



PATRON- JILL EAST

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE - **CONTACT DETAILS:**

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MEETS ON THE FOURTH SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH AT THE NORTH KIAMA NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE, MEEHAN DRIVE – 1.30-3.30P.M. unless garden visit or rose show. – Refer to newsletter each month for location.

**NEXT MEETING:- 24 February – with guest speaker- Helen Lovel from Neutrog**

**commencing at 1.30p.m. (see more details inside newsletter) Photo: Golden Beauty photographed at Peace Park.**

OTHER IMPORTANT DATES: **16<sup>th</sup> February**- special meeting to prepare 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration -10a.m. at Burnett's on Barney

## *Message from the Chair*

Dear Members

**ILLAWARRA REGIONAL ROSE SOCIETY IS 50 YEARS OLD THIS YEAR: LET'S CELEBRATE 1974-2024**

Our new year is now well underway and though there has been some action in January with the Agricultural Rose Shows – Congratulations to all those who participated, and we also held a meeting to review the 2023 Rose Show. Our first official general meeting of the year will be on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> February. We ask you to set that date aside as we will have our Neutrog representative, Helen Lovel travelling up from Victoria to present to us on the various Neutrog products and how best to use them in the garden. Given this commitment from Neutrog, we do hope that as many as possible will be able to attend. We also have invited members of the Southern Sydney Region and the Kiama Garden Club to come to the presentation. Helen informs me that she will be arranging for a variety of samples to be available to those who attend the meeting. So I look forward to seeing you at this meeting.

It will also be the first of show bench for the year, and I will attach the schedule for those who would like to try the competitive show bench, but we also are very happy to see your roses from your garden on the show bench for display. If bringing roses please ensure they are on the show bench by 1.25p.m. so we will be ready for Helen to make her presentation.

On 19 January about 9 members met at the Kiama Leagues Club to review the 2024 rose show. These were most of those members who assisted in the organisation of the Rose Show and we were ably facilitated by Helen McDermott so that all could have a say. It was a chance to listen to each other's experience of the Rose Show. A report on this meeting is contained in the newsletter. However, a majority of those who participated felt that there was no longer the capacity to put on a competitive rose show and that it would be preferable to move towards a Rose Display in a smaller venue. We will vote on this during the meeting to be held after the Neutrog presentation and afternoon tea.

On Friday 16 February there will be a meeting of any interested members to discuss ideas for the celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary at 10.00 a.m. at Burnett's on Barney. We will look over the venues there as it has been given as an idea for a rose display and/or celebration lunch, have morning tea there, and resume the discussion of many ideas already proposed. You are most welcome to attend. *Kristin Dawson*

# THE ROSE GARDEN February

The January newsletter sets out the cultural notes that also apply to this month. This is mainly about deadheading, summer prunes, managing blackspot and other fungus, maintaining watering, and mulching/fertilising your rose gardens.

## MULCHING THE ROSE GARDEN

FROM WEBSITE OF TRELOAR ROSES [Mulching Rose Gardens \(treloarroses.com.au\)](http://treloarroses.com.au)

Mulching is highly recommended for all types of roses, even if they are planted in pots.

Mulch acts as an insulator, not only protecting from temperature variation but also helping to retain moisture in the soil. Therefore, your garden will require less watering and weeding. Mulching your roses will also help to provide them with necessary nutrients as the matter begins to break down into the soil.

### WHAT TO USE:

These are the mulches we recommend for roses.

- Sugar Cane mulch
- Mushroom compost
- Garden Compost
- Sheep Dags
- Whoflungdung by Neutrog

**Application:** Mulch is best applied during winter to early spring while the soil is still moist from the winter rains. Provide a good thick layer of mulch, approximately 3 to 5cm thick. Any more than this will prevent water reaching the soil as the mulch will soak it up first. Make sure to keep the mulch at least 2 to 3 cm away from the base of the stem to avoid collar rot.

**WHAT NOT to USE:** Avoid any form of rocks or pebbles around your roses. This will do the opposite of what you want to achieve, heating up the soil and drying moisture away from the roots. It will also leak unwanted nutrients into the soil.

**ALWAYS AVOID** any mulches containing eucalyptus leaves or Pine needles. Roses do not like eucalyptus as it changes the acidity of the soil, decreasing the plants immunity to infections and pests – it may eventually kill your roses.



