

Newsletter

February 2026

THE ROSE SOCIETY OF NSW UPPER NORTH SHORE & HILLS (UNSH) REGIONAL

UNSH Signature Roses



Kardinal



Sombreuil

Upcoming events

20th March, 1 pm - 4 pm

Meet & Greet with David Austin Roses -
Presented by Stefanie Williams
Green E Roses

21st March, 9 am

Mother Earth Autumn Fair
Eden Gardens

Sydney Edible Garden Trail
Kentridge Gardens

22nd March, 11 am

UNSH March Meeting

4th April

Second session, Royal Easter Show

8th April

Fourth session, Royal Easter Show

8th April

Sixth session, Royal Easter Show

11th April, 10.30 am

Autumn Open Day
East Coast Rose Trial Garden

24th - 26th April

Hawkesbury Show

30th May, 2 pm

Macarthur Region Rose Society
40th Anniversary



Next Meeting details:

**Sunday 22th March 2026,
11 am**

**@ Paul McKenzie's home,
121 Foxall Road,
North Kellyville,
NSW 2155**

ACTION REQUIRED BY MEMBERS:

At the last State Council meeting it was decided to put the Rose Society membership onto the server of our webpage holder so members would be able to renew via our website and also new members could join and pay at the one point. If members do not want their details on the server please send an email to unshofficial@gmail.com by 5pm Thursday 19 March 2026.

If no email received by due date details will be uploaded to the server

Monthly meetings are held on the 3rd Saturday/Sunday of each month



Message from the chair

David Smith, Chairman - UNSH Regional

Dear Members,

Our recent gathering marked a wonderful milestone as it was our **first meeting for 2026**, and what a delightful way it was to begin the year together. It was heartening to see so many members attend and share in the enthusiasm that continues to make our Society such a welcoming and vibrant community.

A very special **thank you to Muthu** for so generously hosting the meeting at her home. Her hospitality was greatly appreciated and provided a warm and relaxed setting for our first get-together of the year.

Members were treated to a splendid display on the benching table, with **so many beautiful flowers** on show. The quality and variety of blooms were a real credit to those who brought them along and set a very high standard for the year ahead.

We were also fortunate to enjoy a **most interesting and delicious presentation by Lynn and Linda**, who shared their knowledge and passion for cooking with Australian native foods. Their talk was both informative and inspiring, and the flavours we sampled certainly added something special to the afternoon. Thank you both for such an enjoyable and memorable session.

March is shaping up to be a **very busy and exciting month** for our members. In addition to our **March meeting**, we encourage everyone to support **Chris & Lynn Jones** at their Open Edible Garden, being held on 21st and 22nd March. We also note that **Mark Massey** from **Mother Earth** will be holding his **Autumn Plant Fair on Saturday 21st March at Eden Gardens**, which promises to be another excellent opportunity to gather ideas, plants, and inspiration for the coming season.

Thank you all for your continued support and participation. I look forward to catching up with many of you throughout the month and sharing in these wonderful events.
Warm regards,

Warm regards,

David

Chairman, UNSH Rose Society



Treasurer's report

UNSH Region of NSW Rose Society

Reconciliation

Cash At Start December 2025		\$7,987.19
Add Income December – January 2026		\$357.00
Less Expenses December – February 2026	-\$1,741.51	<u>\$1,384.51</u>
Closing Balance as at 28 February 2026		<u>\$6,602.69</u>



Market Stall

A monthly UNSHkin fundraiser, to share + enjoy



Our Market stall is where we share or grab a nice bargain! Each month at our meetings the market stall is set up and bountifully laden by our UNSH members. It's the best place to grab a new little plant/seedling/cutting, or yummy local produce.



You can donate: We'd love you to contribute if you have some plants or produce to share. Bring along plants that you have propagated, special cuttings, surplus bulbs, gardening books, vases, or homemade produce like jams, various kinds of honey, eggs, fruit, and veggies.



Please price-mark your goodies before bringing them. Reminder to kindly set prices to what you think is fair for the item. All Great value! All funds raised go to UNSH.



Persimmon brought by one of our members for the market stall

A Journey into Native Edibles - Lynn Jones & Linda Pine

At our recent society meeting, we were treated to a captivating and delicious presentation by Lynn and Linda, two experts who have spent the last decade foraging and experimenting with native Australian edibles. Their philosophy is simple: they use what they can pick or forage themselves, ensuring every ingredient is fresh and authentic.

