



The Rose Society of South Australia Inc

Bulletin

Volume 63, Number 4

Oct, Nov, Dec 2024



Black Caviar

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

Calendar of Events

October

Tuesday 15th 7pm Exhibitor's Workshop, Goodman Building, Adelaide Botanic Garden.

Saturday and Sunday 19th and 20th Spring Rose Show, Garden Grove, Golden Grove.

November

Saturday and Sunday 9th and 10th Australian Rose Championships, Melbourne (Mt Waverley Community Centre). See <https://rose.org.au>

Saturday and Sunday 16th and 17th Combined Branches meeting, Penola. Return bus trip from Adelaide leaves on Friday 17th. See page 13. Note change of dates to those published in the last edition.

Tuesday 19th 7pm Members' Meeting, Goodman Building, Adelaide Botanic Garden. New rose releases with Brian Wagner and Daniel Knight.

December

Sunday 1st 12.30pm Christmas Lunch, Auchendarroch House, Mt Barker.

We welcome new members and look forward to meeting you

Jane MacNaught and Alistair Shield of Norton Summit; Maria and Mario De Ieso of Mt Barker; GE Rohrsheim, Unley; Jan Teate, Naracoorte; Irene Quay and Foong Lo, Adelaide, and another who has asked their name not be published.

Highlights in this edition

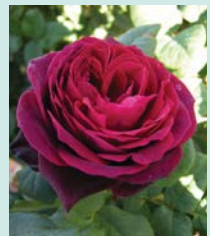
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COVER PHOTO **Black Caviar**, Courtesy Knight's Roses

Black Caviar, bred by Hans Jurgen Evers in Germany in 1997 and introduced in Australia by Knight's Roses in 2012, is a Shrub rose. This picture pays homage to an iconic racehorse whose loss this year is lamented by many. **Black Caviar** is among roses featured in our Race day favourites Downunder article on pages 30 and 31.





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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This and previous editions of The Rose Society of South Australia's *Bulletin* are available to members in digital format in the Members' area of the Society's website 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
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ISSN 2653-7338 (digital)
ISSN 2653-732X (print)

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PRINTED by Eureka Printers, Kidman Park, South Australia

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A message from the President, Gavin Woods ARA

As our roses awake from their winter slumber and present us with the wondrous display that is the Spring flush of bloom, so too our Society enters a period of frenzied and sustained activity.

With General meetings, Council meetings, our Spring Show, Uraidla Show, Combined Branches meeting, National Rose Society AGM and our Christmas luncheon; members have an opportunity to fully engage with the Society and our beloved Rose. Many members enjoy the friendships created through our gatherings; others learn much about the many aspects of rose appreciation through participation in these events. In my view, full value of our membership only comes through participation.

A new Council has been appointed to steer the Society through the coming year. My thanks to the returning Councillors particularly; we have a great team! Jen McCormick has retired from Council and is thanked for her contribution. Returning to Council after short absences are Melanie Trimper and John Humphries; both are strong contributors and will complement our team well. We are excited to have Harriet Eivers along for the ride! Harriet, along with Tate Hancox, represent the future of our Society and will bring fresh ideas to our decision processes.

We have been saddened by the passing of several members over the past months, including that of Walter Duncan ARA, SMA, WRA. Walter was the youngest ever President of our Society with membership spanning over 60 years. The garden created by Walter and Kay at Gillentown is a testament to their ability and a wonderful homage to the Rose. Rest in peace Walter.

Those who have ventured into the International Rose Garden will have noticed that several rose beds have been emptied; with soil remediation in progress awaiting re-planting in the winter of 2025. Diane vom Berg, Merv Trimper and I are assisting Andy Hart and the Botanic Gardens staff members to present a garden truly worthy of the *Garden of Excellence* moniker.

Kim and I had the great privilege of attending the Regional and Heritage Convention of the World Federation of Rose Societies in Kalmar, Sweden, in July. A very well-run event, full of interesting and educational lectures as well as tours to wonderful gardens, the Convention was attended by several Australians as well as Rosarians from across the globe. Our 20th World Convention, in Japan next year, promises to be a superb event!

Prior to the Convention, Kim and I spent three weeks in London and rural England, with highlights being the Royal Cheshire Show, where I indulged my passion for exhibition poultry, followed by a judging appointment at the UK Rose Society's Summer Show. The show was stunning, held in a marquee at Squires Nursery in Shepparton with Colin Squire providing the venue and a seated three course luncheon for all officials and exhibitors; something he has done for 47 years!

I very much look forward to welcoming you to our events during the coming season.

Gavin

ROSE SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA
***2024 SPRING
ROSE SHOW***
AT GARDEN GROVE

1150 GOLDEN GROVE ROAD, GOLDEN GROVE

On Saturday 19th Oct and Sunday 20th Oct 2024

***Help
Needed***

NO PRIOR ENTRY REQUIRED

ENTER ON THE DAY

INSTRUCTIONS IN THE SCHEDULE

<https://sarose.org.au>



New format for entries at RSSA Shows

After many years of work as Entry Coordinators for our Shows, Chris and Pam Kelly have decided to retire from this role. Chris and Pam accepted all our entries, collated them, produced the documentation required and then entered the results into the Show software to produce prize cards and lists of awards. This was a monumental job which they undertook with professionalism and with a smile.

As we have been unable to find a replacement for their roles and given the likelihood of not being able to stage a Spring Rose Show; Council has endorsed a different approach, outlined below. This method is tried and tested as it has been used with great success by the Dahlia Society of SA for over 30 years.

Prior entries will only be accepted for Floral Art and the Championship classes (Class 1, 2, 3) with all other Cut Flower entries accepted at the time of staging.

It will simply be a matter of bringing your exhibits and placing them on the show benches at the areas designated for that class. We anticipate that some movement of exhibits will be required and that fine-tuning of the new system will follow, however with the calm cooperation of exhibitors and officials, we know that this system has many benefits including time and resource saving.

Exhibitors should understand the following guidelines:

- Blank Exhibit Cards will be available. Class number and Cultivar (Varietal) name to be written on the FRONT of the card with the exhibitors name to be written on the BACK.
- Exhibit Cards are to be affixed to the container (horticultural vase or bottle) using clear “sticky tape”. The container will need to be dry in order to do this. Exhibitors should provide their own towels and tape. *This modification will minimise any confusion if exhibits are moved.*
- Containers will be filled with water by exhibitors, no pre-filling of bottles will occur.
- Completed exhibits are placed on the show bench at the allocated space for each class. *Benches will be marked using a “best guess” methodology based on our previous experience.*
- If an exhibitor finds the allocated space is full, with no room for their exhibit, the Show Manager or other allocated official should be advised, and further space will be created.
- 30 minutes prior to judging, ALL exhibitors should be available at which time the Show Manager will supervise the re-arrangement of exhibits to ensure that a pleasing display is created and that all exhibits can be assessed for judging. ONLY allocated officials and exhibitors are permitted to rearrange exhibits.
- Judging will commence only when the Show Manager is happy with the arrangement of exhibits.
- Judging sheets will record prize-winners, no record of all exhibits will be required.

It is anticipated that exhibitors will stage more flowers using this method as prior entry will be unnecessary. We will again explain this process at our October Members Meeting. Further clarification can be sought from our President and Chief Judge Gavin Woods, who has used this system extensively.

Society collaborates with Ironwood Institute

Pictures by Paul Flavel



Merv Trimper (front and centre), with RSSA pruning instructors and Ironwood students at the International Rose Garden at Adelaide Botanic Garden.



Laurel Fedorowysch, pictured with Ironwood students, shared decades of experience.



Michael Elwood demonstrating how it's done.

The Rose Society of South Australia extended its reach into the community in June by sharing expertise with 65-plus students of Ironwood Institute, educators in horticulture and agriculture.

