.

Crookwell Garden Festival and Garden Lovers Market -9th & 10th November 2019-

<https://www.crookwellgardenfestival.com/>

Riversdale – Goulburn – Rare Plants Market – 3 November 2019- 10.00 to -3.00

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/event/riversdale-rare-plants-growers-garden-fair/>



Eustachia – 2019 Jane Stockel

My apologies Jane that I could not include all your lovely photos



An unearthed treasure in my garden