



The Rose Society of South Australia Inc

# Bulletin

Volume 64, Number 4   October, November, December 2025

*Gertrude  
Jekyll*

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

# Calendar of Events

## October

**Thursday 2nd 7pm** Members' Meeting, Goodman Building, Adelaide Botanic Garden (see page 10).

**Saturday and Sunday 18th and 19th** Spring Rose Show, Nuriootpa (see page 9).

## November

**Sunday 2nd** Uraidla Show (see page 32).

**Thursday 6th 10am to 2pm** Members' Meeting, garden visit and budding demo', Merv and Wendy Trimper's home, 27 Downers Road, Oakbank SA (see page 10).

## December

**Sunday 7th 12.30pm** Christmas Lunch, Auchendarroch House (see page 13).

The 2025 Australian Rose Championships and National Rose Society of Australia AGM will be held in Brisbane, Queensland, from 10th to 13th October 2025.

## Highlights in this edition

|                            |       |
|----------------------------|-------|
| Leaders in the South East  | 7     |
| New website, new login     | 8     |
| Spring Rose Show           | 9     |
| Christmas celebration      | 13    |
| Seductive Scents           | 14–15 |
| 20th World Rose Convention | 17–19 |
| Neutrog (InDaily)          | 30–32 |
| Uraidla Show               | 32    |
| Editor's Message           | 37    |

## Regular features

|                                |       |
|--------------------------------|-------|
| Message from the President     | 5–6   |
| New Members                    | 5     |
| Penelope's Meetings and Events | 10    |
| Members' Meetings              | 11–12 |
| Spring Culture Notes           | 25–27 |
| Photography                    | 28–29 |
| Winter Culture Notes           | 27–29 |
| IRG Volunteers                 | 33    |
| Branch Reports                 | 34–36 |

## COVER PHOTO *Gertrude Jekyll* by Melanie Trimper



Our cover image was adapted from a photograph taken by Melanie Trimper at the World Federation of Rose Societies 20th World Rose Convention, May 2025, in Japan (see pages 17 to 23).

*Gertrude Jekyll* is a David Austin rose with a strong old world fragrance and large, very double quartered blooms. They are pink with lighter coloured edges and lighter on the underside of the petals. This Shrub blooms in flushes from Spring through to the end of Autumn.



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.

## REPRODUCTIONS

All content in this publication is covered by copyright. Any reproductions of editorial, photographs and/or graphics require permission from the creators.

Email [bulletinrsssa@gmail.com](mailto:bulletinrsssa@gmail.com) or phone 0407 547 337.

## BACK COPIES

This and previous editions of The Rose Society of South Australia's *Bulletin* are available to members in digital format on the Society's website [www.sarose.org.au](http://www.sarose.org.au)

## 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](http://www.sarose.org.au)**

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

ISSN 2653-7338 (digital)

ISSN 2653-732X (print)

WEB ADMINISTRATOR Chris Kelly [cpkelly123@bigpond.com](mailto:cpkelly123@bigpond.com)

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

Email [bulletinrsssa@gmail.com](mailto:bulletinrsssa@gmail.com) or phone 0407 547 337

PRINTED by Eureka Printers, Kidman Park, South Australia

# The Rose Society of South Australia Inc

## Patron

Mr Rod Bunten, Government House

## Vice Patron

Mr Michael Keelan

## Council

**President:** Mr Gavin Woods

**Secretary:** Mrs Diane vom Berg  
**& Immediate Past President**

**Treasurer:** Mr Paul Flavel

Vice President: Ms Penelope Schulz

Vice President: Mr John Humphries

Show Manager: Mrs Joy Johnson

Bulletin Editor: Ms Celia Painter

Publicity: Mrs Melanie Trimper

Mr John Bradshaw

Ms Harriet Eivers

Dr Tate Hancox

Mrs Maureen Humphries

0429 021 006

0416 073 957

gbwoods@adam.com.au

rssasecretary@gmail.com

0493 755 760

PO Box 51, Unley SA 5061

rssatreasurer@gmail.com

0437 505 010

penelopeannes@bigpond.com

0439 706 324

boudicca47@hotmail.com

0418 895 438

joyjohnsonbruce1947@gmail.com

0407 547 377

bulletinrssa@gmail.com

0410 858 528

ktrimper@bigpond.net.au

0417 081 204

headcutter@bigpond.com

0403 686 426

harrieteivers@icloud.com

0488 160 073

tatehancox@gmail.com

8270 7949

magnoli2026@gmail.com

## Chaffey Rose Club

**President:** Ms 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

clifa@tenison.catholic.edu.au

## Roses on Eyre

**President:** Mrs Sandy McCallum

PO Box 53

Tumby Bay SA 5606

08 86884206 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

Wow! What a World Rose Convention the Japan Rose Society presented us! Every detail of the Pre-tours, the Convention itself and the Post-tours was planned to perfection. Some 36 Australians participated in parts if not all the arrangements. I heard no complaints.



Gavin Woods ARA

It was my honour to be included in the international judging panel selected to choose the World Federation of Rose Societies (WFRS)

Awards at the Japan Rose Show. Magnificent Hybrid Teas dominated the show with small numbers of Floribundas and Miniatures. Ted Morphett from Sydney, Rosario Algorta from Uruguay and I formed a panel to select the best Floral Arrangement from a very large field. I am delighted to report that our selection was also chosen by the Japanese judges as the best. Most of the other panels also came to similar conclusions as our Japanese brethren, demonstrating that a good rose is a good rose, wherever it is grown.

We were thrilled that RSSA Secretary and outgoing President of the WFRS, Diane vom Berg, was awarded the Gold Medal of the Federation for her outstanding service at Executive level for 13 years. Diane continues of course for another three years as Immediate Past President, providing a valuable mentoring role to incoming President, Sushil Prakash, from India. Popular National Rose Society of Australia (NRSA) Treasurer, Jim Cane, was deservedly awarded the Bronze Medal, the World Rose Award for his 24 years as Treasurer of the NRSA. Jim attended and was both surprised and delighted to receive this highest of honours. Other rosarians well known to us in Australia, Derek Lawrence of the UK, Hayden Foulds of NZ and Ray Martin of the UK, also received medals. All were very deserving recipients.

It was back to earth upon returning to Australia with very cold weather in force and thankfully, much needed rains to break the seemingly endless dry. Pruning and a general garden tidy-up seem to have been the endless chores since our return.

The Society has held successful pruning demonstrations at Knight's Roses at Gawler, and at Adelaide Botanical Garden. Merv Trimper again coordinated a pruning tutorial for Ironwood Horticultural Institute students. I want to thank all those members involved in our demonstrations—the public receives great insight from your skills.

Our Annual General Meeting has come and gone, with no changes to Council positions. Whilst I am thrilled that our current hard-working and cohesive Council remains intact,

*Continued next page*

## The President and members welcome our new members

Max van Dissel—Kapunda

Neil Retallick—Glenside

Janet and Roger Hall—Clare

Margaret and Colin Roy—Renmark

Amanda Remphrey—Burnside

Those whose names are withheld

## A message from the President *continued*

I am forever hopeful that new members will show a desire to join the management group. Many current Councillors have been in positions for a long time and would welcome respite. If any members have an interest in joining Council anytime soon, they are invited to speak with me or Diane for the “low down”.

State Council is excited to advise that our Spring Rose Show will be held in Nuriootpa, with details available in this edition. Joy Johnson has gone to great lengths to source this location which we feel very much meets our credo of “taking the rose to the people”. We will again hold a Community Class for those who grow great roses but do not exhibit them. It is hoped that by bringing our show to the great gardening centre that is the Barossa Valley we will be inundated with enthusiastic lovers of the rose.

One of the most informative meetings I have ever attended was held at *The Worm Firm* in August. Proprietor, Peter Heidenreich, spoke passionately, extolling the virtues of the humble earth worm. We all learned so much, not only of the secret life of worms but about soil structure and many issues of value to our gardens. I was very impressed with this young man and hope the Society can bring him to speak to a much wider audience sometime soon.

