



PATRON-  
JILL EAST

EXECUTIVE  
COMMITTEE -  
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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:- 23 March 2024**– Kristin & Intan-  
Rootstocks & Grafting roses *see inside newsletter*

*Photo: Harry Wheatcroft - Mornington Rose Garden  
Victoria – a Garden of Excellence WFRS 2015*

OTHER IMPORTANT DATES: **19 March**- special meeting to  
prepare 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration -1.30 p.m. at Jill  
Millburn's home

## *Message from the Chair*

Dear Members

**ILLAWARRA REGIONAL ROSE SOCIETY IS 50 YEARS OLD**

**THIS YEAR: LET'S CELEBRATE 1974-2024**

This past week has been very hot and it is not easy to be out amongst the roses on these days. Best to go out early in the morning or late afternoon for your own safety. However, there has been little rain of late, and pots especially will need to be watered regularly so they don't dry out. Our rose gardens also will need a good drenching to the rose roots to keep them healthy. We very much enjoyed Helen Lovel's presentation learning about Neutrog and on using the products

not only for fertilising but also for nourishing the soil – I learned that using Sudden Impact for Roses can help minimise the infestation of aphids. There are very few on my roses at any time, and maybe that is why. Popul8, Seamungus and GoGo Juice are particularly good to drench the roses at least each month for good rose health. Gigantic helps to grow larger and juicier citrus fruit. Helen was able to give examples of the use of the product from her own experience of growing roses, other flowers and fruit and vegetables on her farm. It was a well spent afternoon of information gathering.

As we move into Autumn we are now in the process of considering the purchase of bareroot roses, which are less expensive than potted roses and have time over winter to settle into our garden ready for Spring. For the March meeting I have prepared a special slide show on why use rootstock on roses, the different type of rootstock, propagating rootstock and using for grafting, and then a video of a visit to Brian Wagner's nursery where roses are grafted onto rootstock and seeing how the experts do it. Intan will give a demonstration of how she propagates and uses rootstock. Hopefully sometime in Spring we may be able to demonstrate the grafting technique and show you how to save your most loved but difficult to find roses onto a rootstock for a more successful propagation. We are fortunate to have expertise in members Intan and Frans Buskermolen in the grafting game. I hope to see you there – and don't forget to bring along roses for show bench, to exhibit or display.

This newsletter will focus on propagation for cuttings.

On Tuesday 19 March 1.30p.m. there will be a meeting at Jill Millburn's home of any interested members to plan the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary luncheon to be held on 22<sup>nd</sup> June at the Kiama Leagues Club. We do want interested members to join us in this planning, so could you let me or Jill know if you intend to come so we can give you Jill's address.

*Kristin Dawson*

## THE ROSE GARDEN March

### SOME ROSE INFORMATION FROM TRELOAR ROSES: (FROM TRELOAR AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2024)

With our roses slowing down for winter dormancy, Autumn is a relatively easy season for rose care of existing plants. The main tasks include:

- **FERTILIZER:** now is the time to do one final application of fertilizer before winter. Do not fertilise too close to winter to avoid fresh growth prior to dormancy and frosts. May is too late. Even if you are in a warmer climate and experience little to no dormancy, it is still best to withhold fertilizer closer to winter.
- **SPRAYING:** fungal diseases like black spot are common during Autumn. Prevention is better than a cure – it is best to spray before the issue arises. However, if you already have black spot present, check the information on our website.

### SELECTING THE RIGHT ROSES FOR YOUR GARDEN



It is an exciting time of year as we dream and plan of our new rose additions for winter. With so many varieties to choose from, that final decision can be daunting. Our biggest tip is to **select disease resistant varieties**. One factor we all want from our roses is for them to be disease resistant. This means less spraying and more lush growth. New release roses have been trailed here on our farm for many years. We assess their suitability to the Australian climate, growth and flowering habits and most importantly their disease resistance. Only those that meet our strict criteria are released to the public. You can be confident when ordering one of our new release roses, that it has a strong disease resistance. Award Winning Roses have also been independently trialled for 2 years at the National Rose Trial Garden in Adelaide. Only rose varieties that receive a high enough score receive an award. Over the years Treloar Roses has won 88 awards at the trial garden. Giving you confidence of a healthy, easy-care variety.

### PREPARING SOIL FOR NEW ROSES

Give your roses the best possible start by preparing their new position well in advance, at least 6-8 weeks prior. Now is the ideal time to be preparing your garden beds.

Before you go any further... STOP! Have you tested your soil pH?

Before adding anything to the soil, perform a soil pH test. Testing kits can be purchased from hardware stores / garden centres and are easy to use. The soil pH for roses should sit between 6.5 and 7. The pH being too high or too low can result in the nutrients binding with the soil and becoming unavailable to the plant. This can cause many health issues from nutrient deficiencies and in some cases, death.



