



The Rose Society of South Australia Inc

Bulletin

Volume 65, Number 3

Jul, Aug, Sept 2026

*Silver
Lining*



Our Mission: to provide excellence and innovation in the promotion of the rose

Calendar of Events

End of June

Sunday 28th June 12.30–3pm	Pruning Workshop, International Rose Garden, Adelaide Botanic Garden.
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July

Tuesday, 14th July 7pm	Annual General Meeting, Goodman Building, Adelaide Botanic Garden.
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August

Saturday, 1st August 10am–2pm	Open Day at Knight's Roses, 44 Jack Cooper Drive, Evanston. Pruning demonstrations by the RSSA at 11am and 12.30pm.
Tuesday, 11th August, 7pm	Members' Zoom Meeting on rose breeding, with Richard Walsh and Ruth Griffiths. See page 14.

September

Tuesday, 8th September, 7pm	Member's Meeting, Goodman Building, Adelaide Botanic Garden. Panel discussion. See page 14.
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2026 Spring Rose Show Accommodation Bookings

It is recommended that you book now if you wish to stay overnight in the Barossa Valley during the Show, again being held at Barossa Central Shopping Mall, 1 Murray Street, Nuriootpa, on the 24th and 25th October 2026.

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COVER PHOTO ***Silver Lining***, by Celia Painter

This exhibit of the Hybrid Tea ***Silver Lining*** was a part of the winning SA State Open Championship entry by Gavin Woods at the 2026 Autumn Rose Show (p23–27). ***Silver Lining*** is an older Hybrid Tea with blooms, on strong stems, being mostly solitary. It is known as a repeat flowering rose and has in its parentage ***Karl Herbst***. It is a seedling of ***Eden Rose***.



The Rose Society of South Australia Inc encourages, fosters, and extends the cultivation and appreciation of the rose. It also arranges, sponsors and conducts talks, demonstrations, exhibitions and shows, in line with its Constitution and By-Laws.

ABOUT

The Rose Society of South Australia's Bulletin is the official publication of the Society for members. It is produced quarterly in hard copy and digital formats.

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CONTRIBUTIONS

Members of The Rose Society of South Australia and invited guests provide content for this publication. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of The Rose Society of South Australia Inc or the Editor.

sarose.org.au

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Wagner's discount code: 100%ROSES!**

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WEB ADMINISTRATOR Chris Kelly cpkelly123@bigpond.com

EDITED by Celia Painter, 86 Grevillea Way, Woodside SA 5244.

Email bulletinrssa@gmail.com or phone 0407 547 337

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The Rose Society of South Australia Inc

Patron

Mr Rod Bunten, Government House

Vice Patron

Mr Michael Keelan

Council

President: Mr Gavin Woods	0429 021 006	gbwoods@adam.com.au
Secretary: Mrs Diane vom Berg	0416 073 957	rssasecretary@gmail.com
& Immediate Past President		
Treasurer: Mr Paul Flavel	0493 755 760	rssatreasurer@gmail.com
	PO Box 51, Unley SA 5061	
Vice President: Ms Penelope Schulz	0437 505 010	penelopeannes@bigpond.com
Vice President: Mr John Humphries	0439 706 324	johnandmaureenhumphries@gmail.com
Show Manager: Mrs Joy Johnson	0418 895 438	joyjohnsonbruce1947@gmail.com
Bulletin Editor: Ms Celia Painter	0407 547 337	bulletinrssa@gmail.com
Publicity: Mrs Melanie Trimper	0410 858 528	ktrimper@bigpond.net.au
Mr John Bradshaw	0417 081 204	headcutter@bigpond.com
Ms Harriet Eivers	0403 686 426	harrieteivers@icloud.com
Mr Tate Hancox	0488 160 073	tatehancox@gmail.com
Mrs Maureen Humphries	8270 7949	magnoli2026@gmail.com

Chaffey Rose Club

President: Mrs Elly Johnson
PO Box 66
Paringa SA 5340
08 8595 5206
ellyjohnson1951@gmail.com

Secretary: Mrs Dale Kerin
12 Kokoda Avenue
Renmark SA 5341
08 8586 4053 0420 383 948
dale48K@gmail.com

South East Branch

President: Ms Kelly Hillstone
PO Box 3361
Mount Gambier SA 5290
0439 363 858
kelly@hillstone.net.au

Secretary: Mrs Annie Clifford
PO Box 190
Penola SA 5277
0408 372 428
yallum.annie@gmail.com

Roses on Eyre

President: Mrs Sandy McCallum
PO Box 53
Tumby Bay SA 5606
08 8688 4206 0407 884 234
mccallumsj@dodo.com.au

Secretary: Mrs Karen Miels
PO Box 3524
Port Lincoln SA 5606
0418 984 289
karmakazza@gmail.com

A message from the President

How quickly time passes between these reports. We enjoyed a wonderful Autumn flush of blooms, with two significant rain events helping the roses reach their potential. With every positive comes a flip side; rain brought increased humidity and with it the ever-present fungal disease became well established. In my no-spray garden, I saw defoliation of some plants like never before. It has, however, highlighted the more vigorous and disease resistant varieties, mostly modern cultivars. Contemporary rose hybridisers are to be congratulated in making disease resistance a priority.



Gavin Woods ARA

I attended three rose shows this Autumn: the Society sponsored shows held in conjunction with Mt Barker Agricultural Show; the Sydney Royal Show; and our own Autumn Rose Show. All events attracted magnificent displays of roses for the public's enjoyment. Particularly pleasing was that all shows featured entries by first time exhibitors, something we must promote if we are to endure. Shows remain the best showcase of our flowers to the public with the ever-present hope that we can attract more admirers to join us in that promotion.

Members further supported several Agricultural Shows and exhibited their roses. Congratulations to those involved, they are all helping to spread the gospel.

The combination of our Autumn Rose Show and People's Choice at the National Rose Trial Garden of Australia has been a collaboration that has traditionally seen many hundreds enjoy both events on the same weekend. This year we saw a slight mismatch of dates due to other events in the Adelaide Botanic Garden, however still hundreds flocked to our show. Volunteers to run both events simultaneously are becoming increasingly difficult to find and I believe it is time to re-assess our collaboration, perhaps splitting events to spread the workload.

An exhibitor workshop was attended by 26 enthusiastic rosarians, keen to learn more of the mysterious world that envelopes many of us. Many thanks to Merv Trimper who freely offered his considerable skill and knowledge to those in attendance. I was particularly thrilled to see some of those in attendance exhibit for the first time at our Autumn Show a week later.

Our Combined Branches Meeting was hosted this year by Chaffey Rose Club branch in May, this being their 30th Anniversary. Thirty-four members enjoyed the hospitality of this group in Renmark where we enjoyed great food, great gardens and great conversation for the weekend. Whilst largely a social event, the get-together provides an important link between the State body and our branches, who have all done so much to promote the rose and our Society in their regions. Well done Chaffey!

Our monthly meetings have been well supported and have featured interesting and educational speakers. The show benches at these meetings have been filled with wonderful flowers. To those considering "dipping their toe" into the exhibition world, this is the ideal starting point in a minimally pressured environment.

A message from the President continued

I was delighted that our new Constitution was adopted in its entirety at a Special Members' Meeting in May. Following endorsement by Government, the new document will be published on our website. I want to thank Celia Painter for the assistance she provided in bringing this document to its current position. The major change that will be obvious to members is the transition to two-year terms for all Councillors, with half of the Council elected annually. This will ensure that we maintain skills and knowledge within the Council group, thereby guaranteeing greater continuity.

Our work at the Government House rose garden continues, with fortnightly visits ensuring the plants are performing at their best. We will plant a further 80 plus roses this Winter, with a focus being an Australian Bred bed to complete the garden. Her Excellency, the Honourable Frances Adamson AC, visited us in the garden a few weeks ago and expressed her delight at the direction the garden is now heading. I had the opportunity to express my regret that Her Excellency is retiring from the role in October. I hope we get the opportunity to meet with her and Mr Bunten, our Patron, before they depart Government House.

Our Society has finalised a donation to the Royal Agricultural and Horticultural Society of SA Inc. towards a perpetual trophy honouring our late Life-Member Walter Duncan OAM. The trophy will be awarded to the most outstanding exhibit in the Horticulture Section of the Royal Adelaide Show. We are honoured to be able to recognise a truly outstanding rosarian, member and friend to many in this significant way.

We were deeply saddened to learn of the death of Life Member Pam Kelly prior to our Autumn Show. An amazing and consistent contributor to our activities, Pam will be missed by members. We offer sincere condolences to Chris and their family.

As we approach Winter months, there remains much to do within the rose garden and indeed the Society itself. We welcome input from members in the form of suggestions for meeting topics or any of our other activities. We particularly like input from members who are prepared to raise their hands to assist with the workload! Please, if you think you can contribute, make yourself known to myself or any of our Councillors. You will not regret it!

Gavin

We welcome our New Members

Julie Willmer—St Agnes

Alison McCauley—Littlehampton

Debra Paor Jones—Aberfoyle Park

Hamira and Shaheen—Ajani

Margaret Rohrsheim—Mitcham

Victoria and Catherine Pike—Toorak Gardens

Boxiao Wu—St Agnes

Kate Tuck—Williamstown

Karyn and Maurice Bell—Kanmantoo

Zoe Phillips—Lyndoch

We also welcome new Members who asked that their names be withheld.

Branches unite to mark Chaffey's 30th birthday

By Dale Kerin with friends

A milestone was celebrated at the start of May with Chaffey Rose Club marking its 30th birthday by hosting a weekend packed with activities in the Riverland, open to members from across South Australia, and a Combined Meeting of the Society's Branches.

