



The Rose Society of South Australia Inc

Bulletin

Volume 64, Number 3

July, August, September 2025



El Toro

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

Calendar of Events

July

Tuesday 29th July 7pm

AGM & A Tournament of Roses, Goodman Building, Adelaide Botanic Garden.

August

Thursday 14th August 11am

The Worm Firm, 61 Anderson Walk, Smithfield followed by lunch at Marcellina, 2/233 Curtis Road, Smithfield. See page 13.

September

Wednesday 24th September 10am

Carrick Hill House and Garden, 46 Carrick Hill Drive, Springfield. See page 13.

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COVER PHOTO *El Toro* by Gavin Woods



El Toro, staged by Gavin Woods at the 2025 Autumn Rose Show (see pages 21–25), with the exhibit earning special praise by Judge, Peter Burton, is a US bred Hybrid Tea, no longer available for purchase in Australia. This rose has dark leathery foliage and large deeply fragrant blooms comprised of about 80 petals, arranged in a globular shape. It blooms in flushes throughout the season. Some may know this rose as *Uncle Joe*.



**IS YOUR
MEMBERSHIP
PAST DUE?**



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.

www.sarose.org.au

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Wagner's code: 100%ROSES!

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A message from the President

We can finally take a breath after a flurry of activity both in the rose garden and beyond. Autumn brings some respite from our Summer heat with beautiful days and much cooler nights. Our roses usually respond with bigger, brighter blooms for both the show bench and the home. This was not necessarily the case in 2025!



Gavin Woods ARA

My garden was trimmed as per the recommended schedule for two shows, five days apart. A complete absence of rain and warmer than usual temperatures saw many of the roses bloom at least a week ahead of schedule and many varieties were smaller than anticipated and contained fewer petals. Some “banker” varieties were a disappointment. Other roses, however, came to the fore and produced blooms much better than we normally see. Despite all our wisdom and attempts to manipulate our plants, Mother Nature always has the final say.

Many of us enjoyed a visit to *The Cedars*, former home of the Heysens. Penelope Schulz had arranged for Allan Campbell, former Curator, to be our guide. A sumptuous rose themed High Tea was enjoyed by all in attendance. This was a wonderful social day for our members, some of whom came from afar. We were delighted to be joined by five members from our Chaffey Branch.

Members recently enjoyed a guided tour of the *Chihuly* exhibition in Adelaide Botanic Garden. This world class exhibition of glass sculpture has drawn over one million visitors to the garden, truly a success beyond expectations. I was privileged to see the sculptures many times on my visits to the garden; I could not help but be drawn to their beauty and uniqueness. How the glass travelled from overseas relatively unscathed is something I shall long ponder.

At our April meeting we were pleased to have Kim Syrus talk to his Churchill Fellowship tour, with roses grown from cuttings perhaps the way forward for the rose industry. A video of Kim’s lecture will soon be available via our website. I encourage everyone to view it.

Penelope—Council’s Liaison with Chaffey—and I attended the Annual General Meeting of the Chaffey Rose Club, with the meeting held at the amazing *Olivegrove Homestead*. An active branch, the Chaffey group has again found an executive team to carry on what is a varied and interesting program. A few younger members would be appreciated, I am sure, however this group (as with all three Branches) is to be admired for their commitment to the rose and the promotion of the ideals of this society.

Our *Autumn Rose Show*, held again in conjunction with the *People’s Choice* voting of the *National Rose Trial Garden of Australia*, was a wonderful success. Hundreds of visitors to *Adelaide Botanic Garden* availed themselves of our fragrant display of superb roses both at the show and in the garden. The combination of both events has proved to be a big hit with the public. It also reduces the impact on our volunteers, so very important in my view.

Continued next page

A message from the President *continued*

Exhibitors have become comfortable with the “no prior entry” system; very few vases were moved prior to judging. I am beginning to have enquiries from other states about this method of staging entries and soon expect other societies and shows to adopt these methods. The reduction in volunteer hours required to take entries, draw up judging sheets etc. is significant.

We were fortunate to have *The Advertiser* newspaper come on board and publicise the Best Rose (Community Class) at our show. Despite significant publicity, the response was less than we have had in the past. It is important, however, that we continue to reach out to members of the public and innovate towards involving non-member rose gardeners in rose growing and involvement in our Society.



RSSA Patron, Mr Rod Bunten, RSSA President, Mr Gavin Woods, and Her Excellency, the Honourable Frances Adamson AC, Governor of South Australia, at the 2025 Autumn Rose Show.

Photo: Paul Flavel



NRTGA Secretary, Mr Chris Kelly, RSSA Patron, Mr Rod Bunten and NRTGA Trial Bed Coordinator, Mr Merv Trimper, inspect the roses at the People's Choice competition which was held in conjunction with the show.

Photo: Paul Flavel

Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC, Governor of South Australia, and our Patron, Mr Rod Bunten, attended our Autumn Show early on Saturday morning. As always, they were patient and engaging and our members had an opportunity to chat with them and have “selfies” taken. Both were impressed with our efforts to engage with the public, something which is vital to our sustainability but sometimes forgotten in the rush to keep members engaged.

I wandered into the *International Rose Garden* the day after our show concluded, to assist with the *People's Choice* voting. I must say that the garden was the best I have seen it for many years. The plants were, by-and-large, carrying great foliage, free of disease, with Autumn flowers in abundance. The trial plants looked superb with the public spoilt for choice in the selection of their favourites. Congratulations must go to the volunteers, both within the Rose Garden and the Trial Garden, for undertaking much of the maintenance work. Andy Hart does a fabulous job as curator but has limited staff, making the volunteers an essential component of the garden.

Merv Trimper, Diane vom Berg and I continue to work with the Botanic Gardens in

Continued next page

Photo: Melanie Trimper



Diane vom Berg with Retiring WFRS Executive Director, Derek Lawrence (L) and incoming WFRS President Sushil Prakash at the 20th World Rose Convention, upon Diane being awarded the WFRS Gold Medal for an Outstanding Contribution to the WFRS. Congratulations Diane.

Photo: Melanie Trimper



The finale of the 20th World Rose Convention in Fukuyama, Japan, when Japanese rosarians handed over the WFRS flag to India which will host the 21st World Rose Convention in Bhopal, in January 2028. For updates go to: mprose.org/World-Rose-Convention for details.

rejuvenating the rose garden and bringing it to a contemporary era. Many more beds will be emptied this year, whilst those cleared in 2024 will be planted with 300–400 new roses in Winter. This is a continual process, one that is necessary in order that we have a world-class rose garden for the public to enjoy.

At the time of writing, Kim and I are off to Japan for much of May for the 20th *Triennial World Rose Convention* of the *World Federation of Rose Societies*. I understand over 30 Australian Rosarians will be in attendance. The closing dinner of the convention will see an end to Diane Vom Berg's tenure as President. Diane has had many issues to deal with during her term and has served the role with distinction. As only the third Australian President of the WFRS, I want to thank Diane for her service and wish her well in spending some more time "smelling the roses".

Our Society will now enter the Winter phase of pruning demonstrations and bringing our own gardens to a point that prepares the plants for another year. A new Council will meet in August to offer direction and to plan the future of the society. I would welcome input from members and encourage anyone with any ideas which will enhance the society to contact one of our Councillors.

Wishing you all "Happy Pruning" –Gavin



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.

Kim puts the spotlight on future propagation

Own root rose propagation methods and their potential application in the future of commercial rose propagation in Australia, where budding onto rootstock is currently the norm, were the focus of the April Members' Meeting guest presentation.

They were put under the microscope by high profile rosarian, Kim Syrus, during an international study tour funded by a prestigious Churchill Fellowship Scholarship, who spoke of his tour and outlined some of his findings at the meeting. Kim has summarised his study tour and learnings in a 54-page report to the Winston Churchill Trust. The report is expected to be of particular interest to commercial growers, keen to address a shortage of budders in this country and with the vision to develop new customers bases through extensive own root plantings of particular cultivars. See Kim's report online in the reports section of www.churchilltrust.com.au



Kirsten Lippett with Kim Syrus at the April Members' Meeting. Photo: Paul Flavel

John Bradshaw wins meeting Show Bench competition again



James L Austin
Photo: Paul Flavel



BEST ROSE Black Tie
Photo: Paul Flavel



Double Delight
Photo: Paul Flavel

John Bradshaw's success on the Show Bench at meetings has continued with his exhibit of **Black Tie** being named BEST ROSE at the April meeting.