The Gems of the Garden: Finger Limes and Myrtles

Linda shared her "trial and error" journey with the finger lime, a native citrus known for its unique "pearls" of fruit. While her first attempt involved two

hours of painstaking slicing, she now recommends using a blender (after trimming the bitter tips) to create vibrant marmalades. We learned that varieties range from pink and green-fleshed to the dark purple-skinned "red center" lime. These plants are remarkably versatile and can be grown in pots, provided they are treated with plenty of fertilizer, much like standard citrus.

The air was filled with fragrance as we sampled fresh lemon myrtle and aniseed myrtle. Linda cautioned that commercially bought powders often lose their scent; for the best flavor in teas and baking, she recommends breaking the veins of fresh leaves or grinding your own dried leaves.

The Mighty Bunya Nut

One of the most impressive displays was the Bunya pine cone. These massive cones can weigh up to 10 kilograms, and Linda waits for them to fall naturally before harvesting the nuts inside. She has perfected a method of dehydrating and grinding these nuts to create a naturally gluten-free Bunya nut flour. This flour serves as the base for various treats, including a decadent syrup cake.

Savory Flavours and "To-Die-For" Chutneys

Beyond sweets, the presentation explored savory native herbs like Old Man Saltbush and pepper leaf (Tasmanica). These "earthy" ingredients are excellent for seasoning lamb or creating a crust for salmon and chicken. Linda also touched on the versatility of Lilly Pillies, which make exceptional cordials, jams, and a "to-die-for" chutney.

Taste Test Highlights

The meeting concluded with a spectacular tasting session featuring:

- Bunya Syrup Cake with honey and finger lime pearls.
- Lemon Myrtle Fudge topped with delicate rose petals.
- Chocolate Truffles with macadamia and aniseed myrtle.
- Macadamia and Lemon Myrtle Dukkah served with olive oil.

Further Resources

For those who missed the session or wish to try these recipes at home, Lynn and Linda have contributed to several booklets currently hosted digitally on the Cattai Hills Environment Network (CHEN) website. While their local workshops at Annangrove often book out quickly, keep an eye on the newsletter for future dates and links to their digital resources.



UNSH March 2026 Meeting

Next Meeting Details

Date: Sunday, 22 March 2026

Time: 11:00 AM

Venue: Paul McKenzie's home

Address: 121 Foxall Road, North Kellyville, NSW 2155

Special Lunch Invitation

Prepare your taste buds for a delightful treat! UNSH member Paul McKenzie and his wife Sony are generously hosting a mouthwatering Indian lunch that promises to spice up your day.

MEMBERS ONLY enjoy this feast completely free of charge
Non-member partners are warmly invited to join the fun for just a \$10 contribution.

Please note: No guests this time

RSVP Required

Kindly RSVP before Wednesday, 18 March at 9:00 PM to help us plan the event.

We can't wait to see you there for a wonderful day of friendship, food, and fun!



Meet & Greet with David Austin Roses - Presented by Stefanie Williams

Green E Roses is very proud to be able to present Stefanie Williams from David Austin Roses, UK to our customers. Stefanie has very kindly donating her time and happy to share with you her knowledge and expertise of David Austin Roses.

During this FREE event Stefanie will be speaking on;

- History of David Austin Roses
- Traditional Breeding programme
- Fragrance notes
- How to select your perfect David Austin Roses

An event not to be missed, this is a TICKETED EVENT ONLY.

***please note there is no parking available on the premises for this event.

Meet & Greet with
**DAVID AUSTIN
ROSES**

Presented by Stefanie Williams



DAVID AUSTIN®

Sydney Edible Garden Trail 2026 - March 21/22 & 28/29



Kentrige Gardens has been developed over 25 years. It started as mostly bare horse paddocks on 5 acres and is now a large garden with 44 raised vegetable beds, including some wicking beds. There is an orchard with more than 90 fruit trees. Other plants include flowering natives and trees, lots of camellias and more than 200 roses and 500 metres of hedging. There are also areas of bush tucker plants. Drip irrigation and venturi fertilisation systems are in use throughout the garden.

There is a 15m chicken run for the ISA brown chickens with grapevines planted to provide shade, 14 compost bins, 3 leaf mould bins and 7 worm farms. There are aquatic beds and a raised bed made from old bathtubs and recycled wooden pallets.