Merv Trimper led a day of instruction for the students, providing an introductory lecture at the International Rose Garden before the students were divided into groups to learn further from highly experienced Society pruners. Those joining Merv in this were Wendy Trimper, Michael Elwood, Laurel Fedorowysch, Penelope Schulz, Les Johnson and John Bradshaw. Paul Flavel assisted.

The students had the chance to learn how to approach pruning Hybrid Teas, Climbers, Floribundas and Shrub Roses.

Of mixed knowledge and skilled levels, this gave the students a rare opportunity to learn from some of South Australia's best rose growers and pruners.

Possible future collaborations of the Society and Ironwood will be considered.

Tournament tops off AGM and July meeting



President Gavin Woods, pictured with Secretary Diane vom Berg, presiding over the Annual General Meeting.



Pam Kelly, Maureen and John Humphries and Gwen Moxham during the quiz.



Who better than Michael Elwood to be Quiz Master?

A Tournament of Roses, devised by Tate Hancox and delivered by Quiz Master Michael Elwood, saw teams of members joust for bottles of fine wine, organised by competition coordinator, Penelope Schulz, as well as books and chocolates.

Questions ranged from relatively easy inquiries to twisters that tested the confidence of many a seasoned rosarian.

The Tournament of Roses followed the Annual General Meeting. Gavin Woods thanked Jen McCormick who retired from Council. Other Office Bearer and most other Council positions were filled by existing Councillors. John

Continued next page



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.**

Tournament of Roses and July meeting cont'd

Humphries generously came out of a well-earned "retirement" from Council and accepted the position of Vice President, and Melanie Trimper returned to the Council team, taking up the Publicity Officer position. President, Gavin Woods, had earlier recalled a year packed with activities and sad losses in his President's Report.

The Treasurer's Report and Financial Statement, provided at the meeting, showed that the Society had built on previous financial successes, ending the year in a strong financial position. A copy of the statements can be provided by Treasurer, Paul Flavel.

A regular Members' Meeting was then held with Les Johnson giving the Cultural Notes and Merv Trimper judging and announcing the winners of the Bench Competition, increasingly a highlight of Members' Meetings.

Benchtop entries in July despite months of wintry weather



BEST ROSE—Les Johnson, *Jean Ducher* (pictured).

A Grade—1st Gavin Woods, **Unknown**, a pretty pink Miniature a little like *Minnie Pearl*, good straight stem and foliage of a high standard for this time of year; 2nd Ken and Gwen Moxham with **Gold Bunny**.

B Grade—1st Penelope Schultz with the appropriately named **Tournament of Roses**; 2nd: Les Johnson, **The Allies** (Australian Bred, 1930—another interesting rose rarely seen).

Heritage—1st Les Johnson with a fine example of *Jean Ducher* (Tea 1874); 2nd Sharyn Perrin, **General Gallieni** (Tea 1899).

Rambling Rosarians

Last Chance!

Register your interest now if you wish to join the Rambling Rosarians for the Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show and other gardens and attractions in March 2025.

Contact Rambling Rosarian Coordinator, Wendy Trimper, by emailing mwtrimper@internode.on.net or text 0419 803 708

Pruning demos remain a perennial favourite

Cold and at times rain threatening conditions seemed not to deter interest in the Society's 2024 pruning demonstrations, held as the June meeting.

Hot on the heels of the Ironwood instructional day, Merv Trimper also led the pruning demonstration for members of the public at the International Rose Garden at the end of June. He was supported by Wendy Trimper, Deb Curtis, David Sonntag, Penelope Schulz and Tate Hancox. Sharyn Perrin and Joy Johnson provided welcome hot cuppas and biscuits.



Merv Trimper led the pruning demo for the public at the International Rose Garden.

In early July, the Evanston Gardens home of Society member Lyn Williams was “the ticket”, giving learners a chance to be guided by some of the best, including Les Johnson, Deb Curtis and Tate Hancox. There was a trading table too, with the Cancer Council the beneficiary.



Cathy Woods, Arisa Matsuura and Tracy Zilm at the International Rose Garden pruning day.

Further afield, in Naracoorte, Tate Hancox drew the interest of approximately 60 people who gathered at The Homestead in mid-July to learn of approaches to pruning four different varieties around the garden.

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Christmas 2024

Join us at Auchendarroch House

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

12.30pm

Sunday, 1st December

\$75 per person

Bookings through the RSSA are essential.

Complete the booking form enclosed in this edition and send it to the RSSA's Treasurer, Paul Flavel. Details are on the form.



Join us for the Combined Branches Meeting

A treat for all to celebrate the South East Branch's 30th birthday

The Rose Society of South Australia is “shouting” a return bus trip from Adelaide to Penola to attend a Combined Branches meeting and 30th Birthday Celebrations of the South East Branch in November.

The bus will depart Adelaide on the morning of Friday 15th November and return late on Sunday 17th November. The intervening times will be packed with opportunities to meet or catch-up with members, see local sites and gardens, raise a glass or two to the South East Branch and discuss matters of mutual interest.

South East President, Marjorie Todd, is looking forward to welcoming guests for their milestone celebration which will include a casual night of food and fun at Coonawarra Motor Lodge on the Friday night and a dinner on Saturday night.

Visits to St Mary's Vineyard, which is participating in the Open Gardens SA that weekend, and lovely gardens of a couple of local members will be among other highlights. There will also be an opportunity to explore Penola.

Society President, Gavin Woods, says the South East is the ideal spot for the Combined Branches Meeting—the first combined meeting since pre-COVID days—because of its high concentration of members, rosarians with special expertise and beautiful roses, and the branch's active history, deserving of celebration.

The South East Branch has organised catering for the two evening meals and Sunday lunch at a cost of \$100 per person. All other costs including accommodation, breakfasts, drinks, a \$10 entry fee to St Mary's Vineyard, plus lunch from food trucks at St Mary's Vineyard, need to be paid for by members as they are incurred. Note that the booking process and payment arrangements differ to those of Rambling Rosarian trips.

On the Road to Penola: how to book and pay for the trip

1. **Want to join the bus? By 5pm 9th October**, advise RSSA Secretary, Diane vom Berg, rssasecretary@gmail.com. If you don't use email, phone Diane on 0416 073 957.
2. Book your accommodation at the Coonawarra Motor Lodge for the nights of 15th and 16th November 2024, **by 5pm 9th October 2024**. Phone 0481 825 277. State that you a booking one of the rooms reserved by the Rose Society of South Australia. First in, first served. You will need to book other accommodation in Penola if you miss out on securing a room there.
3. Advise and pay the South East Branch \$100 per person **by 5pm on 9th October 2024**. Direct deposits (and cheques) to The South Australian Rose Society South Eastern Branch BSB 105-070 Acct 023416640. Use your surname and 30th in the description or reference. The Treasurer is Jill Collins, 0409 255 811, normancollins@bigpond.com.
4. If you have special dietary needs, advise South East Branch President, Marjorie Todd, **by 5pm 9th October 2024**, by emailing matapara@active8.net.au.
5. Email Marjorie Todd, as above, or phone her on 0428 440 413 if you have questions.

For the love of a treasured son, lost too soon,

Text by Melanie Trimper

Bruce and Denise Morcombe OAM, arguably the most notable champions of child safety in Australia, visited Knight's Roses in June to launch *Time To Talk*; the name of their 7580km sojourn across Australia to mark the 20th anniversary of The Daniel Morcombe Foundation Inc.



Bruce Morcombe OAM with Natasha from Knight's Roses, Denise Morcombe OAM and Daniel Knight at Knight's Roses, Evanston Gardens.

10cm in size. These are carried on long, straight stems throughout the growing season. The blooms have a slight fragrance. They are prized for cut flower arrangements, lasting well over a week.