The competition, coordinated by Gwen Moxham for many years, championed also by regular Members' Meeting exhibitor, Les Johnson, and judged by Merv Trimper, saw the exhibitors win and secure places in their grades.

Results were:

A Grade—1st Ken and Gwen Moxham **James L Austin**, 2nd Ken and Gwen Moxham **Joyfulness**.

B Grade—1st John Bradshaw **Black Tie**, 2nd John Bradshaw **Altissimo**, 3rd John Bradshaw **Ray of Sunshine**.

C Grade—1st Harriet Eivers **Double Delight**, 2nd Harriet Eivers **Joyfulness**.

Heritage—1st Ken and Gwen Moxham **Monsieur Tillier**.

George's legacy lingers with a special rose producing a celebratory fragrance for Jurlique

A rose bred by a Society Life Member, the late George Thomson ARA, AL CA, will be the jewel in the crown of 40th Anniversary products offered by South Australian-based holistic skincare company, *Jurlique International*, later this year.

Ulrike Klein, named after Ulrike Klein, who with husband Jurgen Klein realised a vision to create pure and natural skin products based on herbs and botanicals grown on their own biodynamic farm, will imbue anniversary hand cream and a rosewater misting spray with a distinctive fragrance to celebrate the milestone. *Jurlique's* existing hand cream and rosewater balancing mist are the company's biggest sellers.

In addition, Potted bushes of **Ulrike Klein** will be sold also at the *Jurlique Farm*, located between Mylor and Echunga about 30km south east of Adelaide, during August. This is a "first", as *Jurlique* has not yet sold roses on its farm site.

The rose is the second to be created for *Jurlique* by the respected and much-loved Scotsman, who made South Australia his home. George became well-known for his many contributions to the world of roses, including breeding *Jurlique*, the rose with a deliciously potent fragrance which is regarded as *Jurlique's* signature scent.

Jurlique and **Ulrike Klein** each have impressive lineages which remain confidential for commercial reasons. However, their complicated parentages both include the pre-1700s bred **Charles de Mills**, inducted into the Old Rose Hall of Fame.

Ulrike Klein is a repeat flowering shrub, producing its blooms in clusters, large and small. It was selected for its intense fragrance, small prickles, and stunning red to purple—near blue—colours.

Footnote: if visiting *Jurlique* in August to buy **Ulrike Klein**, you may wish to book a 90-minute Farm Tour. Details are available online at jurliquefarmbooking.rezdy.com/363098/jurlique-farm-tour.



The President and members welcome our new members

Surleen Anand—Boston

Lexi Irving—Langkoop, Vic

Izzy Smith—Maitland

Gayle Davies—Naracoorte

Mary Jenner—Fullarton

Tea Tree District Garden Club

Lorraine Deakin—Cleve

Tina Knipsel—Moorook

David & Marcia Vernon—

Ralph Graham—Queenstown

Erin Reith—Birdwood

Tanunda



Seductive Scents

In the first of a two-part series on fragrance, Society member Kim Syrus describes its essence in roses. Kim's article originally appeared in the April, 2022 issue of SALIFE. Kim is the garden writer for both SALIFE magazine, and the SALIFE Gardens and Outdoor Living magazine. We thank SA Life for permitting us to republish it.

“That which we call a rose, by any other name would smell as sweet.”
William Shakespeare *Romeo & Juliet*

Countless bards, composers and writers across the millennia, have spoken, sung and waxed lyrical about the romance and allure to be found within a scented rose. As complicated as love, so is a rose's fragrance.

Whether on a bush, in a vase or beautiful bouquet, the one thing we all seem to do, when greeted with a rose bloom, is to push in our nose and take a big sniff. Sometimes, as is the case with many glasshouse grown roses, there is little if any scent to enjoy, however for the vast number of roses grown in gardens across South Australia, you are greatly rewarded with a fragrance filled snout.

Like wine, where a bouquet is described with great gusto—“vibrant berry and plum complex fruit flavours” of a Shiraz or the “subtle lemon and peach aromas” in a chardonnay, so too can a rose's unique perfume be equally identified to help add a new and enchanting dimension to your rose experience.

A rose's scent is produced as a mixture of chemical compounds, known as monoterpenes, within each petal. As these volatile compounds evaporate the perfume is released and the subsequent level and type of fragrance is very much dependent on that chemical composition. Recent research into rose fragrance has identified a particular enzyme which, if present, allows the production of monoterpenes and is responsible for each variety's specific perfume.

Some rose species such as *Rosa damascena*, *Rosa gallica* and *Rosa Centifolia* produce voluminous amounts of the highly fragrant essential oil known as Attar of Rose. This pure rose scent is a valuable and key ingredient for the global perfume industry, with hundreds of thousands of tonnes of their petals harvested and processed annually.



PHOTOS

ABOVE: *Michelangelo*™, known for its dominant fruit aromas reminiscent of peach.

RIGHT: *Best Friend*®, known for its classic Rose fragrance.

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Seductive Scents

Several years ago, perfume company *Robertet* from the fragrance capital Grasse in Provence, France, and renowned rose breeding firm, Meilland International, combined their skills and rose plants to create an effective way to identify rose scent.



The *Robertet* perfumer or “Nose” as the person is known, visited the Meilland International rose fields at Le Cannet-des-Maures in the heart of Provence, carefully smelling and re-smelling a suite of rose varieties then categorising them into distinct fragrance groups. Petals from an individual rose within each group were picked and placed in a specially designed glass chamber which was heated to a temperature where the scented oils within each petal evaporated. The fragrant gas was captured, distilled and analysed, via a gas spectrometer, to determine the specific chemical compounds that contributed to that rose’s unique fragrance. This process was repeated for all the selected varieties.

As a result, this mix of tradition and science helped identify six key smells or “notes” which form the main elements in a rose scent—Rose, Fruit, Wood, Green, Floral and Spice. For most roses, one note tends to be dominant with other notes combining to help make up the total perfume.

“Rose” notes are the strongest and sweetest scent. Even in small quantities, Attar of Rose is an easily identified classic “Rose” fragrance which tends to last longest in the nose and will often overpower many of the other scents. Varieties with a strong “Rose” note include, ***Double Delight***, ***Fiona’s Wish™***, ***Best Friend®***, ***Mr. Lincoln*** and ***Papa Meilland***.

“Fruit” notes tend to be a sharp. Sometimes tangy, this is quickly picked up by the nose but not as strong nor long lasting as the “Rose” note. The “Fruit” note includes a range of fruity smells: citrus (lemon, orange), berry (raspberry, strawberry), tropical (mango, passionfruit, banana), apricot and peach. Roses which have a dominant “Fruit” note include ***St. John™*** (raspberry), ***Charles De Gaulle*** (lemon) and ***Michelangelo™*** (peach).

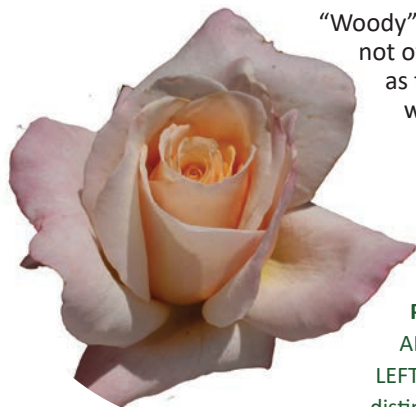
“Woody” notes include walnut and linseed scents. These are not overpowering but quite subtle and usually identified as the “extra” smell in a fragrance. Little wonder, who wants a rose ponging like a well-oiled cricket bat?

“Green” notes provide a very light smell, easily identified with the first sniff, picking up a range of odours including green apple, cut grass and even crushed leaves. Varieties with a “Green” note

PHOTOS

ABOVE: ***Seduction®***, has a light fragrance with green notes.

LEFT: ***Spirit of Peace™***, has spice notes with a distinct leatherwood fragrance.





Seductive Scents

are normally classified as “lightly” fragrant such as **Seduction®**.

The “Floral” note is different to the “Rose” note, as it is generally the background scent and not the dominant note. Verbena, lilac and violet are some of these secondary elements picked up in a fragrance. Roses which include a “Floral” note are **The Children’s Rose™** (verbena) and **Gift of Grace™** (jasmine).

The “Spice” note is often the fragrance that people either like or dislike. It includes pepper, leatherwood, clove, liquorice and honey, and it hits the nose quickly. The David Austin Roses which often have a myrrh fragrance are classic spice scented varieties while **Spirit of Peace™** has a distinct Leatherwood smell.

Of course, each person’s olfactory sense can be quite different. Some have a keen sense of smell while others not so, however, using the six Key Notes system certainly helps guide your nose in better identifying the main scents in any bloom.