Members from Adelaide, the South East and the Mid-North joined Riverland members for the two-day event. Among them, especially poignant for Riverland members, was Society Life Member and Chaffey Patron, Malcolm Watson OAM ARA NSA SMA WFRS Gold Medal and wife Ruth ARA, also a Life Member, who attended the 30th birthday dinner on Saturday 2nd May. Malcolm has kindly supported the branch since its inception.



Society President Gavin Woods and Elaine Schier.

Chaffey Rose Club's first meeting was held on Sunday 14th April 1996 in the home of another luminary of the rose world, the late Life Member David Ruston OAM, ARA WFRS Gold Medal. In the beginning it was a Tri-State Club, welcoming those from clubs in the Riverland, Sunraysia and the Riverina. Each had healthy numbers of members and each held a three-year term in office before handing over to the next. The combined clubs enjoyed socialising, special events, trips, and garden visits. Over the years, Sunraysia and Riverina numbers dropped away and the clubs eventually closed. Riverland has also declined in numbers but is surviving with the aid of a dedicated committee working hard so as we can continue for a while longer.

Life member Elaine Schier had the honour of cutting the 30th birthday cake with Society President and fellow Life Member, Gavin Woods ARA SMA, at the dinner.

Chaffey members acknowledged Diane and Bill Della Santa, as well as Shirley Sylvia, from the former Sunraysia Club, and Beth Circuit plus David and Life Member Coleen Houston

Continued over

It's time to nominate for the Society's incoming Council

Nominations to have input into the operations and direction of the Society need to be submitted to Secretary, Diane vom Berg, before the Annual General Meeting which will be held at 7pm on the 14th July 2026 in the Goodman Building at Adelaide Botanic Garden. Queries about this should be directed to Diane.

The Society's revised Constitution, unanimously supported by members at a Special General Meeting in May, will take effect, reducing the number of Councillors by two and instituting two-year terms. Some existing Councillors intend retiring.

Chaffey's 30th birthday continued...

OAM, from the Riverina, who were among inaugural members. Members were touched by the cards, emails and phone calls extending best wishes for the birthday.

Camaraderie, friendship and a shared passion were hallmarks of the dinner and weekend events which started with a “meet and greet” at *Sunfresh in the Riverland*, where President Elly Johnson welcomed everyone. Visits to Danny and Donna Hoffman’s garden, *Olivewood Historical Homestead and Museum* where Chaffey hosted an efficient and quick AGM while guests wandered the gardens, followed. Lunch was at *Olivewood* and then it was off to *Mallee Hollow* to see the garden of Richard and Kathy Foweraker.

In the afternoon, Gwen and Guy Matulin provided a sumptuous afternoon tea and members wandered around their beautiful garden before heading back into Renmark for the Combined Branches Meeting and dinner at *Ashley’s Restaurant*.

The second day started on the Berri riverfront, meeting for breakfast at *River Jacks*, overlooking the River Murray. Historic Medea House at Loxton was next with members enjoying Jacqui and Kevin Westbrook’s big garden, beautiful views and old cellar. A visit to Angie and Kevin MacEden’s garden, full of quirky curios and areas throughout their large garden followed.

Lunch was on the *Murray River Queen Paddle Boat* now moored at the Loxton Riverfront—near the tree of knowledge and caravan park with amazing views of the river and park area.

A visit to Colleen and Fred Packer’s town garden, *Tranquillity*, full of Historical items, brick paths and Fred’s homemade metal snails—several now finding a new home in gardens across the state—completed the program.

A photo collage of the weekend, with pictures by Dale Kerin and the Society’s Council liaison with Chaffey, Penelope Schulz, is on page 43.

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Memorable Members' Meetings in April & May



Ge Rohrsheim (BL), Di McCallum, Deb Curtis, Sharyn Perrin (FL), Maureen Humphries and Rosemary Pfitzner each shared their passion for a Miniature or Polyantha Rose at the April meeting. They are pictured with Les Johnson.



Members' Meeting Show Bench Competition Coordinator and judge, Gwen Moxham, is pictured at the May meeting with husband, Ken. They celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary several days after the meeting. Congratulations.

There was a big focus on some of the smallest roses to grace our gardens and show benches in April with Les Johnson treating us to an inspiring presentation on Miniature roses. Les has distilled his words and provided some of the pictures from his presentation in the feature piece that follows this page.

Complementing Les's address were cameo presentations by several members who each focussed on a particular Miniature or smaller rose. Among them was a tiny yet sweet unknown cultivar, of great sentimental value, presented by Rosemary Pfitzner. Another was the Polyantha, **The Fairy**, presented by Ge Rohrsheim. The Miniatures presented will each feature as Member's Pick roses. See page 22 for the first.

May's meeting saw another knowledgeable member, Merv Trimper, deliver a fun presentation titled *Roses and Numbers*, providing not only salient numerical facts about roses, but a countdown of Cultivar names with a numerical pitch.

April Show Bench winners

BEST ROSE—Gavin Woods with **Stainless Steel**; A GRADE—1st. 2nd and 3rd Gavin Woods with **Stainless Steel**, **Perfect Moment** and **Gold Mimi** respectively; B GRADE—1st Sharyn Perrin with **Minnie Pearl**, 2nd and 3rd Les Johnson with **Cricket** and **Golden Gardens**; C GRADE—1st 2nd and 3rd Corina Gul with **Amazing Mum**, **Bordeaux** and **Peace**.

May Show Bench winners

BEST ROSE—Gavin Woods with **In Appreciation** (3 stages); A GRADE—1st. 2nd and 3rd Gavin Woods with **In Appreciation** (3 stages), **Golden Gardens** and **Paris 2000** respectively; B GRADE—1st Les Johnson with **Mini Champagner**, 2nd John Bradshaw with **Magic Show** and 3rd Les Johnson with **Bluesette**; C GRADE—1st and 2nd Harriet Eivers with **My Little Angel** and **Joyce Abounding**; HERITAGE—1st Gavin Woods with **Little White Pet** (Polyantha 1879), 2nd: Ken and Gwen Moxham with **Souvenir de la Malmaison** (Bourbon 1843). KIDS CORNER—1st and 2nd: Darcy Eivers with **Rise 'n' Shine** and **Firestar**.



Miniature Roses

Text and Photos by Les Johnson

This text has been abridged by Les Johnson from his presentation about Miniature Roses given at The Rose Society of South Australia's April 2026 meeting.

There have always been small bloomed roses but the term Miniature was not accepted as a classification until well into the 20th Century. These early introductions were called *Fairy Roses*. They tended to either come from a dwarf *Lawranceana* China or *Polyantha* background and usually grew no more than 31cm in height. While popular in the 19th Century, the admiration waned with the introduction of the large flower Hybrid Teas.

A dwarf pink China which had grown as pot specimens on the window sills in Switzerland for many years was rediscovered by Swiss Botanist, Henri Louis Correvon, and named ***Rouletii***.

In the 1930's, Dutchman Jan De Vink crossed ***Rouletii*** with the *Polyantha* ***Gloria Mundi*** to produce ***Peon***. In 1933, American Robert Pyle of the Conard–Pyle Company visited De Vink's small scale operation and returned to the US with specimens of ***Peon***. Renamed ***Tom Thumb***, its release in 1936 caused a sensation with stock selling out quickly and the rose was withdrawn from the catalogue the next year to allow stock to build up.

The financial return allowed De Vink to expand, build a green house in his small nursery and produce ***Pixie***, ***Midget***, ***Bo Peep***, ***Baby Bunting***, ***Sweet Fairy***, ***Red Imp*** and the very popular ***Cinderella*** over subsequent years.

No less than the noted English rosarian Peter Beales has given ***Tom Thumb (Peon)*** the prestige of being the first Miniature rose. To define what is meant by a Miniature rose, American hybridizer, the late Ralph Moore, sometimes described as the Father of the Modern Miniature Rose, described Miniature roses as “descendants of *Rosa Rouletii*. They have tiny leaves, are much branched and make thick, compact plants. Buds, flowers, leaves, stems, prickles—every part of the plant is much reduced in size compared to the larger forms of roses, yet in perfect proportion”.

Ralph Moore developed a strong interest in roses from his teenage years, commercially releasing four roses. One can only imagine his amazement when he set eyes on ***Tom Thumb*** in 1936. He crossed ***Carolyn Dean*** with ***Tom Thumb*** and the resultant climbing Miniature ***Zee*** became his stud rose although ***Zee*** was never commercially released.

For the next 70 years, Moore produced a succession of Miniature roses. Moore quickly learnt that the resultant Miniatures were not particularly fertile, and when they did produce hips, they often only contained 1–4 seeds. He tended to cross



Cameo



Green Ice



Ring of Fire



Stacey Sue

his studs with large flowing roses, particularly in the early years. Moore also used the found rose, ***Oakington Ruby***, in his breeding program.

Moore planted about 50,000 seeds annually, saving only those which showed promise and culling the remainder. By working with cuttings, he found he could propagate the roses nearly the whole year round. Moore produced, commercially, over 400 Miniature roses and over 600 roses in total. He worked for over a decade to develop mossing in his Miniatures with ***Dresden Doll*** being one example which was available locally. Amongst his many creations the following were grown in South Australia: ***Magic Carousel, Sweet Chariot, Rise 'n' Shine, New Penny, Galaxy, Stars & Stripes, Candy Cane, (Cl), Hi Ho (Cl)*** and ***Little Girl (Cl)***. Richly deserved accolades came his way and Moore was the inspiration and mentor for other hybridizers.