Once you have checked the drainage and soil pH is adequate, it is time to prepare the soil. Build it up with organic matter, water in, turn the soil over a few times and let it sit. Dig over and water the rose bed multiple times during the next few months, the soil should come to a fine tilth.

The soil type will determine how much work is needed prior to planting. The **best soils** are those of a medium to heavy loam to a minimum of 35cm, over a good clay sub-soil. This type of soil is ideal as it has the natural advantage of retaining moisture and nutrients and requires little preparation.

Roses can adapt to almost any soil type **except light, sandy soils**. One of the biggest problems with this soil type is water retention, with water and nutrients quickly draining through it before the rose has a chance to absorb what is needed. Sandy soils require more preparation for this reason. To prepare the soil introduce copious amounts of organic matter and digging it through thoroughly.

For more information on preparing your garden beds, click this button. [\*\*VIEW OUR GUIDE TO SOIL PREPARATION\*\*](#)



## PROPAGATION OF ROOTSTOCK / CUTTINGS FOR GRAFTING OF ROSES.

*There will be an information session on rootstocks and why graft roses at the March meeting.* The following is a guide to growing cuttings and especially rootstock in preparation for grafting. *The following information is taken from a paper developed by [By Dao Mai, Sydney, NSW, Australia, last revision Apr 2008 for <http://roseexchange.biz/roseexchange>](#)*

Roses are semi hardwood plants). The young buds initially grow softwood and harden over 2 growth seasons (over 8 months) to become semi-hardwood. The strategy of semi-hardwood propagation relies on Mother Nature almost entirely in the rooting phase where one takes cuttings and roots them. It's the easiest way to propagate with a limited rate of success and only available once every year. The general idea is to simply take healthy semi-hardwood cuttings and stick them into the soil in cool weather. In Southern Hemisphere, the correct time is autumn when the peak daily temperature has gone lower than 25 degrees C. Most rose stems have hardened and the growth rate has slowed. Leaves start to fall and flowers are few. One would start taking semi-hardwood rose canes which is like early pruning of roses which ideally should happen at the middle of winter. These canes are suitable to root in free draining soil mix over winter, and some would have roots by winter, sleep over winter for a few coldest weeks and grow again early next spring.

1. The canes should be semi-hardwood (between 6 - 18 months old). Discard all young stems. Each cane can be as long as 30cm or 1 foot in length. It's easier for longer canes to survive than short canes (when they are not over 30cm).

You trim back most diseased leaves. There is no need to keep any leaves. If there are laterals, cut them back very short to about 4cm (about 1.5 inches), keep only 2 at the most.

2. Prepare a sandy mix by mixing 80% sand and 20% peat. However any clean and well composted garden mix would do if you add about 50% sand into it. Soak the soil completely wet the first time. As these cuttings are semi hardwood

cuttings, soil with garden compost would also be an acceptable potting medium when the air temperature is quite cool. However you must avoid composted animal manure as the nitrogen level is too high and tends to cause decay with a high level of micro-bacterial activities.

3. Take the rose canes out, recut the base close to a node and apply a powder rooting hormone (or rooting gel) at the base (if you believe in rooting hormones) and use a pencil to dip a hole into the mix then insert a cane. Repeat until the canes are packed densely into a container. There is no need for much space between the rose canes. However if you want to save potting effort later, one cutting in a pot (with 2 layers of soil mix: well-composted garden mix at the bottom and the sandy mix above it) is also a good idea. But the timing should be in winter to avoid rotting the cuttings when fertile soil is used (nitrogen is a nutrient supporting life and that causes decay).

4. Take the pot out to a moist place under shade that has some morning mild Sun shine. This spot should be sheltered from the wind.



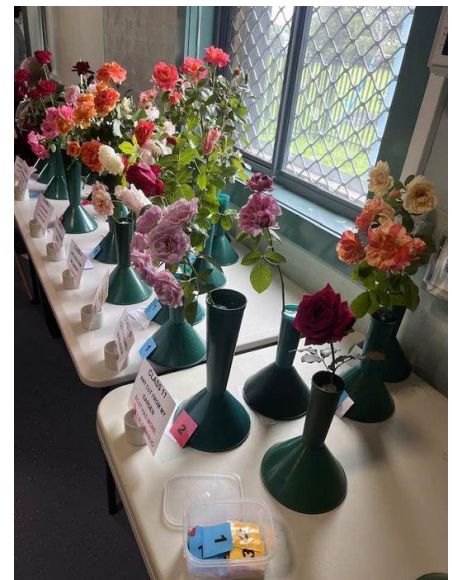
5. Do not spray water the first 2 days, and then mist them very lightly with a garden hose a couple of times each week. There is no need to wet the soil mix as the canes have little or no leaves, the soil mix will remain wet naturally. After a few weeks the rose canes will lose all leaves and the buds on the canes become plumb. This continues to slowly develop into little top growth by end of winter and at the early signs of spring, they would start to root. Only some of them will root. The sign of top growth does not mean roots have struck. But most of the cuttings with some top growth will eventually have roots.