The garden is open a few times during the year for various garden groups. Plants and preserves will be for sale. See more photos at Kentrige Gardens on Facebook and Instagram.



MOTHER EARTH AUTUMN PLANT FAIR AND SPEAKER EVENT SAT MARCH 21ST

EDEN GARDENS, 307, LANE COVE ROAD, SYDNEY

DOORS OPEN 9.00am

GENERAL ADMISSION \$5

SPEAKER SERIES and FAIR \$35

SCAN BELOW TO BOOK or Call 02 47774227



**Join us for a fun day of plants, knowledge, food,
coffee and live music**

Stalls

Cacti, Bromeliads, Succulents, Camellias, Cold Climate,
Conifers, Indoor, Natives, Orchids, Tropical, Garden Tools,
Geraniums, Roses, Cottage, Carnivorous, Rhipsalis,
Mushrooms, Garlic, Preserves and Unusual Plants

Speakers

Ali Mentesh, Red Cow Farm, Sutton Forest

Stefanie Williams, David Austin Roses, UK

David Kennedy, Clover Hill Rare Plants and of
Highfields, Little Hartley

Question Time Panel: Mark Massey, Judy Horton and
David Fripp



**MOTHER EARTH GARDEN FAIR AND SPEAKER EVENT
SATURDAY 21ST MARCH
EDEN GARDENS, 307 LANE COVE ROAD, MACQUARIE PARK, SYDNEY
DOORS OPEN 9.00AM**

**Join us for a day of rare plants, roses and expert speakers!
Meet the growers, artisan stallholders, and enjoy great food, coffee and music.**

The Plant Fair has our favourite growers returning and some exciting new stallholders too. Expect Cacti and Succulents, Tropical Plants, Natives, Carnivorous Plants, Camellias, Cold Climate, Roses, Gardening Tools, Indoor Plants, Conifers and Gondwana Plants, Geraniums, Orchids, Collectibles, the Unusual and so much more.

Step inside the story of the iconic Red Cow Farm. **Ali Mentesh** will share the journey through the structural backbones, garden rooms and planting principles that have, over the years, shaped this renowned Southern Highlands garden.

We are joined by **Stefanie Williams**, from David Austin Roses in the UK to give a Rose Masterclass. She will delve into the rich history of this celebrated rose house and guide you through selecting varieties for more shade, containers and, of course, perfume. There will also be a dedicated Fragrance Bar to help you choose your favourite rose.

David Kennedy of Clover Hill Rare Plants and creator of Highfields in the Blue Mountains, will share his wisdom on how climate-wise planting has shaped this magnificent garden.

We are introducing our interactive Question Time with our expert panel of **Mark Massey** owner of Mother Earth Nursery, horticultural legend, **Judy Horton** and celebrated plantsman, **David Fripp**. Pests, problems, diseases, design, botany, plant identification – join the audience and ask away! We just ask that any plant material is brought in a sealed bag!



BUY YOUR TICKETS HERE!

General Admission \$5

Admission and Speaker Series \$35



Open Day Invitation

You are invited to join us for the
Autumn Open Day of the

East Coast Rose Trial Garden

On Saturday, 11 April, 2026

10.30am to 1.00pm

Winbourne, 1315 Mulgoa Road, Mulgoa

Enjoy the morning/afternoon with like-minded rosarians.
Find out how the roses are assessed and cared for.
You will be given an opportunity to judge the roses
for yourself. Best at the time of your visit.
Judges choice winner will receive a prize.

Some Australian Bred Roses will be available for sale.
There will be raffles and raffle prizes,
For further information—

eastcoastrosetrialgarden@gmail.com



Macarthur Regional Rose Society

Please join us

as we celebrate our

40th Anniversary

with a High Tea

and an afternoon of pure enjoyment as we share
memories of our Society, 1986 - 2026