**[Video on how to mulch – Brian Wagner - How to Mulch your Roses](#)** [this video](#)

With the weather warming up, it's time to mulch your roses, to control weeds, retain moisture and grow better plants.

“Mulch retains moisture around the plant and reduces watering, puts some organic material back in the ground and it's the perfect environment for earthworms – explains Brian Wagner in [this video](#) - It's perfect to improve growth and reduce fungal problems, and the result is a healthier and bigger plant”.

Best kinds of mulch are lucerne or legume straw (like peas' beans), or any other kind of hay. When you apply mulch, remember to leave a bit of space around the base of the plant.

## ORDERING OF NEW ROSES FOR THE GARDEN-

Both Treloar Roses and Wagner's Nursery have been promoting the early ordering of bareroot roses for the winter planting for 2024. If you are after a specific and popular rose it is best to get in early with online purchases as the more popular roses sell out very quickly.

*These are photos of some roses from my garden that have performed well this year. If you have some roses to share by photograph, I'll include them in the next newsletter.....*



Bridal Pink -FI



Apricot Nectar -FI



Moonstone- HT



Kardinal – HT



My Hero -Ht



Pope John Paul II -HT



The Governor's Wife-Shrub



Looked after with Neutrog products

**FEBRUARY MEETING-** HELEN LOVEL our Neutrog representative from Victoria is coming to speak about the various Neutrog products and their use. This is a very worthwhile and enjoyable presentation. I hope as many as possible will be at this meeting. Helen has organised samples to share. **Her presentations are highly regarded. 1.40pm start.**

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## AROUND THE RIDGES- AGRICULTURAL ROSE SHOWS IN THE ILLAWARRA-

### ALBION PARK SHOW- JANUARY 20 -Photos 1-3



Braidan Swan – Champion    Braidan's roses    Jill Millburn - 2<sup>nd</sup> place Championship    KIAMA SHOW-26 JANUARY



Braidan won the Championship    Jill preparing her roses    Diane & David Westgate    Barb Bartczak preparing her roses.

Our thanks to all those who exhibited, and a special thanks to Braidan and Robyn East who came from Sydney to place roses on the showbench. Robyn came 2<sup>nd</sup> in the championship. Colin judged the roses at Kiama and was the Steward at Albion Park Show, assisted by Julianne Faulks. Robyn East judged at the Albion Park Show.

### BERRY SHOW – FEBRUARY 4



Two entries- Floral arrangements-Janet Bowden

Intan Kallus Rose of any colour

cut flowers- Jenny Swan

PHOTOS: Thankyou to the photographers- Colin Hollis, Jill Millburn, (Albion Park) Elizabeth Burnett (Kiama) and Lorraine Vost (Berry)

Nowra Show was last weekend. **Kangaroo Valley Show is this weekend: 17 February.** Our members-Intan Kallus and Gail Trapp would appreciate any support and rose exhibits you can bring to their show.

## REVIEW OF THE 2024 ROSE SHOW & OUTCOMES

The meeting to review the show was held on 19<sup>th</sup> January at the Kiama Leagues Club. It was an exercise in listening to those who were able to come to the meeting who had contributed to the Show. It was very well facilitated by Helen McDermott who sent the following report.

WORKSHOP 19<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2024 -

**Purpose: i. Reflections on Rose Show 2023 ii. A Rose Show 2024 or not? iii. How to celebrate 50 years of the Rose Society 2024**

