



# Macarthur Rose

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June 2021



## Dear Rose Friends

Winter has certainly arrived early this year with the cold nights and damp, cold days. When we look at our straggly roses it may be tempting to start pruning now. But it is worth holding on until after our pruning demonstration on 15 July at Camden RSL. Come along and participate with our rose friends and enjoy the company of other rose people while you learn to prune to ensure the best roses in the spring.

Preparations are well underway for the National Championships and Conference that the NSW Rose Society is holding in Kiama on 15-18 October. This will be a rare opportunity for many of us to attend the National Championships. It is over 10 years since this event was held in NSW. Knowledgeable and expert rosarians have been engaged to present at the conference about organic rose growing and rose growing in times of climate change. I strongly encourage you to register.



Membership fees are due before the end of this month. The details of how and where you can pay your membership fees are on Page 8 of this newsletter. At the recent State Council meeting it was resolved to increase the annual membership fee. Information about the new fees is on Page 5 of the newsletter. The increased fee will apply from 1 January 2022.

Information about how to display roses in Class 1 and Class 6 of our Show Bench Schedule is on Page 6 and 7. Grab this opportunity to learn more details about better rose growing. Arrive at the meeting 30 minutes early and an experienced show bench exhibitor will always be there to help and guide you to display your roses. Take the opportunity to learn more about your roses and enjoy the support of other rosarians in a supportive and comfortable environment.



We have a very good library of books about rose growing that has been donated over the years. Please remember to bring your library books back before the due date.

Our new roses will be arriving over the next six to eight weeks. Our cultural notes this month's focus on how to prepare and plant the new roses and how to transplant a rose that is just in the wrong place.

This month our AGM will be held before the regular meeting. I look forward to seeing you all at the AGM and our regular meeting.

Yours in Roses

*Judith*



## Annual General Meeting

Our Annual General Meeting will be held before our usual meeting on 12 June 2021. All positions will be declared vacant, and nominations will be taken from the floor. Graham Wright has agreed to be the returning officer and nominations can be made at the meeting or by calling Graham prior to the meeting.

The Macarthur Rose Society is only as good as the members who actively participate and support the group. Rather than thinking about what the Rose Society can do for you, consider thinking about what you can contribute to the Rose Society. Any contribution is welcomed, and you are encouraged to participate as much as you can.

To all those people who have already nominated your generous contribution is welcomed.

## Thank You



To Brenda Morrison, one of our very loyal volunteers who for many years has quietly, reliably and very efficiently ensured that afternoon tea is always available at our meetings. Even when she has been ill Brenda has ensured that afternoon tea appears. Thank you, Brenda, for your wonderful volunteering and we look forward to continuing to enjoy your company at our meetings.

Brenda has now handed over the afternoon tea responsibilities to Sheryl Shaw who is our newest member and who volunteered while attending her first meeting. Your support is greatly appreciated, and we look forward to a long association with you at the Macarthur Rose Society.

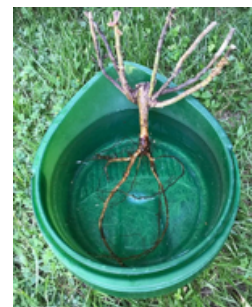
## Help our volunteers

One of the best parts of the meeting is having a 'cuppa' and enjoying each other's company in an informal way. Coffee, tea, sugar and milk are provided for afternoon tea – please remember to contribute a gold coin to help with costs.

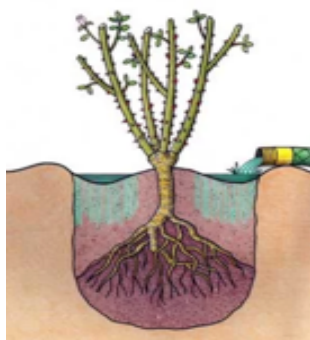
If you can bring your own mug that would also help lessen the impact on the environment from using plastic or foam cups.

## Planting bare root roses

Winter has arrived and this means deliveries of bare root roses from the SA and VIC nurseries will soon begin. These roses usually arrive with the roots embedded into wet newspaper, or a loose wet sawdust type mulch and an outer plastic wrapping. Immediately remove the packaging and begin the rehydration process. No matter how well the nursery packs the roses, they always arrive with an immediate need for rehydration.