The bush is similarly attractive. It's tall (1.5 to 2m), upright in stature and has glossy

And talk the Morcombes did. They interacted with 1600 Aussie children during lesson time over a 21-day journey, giving youngsters guidance about how to stay safe, as well as chatting with those at Knight's.

The visit to Knight's had been a fitting launch point as it provided Denise and Bruce with an opportunity to thank Daniel Knight and his team for launching the Gold Medal Hybrid Tea, **Daniel Morcombe**, in 2014, providing a donation to the Daniel Morcombe Foundation Inc for each rose sold.

Many a rosarian across Australia will have seen examples of this rose on show benches, or they have had the pleasure of its blooms in their garden. They are dark red, velvety, and of classic exhibition form with a high pointed centre which opens to approximately

Day for Daniel
Friday 25th October
www.danielmorcombe.com.au

and children and families throughout Australia

green leaves. It is relatively disease resistant, and it performs well in our hot summers.

Daniel Morcombe could be described as a classic red rose of love. For the Morcombes, it symbolises their deep and enduring love for their son, abducted and murdered in 2003, while waiting for a bus on Queensland's Sunshine Coast.

Denise and Bruce extend their thanks to everyone who has bought or will buy the rose, memorialising a young life taken too soon, and supporting their ongoing work to keep Australian kids safe from harm fate.

Each purchase has helped build The Daniel Morcombe Foundation Inc into a leading advocate for child safety in Australia. Founded by Denise and Bruce, the Foundation's mission encourages personal safety through education, and provides support services and advocacy. Foremost among these is the *Daniel Morcombe Child Safety Curriculum*, a program delivered in schools, and pursuing policymakers to implement stronger child protection laws.

For 20 years Bruce and Denise have been carrying out measures to safeguard children, help victims and support families of missing people. They have many different and tailored programs, often delivered in partnership with local schools and community organisations. All this requires innovative fundraising.

The Daniel Morcombe Foundation Inc and its programs are testament to the resilience and unwavering dedication of the Morcombes, who channeled their grief into a mission that aims to protect children and maintain a lasting legacy for their son

Daniel Knight from Knight's Roses says he is "extremely proud" to support the Foundation's work through royalties derived from the sale of this stunning rose. Since 2014, a total of \$34,456 has been paid to the Foundation from rose sales. By reports from fundraisers with extensive experience in securing and marketing charity roses, this is a phenomenal result. The charity advises that its facebook posts for the rose are the second most popular of its posts.

Photo of Daniel Morcombe Rose: Knight's Roses

Member's Pick

Flinders—Shrub

*Text & photos
by Corina Gul*



My *Flinders* rose, bred by the late George Thomson, is growing behind a short hedge at the front of our garden. Originally, I had planted five *Hans Heysen* standard roses in this spot. But when I saw how pretty *Hans Heysen* turned out, I knew I needed to move them to the backyard, away from prying eyes and straying hands coming from the street-side of the hedge. I quickly found *Flinders* as a replacement.

Initially, *Flinders* grows to about my knee's height. She is a spreading rose and can be used as a ground cover if needed.

In my garden, *Flinders* is right at home next to the front lawn where she is shielded from the footpath behind the Japanese Boxus hedge. She is flanked on both sides by purple and mauve lavender.

Flinders has very few prickles and the flowers grow in clusters. They are mid-pink, tiny, the largest being slightly bigger than a 50 cent coin, and there are many of them. The blooms last three to five days.

Flinders is very low maintenance and will repeat flower throughout the season. For this reason, she is a good landscaping rose. She has very little prickles and can grow to up to 90cm in my garden. The spread is 1 to 1.5m.

This rose is very lightly perfumed; but not to worry, she is surrounded by so many sweet smelling herbs and lavenders that when I approach her in the morning or evening, I find myself standing in the prettiest and sweetest smelling patch in the garden.



Flinders can be viewed at Urrbrae House Rose Garden. Access is via a garden gate at 30, Claremont Avenue, Urrbrae. For more about the history of this lovely garden, see this link <https://www.adelaide.edu.au/waite-historic/urrbrae-house-gardens/the-rose-garden>.

Rose of the Month

July—*Valencia*, Hybrid Tea

Text & photo

by *Melanie Trimper*

Valencia is still popular today after nearly 40 years. This is a very satisfying rose to grow in your home garden. You will be completely captivated by the large, fragrant blooms which are produced month after month throughout the season. The tall upright growth habit and strong stems, classic exhibition style form and long lasting blooms make **Valencia** a great cut flower. It has a sweet rose fragrance which **Valencia** won the “Henry Edland Gold Medal for Fragrance” in UK trials. **Valencia** was bred by Kordes in Germany prior to 1987 and is well known worldwide.



One of the most popular Hybrid Tea roses in this colour, flowers are a rich amber-yellow produced on a strong, vigorous bush with tough, large, dark-green leathery foliage which shows good disease tolerance. The large blooms have 35–40 petals and are borne mostly solitary on strong straight stems.

This rose blooms in flushes throughout the season. Remove old spent blooms to encourage the next flush. The bush grows to 1.8m tall and 1.5m wide and creates a lovely display in the garden and as a cut flower.

Valencia is available for purchase in South Australia from Wagner’s Rose Nursery, and Treloar Roses, Garden Express and *rosesalesonline* in Victoria.

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Rose of the Month

August—*Oranges 'n' Lemons*[™] (MACoranlem) Floribunda/Shrub



*Text & photo
by Melanie Trimper*

The striking colourful rose *Oranges 'n' Lemons* was bred by Sam McGredy IV, in New Zealand, in 1985.

It is often said you either like striped coloured roses or you don't! Striped roses are eye-catching and make an excellent feature plant. Whether they have bold splashes of colour, streaks or flecks, the striped rose is a real novelty. Not only is every

flower different, but every petal is unique. *Oranges 'n' Lemons* is one of several "hand painted roses", a special range developed by renowned rose breeder the late Sam McGredy IV who bred some great roses in his 50-year career. With a talent for innovation, his priorities were colour and plant health, but he was also looking for novelty in his roses. The roses *Rock 'n' Roll* (1983), *Tropical Sunset* (1988) and *Oranges 'n' Lemons* (introduced in 1994) are regarded as some of his best achievements.

Oranges 'n' Lemons features striped bright orange and yellow fully double blooms (40 petals) with a mild fruity fragrance, produced in small clusters, in flushes throughout the season. The brightly coloured petals slowly fade to a peach colour. This variety can be used as a cut flower.

The bush is strong and vigorous reaching 1.5m to 2m, with slightly arching canes and leathery glossy foliage. This variety is a strong performer year after year, and our bush was still looking good after 28 years.

This rose is available from Garden Express, Silkies Rose Farm and rosesalesonline.com.au

Come out here where the roses have opened

Let soul and world meet Rami, 13C Persian poet



Rose of the Month

September—*Sophy's Rose* (AUSlot)

English Shrub

Text & photo
by *Melanie Trimper*

Sophy's Rose was bred by David Austin Snr. in the UK and was introduced in 1997.

Sophy's Rose is a proven performer with several great attributes to recommend it. It is a free flowering, strong and vigorous plant which excels in both hot and cold climates, producing a prolific number of rich cerise coloured blooms.



This rose has large (12cm), flat rosette-shaped blooms with up to 80 petals, complemented by a light tea rose fragrance, and it has excellent repeat flowering ability. It can be adapted to many garden uses, such as a mass planting, hedging, and it can be used as a container or feature plant.

In our sunny climate, this rose grows to 1.5m tall x 1.2m wide, with an upright and bushy growth habit. It is a great choice for a mixed border with blue and purple flowering plants like salvia, tall bearded iris or lavender as these colours harmonise well.

This rose is highly recommended as a graceful and romantic looking English Shrub Rose with reliable performance, good disease resistance and season-long flowering. It was named for Sophy, daughter of Wendy Fisher, the founder of the Dyslexia Institute charity in 1972.