<p><b>OBJECTIVE FACTS 2023:</b>          Around 500 visitors          Profit \$593.82          The Rose Show has been the major work of the Society for nearly 50 years          The Rose Show profiles the Rose Society in the public domain          The Rose Show encourages membership of the Society          The Rose Show promotes the rose to the public          The Rose Show provides for exhibition and competition          The Rose Show educates interested people about the rose          Beautiful display of roses          Small number of exhibitors/competitors          Long leadup of preparation          A big workload for the whole weekend          Multitude of jobs needing to be done          Generous and capable members carry the load          Many members not actively involved</p>	<p><b>REFLECTION:</b>          Exhibition/competition is a major dimension of the Rose Show regarding work requirements, yet it demonstrates a diminished number of entries</p> <p>Positive energy about engaging with interested public.</p> <p>The interpersonal perspective of the show is encouraging and enjoyable.</p> <p>Generous key members are exhausted and unable to maintain their same level of contribution.          Can these key workers be replaced?</p> <p>Co-ordinator of tasks, timelines, and workers unavailable to continue in the role at this level of service.</p>
<p><b>INTERPRETATION:</b>          Has the Rose Show run its course?</p> <p>Is the Rose Show critical to the life and reality of the Society?</p> <p>Given the significant number of key workers who are unable to continue, can the Rose Show be maintained?</p> <p>Are there other ways of celebrating and promoting the rose and the Society?</p> <p>How to achieve Society's goals in a contemporary, manageable way?</p>	<p><b>DECISION:</b>          Will the Rose Society run a Rose Show in 2024?</p> <p>How will the Rose Society celebrate its 50 years?</p> <p>A show of hands was taken at the meeting and the overwhelming number there expressed the view that the Region should hold a rose display rather than the traditional rose show.</p>

**NOTE: Given the views of those members who contributed their time and energy to the Rose Show, and the few exhibitors in the Illawarra – it is proposed that the Illawarra Rose Region does not hold a rose show in 2024. Rather a display in a smaller venue that can form part of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations be prepared. A vote on this proposal will be taken at the general meeting on February 24<sup>th</sup>**



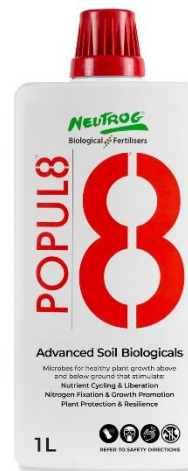
## Come join us to share ideas and help organise celebrations of 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary-IRS

Meeting at Burnetts on Barney Kiama- at 10.00 a.m. Friday- 16 February. We will check over the venue there for potential celebration and meet to discuss ideas and enjoy some social time – morning tea at the nursery Café.

PLEASE SEE SOME IDEAS ALREADY RAISED, AND OTHERS ATTACHED TO THE NEWSLETTER.

- Celebratory dinner
- Publish articles on 50 years of rose growing in the Illawarra.
- Combine the 50<sup>th</sup> celebrations with a rose display.
- Does the 50<sup>th</sup> need to be a rose show? Can it be a display?
- Rose display is the way of the future – members are more likely to be involved in helping.
- Does it need to be in Kiama?
- Rose display in a shopping centre
- Rose display in Burnetts in Kiama
- Rose display in RSL club
- Rose display in the Botanical Gardens
- Rose display in a catered setting
- Be creative in terms of venues.
- Make a lasting, tangible contribution recognizing 50 years.

## CHANGE OF SEASON, IS A GREAT REASON TO POPUL8 YOUR SOIL



**Get your garden autumn ready with a seasonal application of POPUL8 for healthy plant growth above and below ground.**

POPUL8 is designed to occupy and populate the biological space in the soil and on plant roots which may otherwise be an available space for plant pathogens to inhabit - hence its name.

POPUL8 contains a diverse microbiome of 200+ naturally occurring microbes, plus a further 42 specifically selected bacteria and fungi have been isolated, identified and added for their individual and joint symbiotic purpose and beneficial characteristics.

The number and diversity of living microbes in POPUL8 can positively influence nutrient cycling, nutrient liberation, nitrogen fixation, production of plant growth hormones, protection and resilience against disease and bio stimulation.

POPUL8 should be applied once per season across the entire garden, and then as needed for plants showing signs of stress.

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Julianne would like to see all our members enjoy this event and not have some of our members run off their feet whilst others just sit back and enjoy.

1. Over the last 50 years the Illawarra Rose Society has held meetings in many locations and currently in Kiama
2. I would like to suggest that we see if we could have an art competition to design a sculpture etc for our 50 years (prize to the winner) and see if we could locate it in a place that people could view and admire it as well as being secure. I would like to remember all our past and current members over the last 50 years. I would like to

suggest the Wollongong Botanical Gardens i.e Rose Garden. Our sculpture would be safe and secure and members of the public as well as members can visit at no cost.

3. We could have a small committee formed to take this project on, so it is ready for our 50 years as well as allow time to promote the event.

Other ideas given:

1. Any members due 25 years or 40-year badges?
2. Rose Display Kiama Fire Station or Shopping Centre
3. Kiama Peace Park – Gold Tea Party