Find a rose bloom and take a good sniff. What was the first or dominant note that hits your nose—Rose, Fruit, Wood, Green, Floral or Spice? If you picked up something straight away, well done, if not take another big sniff. Once you have identified the main note, challenge yourself to pick up the secondary or underlying notes; this is a little tricky, but good fun.

Having the best bloom to smell is very important. Here are some tips for choosing the best scented flower:

1. Select a bloom that has just fully opened. This will provide the best level of scent. Avoid young buds which are immature and tired old blooms.
2. The best fragrance is produced in early afternoon. Recent studies have shown this is better than early morning or late afternoon.
3. Fragrance is best produced on clear, still days with the temperature over 20°C. Try smelling that same bloom on a cold, cloudy and windy day, you’ll be surprised how little scent you get.
4. Because rose fragrance is produced from glands on the lower petal surfaces, cup your hands around a bloom then put your nose in to capture the full perfume.
5. Good fragrance is produced on healthy plants, so keep your roses well fed and watered.

Using these six Key Notes is a novel way to select roses for your garden. Armed with just your nose and these few simple rules, you too can “talk-up” the alluring bouquet or the heady nose and the cheeky bite of your favourite rose bloom. Try it out—you never know, you could be the best “nose” in your neighbourhood.

Meetings & Events

Flexibility in meetings with on-site visits

Calls for more flexibility in meeting arrangements, especially over winter, have shaped our program for the second half of 2025.

AGM & A Tournament of Roses

Tuesday 29th July, 7pm

Goodman Building, Adelaide Botanic Garden

The Australian Worm Firm—Must BOOK by 11th August!

Thursday 14th August, 11am

“Garden Goodness”, 61 Anderson Walk, Smithfield

A five minute walk from Smithfield Railway Station

I think we all know that worms are good for our gardens, but do we know what is good for them and how we can encourage them into our gardens and even farm them? One of Australia's authorities on the subject, Peter Heidenreich, will shed light on this and more. You may wish to lunch together (at own cost), at Marcellina, 2/233 Curtis Road, Smithfield, also about a five minute walk from the Railway Station.

Carrick Hill House & Garden—Must BOOK by 10th September

Numbers are limited, so be quick

Wednesday, 24th September, 10am

46 Carrick Hill Drive, Springfield

So much has happened at Carrick Hill since we were there last with a massive new development taking shape and several changes to the gardens. We'll split into two groups. One will enjoy a tour of the garden and the other will be given a tour of the house. You may wish to come to lunch (at own cost) afterwards, at the Edinburgh Hotel, just a short drive away at 7 High Street, Mitcham.

Bookings

Book to secure places for The Australian Worm Firm, Carrick Hill and your seat at lunch/es: email penelopeannes@bigpond.com or phone 0437 505 010. Both are free for members. The cost for non-members at Carrick Hill is \$25. Let me know also if you want me to book you in for lunch after each. Payments: The Rose Society of South Australia Bank SA BSB 105-086 Account 330083440. Put your last name and phone number on the deposit.

I hope to see you there!

*Penelope Schuk
Speaker's Programmer*

From Kadina to Olympic Park in 20 easy steps!



By Gavin Woods

Easter Monday, April 21st 2025, saw the culmination of many months of planning to see me stage almost 100 roses at *Sydney Royal Easter Show*.

This was my 20th trip to the “Royal”, having judged poultry there many times previously. The last two shows saw me invited to adjudicate (ie judge) the Roses and Dahlias. The Horticultural section is divided into six “sessions” with Dahlias and Roses featuring in alternating sessions, for a total of three sessions each. Whilst I was judging in earlier sessions, I was free to compete in the final rose session. This is considered to be the Championship session with a Royal Easter Show Medal awarded to the winner of the NSW Championship class.

I had a significant challenge: I had flown to Sydney and needed to return home to Kadina, cut and prepare my roses, and then drive 1500 kms back to Sydney with them several days later. However, I considered it to be worth it. The *Royal Easter Show* is undoubtedly the pinnacle of competition excellence, not only for horticulture but for most fields of competition. To be asked to judge at Sydney is an absolute honour. Here, very high standards must be met in order to achieve. The Royal’s sectional committees are steered by the very best in the business. To exhibit successfully in the Royal has been a long-held dream of mine as I enjoy this show very much.

I had some experience travelling with roses by road, taking blooms to Kiama, about an hour’s drive south of Sydney, in 2022 for the National Rose Show. On that occasion, Kim and I travelled over two days; the roses packed upright in specially built eskies after substantial preparation to protect the roses from heat and light. Heat and light pose the biggest dangers to potential exhibits. My preference is to keep

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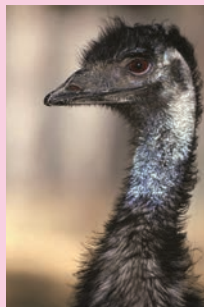
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NSW Rose Championship winner, Gavin Woods ARA, is pictured with judge, Graham Wright ARA, and Gavin's Supreme Champion five stem exhibit of *Veteran's Honour (City of Newcastle)* at the Sydney Royal Easter Show. Gavin also won the NSW Champion Exhibition Rose, the NSW Miniature Rose Championship, the Six Exhibition Roses class, a four stage Miniature Rose class in a vase and the NSW Champion Vase of Bunch Roses bud to fully open. He won several second places in various classes, plus a third.



flowers in the dark and cool for as long as possible to help ensure they are at their peak of development, and what I call “show worthy”. Although the Kiama destined roses mainly travelled well, my beloved Exhibitions mostly succumbed and were too far advanced by the time they were staged. However, lessons were learned!

Planning to exhibit in Sydney began back in March 2024 when I realised that the 2025 show would occur during my garden's peak Autumn flowering time. The Sydney Royal's dates are determined by Easter, with the last weekend of the 12-day show falling on the long weekend. I thought that this was a rare opportunity as the dates might not fall in my favour again for some time.

All the eskies I had made for the Kiama trip were lost in a recent fire, so about a week before the show I set about building new ones. They are easily made. I simply get two very large foam boxes that we use to transport medical grade vaccines around this country. I join two together top-to-bottom—after removing the base of the esky to sit on top—and placing dowel rods through the length of the box at a height suitable for tying the individual stems to. After many prototypes for our initial trip, creating the seven boxes for this trip took no time at all! The boxes are made at very little cost so there was no hesitation in leaving one or two behind to create more room for the return journey.

I had returned home from my first visit to Sydney on a Sunday night to a garden in full flush. At that stage, I had picked nothing—having usually a refrigerator full of flowers a week before any show. I thought, at least my flowers will be fresh!

Exhibitors would understand that to pick a “bunch” of roses containing five or six stems—and in the case of NSW shows up to 25 stems—it is not simply a matter of going into the garden the day prior to the show and picking the required blooms. It may take several days to select blooms that on show day present as a uniform bunch; they are picked and refrigerated to slow development right down. The closer one gets to show day, the more developed roses being picked need to be as those refrigerated roses will continue to advance, but at a much slower rate than those left on the plant.



Gavin's NSW Autumn Rose Championship 2nd place exhibit (L to R, top to bottom) *Evelyn, Lynn Anderson, Kardinal, Bride's Bouquet, Angel View and Golden Gardens*.

I began picking very early on Tuesday morning. I like to pick before the sun has had a chance to awaken the roses too much and plunge the stems into deep water upon picking. After a day's picking is complete, I try to get roses that I want held as close as possible to the stage they were picked at, into the fridge, and the rest go into a darkened room. There are one or two varieties that I like to pick as very immature buds and have them open inside in full light. Singles and semi-double varieties are ruined after only a few hours in the garden once they have opened. Insects and the environment will soon discolour stamens and render them useless as prize winning hopefuls. There are also some fully double roses that I open inside using this method. However, those varieties will remain unnamed for the purposes of this article!

I picked blooms every morning through to Friday, only the very best being removed from the bushes. I knew that the roses would have to endure much more than I usually ask of them at a South Australian show. I then picked the final few dozen roses thought worthy on Saturday morning. As always, a few were left on the bushes to further develop; they would be removed on the Saturday night prior to leaving for Sydney.

