

Southern Highlands Regional Rose Society

April 2024 Newsletter



Signature Rose Best Friend

Hello fellow Rosarians,

I believe April is the best month in the Highlands. We are back to normal time with beautiful Autumn weather and gorgeous deciduous tree colour.

I worked on the NSW Rose Society information desk at the Royal Easter Show. The information desk is very popular with the public seeking rose advice.

The rose display this year was not overwhelming, however The Grand Champion *Werribee Park* was stunning.

This floribunda rose was shown by Ted and Meryl Morphett.

They were our guest speakers last year demonstrating how to prepare roses for showing.



The other rose I was attracted to was another floribunda *Dusky Moon*.

Both roses have since been ordered as barerooted deliveries for August.

It's time to prepare garden beds for new roses. I have included Wagner's Nursery preparation advice in this newsletter.

This month's guest speaker will be either Garth or Robyn from Mittagong Nursery.

Make sure you have garden related questions to ask.

Please bring your blooms for the show bench.

We love to share information about our roses.

Annette

Your Chairperson

"A rose does not answer its enemies with words, but with beauty."

Matshona Dhlwayo

Feature Rose—Werribee Park

This month's feature rose is *Werribee Park* and was this year's Royal Easter Show Grand Champion.

Werribee Park is an Australian bred floribunda by the late Dr. Bruce Chapman who also bred the renowned roses *Amazing Grace*, *Flemington Racecourse*, the award winning Miniflora *Joyce Abounding* and many more.



Werribee Park is a stunning rose with masses of distinctive deep pink striped blooms with a strong sweet fragrance.

Growing between 1.2 to 1.5 metres tall and flowering in profusion on long picking stems it is a great vase and show rose.

I am looking forward to planting *Werribee Park* late August and smelling its decorative blooms in my rose garden.

Annette



How to prepare a bed for new roses

April is a good time to start preparing the garden bed for the new bareroot roses you will receive in winter, as there's plenty of time for the bed to decompose.

First, determine which type of soil you have.

The best type of soil for planting roses in is **loam**—it's essentially a mix of organic materials (compost, old animal manure, leaf litter), inorganic materials (soil), water and air.

An easy way to test for the quality of loam is to take a handful of soil, squeeze it and it should generally stick together.

If your soil isn't quite at the right consistency, don't panic. It's an easy process, but just takes a bit of time.

First add loads of organic matter to the bed, as it will only do great things for your rose garden. This could include decomposed compost, leaves, dried vegetable matter or grass clippings, mixed in with animal and bird manure—like chook and pidgeon in small quantities: it's very strong but also very good—or if you don't have access to that, a healthy dose of blood and bone.

Adding gypsum and liquid seaweed into the mix will go a long way to adding nutrients to the soil. Liquid seaweed in particular is an excellent soil conditioner and can be applied weekly — it will have the added bonus of feeding the worms which will do all the decomposing work for you!

Finally, mulch the area with legume straw or lucerne hay. With weekly watering the patch will 'bed down' and decompose nicely providing the perfect home for your new bareroot roses.



Our Members Choice Show Bench



Gemini

Tied 1st: Annette Lane



Mr.Lincoln

Tied 1st: Jonquil Temple



Ashram

2nd: Jeff Lawrence



Just Joey

3rd: Robyn & Peter Miller



Fairy Tale Queen

1st: Roz Mulligan



Thankyou

2nd: Annette Lane



Best Friend

Tied 3rd: Marilyn Dickinson



Bright Smiles

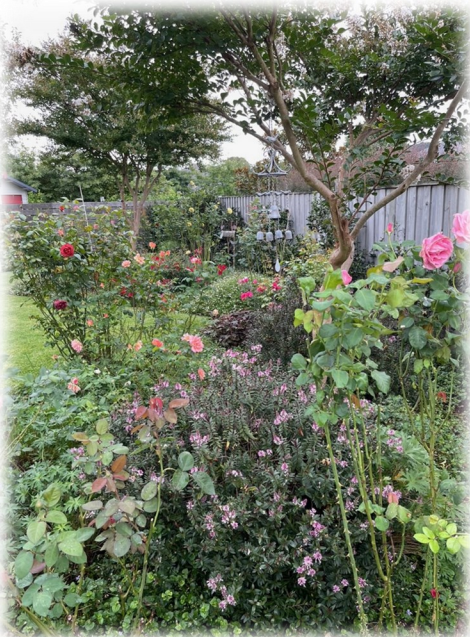
Tied 3rd: Roz Mulligan

Our visit to Liz Patton's Garden

What a delightful morning we had strolling around Liz's beautiful garden. There was a calm about the garden created by the way the garden had been designed. Lovely sculptures and water features added another element to the garden along with a myriad of roses. Thank you Liz, it was a joy to spend time in your garden.



Our visit to Liz Patton's Garden (cont')



Rose Tips for Mid to Late Autumn

- ◆ Autumn flush of roses
- ◆ Prepare garden beds for new winter roses
- ◆ Tie up any ramblers or climbers



Miniature rose 'Bridal Sunblaze'

The Show Bench

Each month at our meetings we encourage you to bring along your beautiful rose blooms to share your joy with fellow members. A single bloom or a vase arrangement featuring the rose (or both) will enhance our meeting discussion.

Members are asked to vote for their favourite presentation.

Tallies are added up at the end of each year with the winners in each category receiving a garden centre voucher.