Our meeting Coordinator/Speaker's Programmer, Vice-President Penelope Schulz, is currently working hard to put together a varied and interesting program for 2026. I am sure Penelope would welcome any suggestions from members; but please remember we are about roses and topics should in some way relate to our beloved flower.

As we move from the Winter doldrums, we as rose growers enter a busy and exciting time of the year. Our new plants will display their first flowers and our established plants will perhaps perform better this year than they did last. Rose growing is a continual exercise in anticipation, elation and disappointment. We just hope that the former emotions outweigh the latter!

A frantic six weeks is planned during the Spring season in promotion of the rose with trips beckoning to Queensland for the National Annual General Meeting and to Melbourne for their show in November. We have our own local shows and other promotional events in between. Please make yourself known to us if you attend any of these functions.

Despite my reputation as a rabid exhibitor, the truth is that the greatest enjoyment I receive from my roses is to admire them in the garden and to be able to gift them to friends. Kim and I are blessed in that every window from our house overlooks a rose garden. To wander the garden very early in the morning and to appreciate the roses, both new and not-so-new, is my greatest pleasure.

I plan to enjoy them even more after December 12<sup>th</sup>, the date of my retirement. I look forward to finally getting this 30-year-old garden in order!

*Gavin*

# Introducing our new leaders in the South East



Kelly Hillstone

South East President

Some may recall in the last edition that the South East Branch reported that it has two new leaders, Kelly Hillstone and Annie Clifford. They took over the roles as President and Secretary respectively from a grateful Marjorie Todd and Ione Saint who served their region and the Society with distinction.

Kelly is well-known in the South East through her work at Wagner's Rose Nursery. Some will have met her at the 2022 World Federation of Roses Convention in Adelaide or the Combined Branches meeting in the South East, last year. Some may have also heard Kelly on radio in Mt Gambier, sharing her gardening knowledge.

Kelly's love of the rose took root when undertaking horticultural studies. The course work involved an excursion to Wagner's Rose Nursery and a talk and demonstration by Brian Wagner. Kelly subsequently went from the classroom to the rose garden at Wagner's, working with more than 800 cultivars.

Annie is also well known in the South East. Raised in the Coonawarra, she went on to work for many years at Tenison Woods College, Mt Gambier and became active in various community organisations.

She is also well-known, with husband Andy, living in the Victorian home and historic landmark, Yallum Park, located several kilometres south-west of Penola. The property was bought by the Clifford family in 1914. The garden alone of the working rural property covers 20 acres.

Annie and Andy are custodians also of the **Yallum Park Cream** and **Yallum Park Yellow roses**. These are Noisette and Tea Noisette roses, discovered by Pat Toolan in 2005.



Annie Clifford  
South East Secretary



## 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 or 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.

# The Society has a new website with new features

A search tool on the home page, social media at the click of the mouse and the ability to pay securely online for memberships and events—these are among features of The Rose Society of South Australia's new website.

The site has not been revamped, it's been replaced, using the same web address. However, you can also put just [sarose.org.au](http://sarose.org.au) into your browser and it will open.

The Member section login arrangements have changed. There is a new user name and a password, named after an Australian breeder and representative of South Australia. Once you have signed in, close the login window and two tabs become available "Member Documents" and "Member Updates". In Member Documents, you will find organisational documents, like the Constitution and By-Laws, and in the Member Updates, the latest Bulletin and links to book for events.

The bulk of material on the Society's former website has been carried over to the new site so much will look familiar, however some of the content has been refreshed, and new material has been added. Information for rose exhibitors and judges and details about partnerships are among the latter. You can even download exhibiting and judging publications.

Society Web Administrator, Chris Kelly, says the new site is in line with the new generation of digital technologies and practices that should give both the site and the Society's social media activities more prominence on the internet. They also give users quick and easy access to do things that are common-place and expected by many internet users, like booking and paying online in a secure way. The Society's other well-established booking and payment methods, which do not involve the website, will continue.

From a website administrator's perspective, the software used is more "user-friendly" than that available several years ago when the previous website was created. Chris says this served the Society extremely well, but increased expectations of younger people particularly, required the ability for the website to operate slightly differently and do more.

While the heavy lifting of developing the new site has been done, Chris says other additions and changes will be made in the coming months. Some of these will be in response to feedback and ideas about the new site from Society members. These can be directed to Chris at [cpkelly123@bigpond.com](mailto:cpkelly123@bigpond.com)





# Spring Rose Show

**Barossa Central Shopping Mall  
1 Murray Street Nuriootpa**

**October 18th to 19th**  
**Saturday Noon to 5pm**  
**Sunday 9am to 4pm**



## **Community Class**

Competition entries welcome Sunday from 10am to noon

## **Show schedule**

View online at [www.sarose.org.au](http://www.sarose.org.au) for exhibiting set-up times and details

## **Further information**

Contact the show manager Joy Johnson 0418 895 438

# Meetings & Events

## Japan's Future of Roses & Spring Rose Show Q&A

7pm Thursday 2nd October 2025

Goodman Building, Adelaide Botanic Garden

Gavin Woods will present an overview of the magnificent World Federation of Rose Societies Convention in Fukuyama, held in May, and I will talk about the pre and post Convention Tours. You can also ask questions about the Spring Rose Show being held on Saturday and Sunday 18th and 19th October at Barossa Central Shopping Mall.

## Garden Visit and Budding Demo' at the home of Wendy & Meru Trimper

10am to 2pm Thursday 6th November 2025

27 Downers Road, Oakbank

BOOK (no charge) by 25/10/2025 at

[www.sarose.org.au](http://www.sarose.org.au) (Login rsssa member Password flinders)

or by email [penelopeannes@bigpond.com](mailto:penelopeannes@bigpond.com) or phone 0437 505 010.

Morning tea, a browse around a garden in a rural setting, a budding demonstration by Meru Trimper and lunch—I can't think of a better way to spend a Spring day in the Adelaide Hills. All you need to bring is a chair.

## Christmas at Auchendarroch House

12.30pm Sunday 7th December 2025

17 Adelaide Road, Mt Barker (enter from Dumas Street)

BOOK AND PAY by 22/11/2025 online by credit card at

[www.sarose.org.au](http://www.sarose.org.au) (Login rsssa member Password flinders)

or by using the form accompanying this edition.

It's so lovely to sit back, be pampered and enjoy each other's company in celebration of a busy year behind us and the festive season. Our annual pilgrimage to Auchendarroch House also enables us to congratulate the recipient of the Dean Stringer OAM Award for 2025 for making an outstanding contribution to the Society over the past year.

If you haven't attended our Christmas function in the past, spoil yourself and come along. If you need a lift, let us know and we'll endeavour to help.

*I hope to see you there!*

*Penelope Schulz  
Speaker's Programmer*

# Enthusiasm not dampened by Wintry weather

Winter skies and low temperatures did not dampen Society activities, and many of them were busier than ever.

The pruning demonstration at Adelaide Botanic Gardens, a core feature of the Society's annual program, drew an enthusiastic crowd, despite threatening skies. The demonstrations to the public were provided by Merv and Wendy Trimper, Deb Curtis, Tate Hancox, and Penelope Schulz and Paul Flavel assisting.

Merv and Wendy, Penelope, Deb Curtis and Paul Flavel were also forces at the International Rose Garden to give a day of lessons to a group of students from Ironwood Institute in July.

Several members also chipped in at the International Rose Garden in Winter to help prune the Hybrid Teas and Floribundas, and later again, at the start of Spring, to work on the French Teas, with Deb Curtis sharing her wealth of knowledge and experience.

A series of Open Days at *Knight's Roses* were added to the Winter schedule of activities, with members coming from far and wide to represent the Society and assist the public. Those who travelled longer distances than most were Ross Kemp and Gavin Woods, both who demonstrated pruning. Some would argue that Kerry Brandt-Wilson's role as head chef at each of these Open Days was equally impressive as these efforts, with his sausage sizzles having people's lips smacking with praise.