Sorting through roses began at about 11am on Saturday. I maintained a tried-and-true process developed over many years, which is to remove all roses of a type from the fridge, compare them with the roses that were not refrigerated, and select those required for the competition. All prickles are removed from every stem and any dressing required done then. For some reason, at this stage undetermined, I usually start with Decorative type roses. I think this is my favourite type of rose; the elegant structure and long stems with perfect foliage makes a good Decorative rose command attention. All other types are dealt with in turn, only removing them from the fridge for short periods and then returning them, along with all others of that type that I have selected which have been unrefrigerated at this point. The Exhibition types are always sorted last. A good Exhibition is often a flower of age—it takes time to bring a 70 petaled rose to its full maturity. Each Exhibition has pellets placed strategically to help develop the Exhibition form and place inward pressure on the centre, such an important component of this type of rose.

I pelleted 18 roses for Sydney. I needed only three as a vital component of the NSW

3/5 Championship class but I was keen to show in other classes calling for six Exhibition

distinct, three NND (Not Necessarily Distinct) and a single bloom. Spares are always carried, especially Exhibitions as so much can go wrong with them.

I do not stop for meals and will not answer the phone during this preparatory period; the roses are the priority. So with all the blooms prepared and safely packed into the fridge, I was to bed at about 9.30pm after only 10 hours of preparing flowers!

For the Royal, I was up before the 5am alarm to begin packing the roses into the eskies. I had “conditioned” the containers the night prior with 8–10 ice packs in each and 15kg of ice spread within each of the seven boxes. Pre-soaked floral foam was used in the bases of each box to hold and hydrate the stems during transport. A top-up of another 15kg of ice was used and at that point I was happy that the low temperature would be maintained.



Gavin's winning Miniature Championship exhibit of *Baby Eclipse*, *Jeanne La Joie* and *Irresistible*.

Packing the roses was a slow process, taking over 2.5 hours to place about 130 flowers. All the large-flowered roses had stems re-cut, placed into the floral foam with stems secured, using pipe-cleaners, to the dowel cross beams. Only the Miniature and Miniflora cuts were carried touching, hence supporting each other, with stems in the floral foam.

Decisions had to be made at the last minute as I realised I could not carry all the flowers I had prepared. Several potentially good exhibits had to be abandoned due to lack of available space. A half dozen Exhibitions were culled along with eight roses planned for Multi-stage exhibits and a wonderful bunch of Decoratives was also left behind.

A quick shower and a packed lunch from Kim, I set off on an uneventful 16 hour, 1500km journey to Sydney by myself. A final comment to Kim was that I was trying to work out why we could only carry five boxes to Kiama for the previous excursion, yet I had been able to get seven boxes when travelling alone. The answer came quickly to mind with Kim's clothes and shoes taking up the aforementioned space! It was just as well I left Kadina immediately!

To exhibit interstate, one must think like an interstate exhibitor. By that I mean every state does things differently and you have to study their methods so you do not stand out as a foreigner. For example, Decorative types in SA become Bunch roses in NSW. Their Decoratives are largely multi-bloom cuts of much fuller form than ours; attractive in their own right—just different!

I arrived at Sydney Showgrounds at Olympic Park at 3.30am with a temperature **4/5**

approaching 21 degrees. A few locals were already there and had begun staging. My trip had to be planned around the fact that roses had to be staged by 7.30am. Judging begins at 8am with halls opening to the public at 9am.

Unloading was easy and thanks to locals, Ted and Meryl Morphet, and with the assistance of the Night Supervisor and very helpful Royal Show Councillors, staging was straightforward. My good friend, Rowan Vallence, had travelled almost 700kms to assist me (and he said to learn a few tricks).

Opening the boxes is a breath-holding moment. All was well; most roses travelled well with only a small amount of damage to the Miniatures, due to rubbing in transit.

After a couple of hours staging, I thought I had better outline a basic concept to Rowan which was: "Whatever you see or hear at this staging table stays here, between you and me!" Rowan looked at me quizzically; I think he thought I was joking—I wasn't!

The other huge difference between NSW and all other states is their great love of multi-vase Championships. This involves vases of blooms of one variety with multiple stems or cuts in each. In one class alone I used 39 cuts and stems, in the NSW Championship class a mere 23! The only roses that are exhibited as one stem to a vase at this show are Exhibitions.

Following the staging of exhibits, exhibitors withdraw to a very comfortable private room during judging. The only thing I felt was missing were beds as I certainly could have used one! After judging is completed, exhibitors are invited into the hall to do what exhibitors do best; criticise the judging! We were fortunate on this occasion to have one of the best judges, Graham Wright ARA, officiating. I heard no criticism of his decisions.

A wonderful cocktail reception was convened by the Horticultural Committee with major awards presented. Unfortunately, it was water only for me as I was about to embark on the return journey home. I left Sydney after 12 hours and drove to a motel a few hours down the road, and completed the journey on Tuesday, just in time to begin picking roses for our SA State Autumn Show.

The word "mad" has been used many times in relation to this expedition. It was suggested that I could have done what many others have done and that is to fly with a box or two of blooms packed horizontally. My response is that I prefer my blooms to be round on arrival and besides, I wanted to maximise the number of blooms I exhibited.

With Rowan's assistance, I staged 94 blooms, exhibited in all three Championship classes as well as several individual classes calling for one–six cuts or stems. Over 30 hours driving and a turnaround time of 12 hours might seem mad to many, but to me it was the experience of a lifetime. Kim has assured me she will remind me of my promise—"never again"—when next I plan a return to the Sydney *Royal Easter Show*.

And of the roses that were left home from Sydney due to lack of space; most made it to the benches of the RSSA Autumn Show five days later!

5/5 *The Rose Society of South Australia congratulations Gavin on his tremendous success at the Sydney Royal Easter Show.*

Member's Pick

Souvenir de Louis Amade, Shrub

As Bulletin Editor, I am taking liberty of the slightly limited space for the Member's Pick rose to feature *Souvenir de Louis Amade* (DeLalac), which I have seen much admired and commented upon by people wandering in the International Rose Garden. This Delbard Shrub features with *Violina* and other cultivars in a garden bed running closest to and in parallel with the event marquee installed near the IRG.



So captivated was I with the Shrub when newly planted elsewhere in the IRG a couple of years ago, that I planted two in my garden last Winter. Both romped ahead with canes quickly growing to about 100cm, healthy foliage, and an abundance of blooms. In my Adelaide Hills garden, blooms started to open in mid-November and kept appearing, in good size and with good colour, to the end of May.

It was the colours of blooms that first warmed me to this rose. Their lilac-pink buds open with medium-pink incurved petals. Shade from these within the blooms produce an intensity of colour towards the centre. Here, golden orbs of pollen-heavy stamens are produced. These create a sense of luminosity at the centre and they glow the sunshine. However, it seems one just have to blink for the stamens to go off. That matters little, unless exhibiting, as petaloids mostly cover the centre when the blooms are not fully open.

An unexpected pleasure of the blooms has been its vase life. Unlike some Shrubs, it has typically kept its petals for at least a week indoors, although mature when they were picked. The colour has changed substantially as they have aged, with this rose's lilac hues coming to the fore as the pink fades. Strangely, the blooms have not looked tired or lacked lustre as this change has taken place.

Wagner's Rose Nursery describes this rose as being full of "Old World Charm" and I certainly agree. It has wonderful grace and presense in the garden and in a vase.

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A sunny response to the Autumn Rose Show



Judging at the 2025 Autumn Rose Show: Merv Trimper, Diane vom Berg, Les Johnson and Peter Burton discuss and debate the virtues and shortcoming of exhibits.

Photo: Paul Flavel

By Show Manager Joy Johnson

The sun shone and the crowds came into the 2025 Autumn Rose Show held in the Noel Lothian Hall at the Adelaide Botanic Garden on the afternoon of ANZAC Day.

We were thrilled with this response from the public, reflected in the numbers who entered the Perfume Rose Competition. Competition organiser, Maureen Humphries, advises that more than 400 entries were received on that afternoon. The line-up Maureen provided, gratefully made possible by contributions from members—thank you very much Ross Kemp—had our visitors abuzz with discussion and comments.

However, the stars of the show were the roses. There were some stunners on the benches. Congratulations to Gavin Woods, the Grand Champion (Women's Weekly)

Continued over



Patron of The Rose Society of South Australia, Rod Buntun, B Grade SA State Intermediate Champion Penelope Schulz and Her Excellency, the Honourable Frances Adamson AC, Governor of South Australia.

Photo: Paul Flavel



Sharyn Perrin was presented with the Eric and Myrtle Trimper Memorial Trophy by Her Excellency, the Honourable Frances Adamson AC, Governor of South Australia, for the Best Cut of a Floribunda or Grandiflora.

Photo: Deb Curtis



Community Class winner exhibit, **Princess Alexandra of Kent**. Photo: Les Johnson

Sunny Rose Show continued.....