2:00pm Saturday 30th May 2026

Community Hall, Taara Gardens
25 Estonian Road, Thirlmere

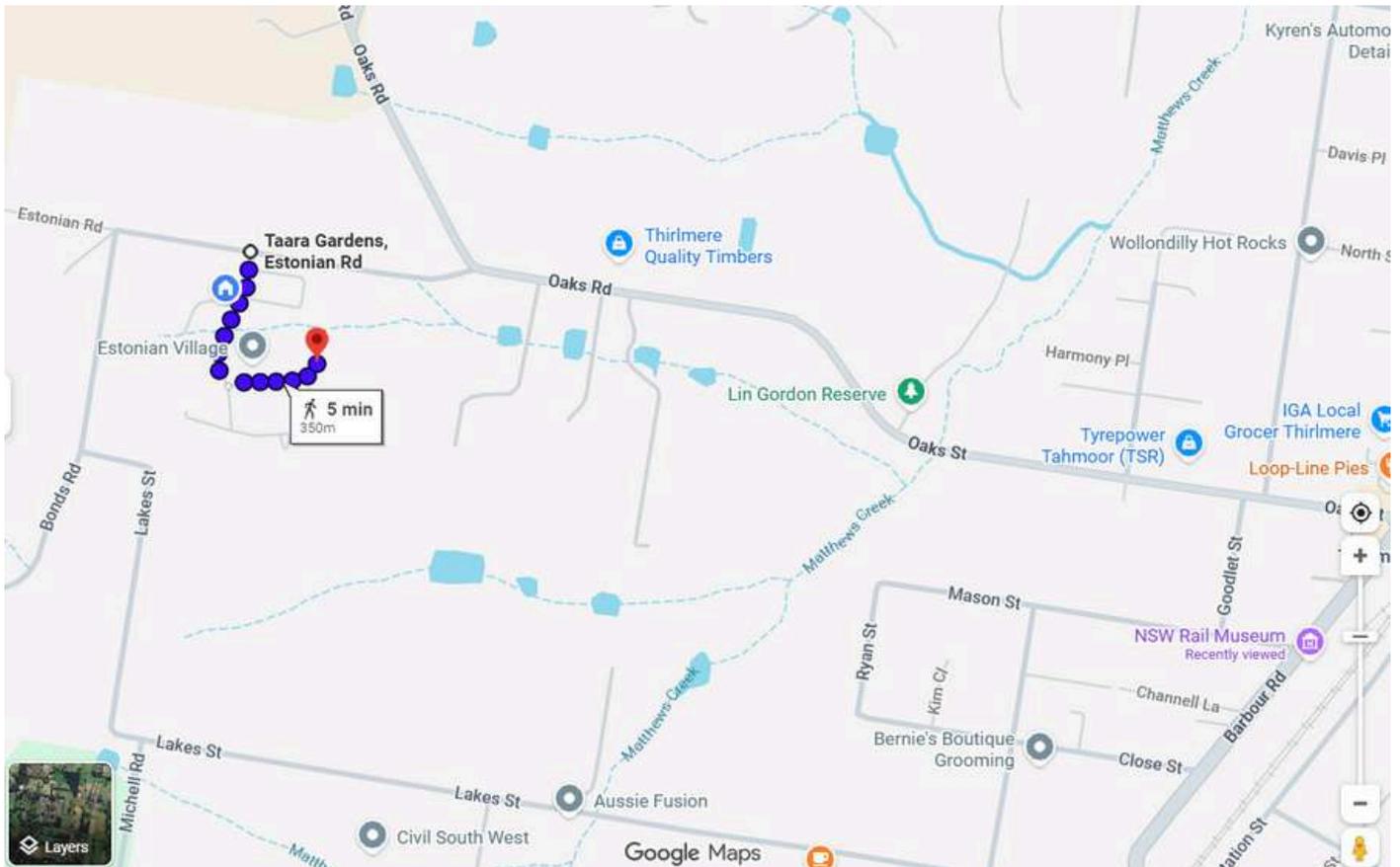
RSVP by 2nd May to
macarthurrosesecretary@gmail.com

