

Southern Highlands Rose Society

Newsletter

March 2020

Southern Highlands Rose Society

Garden Party

18 March 2020

4.00pm- until the conversation or daylight runs out

Cnr Oxley Drive and Bracken Street, Mittagong

The usual March meeting is to be replaced with a friendly gathering as above. Please come along and admire Annette's beautiful garden, enjoy refreshments and nibbles and talk flowers, roses and gardening with fellow members. Partners welcome (non gardener partners can talk other things)

Provided refreshments will include: wine and soft drink and punch, tea, coffee and cake

Please bring a plate of your favourite savoury finger food for sharing

There will be the usual show bench so bring your best bloom (for the annual tally)

RSVP to secretary: jo.babb@bigpond.com or phone Annette Lane on 0425203981



We have had very few responses. Please let us know if there is a reason. Is it transport? Not a party person? Don't like going out in the evening? A savoury plate doesn't work? Just busy?

If we know what people like (and don't like) we can plan accordingly. Thanks for any feedback. Just email me – all responses treated respectfully and confidentially.



Members and their guests are invited to celebrate the club's 50 years of achievements at our 50th Anniversary Garden Party.

This special event will be fully catered including food, drinks and entertainment by the [Clear Strings Ensemble](#).

Members & guests - \$45

Non-members - \$50

Enquiries and Reservations:
gardenclubbundanoon@gmail.com

Date: Saturday 21 March 2020

Time: 3pm - 6 pm

Location: The gardens of 641, Penrose Rd

Parking: available on site

Southern Highlands Rose Society Members have been especially invited to attend



Plant Fair 2020

Including a Southern Highlands Rose Society Branch stall – come along and say hello

Southern Highlands Plant Fair is part of the Autumn Open Garden Weekend. Now in its 10th year, the Southern Highlands Plant Fair 2020 will welcome stall holders from across NSW and Victoria, along with some local nurseries and of course the plants grown by the Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens.

Open Saturday and Sunday, 18 & 19 April, 9am to 4pm. Entry \$10 to the Plant Fair or \$35 for the Plant Fair and all 5 Open Gardens. Group discount \$32 ticket for groups of 10 or more to all 5 gardens and the plant fair.

Please note – no dogs allowed

Invitation to Illawarra Rose Society Picnic – 28th March 2020

Dear members of the Southern Highlands

Please find attached an invitation to the Regional picnic day to be held on Saturday March 28 at Farmborough Heights in the beautiful garden of Hans and Lyn Van de Haar. We are very pleased that Mark McGuire will come to this event and present for us a session with some demonstrations on how to prune our roses for a special occasion - so they bloom in time for rose shows or for a special event in our garden. We also will have a couple of slide shows on various rose growing issues as well as the picnic, garden tour and general socialising.

Please refer to the attachment in the email for the details of Illawarra's picnic.

COUNCIL'S ROSE RELOCATION UPDATE

As advised in previous newsletters, Council offered the Society roses which were to be dug up and if not re-homed would be discarded. On 8 January 2020, two members, Warwick Mhanna and Jo Babb turned up at the appointed hour on a stinking hot, smoke filled day to try and do the impossible. The roses were in the driest possible soil, were removed by a brutal backhoe and unceremoniously dumped on the ground. A little advice was offered to the backhoe operator and he stopped shaking the devil out of the poor things. All were very bare rooted due to the dry soil falling off and the shaking they got, not a good thing for roses in summer. With loving care and much tenderness, Warwick carefully got the first lot of roses into the back of his hired ute and sped them off to his prepared trench at his home in Kangaloon. The trench wasn't big enough for the huge old roots. Not to be defeated Warwick set to and enlarged, by hand, his huge trench. He got all the roses in and gave them lots of water and covered them. I didn't ask, but if Warwick could move the next day I would be surprised. Well done Warwick. And then he came back to check on me.

The second lot of roses were not so lucky. They were loaded onto the back of my ute, with not quite so much care and attention but with as much speed and care as one oldish woman could manage (the garden labourer aka husband Maurie was on light duties due to surgery) with a small bit of help from the contractor. As I was done in by then the rescued roses spent that night on the back of the ute. Next day they went into holes the best that could be dug by the same oldish woman and light duties labourer. But after that they received much loving care, many hundreds, perhaps thousands of litres of water and some much needed trimming. Later they got liquid Seamungus when I thought they would be up to it.



← Still at Council →



... A moved rose →



The Good News!

Low and behold! There are new shoots and new life. Warwick managed to save his whole load (about 15) and has had some lovely flowers. His roses had wonderful Kangaloon soil and water and the addition of Seamungus, Sudden Impact and WhoFlung Dung. A great recipe. I had success with the majority. Some of the root systems were just too badly damaged on some of the really old and large plants. And then the rain came and the rescued roses in my garden that survived their dire treatment have really taken off. I don't know how many I saved, probably fifteen. I planted them in amongst my existing roses. Some are obviously Council rescues but others have blended with what I had. But it was a very worthwhile exercise. I am so glad that so many of these beauties were saved. It was heartbreaking to watch the contractors at work especially as we watched beautiful azaleas and camellias fed into a big mulcher. Progress hurts.