Trophy & NRSA Medallion winner for staging the Best Exhibit, and for being the most successful exhibitor overall, which earned him The President's Trophy. This list of Gavin's successes go on. You can see these on page 24. Special congratulations too, to Penelope Schulz and Ross Kemp, the B and C Grade Autumn Rose Show Champions.

The only thing that could and did trump the lot was a visit by our Patron, Mr Rod Bunten, and Her Excellency, the Honourable Frances Adamson AC, Governor of South Australia on Saturday morning to present trophies. It's rumoured that some exhibitors were especially keen to win so they could be presented with a trophy by these esteemed guests. Sadly, Ross Kemp was unable to attend then but Sharyn Perrin was delighted to stand in for him. It was also gratifying that these special guests had the opportunity to see the exhibits in a relaxed atmosphere. Their interest and participation in the Perfumed Rose Competition was the icing on the cake.

Another highlight on the Saturday morning was the *The Advertiser* Best Rose Competition for members of the Community. It enabled members of the public to vie for a cash prize from *The Advertiser*. The winning rose was won by David with an exhibit of **Princess Alexandra of Kent**. Ralph won second place with an unknown rose and Kaylee was third place winner with an exhibit of **Blue Moon**.

Continued next page

Congratulations to the Championship winners

CHAMPIONSHIP	WINNER	VARIETIES
Open SA State Autumn Rose Championship	Gavin Woods	Gold Medal, Chippendale, Tahlia, Red Gem, El Toro, Fairytale Magic
B Grade SA State Intermediate Autumn Rose Championship	Penelope Schulz	
C Grade SA State Autumn Rose Championship	Ross Kemp	
Champion Shrub or Polyantha Rose	Merv & Wendy Trimper	City of Qingdao
Champion Miniflora	Peter & Brenda Burton	
Champion Three Stems/Cuts	Gavin Woods	



Sharyn Perrrin's ***Little Wishes*** was the best cut of a Floribunda or a Grandiflora.



Gavin Woods's SA State Autumn Rose Champion exhibit: ***Gold Medal*** (Back L-R), ***El Toro, Tahlia, Chippendale*** (Front L-R), ***Red Gem and Fairytale Magic***.

Photo: Les Johnson



Merv & Wendy Trimper's Champion Shrub, ***City of Qingdao***.

Photo: Les Johnson

Even though I am Show Manager, no Society Rose Show can possibly be staged without contributions by many people, many of whom work behind the scenes, as did Merv Trimper in shaping the Show Schedule, Maureen and John Humphries who yet again ferried goods needed for staging to and from the show, and the many Council and non-Council members who helped with the set-up and clearing-up after the show.

Our judges, as always, contributed much appreciated effort and time to the event. They were Gavin Woods, Gwen Moxham, Merv Trimper, Peter Burton, Diane vom Berg and Les Johnson. The floral art was judged by Rosie Capurso. I would also like to acknowledge Les Johnson and Paul Flavel for their efforts in taking photographs and then promoting these through facebook and ultimately, now, our *Bulletin*.

Results of the Rose Society's 2025 Spring Rose Show

CHAMPIONSHIP	WINNER	VARIETIES/THEME
Champion B Grade Exhibit	John & Dorothy Bradshaw	Irresistible
Champion C Grade Exhibit	Ross Kemp	Red Gem
A Grade Champion Floral Arrangement	Blaire Ringewaldt	
B Grade Champion Floral Arrangement	Nada Cargo	
C Grade Champion Floral Arrangement	Eka Juers	
Open Champion Floral Arrangement	Eka Juers	
Grand Champion Floral Arrangement	Eka Juers	

2025 Autumn Rose Show Trophy Winners

TROPHY	CONDITIONS	WINNER
Grand Champion (Women's Weekly) & NRSA Medallion	Best Exhibit	Gavin Woods
The President's Trophy	Most successful exhibitor	Gavin Woods
H Charles Thomas Memorial Trophy	Winner of State Autumn Rose Show Championship	Gavin Woods
Allan Campbell Memorial Trophy	Best Champion Exhibition Rose	Gavin Woods
Christine Michell Cup	Best Champion Decorative Rose	Gavin Woods
Eric & Myrtle Trimper Memorial Trophy	Best Champion Floribunda or Grandiflora cut	Sharyn Perrin
Alexander Ross Memorial Award	Best Champion Fully Open Rose	Gavin Woods
Jack Moule Memorial Trophy	Best Champion Miniature, cut or stem	John & Dorothy Bradshaw
Ralph Smith Award	Best Exhibit in multi-stage classes	Gavin Woods
Emma Voke Memorial Trophy No 1	Best Champion Bunch	Gavin Woods
Helen Sunter Memorial Trophy	Best Champion Bowl	Merv & Wendy Trimper
Oliver Travel Trophy	Best Exhibit of State Intermediate Autumn Rose Championship	Penelope Schulz
The Royal National Rose Society Trophy No 1	Most successful B Grade exhibitor	John & Dorothy Bradshaw
WH Ifould Trophy	Best Exhibit of C Grade Autumn Rose Show Championship	Ross Kemp
The Ted Phillips and Bill Nelson Perpetual Trophy	C Grade Champion Bunch of Roses	Ross Kemp
Judith Waters Memorial Trophy	Champion of Cut Flowers—Roses introduced prior to 1900	Ken & Gwen Moxham
Rose A Memorial Trophy	Best Champion Floral Arrangement	Eka Juers

The public finds its sweet spot in *Lollipop*

More than 1000 people voted for their favourite five roses in the National Rose Trial Garden of Australia's People's Choice competition over the ANZAC weekend in one of the most successful People's Choice weekends ever.

Voting on Friday afternoon, when the competition opened after ANZAC morning commemorations, was particularly busy as Adelaide Botanic Garden attracted those visiting the Chihuly exhibition in its last few days here, people who had attended the city march, and those making the most of a sunny Autumn day.

Voting on Saturday morning saw a special visitor (and voter), The Rose Society of South Australia's Patron, Rod Buntin, guided around the garden by NRTGA Volunteers Coordinator, Merv Trimper and NRTGA Secretary, Chris Kelly.

Neutrog's People's Choice Photographic Competition, introduced this year, was yet another highlight. Neutrog was delighted with the entries, many of which featured roses at their glorious best and admirers, young and old.

The winner of the "main event", the People's Choice, was from Payneham South and was awarded prizes amounting to \$1000 in value, comprising vouchers from Neutrog Biological Fertiliser, Rose Introducers of Australia, Garden Grove Supplies and The Rose Society of South Australia.

A Floribunda bred by W Kordes' Sohne, Germany, entered by Treloar Roses, Victoria, took out the top spot. The rose is called **Lollipop** (KORpoplii).

Chris advises that the five most popular roses selected by the public were trial bed numbers 109, 104, 100, 115, 103. They were represented by the numbers 10, 5, 1, 15 and 4 for voting purposes.

The sponsors, volunteers who encouraged and supported people in voting, and each person who voted, are thanked for their involvement in the competition—an important element of the NRTGA's annual activities.

The National Rose Trial Garden of Australia is an independently incorporated body.

nationalrosetrialgarden.com.au



Lollipop was the favourite among People's Choice voters.



Lollipop sported plenty of blooms for People's Choice.



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WINTER CULTURE NOTES

By Dr Tate Hancox

Autumn did not go as expected or hoped for, for many gardeners and farmers across the state. Rainfall has been significantly below average and the temperatures we experienced were haphazard at best. Luckily the weather has cooled down and stayed that way; the leaves on our roses are falling and it's time for winter maintenance, more retail therapy, planting and transplanting.