Fill a large bucket of water with Liquid Seamungus at the recommended rate, clean all the newspaper/sawdust off the roots and put the roses into the bucket to soak for at least four hours and up to 24 hours. Once the roses have rehydrated, prepare a hole as deep and twice as wide as the rose. Take the rose and prune the root system back by around one third - this will help stimulate new root growth. Prune the top growth of the rose by around a third to half which will ensure balanced root growth and healthy foliage.



In the bottom of the hole, mound up the soil. You can add some Seamungus at this time but no other fertiliser. Place the rose into the hole, and gently spread the roots over the mound - this will improve drainage.

Backfill the hole, ensuring that the soil level is no higher than the graft or bud union. Firm in the soil. Keep well-watered as the rose settles in and remember not to feed the rose until the first buds appear.

## Transplanting roses

Sometimes we want to move a rose from its current position. Maybe the rose doesn't get enough sun or it is too big or too little for its current position. Or you might want to replant to a pot. As roses are sensitive to shock, late autumn, winter or early spring are the very best times to transplant as the roses enter dormancy and growth slows. Note that the older the rose the more difficult it is to transplant them.



Before you move the rose bush, remember that roses thrive in areas with good, fertile soil enriched with organic matter. They also require plenty of sun and water. Be sure to transplant your roses to locations that meet these needs.

Always prepare the bed or planting hole in advance, working in plenty of compost. In the two days prior to transplanting, water the rose thoroughly. This will ensure that the soil is soft and pliable, and the rose is well hydrated before the move.

The new hole should be at least 40 cm deep and wide enough - a minimum of 30 cm - to accommodate the root ball and root system. Build up a small mound of soil in the centre of the hole for your rose bush to sit on. If transplanting to a pot, ensure it is large enough for the rose to establish.

For best results, choose an overcast day and work quickly so that the roots do not dry out.

Prune the above-ground growth by two-thirds, then using a long narrow spade cut around the rose. Angle the cut in slightly towards the rose. This will make it easier to lift the rose. You should not need to cut directly under the plant. Pull out by holding onto the base of the rose. Pull up the rose and shake and/or wash the soil from the roots and put in a bucket of water.



Cut off any roots that are damaged, then trim the root ball overall by another two-thirds. Ensure the root and above ground stem growth are approximately even. This will ensure the plant is not stressed out trying to support the above ground growth with a smaller root system.

Your rose may need staking until the roots begin to fill out the pot or find their way into the soil. Keep well-watered over the coming weeks as the roots re-establish into the new position.

## Winter Preparation

As winter settles in keep raking and picking up the dead leaves around your rose bushes. This will help to keep the surface area clean and prevent the transmission of black spot. Pull out any weeds in the garden. With the recent rain they are easy to remove.

Roses will have been entering dormancy and rose production has slowed. While you may still get the odd flower here and there, they will be of lesser quality and slow to develop and open.

Don't be tempted to rush out and prune your roses yet. It is too early as we are sure to get at least one frost in August. Just in time to burn off all those new buds if you have pruned too early. Try to hold back until at least the middle of July.

If you are in the garden cleaning up and planting a winter crop, try not to disturb the soil and mulch around your established roses as it will let the cold into the soil.

Keep the soil moist in the places where you are going to plant the new roses. Turn the soil every couple of days and keep adding organic matter. Add a small amount of blood and bone.

Now is also a good time to make sure that your secateurs and pruning saws are clean and sharp. They need to be at their very best to ensure they can give a clean cut at pruning time.



You will also need to ensure that you have a good supply of Lime Sulphur to spray on the roses after pruning.

## Pink Roses

The French for a pink rose - rose, rose - makes a lovely sounding repetition, in which the poet Robert Desons finds amusement in his poem *La Rose: Rose Rose Rose blanche....* (pink rose, white rose). In any case it can be concluded that roses have mainly been pink throughout history. Although the flowers of the dog rose which bloomed in Roman times were also red or white.



But is the flower the origin or the name of the colour, or is it the other way around? It is generally thought that the former hypothesis is correct, but nobody really knows. The truth is lost in the distant past. Whatever the case, the colour pink, which is made by mixing red with white, is considered symbolically to be a soft red - not the colour of passionate love but of affectionate love, gentleness and happiness. This is why pink roses are typically given on Mother's Day. By the same logic they should also be given on Father's Day. They also make suitable gifts for other occasions.