There were speaking engagements undertaken too with Bulletin Editor Celia Painter giving presentations at South Australian Geranium and Pelargonium Society and Mannum Garden Group meetings. Council members are regularly called upon to promote the rose at club meetings and events.

Other activities were undertaken more privately. Wendy Trimper, for example, pruned the Governors' Rose Garden at Government House. Some may recall that this garden, created in recent years with input from the Society and led by Wendy, comprises roses dedicated to each Governor of SA.

Amid these activities was the Society's Annual General Meeting. All Executive and other Council members were returned to their positions. Officer reports showed 2024–2025 to be a buoyant year in regard to activities and finances. The AGM was followed by the latest version of Tate Hancox's *Tournament of Roses*, a fun way



Mary Frick, Deb Curtis and Tate Hancox at the Annual General Meeting and *Tournament of Roses*.

*Continued next page*



Peter Heidenreich from The Worm Firm had everyone's attention at the August meeting.



Lyn Williams checks out a part of the kit for worm farm preppers.

*Continued from previous page*

to test and expand upon one's knowledge of the rose and its evolution. Everyone seemed to go home with a prize.

Fifteen members headed to Smithfield to *Garden Goodness* and *The Australian Worm Firm* in August to learn of the role and importance of worms in the garden—and how to encourage their presence—for a talk by one of Australia's foremost authorities on the subject, Peter Heidenreich. This fascinating talk enthralled members and seasoned rosarian, Graham Douglass, said at the café lunch after, that he thought it was the best and most interesting talk he had attended at a Society meeting in 30 years. Those who missed out, may be lucky enough to hear Peter speak on a further occasion with our Speaker's Programmer Penelope Schulz and President, Gavin Woods, exploring the possibility.

A special feature on worm farming, drawing on Peter's knowledge and experience, will be published in a later edition of the Bulletin.

### **Pops of colour and good form brightened the bench competition in July**



Rose of the Night was awarded to A Grade exhibitor, Melanie Trimper, with an exhibit of the **Daniel Morcombe** (far left).



Les Johnson won B Grade with **Bluesette** and took out second place in that grade with an exhibit of **Ruby**. The judge was Penelope Schulz.

# Christmas 2025

Celebrate our unique bond, meet other members in a joyous setting and enjoy a sumptuous lunch.

*Auchendarroch House*

17 Adelaide Road, Mt Barker (enter from Dumas Street)

12.30pm

*Sunday, 7th December*



**\$85 per person, including a limited drinks package.**

Bookings and payments by credit card at [www.sarose.org.au](http://www.sarose.org.au) or fill in the form enclosed and post it to RSSA's Treasurer, Paul Flavel. Details are on the form.

# *Seductive Scents.....Part 2*

*In the first of our two-part series on fragrance ( Volume 64, Number 3), Kim Syrus described how to identify and describe fragrances of the rose. In this second part, we take a serendipitous dive into the potential use and commercialisation of the rose's fragrance. Some of this seems out of this world.*

The rose could be shooting to the stars in the near future in an effort to keep the health and wellbeing of astronauts firmly on the ground.

Unlike in 1988, when the rose ***Overnight Scentsation*** was jettisoned into outer spheres on the space shuttle Discovery to study the impact of low gravity on the scent of the rose, the rose's fragrance is being incorporated in tests (on earth) of virtual reality programs which could ultimately be used by astronauts on interstellar missions. The theory is that such scents could help stave off depression and foster good physiological and psychological health among astronauts.

Such programs are of interest to NASA as future missions could be very lengthy—an estimated three years to traverse 225 million kilometres to Mars—and NASA's hierarchy has concerns about how to manage the behavioural effects of isolation, confinement and distance from home among astronauts.

Researcher Renee Abbott, when recently undertaking PhD work under Dr Ana Diaz Artiles in the Department of Aerospace Engineering at Texas A&M University, incorporated organic scents, including those of the rose, in multi-sensory experiments of virtual reality for astronauts. Subjects experienced a scene by seeing, hearing and smelling it. Smell was an important component of the tests, stimulating the part of the brain associated with emotional and memory processes.

The initial research, funded by NASA and outlined in a journal called *Acta Aeronautica* in 2023, found the addition of smells effectively countered stress and anxiety levels after their subjects were exposed to a stressful event.

Closer to home and used for entertainment, Engineer Xinge Yu of the City University of Hong Kong and colleagues have recently developed a wearable, lightweight wireless device, worn on the face or lip, to deliver smells and also control their intensity during such things as a movie, or a virtual reality game played on a computer. This device replaces the relatively crude alternative used previously, to supply a smell manually in various atomizer forms. One of the team's demonstrations of the new device involves showing a film of a woman bringing a rose up to her nose and increasing the intensity of the smell generated the closer it gets.



Rose perfumes, in their many and varied forms, are the hottest of perfumes on the market and trending in 2025, according to global marketing research into the industry.



National Rose Trial Garden of Australia perfume assessors Harriet Eivers and Christine Douglass use the conscious part of their brain predominantly when assessing each rose's perfume.

The sweet scents of roses have been the subjects of many tests undertaken for many purposes, in recent decades. Among them have been experiments of their efficacy in promoting psychological and psychiatric health in therapeutic settings. Some have concluded that they have produced feelings of tranquility and calmness.

Importantly, it has been well-established, through neuroscience, that the scent of a rose, like many smells, can stimulate memory, courtesy of the olfactory (smelling) route which starts at the nose and ends in the brain. Once through the nose, the molecules of smells fire up neurons (nerve cells) in the brain. These send electric and chemical messages to one part of the brain where conscious thought about fragrance occurs, and to another part called the limbic system. The latter includes the amygdala and hippocampus, responsible for emotions and memories. It's these parts of the brain which further process conscious thought about smells, making or drawing upon memories and emotions associated with "the" smell.

The perfume industry capitalises on this, trying to conjure memories and playing a role in the creation of new memories, aligning their signature scents to new attractive images and trusted organic memories. Apparently the market is slowing—possibly because of market saturation and duplication—yet worldwide sales are poised to increase from approximately \$805 million to \$1.672 billion in 2032, according to global marketing and consulting research firm Dataintel. Some of the world's biggest perfume retailers reckon rose perfumes are the hottest on the market in 2025 and trending. Interestingly, despite fierce competition and huge marketing across the big brands, Chanel No5, produced in 1921 and which has rose notes (among others), remains a top seller in Australia and worldwide.

Back in the real world of the everyday gardener and rosarians, many think there is nothing as sweet as brushing against a rose bush in bloom or burying the nose in a bloom to take in the scent. It's something that science and money will continue to try to buy.

*Celia Painter*



# KNIGHT'S ROSES

Est 1963 Gawler South Australia

Seniors and Rose  
Society discount  
available. Thousands  
of roses available to  
order online, or view  
our range at our  
nursery

[www.knightsroses.com.au](http://www.knightsroses.com.au)

08 8523 1311

# Japan's City of a Million Roses delivers a convention showcasing the future of roses



Rose Park (Bara Koen) in Fukuyama set the scene for rose-filled days of the 20th World Federation of Rose Societies' World Rose Convention.

***Text and photographs by Melanie Trumper***

I returned from the 20th World Federation of Rose Societies (WFRS) World Rose Convention in Fukuyama, Japan, with a sense of optimism that was more than equal to that I had upon my return from my first world convention in Osaka, Japan, in 2006.

I was among more than 450 delegates, from 28 countries, welcomed by Japan Rose Society, which I believe delivered an outstanding convention, Rose Expo and garden visits from 18th to the 24th May 2025. The convention, sponsored by FELCO and other businesses (including *Jurlique*), is held approximately every three years and brings together Rose Society members, enthusiasts, breeders and professionals from around the globe. Promoting the theme *Roses for the Future*, the convention was perfectly timed to coincide with roses at peak bloom.

Known as the "City of a Million Roses," Fukuyama has a fascinating post-war history. After most of the city was destroyed in WWII, residents planted the first 1000 roses to bring happiness back to the community. In 2016, the city reached its goal of one million roses, displayed in almost every street.