Drought in South Australia

Rainfall deciles (1900–2025) 1 May 2024 to 30 April 2025

Distribution based on gridded data

Australian Bureau of Meteorology

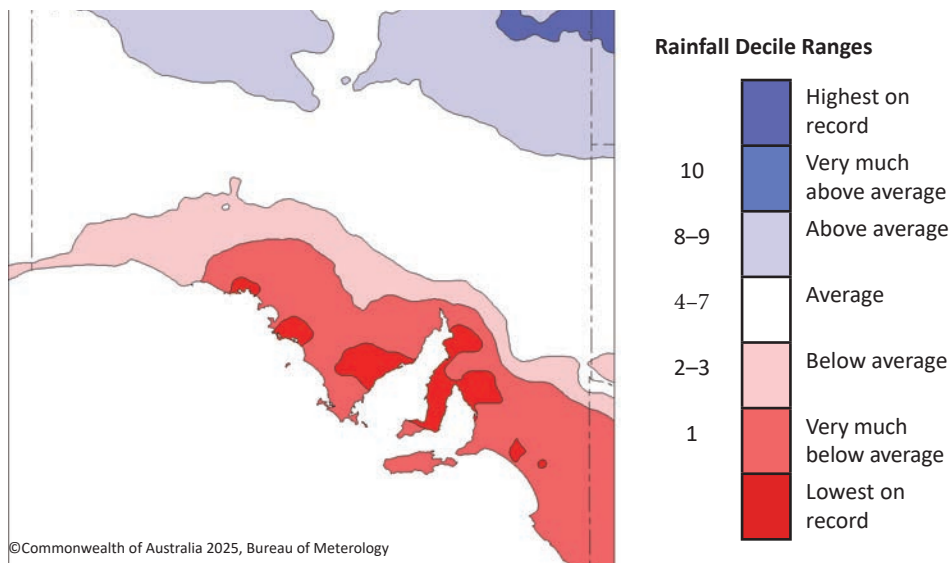


Figure 1. Rainfall map for South Australia for the past 12 months. This map shows how the rainfall that fell between the 1st of May 2024 and 30th of April 2024 compares with total rainfall for the May - April between 1900 and 2025. It shows that large parts of the Mid North, York Peninsula and Eyre Peninsula have experienced the driest May–April Rainfall on record.

“Rain, Rain, Go Away” is unfortunately not something South Australians are able to say this year. The rainfall over the past 12 months has been the lowest on record for large parts of South Australia. As a result, many of us who are lucky enough to be connected to mains water are still irrigating our gardens. Those of us who aren’t connected to mains water are trucking in water and/or turning off the water to the gardens. For gardeners who are prioritizing what to water, the reduction in temperatures and natural leaf drop at this time of year will significantly reduce the quantity of water required to maintain your plants.

Pruning

It's my absolute favourite time of year, its rose pruning season! Many of you will think I'm nuts, and truth be told I am, but rose pruning can be good fun, mentally engaging and meditative at the same time. I also see it as a time of rebirth for roses, with the promise of fresh vigorous growth and foliage as well as the development of beautiful Spring blooms just several weeks away.

Rose pruning can be done anytime from late May to early September depending on the local climate and the class of roses being pruned. The likelihood of frosts should be considered. It is often difficult to prepare for a rare frost event, but try. You need to look back and forwards. Consider if your garden has experienced a rare frost in the past and also **look at the long-range forecast. If is predicted to be dry and with little cloud cover, the likelihood of frosts will increase. This may be important this year, with a relatively dry winter predicted. You can use the following table as a guide.**

Rose class	Pruning severity	Regular frost	Rare Frost
Hybrid Tea, Floribunda, Shrub, Miniature, Miniflora	Normal (Restorative)	Early July–early September	Mid June–late August
Groundcover	Normal (Restorative)	Early July–early September	May–September (ideally, June–August)
Climber	Normal (Restorative)	Mid July–mid August	Late June–late July
Tea, China, Hybrid Musk, Bourbon, Hybrid Perpetual, Polyantha, Hybrid Rugosa, Noisette, Centifolias	Normal	Mid July–early September	Mid June–late August
Tea, China	Hard prune at 3–5 year intervals	Late August–early September (after risk of frost has passed)	Mid May–early August
Species, Species Hybrids, Damask (Summer and Autumn), Galica, Alba	Normal	After flowering in Spring	After flowering in Spring
Species, Species Hybrids, Damask (Summer and Autumn), Galica, Alba	Sculptural (remove no more than ¼ of the plant).	Mid July–early September	Mid June–late August

Hardwood Cuttings

Hardwood cuttings are a great and simple way to produce new plants from late May through to mid-August before the buds on the canes start to swell. They use material produced by the first two or three flushes of growth in the previous year.

1. Select cuttings that are 15–20cm long and are between 5mm to 15mm (approximately pencil to toothbrush thickness) 1.5cm with 4–8 buds.
2. Remove all the prickles and remaining leaves. The prickles should leave a brown scar on the stem when removed.
3. OPTIONAL: dip the ends of the cuttings into propagation gel for hardwood cuttings (red gel with 8g/L IBA).
4. Insert the cuttings into a well-drained premium potting mix such as BioGro or coarse sand. Multiple cuttings can be planted into the same pot. Alternatively, cuttings can be planted directly into the soil.
5. Water the cutting and place in a bright sunny spot that receives a few hours of morning sun and some protection from the afternoon sun.

Ordering new roses

Time is running out to put your orders in to our wonderful mail order rose nurseries. Some varieties will have already sold out so it may be worth ringing independent nurseries to see if they have stock.

Planting

The wait is over! If your new roses have arrived in the post, you have purchased bagged bare root roses and/or your friends have dug up some of their plants as they have “too many”, it’s time to get out in the garden and plant.

Hopefully you have been preparing the soil since Autumn, Summer (better), Spring (even better) or last winter (best). For those who haven’t been preparing, grab some compost (minimum of half a bag per hole) as well as a couple handfuls of *Seamungus* and turn it all through the soil the week before you plan on planting. Once the soil is prepared, dig a hole deep enough to place the rose so the graft union is at or just above the soil line, add a handful of *Seamungus*, backfill and water. You can use liquid *Seamungus* or *GOGO Juice* (mixed up to the directions on the bottle) to water in the plants to give them an extra boost.

Want to learn more about how to look after roses in Winter?

To spray, or not to spray? It’s a common question. Many rosarians spray newly-pruned roses with lime sulphur within 24 hours of pruning. The vast majority ignore more noxious sprays. There are many resources to guide you on this and other winter practices. Among them are further Winter Culture Notes in the Member’s Section of The Rose Society of South Australia’s website.

Photography

Members share their rose
photography tips



Photographer Melanie Trimper

Getting creative by using mirrors



I wanted to enter a photo competition titled *Using creative techniques* and decided to photograph a rose and its reflection. I placed two mirrors, each 40cm x 40cm, and set them up outside. One vertical and one horizontal, edges closely touching, making a 90 degree angle. I placed a full bloom of **Brass Band** on the horizontal mirror and practised shooting from all directions until I found the best angle. As it was overcast, the background is a light grey sky. I also tried a mirror with **Strawberry Hill** using a bright blue sky for comparison. Luckily, this experiment worked and both were winners.

Taking photographs in memorable gardens



David Austin Snr's Garden in England



Baden Rosarium in Austria



Attending rose conventions means you visit great gardens and taking good images is very satisfying. There is always a learning curve and regular practice achieves results. I enjoy the process. I love depicting features in a garden and seek out good colour composition.

Roses are beautiful in a garden bed but I look for other complimentary key features, such as arches, arbours, fountains, walls, green shrubbery and water features. Take enough time to check out the best angles to make it interesting.

At Bagatelle, in Paris, I took two photos from two different angles and discovered that the large pathway which dominates in the photo on the left is a distracting fault if the intention is to show off the extent of the gardens. I moved and tried again and captured more garden and less path, achieving a better composition for my purpose.

Photo composition using the rule of thirds



Baden Rosarium in Austria



Cape Town South Africa

Where do you place the horizon in a landscape photo? Either in the top third of the picture or towards the bottom but avoid making the horizon straight across the middle because some say it's boring.

The "rule of thirds" usually involves dividing an image into thirds, both horizontally and vertically, making a grid of nine parts and striving to produce a more balanced and visually engaging composition. If you have a scene with a horizon line, place it along one of the horizontal lines, being top or bottom third.

Continued on next page

Filling up your frame—“peeking through”



Bagatelle Gardens in Paris



Urrbrae House

Continued from previous page

Try framing your image with greenery and roses both top and bottom as if you are “peeking through” to discover the garden laid out before you. Two examples I have taken were in Bagatelle Rose Garden in Paris and Urrbrae Rose Garden, Urrbrae SA.

For your close-up photography, don’t forget to “groom” your roses and remove any obvious undesirable defects, such as bad petals, deadheads or deformed leaves. Remember natural daylight is best and will give you much more accurate colouring. Keep practising and have fun!



Annual General Meeting Reminder

7pm, Tuesday 29th July

Goodman Building lecture room, Hackney Road, Adelaide Botanic Garden
Ample parking

Business of the Meeting

1. Confirm Minutes of the 2024 Annual General Meeting held on 23rd July 2024.
2. Receive the President’s report.
3. Receive the Treasurer’s report.
4. Approve the Audited Financial Statements.
5. Elect Officer positions and Councillors:
6. To consider any other business referred by the Council.

