

MAY  
2024

ILLAWARRA REGIONAL  
ROSE SOCIETY  
NEWSLETTER



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

PATRON- JILL EAST  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE - **CONTACT DETAILS:**

Chair: Kristin Dawson M:0422157353 E:  
illawarrarosechair@gmail.com

Secretary: Jill Millburn M:0409849534  
jillmillburn@yahoo.com

Interim Treasurer: Robert Coady  
robert\_coady2004@yahoo.com

POST: PO Box 3 Jamberoo NSW 2533

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

**NEXT MEETING:-Sat. 25 May 2024**– Identifying and  
managing botrytis on roses; Pruning roses of all kinds.  
pruning climbing & other roses & discussion on looking  
after the garden after too much rain.

*Photo: Mother's Love by Lyndel Sanders*

**IMPORTANT DATES:** 22<sup>nd</sup> June- Luncheon to celebrate  
50<sup>th</sup> anniversary at Kiama Leagues Club – (June meeting  
date)

*Neutrog Spring* orders will close on **Friday 2nd  
August 2024 at 8am.**

**PRUNING AT PEACE PARK- 14 July Sunday at  
10a.m.**

1

# Elina



*Message from Chair:* **Dear Members**

Happy Mother's Day to all those who care for and nurture life in all its forms.

These past couple of weeks in May has once again seen our gardens saturated after a period of very dry weather. This will have an impact on our gardens, the soil and our roses. In our cultural notes I will make some suggestions as to how to manage this condition.

We very much enjoyed Intan Kallus's presentation on "Gardening by the Moon" at our April meeting, and I'm now encouraged to give it a try, especially as seed planting and growing of cuttings are jobs to do over the next couple of months. We also enjoyed the video of the ABC Gardening Australia visit to the Wollongong Botanic Garden's rose garden.

THANKYOU TO COLIN & JULIANNE FAULKS for looking after the Mother's Day information stall evening at Bunnings on a cold evening of 9<sup>th</sup> May.

So as to encourage our roses to bloom in time for the rose display to be held at Burnett's on Barney on October 5<sup>th</sup> we will need to **begin our pruning sooner this year.** My bushes have become straggly so a good prune in June will give them a head start and hopefully for an early spring. Therefore our meeting next week will focus on pruning and some videos will be shown of pruning and a how to do climbing roses, which are often a challenge.

Finally, don't forget to **RSVP to Jill by June 4** for our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary luncheon on 22<sup>nd</sup> June. If you pay by cash, our meeting next week will provide an opportunity to pay then. Otherwise electronic transfer is available. We are looking forward to a great celebration. In preparation I have spent time going through newsletters of the past 25 years and its been amazing to see the enthusiasm, creativity and enjoyment of roses of many people in the Illawarra for so many years.

*Kristin*

**URGENT: ROBERT COADY IS UNABLE TO CONTINUE AS  
TREASURER AFTER JULY AGM. WE MUST FIND  
ANOTHER TREASURER to remain legal - PLEASE HELP US  
FIND ONE**

## THE ROSE GARDEN MAY

### AFTER A WEEK OF UNRELENTING RAIN

The old saying: "be careful what you wish for" came back in full force this May. After several weeks of dry weather in April, my garden was very thirsty and I longed for rain. Well as we all know in came in bucket loads for over a week as the clouds hit the Illawarra escarpment and didn't stop for a week.

Once the rain stopped a visit to the rose garden revealed:

- Blooms full of botrytis mould hanging on the bush
- An increase in dieback in some stems/canes
- Foliage either stripped from the bushes or turned yellow on some rose bushes.
- The lawn soggy wherever I walked.
- Thankfully no pooled water as it must have drained away but the soil was soggy.



These are some tips from Clarence Stockee from ABC Gardening Australia and John Siemon, the director of horticulture at the Royal Botanic Garden Sydney as taken from the site: [Looking after your plants and garden after heavy rain - ABC Everyday](#)

### Dealing with soggy and waterlogged beds

Now the rain has subsided, it's a good time to get into the garden to take stock of the damage.

Gardens generally love rain, but you might find parts of your garden are still waterlogged or soggy after the recent weather.

When soil doesn't drain properly, plants can't get oxygen and nutrients from the soil, which makes them weaker and vulnerable to disease.



You'll know when it is happening in your garden because there's a distinctive — and unpleasant — smell.

"It's commonly known as 'wet dog smell'," Mr Slockee says.

"If you smell that, you know that you've got a problem. Everything's waterlogged and you've got to do something to get rid of that."

If your garden starts to smell, it's a sign there's not enough oxygen in the soil, Clarence Slockee says. (ABC: *Gardening Australia*)

The first step is to remove the excess water. If you have a wet, soggy patch that won't drain at all, you could try adding sand and soil to help absorb the moisture, Mr Slockee says.