Sophy's Rose is available from Knight's Roses, Gawler, knightsroses.com.au; Wagner's Rose Nursery wagnersrosenursery.com.au in South Australia and Silkies Rose Farm rosesalesonline.com.au in Victoria.

Awards:

Best Shrub Rose in the Trial

National Rose Trial Garden of Australia Adelaide 2002

Silver Medal

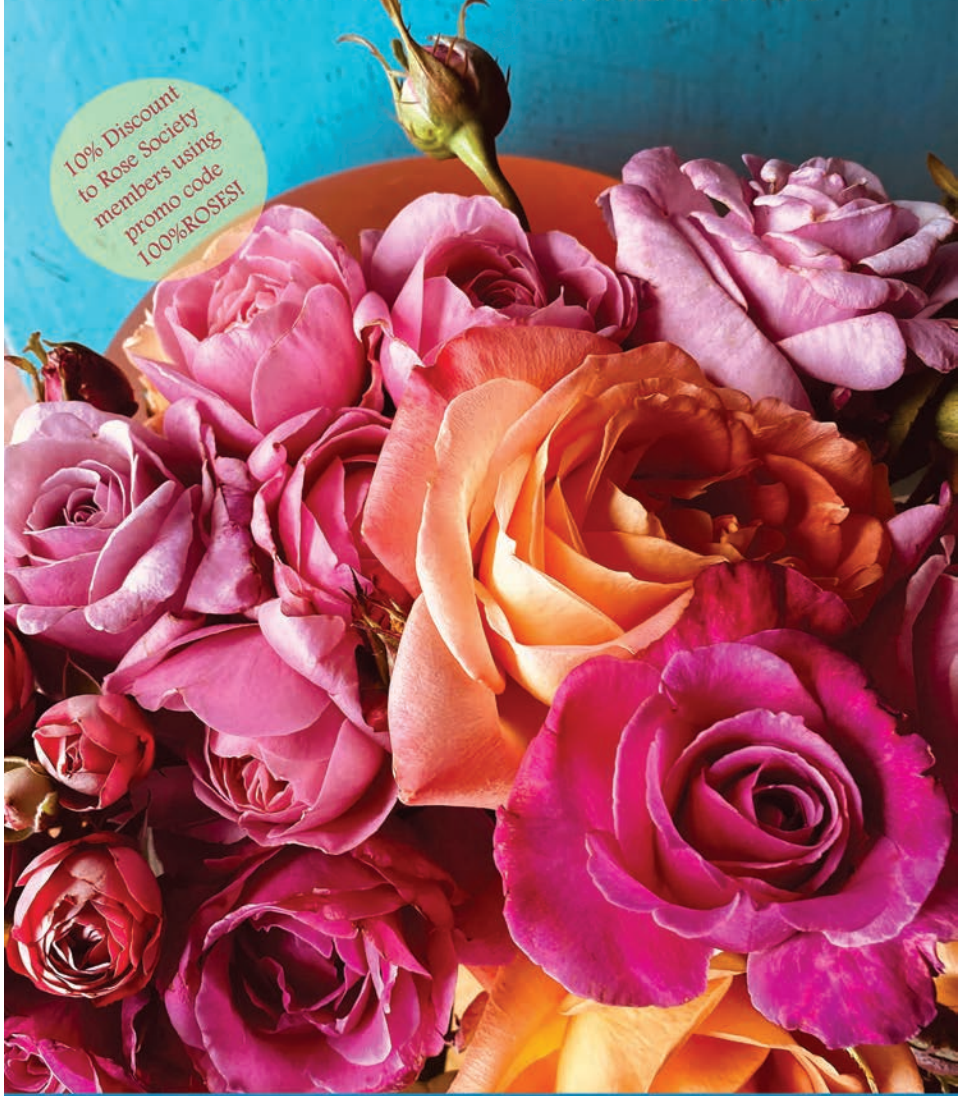
National Rose Trial Garden of Australia Adelaide 2002



Wagner's
ROSE NURSERY

Great selection of potted
and bare root roses
available online

10% Discount
to Rose Society
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promo code
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A tribute to Walter Duncan WRA ARA SMA

This eulogy was the tribute given by Malcolm Watson OAM WRA ARA NSA SMA WFRS Gold Medal upon the sad passing of one of South Australia's most respected rosarians, Walter Duncan WRA ARA SMA.

On Wednesday, the 26th August, 1908, an invitation was included in *The Advertiser* newspaper for rose growers to attend a meeting in the Waymouth Street premises of a Mr. John Creswell, for the purpose of forming a National Rose Society of South Australia. Mr. Creswell was at the time Secretary of the Royal Agricultural and Horticultural Society.



**Walter Duncan WRA ARA SMA
WFRS Gold Medal**

Passed away 16.07.2024

After a very successful launching on the Wednesday, a further meeting was called for the Thursday to adopt the constitution and rules of the Society. At this meeting, Mr. Harry Blinman was elected as our inaugural President. He was an Australian cricketer and cricket administrator, serving on the SACA Board for 50 years, being its President from 1940 until his death in 1950.

The Society's membership, of only men, could have been classed as coming from the upper echelons of South Australia's population and continued to prosper as one of South Australia's pre-eminent floricultural societies. Ladies were invited to meetings in November 1918 and started being elected to committees from 1935. Due to the Great War, the Great Depression and World War II, the Society went into recess.

Reforming some years later, membership once again constituted some of Adelaide's prominent citizens, including Knights of the Realm, members of the judiciary, the medical profession and men from the city. Vice Regal Patronage commenced and the position of Deputy Patron was often filled by the Lord Mayor of the City of Adelaide. Support also came from political circles—certainly not your average Joe gardener.

It was at this point that nurserymen—Copas, Geytenbeek, Kemp, Ross and Ruston—became more active in our group. The club met regularly and continued to stage its twice annual rose shows.

It was during the late 1950s that a young Walter Duncan's name appeared "in dispatches". He had already acquired an interest in growing things, becoming somewhat entrepreneurial with the sale of trees and plants. I understand that after breaking an arm, his mother, fittingly named Rose, was quite firm in that he wouldn't be just lying around recuperating for the next eight weeks, and thought it would be a good idea if he learned how to prune roses.

“He will be remembered as a gentle man, a man wi

Alex Ross from *Ross Roses* was conducting pruning demonstrations for members of the public at their Edwardstown Nursery, and Walt proved to be a very astute student—even with only one active arm. He and Mr. Ross became good friends, so Walter’s interest in growing roses developed. His association with the Ross family continued through Deane and Maureen.

Mr Ross had been contacted by the Waite Institute regarding the relocation of an existing rose garden, which fortuitously saw a surplus number of Tea rose bushes become available and given to Walter. These were taken home, planted and tendered and both he and his mother were as they say, hooked.

Mrs Duncan was a close friend with Nora Heysen from *The Cedars*, and Walt obliged when she needed flowers for her artwork. The supplying of blooms continued for some time, even when Nora relocated to Sydney. It may have been through this association that he developed his love of the Bourbon rose: ***Souvenir de la Malmaison***, the rose that featured in both his gardens at *Hughes Park* and *The Heritage*. Nora’s painting of this cultivar certainly captivated many rosarians.

When Walt first joined the Society as a young 20-year-old he received a rather luke-warm welcome from some of the Society members. They were not convinced that a young, inexperienced member could possess the ability to enthuse members of the public to become rose devotees, but he enthused and the Society prospered.

Walt undertook a number of roles within our Society including that of President, Vice President, Treasurer and editor of our quarterly newsletter that included a section on cultural notes. In the early days of his editorship, Walt was required to take his draft for approval before going to print. This didn’t go down very well with a young chap who had just completed his exams in Leaving Honours, English. This practice of getting approval from the previous editor didn’t last very long before Walt assumed full editorial rights and continued for the next 12 years.

