



Macarthur Rose Newsletter

Vol 30, No: 5, November 2023



Rose Show Update

Our Rose Show was held on 5th November 2023 in partnership with Sydney Region. We had ten exhibitors enter with over 100 entries from these exhibitors.

It was very exciting to see several new exhibitors and exhibitors from other regions. Rose Shows take a lot of planning and preparation and the support of our members and exhibitors was greatly appreciated.

Thank you to all of you who volunteered. Rosalie Vine volunteered to be Show Secretary, a daunting task for anyone. Rosalie was a huge success in the role and made everything much easier for the exhibitors, the judges and other volunteers.

Many of you including Kelvin McLean, Judy Clark, Diane Gordon, Helen Fahey, Jamie Cariosol, Stefica Bikes, Janet and Graham Wright, Ian and Maureen Thackeray, Margaret Appleby for the donation of her roses for sale and so many others who are not mentioned here, and the exhibitors all contributed to make the show a success. Your help was greatly appreciated by us all.



Dear *Rose Friends*

This month our newsletter is a little late and a little shorter. Commitments to the Rose Show, organisation of the Christmas party and my temporary role as the Editor of the NSW Rose Journal have all meant that I have had a little less capacity than usual.

Many thanks to all of you who volunteered to be part of our Rose Show. To so many of you who supported the show and helped out on the day with lifting, selling, cleaning, setting up, making tea and coffee and the myriad of other tasks that needed to be done - thank you!

All the rose nurseries are now starting to open up their online shops for bare root rose orders for next year. Now is the time to start looking at their websites to get some ideas about your new roses.

Our cultural notes this month focus on the importance of safety and the joys and benefits of gardening. Remember that the thrips will be flying in on the hot warm winds. Regular preventative spraying with eco neem with a touch of eco oil will help you to control most insects while keeping you safe. Red spider mites are also out in force as the weather warms and dries. Spraying in the very early morning or later at night after dark means that you will not impact the local bee population.

The online Neutrog shop is open for purchases. It is useful to note the products you need as you work in the garden and then be able to shop online while your memory is fresh. You can check out what you have ordered previously by looking at the history of your purchases. You need to login into the Neutrog shop to do this. The shop will close at the end of February with delivery in March 2024.

Information about the our Christmas Party is on page four of this newsletter. This is a lovely way to end the year and discuss roses and catch up with friends. Come along, bring someone with you, and enjoy the company. The cost is \$30 per person.

We have now purchased our laptop and projector and we are ready to have many spectacular presentations at our meetings in 2024. If there is something that you particularly want to learn about, please let me know and we will arrange to have a presentation on that topic at one of our meetings next year.

The State Council has agreed that Macarthur Region will be the host region for the Australian Rose Championships in October 2026. This will require a significant amount of work and organisation, but it is an excellent opportunity to raise the profile of the Rose and the Rose Society within the Macarthur area.

As the year draws to a close and as this is last newsletter for 2023, I would like to take the opportunity to thank you all for your continued support and membership of the Rose Society over the 2023 year. It is a pleasure to work with you all as we learn and share our rose and garden knowledge and enjoy the roses. It is always enjoyable to see so many of you enjoying the roses and sharing them on the show bench.

Wishing you all a Happy Christmas and a safe and peaceful New Year.

Yours in Rose Shows and Christmas Parties

Judith



November

Hopefully by now you have harvested many lovely blooms. Perhaps you have had some fun on the show bench and helped to put on a display for the public. There is also the possibility that your enthusiasm has inspired someone to join the Rose Society. Much pleasure is gained from finding good bunches of flowers for our own homes. To give a handful, or bucket of roses is amongst the best things that we can do. Our neighbours, children, coaches of sports teams, doctors, hairdressers, etc are all worthy recipients.



I would like to take that theme of supporting people a little further as well as how we care for ourselves. Our physical and mental well-being are very important for our welfare.

Whatever our age we need to modify how we operate in the garden. Melanoma can be a serious problem for those of us who prefer the outdoors. From our earliest times we should protect exposed skin. Good hats and protected arms and legs are a start.