Another tip is to add organic matter like compost into the soil to help with aeration and drainage.

"If there's enough oxygen in the soil, it'll be breaking down aerobically, and it smells great," Mr Slockee says. "If it's wet and it's boggy, it'll become this anaerobic process. It just starts to stink and it's not very good for anything."

Too much water can also cause problems for pot plants, but they can be easier to manage.

"My plants that got a bit drowned were moved inside to the shower," says Elizabeth Dowding, a keen indoor gardener in Sydney.

"I tend to line the bottom of all my plants with stones to increase drainage. That tends to help."



**What to do with damaged and diseased plants** If you have damaged plants, it's best to deal with them quickly.

"A nice clean cut on something with a pair of secateurs is a good way to make sure there are no wounds for pathogens and diseases to get into," Mr Siemon says.

It's also useful to do a general tidy-up of your garden, as dead plants and rotting leaves can be a haven for disease.

If you do spot a diseased plant, it's important to dispose of it properly to avoid damage to other plants in your garden.

"If it's just something small, you can get out the scissors or secateurs, stick it in a bag and get rid of it," Mr Siemon says.

"Don't chuck it in your compost heap — [dispose] of it in your council waste facility if you have one."

Gardening Australia's Millie Ross says: "Too much rain can obviously saturate soil," "If you have all of those little parts of the soil that should have oxygen in them filled with water for too long and it's sodden, then it certainly can start to kill the root system of the plant."

If you opt for pots, she says it is important to use a high-quality potting mix. Putting the pots on wheels can help with moving them out of the rain.

Another thing you can do if heavy rain is forecast is put a layer of mulch on your garden.

Mulch is usually used to prevent moisture loss through evaporation, but Millie says it can also help protect the soil from the impact of downpours.

But if you're swamped, it is not the time to start digging — disturbing the soil while it is too wet can harm its structure. Give it a little time to dry out.

#### A COUPLE OF OTHER TIPS:

1. **Restore Your Soil:** Remove excess soil around plants and top up if necessary. Avoid overwatering until the soil dries out a bit. Use a seaweed solution to fortify your plants. (*Seamungus* is a good tonic)
2. **Trim Back:** Remove snapped branches to encourage new growth and prevent disease.
3. **Monitor for Pests and Disease:** Keep an eye on your plants for any signs of stress or damage
4. Test the pH of your soil. It could become over acidic and may need some lime dolomite to restore the pH to 6.5-7 which is favoured by roses.

#### MOIRA'S PEST PROBLEM

At last meeting, our member Moira Etheridge raised this problem pest- "*any ideas about eradicating the monolepta australis, also called red shouldered beetle? They've made a terrible mess of my roses and work methodically together advancing slowly through the rose gardens.*" These pests even come inside and onto the ceilings. Moira tried a variety of solutions and found the pyrethrum helped.



**Answer:** They are particularly attracted to white and can be devastating to roses. Adults usually emerge from the soil after good rains

following a dry spell. Larvae feed on plant roots. They migrated down from the north coast & sub coast feeding on crops, fruit trees, blossom & ornamental flowers. The use of pyrethrum is one solution. Others recommend pesticides that are directed towards caterpillars. Another is the use of neem oil and drenching around the rose bush in the soil to kill off the larvae. It would require regular treatment until they are defeated.



## AROUND THE RIDGES- our April meeting



Our Rose meeting was enjoyed today by 25 members and we welcomed two new members Jacqueline and Romeo from Windang.

Intan's gave a wonderful presentation on Gardening by the Moon, preceded by a 3 minute video on the topic and Intan on how she applies the theory to her gardening. We then had the video of ABC Gardening Australia visit to the Wollongong Botanic Gardens which featured Illawarra Rose Society in the program. Intan's daughter Juliaha assisted us with the AV equipment- thank goodness for her presence. (see photograph)



Gary from Tomerong spoke about his beautiful rose -Francis Meilland and now growing so high - scroll down the photos to the perfumed roses and you will see this beautiful rose which won best perfumed by the members. Gary also took some cuttings from Intan's last presentation on rootstock and brought in three successfully rooted. He needed still to take the bud eyes from the rest of the cutting. Hopefully he will learn to bud a desired rose(s) onto this rootstock when the meeting gathers to learn this technique. Then Colin and Jill gave feedback on the lovely roses brought to show bench. An afternoon tea and lots of chat to finish the meeting. NOTE: Intan discovered that Diane's rose (see below) was a sport bred by member Frans Buskermolen many years ago and named: **Pierre B**

### SHOWBENCH



1.Sarah Anne- miniflora 2. Pat Bleuels' Sunny Skies 3. Kristin's Irresistible 4.Diane Westgate's rose & Fairytale Queen



Lorraine describing table dec, Gary's Francis Meilland Gary describing how tall that rose is and the cuttings of Multiflora



**PEACE PARK – KIAMA**

So much work goes into Peace Park by the few volunteers who give their time every week to make this garden look wonderful. Colin is pictured mulching the garden a couple of weeks ago. However on the eve of Mother’s Day, the rose garden was completely stripped of its blooms at 10p.m. at night by some man with a light attached to his head. The image of his stealing the roses were caught on camera. It is devastating for our volunteers to see the damage on the garden they tend to so well, and roses like Golden Beauty stolen.