**Note 1:** Semi-hardwood canes of some rootstocks are capable of forming callus and rooting on their own before the leaf growth starts. This is typical of Multiflora rootstock. The reserved energy stored in semi-hardwood cuttings are not simple sugars. When the condition is right, the cuttings convert this back into readily available nutrients and start the forming callus and roots at any spot that is warmer than the rest.

## AROUND THE RIDGES- our February meeting

We enjoyed our February meeting very much with the presentation from Helen Level on the use of various Neutrog products in the garden. We also enjoyed roses placed on the show bench. These are some photos of the event.



Helen Level speaking to the members

Some of the Showbench



Firefighter exhibition



For Your Eyes Only (Persica Rose)



Brass Band



More show bench



Lorraine's photo board with information about each rose

PEACE PARK KIAMA & RIBBONWOOD PEACE ROSE GARDEN AT DAPTO



Slide 1: Always give a rose a second chance, This rose in Peace Park had not produced any blooms for a couple of years, it was straggly, under stock was growing and it was generally a mess. Jill Millburn and Colin discussed it's fate and we decided to dig it up , then we decided to give it one last chance under the understanding if it did not produce blooms this year it would go to the Rose Garden in the sky. I removed the undergrowth, and we pruned, like pruned really hard, some were surprised at how hard Jill and I pruned and concluded we had killed the bush, now if the rose bush overheard our conversation or not, there is a glorious display of roses a bit over two months from the savage pruning, not only blooms but dozens of buds that will be in bloom in the coming weeks, lesson. never be afraid to do a hard, like very hard prune and don't be afraid to discuss a rose bush possible fate within hearing of the bush, in the meantime Illawarra locals come along to Peace park and see it at its stunning best also marvel at the result of a really hard prune on an underperforming rose bush Slide 2: Colin using some of the new equipment, purchased with grant money through the office of Fiona Phillips Member for Gilmore, Slides 3 & 4 Julianne Faulks & Kristin Dawson weeding and deadheading at Ribbonwood Peace Garden

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING SATURDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2024 OF ILLAWARRA ROSE SOCIETY.**

Meeting commenced at 1.30 pm and Kristin welcomed everyone that attended, including Helen and Megan from Neutrog, Stefica, State Secretary and all 34 present.

1. **APOLOGIES:** Jenny Swan, Joanne Fisher, Intan Kallus, Deidre Mcloughlin, Bev Emmett and Jill East.

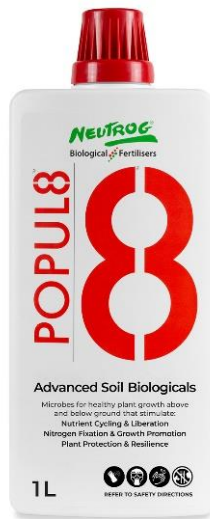
We enjoyed an excellent presentation on Neutrog by Helen, assisted by Megan including a 5-minute video presentation which is also available on the Neutrog Website. A small presentation was made to Helen and Megan to show our appreciation, we then had afternoon tea and the raffle was drawn and was won by Kathleen Gannon.

2. We continued with the meeting starting with an excellent Show bench. Jill thanked everyone that contributed to the beautiful display. Kristin had the best exhibit with Brass Band 1 to 6 stems Floribunda and Jill had the best Miniature exhibit with Bud to Full Bloom Bardella's Pearl.
3. Frans bought along 2 plants to give away and Esther brought along some Zinnia Seeds.
4. **FINANCIAL REPORT:** Everyday Account \$9,052.44. Show Account \$6,764.54. Friends of Peace Park \$1,886.45. Education Account \$6,361.63. Fixed Deposit \$8,391.82.

**Moved as correct by Robert and seconded by Lorraine Vost.**

5. 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner, a discussion was held and it was agreed a lunch would be held on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2024. Other Regions and past members to be invited. Members were asked to help by joining a Committee to organize the functions. A Rose Display will be held at Burnetts on Barney on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2024.
  6. **MOTION:** Illawarra Region will hold a display this year at Burnetts on Barney, instead of a Rose Show. Moved by Jill and Seconded by Lorrie. A show of hands confirmed all were in favour. Carried.
  7. Hans van Der Haar advised that the Neutrog Order had arrived early and was ready for collection by members. Kristin thanked Hans and all who helped.
  8. Next Meeting: To be decided.
- Meeting concluded a 3.55 p.m.

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IS A GREAT REASON TO  
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