

# Southern Highlands Regional Rose Society

## February 2026 Newsletter



Signature Rose Best Friend

*Hello Rosarian Friends,*

Can you believe it's the last month of summer!!

We had a wonderful start to our Rose Society Year with the garden visit to Gowan Brae the home of our members Ros and Chris Bennett.

Chris and Ros we are so grateful that you are restoring Gowan Brae to its former glory and allowing us to be the first to experience your planned open gardens.

When attending the February Meeting you will notice the groundwork has hopefully commenced for our Renwick Community Rose Garden project working with Wingecarribee Council.

Reece and his team of three apprentices will be doing the "grunt" work. How lucky are we?

Our guest speaker this month is Rosalie Vine and her topic is "Choosing roses from the garden for Show Bench".

Many of you met Rosalie 3 years ago when she showed us how to grow roses in pots.

I learnt so much from Rosalie's excellent presentation and using her methods I am growing Miniature and Miniflora roses in pots.

Rosalie will be judging roses at the Royal Easter Show for the first time this year.

Seeing Rosalie is a Rose Society Judge I think it will be appropriate for her to judge our show bench.

Her comments will be very valuable for our future show benching.



As a request from Jennifer Jackson, David Austin rose class will be introduced for this year's in house show. A feature article on David Austin Roses is in this newsletter.

Looking forward to our meeting on Wednesday February 18th.

Please bring at least one rose or floral display to test Rosalie and have more resources for discussion.

*“For the love of the rose” and friendship we meet again.*

Your chairperson,

*Annette*

I have donated a rescue David Austin Rose - Thomas A Becket for the raffle.



Thomas A Becket is a little different from the normal David Austin Rose since it's closer to the Species Rose in appearance.

Its blooms are a striking deep crimson red. The individual flowers can be best described as shallow cupped and opening as informal rosettes.

Thomas A Becket has an old-fashioned rose fragrance. It's a vigorous grower in full sun and responds well to hard pruning.

Unfortunately, will not be in flower for raffle prize but will bloom in March.



# David Austin Roses

David Austin (1926-2018) launched his first rose Constance Spry in 1961.



*David Austin in front of Graham Thomas rose.*

His breakthrough in the rose world came in 1983 with the introduction of Graham Thomas at the Chelsea Flower Show. This rose brought him International fame and demand for David Austin Roses.

The David Austin Roses are known for their distinctive lush, cupped or rosette shaped blooms and often intense fragrance. The roses are a blend of old fashion charm, intense fragrance and the repeat flowering of modern hybrid teas.

Famous David Austin Roses include Jude the Obscure, Gertrude Jekyll, Munstead Wood, Lady of Shallot, Olivia Rose, Princess Alexandra of Kent and The Poets Wife.

The David Austin Company (family owned) has introduced well over 200 varieties of roses.



*Lady of Shallot*



*Olivia Rose*



*The Poet's Wife*

*Princess Alexandra of Kent*



*Gertrude Jekyll*



*Jude the Obscure*



*Munstead Wood*

Our Visit to Gowan Brae



*Bowral Garden Club Inc.*  
*(Established in 1965)*  
*Affiliated with The Garden Clubs of Australia Inc.*



*Friendship through Gardening*

## **An Invitation to a Friendship Afternoon**

**You are invited to join the Bowral Garden Club for afternoon tea. Our guest speaker will be Sandra Ross (Horticulturist, garden writer, broadcaster and tour leader).**



**Time:** Monday 13 April 2026, 1.45pm for 2.00pm

**Venue:** Uniting Church Hall, ~~Cnr Bendooley & Boolwey~~ Sts, Bowral

**Cost:** \$10 includes entry and afternoon tea  
(Payment by bank transfer - Bowral Garden Club: BSB 633 000 ACC # 200091754  
Please include your surname and Friendship)

**RSVP:** Monday 23 March 2026

**Reply:** *Sue Cisco* 0448 112 321  
[president@bowralgardenclub.com](mailto:president@bowralgardenclub.com)

address: P.O. Box 910, Bowral NSW 2576

## *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.*

### **2026 Advocate Store Deadlines**

**Winter – Ordering Deadline 13th April 2026**

**Spring – Ordering Deadline 13th July 2026**

**Summer – Ordering Deadline 12th October 2026**

*“There is simply the rose; it is perfect in every moment of its existence.”* Ralph Waldo Emerson

