

# Southern Highlands Regional Rose Society

April 2022 Newsletter



Signature Rose Best Friend

Quote  
of the  
Month



*Against the blown  
rose,*

*may they stop  
their nose,*

*That kneel'd  
unto the buds.*

**Shakespeare**

Hello everyone,

Our march meeting was also our AGM and with that came the election of our committee members.

Congratulations to our 2022 / 2023 committee:

Chairperson	Peter Miller
Secretary	Carol McVeigh
Treasurer	Annette Lane



During our March meeting Annette Lane presented our previous Secretary Jo Babb with a gift of a beautiful wrap as a thank you from all the members. During her time as Secretary, Jo was generous in giving of her time, being dedicated in organizing events and speakers and ensuring members were kept informed. Thank you so much Jo.

We were also very happy to welcome back Sally, was so lovely to see you looking so well.

*Regards, Carol McVeigh*

## Rose Hall of Fame

The Rose Society of NSW were invited to participate by nominating roses they considered worthy to be included in the Rose Hall of Fame.

*We at Southern Highlands sent in our nominations which were:*

1. St Patrick
2. Gemini
3. Kardinal
4. Mr. Lincoln
5. Dame Elisabeth Murdoch

*Following all regionals submitting their choices the following roses were selected:*

### Modern Rose Hall of Fame

1. Apricot Nectar
2. Kardinal
3. Mister Lincoln

### Old Garden Rose Hall of Fame

1. Lamarque
2. Perle D'Or
3. Souvenir de Mme Leonie Viennot

### In this issue:

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# A Gardeners Tale.

By Carol McVeigh

For years visitors to my neighbours home often drove up my driveway by mistake as I am on a battle axe block and my house is behind his. The same neighbour only mows his lawn every blue moon and we have adjoining lawns.

## I had a plan.....

I would dig a garden bed as a border. I live in Mt Annan and we are on heavy clay. What could I do....????

My strategy was to wait until after a heavy shower of rain when the earth would be soft enough for me to fork it over. The heavens opened and I took my chance. I dug like a woman possessed.

Sods were turned, grass and weeds removed. I was on my way.

Having a friend who races pigeons, I had an endless supply of waste straw from the pigeon lofts and the very nutrient rich pigeon poo. Applied liberally to the newly dug garden bed, it was left for a few weeks to do it's job.

As patience is not really one of my virtues, I was sorely tested to wait until the correct PH balance was achieved.

Finally 6.5 was achieved. The champagne corks were popping in celebration and the planting could begin.

I chose to plant 3 Blushing Pink Iceberg standards initially to see if they would survive. I will change and plant my all time favourite Just Joey or plant them in between, to compliment the Pink Icebergs, as I have left room,

My chosen companion planting was Iris with a few annuals to give me instant colour for the season and as we have ducks visiting I had to put a wire cage over the plants as the ducks were pulling them out looking for worms.



Some of my Iris that bloomed this year.

Photos : Carol McVeigh

My garden bed this month. The roses and Iris have thrived and as you can see my neighbour has not mown for a while.

## Rose Care for April—Courtesy of Rosalie Vine

In our temperate climate the finest blooms of the whole year are coming now. These roses are just as big as spring blooms, they are more colourful, they last longer, and there are many more blooms because the plants are bigger. Continue spraying to prevent black spot and to kill mildew. Because of the hot, dry weather we've had until recently, there has not been as much fungal disease and insects as usual, however with rain about and cool nights we will get much more black spot and powdery mildew. Late aphids are sure to appear towards the end of April. They exude honeydew especially in the autumn and ugly sooty mould forms. Avoid these problems by attending to them as soon as aphids are noticed. Two other chewing pests are hibiscus beetle and thrip. Use Pyrethrum, eco-neem, Confidor or Mavrik, which is a pyrethroid. Be sure to follow the manufacturer's instructions carefully.



Hibiscus beetle sucks on the pollen and nectar



Aphids weaken leaves and flowers



Thrip damage on petals—brown edges

Orders for your new bare root roses need to be finalised very soon, so that you get the best of what the nurseries have to offer, rather than the weaker leftovers.

**Prepare the soil now for planting in June/July.** Test the pH of the soil and use dolomite on acid soils and iron sulphate or gypsum on alkaline soils. Roses love a pH of 6.5 as this enables the nutrients to be more easily taken up. If you are replacing a rose that has been in the ground, dig out about a wheelbarrow of the soil and fill the space with soil from another part of the garden where no roses have been growing. Dig in well-rotted manure and organic matter. A green crop of mustard seed or legumes, which is then dug in, will also help improve the soil.

One method that has worked well for us is as follows:

### 3 Months Before Planting

1. Dig a square hole at least 70cm x 70cm x 50cm
2. Fill with water and a wetting agent (eco-hydrate)
3. Let the water drain away — it should take less than an hour
4. Add a sprinkle of Seamungus to the hole
5. Backfill the hole halfway with soil mixed with compost and worm castings if available
6. Sprinkle Seamungus again
7. Fill with water and GOGO juice; let it drain away
8. Finish backfilling the hole; water with eco-hydrate
9. Mulch the bed with cow manure followed by lucerne hay /sugar cane /whoflungdung
10. Deep water every week; add GOGO juice every month; watch the worms come.

With kind regards... *Rosalie*



## Dates for Your Diary

Saturday 9 and Sunday 10 April

**Collector's Plant Fair**  
Hawkesbury Racecourse, Clarendon

Sunday 10 to Tuesday 19 April

**Royal Easter Show**  
Sydney Showground, Olympic Park

Friday 30 April to 2 May

**Roses by the Seaside**  
National Rose Convention  
The Pavilion Kiama

Friday 20 and Saturday 21 May

**NSW Floral Art Association**  
Floral Design Competition and Demonstrations  
Mittagong RSL, Mittagong



## Our Next Meeting

10.30 am Wednesday 20 April 2022

*Our Guest Speaker is*

**John Swainston**

*Photographing Roses*

Our meeting will be held at Renwick Community Centre

Renwick Drive, Renwick

*Morning tea will be served.*

*Members are invited to bring something to share.*

*Members are also invited to bring roses from their garden to exhibit for judging as per Rose Society rules*

*or*

*to place on the Members Choice Bench, where judging will be by popular vote from the members with points being awarded.*



The Category for our April Meeting for members exhibiting roses to be judged

as per Rose Society Rules is:

**1 Hybrid Tea Rose**