According to French florists, deep pink expresses deep gratitude, whereas pale pink means kindness. The pink rose is also said to be a symbol of sincerity, even of modesty, yet there is hardly a more sensual and perhaps more immodest than a double pink rose. (*The Little Book of Roses* by Michel Beavais)



## The State Council

You may not be aware, but the Macarthur Rose Society operates as part of The Rose Society of NSW. This Society consists of nine independent regions across NSW that includes regions in Macarthur, Central Coast, Hunter, Illawarra, Nepean Blue Mountains and Hawkesbury, Southern Highlands, Southern Sydney, Sydney, and Upper Northshore. The State Council is the governing body for these nine independent regions.

Collectively we the nine rose societies cooperate to pool knowledge and resources. This ensures that we have a substantial number of members and resources to share insurance coverage, editing, printing and distribution of the NSW Rose Journal, managing and setting requirements for rose shows including Judges and Judge training and other administrative issues that promotes all aspects of the roses. Collectively the



regions were able to negotiate a favourable agreement with Neutrog for supply of fertilisers. The State Council also represents all the NSW regions at the national level.

All regions have three representatives on the State Council. These representatives are elected each year at the regional Annual General Meetings. Please consider volunteering to be a representative of Macarthur at State Council. Meetings are held quarterly at the Macarthur Sustainability Centre. The commitment is not onerous

At its last meeting State Council agreed to increase the membership fees for the NSW Rose Society. The increase will take effect from 1 January 2022. The fees will rise to \$40 per annum for a single person and \$45 per annum for a household (up to two people). The increase is due to several factors including the increasing cost of publication of the NSW Rose Journal and the long period without funding raising throughout the pandemic period.

## Roses by the Seaside

The Roses by the Seaside event is the 2021 National Rose Championship and Conference. Over a three-day period in October 2021, all the Rose Societies across Australia will converge on Kiama for the National Rose Championships and Conference. Illawarra region will host the Rose Championships and we will all have the opportunity to exhibit roses and meet to share knowledge and understanding of the Rose.



The conference lecture series will have the theme of an ecologically friendly way of managing our rose gardens and the impact of climate change. Caz Owens from Brisbane will speak on organic rose growing, Kelvin Trimper from Adelaide and Dr Uwe from Neutrog will deliver lectures on how to manage our gardens in times of climate change.

These events are biannual, and it is over ten years since NSW hosted the event. Preparations have been underway for over two years now as the event was postponed in 2020 due to the pandemic. This year the Illawarra region will host the National Rose Championship but Macarthur along with the other nine regions will support the Illawarra region with volunteers, exhibitors and welcoming interstate visitors.

Thanks to the volunteers who have already contributed many hours of work we have managed to secure some sponsorship for the event, but volunteers are still needed. Please consider attending the conference. It is a great opportunity to meet up with other rose growers, enjoy and participate in the spectacular rose exhibitions



and to learn more about overcoming the challenges of rose growing.

## Floral Art Display at the National Championships

The National Rose Championships are being held in Kiama in October 2021. As part of our contribution to the National Championships we will require volunteers to be at the venue (The Pavilion Klama) on Friday 15 October 2021, to decorate the frame and bowl for display at the National Conference. Each NSW Region will be decorating a frame with a theme relevant to their region. Your ideas and help with the decoration will be greatly appreciated. All volunteers gratefully accepted. A Macarthur skilled floral art practitioner will lead the decorating team.



## Show Bench Roses

Many of us join the Macarthur Rose Society to explore our passion for roses, to learn about roses and meet with other people who also enjoy roses. This is our common interest.

One way of learning about growing better roses is to exhibit them each month on show bench. Many of us are hesitant and modest about exhibiting on the show bench. We often think is it only for people who want to enter Rose Show competitions and our roses aren't good enough. But displaying in the show bench each month provides us with our best opportunity to learn from each other in a very informal and supportive setting. When we display them on the show bench, other members can look and offer their own experience about how that rose grows and what they do for success. It also offers the opportunity to ask you how you managed to grow that rose so well. Other things we can learn from exhibiting include how to:

- grow roses with stronger stems
- stronger or better colour (like the catalogue one)
- improve the leaves (they carry food to the bloom)
- straight stems that fit in our vases at home
- display our roses to show them at their best
- have fun with like-minded people.

