

# Southern Highlands Regional Rose Society

February 2024 Newsletter



Signature Rose Best Friend

*Greetings Rosarian Friends,*

I thoroughly enjoyed our social morning at Glass Restaurant to “kick start” our year. It was lovely to mix with fellow members and gossip.

Sadly, two of our ladies Kerry Bourke and Robyn Miller have concerning medical issues and could not attend.

We send our best wishes and hoping for their speedy recovery.

The Highlands Garden Society have an Autumn Flower Show on March 15th and our club is invited to participate.

The schedule is attached to the newsletter. Why not give it a go?

I have attempted to grow roses in pots following Rosalie Vines’ guest speaker appearance in October. I am using her method of growing roses in a pot within a larger pot and mine method of just planting into large pots.

As you can see Mother’s Love is doing well following Rosalie’s method.

The other roses are also thriving using my method. Verdict still pending.

At the NSW Rose Society Delegates meeting on February 11th, Southern Highlands Rose Society will tentatively propose hosting the National Miniature Rose Show on March 21-22 in 2025 with other Regions support and direction. The Mittagong RSL has been booked as the venue.



Our member Jonquil Temple-“The Lady Behind The Mask” will be our February guest speaker. This will be a fun-filled experience.

See you soon.

Your Chairperson

*Annette*

*As Rumi stated*

*“Come out here where the roses have opened. Let soul and world meet.”*

## Our Morning Tea at Glass Cafe



*Our gracious host of Glass Cafe, Leanne, offered our group a lucky door prize being a Glass Café gift voucher.*

*And the winner was.....  
Pam Mildwater!  
Congratulations, Pam.*



## Roses and Summer—Klaus Eckardt

**Klaus is a highly experienced rose horticulturist  
and owner of Green E Roses, Galston**

Summer is the time of rapid growing and flowering. Heat, wind and temperature changes have an impact on various parts of the plant and the soil environment, affecting performance and condition.

Summer tasks mainly involve watering, feeding and mulching. Summer pruning and treating summer pests and diseases may also be appropriate.

The rose uses the extra light and heat to grow, but they also cause stresses, particularly if temperatures change rapidly.

### **Water stress**

Plant roots need moisture in the soil environment to be able to function. Dry soils don't work. Ensure your watering provides sufficient moisture for the entire root zone. Symptoms include: wilting of young growth, loss of leaves, or an increased incidence of black spot or mildew.

*A lot of common causes of plant troubles can be traced back to water/soil problems.*

### **Heat stress**

Heat and wind can dehydrate young growth tissue. Common symptoms are:

**On flowers** — scorched petals, wilted flowers, (**action:** deadhead damaged flowers)

**On leaves** — scorch marks, yellow wilted leaves, (**action:** don't remove, they are protecting other parts).

**On stems** — scorch marks on exposed stem or around base, (**action:** pray and hope).

### **Summer watering**

Roses absorb water through their roots for growing and cooling. The root zone needs to hold sufficient moisture to be effective.

Focus watering to penetrate the root areas rather than on the foliage. Ensure the water penetrates to the depth of the roots. In extreme heat (some days in late January are like this) watering the top may 'cool', the plant, but at the risk of scorching leaves and flowers.

Common problem areas that may need extra attention are: near buildings, particularly under eaves, or where other plant roots impede water penetration (e.g. Buxus)

*Check the moisture profile around the root zone.*

### **Dry spots**

*Be aware that "dry spots" may develop in the soil or planting mix. These require extra effort to "wet" them. One way is to water in a sequence of short intervals, allowing capillary action to "soak" water into the media until broad and deep watering is achieved. There are also "wetting agents" available which allow water to penetrate more readily.*

### **When to water**

It is best to **water early in the day** when leaves can dry quickly. Try to avoid watering at night when leaves are in a moist state over a period of time, thereby increasing the chances of fungal problems.