The Convention began with the city's annual Rose Festival and Expo at Midorimachi Park, an impressive, tiered garden planted with 5100 roses and 330 varieties and the Bara Koen's nine themed gardens showcasing 7000 roses and 670 varieties. This is where the "city of roses" began, and it displayed a wonderful mass of roses and

*Continued next page*

# Japan's City of a Million Roses continued

## *From previous page*

perennials. Crowds of people enjoyed the street stalls and the scent of thousands of roses in bloom. The great hall held a rose show featuring floral art, bonsai

miniature roses, garden talks, exquisite crafts and jewellery.



Delegates and guests gathered for a Meet and Greet reception in perfect weather on the grounds of the 400-year-old Fukuyama Castle.

With many dignitaries present, WFRS President, Diane vom Berg, officially opened the convention. Her Imperial Highness, Princess Tomohito of Mikasa, warmly greeted an audience of 1300 people and called for “the love of the rose to be passed to the next generation and around the world.”

David Austin's ***Gertrude Jekyll*** was inducted into the WFRS Hall of Fame and ***Blush Noisette*** joined the Old Rose Hall of Fame.

The grounds of majestic Fukuyama Castle, originally built in 1622, was the site of the welcome reception.

inducted into the WFRS Hall of Fame and ***Blush Noisette*** joined the Old Rose Hall of Fame.

Four half-day tours explored fabulous rose gardens, including the Fukuyama Rose Trials where 38 new roses were judged. During a day tour, delegates visited Hiroshima's Memorial Park, Museum and Botanic Garden. The Genbaku Dome was the only structure left standing after the atomic bomb, a sombre World Heritage Site. All municipal schools in Fukuyama participate in the “Rose and Peace Education” program as part of their studies, and they cultivate rose gardens on school grounds.

The lecture series set a high standard covering history, conservation, disease, breeding innovations and sustainable rose cultivation. World-renowned experts on the Rose Breeders Panel focused on “roses of tomorrow.” To summarise:

*Roses will involve no chemicals or viruses, be good for the environment, grow on their own roots, use less energy in production, be beautiful, repeat flowering, easy-to-grow and a rose that sells! There's an urge to create, just like in art.*

At the Farewell Dinner prestigious awards went to individuals, gardens and books.

There were nine Garden Awards: Rivierenhof (Belgium); Burlington (Canada); Olomouc (Czech Republic); Mainau Island (Germany); Nagaoka and Tawada Gardens (Japan);

*Continued next page*



A beacon for world peace, Genbaku Dome, the only structure to stand after the 6 August 1945 blast that desimated Hiroshima.



The David Austin bred *Gertrude Jekyll* was inducted into the World Federation of Rose Societies Hall of Fame.



Diane vom Berg, wearing the World Federation of Rose Societies Gold Medal.

#### *From previous page*

Jeonju (Korea); Aflopark (Poland) and Gothenburg (Sweden). Literary Awards were won by Inés Diaz de Licandro, Maurice Jay, and Viru and Girija Viraraghavan.

Diane vom Berg received a Gold Medal, the WFRS's highest honour. Executive Director, Derek Lawrence (United Kingdom), and Shiwei Zhao (China) received Silver Medals. World Rose Awards for many years of exemplary service to their national societies were presented to Jim Cane (Australia); Ray Martin (United Kingdom); Hayden Foulds (New Zealand); and Gail Birss (South Africa). The Japan Rose Society and City of Fukuyama received the Silver Commemorative Medallion for hosting the convention. Sushil Prakash, from India, was welcomed as the incoming President and received the WFRS flag for the World Convention in Bhopal in 2028.

I think it's fair to say that the many highlights of this Convention, the opportunities we were given and the hospitality we received made this an unforgettable celebration of roses and friendship for all Australians who attended.

## NOARLUNGA ORCHIDS & ROSE NURSERY Supplier of Wagner's Roses

180 Commercial Road, Seaford Meadows

Phone 0431 694 905

Large variety of potted roses available all year round at reasonable prices

# Convention Tour opens a window to the use of the

Prominent Society Members, Sue and John Zwar, returned from the 20th World Rose Convention in Fukuyama enthralled by the Convention and pre and post tours. The cleverness of rose choices in the landscape, ingenuity in their use, the precision of cultivation and presentation, and the graciousness of the Japanese people in sharing their experience each impressed them. Sue paints a picture here, accompanied by photographs taken by Melanie Trimper, of one of three post convention tours. This went from Fukuyama to Echigo and northern Kanto regions.

A shinkansen (bullet train) and a plane jettisoned us north to Itami, nearly 500km west of Tokyo, for this leg of our Japanese adventure. We were very fortunate to have Dr Yuki Mikanagi PhD, one of Japan's leading experts on wild roses and a presenter during the convention, on our tour. For any Society member who has not attended a convention, learning from such people is a tremendous benefit and privilege for those attending. I was continually asking Dr Mikanagi the names of cultivated plants as well as those we saw in the wild and she was always patient and knowledgeable.

We spent a lot of time travelling in buses through beautiful country, mostly mountainous. Many of the trees were vibrant with mauve flowers—wisteria, climbing to huge heights. Magnolias were also prevalent with their large white flowers, and *Rosa multiflora*, with its small white racemes of flowers, beautified the sides of the road. But not everything was mountainous, and much of the flat country was taken up with rice paddies filled with water and small rice plants just showing themselves above the waterline. We were told that Japan has to import much of its food but not rice! Considering that every meal we had consisted of a bowl of rice as one of the courses, a mighty lot of rice is grown in Japan!



Climbing structures were of great interest at National Echigo Hillside Park.

On our second day we spent a memorable morning at *National Echigo Hillside Park* in Nagaoka City. This garden, which was opened in 2003, with International Fragrant Rose Trials taking place since 2005, specialises in fragrant roses. It spans



Dramatic architectural interest was created by climbers within National Echigo Hillside Park.

# Rose in creating landscapes of inspirational beauty



This was a brilliant structure to showcase *Cocktail*, growing at *National Echigo Hillside Park*.



A sweeping pathway gave way to a "room" of manicured excellence at *Nakanojo Gardens*.

2.4 hectares and has 2400 roses representing 800 varieties, so you can imagine the perfume! One can meander around well set-out beds of roses, divided by the type of rose scent they have. It was in this garden that we saw *Rosa sambucina* growing up a pole and in full flower. This was a rose we hoped to see in the wild on our pre tour, only to find that due to a very cold winter, there were no flowers.

The next day we were in for a delight. In the morning we visited the *Nakanojo Gardens* where its designer, Mr Takashi Kawai, spoke to us and gave us a guided tour. What a magnificent garden; a series of colour coordinated rooms divided by hedges and archways of roses. There were so many exquisite flowers, with one especially taking my eye, *Cornus Venus*, with huge white bracts. Nearby there was another show stopper, *Viburnum plicatum 'Mary Milton'*, sending huge branches of white into the air. And so the garden went on—clematis twining around roses, rhododendrons, camellias, azaleas, all confined within hedged walls with each room being colour coordinated with masses of annuals, perennials, shrubs, trees and of course, roses. In one area an infinity pool looked out through a wall onto a wildflower field beyond.

During the afternoon, we drove to Kadokura where black pines dominated, symbolic of



A place of solitude and beauty summarises *Nakanojo Gardens*.



Clematis wound around roses at *Nakanojo Gardens*.



One of many interesting vistas at *Nakanojo Gardens*.



LEFT: *Francois Juranville*, Shikishima Park.

ABOVE: Kadocuratechno Rose Garden at Shikishima Park.

the district. The rose garden within *Shikishima Park* was formally laid out, very colourful and very extensive. Pillars of ***Paul's Himalayan Musk*** made a grand statement and a bed of ***La France*** formed the boundary between modern roses and the old roses. The roses were all grouped by their country of origin and 600 tall standard roses formed a guard of honour. Trellises of climbing and rambling roses were spectacular, and one that particularly impressed me was ***Nozomi*** and some of the roses bred from it including ***Azumino*** and ***Ube-Komachi***. I was surprised that ***Nozomi***, named for a child who died as a consequence of Hiroshima's atomic bomb, wasn't more common in Japan. It is an exquisite little pale pink mini climber and available in Australia—treasured in my own garden.

