

MARCH 2025

Elina



**MEETS ON THE FOURTH SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH
AT THE NORTH KIAMA NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE,
MEEHAN DRIVE – 1.30-3.30P.M.**

NEXT MEETING: excursion to the Miniature Rose Show

Message from Chair: Dear Members

We very much enjoyed getting back together for our **February meeting**. The roses that were exhibited and displayed were exceptional. The information on Miniature Roses was well received, and we enjoyed the videos on summer pruning, appreciating Frans keen eye in noting the presenter had the secateurs with the blade the wrong way round when pruning.

The newsletter is early this month as I am to undergo open heart surgery on Thursday 6 March and I wanted to make contact with you before I was limited in capacity to write. I will be a new woman once I've recovered by the end of May.

We will not be meeting at the Centre until May, but we encourage you to visit **the Miniature Rose Show** at Mittagong on the 21-22 March. Even better would be if you could exhibit some roses. See last months newsletter for some examples of exhibits.

April meeting will be held in my garden as a workshop and invitation to pull apart some of my roses and cross them ready for your own special bred rose. Intan will lead us in this process. Intan speaks about her rose breeding journey in a section of the newsletter.

We were pleased to welcome Ray Taylor and Elaine to the meeting, as well as some we had not seen for awhile especially Peter Goodger back after so many months in hospital. Intan brought along a friend, Chris and we hope she will join us again. We also **welcome Betty Humphrey who joined** after Colin's presentation at the West Wollongong Garden Club. Don't forget to order your **Neutrog by 8a.m. 14th April**. You can go online anytime to prepare your order, to add to it.

Kristin



PHOTO: Miniature Rose Show 2017

PATRON- JILL EAST

CONTACT DETAILS: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE -

Chair: Kristin Dawson M:0422157353 E:

illawarrarosechair@gmail.com

SECRETARY: Jill Millburn M:0409849534

jillmillburn@yahoo.com

TREASURER: Peter Goodger peterat61@gmail.com M:
0412 973 626

Assistant Treasurer- Robert Coady

POST: PO BOX 3 JAMBEROO NSW 2533



IMPORTANT DATES

21-22 March – Miniature Rose Show at Mittagong-let us know if you need transport. Great restaurant at the Club

14 April 8a.m. Neutrog order deadline.

26 April – meetng at Kristin's place

ROSE GARDEN IN MARCH

I notice that currently some of the roses, especially those growing in pots are suffering because of the heat and some leaves are going yellow or browning. There isn't as much blackspot around but I am concerned about the suffering roses. At least good rain is on the way, as it is the best source of water. Once the soil is well and truly dampened it is a good time to apply some fertiliser and Seamungus. It may be the last time for this season, or a late application in late April, but none after that until

Spring time. I will need to spark up some of the heat affected roses with some liquid Seamungus and Popul8 or GoGo Juice. Hopefully the garden will be rewarding us with the beautiful deeper coloured roses of autumn.

Keep an eye out for those dreaded hibiscus beetles ruining the lighter coloured roses. Some soapy water with a dash of pyrethrum should do the trick.

HYBRIDISING ROSES – OUR APRIL WORKSHOP

We look forward to a romp around Kristin's garden on Saturday 26th April with a workshop on hybridizing roses. You never know you might just cross two of Kristin's roses and end up with a very special world-famous rose. The creator of the Knock Out roses (Radler) began as a home gardener and now his rose is recognized in the World Federation of Rose Society's Rose Hall of Fame (2018). I will safeguard your labelled rose until the hips ripen ready for you to take the seeds and keep cool until ready to sprout.

A few photos of the process taken during a demonstration at Reuters Rose Nursery in Lyon France during the International Rose Convention in 2015.



Selected rose

the process

remove petals female- to male & cover



Come to the workshop to understand what this is about & create your own rose.

INTAN'S STORY ABOUT HER JOURNEY IN TO ROSE BREEDING / HYBRIDISING ROSES

My rose hybridising journey

As I laid in bed nauseated and fatigued from my chemotherapy, my heart yearned to be in my garden. I had always wanted to get started on my species rose garden that I have been meaning to grow all these years, but never got around to starting it. I absolutely love species roses, particularly where they originated from, their fascinating history and their beautiful "simple" single-petalled forms. In my fragile condition, all I was able to do at the time to satisfy my gardening "pangs" was to watch episode after episode of past Gardening Australia segments on ABC iView, which seemed to help me feel better! One episode in particular, featuring species roses collection at an Adelaide public garden, tugged at my heart-strings. It brought back memories from when I first watched that episode in 2006, and also when I first met dear Sue Kingsford, at her property at Fitzroy Falls.