One of our Presidents, during Walt’s time as a Vice President was, what we could say more of a figure-head, rather than a “doer” nor was he a very punctual person, so left the incumbent Secretary/Treasurer and Walt to virtually run the Society, which perhaps served him in good stead when he was elected President. Walt contributed many articles to our Society’s newsletter and also to The National Rose Society of Australia’s *Rose Annual*.

As we know, Walt was a perfectionist and that assisted him when he began exhibiting at the Society’s Shows. He was stewarding once in the exhibition rose classes and heard the Judge comment: “not in the race, no red roses”. As a good steward he didn’t comment, but never forgot. He went on to be very successful, winning more than five grand championships.

th a wonderful sense of humour and a gentleman.”



In Walter's and Kay's vision: a tapestry of colours and design at *The Heritage Garden*. Perhaps the most memorable image of the grace at *The Heritage Garden*.

When Walt established his nursery business he withdrew from exhibiting at the Society's Rose Shows. He was of the opinion that as a professional nurseryman, he should not invade the amateur ranks and decided to concentrate purely on the production of rose plants for sale.

Walt was actively involved in promotion of the rose and the Society. After receiving correspondence from the Adelaide City Council, Walt encouraged Members to contribute funds to enable the purchase of rose plants to establish a garden in Rymill Park, opposite Prince Alfred College. The venture was very successful and sufficient funds were raised to enable the City to purchase enough plants to complete the first planting.

He was also involved with the establishment of the International Rose Garden within the Adelaide Botanic Garden that was opened in 2000 and which recently received the Award of Garden Excellence from the World Federation of Rose Societies, as well as being involved in the establishment of the Chateau Barossa Queen's Rose Garden at Lyndoch in the Barossa Valley, officially opened by H.M. Queen Elizabeth II in 2002.

On the occasion of the Society's 50th anniversary, Walt initiated the importation of rose blooms from the Rose Society of Japan. It was the first time roses had been imported from the Orient for display at a Rose Show, and the joint venture was an outstanding success.

At one of Walt's early Open Days at the Heritage Garden, the Rose Society was invited to provide a promotional display. We were allocated a couple of trestle tables on the north-west area on the back verandah. It was another perfect Spring day and the roses were at their peak, particularly the climbing Bourbon rose **Madame Gregoire** at the corner of the verandah. It was a show-stopper. Walt, ever the entrepreneur, saw the possibility of selling plants of the rose, and made sure that at the next open day he had a supply. The Rose Society volunteers didn't let him down and sold them all.

Continued next page

The tribute to Walter Duncan continued.....



The Rose Society of South Australia rewarded Walt with Life Membership in 1976.

During the early years of my term as Society Secretary, I'd arranged for a coach load of members to travel to *Hughes Park* for one of Walt's now famous open days. All was well on a beautiful spring afternoon, until the coach became caught in the ford that gained access to the property. After a lot of huffing and puffing, it was Walt and some staff to the rescue. As they say, "problem solved" and we were off to view the fabulous garden that he had created.

Walt was an incredible host. He could have a garden full of gardeners all wanting a piece of him, and what a man of patience he was. No-one was ever too much trouble, nor their questions ever dispensed with. He made everyone feel as if they were the only one in the garden.

On many occasions when we visited at Open Day, he'd welcome you as only Walt would, take you for a tour to see the latest alterations that he and Kay had made, up past the poultry pavilion, past the canary aviary up to the sweet peas, over to the newly developed areas and then sneak back inside the house for a little quiet time. A time to cherish. These occasions were special. We would talk about the Society, what was happening, where we were headed as a group and these discussions always remained confidential. It was like an audience of the Prime Minister with the King.

Over the years our Society has conducted special weekend activities, one to celebrate our Centenary in 2008. We obtained approval from the World Federation of Rose Societies to host a Regional Convention with almost 400 registrants coming from both interstate and overseas. Walt was of course included as a speaker in our program of lectures. Our Keynote speaker commenced proceedings, and his lecture was accompanied by all the bells and whistles one had come to expect from this particular person, and he of course was a resounding success. Walt was up next. Unfortunately, there was an issue with the IT that was starting to take a little time to fix. The organizers were becoming a little anxious with the delay, but Walt was able to placate the audience, as only he could, by announcing that he felt like a batsman who had followed Don Bradman to the crease and got out for a duck—saved the day once again.

At another weekend event, that had a decidedly French theme, as our Keynote speaker was from a French rose breeding firm, Walt and Kay agreed to speak about the roses of love, in particular the Bourbon Roses. Their lecture was perfect of course, suitably addressing all the attributes of the Bourbons, including why they are considered to be the most fragrant and versatile plants, highlighting all of the points with subtle French anecdotes and humour. PERFECT yet again.

During his life, Walt gained a reputation throughout Australian and international rose grower circles, as a rosarian of renown, as a man who had excelled in promoting the rose. He received:

- The Australian Rose Award in 2007 from the National Rose Society of Australia for outstanding service in the promotion of the rose;
- The TA Stewart Award in 2008 for outstanding service to the rose in Australia or in New Zealand;
- And the World Rose Award in 2009 from the World Federation of Rose Societies for providing dedicated service to the rose through a Member Country and through conducting of promotional rose activities.

Throughout his life Walt has been a wonderful friend to many, and used his own love of horticulture, in particular roses, to enthuse so many individuals.

No matter where you saw Walt, whether it was having lunch at the Royal Overseas League in London, perhaps afternoon tea at Highclere Castle, in the Flower Pavilion at the Royal Adelaide Show, at the Adelaide Oval for a Test, the Rose Show at the Burnside Community Centre, the High Street in Clare or on the front lawn at the Heritage, he was always the same.

He will be remembered as such a kind gentle man, a man with a wonderful sense of humour and a gentleman.



OPEN DAY

In memory of Walter Duncan
Sunday 3rd November 2024
10am to 4pm

Proceeds to the RFDS
and SA Open Garden Scheme

Wander the gardens
Explore the stalls
Enjoy the food
Purchase some seeds

New Heritage Garden Embroidery
Kits will be released.

There will be book sales too but
be quick as they are nearly gone.

12 McCord Lane, Sevenhill SA 5453



Spring Culture Notes

Text by Les Johnson

As Spring announces its warmth and new growth emerges, the promise of blooms from our roses is the prime reason we grow roses. By now, pruning should be completed and garden beds weeded. A confession that this task was not completed this year. Not to worry as rose pruning can be missed for a year without major impact except for smaller stem growth for exhibitors. If roses are pruned late, you run the risk of losing the initial spring flush.

What is important is the clean-up spray of lime sulphur followed by an oil spray a fortnight later. This will ensure over-wintering insects and fungal spores are dealt with.

Watering

It is essential in their first year that new rose plantings are regularly checked and are not allowed to dry out. Their water requirements are higher than established plants. Potted roses also require regular checking and that the water is actually being absorbed by the soil. If you suspect the soil has become hydrophobic use a soil wetter or simply immerse your pot in a full container of water for an hour or so.

As your older roses spring into new growth, water requirements increase. Don't assume a few showers of rain are sufficient. Roses benefit from a deep soaking once a week. If using drippers check that the outlets are not blocked. Watering by hand is good for the soul, as relaxation for the individual and is better than relying on rainfall, but do occasionally set the sprinkler going and provide your roses with a deep soak. We complain about our water bills, but I am not aware of a cheaper product.

A good layer of mulch such as Neutrog's *Whoflungdung* should have ideally been applied following pruning.

Fertilizing

Recommended by the National Rose Society of Australia and all State Societies, Neutrog's *Sudden Impact for Roses* is your go to for fertilizing your roses. With potted roses, a little on a regular monthly basis is better than over feeding which



is soon washed out of the pot. Some members also like to apply a foliar fertilizer to their roses.

