

Southern Highlands Regional Rose Society

March 2026 Newsletter



Signature Rose Best Friend

Welcome to Autumn Rosarians Friends,

Our gardens are truly saturated after early Autumn downpours.

Rosalie Vine was a delightful presenter last month. I am sure members have gained valuable information on choosing roses for the show bench. Rosalie's recipe for extending vase life for flowers will be used by everyone. A must for preparing roses for Rose Shows.

So much is happening this month. The most exciting news is that the Wingecarribee Garden team will be commencing work on the Renwick Community Garden the week of our meeting.

The team led by Reece Le Jeune will be introduced just before morning tea break.

We have four guests speaking at the March Meeting.

Our NSW President Colin Hollis and Rose breeder Gary Wootton will be giving valuable insights into Community Rose Gardens. Gary has generously donated several roses for the Renwick Community Rose Garden.

Stefica Bikesh our NSW Secretary will be informing us about NSW National Rose Convention and Rose Show hosted by Macarthur Rose Society to be held in Camden Civic Centre from 16th to 18th October. Stefica will be outlining the Convention Programme and requesting our assistance.

On Monday 19th October Convention Rose Society attendees have been invited to a Southern Highlands bus tour. First stop will be the Renwick Community Rose Garden at 9.45. Our Rose Society will provide morning tea and a rose garden tour.

Finally, Intan Kallus the NSW Rose Society website manager will discuss the new website she has organised to commence in April and its facilitation.

A very full and interesting agenda.

Exciting times!

Looking forward to seeing you on Wednesday March 18th.

For the love of the Rose.



Your chairperson,

Annette



Gold on Gold bred by our Guest speaker Gary Wootton. Gary has donated two for Renwick Community Rose Garden.

Warren Millington

Each month we will introduce an Australian Rose Breeder whose roses will feature in the Renwick Community Rose Garden.

Warren Millington is one of Australia's foremost modern day rose breeders.

Living in Deniliquin after moving from Melbourne to establish a landscape garden business, Warren was ideally placed to breed roses.

Warren's concept is a rose should look good at bud as well as at full blown stage and most importantly have perfume.

He became known as "The Wizard of Oz" famous for developing hardy fragrant roses suited to tough Australian conditions.

To accomplish this Warren has crossed old world roses with modern roses.

He has bred over 300 rose varieties. These include Byzantium, Better Tomoro, Colour Buffet, Dinky Di, Great Southern Sky, Minas, Morpheus and "175 Anniversary".

Over the last couple of years Warren has introduced Asian roses into his breeding programme as a means of obtaining hybrid vigour, but most importantly resistance to fungal diseases prevalent in European cultivars.

We have Morpheus for Renwick Community Rose Garden and are very hopeful of obtaining other Warren Millington bred roses.

Morpheus rose bred By Warren Millington and donated by Mittagong Garden Club to be planted in Renwick Community Rose Garden.



Australian Rose Breeder Warren Millington with "175 Anniversary Rose" given to Collin Hollis to be planted at NSW Government House honouring 175 years of government. This rose is medium pink colour and highly fragrant.

Annette

Members Choice Show Bench

Single Bloom



Maurice Utrillo

1st: Roz Mulligan



Best Friend

2nd: Marilyn Dickenson

Miniatures



Dwarf Fairy

1st: Annette Lane



Sugar Plum Fairy

2nd: Intan Kallus

Floral Bowl



Magic Show

1st: Annette Lane



2nd Debbie Darling

The Show Bench

Each month at our meetings we encourage you to bring along your beautiful rose blooms to share your joy with fellow members. A single bloom and/or a vase arrangement featuring the rose, miniatures and minifloras will enhance our meeting discussion.

Members are asked to vote for their favourite presentation.

Tallies are added up at the end of each year with the winners in each category receiving a garden centre voucher.

2026 Advocate Store Deadlines

Winter – Ordering Deadline 13th April 2026

Spring – Ordering Deadline 13th July 2026

Summer – Ordering Deadline 12th October 2026



“Of all flowers, me thinks a rose is best.” William Shakespeare