The work of three US hybridizers

Frank Benardella

Frank Benardella, a former president of the American Rose Society, had a lifelong passion of growing, exhibiting and hybridizing roses. Frank's exhibiting background impacted on his hybridizing as he searched for the perfect exhibition Miniature rose. He chose to go down the opposite path to Ralph Moore's original crossing of a Large Flower seed parent with pollen from a Miniature.

By then many Miniatures were hip producing so Benardella chose the pollen from the best Exhibition Hybrid Teas and crossed with Miniature seed parents. By drawing on his background as an exhibitor, Benardella achieved his hybridizing fame by consistently creating Miniature roses with classic Hybrid Tea form. It is this HT characteristic that resulted in acclaim and commercial success including the flower trade. The following Benardella roses are popular choices in South Australia: ***Baby Boomer, Magic Show, Dreamtime, Figurine*** and ***Pearl***.

Cecilia (Dee) Bennett

Cecilia Bennett, or Dee as she is perhaps best known, was born in Western Australia in 1921. She met and fell in love with a handsome American sailor, Robert Pauline. In 1947, Dee became a war bride, following her husband to California. She raised three daughters and lived the American dream. She later divorced and married Herb Bennett. It was Herb's support and encouragement that allowed Dee to start growing roses in their backyard.

She travelled north to visit Ralph Moore where she fell in love with his Miniature roses. Moore provided support, encouragement and mentoring. Dee established her *Tiny Petals Miniature Rose Nursery* in the backyard of her home. In the sexist world of the 1970's, she faced many pressures. The only person in the rose industry who would give Dee a license to propagate roses was Moore. She loved the form and colour of some of the bigger roses, so her hybridizing was aimed at achieving those same characteristics in a Miniature rose.

In the mid-1980s, after only a decade of producing Miniatures, Dee handed her nursery over to her daughters who continued to release their mother's creations. In 1987 Dee packed up, said farewell to her daughters and grandchildren, and returned to Western Australia to be with her mother and extended Australian family. She knew she had terminal cancer and died in 1988.

Dee Bennett Miniatures in South Australia include ***Irresistible, Pucker Up, Jean Kenneally*** and ***Rosy Dawn***.

Harmon Saville

Harmon Saville, the rosarian and founder of *Nor'East Miniature Roses*, is remembered as a tireless promoter who introduced many "first-timers" to the joys of growing roses and who helped make Miniature roses one of the fastest growing segments of the rose market at the time. He patented over 60 new varieties of Miniature roses.

Saville's rose, ***Overnight Scentsation***, became the first rose in space in an experiment on fragrance in microgravity. The third American to orbit the earth in 1962 in the *Mercury*—Astronaut John Glenn—joined the Space Shuttle Discovery (STS-95), at age 77, in its voyage in 1998 and was responsible for the experiment. Scientists wanted to understand how plants and scents behave in microgravity. Two buds bloomed and interestingly they found the rose's scent molecules reacted differently in space. Without gravity-driven convection, the scent compounds (volatile oils) emitted were more subdued yet more complex than on Earth. Using a specialized device to sample the oil, it was later analyzed and found to be lighter and crisper compared with ***Overnight Scentsation*** on Earth. This led to the creation of a new perfume note called "space rose" which was later used in the production of the *Zen* range of fragrances (Japanese).

Popular Saville Miniatures in South Australia include ***Minnie Pearl, Rainbow's End, Vista*** and ***Teddy Bear***.

Australian hybridizers

In Australia, a number of breeders have produced some important Miniature roses. Eric Welsh produced the strongly fragrant ***Delicious***, and ***Tracey Wickham***, a good exhibition Miniature. Richard and Ruth Walsh from NSW have hybridized a wonderful collection of Miniatures—46 in number according to the rose resource website HelpMeFind. A number of the Miniatures have gained success at the Australian Rose Trials winning Bronze medals and Certificates of Merits. On social media, Richard has reported the difficulties amateur

3/4 hybridizers face finding growers to propagate their roses. Walsh's creations include ***Little Louise, Rae of Sunshine, Black Tie*** and ***Blushing Barbara***.



Neon Sunset



Red Gem



Joyce Abounding

There are others of note. Paul Hains from Queensland hybridized 10 Miniature roses with three roses being notable—*Brides Bouquet*, *Lenny* and *Neon Sunset* and Victoria's Dr Bruce Chapman ARA created two wonderful Minifloras everyone should have in their gardens where possible: *Red Gem* and *Joyce Abounding*.

Conservation of Miniature Roses

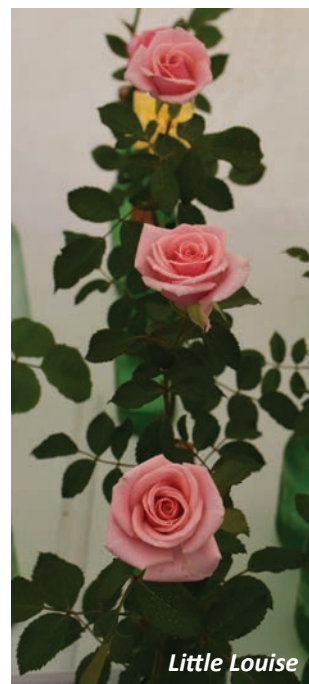
As a classification, Miniature roses have only been around since the introduction of *Tom Thumb* in 1936. The breeding of Miniatures didn't really take off until more than a decade later. In that short period of 75 years, many Miniatures have become extinct.

In years past, South Australian Rose Society members found a ready supply of Miniature roses from the plant stalls held at our regular shows. Members could also buy their Miniatures roses from *Thomas For Roses* whose large collection of over 100 Miniature included 17 climbing Miniatures along with 25 Polyanthas. With the closure of this nursery, the passing of members and the ending of our plant stalls, it has become increasingly difficult to obtain Miniature roses. The big three rose nurseries stock only 24 Miniature cultivars and not all are classified as Miniatures.

The message is that Miniatures are not fashionable. This is hard to accept considering we are moving to smaller blocks and unit living has become far more common. Miniatures lend themselves very much to pot growing even though they still do better in the ground if given space and are not overcrowded.

We know over 280 Miniature cultivars were grown in South Australia within the last 10 years. Only by developing a conservation and preservation approach can we prevent many of these roses becoming permanently lost to the State.

There is a role for The Rose Society of South Australia and its members to actively conserve the Miniature rose.



Little Louise

Members' Meetings



Annual General Meeting & more

7pm Tuesday, 14th July 2026

Goodman Building, Adelaide Botanic Garden

This will be an historic AGM: the first being held with our revised Constitution. Should there be any nominations put forward by Council (on the recommendation of its advisory committee for the purpose) these will be put to members to vote on. We'll have a quick look at roses at this year's famous Chelsea Flower Show and then enjoy supper.



Breeding roses in Australia

7pm Tuesday, 11th August 2026

Zoom meeting from the comfort of your home
(ask the grandkids if you need help to get started - it really is easy)

Richard and Ruth Walsh, experienced, knowledgeable and among the best known of contemporary Aussie breeders, will share their passion for breeding with a special presentation. Let me know to take part (penelopeannes@bigpond.com) and I'll send you the Zoom link or go to the Member's section of our website to register your participation using the booking link there.



"The Panel"

7pm Tuesday, 8th September 2026

Goodman Building, Adelaide Botanic Garden

Gavin Woods will host a panel of seasoned rosarians in a night where it's a free-for-all for members to ask questions about rose growing, or even exhibiting or transporting roses if you wish. Gavin's panel will include Merv Trimper, Tate Hancox, Les Johnson, Maureen Humphries and Paul Dipuglia.



So much more

There are other activities members may wish to enjoy: see the Calendar of Events on page 2 and a special Downton Abbey experience on page 45. Also, I am still taking expressions of interest for a members trip to New Zealand in November 2027 (penelopeannes@bigpond.com).

Speaker's Programmer, *Penelope Schultz*

Vale Pam Kelly

1951 – 2026

Pam Kelly, awarded Life Membership of The Rose Society of South Australia in July 2023, and the Dean Stringer Award for Member of the Year in 2024, jointly with husband Chris, sadly passed away on 16th April 2026.

With her passing we lost a highly valued member who contributed broadly across the Society's activities and who was a friend to many rosarians, from novice to seasoned growers and exhibitors.

Born in Melbourne in 1951 and meeting husband Chris when they were both working at a television servicing company in 1968, Pam and Chris married in 1972 and were soon to share their interest in roses.

Pam and Chris joined the Society together on 1st October 1997 and quickly immersed themselves in the Society's activities. Among them was coordinating, editing, addressing and post code sorting the *Bulletin* from 2001 to 2007, a period before professional colour printing and computerised sorting days were adopted. This made it a mighty task but saved the Society lots of money.



Pam Kelly

Pam's practical approach to everything saw her recruit a small, tight team of volunteers to help with the tasks associated with the society's publication. A former Society President, Aileen Scott, remembers these *Bulletin* "meetings," held in Chris and Pam's home, with fondness saying: "There was always a lovely feeling to them. Pam was so welcoming and the atmosphere was very relaxed. That was something I always noticed about Pam—when she did anything, everything seemed so relaxed, and whatever it was ran very smoothly. She was very practical and efficient and just lovely to work with."

Pam had served on the Society's Council and held the position of Secretary from 2019 to 2021. She also worked hard, without fuss and with great efficiency, at the Society's two major shows annually, assisting Chris in recording winning entries and printing placement and winner's cards.

Beyond the bounds of Society activities, Pam's life was rich. She was kept busy with two children, later six grandchildren and various forms of mainly administration jobs. Among her employers were a winery, an automotive parts company, aged care facilities, a church office and outreach program, plus an NGO caring for people with mental illness.

