

# Southern Highlands Rose Society



## November 2020 - Newsletter

Members,

Well here we are in November, the Melbourne Cup has been run (at least I think so, I am not a fan of horse racing) and the flowers from Flemington have been harvested and distributed to front line workers and others (I'm a fan of that course of action). Your roses would by now have enjoyed some much deserved rain and responded by budding up but of course there is a downside to all weather events and lots of buds were quickly ruined with the heavy rain. But the rain certainly helped get the Sudden Impact for Roses nicely into the soil so I am certainly not complaining.

In October we had our first Rose meeting for many months. Seventeen members enjoyed the meeting and we had a lovely morning. The morning tea, provided by the Friends of the Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens was a real treat with a sumptuous array of sandwiches and cakes with even gluten free choices available. We were treated to a very interesting talk by Chris Webb on the history of the gardens and plans for the future. The nursery on site proved to be a draw card and there were some much emptied wallets leaving the Gardens.

We also conducted our normal meeting with reports about postponed and cancelled events. Some members had watched the on line awards presentation from the National Rose Trial Gardens which was streamed live from South Australia and those who watched agreed that the streaming was one of the few good things to come out of lock down. I hope it will continue into the future as it was a very interesting evening.

The Christmas gathering was discussed and there is more information on that in this newsletter. We held the usual informal show table with three members getting equal scores for their roses – Peace, Chicago Peace and Gold Bunny but all the roses on display were delightful. I had taken in a display of "Little Susie" which is flowering in my garden presently and which is named for the late Sue Kingsford. Some of the rescued Council roses were also flowering and provided another little display.

The issue of feedback to the editor of the NSW Rose was discussed and the meeting provided some feedback which was passed on to Ms Wade, NSW editor.

The raffle was a delightful orchid donated by Annette Lane who has very green thumbs and seems to be able to grow anything. Thank you Annette.

Jo Babb – Secretary and Newsletter coordinator- Newsletter contributions to: [jo.babb@bigpond.com](mailto:jo.babb@bigpond.com)



Members at the meeting (left) rose blooms from Council rescued roses (right)



Olivia Rose Austin – Gold Medallist at the Rose Trial Garden of Australia - this rose has already been released to the market and is very deserving of its gold medal with a beautiful perfume and a delicate pink. I was lucky enough to buy one locally. Jo Babb



# Christmas Meeting and get together

## Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Morning coffee with our usual meeting and show bench followed by lunch and get together

Mittagong garden venues (homes of one or two members)

Finer Details to be provided soon via email (when finalised but put aside a good chunk of your day)

RSVP strictly required – now or when the details are provided

Email now if you would like to secure your place in advance of details - [jo.babb@bigpond.com](mailto:jo.babb@bigpond.com)

The event will be Covid19 safe – sign in, sanitiser and distancing



Photos from our October meeting at Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens – a relaxed and friendly day after so many months – wonderful morning tea, a good show bench and remembering Sue Kingsford

*“I don’t know whether nice people tend to grow roses or growing roses makes people nice.”– Roland A. Browne*



# Cultural Notes and Hints

## SOUTHERN SYDNEY REGION CULTURAL NOTES OCTOBER 2020

Braidan Swan (many thanks to Braidan)

Not much to report in these Cultural Notes, but more reminding growers to keep the water up to your roses and regular spraying for pests.

Water and fertiliser go hand in hand with “building” a good rose bush. Fast spring growth occurs in October and by now you should be into your first flush of roses for the season.

Keep an eye out for water shoots (strong new growth coming from base above graft) tie these to a stake to prevent winds from damaging them as these will form the “building blocks” to your rose bush and will produce new flowers and growth in the next few months.

Regular spraying of insecticides either chemical or organic to keep on top of aphids and any other pests should continue.

Remember to always follow the label and not to spray on a hot and/or windy day.

Keeping your bed or pots mulched will help hold moisture in, sugar cane or Whoflungdung is sufficient.



Although their music was cutting hedge and highly sod after, it was unfortunately only a topiary gig.



And from Neutrog this wonderful photo ( above)



And from Peter Miller's lovely garden is this magnificent rose

# From Sustainable Gardening Australia Website

## Hi, my name is: Aphid

**Describe yourself:** I'm a real softy, small in size (around 2 – 3mm), with a shiny, transparent green or yellow body! I occasionally dress up in a white, woolly coat. I'm rarely seen on my own as I hang out in a pretty big group! A particular version of me, the cabbage aphid, is more grey and particularly loves brassicas in winter.

**Hobbies:** Multiplying!!! Sucking sap; exuding honeydew; hanging out with ants which are attracted to the honeydew, encouraging sooty mould and passing viruses from plant to plant. You'll often find yellow patches from these viruses on infected leaves.

**Likes:** Yellow flowers, warm moist environments, succulent new growth of just about every kind of plant (I really love roses, heaps of veggies, annuals and citrus trees).

**Dislikes:** Chives, coriander, garlic, onions, petunias and radishes. Soaps – like home made chilli soap, neem oil (Azadirachtin). Don't get along with Ladybirds or Lacewings, Braconid Wasps, Hover Flies or Praying Mantis! Oh, and I hate sticky traps! These predatory insects seem to be attracted by companion plants like Alyssum, Yarrow and Dill.



**You'll know you've met me when:** all your plants' new growth is seriously malformed; there are heaps of ants on the stems or plant parts are sticky from my honeydew. Oh, and yucky black sooty mold soon appears!

### Breaking up ain't hard to do... if you:

Squash me and my  
Or pay your  
love squashing us! In  
signal that makes the

- Stop my ant friends from coming around by growing tansy to our every need and protect us from garden bullies. vulnerable to being eaten!
- Irritate me by putting a flattened square of aluminium foil light on the undersides of leaves.
- Spray me with a home made garlic or chilli soap. Or make Castille soap per 100 ml water) and target the underside of mint tea in the water can also be helpful.
- Suck me off with a vacuum cleaner.
- Spray your plants' leaves with a strong jet of water (either with a hose or kitchen spray bottle) and knock me and my mates right off our perch!
- Provide a bright yellow plastic dish, half filled with water, near my preferred plants. I can't resist yellow things, but I can't swim either! You can work out the rest!



mates by hand. It's icky but effective!  
neighbours' kids to do the deed- they  
my death throes I emit a chemical  
other aphids take off quick smart!  
or other ant repellent plants! Ants tend  
Without their protection we are very

around the base of plants to bounce

an insecticidal soap (2ml liquid  
leaves. Some claim that including

Thank you to Sustainable Gardening Australia for this article. Taken from their website.

<https://www.sgaonline.org.au/about/>

Sustainable Gardening Australia (SGA) is a not-for-profit social organisation dedicated to achieving a healthy biodiverse planet and vibrant, sustainable communities. It is a registered charity.

Its principal purposes are to:

1. encourage, educate and enable home and professional gardeners to adopt sustainable gardening practices to protect or enhance the natural environment or a significant aspect of it; and
2. provide information or education, or carry on research about, the natural environment or a significant aspect of it.

## Annette's Rainfall Measurement

(Yet to come – but next month we will have more months)



Items are always needed for the newsletter. Any contribution is welcome: A story, a photo, some advice. Help make the newsletter worth reading.

For those of you who like writing, the Australian Rose Annual is also looking for articles for publication in 2021. Details of where to send etc are in your 2020 Rose Annual which you would have received in the first half of the year.