Water Shoots

New strong basal growths should be staked if you live in a windy area. Do check that that you are staking a water shoot and not a sucker. Any emerging suckers coming from below the bud union should be pulled off rather than cut, as cutting only encourages new sucker growth.

Dead Heading

To ensure a continual display of flowers, deadhead spent blooms on a regular basis. This can be as simple as snapping off the developing hip as you walk around the garden when the snips are not in hand.

Pest & Diseases

Aphids

Aphids may be observed on your roses but resist all temptations to reach for the insecticide bottle as this will also kill off the predators. As predator numbers build up, the aphid multitude will be quickly reduced. In the early stages, a quick squirt of water will dislodge the aphids and although never tried a spray with soapy water is reported to be an effective control in reducing the population.

Red Spider Mite

This is not normally a problem until we receive a prolong period of hot weather. Spider mite show up as a fine webbing on the underside of leaves and the small



Aphids tend to infest younger, softer growth and buds about to burst open.



Thrip damage, which seems to show up mainly on white and yellow roses.



Fine webbing, barely visible, is a sign that Red Spider Mite is present.

insects can be observed with a magnifying glass. Under foliage spraying with water is effective in controlling numbers. Pest oils can also be used and there are miticides in the case of severe infestations.

Thrips

The clean up spray following pruning will have controlled the winter survivors but for country members they seem to come in each year on the wind. They are largely harmless but are the bane of exhibitors as the thrips cause dark markings on the rose blooms and are most noticeable on light coloured roses. Insecticidal soap and pest oil are reported to be effective in reducing numbers.

Fungal Issues

Unless you live in the hills or the South East where you have prolonged wet weather, fungal issues during the growing season are rarely a major problem. The after-pruning clean-up spray is so important in avoiding an issue in early Spring as this allows you to start with a clean slate. An early observation was seeing a prominent rosarian picking off the one yellow spotted leaf present in his garden as we walked around.

A general rule of thumb is six hours of rain are needed for a fungal issue to develop. You may choose to use a fungicide at this stage before the disease shows. Ideally, we should be adopting a no or minimal spray policy.

As the first flush of beautiful blooms and the heady fragrance arrive we are reminded why we grow roses, the Queen of Flowers. Enjoy your garden.

Convention registrations

Some Society members have expressed delight over the cost of registration for the 2025 World Rose Convention in Fukuyama Japan, 18–25 May.

The program is packed with top speakers and outings, some of which provide opportunities to see and experience sites not usually available to members of the public.

Early bird registrations close on 6th January 2025. Currency fluctuations, as well participation in some social events, make it impossible to give a precise price. However, at the time of writing, the early bird fee for one person taking out the core registration package is a little over \$1000. There are special rates for those attending for a day and those accompanying a convention goer to lectures, events or outings.

For full details and to register, go to:
<https://en.wrc2025fukuyama.jp/registration/>

NEUTROG[®]
Biological Fertilisers

Q&A

Q&A enables you to have questions about using Neutrog products answered by Customer Relationship Manager, Paul Dipuglia.

Q: Does it matter if my liquid Seamungus and GoGo Juice get a mouldy skin across the top of the liquid in the container?

A: No, this is actually a good sign indicating that the beneficial bacteria are present and active. They are completely safe to use.

**Show your roses
and compete**

2024 Uraidla Show
Sunday 3rd November

Uraidla Showgrounds
Bounded by Greenhill Road
(Main Road) and Swamp Road
This is an opportunity to
experience a country show
and compete with blooms that
were not quite ready for the
RSSA's Spring Show.

Information, enquiries and entries
to the Convenor, Gavin Woods, at
gbwoods@adam.com.au

The 2024 Show is open
to the public from 9am
to 9.30pm. The Rose
Show closes late afternoon.
Early birds can see Sophie
Thomson and Spence Denny
broadcasting on the ABC
on-site. Fireworks top off
the fun at 9pm.



Race day favourites Downunder

Text by Celia Painter Photos provided by Knight's Roses



Hybrid Tea *Subzero*

On November 5 the eyes of the nation and more will be on Flemington Racecourse for one of the world's richest horse races, The Melbourne Cup.

It's an event celebrating competition between some of the sleekest and most athletic horses from around the globe in a setting of food, frocks, fascinators, and 16,500 fabulous roses. When the race is on and the owners, trainers and jockeys take to the podium, screen viewers get just a tiny peek of these roses, but their beauty is enough to have all ogling.



Hybrid Tea *Winx*

Senior Manager of Grounds and Gardens at Flemington, Mick Ryan, has been consistently vocal about the factors that contribute to the display. He believes winter dormancy, from April, is critical—"the colder the better"—and says the best time to prune is just before Spring, ensuring snip-time takes into account the performance of individual cultivars. The Flemington roses also do a *Neutrog* dance, with *Sudden Impact* for *Roses* and plenty of water jettisoning Spring vigour and floriferousness.

Sadly, in South Australia, the City of Roses, there has been a lack of vision, will and strategy, and consequently resources, to put the State in the race for the economic performance of Flemington. This is despite potentially huge benefits—the gross economic benefit of staging the Melbourne Cup Carnival amounted to a whopping \$468.3 million last year alone, earning Victoria's economy more than any other event over the year, and the Carnival has earned that State \$3.7 billion over a decade.

However, South Australia is home to the country's top rose producers whose appreciation of roses and their links to horse racing has seen them name or release roses commemorating racecourses, racehorses and roses. It's not a practice unique to Australia, or a modern-day practice only. In Australia, Alister Clark was at the head of the field, naming many roses after racehorses (and women).



Hybrid Tea ***Black Caviar***



Hybrid Tea ***Makybe Diva***

In recent years, we have had roses like ***Subzero***, released by Wagner's Rose Nursery this year, honouring the much-loved 1992 Melbourne Cup winner affectionately known as Subbie. This Hybrid Tea Meiland bred rose is reputed for huge creamy-white blooms (up to 95 petals) that have a rich damask and fruity fragrance. A memorial garden of ***Subzero*** has been planted at Flemington.

There is the sumptuous ***Black Caviar*** rose, named after the Australian thoroughbred who was undefeated in 25 races, and whose death this year is mourned by many. This German-bred Shrub rose was released onto the market by Knight's Roses in 2012. Its deeply fragrant blooms with burgundy hues are cupped and quartered.

Another winner is the Hybrid Tea ***Winx***, introduced by Knight's Roses in 2019 upon the retirement of the applauded Australian thoroughbred which won 37 of 43 career starts. This rose boasts small clusters of creamy-white blooms.

Released over the border in 2007 by Treloar Roses, is ***Makybe Diva***, the UK bred Hybrid Tea honouring the champion Australian thoroughbred owned by South Australian tuna fisherman, Tony Santic, of Port Lincoln. Makybe Diva is the only horse to win three Melbourne Cup races and the only mare to win it more than once. The rose named after this brilliant performer has soft apricot blooms of classic Hybrid Tea form.

Finally, who could forget the floribunda ***Flemington Racecourse***, bred by Bruce Chapman and released by Ross Roses in 2007. Its fragrant deep pink blooms are among favourites at Flemington and are often shown during television screening of the Melbourne Cup.

Whatever you fancy, if you decide to take a punt on any of these roses, you will pay homage to horses embedded in the Australian psyche and the tradition that links roses with racing legends. Treat them right and the odds are that you will reap dividends.

Collaborative approach to trials internationally

By Diane vom Berg



The judging panel, Diane vom Berg, 3rd from left, in Bagatelle, France.

The World Federation of Rose Societies (WFRS) encompasses and promotes many activities, among them are the trials of new roses.

Twenty-six trials are registered with the Federation and many have adopted the WFRS Standard Judging Criteria. The final judging of the trials is often undertaken by an International Jury; and the results are included with previous assessments by the local assessors of the trials.