Pam also achieved a Bachelor of Arts at Flinders University, did Honours and won the Richard Conyers Prize and a University Medal. She also undertook a PhD in Eighteenth

Continued over

Vale Life Member Pam Kelly continued



Pam with Chris and President Gavin Woods upon them being awarded the Dean Springer OAM Award for Member of the Year in 2024.

Special thanks to Chris Kelly, Aileen Scott and others who contributed to this Vale for Pam.

Century Literature, visiting, with Chris, various English libraries in England, Scotland and Ireland to undertake research.

Apart from her love of gardening and roses, Pam loved books and when she and Chris moved from Coromandel Valley to a seaside retirement community last year, she took on the village's position of librarian, a position which Chris says, like everything else, ended too soon.

The Society extends its condolences to Chris and his family.

Vale Legh Davis 1940 –2026

By Melanie Trimper

The Honourable Legh Davis had an extraordinary life, full of accomplishments in political and social arenas—and he was also one of us. He loved roses and his connection to the rose world. He made an extraordinary contribution to our State over many decades through his public service and many philanthropic projects that were close to his heart. The Rose Society of South Australia greatly appreciated his support for The National Rose Trial Garden of Australia, established in 1996, and his involvement in the development of the International Rose Garden, opened in 2000.



The Honourable Legh Davis

Legh had a very successful life in politics. He was a South Australian Legislative Councillor from 1979 to 2002 and President of the South Australian Liberal Party from 2020 to 2022. He was on the Australia Day Council Board and was a Council Member of Flinders University.

As a passionate supporter of Adelaide's arts community, Legh assisted the Adelaide Festival Centre and the renovation of Her Majesty's Theatre along with many other projects. His leadership and enduring legacy will be remembered.

In 2001, Legh was awarded a Centenary Medal for his contribution to public life through Parliament and charitable causes.

The Society conveys its sympathy to his wife, Helen, family and friends.



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A chance to learn from some of the very best



Gavin Woods explains how to present a rose into a stunning bench prize winner.

Twenty-six members eagerly converged on Fullarton Community Centre on 19th April 2026 to learn the tricks of exhibiting from two knowledgeable and top prize winning exhibitors, Gavin Woods and Merv Trimper.

Among those who came from afar were Rowan Vallance from NSW and Fleur Carthew from SA's Riverland. Sadly, Ted and Meryl Morphett from NSW could not make it, arriving at Sydney Airport to find their flight had been cancelled. Many members had been keen to meet them for the first time.

This special workshop comprised two parts: theory and a practical demonstration in a meeting room in the morning and a workshop, on the sunny, balmy afternoon, on the front veranda of the old home on site.

Gavin and Merv both demonstrated how to transform a garden picked rose into a stunner for the Show Bench, including, but not limited to, creating vase exhibits.

Attendees also learnt many small tricks to help ensure foliage looks its best, to how to prevent those otherwise pesky exhibit vases from falling into two pieces when exhibiting. Members particularly appreciated the detail, down to Rowan Vallance's dive into Gavin's toolbox and Merv's information about transporting roses.

The workshop was designed to be timely, being held just before the Autumn Rose Show the following week. Their words on the afternoon of the workshop were echoed and discussed by many less experienced exhibitors at the Show as they prepared their entries for the Show Bench.



All was silent as Merv Trimper captivated attendees with a practical demonstration.



Newer to the Show Bench, Ralph Graham jumped into practice.



Harriet Eivers took advantage of the practical opportunity.

Quality blooms exhibited at Mt Barker Show

It's amazing how a relatively small number of rose exhibitors can create a bright and inspiring show and that was the case at the Mt Barker Show, held in late March 2026.

Coordinator, Merv Trimper, reports that there were two exhibitors in A grade and four in a combined B and C Grade competition.

The exhibitors filled eight tables with exhibits of good quality. Merv said the show was marred by drizzly weather, but as always, the flower tent was enjoyed by the crowd.

Some of the winners were:

Gavin Woods who produced the Grand Champion entry, a bunch of ***The Children's Rose***, as well as winning the Mt Barker Autumn Championship (Open);

Chardon and Natasha Trimper who won the Mt Barker Autumn combined B and C Championship; and

Les Johnson, who won the combined B & C Grade rose with a cut of the miniature, ***Ruby***.



Golden Gardens



Les Johnson's
Ruby



Corina Gul, ***Brilliant Star***



My Valentine



Vase of ***The Children's Rose***



Golden Eye



Gavin Woods

John Bradshaw's trophy win is personally special

John Bradshaw is the inaugural winner of the Jamie Smith Memorial Trophy for winning Best Rose in Show at the 2026 Maitland Show in late March 2026.

John was chuffed and moved by the win, which was on top of winning a Rose Society of South Australia trophy for being the most successful exhibitor of roses.

Jamie Smith, who died in late 2023 had been a mate of many, including John, and was known



John Bradshaw with the Jamie Smith Trophy for Best Rose in the Show.



John Bradshaw's
Ebb Tide

in the rural sector for championing the grain industry. He was founding Director of Grain Producers SA and Chair of the Grain Council of Australia. He and wife, Helly, were also fond gardeners, with roses being a particular passion.

John had a great understanding of Jamie's and Helly's enthusiasm for roses, having been asked by them to transform two acres surrounding their home, on their farm just north of Maitland, into a garden in 2018. Several years and hundreds of roses later, and with advice and ongoing practical assistance of Merv and Wendy Trimper, the garden is flourishing.

At Helly's request and supported by John's organisational skills, members of garden clubs from throughout Yorke Peninsula spent a special day in the garden following Jamie's death. It was considered to be a magnificent event, reported by local media.

As another tribute, Helly organised for sculptor, Will Stock, from Maitland, to create a special trophy memorialising Jamie and his love of roses. It is this trophy which John won with a cut of *Ebb Tide*.

Perhaps ironically, the Smith's roses had already been integral to another honour awarded to John—the Smith's front garden and home were the subjects of a photograph taken by John which he entered in the photographic competition held in conjunction with the World Rose Convention held in Adelaide in 2022—winning second place in Class 3 (a garden with roses dominating).

Jen McCormick was dynamic as ever at Maitland Show

Jen McCormick was "up and at 'em" at this year's Maitland Show winning three firsts, a second and five third places in Cut Flowers. Her floral art—her passion for this is usually on show at the Society's Spring and Autumn Shows—also did particularly well. She won the Best Points Overall prize in Floral Art and was awarded three first place prizes, two second places and a third. Then there were her scones: first place for four savoury gems. Congratulations Jen—we look forward to trying the scones!

Member's Pick

Minnie Pearl, Miniature

By Sharyn Perrin



Sharyn presented the miniature, *Minnie Pearl*, at the April Members' Meeting.

Minnie Pearl was named after the famous American country music comedian and Grand Ole Opry star of more than 50 years and notable for wearing a straw hat with flowers and a swing price tag of \$1.98 which came to stand for humility, laughter and country authenticity.

Minnie Pearl, bred by American F Harmon Saville in 1982, is from the seed of *Little Darling* x *Tiki* and the pollen from *Party Girl*.

Sharyn donned a Minnie Pearl styled hat, complete with the comedian's signature dangling price tag, to present.

It is a popular award-winning miniature rose that is praised for its classic, Hybrid Tea like form. This upright, bushy shrub grows to around a metre and produces small—around 25 petals—long lasting, pale pink to warm, peachy-pink blooms, darker around



the edge, with a hint of yellow at the base. These blooms will darken in the sun and with age. It does have a mild fragrance. Blooms can be one to a stem or multi flowered and the bush can produce lovely multi flowered heads of 20 to 25 blooms in Spring–Summer.

Minnie Pearl has good disease resistance and benefits from regular dead heading to promote more flowers.

I find it to be a very healthy miniature rose and a good choice for pots, borders or small gardens.

Minnie Pearl on the Showbench at the April Members' Meeting.

SA recommended list of Miniature and Mini-flora roses for many years.

Minnie Pearl has been on the Rose Society of

Minnie Pearl has won numerous awards in the US including being inducted into the American Rose Society's Miniature/Mini-flora Rose Hall of Fame in 2004.

Why is *Minnie Pearl* one of my favourites? She performs well, is a great colour combination and gives me pleasure every time I walk out my front door and when winning the occasional prize on the Show Bench.

Team work produced a great Autumn Rose Show

By Show Manager, Joy Johnson

Well done team! I think that best sums up my thoughts when leaving the 2026 Autumn Rose Show at Adelaide Botanic Garden. There was great competitive spirit among the 18 exhibitors, the benches looked beautiful, the show ran efficiently and the enjoyment of the public was obvious.

We all had concerns about the need to hold the second day of the show on Monday 27th April, but we were surprised at the constant attention the show got. I know that some were drawn through the doors after literally smelling the roses as they walked past the Noel Lothian Hall. No doubt the placement of the Perfume Competition played a part in that. Maureen and John Humphries, who have long done much for the set-up of our shows, again did a fabulous job arranging the display, encouraging and guiding people to enter, and tallying the results. We were all also grateful to Daniel Knight for personally picking many of the small bunches in the perfume competition.

There were many highlights of the show. The presentation of trophies by our Vice Patron, Michael Keelan, was one. Michael seems to always bring good cheer to our events and that adds to the experience of those receiving trophies. Congratulations Gavin Woods, Ross Kemp and Celia Painter who won the SA Open, Intermediate and C Grade Championships respectively.

Continued over



Grand Champion Exhibit (Women's Weekly Trophy), a bowl of *Delicious* exhibited by Gavin Woods.