I had not contacted Sue all those years and I decided to give Sue a call. I wondered if she could source a cutting of Rosa brunonii for me to get started on, for when I finished my treatment and strong enough to get back into my garden. Sue at the time was in hospital in Bowral and said to me that apparently the doctors had told her that she had pneumonia. Her exact words to me that afternoon was, "Intan, I will get better and will get out of here. You will finish your treatment and be well, and I will call you and we can both arrange a time and I will get you a cutting of your Rosa brunonii. I will call you." With that, I felt strong. I was confident that everything will be ok, I will be well and I will get over my cancer and I will start my dream rose journey, with Sue guiding me.

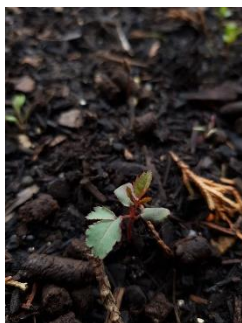
Months went by, my treatments had completed their various stages and I was on my last leg of chemotherapy when I found out that dear Sue had left this world. My body shook and it felt like my dream of having Sue guide me through my species/ heritage rose journey had shattered. Nevertheless, things turned out quite the opposite of what I had felt at the time! My dear friend Sue had left a positive impact on me! I was moved by her tenacious strength of achieving whatever her heart desired. My species rose dream have now blossomed into a new and exciting journey! Thank you kindly, dear Sue, I cannot thank you enough.

I decided to join the heritage roses group in our region which Sue had started some years ago. My aim in joining the group was to preserve Sue's heritage rose legacy from being lost. I felt a need to help out with preserving Sue's species and heritage roses so that these historically significant roses in our region will keep on blooming forever. It was during the initial stages of my membership with the group that I got to meet one of Australia's famous rose breeders, Richard Walsh, who happens to be a very close friend of Sue's. Richard gave a most encouraging talk on rose breeding. It was the Saturday morning of 28th November 2020 where a meeting was held at dear Sue's amazing garden (sadly by that time, her garden was under-cared for, but being in Sue's rose garden is always delightful!). I listened to Richard's talk with deep interest.

I asked Richard a million questions that day. How and where do I start – Richard's reassuring response was, "just start and don't overthink it"! After the meeting, Richard very kindly sent me lots of reading materials on my new topic of interest. I voraciously read up on how to hybridise roses and informed myself on the properties of my species roses that I had acquired from Sue's garden. I stumbled upon a new word that day - ploidy!

Ploidy is the number of chromosomes in a cell. In roses they are generally in groups of 7 and separated into two gametes during reproduction, so the minimum number in a cell is 14 (2 x sets of 7 = 14 chromosomes). I am absolutely intrigued by the genetics behind how roses match their chromosomes as nature intended when producing rose babies! It all got very, very interesting for me and I delved deeper and deeper into understanding how it all works (albeit the challenges of understanding the complicated mathematics behind genetics so soon after my brain had been zapped by 3 different lots of strong chemotherapy chemicals over a period of 18 months!). I will keep on learning and experimenting despite any challenges.

I was very keen to try out hand pollinating an interesting hultemia hybrid rose with a rugosa hybrid, and sought Richard’s view on this. Richard’s response was that, “There may be genetic difficulties but give it a go!” I love Richard’s positivity and encouraging words, it got me even more enthusiastic to start my little fun project. Yes, FUN; my excitement in roses hybridising is going to be a fun and a healing journey for me, as I seek to get better and stronger from my recent cancer and associated treatments.



One fine day, I saw a little rose seedling under a species rose in my garden. My four-petalled Rosa omeiensis 'Pteracantha' had a seedling under it! With Richard’s guidance and encouragement, I carefully potted up this tiny baby and almost immediately I was hooked forever on this newly found hobby of mine! I am loving every second of it and am so keen to see where this journey might take me.

Found seedling of species rose R omeiensis 'Pteracantha'

Not too long after my first seedling discovery, I kept on finding other surprise rose seedlings in my garden! Prior to educating myself about the fascinating world of rose genetics, I would not have been too bothered to be finding rose seedlings in my garden. I wasn’t only having a lot of fun, I am getting well each day and truly addicted to this hobby! During Christmas of 2021, another one of my found seedlings put out her very first bloom! Oh, I was over the moon and made a Happy New Year greeting card out of her photo!



My new year 2022 greeting card with photo of the first bloom of one of my “found” rose seedlings

Not long after the excitement of seeing the first bloom of one of my found seedlings, I found myself running around my garden having fun hand pollinating numerous different roses! I thought that mixing a few of my species/ heritage roses with my modern roses would be interesting! I then recorded each and every one of my experiments. The next table shows an example of my recordings of two (2) of them, which I update frequently. I cannot wait to see their hips develop. Although I have already lost a few hips as nature intended, I am not discouraged at all! I am determined to keep on having fun and to keep on learning!