**THE INFORMATION TABLE AT BUNNINGS ON 9<sup>TH</sup> MAY**



*Thank you to Colin and Julianne for keeping the Illawarra Regional Rose Society in the public eye at a very cold and noisy evening at their Mother’s Day promotion on May 9<sup>th</sup>.*



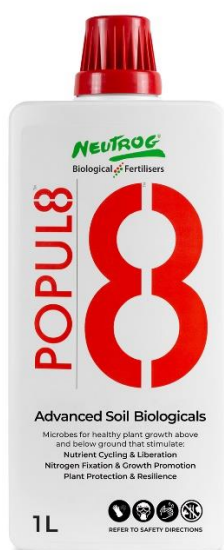
**CELEBRATION LUNCHEON - JUNE 22 AT KIAMA LEAGUES CLUB AUDITORIUM**

RSVP by June 4 to Jill Millburn. - Payment by June 8 in cash or EFT to the new Bendigo Bank Account:- BSB 633 000 Account 208 755 066

This promises to be a wonderful celebration with lots of photos and memories – If you know anyone who once was a member who would like to come, please invite them.

## MINUTES OF MEETING 27<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024 OF THE ILLAWARRA ROSE SOCIETY

1. Meeting held at North Kiama Neighbourhood Centre commencing at 1.30 p.m and 23 members including Jacqueline and Romeo Chiarello, our newest members were welcomed by Chair Kristin.
2. **APOLOGIES:** Peter Goodger, Robert and Shirley Coady and Lorrie Zammit.
3. **PREVIOUS MINUTES:** Moved as correct by Jill and Seconded by Janet Bowden.
4. **FINANCIAL REPORT:** Presented by Email by Robert and seconded by Intan:  
**Show Account \$5773.56. \$993.32 Total 6766.88 General Account \$89966.26 \$102.01 Total \$9,068.26**  
**Friends of Peace Park \$1759.16 \$74.72 Total 1833.88 Education \$5744.05 \$1.01 Total \$5745.06**  
**Term Deposit \$8391.82 Total \$30,634.84 Bendigo Bank \$1,171.06 Total \$31,805.90**
5. **CORRESPONDENCE:**
  - a. Lorraine Vost, address and phone for K and D Swan.
  - b. State Secretary Stefica forwarding invitation to 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Illawarra Rose
  - c. Susan Wade, asking if we would be interested in her Power Point Presentation on the Heritage Rose Conference at Brussels, Belgium and related tours in June 2023.
  - d. RSVP from Gareth Ward accepting invitation to 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Luncheon.
  - e. Apology from Anna Watson , 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Luncheon.
  - f. Robert Coady, Unable to nominate for Treasurer this year due to ill health, Robert has arranged for the audit and the Annual Report of the NSW Rose Society. Robert will copy files to an external hard drive, the cost of which will be approximately \$150.
6. **GENERAL BUSINESS:**
  - a. 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday Luncheon, Kristin encouraged members to attend and previous members would be especially welcome.
  - b. Neutrog has a new product called Biometril 8, it's in tablet form and results so far have been very good at encouraging healthy growth.
  - c. Moira Etheridge has advised members to watch out for a nasty bug called Monolepta Australis also known as Red Shouldered Bug, that is around and severely damaged her garden.
  - d. Gary Bickford showed us the pots of budded Multiflora that he has been taking care of and has plenty of new growth.
  - e. Lorraine brought in photos of the Floral Art that the Floral Art Group have done.
  - f. The Raffle was won by Bruce Robertson.
  - g. Colin and Jill talked about the smaller but lovely display on this month's Showbench with Best Unit Won by Pat Bluel with Sunny Skies, Best Mini was Kristins Bud to Full Bloom Irresistible. The Perfumed Rose was won by Gary Bickford with Francis Meiland.
  - h. Intan gave us a very interesting talk on Moon Gardening which she practices in her own garden and we also had a video of the rose garden of Wollongong Botanical Gardens.
  - i. Pruning Day at Peace Park on 14<sup>th</sup> July. All encouraged to attend. **MEETING CLOSED AT 2.35 FOLLOWED BY AFTERNOON TEA.**



## 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.

**NEUTROG**  
Biological Fertilisers

Freecall 1800 656 644 | [www.neutrog.com.au](http://www.neutrog.com.au)