The dramatic avenue at Koriijk, Belgium, where the rose trial garden is located.

It is a great experience to judge at a trial and if the opportunity arises, I trust you consider participating. I found it an honour to be invited to join the International Jury at five of these trials in June this year whilst I was overseas prior to attending the WFRS Regional Convention and Heritage Roses, Sweden.

The trials I attended were in: Nyon, Switzerland; Baden-Baden, Germany; Saverne, France; Bagatelle, France; and Kortrijk Belgium. *continued next page*

Members and supporters participating in Open Gardens SA

Some members and garden owners who have supported the Rose Society of South Australia are participating in this year's Open Gardens SA.

Among them is Drouin Garden at 12 Mossop Court, Littlehampton. Drouin is open to the public on Saturday and Sunday 9th and 10th of November. This property boasts five acres of extensively planted gardens including 1000 roses. It will be open from 10am to 4.30pm on both days. Visitors can walk and talk with the owner at 2pm. This open day will raise money for Zonta and Motor Neurone Disease.

The Heritage Garden in Gillentown, see page 25 also has an open day, as does St Mary's Vineyard at 563 V&A Lane, Penola, open on Saturday and Sunday 16th and 17th November from 10am to 4.30pm. The entrance fee at St Mary's is \$10.



The trial garden beds at Bagatelle, France.



Trial garden beds in Nyon, Switzerland.

The breeders, gardeners and organising committee members play an integral part in supporting the trials. It is deeply gratifying to be involved in such a collaborative activity that plays an important role in the evolution of roses that may be made available to the public.



Trial garden beds in Saverne, France.



International Jury President, Diane vom Berg.

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Neutrog expands with strategic gains in 2024

The Rose Society of South Australia's biggest partner, Neutrog Australia, has positioned itself for growth with two acquisitions and expansions to its research and development capabilities over the last year.

The unlisted public company has acquired Australia's longest running specialist liquid fertiliser manufacturer, Tamworth-based Rutic, a leader in its field and producers of



400 crop and soil liquid fertilisers used across agricultural production. Neutrog has also purchased 500 acres of farming land at Langhorne Creek to expand its research and development activities and capacity.

Neutrog Managing Director and Rose Society Life Member, Angus Irwin, now managing Rutic, which is continuing to trade under its existing and well-recognised brand, says the former complements Neutrog's existing work in biological approaches with a company that approaches water soluble fertilisers in a similar manner. It also brings together collective distribution networks.

Neutrog's Managing Director Angus Irwin.

"We share a common philosophy of innovation, commercially responsive products and an understanding of the balance needed between physical, chemical and biological to achieve optimum soil health," said Angus at the time of the announcement.

Neutrog's land acquisition at Langhorne Creek encompasses previously privately-owned land which has been surveyed and initially sown with oats, wheats and barley to enable Neutrog to measure the impact of its various biologicals on nutrient uptake; inhibiting diseases and sequestering carbon (capturing and storing atmospheric carbon dioxide). The site has been established as a formal carbon project. It also provides scope for future production growth.

Meanwhile, Neutrog's \$3.5m research and education facility development, which will be located at Kanmantoo, has been progressing through public consultation and groundwork on-site. When completed, the works will quadruple Neutrog's current on-site laboratory capacity and create a new education hub for industry, schools and the community. The aim is to provide a world-class multi-functional facility.

Neutrog was established by Angus 36 years ago. Its focus has been on developing and manufacturing biologically driven products sold to farmers, growers and gardeners across the world. Its customers span retail, commercial and export markets.

Members' Meetings

Exhibitor's Workshop

Tuesday 15th October, 7pm

Goodman Building, Adelaide Botanic Garden

2024 Spring Show

Saturday and Sunday 19th and 20th October

Garden Grove (OK, it's not a meeting, but it is so important to us—P)



Combined Branches Meeting

**Saturday and Sunday
16th and 17th November**

Penola, see page 13

New rose releases with Brian Wagner and Daniel Knight

Tuesday 19th November, 7pm

Goodman Building, Adelaide Botanic Garden

Christmas Lunch

Sunday, 1st December

Auchendarroch House, Dumas Street, Mt Barker.

(It's not a meeting either, but it is a great way to kick off the festive season—P)

Our program of speakers for 2025 is being developed. If there is a someone with a passion for roses, or involved in a rose related activity, who you wish could be included, please let me know at one of our upcoming meetings or events.

Finally, thank you to all those who have contributed as speakers this year and Happy Christmas.

Penelope Schulz

Speaker's Programmer

Volunteers in the International Rose Garden

By Deb Curtis—Rose Society Supervisor of Volunteers in the garden



Society member and nurseryman (retired), Graham Klose, is a regular International Rose Garden volunteer at Adelaide Botanic Garden.

The International Rose Garden (IRG) vollies had a very busy financial Year. They worked 28 sessions and contributed a massive 1210 hours of care for the garden! Is it any wonder that members of the public often stop to praise the presentation of the garden while our volunteers are there.

Andy Hart, the IRG Curator, is very happy to have the vollies helping him in the garden for another year.

Over July, the vollies managed to provide six sessions of pruning. Only one session was cancelled due to the weather. A special thanks to those who helped.

In September, the French Tea roses had their Spring tidy-up, a task that usually takes us a couple of sessions.

Deadheading will resume in October. The precise date is weather dependant. The team will be advised by me of the detail.

Please contact me if you are interested in joining us. Remember that all you need are secateurs, protective clothing, sturdy shoes and a bottle of water. Car parking, at no cost, can be arranged and regular volunteers are provided with a distinctive green volunteer vest by the Adelaide Botanic Garden. If you would like to join us, please contact me.

Deborah Curtis

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

Chaffey Rose Club

Text and photo by Dale Kerrin



Di Speight, Charleene Santos, Shann Hausler, Helen Menzies, Elly and Anton Webb, Bill Santos, Fleur Carthew, Marilyn Schier and Jill Knight at the Webb's place on the Murray River.

In early Winter several Members shared a soup-and-bread lunch plus a plant swap at the home of Elly and Anton Webb in Paringa. It was a lovely afternoon enjoying homemade soups outdoors, warmed by a wood fire, and overlooking the beautiful Murray River.

Later, we wandered around Elly and Anton's garden. It was in all its winter glory but still showing plenty of colour before pruning. Each season has a distinctive beauty for those living near the river.

A hot topic at Elly and Anton's place was the group's planned trip to Virginia Nursery in late August. It was fabulous. The camaraderie of members is always appreciated. I don't think anyone would be surprised to learn that many-a-Virginia Nursery plant returned to the Riverland with members.

The hard work has begun for the Riverland Rose and Garden Festival. It will be held from Friday 18th to Sunday 27th October. This year marks the 30th birthday of the festival. Some members are opening their gardens. In recent months they have been having a very busy time pruning, fertilising, mulching, changing or adding to their gardens, and of course keeping the water up as the rainfall has been unpredictable.

Many other members are now involved in planning, organising and setting up the flower display in the Renmark Institute. This year's theme is *Through the Garden Gate*. The special guest this year is Sophie Thomson so there is lots to look forward to and enjoy. Once the Festival is over, we can all take a breath and relax for a while before we start our Christmas celebrations. We know late October is a very busy month for many rosarians, especially those involved in rose shows and other rose engagements, but we would love to see you here for the Festival, if you can make it.

South East

Text and photos by Elizabeth Newell



Cindy Bunt from *The Post and Rail* provided freshly baked muffins, and the venue.

Relationship Manager, and a “wiz’ on products to keep our gardens “singing”. Paul spoke on a wide range of Neutrog products and their uses.

After Paul, everyone enjoyed a lovely afternoon tea with delicious muffins baked by Cindy—a real treat.