Another fascinating place we visited was the *Omiya Bonsai Art Museum* where one exhibit is 1000 years old—their oldest—and many of them are several hundred years of age. We were told that to appreciate bonsai, one must always look from the front, working up from the base from a low position. There are four parts to appreciate: the roots, trunk, branches and leaves. The many exhibits were arranged around a central pond outside. Inside, we were shown the work being done with azaleas. They had such huge multi-coloured flowers.

On our final day we visited two remarkable gardens, *Ibaraki Flower Park* and *Sakura Rose Garden*. *Ibaraki Flower Park* covers 30 hectares, 13 of which consisted of roses. The garden meanders up a hill with a long rose tunnel taking pride of place near the entrance. Another feature was a series of magnificent arches of roses going up steps,



180 years in the making,  
a Black Pine bonsai at the  
*Omiya Bonsai Art Museum*.



Spectacular—a Satsuki  
azalea bonsai at *Omiya*  
*Bonsai Art Museum*.



Archways of blooming, scented splendour  
create and inviting arbour of discovery at  
*Ibaraki Flower Park*.



Thirteen of *Ibaraki Flower Park*'s 30 hectares are dedicated to roses.



*Ibaraki Flower Park* meanders up a hillside with magnificent arches of roses.

**Pierre de Ronsard** looking resplendent, and **Francois Juranville** taking pride of place at the top from where there were great views over the garden and surrounding countryside. One rose that took my eye, mainly because there were huge mounds of it, was **Ferdy**, a rose I have growing but never really liked. In this garden it was looking spectacular. We were all given snips and a bottle of water into which we could place three roses and four other plants to make an arrangement. We had lunch in the restaurant at the park where we could show off our achievements!

It was then on to *Sakura* where we met the folk who had been on Tour 3. And what a greeting we had with a band playing and children singing as well as the Mayor dressed in a rosy hat. Mr Maebara, who was so instrumental in the success of the 2012 World Heritage Rose Conference, has put his heart and soul into this garden which won the WFRS Award of Garden Excellence in 2015. Its primary purpose is the collection and preservation of heritage roses. The garden features 2500 roses comprised of 1250 varieties. Because I had visited this garden in 2012, I was very interested to see how it had evolved, especially as it suffered a catastrophic tornado several years ago. There was no trace of the damage it wrought thanks to the love and attention of many volunteers and the rebuilding of structures. The Helga Brichet roses as well as the Indian roses, mainly bred by Viru Viraraghavan, growing down a steep hillside, were all developing well. It was lovely to have Helga and Girija there in person.

Every person attending the conference received a copy of Yuki Mikanagi's beautiful handbook *Wild Roses in Japan* and while at *Sakura*, Yuki took John and me to meet the photographer Koichi Osaku who was hard at work in a caravan, photographing, in exquisite detail, the idiosyncrasies of the different roses. What detail goes into differentiating each minute section of each rose! And what a beautiful booklet we were given.

That night was one of celebration when about 60 of us dined, chatted and laughed together to end a memorable time in such a beautiful country.

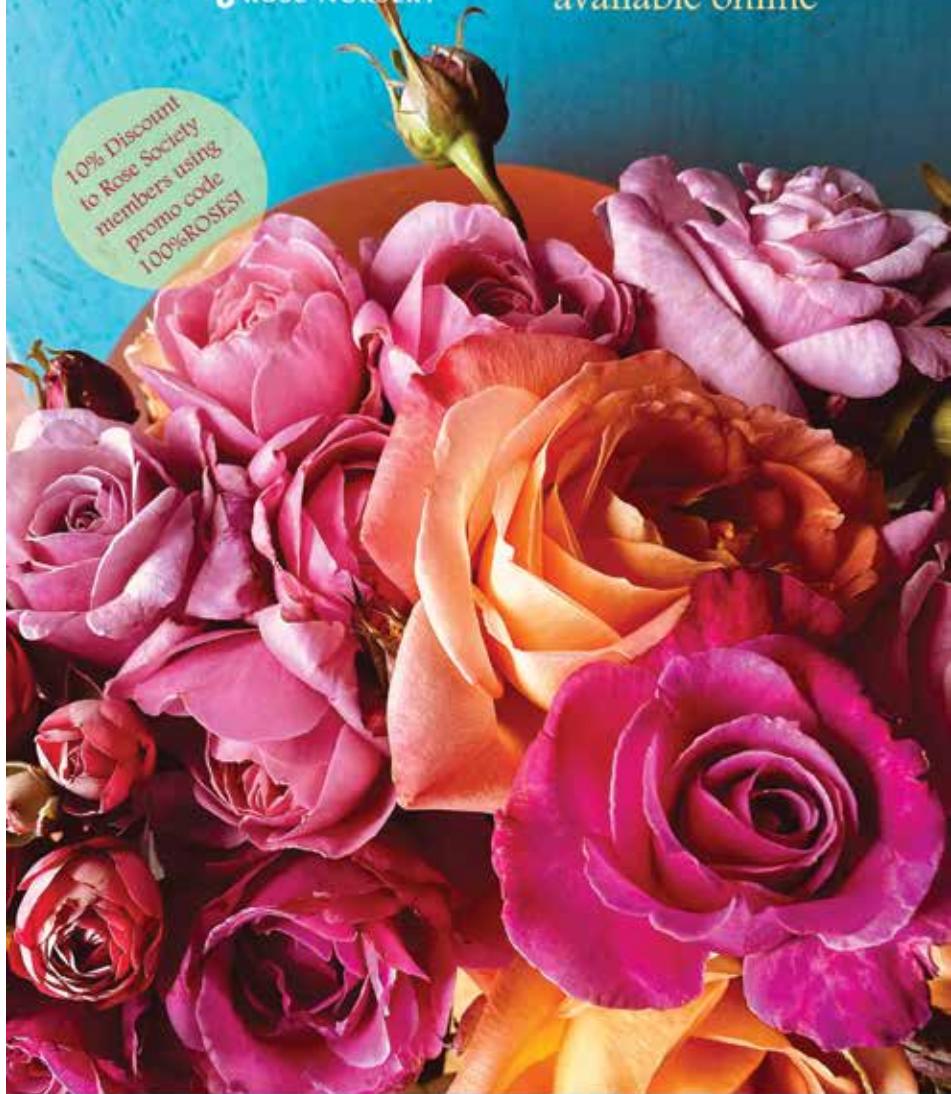


A World Federation of Rose Societies Garden of Excellence, *Sakura Rose Garden*.



Great selection of potted  
and bare root roses  
available online

10% Discount  
to Rose Society  
members using  
promo code  
100%ROSEST



[wagnersrosenursery.com.au](http://wagnersrosenursery.com.au) - ph 08 87393321

# SPRING CULTURE NOTES

By Dr Tate Hancox

Spring is upon us and soon it will be time to start picking and enjoying well-earned spoils from our gardens. Rains over Winter were greatly appreciated by so many gardeners, with complaints by non-gardeners over the wet weather met with a chorus of “We’re just glad its raining!”. The rains have helped settle our new roses into their cosy spots in our gardens and the new shoots are looking promising. However, we can’t get too complacent as it will soon be warming up and we will need to start thinking about watering again.



Tate Hancox PhD

## Rainfall and soil moisture

The rains throughout much of South Australia have been a welcome sight over the Winter. However, we are still well below our average annual rainfall. Luckily, soil moisture levels have returned to average or above average for much of the State.

The Bureau of Meteorology is predicting a 60–75% chance that rainfall over the next three months will exceed the median average rainfall for September to November for most of South Australia. While great news, we can’t count our chickens before they hatch. In the meantime, it is important to keep in mind strategies to maintain the natural soil moisture levels while also reducing the amount of water we apply to our gardens.