Vice Patron Michael Keelan presents Ross Kemp with the SA State Intermediate Championship Trophy on Sunday afternoon.



Penelope Schulz teaming with Braidan Swan from NSW in judging exhibits.



Jacinta Burke from Victoria and Peter Burton among those appraising Championship entries.

Team work produced a great Autumn Rose Show...continued

Another highlight was the attendance of judges from interstate, Dr Jacinta Burke and Braidan Swan. The expert eye and enthusiasm of Peter Burton, a great supporter and advisor of novice exhibitors, was also especially appreciated. Jacinta, Braidan, Peter, Les Johnson, Merv Trimper, Gwen Moxham and Gavin Woods were on the judging teams. One of South Australia's most accomplished floral designers, Alethia Quick, judged the floral arrangements. Stewards were Harriet Eivers, Deb Curtis (floral), Sharyn Perrin and Rowan Vallance from NSW. Rowan is a member of our Society and spent a week here indulging his passion for roses, including attending the Exhibitor's Workshop.

Many were chuffed to see long-established members exhibit in the Autumn Rose Show for the first time. Among them were Charlotte Wells, and Fleur and Allan Carthew. Congratulations to Fleur, assisted by Allan, in winning the Judith Waters Memorial Trophy.

It was also great to see newer members exhibit, pop in for a look or assist competitors in staging. I reckon Ralph Graham went to bed Sunday night dreaming of cutting and soaking floral foam in water—some of our C-graders were especially grateful.

Throughout, we had Kerry Brandt-Wilson doing a steady trade in rose sales—something I think he was born to do—and Paul Flavel who saw to the efficient running of the kitchen and provided other valuable assistance.

Congratulations to the Championship winners

CHAMPIONSHIP	WINNER	VARIETIES
SA State Autumn Rose Championship	Gavin Woods	Silver Lining, Gemini, Love's Gift, Neptune, Playgirl, Golden Gardens
SA State Intermediate Championship	Ross Kemp	Parfume de Paris, Flemington Racecourse, Moonstone, Joyce Abounding, Joyfulness
SA State 'C Grade' Autumn Rose Championship	Celia Painter	Souvenir de Louis Amade, Fairytale Queen, The Golden Child, Seduction
Champion Exhibition Rose	Gavin Woods	Signature
Champion Floribunda Rose	Gavin Woods	Playgirl
Champion Full Bloom Rose	Celia Painter	The Golden Child
Champion Decorative Rose	Gavin Woods	Gemini
Champion Shrub or Polyantha Rose	Gavin Woods	Love's Gift
Champion Miniature Rose	Jen McCormick	Golden Gardens
Champion Miniflora Rose	Harriet Eivers	Joyce Abounding



Champion Full Bloom
The Golden Child
Celia Painter



Champion Miniflora
Joyce Abounding
Harriet Eivers



Champion Miniature
Golden Gardens
Jen McCormick



Champion Exhibition
Signature
Gavin Woods

I also thank Jen McCormick, who, in addition to staging roses and floral entries, was responsible for the placement of winner's cards with young yet capable Darcy. Jen, Wendy Trimper and Fiona, a friend of Wendy, also popped in to help the pack-down and clean-up of the Show on the Monday. This help made a world of difference to those who had been at the show from the get-go.

There are so many others to thank, especially Gavin Woods whose direction and guidance is always invaluable. It is impossible to do justice to everyone. Together, we were a great team and I think everyone who helped deserves a big pat on the back.

of the Rose Society's 2026 Autumn Rose Show

CHAMPIONSHIP	WINNER	VARIETIES/THEME
Champion 3 Stems/Cuts	Ross Kemp	Moonstone
Champion Multi-Stage Exhibit	Gavin Woods	Magic Carrousel
Champion Bunch	Wendy & Merv Trimper	Golden Eye
Champion Bowl	Gavin Woods	Delicious
Any Other Exhibit	Gavin Woods	Duet
Champion B Grade Exhibit	Ross Kemp	Gold Medal
Champion C Grade Exhibit	Celia Painter	The Golden Child
Best Champion Floral Arrangement	Heather Hage	Design using tatami
A Grade Floral Arrangement	Melanie Trimper	Design using tatami
B Grade Floral Arrangement	Heather Hage	Design using tatami
C Grade Floral Arrangement	Eka Juers	Pretty In Pink

2026 Autumn Rose Show Trophy Winners

TROPHY	CONDITIONS/Cultivars	WINNER
Women's Weekly & NRSA Medallion	Grand Champion of the Show: Bowl of Delicious	Gavin Woods
The President's Trophy	Most successful exhibitor	Gavin Woods
H Charles Thomas Memorial Trophy	State Autumn Championship Winner	Gavin Woods
Allan Campbell Memorial Trophy	Best Exhibition Rose: Signature	Gavin Woods
Christine Mitchell Cup	Best Decorative Rose: Gemini	Gavin Woods
Eric & Myrtle Trimper Memorial Trophy	Best cut of a Floribunda or Grandiflora: Playgirl	Gavin Woods
Alexander Ross Memorial Award	Best Champion Full Bloom: The Golden Child	Celia Painter
Jack Moule Memorial Trophy	Best Champion Miniature Rose, Stem or Cut: Golden Gardens	Jen McCormick
Ralph Smith Award	Best exhibit in Multi-Stages: Carrousel	Gavin Woods
Emma Voke Memorial Trophy No 1	Best Champion Bunch of Roses: Golden Eye	Merv and Wendy Trimper
Helen Sunter Memorial	Best Champion Bowl of Roses: Delicious	Gavin Woods
Oliver Travel	Best exhibit of SA State Intermediate Spring Rose Championship	Ross Kemp
The Royal National Rose Society Trophy No 1	Best B Grade exhibitor (A, B and Open Classes)	Ross Kemp
WH Ifould Trophy	Best exhibit of SA State C Grade Spring Championship	Celia Painter
Judith Waters	Champion of Roses introduced prior to 1900	Fleur Carthew
Champion B Grade		Ross Kemp
Champion C Grade		Celia Painter



A Grade Floral Arrangement Trophy



B Grade & Best Floral Arrangement Trophy



C Grade Floral Arrangement Trophy

2026 Autumn Rose Show Floral Trophy Winners

TROPHY	RECOGNISING/THEME	WINNER
Rose A Thomas Memorial Trophy	Best Champion Floral Arrangement	Heather Hage
A Grade Floral Arrangement	Design using tatami	Melanie Trimper
B Grade Floral Arrangement	Design using tatami	Heather Hage
C Grade Floral Arrangement	Pretty in pink	Eka Juers

Golden oldies feature in the Show's top perfume picks



Mr Lincoln



Per-Fyoom Perfume



Double Delight

The fragrance of the classic Hybrid Tea **Mr Lincoln**, released onto the market in 1965, was the favourite of the Perfumed Rose Competition held at the Society's 2026 Autumn Rose Show. It was followed by the Hybrid Tea **Per-Fyoom Perfume**, introduced in Australia in 2016. Third place favourite was another classic Hybrid Tea, released in 1976, **Double Delight**. More than 850 people voted for 12 roses in the competition. It featured blooms provided by Knight's and some beauties provided by generous exhibitors. Details of each voter went into a draw for a **\$50 voucher, gifted by Newman's Nursery**. The winner's name has been withheld.

Shepherd's Delight woos at the People's Choice



The 2026 People's Choice votes went to **Shepherd's Delight**.



National Rose Trial Garden of Australia Secretary, Chris Kelly and Joy Johnson volunteering at People's Choice.



Neutrog Marketing Manager, Megan Lannan with Trial Bed Coordinator, Merv Trimper, at People's Choice.

An Australian bred Floribunda in Bed 59 of the National Rose Trial Garden of Australia was the most popular rose in the 2026 People's Choice competition held on April 25 and 26.

Named **Shepherd's Delight**, the rose was entered into the trial by John and Reuben Nieuwesteeg from Wild Rose Nursery, a specialty retailer located in Yellingbo, Victoria. The rose was hybridised by John and will be available for sale in 2027.

The top roses in bloom chosen by the public were labelled numbers 4, 10, 5, 1 and 16.

The winner of the People's Choice, Brandon from Hallet (surname withheld), chose four out of the five roses in the correct order. Congratulations Brandon, who won 12 months membership of the Rose Society of South Australia, advice from a rosarian on growing roses, a \$250 voucher from Neutrog, a \$250 voucher from Knight's Roses thanks to RIAUS and a \$250 voucher from Garden Grove.

The competition attracted steady attention from members of the public, some of whom entered Neutrog's People's Choice Photographic Competition, which was introduced in 2025. The winning photograph, featuring on the back cover of the *Bulletin*, was taken by Ashlyn (surname withheld).



Families and people of all ages wandered around the trial beds for People's Choice.

Details provided by Chris Kelly



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Winter Cultural Notes

By Dr Tate Hancox



The days have shortened; the rains have arrived and the leaves on the roses have mostly fallen. It is now time to pop on the old pants, long sleeves, torn parka and long gloves and brave the cold weather to prune your roses. While roses don't necessarily need to be pruned, the pruning improves the quality of the blooms and the overall habit of the plant.