We also had an opportunity to stroll around the nursery and were able to purchase plants, many of which were quite unusual, as was the tempting range of seeds Cindy had for sale.

Finally, we congratulate Society member, Barbara Lightbody, recipient of this year’s Garden Clubs of Australia Ann Williams Clark Award. The award recognises the long and outstanding service Barbara has given to Mt Gambier Country Garden Club. Her association with the club started in 1994.

Our August meeting was held at *The Post and Rail*, a cooking, gardening and art school at Compton, a short hop from Mt Gambier and the baby of Society and Branch member, Cindy Bunt. How lucky are we—plants, deliciousness and good company combined!

During the meeting, President, Marjorie Todd, reflected on the pruning day at Naracoorte Homestead and thanked demonstrator, Tate Hancox for its success. This was highly successful and also netted good media coverage. Majorie also extends special thanks to Natasha Biggins for making the venue available.

The 40 members who attended were eager to hear guest speaker, Paul Dipuglia, Neutrog’s Customer



Barbara Lightbody with her Ann Williams Clark Award medallion.

We will host the Combined Branch meeting on our 30th Anniversary in November.

Roses on Eyre

By Karen Miels

Roses on Eyre participated in the Cleve Fields from August 13 to 15 with new release roses from Knight's Roses being of special interest to the public.

Members had a stall with information on the Society and Roses on Eyre, plus a free raffle with the prize comprised of a pot, a rose donated by Knight's Roses and products donated by Neutrog.



Janys Asser and Chris Bammann

Photo: Courtesy of Eyre Peninsula Advocate

Knight's Roses provided approximately 200 roses for the stall, of which most were new releases. It was lovely having all these and many of us, absolutely determined that we would not buy, could not help but weaken. It was like being a kid in a candy store! Seven followed me home and I know other members had a trail of roses following them as well!

Interestingly, **Amazing Mum** sold out quickly. The name is a great selling point. I am sure many are looking forward to all these new blooms over Spring.

Wednesday, the second day of the event which is always the busiest day, was particularly hectic this year. We had rose sales and general inquiries about all things roses, as well as questions about joining the branch. There are potentially 20 new members coming to the Society and the branch, judging by the number of enrolment forms taken.

Thank you, massively, Cleve members, Shirley Dennis, Joy Crosby, Janys Asser and Chris Bammann, as well as Julie and Tony Strawbridge from Whyalla and Jane Forrest from Minnipa. We are just as grateful to the members who came from far and wide to help, namely, Peter Willis and Raelene Harradine from Kimba, Sandy McCullum from Tumbay, and Lyn Miller from Port Lincoln who joined me in setting up, working and dismantling the display. It meant a lot of travelling for many members.

Our sincere appreciation goes to Daniel from Knight's Roses for so generously contributing by supplying roses at very competitive pricing! Daniel drives over to drop them off and back again to pick up any roses left. It's a mighty effort for such a busy person.



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Christmas bells ring a message of special thanks

So this is Christmas...at least it will be all too soon! The year has zapped past for me as Bulletin Editor as the generosity of members in contributing to our publication has made its compilation a pleasure.



I am confident that I extend the thanks of many of our readers to Les Johnson for his preparation of Cultural Notes in 2024, Melanie Trimper and others for Rose of the Month, Deb Curtis for her International Rose Garden Volunteer reports, our Show Manager, Joy Johson, for her summaries, and our regional scribes and photographers who have kept us all in touch with club and branch activities in far flung areas across the State.

Thank you too to champs Penelope Schulz, Jan Kentish, Colin Lehman and Corina Gul for pioneering Member's Pick contributions in 2024.

I am sure our gratitude also goes to each person who has contributed a vale or agreed to the publication of a eulogy of respected rosarians and valued friends. These are often difficult to approach at times of grief, but so important to us. They are also vital historical records of our members and their commitment to the rose, and important to the culture of our Society.

My personal thanks go to Wendy Trimper, Bev Scott, and Chris and Pam Kelly who have checked my work, Paul Flavel for contributing photographs and artwork, and Gavin Woods and Diane vom Berg for significant guidance and many contributions. You are all stars on my Christmas tree for 2024. *Celia*

Mailchimp to be trialled by the Society to keep you in touch

In coming months the Rose Society of South Australia will trial an email communications software package called *MailChimp*. If you are familiar with Jon Lamb's weekly gardening reminders then you will know this type of email service.

The Society hopes to use this approach for extraordinary and special purposes like letting members, or specific groups of members, know about events, opportunities and unforeseen circumstances. They will also be used to let members who access the *Bulletin* online know that an edition has been published.

If you receive emails from mcad@rssa.one, this will be a genuine email from the Society. Be assured, you will not be "spammed" with emails from the Society.

Want to advertise in the Bulletin?

The Bulletin is pleased to offer a limited amount of advertising space to members and associations whose activities align with the members' mutual interests in roses, gardening, leisure activities and 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.

Basic Advertising Costs

Full page (A5) \$120

Half page (A6) \$60

Quarter Page (A7) \$30

Submitting advertisements

Pending confirmation of your booking, it's best to send a pdf of your advertisement to bulletinrssa@gmail.com. Alternatively, send wording, high resolution jpeg photographs, diagrams and details of fonts that may be required.

Bulletin deadlines for 2024–2025

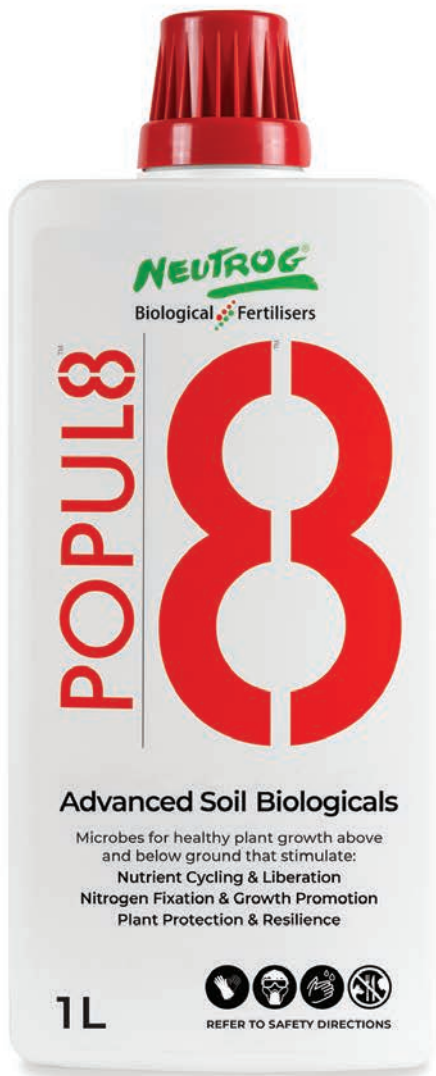
The earlier you make your bookings and provide your materials make production so much easier. It's greatly appreciated.

| EDITION | RESERVE SPACE BY | PROVIDE MATERIAL BY |
|-----------------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| January, February, March | 8th November | 23rd November |
| April, May, June | 8th February | 25th February |
| July, August, September | 8th May | 25th May |
| October, November, December | 8th August | 25th August |

BACK COVER PHOTO *Flinders* by Corina Gul

Flinders, bred by George Thomson, is a Shrub rose that blooms from Spring through to Autumn. Its small flowers, of 41-plus petals, come in clusters and are distinctive because of slight ruffling. *Flinders* is featured by Corina Gul, who talks of her love for this rose and its versatility in this Edition's Member's Pick rose. You can read about *Flinders* on page 16.





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A photograph of a large field of pink roses in full bloom. The roses are densely packed and fill most of the frame. In the background, there is a thick wall of blue hydrangea flowers, creating a vibrant contrast. The scene is set outdoors with lush green foliage visible between the flowers.

Flinders

Corina Gul, 2024