Cost: \$30 per person
Payment by cash at meetings, or

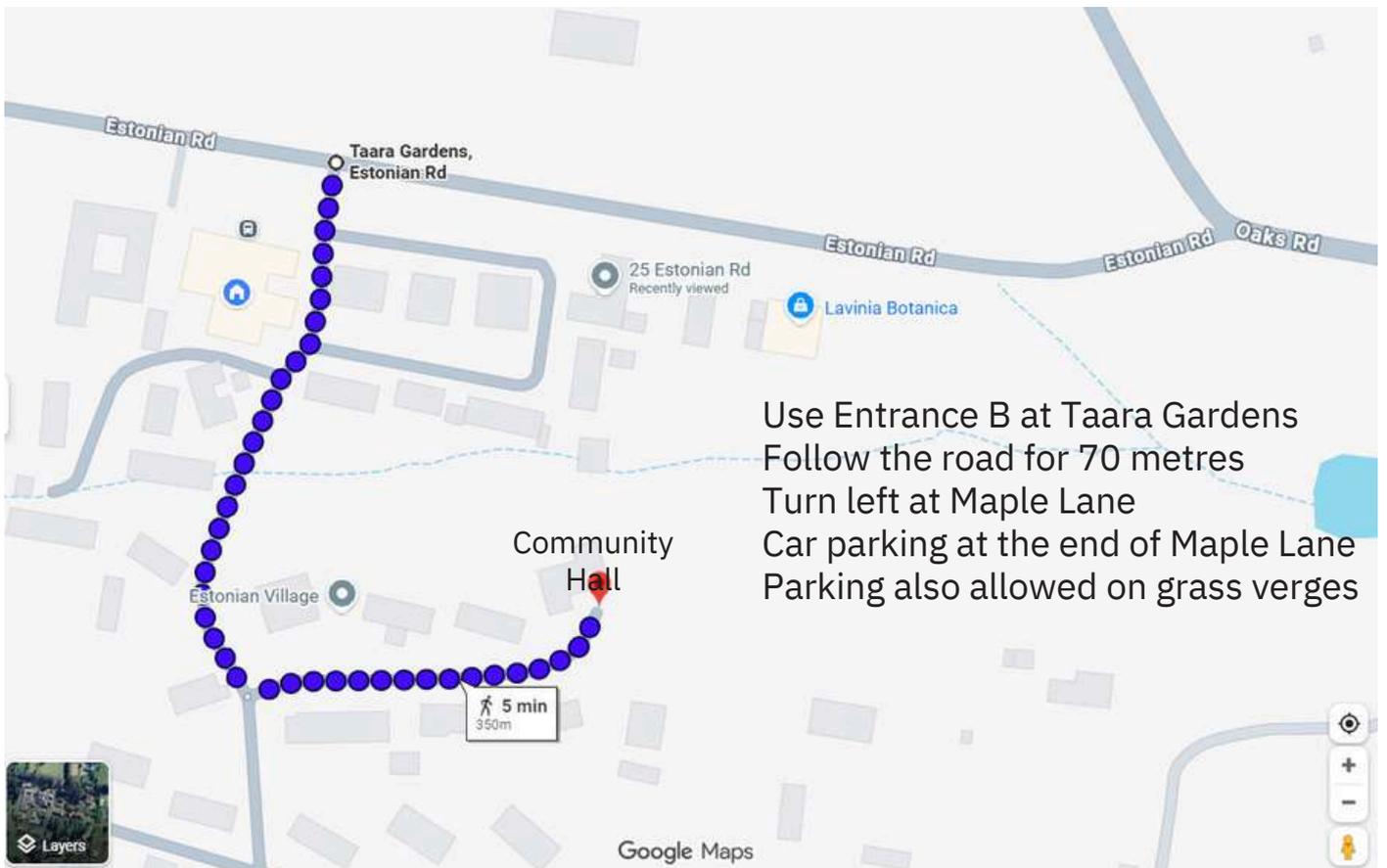
EFT: Macarthur Rose Society
BSB: 802 388; Account: 100092316
Reference: your name 40th

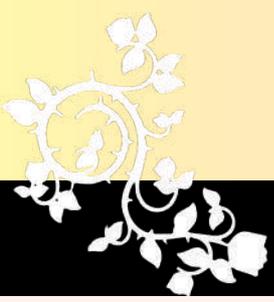


Taara Gardens & Surrounds



Internal map Taara Gardens





Raffle Winners

And the Winners Are...



• Rose Plant - Lisa



• Rose Plant - Sandy



• Fertilizers - Chris Jones

2025 Annual Award Winners

And the Winners Are...



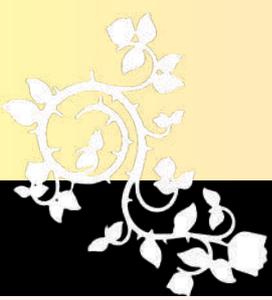
First Prize
Shanmuga Priya Hariharan



Second Prize
Judy Satchell



Third Prize
Antonietta Destro



At the bench

Bright and Colourful Blooms

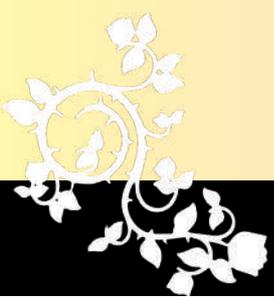


Benching scores for Feb 2026

Title	First Name	Surname	Feb 2026
Mr P & Mrs A	Anne	Buttigieg	7
Ms S	Sandy	Crompton	37
Mrs A & Mr D	Antonietta	Destro	42
Mrs S.P.	Shanmuga Priya	Hariharan	56
Mrs	Muthu	Jeganathan	22
Mrs J & Mr M	Judy	Satchell	52



For all benching enquiries or assistance, please reach out to Judy directly for guidance.