Considerations of a rose pruner

There is a plethora of information out there about pruning roses. However, they boil down to a few main points:

- Class and variety (e.g. Hybrid Tea, Floribunda, Climber, Shrub, Tea, Damask etc)—Each class and sometimes variety will have their own nuances that should be considered when pruning to maximise flower production and maintain the longevity of the plant. These are things that are often learnt with time so ask an experienced rosarian when you are not sure.
- Age of the variety—The severity of pruning a plant can withstand often relates to the age of the variety. Newer varieties generally handle severe pruning better than with older varieties.
- Age of the plant—Newly planted (<2 years old) and over mature plants are often weaker and require lighter more restrained level of pruning compared to semi-mature (≥2 years old) and mature plants which can be pruned much harder.
- Flowering wood—Most modern shrub roses flower on the current season's growth whereas many Heritage roses, Species and Climbers initially flower on one year old wood. Therefore, you have to be careful with the selection of material you are removing and this is dependent on the variety.
- Cut location—Cuts should be made within 3-9mm of the bud (whether dormant or swelling) and should be made perpendicular to the stem edge (flat top) or at a slight angle. While the books will tell you that a flat-top cut or cutting 10–13mm above a bud is not correct, you will notice that it makes no difference in the garden. Where it does make a difference is when cuts are made more than 15mm above the bud. In these cases, the stem will die back to the bud. However, they can be cleaned up at a later date.
- Deadwood—The removal of dead wood allows for better light penetration, airflow

and space for new canes to grow up through the plant.

- Old wood—Depending on the class and variety, old wood may need to be retained to enable the plant to perform at its best. Generally older varieties or older classes will require a greater proportion of the old material to be retained. A good rule of thumb is to remove old canes only on plants that produce reliable new water shoots (Hybrid Teas, newer Floribundas, Shrubs, Damasks, or modern Climbers). Old canes should be retained where they are still performing well and the variety does not produce reliable water shoots (older Floribundas, Teas, Chinas, Species roses and their primary hybrids). Once the older canes stop producing strong new growth (any variety), it is good practice to remove the old stems completely or to the strongest side branch.
- Diameter of the stem—In general, the stem of the final cut will determine the maximum size of the new growth. Therefore, cuts should be made back into stems that are at least pencil thick or greater. For some Species and Heritage roses this material is difficult to achieve, and the stems should be reduced to the average sized stem of the healthy material.
- Health of the plant—Plants that are stressed or in poor condition will require lighter pruning than those that are in good condition. The lighter pruning will enable the plant to produce more leaves and help build up the stored sugars within the stems and root system. Once the plant returns to healthy growth it may be able to be pruned harder to return it to normal pruning regime.
- Number of buds and balance between adjacent stems—Adjacent stems should be cut back to a similar number of buds as this will enable the new growth to maintain access to water and stored sugars. Where there are a significantly longer/shorter adjacent stems, the longer of the stems generally performs better and the shorter stem will often die back.
- Location branches—When pruning consider how much light the branches within the bush will receive as branches that are deep within the bush will receive less light and are often aborted as the remainder of the crown fills in in the spring. This can help you reduce the number of dead stems you need to remove in the next season. However, the retention of these smaller stems can be useful to prevent sunburn on varieties that are susceptible to sunburn.
- Leaves—In general the leaves of the rose should be removed after pruning has occurred. This reduces the disease load within the crown of the plant. It also allows better access to the stems if sprays of fungicide and/or insecticide are to be applied.

On the following page are two examples of a rose pruned with these points taken into consideration.

The first is *Rosa Betty Uprichard* which is an early hybrid tea that had struggled in its current position for a few years. Recently, it has begun producing strong annual growth and it is now able to be pruned harder.



Betty Uprichard



BEFORE



AFTER



The second is *Rosa Mrs Dudley Cross* which is a semi-mature tea rose that grows well in its current position. It receives a lighter pruning to the same structure that was established in the early years of growth.



BEFORE



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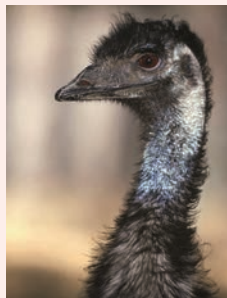
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Diane joins rosarian friends in China and Japan

Immediate Past President of the World Federation of Rose Societies, Diane vom Berg, travelled to China for the 17th International Heritage Rose Conference, and to Japan for Federation celebrations, in April and May, and shares some highlights from her trip.

Chengdu, a green city in western China, home to over 20 million people and the fourth most populated city in China, was the starting point. Twenty-six delegates joined the conference pre-tour of six days travel highlighting the culture, cuisine, gardens and history of the city.

The tour began with visits to the historic alleys area to experience street food, Qing Dynasty architecture and Sichuan Opera. In the coming days, outings to gardens included the Chengdu Botanical Garden, Manhua Manor—a themed park featuring roses and flowers—Heydes Rose Garden and Huaxi Valley Manor with display gardens, and a nursery. We were fortunate to be given an understanding of their current breeding program and possible new varieties on trial.

A particularly unique experience was to visit The UNESCO World Heritage Site at Dujiangyan to observe the operations of an ancient world hydraulic engineering system. Another was The Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding. This is the world's foremost conservation centre for these endangered animals.

An early start was rewarded with the opportunity to witness the Panda's when most active.

A morning exploring the Sanxingdu Art Museum where an extensive display of exhibits from a collection of found artefacts from the Shu civilisation dating back 3000–5000 years, further enhanced our appreciation of the ancient culture.

A high-speed train was taken by the group to Nanyang, a rose city, to attend the 17th International Heritage Rose Conference. The conference program included a welcome dinner, a spectacular opening ceremony, informative lecture program, garden visits and gala dinner. The experience concluded in Shanghai with further lectures and guided tours encompassing the beautiful garden landscapes and conservatories contained within the expansive Shanghai Chenshan Botanical Garden.

Then it was off to Tokyo: Japan's largest city spreads broadly to house 35 million people. Tokyo Station is the central hub for the Shinkansen, the country's high speed bullet railway network which holds claim to the world's busiest train station, Shinjuku Station.

Continued over



A Chinese Money Tree—a holy tree conjuring good fortune, in Sichuan Museum, Chengdu.



Eisvogel at Yokohama's Flower and Garden Festival, Japan.



One of many promising seedlings under cultivation in China.



Van Fleet at Sakura Rose Garden, Japan.

Whilst in Japan I attended ceremonies for the unveiling of the World Federation of Rose Societies Award of Garden Excellence plaques, awarded in May 2025 to Rosa & Berry Tawanda and Nagaoka Fragrant Rose Garden. Rosa & Berry is an English themed garden and the Nagaoka Fragrant Rose Garden is on a hillside and has the challenges of snow in winter. Unfortunately, it was too early for the roses, but both gardens had abundant plantings of annuals and perennials in flower. Further days were spent in Yokohama, coinciding with their annual Flower and Garden Festival, showcasing roses, peonies and other flowers.

I can also recommend Ayase Rose Garden to members who may like to visit. It is a delightful public garden featuring roses—the flower of Ayase City and one of its main attractions with many attractive underplantings. Another for your bucket list is Yokohama English Garden, a captivating garden featuring roses and meandering pathways that reveal colour schemed garden rooms along the way. Then there is Sakura City Garden where old garden roses, and roses bred by Seizo Suzuki, and Viru and Girija Viraraghavan, are prominent. These are maintained by a group of volunteers.

On reflection, these two amazing countries showcase the importance of the rose in enhancing streetscapes, public and private gardens.



Bonsai Display

A magnificent display of Bonsai "welcomed" delegates to the 17th International Heritage Rose Conference, China.



Peonies

Spectacular peonies were a photographer's favourite at the annual Flower and Garden Festival in Yokohama, Japan.

When the going gets tough, think



White Meidiland

Landscape Roses

*By Kim Syrus of Corporate Roses
Australian Agent for Meilland Roses*

Mention the word “rose” to most landscape architects, designers or contractors and you’ll likely get the same response—“Yes, they flower, but they are a lot of work”. These same words were said by Paris City Council in the late 1970s, intent on removing roses from their streetscapes due to high maintenance costs. French rose breeder, Meilland® International, approached the council asking what they needed in an amenity rose. The answer was simple: “long flowering, no spray, mechanical prune”.

Aligning their breeding program to fit these criteria, the “Meidiland®” series of Ground Cover and Shrub roses was produced and immediately embraced by the City of Paris and other municipalities across the globe, including Australia.

Meilland® International has been leading the charge in showing how selecting the right roses can enhance a landscape. The past 50 years has seen continued refinement in rose breeding focussed on both home gardens and larger spaces. High disease resistance, in line with community expectations of reduced or nil spraying, has developed an extraordinary number of new varieties able to cope with high fungal pressures. The Black Spot riddled rose is fast disappearing.

Consistency in colour over many months is another feature of the modern landscape rose. Gone are those Spring/Autumn flushes, replaced with an even covering of blooms throughout the growing season, some up to nine months and beyond.

Also, as more roses are being produced from cuttings, the risk of suckers from traditionally grafted rootstocks sprouting and growing into an ugly thicket will be a thing of the past.

Pruning may be a dirty word for some and a dark art for others, however if you can use a hedge trimmer, chainsaw or even mower, you have got these modern landscape roses covered. Shear two-thirds of the top growth and job done.

Landscape roses are surprisingly drought tolerant. While they tend to be planted in irrigated sites, they cope incredibly well through heat and intermittent watering, a major consideration for a changing climate. From Meilland® International’s dedicated breeding programs, many superior rose varieties and ranges have stood out as

being immensely suited for landscape, along with inground and container garden options.

Next time you are looking to add pizzaz to your patch, consider the new generation of roses. Long flowering and little maintenance equal a stunning result.



Zepeti® (MEIbenbino)

This is a once in a generation plant and more in the

Newer to the market—**Zepeti®** var MEIbenbino)



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same range will follow. Currently being successfully grown from The Whitsundays to Hobart to Perth, **Zepeti®** is a pocket rocket.