*Join us for A Tournament of Roses and supper after the meeting.
It's a great way for newer members to mingle and get to know others.*

A ramble from Melbourne to the Dandenongs and Yarra Valley was an inspirational treat

By Celia Painter

A four-day deep dive into the *Melbourne International Flower & Garden Show* and beyond could be likened to gardening immersion therapy for 13 Rambling Rosarians.

From the hubbub and diversity of the garden show to the bedazzling spectacle of floral colour ribboning down a hillside at Tesselaar's Kabloom festival, this latest of RR adventures incorporated inspiring gardens in between. Broughton Hall Gardens, about 100 south east of Melbourne, and Coombe, the home and garden of Dame Nellie Melba, plus Alowyn Gardens, both in Yarra Valley and about 50kms north east of Melbourne, were our destinations.

Like many a RR trip, there were times at each venue where one could wander alone to satisfy a particular interest or become lost in the surrounds, to eventually gravitate to others to share a discovery or chat with like-minded souls. The pace and all arrangements, from flights to airport transfers, accommodation, transport and highlights were skilfully arranged by Wendy Trimper, Penelope Schulz and Sharyn Perrin—and what opportunities and bargains they secured for us.

The program started with the show, providing a day to explore the offering of this renowned event, held over five days at Melbourne's historic Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens. It was vast. Landscapers vied to outshine each other to present the most inspiring outdoor display, while inside and being the first day, young floral designers constructed clever competition pieces. Meanwhile, in both spheres, scores of suppliers and retailers, lining walkways, were abuzz.

There was a lot happening inside and outside in the Carlton Gardens. Celebrity gardeners like Sophie Thomson, Costa Georgiadis and Millie Ross were milling around with film crews, punters were eyeing garden inspired art, people were enjoying cream teas and many were stopping to smell the roses. The blooms were a part of a bounteous display mounted by Wagner's Rose Nursery, with husband

Continued over



A vista inside Melbourne's Royal Exhibition Building.



Carpets of colour at Tesselaar's Kabloom Festival.



Carol Keatch immersed in a display by Wagner's.



Clare Gleeson McGuire and Wendy Trimper exploring the flower and garden show.



Top rosarians, Kim Syrus, Sandra Turner and Benedetta Rusconi at the flower and garden show.

from previous page

and wife team Brian Wagner and Benedetta Rusconi on hand to answer questions. They, with yet another gardening celeb', Kim Syrus, hovered around the adjacent RiAus flag, next to The Victorian Rose Society's presence, where another known to many members, former National Rose Society of Australia President, Sandra Turner, was found.

It's impossible to investigate each exhibitor's offerings in detail in a day, nor would one probably want to. However, the time enabled me to find and hone-in on elements of special interest to me and perhaps most importantly, speak with the people behind them. As a result, I'm now having certified plants, almost impossible to find in SA, sent to me from suppliers in NSW and Victoria. I'm also at risk of ordering more roses!

Broughton Hall Gardens, scheduled the next day, had a lot to live up to. Opening to the public for Autumn a week after our visit, Penelope had organised for it to be open just for us. With breathtaking views over the Tarago Reservoir, the near 30-year-old lush garden, hidden from roads, has been developed along broad terraces cut into a hillside. There are roses aplenty, although only gearing up for their Autumn display during our visit. The hedges are clipped, bulbs pop up in Spring, cherries blossom in October, more bulbs pop up in Autumn and for our visit, cyclamens poked through leafy matter under shady trees. Only the tinks of bellbirds—that quintessential sound of the Australian bush—punctuated the stunning silence here. If only I could bottle it! The universal opinion was that this is a garden that could be enjoyed in any season.

Continued



Rambling at Broughton Hall.



The breathtaking view from Broughton Hall.



Sauntering at Coombe, the home and garden of Dame Nellie Melba

On the third day we headed for Coombe, the home of the great opera star, the late Dame Nellie Melba, where English born landscape gardener and botanist, the late William Guilfoyle, the architect behind Melbourne's Royal Botanic Gardens, laid the design. Roses, fruit trees, a huge Oak, formal garden beds and expanses of lawn feature.

Exciting too was Dame Nellie's collection of Hans Heysen paintings, displayed in the visitor's centre. A demanding diva by reputation, Dame Nellie is said to have worked the South Australian artist hard. Surely the property and its collection compel obligatory school excursions for Melbourne school children to Coombe. We discovered that a cream tea is definitely obligatory for all visitors. RSSA members will get to try Coombe's Peach Melba jam at a meeting later this year.

Our final garden was Alowyn, seven acres of garden rooms with a wisteria arbour forming its spine. A Zen Garden with display beds was one, a French Provincial room another, and there was a Dry Garden, a Birch & Casuarina Forests area, a Vegetable & Kitchen Garden, an area featuring perennial borders, and a Parterre Garden which had suffered seriously from the high heat of summer and low humidity. Their development has been a labour of love for a landscaper, John, and his wife, Prue, a horticulturalist. They also run a nursery on-site and a café, making this a popular spot for visitors. Alowyn stands testament to their vision and hard work.

For a little respite from the gardens (at least that was the excuse!), the journey was completed with a visit to Yarra Valley Chocolaterie & Ice Creamery where the colours of treats created by master chocolateurs could only be exceeded by those of the blooms at Tesselaar's the next day.



Kabloom is a superb name for Tesselaar's annual event; a family hotspot with Circus Oz and other entertainment, food stalls and just over a rise, hidden from view on arrival, the dazzling floral plantings that meander down a hillside to a giant ferris wheel and more eateries. The scene alone will have your purse opening—all by itself, just like mine did!

Thank you Wendy, Sharyn and Penelope for such a superbly crafted trip. I am sure we were all enriched by it and Tesselaar's became somewhat richer too.



Christine and Graham Douglass at Tesselaar's Kabloom Festival.

Photo: Wendy Trimmer

Volunteers in the International Rose Garden

With Deb Curtis



As I write this, the volunteers in the International Rose Garden have just gone into a well-earned break before pruning and we had morning tea to celebrate the end of deadheading. Thank you to everyone who has helped keep the IRG looking colourful over the Spring, Summer and Autumn.

For some of us, our last two sessions were spent on pruning back a few of the French Tea roses. These roses are only pruned every 3–5 years. We prune them on rotation in Autumn and Spring. This give us flowers in Winter when the rest of the garden is bare. Many visitors have said they appreciate this. If you are missing roses in Winter, be sure to visit them for your fix. Just remember, they don't have a strong scent this time of the year.

Pruning will commence at the start of July on Wednesday and Friday mornings. This is when we would really appreciate the help of experienced Society members who know their way around secateurs and different cultivars. If you can spare one morning or more it will be very helpful.

Our deadheading work will resume in October. The precise date is weather-dependant and I will certainly let willing participants know closer to that time.

Please contact me if you are able to assist with pruning and/or deadheading.



A celebratory morning tea capped off deadheading for 2024–2025.

Photo: Deb Curtis



No task is too big! Sharyn Perrin cleaning up the French teas.

Photo: Deb Curtis



Deborah Curtis

Supervisor of the Volunteers in IRG
On behalf of the RSSA

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Knight's Roses Open Days are a true pleasure

Sausages sizzled, secateurs glinted, people chatted and many pondered—deciding what rose to plant and many settling on growing more roses in the future. Meanwhile, seasoned rosarians ogled the high quality of the bare root roses available for purchase.

That was the scene at two Knight's Roses Open Days, one held in May and the other in June, supported by The Rose Society of South Australia. Long-established and newer members were represented, guiding members of the public in planting and caring for roses.

The Knight's June Open Day incorporated the Society's usual pruning demonstration in the northern suburbs for members of the public.

Many members agree that they have faced a problem attending rose producer open days—resisting the temptation to buy more and more roses!



Melanie Trimper and Barbara from Knight's Roses at the May Open Day. Photo: Paul Flavel



Malcolm Watson, Penelope Schulz, Lyn Williams and Harriet Eivers were among Society members at the Knight's Roses Open Day in May. Photo: Paul Flavel

Please check that you are not an “Unknown Member”

Have you used the words “Rose Society Membership...” or similar when you paid directly into the RSSA bank account? If you did there is a good chance that none of your personal information has been included in that payment. The reason is that the Society's bank, BANKSA, only allows 40 characters and spaces in the RSSA side of the payment. This means that payments like this have joined the ever-increasing list of Unknown Members and you are unlikely to receive any information from the Society. Please ensure you are not an unknown member; check your banking payment information from earlier this year to see if you put your Family name and phone number in the payment details. If you didn't, email or phone me—rssatreasurer@gmail.com or 0493 755 760, with the date of your payment.