## Making a splash in the garden

Water is an important resource in the garden and the best thing to use to get your plants to grow well. However, “well” is a somewhat subjective term and will mean different things to a professional grower, or competitive exhibitor, collector, or tough grower. Ultimately, there are some factors to consider when deciding how much, how often and how the water is applied. You should consider the following.

- Plant's age—Younger plants will need water more often and closer to the trunk as they have smaller root systems than larger plants. Mature plants may need less water as they have a properly developed root system. Overly mature plants often need more water as their root systems do not function as they once did.
- Plant's size—Miniature roses may require less water than larger shrub roses due to the relative size of the root systems. However, they may require water more frequently because of their smaller root systems.



Don't forget to check if your sprinkler systems are adjusted correctly and working.



Remove spent blooms if you wish. Some rose growers prefer not to!

- Flower quality—The size and quality of flowers are influenced by the availability of water to the plant.
- Planting composition—The water needs of other plant species growing in the garden will also influence the timing and volume of irrigation required.
- Soil texture—Sandy soils require less water applied more often as the water quickly moves through the soil profile beyond the root system accessibility, whereas clay soils can be watered less frequently and with greater volumes of water.
- Organic matter—Organic matter increases the water holding capacity of a soil.
- Mulch—Is your soil mulched or is it bare? Mulch helps retain water in the soil by creating a blanket that lets the water in but restricts its escape from the soil.
- Mulch material—Inorganic versus organic. Inorganic mulches can retain more heat but last longer. Organic mulches that are higher in cellulose (mulches made of annual plant byproducts such as wheat, pea, lucerne or sugarcane) will break down faster than those that are higher in lignin (wood chips and pine bark).
- Mulch particle size—Mulches with smaller particle sizes will break down faster than those with larger particle sizes, hence must be replaced more often. This occurs as the surface area of mulches with smaller particle sizes is greater than that of larger particle size mulches. The increased surface area allows for more microorganisms to colonise the mulch and undergo decomposition.
- Fertilizer application—Pelletised organic, granular, liquid or coated slow release? Pelletised, granular and coated slow release fertilisers require water to dissolve the nutrients and transport them through the soil profile to the root system.

**2/3** • Nutrient drawdown—While not necessarily related to irrigation, the

decomposition of organic material will result in an initial decrease in the concentration of essential nutrients in the soil (especially nitrogen). Therefore, fertilizers should be applied before mulch is laid to minimise the effect of the nutrient drawdown.

- Temperature—The outside temperature will influence the rate of evaporation and transpiration (water lost through the leaves of the plant).
- Wind—As the wind speed increases the rate of evaporation generally increases.
- Water application method—Whether you use a sprinkler, on-line dripper, in-line dripper, soaker hose, handheld trigger nozzle, handheld hose, or bucket depends on your circumstances and the garden. Roses planted in sandier soils for example, will need a broader application of water to the surface in addition to deep watering.

Eventually, after you have considered these things, you will likely fall into one of the following camps: multiple times a week, three times a fortnight, once a week or once a fortnight. The camp often changes depending on the season and there is no one correct way to irrigate.

**Want to learn more about how to look after your roses in Spring?**

See the Spring Culture Notes on The Rose Society of South Australia's new website [www.sarose.org.au](http://www.sarose.org.au)

## Spring rose care diary

### Water

Adjust your watering routine to suit the weather and soil. When hot days are forecast, ensure your roses are well hydrated BEFORE it starts. Do not let pots dry out.

### Mulch

Top up where necessary. This is particularly important if you did not mulch after pruning. Neutrog's *WhoFlungDung* is recommended.



### Fertilise

Do this if your regime is to fertilise a little often.

### Deadhead

Spent blooms can be removed down to just above the first five leaflets. This will encourage more growth and flowers.

# Photography

Members share their rose photography tips



**Photographer & Writer Benedetta Rusconi**

*All photographs: © Benedetta Rusconi, Wagner's Rose Nursery*

*Producing beautiful photographs of roses is an art form and one that few master. One of the most common frustrations is that red and pink pigments blow-out, producing images of ill-defined blobs and distorted colour. In the last of our mini-series on photography, professional photographer and photo journalist, Benedetta Rusconi from Wagner's Rose Nursery, generously shares detail, images and explanations which help us navigate the pitfalls that lead to blow-out.*

The main rule when photographing flowers is to avoid the direct sunlight on the subject, because the colours and the contrasts are always modified and digital cameras tend to struggle more with some specific colours, like red and purple.

Take your photos in the shade or on a cloudy day. If this is not possible, certainly avoid the midday lights: too sharp and unflattering. To have more contrast, better the early morning or the sunset. If this is not possible, create a shade on the flower with anything that could filter the light for you. You can transform your garden into a photographic studio, using some small white reflectors (if you don't have enough light) or white diffuser (to filter excessive light) that you can purchase online or in any good camera shop: it'll be fun!

**Mainaufeuer (Mainau Feuer)**



Shot in April at 12.30pm in full sunlight. They were not the best conditions: the image loses in colour and sharpness. The shutter speed was 1/125 at f7.1

**Good Samaritan**



Another wrong shot, in April at 12.30pm, in full sunlight. I used a shutter speed of 1/250 at f8.0. You can see how the colour has blown-out.

### *Homage to Barbara*



### *Tess of the D'urbervilles*



This was shot in November, at 10.30am, in the garden but on a cloudy day. I used a shutter speed 1/200 at f4.5. This captured the depth of colour and definition.

Shot in April, at 5.30pm, under a veranda. 1/80s at f5.0. I had to use the tripod, but the slow shutter speed helped me have a better colour quality and sharpness.

When editing your photos, make sure you do it using a good quality screen with a colour calibrator to make sure all colours are shown properly—many screens have inbuilt software able to calibrate the colours.

I normally follow the following simple steps when editing my images with Adobe Photoshop:

Open Adjustment from the main menu, select Curves and increase or decrease the lights and darks, moving the levels on both sides of the curve (the lights are normally on the right, the darks on the left). Moving the curve from the middle point will change the contrast of the image. Change the curve according to the right tone of red or purple that you want to reach; that's why a good screen and a good colour calibrator are so important.

Another way to change the contrast of the image is to use the exposure in Photoshop: increasing or decreasing it will also modify the saturation of the colours and the contrast.

There are many ways to edit the saturation and contrast of an image through Photoshop: just have fun experimenting and trying them all, to find what best suits you needs.

### *Gallipoli Centenary Rose*



This was shot in March, at 11am, under a veranda, so the light was filtered by the roof of the veranda. 1/50 shutter speed at F5.0. Because of the low shutter speed, I had to use a tripod.

# Neutrog—then, now and glimpses of the future

Journalist David Simmons focussed his “10 minutes” article (*Indaily* 18 August 2025) on Neutrog’s Managing Director, Angus Irwin, and the company’s history and role in a circular economy. This is when materials and products are reused in environmentally friendly and sustainable ways. Our thanks to David and *Indaily* for permitting us the reproduce this piece.

**Neutrog is an SA success story, but it didn’t happen overnight. When did you feel like you really “made it”?**

While I can recognise how much Neutrog has grown since we first began, I don’t know that I feel as though I’ve “made it”, which probably goes some of the way to explaining what motivates and drives me.

That said, Neutrog would be nothing without the people that have made up our workforce over the years and creating a business that gives me the capacity to provide jobs for people in a regional area, makes me immensely proud.

**How left-of-field was your decision to go down the organic route back in 1988? It seems like a no-brainer these days?**

Back then it was viewed as a very “out-there” approach, considering at the time traditional broadacre farmers were very fixed on using synthetic fertilisers. However, in the horticulture industry, chicken manure had been relied upon for generations and it was this group who helped Neutrog to establish ourselves as a trusted partner.

I realised early on that the farmers and growers who purchased our products were putting a great deal of trust in us insofar as they were reliant on the performance of our products to earn their living in order to feed their families. This is a responsibility that I have taken very seriously since inception and still exists as much now as it did then. As such, we have always done everything in our power to produce top quality products that can be relied upon to perform.