What sets **Zepeti®** apart is its unique form, stunning health, incredible flowering capacity, low maintenance and amazing versatility.

This exciting and eye-catching plant is the missing link between the rose and hedging categories. Growing to only 40cm high and 30cm wide, **Zepeti®**'s compact upright habit is more Buxus than rose. Add to that a thicket of small dark glossy foliage from the ground up and you have a perfect canvas to add a splash of spectacular colour.

Masses of attractive fire engine blooms are continuously produced over each plant for 9 to 12 months depending on the climate—the more sub-tropical, the longer the flowering and more evergreen it becomes. Forget the traditional rose tag, **Zepeti®** thrives in a broad range of climatic conditions be it humid, heat or frost thanks to its inherent vigour and disease. Few roses can boast **Zepeti®**'s ability to perform in practically every climate zone in Australia.

As a border or low hedge, the compact upright growth ensures paths remain free for traffic while the volume of flowers creates immense interest and energy, a far cry from the much-used English and Japanese box.

Balconies, decks and patios are perfect for a potted **Zepeti®** helping add a beacon of colour and beauty. You can also bring that pot indoors for up to a fortnight and enjoy the blooms. Group plantings, whether in a park entrance, median strip or roundabout, really highlight the **Zepeti®** benefits of super tough, long-term colour without the maintenance, plus it offers a great alternative to planting annuals twice yearly. **Zepeti®** is a wonderful problem solver and attractive addition to any amenity landscape (www.zepeti.com.au).

Drift® Roses

2/6 Another highly disease and low maintenance plant, there's much to get excited



Pink Drift® var Meijocosa



Peach Drift® var Meiggili

about the Drift® range. Aptly named, low mounding Drift® create drifts across the landscape. With dimensions 50cm X 60cm, these groundcovers offer many and varied planting applications. Sight line is an important consideration, especially on roundabouts and streetscapes, Drift® provide brilliant long-term colour and coverage without obscuring views. Already making a splash across different climates, the super hardy Drift® range continues to impress. It is available in seven colours with more hues and flower types set for release over the next few years.

Coral Drift®—Var. Meidrifora

Bright coral-orange blooms continuously cover this small mounding shrub. The vibrant eye-catching flowers will lift any garden stop mix and match with similar or contrasting colours to really add a wow factor. It is ideal as a brilliant border or for long-term container colour. Hardy and disease resistant, ***Coral Drift®***. Height 500mm Width 700mm.

Peach Drift®—Var. Meiggili

Soft Peach blooms cover the plants from mid Spring to late Autumn. Peach Drift® mixes well with other plants in any landscape. Excellent for borders, flower boxes, and pot. Hardy and disease resistance. Height 500mm Width 700mm.

Red Drift®—Var. Meigalpio

Petite bright red flowers smother this rose. ***Red Drift®*** creates a dramatic effect draping naturally over a rock wall or edge, planted in the garden, or pot. This variety has great flower power and disease resistance. Height 500mm Width 600mm.

White Drift®—Var. Meiglise

Clusters of small bright white blooms continually smother this wonderfully performing rose, flowering from mid Spring to late Autumn. Incredibly healthy and happy, ***White Drift®*** is ideal as a low garden border, low hedge, in mixed plantings, flower boxes, or pots. Height 400mm Width 800mm.

Pink Drift®—Var. Meijocosa

Masses of deep pink flowers with light pink centres, ***Pink Drift®*** blooms continuously cover this low mounding ground cover rose. Blooming from mid Spring to late Autumn, ***Pink Drift®*** is ideal in mixed garden plantings, borders, flower boxes, and pots. It is disease resistant and easy to grow. Height 500mm Width 900mm.



Red Drift®



Popcorn Drift®

Sweet Drift®—Var. Meisweldom
Clusters of light pink, double blooms add a bright and cheery touch to borders, garden beds and containers. Continuously flowering and super hardy and healthy, **Sweet Drift®** is so easy to grow and mixes brilliantly with other plants—an absolute garden and landscape standout! Height 500mm Width 600mm.

Popcorn Drift®—Var. Novarospop
Soft buttery yellow blooms fade to a creamy

white reminiscent of buttery popcorn. **Popcorn Drift®** is a continuous bloomer flowering from mid Spring too late Autumn, pairing well with other plants. It has great flower power and disease resistance, and it is ideal as a low garden border or hedge, in mixed plantings, flower boxes or pots. Height 500mm Width 600mm.

Meidiland®

This is the original designer landscape rose range and still finds a worthy space where larger spreading low maintenance ground covers are preferred. Planting distances of one metre make these a great value, high colour landscape option.

Coral Meidiland®—Var. Meidrifora

This is a coral pink free flowering ground cover with healthy bronze-green foliage. This is superb as a specimen or in massed plantings. Bloom filled arching canes create happy and hardy continuous fountains of colour. Height 900mm Width 1m.

Fire Meidiland®—Var. Meiupside

Constantly covered in medium sized double crimson blooms, the foliage is abundant and extremely healthy while also carrying an attractive hue in Autumn. Ideal as an eye-catching potted specimen, cascading over a wall, or used as massed colour sweep, it's among the best. Awards: Best Groundcover Rose & Best Pest & Disease Tolerant Rose in The National Rose Garden of Australia in the 2004 trials.

Red Meidiland®—Var. Meineble

This is a vivid red free flowering ground cover rose for gardens, slopes, banks, cottage plantings, hanging baskets and tubs. It offers a beautiful spread of colour over attractive foliage. This is superb as a specimen or in massed plantings. Height 600mm Coverage 1sqm.

Rosy Meidiland®—Var. Meirameca

The richest of pink double blooms repeat quickly on this healthy landscaping rose where large clusters festoon the spreading canes. Its exceptional health and low maintenance

4/6

make this rose an attractive addition to the garden. Height 800cm Coverage 1sqm.



Red Meidiland® var Meineble



White Meidiland® var Meicoublan

White Meidiland®—Var. Meicoublan

This was the first of the Meidiland® ground cover roses and has crisp white fluted petals tightly packed to form old world double blooms with a slight citrus fragrance. Masses of flowers feature in large clusters creating a constant carpet of blooms. Healthy, abundant deep green foliage completes its superb landscaping qualities. This is a wonderful feature plant and also looks superb as a flowering embankment.

Knock Out® Family

Around 12 years ago, this range accounted for approximately a quarter of entire rose sales in the US. The range continues to fill home gardens and landscapes from Florida to California. It is a range of super performing shrub roses grown from the original single red Knock Out® into a kaleidoscope of colours and flower forms to match many landscape décors.

Currently accounting for around a quarter of the entire rose sales in the US, Knock Out® continues to fill home gardens and landscapes from Florida to California. An ability to cope with heat, cold and humidity has seen the same incredible climatically divergent results repeated across Australia.

Setting a new standard in disease resistance and flower capacity for shrub roses, you can also add versatility. Knock Out® make the perfect living fence to 1.2m, for a nine-month blooming beauty and once a year trim. Stunning massed, they also work equally well in mixed beds, including natives, to add a splash of much needed long-term colour.

Knock Out®—Var. Radrazz

One of the best in the low growing Floribunda range, the semi-double blooms are carried in clusters. It shades from cherry red to burgundy and bluish pink. The two tones are striking on the one plant which is well covered in glossy, dark green foliage. Robust, healthy, tough—it is no wonder this rose has taken the world by storm. It is an AARS Winner and won a Gold Medal at the National Rose Trial Garden of Australia in 2005.

Blushing Knock Out®—Var. Radyod

With flowers similar to the original ***Knock Out®*** Rose, ***Blushing Knock Out®*** has masses of light apple blossom pink blooms that festoon this brilliant shrub rose.

Amazingly versatile and extremely disease resistant, **Blushing Knock Out®** is a most worthy addition to the highly regarded Knock Out® family of roses and a must have plant for any gardener or landscaper looking for that bright splash of continuous colour from mid Spring to early winter. Height 1m Width 1m.

Double Knock Out®—Var. Radtko

This rose produces a continuous display of petal filled, classic shaped, dusky red blooms. This super hardy performer maintains the high standard set by others in the Knock Out® range with a high disease resistance to Black Spot and other fungal diseases. This is a rose suitable for growing in humid conditions. Long flowering and easy care, ideal for the garden or larger landscape areas, **Double Knock Out®** grows well in a container. No formal pruning is needed, just a hard winter shear does the job. Height 1m Width 1m.

Pink Knock Out®—Var. Radcon

This is a rose filled with a bounty of single blooms like the original **Knock Out**. Coloured a beautiful bright pink, like other members of the family, the **Pink Knock Out®** rose is highly black spot resistant, drought tolerant and self-cleaning, making it a wonderfully easy plant to grow. This is a perfect companion for other shrubs, roses, perennials and Australian natives. Height 1m Width 1m.

Double Pink Knock Out®—Var. Radtkopink

Masses of petal-filled strawberry pink blooms flower continuously cover this easy to grow rose. This is a flower factory. It is highly Black Spot and drought resistant as well as being self-cleaning, making it a wonderfully easy plant to grow as a single specimen or a striking designer hedge. What a perfect companion for other shrubs, roses, perennials and Australian natives. Height 1m Width 1m.

Rainbow Knock Out®—Var. Radcor

Bathed in stunning coral-pink flowers with hot pink overtones and yellow centres this rose's blooms are produced continuously throughout the growing season. Incredibly hardy and healthy, this is a true no-fuss rose and yet another top performer in the Knock Out® range. Height 1m Width 1m.