Paul Flavel

South East

Text by Martha Jane Grinstead. Photo by Jill Eckermann



Geoff Eckermann's winning exhibit of *Francis Meiland*

The South East's Annual General Meeting, held at the Border Inn Hotel in late May, was buoyant with two members accepting key officer positions. Kelly Hillstone accepted the role of President and Annie Clifford the position of Secretary. Helen Zadow accepted the position of Vice President and Jill Collins agreed to serve again as Treasurer.

Kelly, from Wagner's Rose Nursery, is well-known to many branch members and to Society members who met her at the 2022 World Rose Convention in Adelaide. Annie is known to others, along with her husband Andy, through her long association with the gracious Victorian home, Yallum Park, about eight kilometres from Penola.

Outgoing and long-standing President, Marjorie Todd, was thanked for her steadfast and energetic contribution to the branch over many years. The highlights she mentioned in her report to the meeting—the Branch's 30th Anniversary celebrations, the Combined Branches Meeting and a visit by Rambling Rosarians earlier in 2024—were just some. No doubt Marjorie is now able to breathe a sigh of relief. This was her second time as President. She was in the role most recently for four years, facing personal and other challenges—a bushfire being one—after serving as President previously for two years and also being Treasurer for a time.

There were many other highlights of the meeting. Maureen and John Humphries, representing Council Members of The Rose Society of South Australia, attended. Maureen spoke about the 2025 Autumn Rose Show and its features, like the Perfume Competition and the Community Class, sponsored by *The Advertiser*. We thank Maureen and John most sincerely.

Another highlight was a talk by Brian Wagner on challenges faced in producing roses and getting them to market. It was enlightening and daunting. Brian and Benedetta have been absolute champions of the branch: sharing their knowledge of roses and other aspects of their lives as guest speakers and providing so many prizes of beautiful roses. We can never thank them enough.

The Show Bench competition, always popular, was another. Geoff Eckermann was the winner with a beautiful exhibit of *Francis Meiland*.

I am sure all members wish Kelly and Annie well in their roles and thank Marjorie for putting so much into her presidency. We look forward to her ongoing involvement and hope to do her proud in our commitment to sharing our love of the Queen of Flowers.

Chaffey Rose Club

Text by Dale Kerin. Photos by Club Members

Several Members journeyed to Adelaide for an overnight stay and enjoyed a late afternoon/night visit to the Botanic Gardens to see the Chihuly Exhibition—the garden’s glass art installations which drew in big crowds. It was a very hot Saturday; we had tea sitting under the amazing huge trees and then enjoyed a leisurely wander around the garden, enjoying the magnificent display.

Sunday, on a much cooler day, we ventured to Hahndorf to share High Tea at *The Cedars* with other members of The Rose Society of South Australia. We enjoyed a tour of the house, garden, studio and the amazing High Tea.



Gloria Rover (B L-R), Fleur Carthew, Elly Johnson, Dale Kerin (F L-R), Jill Knight, Jay Fischer and Shann Hausler at Adelaide Botanic Garden.

In April, Chaffey Rose Club held it’s Annual General Meeting at Olivewood Historical Homestead. Office bearers were returned to their respective positions. We enjoyed a walk around the garden and had lunch in the museum with our guests, RSSA President, Gavin Woods and Vice President, Penelope Schulz. We checked out the new rose arbour,



Shann Hausler, RSSA President Gavin Woods, Di Speight and Club President, Elly Johnson at the AGM.

donated to Olivewood by Chaffey Rose Club, as it had been installed. We then went to Paringa to the garden of Jay and Jim Fischer. It was lovely strolling around the garden and enjoying afternoon tea, before all heading home.



The impressive rose arbour donated by Chaffey Rose Club to Olivewood Historical Homestead.

In May, several members enjoyed a trip to the Karkoo Nursery, set in the Historic Johnson Brewery at Oakbank. We enjoyed a wander around the nursery, lunch in the café and of course some retail therapy, heading back home through Cambrai and Sedan. We noticed how dry it was everywhere. We all need rain badly.

Coming: Sunday 6th June, Soup Day at Charlene and Bill Santos’s “Santospirito”, Berri; Sunday 27th July, a pruning demonstration and afternoon Tea at Olivewood Homestead.

Roses on Eyre

Text by Karen Miels Photos by Lyn Miller



Impressive exhibits lined the Show Bench at Roses on Eyre's Autumn meeting and AGM.



Janys Asser with Princess de Monaco

It was a case of "steady as she goes" for Roses on Eyre at its combined Autumn and Annual General Meeting in April with officers returned to key positions.

Sandy McCallum was returned as President, Rex Crosby as Vice President, me (Karen Miels) as Secretary, Jane Forrest the Treasurer and Lyn Miller as Competition Convenor.

Approximately 20 members attended the meeting, held in the Hall at Lipson, about 11km north of Tumby Bay. The Lipson Progress Association prepared a much enjoyed lunch and the meeting's Rose Competition showcased some beautiful blooms, despite extraordinarily dry weather.

Janys Asser won the Exhibition Rose class with ***Cream Dream*** and the Best Rose with ***Princess De Monaco***. Lyn Miller's ***Kardinal*** was placed second, and Janys's ***Brass Band*** was third.

The Full Bloom award went to Lyn Miller with ***Pope John Paul II***. Second place went to Janys with ***Brass Band*** and third also went to her with ***Gift of Grace***.

The Three stems in Multi stages class was won by Janys with ***Brass Band***. Ken and Lyn Walmsley's exhibit of ***Perfume Perfection*** was placed second.

It was difficult finding gardens to visit because of the reluctance of gardeners, no doubt influenced by the extreme dry Spring and Summer. The drought conditions have played

Roses on Eyre *continued*



Jeanette Pugsley's garden with mature shrubbery and splashes of colour gave members a boost.

havoc with gardens in this region and there have been many losses, particularly among those relying only on tank water. However, members were thankful that they could visit Jeanette Pugsley's lovely garden.

Jeanette does not grow a lot of roses, but her garden is large and full, with a variety of plants, lawns, and raised and wicking-bed vegetable plots. Jeanette has been a long-time gardener and her experience showed.

The next meeting will be at Cleve Hotel for a Xmas in July lunch on July 6th and I will give a presentation of my trip to South Africa.

PHOTO (right): Jeanette Pugsley's wicking tomato beds.



Members of The Rose Society of South Australia
may access the World Federation of Rose Societies'
newsletters and BAON—By Any Other Name.

Go to worldrose.org. The password is 123Members 2022.



STOP PRESS: Success on the bench at Maitland

Two members of The Rose Society of South Australia weathered the blistering dry and heat of a couple of months ago, on Yorke Peninsula, to exhibit successfully at the Maitland Show.

On a 46C day, John Bradshaw and Jen McCormick flew the flag of the rose. John won the Grand Champion Rose for an exhibit of ***Pope John Paul II***. He also won a perpetual trophy provided by The Rose Society of South Australia.

Jen won first prize for a floral art exhibit which featured roses.

Want to advertise in the Bulletin?

The Bulletin offers a limited amount of advertising space to members of the Rose Society of South Australia and businesses where activities align with the Society and its members. These activities may include rose growing, gardening, leisure activities and some related services. The offerings cannot be at odds with the Society's business interests. Enquiries and booking requests can be sent to *Bulletin* Editor, Celia Painter bulletinrssa@gmail.com or phone 0407 547 337.

Submitting photographs and editorial

About 400 words fills a page but remember to submit less, about 320 words, to allow for a heading and a photograph. If in doubt, contact the Editor. Photographs need to be jpegs of 1MB to 10MB in size. The earlier you make your bookings and provide your materials makes production so much easier.

Bulletin deadlines for 2025 and 2026

EDITION	RESERVE SPACE BY	PROVIDE MATERIAL BY
October, November, December	8th August	25th August
January, February, March	8th November	25th November
April, May, June	8th January	



BACK COVER Neutrog's People's Choice Photographic winner

Mauricio Carbonell Sarria was the winner of a new photo competition launched by Neutrog at the 2025 People's Choice competition, held in conjunction with the Autumn Rose Show (pages 21–24) on the ANZAC Day long weekend. Mauricio faced stiff competition. There were many lovely shots, showcased on Neutrog's facebook page. Some focussed on roses, others on people and roses and some showing elements of roses in the broader garden environment. Mauricio won a generous package of Neutrog products. For more details on the People's Choice competition, turn to page 25.

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Photography Winner*