Pick of the Month

And the Winners Are...



Judge's Pick
Shanmuga Priya Hariharan



Member's Pick
Antonietta & Dino Destro

Benching schedule for March meeting

CLASS 1: 3 x stems/cuts LFC (Large Flowering Climber)

CLASS 2: 3 stems/cuts of Aussie bred roses (only HT or Floribunda)

CLASS 3: Portrait of a rose (HT).

Limited to one only per exhibitor - only 8 portrait vases available)

CLASS 4: One dahlia (bloom only no foliage)

CLASS 5: Small/simple vase of flowers from your own garden - include roses

CLASS 6: FLORAL ART:

A casual floral arrangement for a BBQ. Roses to dominate.

Normal rules apply: Maximum of three entries per exhibitor for each class unless otherwise specified.

Birthdays



Leslie Dunn 1 Feb
Ruth Walsh 13 Feb
Antonietta Destro 21 Feb
Dino Destro 27 Feb

February Birth Flowers



Violet

With their unmistakable vivid purple blooms, violets are a beautiful flower for those celebrating a birthday in February.

When planting, enrich the soil with Rapid Raiser or Seamungus, and water in thoroughly using GOGO Juice to promote healthy establishment.

Once the plants are settled, a monthly application of Sudden Impact for Roses liquid will encourage vigorous growth and reward you with an abundance of fragrant flowers.



Brachyscome

Commonly known as the native daisy, Brachyscome is a genus comprising around 90-100 species, most of which are native to Australia.

To help your plant establish successfully, enrich the soil with Seamungus before planting. Select a sunny or semi-shaded position, and once the plant is established, fertilise quarterly with Bush Tucker and water in with GOGO Juice.

After flowering, give the plant a light prune to encourage a bushy, healthy growth habit.



**PERFECT
FOR ALL
PLANT TYPES,
ALL YEAR
ROUND!**



**UNIQUE, BIOLOGICALLY ACTIVATED
SUPER
COMPOST**

Packed with nutrients, biology and humates, CHOCKABLOK improves soil structure, aeration, and moisture retention while enriching the soil with essential nutrients.

CHOCKABLOK is free from green waste, supports healthy plant growth, boosts microbial activity, and encourages earthworms.

NEUTROG
Biological Fertilisers

neutrog.com.au

Member Benefits

Check out these discounts for members of UNSH

Organisation	Details	Notes
Rose Society of NSW INC website nsw.rose.org.au	To log in simply enter: Username: rmember Password: Seduction	
Wagner's Rose Nursery discount website wagnersrosenursery.com.au	USE discount code: 100%ROSES! (Remember to include '!')	
Neutrog As members of the NSW Rose Society, we enjoy an ongoing partnership with Neutrog.	Members have access to Neutrog discounts online at shop.neutrog.com.au You can order ANY time - your orders accumulate and are bundled together for dispatch.	Orders for the next delivery are OPEN
Beeman	UNSH members can purchase honey from nswsydneylocalhoney@gmail.com or call 0421 945 593	\$10 for a jar of honey \$15 for a rack of assorted small honeys



Contact Details

Please don't hesitate in reaching out, for questions or a chat!

Please make sure that you have emailed the UNSH secretary's email box to ensure that we have your correct email address for receiving correspondence.

For questions, feedback, article ideas, or story contributions,

✉ Email: unsh.secretary@gmail.com

☎ Phone: 0401 059 839 (9am–6pm)

Facebook: [Upper North Shore and Hills NSW Rose Society Regional](#)

2025–26 UNSH Executive

Position	Name
UNSH Chair	David Smith
Vice Chair	Judy Satchell
Secretary	Shanmuga Priya Hariharan
Treasurer	Sandy Crompton
NSW State UNSH Representatives	Scott and Kimberley Crichton
UNSH Patron	Sandra Ross
UNSH Advisors	Richard and Ruth Walsh Klaus & Brigitte Eckhardt