Modern research has given us appropriate sunscreens which are, thankfully, now widely accepted. I am proud of our youngest grandson who wears a floppy hat, sunscreen and sunglasses as part of his routine when playing cricket.

Our clothes can give us protection from nicks and scratches when working amongst our roses. It should be possible to go through a whole year without being scratched. Over the years we have to adapt the way that we move in the garden. Bending can become an issue but this can be overcome. There are now some excellent kneeling pads available and these can save some of the bending. This is of course if our knees hold up. Using such a pad from early on can help the knees to last.



Julie Marguerite a floribunda in the Hamilton NZ rose trial garden (SOMharlie)

When physical difficulties arise we can construct built up beds or concentrate on using pots. There are whole books which have been written on using such methods. Some of our most successful rosarians have used pots. The Morphetts and Bruce Chapman come to mind.

Gloves, goggles and earplugs can all help when operating in our gardens. It's not a case of being a wozz but of minimising risks and ensuring that we continue with our hobby for many years. In earlier times much damage was done when people did not take the necessary precautions when spraying dangerous chemicals. All of the emphasis was on what the product did for the plants but little or no thought was given to ourselves. Thankfully the majority of sprays now used are much safer. Even so, the shelves still carry some evil materials. Choosing the right conditions to spray is important too. Foliage can burn on hot days and we suffer in our protective clothes. We should be comfortable at all times in the garden.

We hear increasingly of the mental benefits of gardening. A stroll around the rose gardens every day can be very uplifting. Conversely if there are problems it challenges our resolve to get things back to normal. Last year most of us were dealing with outbreaks of weeds. In the end we knew that we would win the battle but it took time. Life is about knowing yourself and knowing how to ride the highs and the lows. Setting realistic goals is important. When aiming to exhibit at a show we must set out to do our best and let the results take care of themselves. The fundamental goal is to help to provide a display. Many years ago I remember that we showed at Castle Hill Show early in the morning and then raced across town to Ingleburn for their show. I have no recollection of our results but I do know that we supported two worthy organisations.

We live in an era where we have more support than ever to garden successfully. Hardware stores and garden centres carry a very wide range of products and in some cases they have staff who can give advice. Gardening programs in the media have some excellent presenters who like to do more than just talk about plants. They care about us too. The durable Graham Ross has embraced the Neutrog products. Costa and his team at Gardening Australia also provide a caring attitude.

Provided it does not get too dry, another fertiliser application could happen in November. Stake those valuable water shoots, which should hopefully continue to develop. Remember foliar feeds to give some variety. Make sure that watering is deep. Preventative sprays can continue.

With the heat of summer our blooms will lose some size and the colour will not be as pronounced but there will still be much to enjoy and share with family and friends.

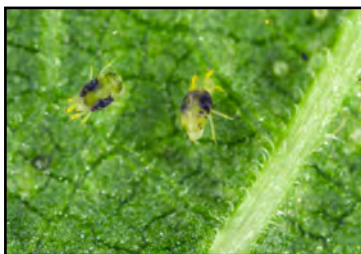
Best wishes to all rosarians *Graham*

Summer Pests

Spider mites are a pest that affect many crops, including roses. There are well over 1,200 known species but only about 100 are considered pests and only 10 are major pests that severely impact agricultural crops. The most well-known and problematic spider mite is *Tetranychus urticae* (common names include red spider mite and two-spotted spider mite). They are not insects but are more closely related to spiders, they belong to a class called Arachnida.

These pest spider mites that impact roses, thrive under hot and dry conditions and populations can increase very rapidly in the absence of suitable biological, cultural and or chemical controls. Their short life cycle and high reproductive rate have enabled them to rapidly develop resistance to miticides and to cause enormous damage in a short period of time.

Spider mites have needle-like sucking mouthparts. They feed by penetrating the plant tissue with their mouthparts. Large, uncontrolled populations may cover entire plants with webbing. The spider mites use these webs to move themselves. Each female two-spotted spider mite lays 10-20 eggs per day and approximately 80-120 eggs during its four-week lifecycle. The eggs are attached to the silk webbing and hatch after 3-15 days. Newly hatched larvae are almost colourless and have bright red eyes.