How often to water depends on many factors: e.g. type and moisture content of the soil, current growth (soft or hardened) and the size of the root system (young plants or established). Young plants and potted plants need more attention than established roses in the ground.

**Observe and check.** Potted roses, young roses or roses in porous soils may need to be watered daily. Established plants in soils that retain moisture maybe not, and every few days may be sufficient. They may all need watering when temperatures increase suddenly or it becomes windy. Always water after fertilising and pruning.

### **Mulching**

Mulching has many benefits for the rose root/soil environment:

reducing evaporation, keeping temperatures down and more stable, and of course reducing the competition from weeds.

‘Soft’ mulches are preferable (sugar cane, Lucerne, Who Flung Dung, etc.) Bark mulches are less desirable. Pebble mulches should not be used. (Never use plastic film).



*Check that watering penetrates the mulch to the soil.*

Roses in pots benefit from a living plant mulch. It is more efficient at cooling a pot than an ‘inert’ mulch. Choosing a plant that is ‘weaker’ than the rose also provides the extra benefit of showing signs of water stress if the pot gets too dry—before the rose gets into trouble.

### **Summer pruning**

Pruning promotes new growth and flowers, removes weaker less productive parts and allows more light and air into the plant structure. It generally makes the plant grow better—stronger and with more branches, and reduces susceptibility to diseases by promoting healthy current growth.

*There is a danger of exposing plant parts to sudden heat, causing scorching and heat stress as mentioned above. Don't cut back too hard if temperatures are high; leave older bits that protect younger bits.*

### **Summer fertilising**

The rose will have used up fertiliser for the growth that has produced flowers, and now will need to find more resources for subsequent summer growth.

The question arises—can the roots find more, or does it have to be added? Some soils can hold nutrients for a long time (most clayey soils do) and others can leach out nutrients rapidly (e.g. sandy soils and potting mixes). Some fertilisers release over a time period, others short term.

If required, replenish fertilisers after flowering flushes (usually 6-8 weeks in summer). Make sure to water well afterwards, and watch new growth for water stress.

*Extract from NSW Rose Summer 2021 Vol.55 No.4*

# Our Inaugural In-house Annual Rose Show

15 November, 2023

*What a wonder display we had for our Show.*



## And the winners are:

### *Class 1: One Exhibition Rose*

Winner: Jonquil Temple – rose name – unknown

2nd: Liz Patton – Red Intuition

3rd: Jeff Lawrence – Peace

### *Class 2: Bunch of 3 Roses same cultivar*

Winner: Peter & Robyn Miller – Best Friend

2nd: Peter & Robyn Miller – Just Joey

3rd: Annette Lane – Gold medal



### *Class 3: Mini/Miniflora 1 stem*

1st: Peter & Robyn Miller – Mandarin

2nd: Peter & Robyn Miller – Dwarf fairy

3rd: Annette Lane – Red Fairy

### *Class 4: 3 stems Mini or Miniflora same cultivar*

1st: Annette Lane – Red fairy

2nd: Annette Lane – Sarah Anne

3rd: Annette Lane – Irresistible

### *Floral Art*

1st: Annette Lane

2nd Jonquil Temple

3rd: Margaret Keith

*Thank you to everyone who brought in entries.*

## *Rose Tips for Summer*

- ◆ Fertilise, top up mulch and deadhead
- ◆ Water well, especially pots
- ◆ Prune all once flowering ramblers such as Albertine, Banksia roses and heritage shrubs i.e. Albas, Gallicas, Damasks
- ◆ Watch for spider mites in dry, hot weather
- ◆ Continue your spray program to maintain foliage and avoid sunburn
- ◆ Feed with organic fertiliser & water well
- ◆ If you are hybridising, this is the time to be pollenating roses
- ◆ Budding is best from mid to late summer
- ◆ February is the time for pruning for autumn rose shows and to help bring on a new flush of roses



## *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.*

*Our winners for 2023 were:*

*Single bloom: Annette Lane*

*Flower arrangement: Carole McVeigh.*

*Congratulations ladies!*