Full credit to Peter Mahoney of Council whose idea it was to save the roses and who did his best with arranging pickup, instructions to the contractor and who hurt as much as Warwick and I did as we watched the none too gentle removal.



First signs of life at Jo's



Warwick's successes (above)

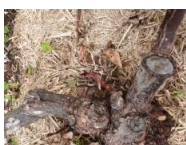


and Jo's after rain and sun.....



and Neutrog

???



If you peer closely you will see the best ever sight that a plant rescuer could hope to see – a lovely shoot, appearing only on 7 March. Now for a really good dose of Neutrog products to help it on its way. Too much to hope for? And so much anticipation about colour!

Growing and Showing Dahlias

Bruce Raines and Lonny Raines

The February meeting showcased the beauty of growing dahlias, an old favourite of so many.

Bruce opened his presentation with a demonstration of trimming and dividing the tubers from which the plants develop. A little piece of wood must be left on each tuber to ensure new growth.



Bruce has many beds of Dahlias at his home in Catherine Field and grows only for show and breeding. He described how he supports the dahlias by using cross sections of wire across the dahlia beds

Bruce demonstrated how to de-bud the stems so that each flower can grow to its optimum size. The top of the stem will grow three buds so two are removed to allow all the growth to go into the main flower. He then demonstrated how to trim down the stem to allow the plant to re-bloom.

Apologies to Bruce for cutting off his head! But how beautiful his dahlias look! Don't you agree?



Bruce and Lonny had beautiful gloxinias for sale – and many members took the opportunity to add to their collections.

The March meeting is the Garden Party: 18th March – see the first page for details

April will be a CWA Room meeting – presentation to be confirmed

Araluen Botanic Park

Western Australia

An article supplied by Neutrog



Serene, peaceful and magical are words that come to mind when thinking of the beautiful [Araluen Botanic Park](#) in Western Australia.

Since 1929, Araluen has been the place to enjoy natural bushland and the imported species that thrive in this valley of little wind, high rainfall, loamy soil and cold winters.



Each year, park staff and volunteers plant 150,000 tulips and 30,000 other bulbs that entice over 125,000 visitors annually to explore the gardens. Araluen is recognised as one of 40 International Camellia Gardens of Excellence worldwide, a rose garden renowned for collections of tea roses and Alister Clarke roses, and the best collection of magnolias in WA.

Grant Nixon became a volunteer at Araluen in 1990. In 1992 he was employed as Gardens Manager before taking over the position of General Manager in 2014. "Over the past 28 years the park has grown from a neglected secret garden to a botanic park that is beautiful through all the seasons of the year" says Grant. "Every part of the infrastructure has had to be upgraded or replaced. From paths to buildings, electricity and water, toilet systems and optic fibre. This work has taken place while the garden areas of the park have been turned from that neglected garden into realising our vision - to create a unique world class botanic park of great natural beauty and tranquility which is accessible to everyone and remembered by all who visit".

Araluen and Grant first started working with Neutrog in 2013. "We began using Sudden Impact for Roses, and by following a regular feeding programme, we found that the improvement to our rose health was such that it has allowed us to stop using chemical sprays. Not to mention the fantastic flowering! Our relationship has expanded over the years in conjunction with Araluen and Neutrog's growth" said Grant.

Araluen Botanic Garden



"Our International Camellia Garden of Excellence has benefited and flourished from the regular use of Kahoona for acid loving plants. Our gardens also receive Seamungus during winter. This ensures that when spring arrives, that the soil is so healthy, that everything takes off so vigorously".

Grant has since retired, but Araluen continues to flourish under the guidance of the newly appointed General Manager Suzy Parravicini along with the team of dedicated gardeners.

About Kahoona – Kahoona is an organic based, chemically boosted fertiliser, specifically developed to enhance the growth and flower development of acid loving plants such as camellias, gardenias, azaleas, rhododendrons and fuchsias. The higher potassium to nitrogen ratio within Kahoona plays a crucial role in enhancing flower development, whilst the boosted levels of iron and magnesium help maintain healthy green foliage, aiding in preventing the yellowing leaves which are often seen in late winter and early spring.

Following successful trials, Kahoona has been endorsed by [Camellias South Australia](#), the Australian Rhododendron Society (SA Branch), the Camellia Society of WA, [Camellias Illawarra](#) and the [NSW Camellia Research Society](#).

Kahoona is available at Bunnings, Mitre 10, Home Timber & Hardware, Stratco and all good garden centres.

For Araluen's opening hours, visit their website here: <https://www.araluenbotanicpark.com.au/>