Sunny Knock Out®—Var. Radsunny

Each plant is continuously filled with masses of single blooms which open bright golden yellow ageing to a soft buttery hue. They have an intense citrus fragrance. Like other members of the Knock Out® family, here is a super hardy rose, drought resistant and self-cleaning. This is a perfect companion for other shrubs, roses, perennials and Australian natives. Height 1.2m Width 1m.

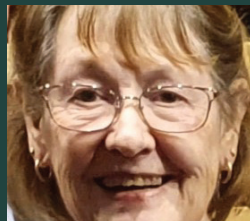
White Knock Out®—Var. Radwhite

A flower-factory, **White Knock Out®** produces a continuous halo of dazzling blooms throughout the growing season. Coupled with exceptional disease resistance, this one of the easiest care roses you could ever grow. It is perfect for a garden or a pot, planted singly, in a group, or mixed with other plants, White Knock Out® is so versatile. It was the winner of the 2022 Australian Rose of the Year in the National Rose Trial Garden of **6/6** Australia. Height 1m Width 1.

Volunteers in the International Rose Garden



With Deb Curtis



The International Rose Garden had a varied Autumn with some roses flowering later and others succumbing to Black Spot and Spider Mite. If this occurred in your garden, be re-assured that you are not alone.

In May, some of the vollies attended a thank you morning tea given by the administration of Adelaide Botanic Garden in the Rose Marque. It is always nice to know that the efforts of the volunteers who provide support in the garden are appreciated.

We will start to prune the roses in IRG as you read this. Pruning happens Wednesday and Friday mornings in July. If you are thinking of joining us, please contact Ryan (the Adelaide Botanic Garden Volunteer Coordinator) saying you are Rose Society of South Australia member and wish to help with rose pruning. He needs some paperwork completed before you are able to help.



The season finale "smoko" of the IRG volunteers.

All but the Tea and Alister Clark roses will be pruned in July. This means there should be some flowering throughout Winter if you need a rose "fix". The perfume isn't as strong at this time but they are still lovely to look at.

A new "weed team" has been created for the IRG to help with the weed problem, especially in Spring. It will be working from 9–11am on Friday mornings over June, August and September. Hopefully, this will mean the deadheading team won't be weeding for the month of October as they have in the past.

Please contact me if you are interested in joining us to assist with pruning and / or deadheading. New members are always welcome.

Deborah Curtis Supervisor of Volunteers in the IRG
curtisnd@internode.on.net 0408 474 977



Chaffey Rose Club

By Dale Kerin



Michael Roy with Jill Knight (L), Fleur Carthew and Elaine Schier at Roy Farms.

Some much-needed cooler weather and a little rain have been welcomed in the Riverland. Our gardens are looking so much healthier; everything that survived the heat of the Summer is so much greener and the roses have been blooming with much bigger brighter flowers.

With a little organisation, we were able to participate, together, in the Society's Zoom Meeting in March by gathering at Renmark's Council Chambers. This enabled us to not

only enjoy each other's company but connect with the greater membership to learn about David Austin and English Roses from Stefanie Williams (David Austin Roses), talking from the UK. Afterwards, we shared supper and Fleur Carthew showed some of the David Austin Blooms that she grows in her garden.

In April, members enjoyed a visit out to Roy Farms, and its historical home, garden and dried fruit production facility in Renmark. We all enjoyed a tour and tasting of their dried fruits and Great Southern Chocolate and toffee confectionery.

Morning Tea was held in the garden where we enjoyed a talk by Michael Roy on the family history and being fruit growers in Renmark since the turn of the 20th Century. Then we enjoyed a tour of the homestead, its furnishings and learning about the history of the home. Before finishing off our morning—having tasted lots of their wonderful products—it was time to purchase some healthy and/or wicked goodies to take home to enjoy later.

Our next gathering will be on Sunday, July 26th at 1pm at *Olivewood Historical Homestead*. We are planning a day trip to the Barossa to visit the Bush Garden in August.

The members of Chaffey Rose Club thank everyone who joined us to celebrate the Club's 30th Anniversary and also those who sent cards, emails and phone calls congratulating us on the milestone. You made it extra special.

Chaffey Rose Club's 30th birthday weekend



Chaffey President
Elly Johnson

South East Branch

Text by Annie Clifford Photos supplied by Kelly Hillstone

The South East Branch's Annual General Meeting was held recently at the Royal Oak Hotel, Penola, with 29 members and guests attending. Among them was Society President, Gavin Woods, who brought his charming mother, Shirley Woods.

Gavin chaired the meeting for the election of office bearers. President Kelly Hillstone, Secretary Annie Clifford and Vice President Helen Zadow, each accepted their respective roles for the second consecutive year. Jan Teate accepted the baton as Treasurer from Jill Collins who stood down after serving as Treasurer for many years. Thank you so much Jill for your expertise in the role over the years.

Brian Wagner from Wagner's Rose Nursery was our guest speaker. The topic was his recent trip, with son Luca, to the UK and France. Brian had been honoured to be invited to Georges Delbard's 90th birthday celebrations in France and decided to extend the overseas journey to visit both David Austin Roses and Chris Warner Roses in Shropshire, England, beforehand.



The South East's President Kelly Hillstone with Brian Wagner and Rose Society President Gavin Woods at the AGM.

At David Austin Roses, Brian and Luca were given a tour of the spectacular gardens, with behind the scenes viewing of their breeding programme and new release roses. Brian was amazed at the number of potted roses for sale, along with acres of glasshouses filled with roses.



Brian Wagner with Arnaud Delbard in France for Georges Delbard's 90th celebrations.

They then ventured on to Chris Warner Roses, a short drive away, for an impromptu visit. Chris was delighted to see Brian after so many years and they spent the afternoon wandering through the new varieties Chris and his assistant, Catherine, have been working on. Brian is very happy to announce that Wagner's Rose Nursery has now taken on the Australian Agency and has made plans to import the budwood of these beautiful roses.

The last stop was the big 90th birthday party located in France at Georges Delbard, Malicorne. Whilst there, Brian and Luca were introduced to many other rose growers from around the world. Amongst them was Tyler from America who has a nursery growing around 12 million roses each year. From this meeting at the dinner party, Tyler invited Luca to visit and stay with them to learn growing roses "The American Way"

which Luca gladly accepted. Luca will be jetting off in a couple of months. A highlight of the trip for Brian and Luca was the Georges Delbard tour of the roses, fruit trees and dahlias.

In other news, Marjorie Todd, along with six branch members, attended Chaffey Rose Club's 30th birthday celebrations and the Combined Branches meeting where they enjoyed visiting six lovely gardens and a cruise on the Murray River Queen. A delightful time was had by all.

Plans are well underway for our Creswick Garden Lovers Weekend Tour which will be from 6th–9th November. We will be visiting gardens ranging from small town plots to large country landscapes as well as a Home Craft show at the Town Hall.

We are looking forward to a visit from Dr. Tate Hancox who will be giving a pruning demonstration on Heritage Roses in Petticoat Lane, Penola, which is the oldest residential area in the township of Penola, dating 1850.

Work on the Penola Babies Garden upgrade is well underway. A large working bee, attended by over a dozen members, was held in March to remove all the aged and neglected roses. This mammoth task was made easier with the help of Jordan Galpin, Andy Clifford and Craig Bell with their heavy duty machinery and trailer. The beds have been fertilized and mulched in preparation for the new perfumed roses, kindly donated by Wagner's Rose Nursery, to be planted Winter 2027, which allows time for soil rejuvenation.

Our next meeting is to be held at Chardonnay Lodge, Coonawarra on the 23rd August 2026 where Sue Zwar will talk on her trips to Japan and Toowoomba.

For details and to choose your options go to sarose.org.au News/Events



Downton Abbey inspired



Movie ticket \$22
Coffee and cake \$12
3 Course Lunch \$110

AUGUST 4TH 2026
FILM AT 11AM MOUNT BARKER CINEMA
LUNCH AT 1:30PM AT AUCHENDARROCH HOUSE



BOOK NOW—lunch bookings close 20th July, coffee and cake on 1st August



BACK COVER

This is the winning entry, taken by Ashlyn (surname withheld), in Neutrog's 2026 People's Choice photographic competition. Ashlyn received a generous prize of Neutrog products for the shot, taken during the 2026 People's Choice competition held on 25th and 26th April.

To see the winning entry in this year's People's Choice competition, see page 28.

Bulletin deadlines for 2026 and early 2027

EDITION	RESERVE SPACE BY	PROVIDE MATERIAL BY
October, November, December	9th August	25th August
January, February, March 2027	9th November	25th November
April, May, June 2027	9th February	25th February



Ordering and Delivery

Neutrog's online store is always open

Dates and times for collection at Metropolitan and Kanmantoo sites will be provided with the confirmation of your order. A general collection date (eg late March) will be provided for regional collection points. You will be contacted by a collection coordinator to arrange collection once the delivery has been confirmed with Neutrog's carrier.

Questions regarding ordering should be referred to Neutrog
or Paul (RSSA) on 0409 096 758.

Reminder

Is your membership
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SEA MUN GUS!

**NEW
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**FULLY
COMPOSTABLE
PAPER
PACKAGING**

**PERFECT FOR
ALL PLANTS,
ALL YEAR
ROUND**



GOOD THINGS COME IN SMALL(ER) PACKAGES!

Seamungus is now available in a new 3.5kg paper bag, perfect for all plants, all year round.

Now packaged in a fully compostable paper bag, this new size is easier to manage and store, and more accessible for every gardener.

With its powerful blend of seaweed, fish, humates and manure, Seamungus supports strong root growth, healthier soil and better plant establishment, especially through winter, when gentle feeding and soil enrichment matter most.

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