**What does Neutrog do to exist within the circular economy?**

We work to help solve critical sustainability problems at a local, national and international level. In doing so, we play a role in addressing one of the world’s most pressing challenges—that of feeding a growing global population at a time of diminishing arable land.

Neutrog solves an important environmental issue of managing bio-waste from chicken production facilities in SA. We do this by taking receipt of chicken litter (which is the bedding material from a chicken shed) and re-purposing it into valuable biological and **1/3** nutritional farm and garden products.



Our products are used by farmers, growers and gardeners to address issues of nutrient deficiency in soil, plant stress and overall land productivity, without the need for traditional chemical treatments.

### **You're on a bit of a tear lately—talk me through some recent highlights.**

We are right in the midst of a major growth phase. Last year we made our first business acquisition, that of liquid fertiliser manufacturer Rutec in Tamworth. We also announced our plans to build a new Research and Education facility in SA.

Earlier this year we released a new premium super compost called CHOCKABLOK which has quickly become one of our most successful new product launches.

This all comes as we are sending record quantities of our product overseas to horticultural and agricultural producers in Vietnam and Cambodia as well as expanding into other new markets.

### **How is the American market for Neutrog?**

America represents exciting opportunities for us. Our biological inoculant, POPUL8, is being trialled in almond orchards in the US and given the US represents over 80 per cent of global almond production, the potential we see in this industry alone is very exciting. There are also broader opportunities across other primary production, particularly given consumer-led pressure to improve both the quality and quantity of food, using environmentally sustainable and responsible methods.

### **And New Zealand?**

New Zealand is a fascinating market due to its proximity, climate and the intensity of its farming practices. Intensive food production has unique challenges in managing pathogens. Being able to offer solutions to farmers to manage those challenges is one of our main drivers. The development of our new laboratory at Kanmantoo, with a BC2 laboratory (which allows us to conduct trials using soil and microbes from overseas) will be a gateway to not only New Zealand, but other export markets.



Angus Irwin  
Neutrog's Managing Director  
ARA and RSSA Life Member

# URAILA SHOW

## URAILA SHOWGROUNDS

### Sunday, 2nd November



**Exhibit with us!**  
**Show-off the Rose**  
**Mingle with members**  
**Experience a country show**

**See the Show Schedule on the  
Society's website**  
[www.sarose.org.au](http://www.sarose.org.au)  
**in October or contact**  
**Gavin Woods**  
**gbwoods@adam.com.au**



## *Neutrog Continued...*

**Talk me through your plans for the Adelaide Hills education facility. Why is that important?**

There is a lot of interest in what we do, and we currently host more than 1500 site visitors per year. Demand for education in this space continues to grow across industries, schools and the community. We are also increasingly involved in cutting edge R&D, often in collaboration with universities. The new research and education facility will expand our current on-site laboratory capacity four-fold and has capacity to accommodate 80 people in the adjacent education space.

**You're still heading the business after all this time. When do you think you'll pass on the reins?**

That's not something on my radar right now. The possibilities for Neutrog feel limitless, and I am so excited by what lies ahead that it makes it very hard to imagine not being here as it all unfolds.

**What else is in the pipeline for Neutrog?**

We're in such a dynamic growth stage that the pipeline is constantly expanding. One particularly exciting initiative involves our collaboration with UniSA. Our R&D team is working with UniSA on a research project into how individual microbes from Neutrog's storage bank can play a role in human antibiotic resistance, which is a huge issue worldwide.

**3/3**

# Volunteers in the International Rose Garden

*With Deb Curtis*



I have my fingers crossed for a spectacular Spring showing in the International Rose Garden this year after a mammoth effort by volunteer pruners in Winter. Together, we managed to do 147.25 hours of pruning with only one day cancelled due to poor weather. How fortunate we were. A special thanks to those who helped.

We finished the financial Year on a high note with our statistics of work being up a little from the previous year. We worked 35 sessions and put in a total of 1271 hours! Adelaide Botanic Garden Senior Horticultural Curator, Andy Hart says this is equivalent to the work of a full-time staff member working about 33.5 weeks. This is an outstanding effort. A little spin-off from this, I'm told, is that it reflects very positively on The Rose Society of South Australia. Our core volunteer group is comprised of Society members.

We will resume deadheading in October. Regulars tell me that they take pride in working in a garden, considered by the World Federation of Rose Societies to be a Garden of Excellence. They find it satisfying helping present a rose garden enjoyed by people from across the State and overseas. They also enjoy the friendships and the relatively gentle exercise involved.

It's time to get yourself organised if you would like to spend time with us in the IRG this year. You'll need clean, sterilised and sharp secateurs, sturdy footwear, a hat and a water bottle. You will also need to agree to abide by the regulations of Adelaide Botanic Garden. I don't think you will find these to be onerous. You are also welcome to bring along a sense of humour. If you are interested in joining in and spending some time in the IRG please contact me for more information.



*Deborah Curtis*

Supervisor of the Volunteers in IRG

On behalf of The Rose Society of South Australia

[curtisnd@internode.on.net](mailto:curtisnd@internode.on.net)

0408 474 977

## South East Branch

### *Special report by Annie Clifford*

We were off and racing towards planting even more roses in our gardens after our August meeting, inspired by Senior Manager of Grounds at Gardens at Flemington Racecourse, Mick Ryan.

Mick, accompanied by wife Dianne, spoke of his passion for roses and told us it began at an early age while helping his mum in the garden with her roses. In secondary school, in 1989, he secured work experience at Flemington Racecourse. This led to him leaving school and gaining an apprenticeship and full-time employment at Flemington in 1990. He was under the guidance and watchful eye of Terry Freeman, Manager of Grounds and Gardens at Flemington at the time. Thirty-five years later Mick is still there, living on site and on call 24/7.

We were treated to a slide show—*Passion for roses. The gardens that stop a nation*. We learnt that the history of Flemington Racecourse hails back to 1840 when the first race meeting was held and where, on 7 November 1880, the first Melbourne Cup was run. During the 1880s, Cork Elms and Plane Trees were planted on the grounds which were nothing but marshlands. The main lawns and gardens were planted in the 1890s under the management of Robert Bagot and Byron Moore who were the first arborists at Flemington. Soon, in 1909, Flemington Racecourse became one of the great racecourses in the World, according to *The Advertiser* in 1909.

When Mick started work at Flemington there were 6000 roses. Today, there are 17,000 roses and by 2030 it is envisaged there will be 20,000 roses. Heritage Victoria needs to give the OK before anything is planted at Flemington. There are 100 varieties of roses planted and out of those roses **Gold Bunny** is the first to flower and the last to finish—very appropriate for the Gold Cup!



A talk by Mick Ryan was a coup for the South East Branch. Some of the 40-plus members and guests who attended the meeting are pictured.



The roses at Flemington Racecourse attract enthusiasts and professional photographers from throughout the world.

Our photo: Adam Calaitzis (istock).

Pruning of the roses begins in April each year and is completed in August, taking 18 weeks to get the job done fully. The roses are also cut back in Summer and Autumn to promote new growth. Mick prefers to employ young pruners who haven't pruned before so as they can be taught the correct way to prune. Mick also suggests that a rose has a lifespan of 14 years before it needs to be replaced. To keep the grounds in tip-top shape, it takes a team of three Managers (one the Senior Manager—Mick), 16 gardeners and two arborists.

Some of Mick's favourite roses at Flemington are *Pierre de Ronsard*, *Crepuscule*, *Gold Bunny*, *Seduction* (climber) and *Cathedral City*. Mick also loves roses with a perfume. His love of roses and Flemington was obvious, his commitment and dedication truly inspiring.

RIGHT:

Mick Ryan during his talk and demonstration at Coonawarra Lodge on 8th August 2025.



## Other interesting tidbits about the grounds at Flemington

Flemington Racecourse has 3100 trees, 18 hectares of ground lawns, several kilometres of irrigation lines and more than 3 kilometres of hedges. Hundreds of display plants are used for race days and special events.