We need to remember that the best rose resources at the meeting are ourselves. Collectively we have many years of experience, a wealth of knowledge and understanding about rose care and growing better roses. Take the opportunity that joining the Rose Society offers you and put your roses on the show bench.

In one of our recent newsletters, the Schedule for the Macarthur Rose Society show bench was displayed.

Below is an explanation of two of these classes of roses for your information and to help you display your roses.

### Class 1 - An Exhibition Rose

An Exhibition Rose is one that is displayed on the show bench as a single rose. In our show bench schedule, it is named as Class 1. Not all roses are suitable as exhibition roses. For example, miniature, climbing miniatures, minifloras, climbing minifloras, single and polyantha roses are not suitable.

Most exhibition roses are hybrid tea bush roses although some climbers may be suitable. They must have good form, freshness, size, substance, brilliance and purity of colour and be at their maximum beauty.



Melbourne Town an Australian bred hybrid tea rose. It holds its shape and form and is an ideal exhibition rose.

The photo at right is 'Ellina' a hybrid tea rose. The reason this bloom was displayed as an exhibition rose is because:

- its petals are clean and undamaged
- it has a high centre
- the petals are symmetrically arranged,
- it has a circular outline (from above)
- the petals unfurl in a perfect spiral
- the bloom is the right size for this rose.
- the outer petals do not fall below horizontal.



If you grow hybrid tea roses, look for a good bloom and bring it along to display on our show bench. Not all our blooms will be perfect but it is worth displaying them so we can learn about growing good roses. Tick off all the points above and try to achieve the best you can.

To start with your rose may not have all the above points but you can learn at the meeting how to display them so your rose still looks the best it can be. You can also learn in a supportive and enjoyable environment.

## Class 6 - Bud to Full Bloom



Class 6 of our Show Bench classes is one vase of roses displaying the same rose cultivar in all four stages of blooms. It is a very popular class as it is often easier to find four blooms in various stages of opening on our rose bushes rather than five or six at the same stage for other classes. It is also a long narrow display of roses to use at home with great effect. Displaying on the show bench at our meetings can help you to improve your home display.

What makes a good Bud to Full bloom vase of roses?

- First, the bud must show colour
- foliage must be fresh and clean.
- display must be 90 degrees to the horizontal
- the full bloom rose must still be fresh
- full bloom stamens must be showing and undamaged
- four stems must be clean and round
- each bloom evenly spaced
- all four stages of the rose must be displayed.

## June Birthdays

7<sup>th</sup> Debbie Cairnduff

7<sup>th</sup> Robyn Wright

12<sup>th</sup> Lorraine Hawke

16<sup>th</sup> Sarah McLean

20<sup>th</sup> Judith Oyston

27<sup>th</sup> June Hickey



# 2021 Meeting Dates for Macarthur District Regional Rose Society

Our meetings are held on the second Saturday of each month from February to December, at 2:00pm at Elderslie Public School, 170 Lodges Road Elderslie.

## Important dates ahead

12 June (Annual General Meeting followed by our monthly meeting)

10 July (monthly meeting)

15 July pruning at Camden RSL

14 August (monthly meeting)

Late August – Bunnings BBQ (volunteers needed)

9th September (monthly meeting)

9th October (monthly meeting)

15 October - decoration of the Macarthur Frame for the National Championship display at Kiama

15-18 October – National Championships and AGM of the National Rose Society

13 November (monthly meeting to be held in the garden at Lorraine and David Hawkes place)

11 December (Christmas Party)



## Membership Fees

Membership fees are due before the end of this month. Payment can be made either directly to Maureen Thackeray our Subscription Secretary or via electronic funds transfer (EFT)

EFT payments can be made via this bank account:

**BSB:** 012 429

**A/C:** 2784 41863

**Reference:** Initial, Last Name, Region (Macarthur) and Membership Number

**Note:** If you do not reference your name, region and membership number in your bank transfer, your payment details may not be able to be matched as a renewal, resulting in your membership being unfinancial.

**Contributions** to this newsletter are always welcome. If you have items of interest including photos that you want to share for distribution, please send them to:

Judith Carll, at E: [macarthurosesociety@gmail.com](mailto:macarthurosesociety@gmail.com) or

Tel: 0410 444 562

We operate in a Covid safe way with sanitiser available and sufficient space to keep a designated safe distance. Visitors are welcome.