I am nowhere near any of the experts out there, but these developing hips are very special, as each one of my heritage and species parent has some significance to me. Intan Kallus Kangaroo Valley, NSW, Australia Summer 2022
We'll hear the last part of this story in the April newsletter. So come and enjoy the experience at our April meeting

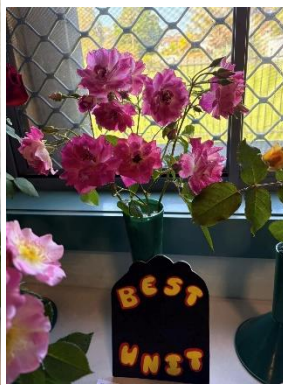
AROUND THE RIDGES – OUR FEBRUARY MEETING – SOME BEAUTIES ON THE SHOW BENCH.



Judith & Lyndel Trading table



Jill’s Kardinal exhibition



Diane Westgate’s Pink Iceberg



Kristin’s Bud to full bloom Irresistible



Mod Decorative roses



Photos: 1. Miniature roses; 2. Any cut from my Garden; 3. Display table; 4. Chris's photo; 5. Back pink rose- Gary Bickford's polyantha Cecile Brunner; 6. Kristin's My Hero

PEACE ROSE GARDEN AT THE DAPTO RIBBONWOOD CENTRE



A visit in late february for fertilising and deadheading. Thankfully we have found two more volunteers to take on some of the maintenance of the garden. The rose on the left is the peace rose.

NEUTROG ORDERING & INFORMATION

The deadlines for orders are 8 A.M. 14th April and 13th October. Our thanks to Hans Van de Haar for allowing the Rose Society to store these products on our behalf at his business. The location is- UTJ INTERIORS 236 Berkeley Road Unanderra. We are considering whether it would be useful to have a delivery place in the Shoalhaven as well as the Illawarra place. However we would have to find a site and also organise volunteers to organise each delivery. A NEW NEUTROG PRODUCT COMING OUT THIS YEAR IS CHOCKABLOK- A COMPOST TO DIG INTO THE SOIL



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ILLAWARRA ROSE SOCIETY, HELD ON SATURDAY 22ND FEBRUARY 2025 AT NORTH KIAMA NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE.

1. **WELCOME.** Chair Kristin welcomed 23 members which included Ray Taylor and Elaine to the meeting which commenced at 1.35 pm.
2. **APOLOGTIES:** Jacqueline and Romeo Chiarello, Pat and Horst Bleuel, Joanne Fisher.
3. **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:** N/A
4. **FINANCIAL REPORT.** Show Account \$6,038.76, General Account \$4,097.72, Peace Park \$1,312.20, Education Account \$5,025.40 and Term Deposit \$10,000. Moved as correct by Robert Coady and seconded Janet Bowden.
5. **CORRESPONDENCE:**
 - a. Secretary Rose Society asking members to be aware of scams; Draft minutes of State Council Meeting; Maureen Thackeray x 2 new member Betty Humphrey. Bendigo Bank, re in.correct form; Kiama Council, re hall hire in advance. Monique from Neutrog. Re orders twice yearly. Moved as correct by Jill Millburn, seconded by Lorraine Vost.
6. **GENERAL BUSINESS**
 - a. **Survey:** NSW journal - 2 times per year. Suggestion that the Nationals- NRSA edit the journals 4 times a year for all States. Chair Kristin surveyed the members re journal. Most wanted to stay with a NSW journal whilst still viable
 - b. **NSW journal currently sent online** – . There is a publishing cost of about \$3000 for the online version to save the overseeing editor from organising the material on the journal and posting too expensive. However, if 100 across the State ordered paper copies, could be organised at \$15 per copy added onto registration/renewal
 - c. Neutrog order – Winter (April) and Spring (August). Deliveries- Kristin suggested two places as Shoalhaven membership has increased but would need site and order to be audited and sorted. Lorraine suggested her place but need to sort out details. Colin spoke about the new product Chock a Block which will be out next month, a product to be dug into the soil. There may be a launch of this at Southern Sydney’s meeting.
 - d. Nationals Macarthur 2026 –offer of a prize for chosen theme for Macarthur
 - e. Miniature rose show 21-22 March, our March meeting -visit to the show at Mittagong.
 - f. Meeting 26th April. Kristin’s garden workshop in garden on hybridisation
 - g. Meeting in May, Gary Wooton from Macarthur, speaking on Green Mulch.
 - h. Meeting in June, Mark Massey from Mother Earth Nursery.
 - i. Thank You to Kristin, Colin and Jill for clearing out the storage cupboard.
 - j. Congratulations to all who participated in the agricultural shows –
 - k. Kristin prepared and showed an excellent presentation on Miniature Roses plus presentations on summer pruning roses.
 - l. Raffle won by Franz Buskermolen and Jill Millburn and thank you to Janet Bowden for organising the raffle prize.
7. Meeting finished at 3.10 pm followed by a delicious afternoon tea.