# Chaffey Rose Club

*Text by Dale Kerin*



Shann Hausler &  
Fleur Carthew



Fleur Carthew shares expertise and tips on  
pruning at Olivewood Historical Homestead.



Penelope Schulz  
RSSA's Chaffey Liaison

The pruning, fertilizing and mulching of our gardens has been completed and we have had a little rain and a couple of warmer days in the Riverland, so the roses are shooting up. Hopefully, we will not get too many more frosts before we say goodbye to wintry weather.

Or Soup/Bread Lunch held in Berri at Santospirito, the home of Charlene and Bill Santos, was quite cold, but we all enjoyed the great soups, different breads, great views and garden, friendships and sharing.

Next was our Pruning Demonstration held at Olivewood Historical Homestead in Renmark, where Fleur Carthew shared her knowledge on pruning and tips, as well as what works for her in her garden. We shared lots of laughs and fun moments then finished having afternoon tea in Olivewood's Museum. It was lovely that our Council Liaison, Penelope Schulz, travelled up from the Barossa to share in this activity with us.

Our next outing was to Loxton on a lovely sunny day for a visit to two gardens and lunch. The first garden was interesting with lots of quirky areas throughout and a shade house entertainment area, large trees, lawns and a large variety of plants. We lunched on the Murray River Queen Paddleboat, now moored in Loxton. We enjoyed great views and good food before visiting Jacki Westbrook's garden at Medea House. This historic property, built in the late 1800s, has terraced gardens overlooking the Murray River. One feature of the home is its original Stone Cellar. Outside, low stone walls compliment hedges, statues, urns, large archways, tall trees, expansive lawns, shrubs, and old implements. There's even a windmill.

Coming Events: 23–24 September, overnight trip to Adelaide to visit Carrick Hill; 10–19 October, Riverland Rose and Garden Festival; November, day outing (local); 12 December, Chaffey Rose Club Christmas breakup.

## Let us look to the year ahead and prosper

2025 is slipping past at a furious rate and with mid Spring rose activities and Christmas on the horizon, things will speed up even more. One could be forgiven for failing to think about how to contribute to the Society over this period and in 2026, but please don't. We need you.

This flashed through my thoughts when reading the Editor's piece in the 2025 edition of The Australian Rose Annual. Sue Young was urging contributions for 2026. That deadline for that is nigh. As I coordinate the Society's contributions to the national publication, I welcome discussing possibilities with our members from now until mid-November.



I believe the vitality of publications like The Australian Rose Annual and the Bulletin is very important now. The Ukraine-Russian conflict, the horrors of Gaza, turmoil in the US, and the shifting sands of misinformation are exhausting. Sadly, we are powerless to turn any of that around. However, we can shrug off the malaise it all seems to create by working to counter challenges closer to home and enjoying positive pursuits.

As a Society, we have an ageing membership base. The upside of this is that we have tremendous wealth of experience and knowledge among members. I know every member has something they could contribute to the Bulletin, so please contact me to discuss it and make writing it a New Year's resolution. However, you don't have to be an expert to share. A novice's experience, whether it be sharing details of a visit to a special garden or thoughts about a particular rose, are gold.

Many contributed this past year—thank you. I especially thank Benedetta Rusconi for allowing us to use her stunning photographs, among them the cover of the second edition, and for the piece on photography in this edition.

Editing the Bulletin is a privilege and greatly extends one's knowledge of the rose and the Society. However, it is a challenge—doing justice to the efforts of our President, Secretary, Treasurer and fellow Councillors on the pages is impossible. Each has also had a substantial impact on the content and some have contributed.

Finally and of great importance to me, has been the proofreading of the magazine by Wendy Trimper, Bev Scott and Sharyn Perrin. I am sure members would extend their gratitude if they were witness to the "pick-ups". Luckily for me, they don't and my proofreaders remain discreet.

I wish you all a pleasant Christmas and I hope that Santa tucks either a potted rose or a voucher to buy a rose under your Christmas tree, especially if you are contributing to the Bulletin in 2026 and making a positive difference!

*Celia*

# Bulletin deadlines for 2026

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

## 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 jpgs of 1MB to 10MB in size. The earlier you make your bookings and provide your materials the better from a production perspective.

### EMU PICTURES

#### CUSTOM PICTURE FRAMING SERVICES

10% Discount for Rose Society Members

Watercolours, Oil Paintings, Acrylics, Pastels, Charcoals, Tapestries, Cross Stitches, Photos, Prints, Posters, Certificates and Memorabilia...

We can print your own digital or phone camera pictures on Epson Photographic Papers up to A2 or 17 inch (43cm) width, ready to be framed.

Choose from the latest in contemporary frame and mount styles, or traditional styles.

Best quality materials, equipment and workmanship guaranteed.

**Come and see us at 17 Broughton Avenue, Mitcham SA 5062**

**Phone 8272 9668 or 0404 835 657 Email [emupic@bigpond.net.au](mailto:emupic@bigpond.net.au)**



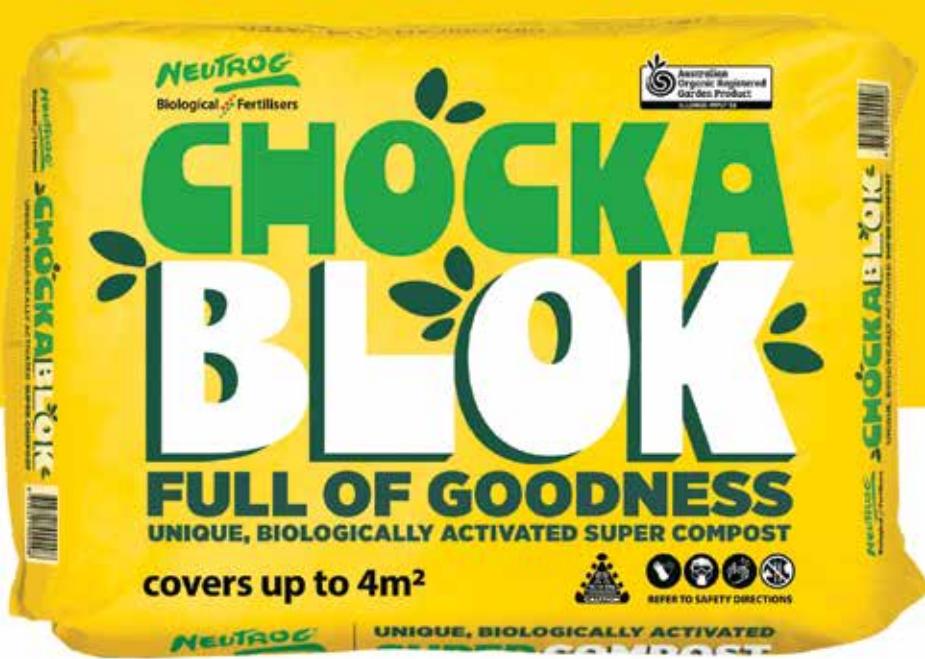
BACK COVER **Burgundy Iceberg** by Celia Painter

Some love it, others not-so, because the bloom of this Floribunda can fade to dirty brown colours. In the Adelaide Hills area where this rose grows, blooms on the bush and others within the district seem to glow with consistently lively plum, raspberry and violet colours. The reverse of its petals is much lighter in colour.

**Burgundy Iceberg** is a sport of **Brilliant Pink Iceberg**, discovered in the late 1990's. It quickly made it to the US where it is sold commercially.

UNIQUE, BIOLOGICALLY ACTIVATED

# SUPER COMPOST



Perfect for all plant types, all year round!

Packed with nutrients, biology and humates, CHOCKABLOK improves soil structure, aeration, and moisture retention while enriching the soil with essential nutrients.

CHOCKABLOK is free from green waste, supports healthy plant growth, boosts microbial activity, and encourages earthworms.

# *Burgundy Iceberg*



**New website**  
[www.sarose.org.au](http://www.sarose.org.au)

**Members**

**The User Name and Password  
are provided upon joining.**