Above: Maureen Thackeray, (results recorder) Jamie Cariasol (results recorder), Rosalie Vine (Show Secretary) and Michael Brooks (from Sydney Region and assistant steward) volunteering and supporting our successful Rose Show held in early November 2023.

Cont...

Spider mites colonise the underside of leaves, where they puncture plant cells to feed on the contents. The first visible symptoms are small yellowish or whitish specks, mainly around the midrib and larger veins. If these spots grow bigger and merge, the empty cells give some areas of the leaf a whitish or silvery transparent appearance. The leaf will turn yellow, wilt and finally be shed. Heavily infested plants can become completely covered with the fine silken webbing produced by the mites.

Increasing the humidity can slow their reproductive cycle. Keep the watering up in dry hot conditions to raise the humidity around your roses. Water-stressed plants are more likely to be a great place for spider mites to take up residence. Keep your growing areas clean and remove leaf litter.

Spider mites have several natural enemies, and it is possible to achieve excellent, sustainable results using these biological controls. Lacewings and tiny mite feeding ladybirds, predatory gall midges and other mites are all natural predators. If chemical support is necessary, choose selective products that will cause minimal disruption to any predatory mites and other biocontrol agents. Eco-oil is an excellent solution as the oil suffocates the spider mites and the mites are unable to build up a resistance as they do with other chemical controls. It also has minimal effect on the beneficial controls such as lacewings.



Be aware that the hot dry weather that favours spider mites, can quickly burn any leaves that have eco oil applied to them. In the summer months apply the eco oil at half or quarter strength. It will still be effective, but you will need to apply more often.



Christmas Party

This Saturday 2nd December is our Christmas Party.

Remember we start at 12:00pm sharp. It is being held at our usual meeting place - the CWA hall in Camden.

There will be raffles, good company, opportunities to catch up, a Rose Quiz to test your new found rose knowledge and good food and company.

This is a lovely opportunity to meet up without you having to do anything except enjoy yourself and anticipate the coming festive season. It is a time to reflect on our last year and the activities we have undertaken and share gardening ideas and rose information with each other in a relaxed environment.



Don't forget to pay the \$30 for the lunch. You can deposit the money into our bank account. The details are:

BSB: 802 388

Account: 89205

Reference: Your name and Christmas

Alternatively bring along your \$30 on the day and enjoy these relaxing event in the company of other rosarians.

Lunch will begin at 12:00 PM so arrive in plenty of time to find yourself a seat and enjoy the company. We look forward to seeing you there.



A rose does not answer its enemies with words, but with beauty. Roses do not bloom hurriedly; for beauty, like any masterpiece, takes time to blossom. If roses tried to be sunflowers, they would lose their beauty.

Advice for Summer

Providing the spent blooms were removed following the first flush in spring, another bountiful blooming period will coincide with the Christmas/New Year period. Once this is over, we have two options. The first is to leave the spent blooms on the bush and reduce the watering a little, providing just enough to keep the plants alive, but not thriving – effectively placing them into a summer hibernation. They can then be stirred back into strong growth with an application of Neutrog ‘Sudden Impact for Roses’ and a summer trim in late February or early March.

‘Sudden Impact for Roses’ is an organic based fertiliser. It provides a full range of plant nutrients in a slow release form together with water-soluble nutrients to maximise performance.

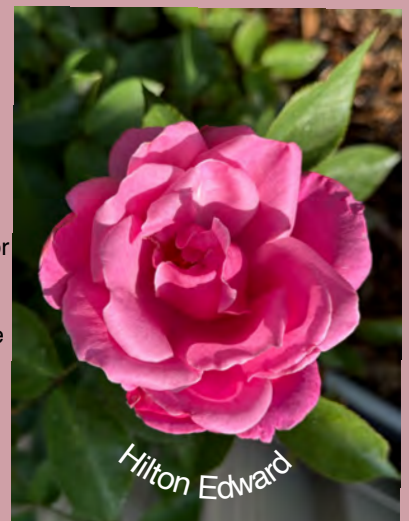
The second option is to keep the rose flowering with continuous removal of spent blooms, with plenty of water and applications of liquid ‘Sudden Impact for Roses’ every two weeks in January.



It is to be expected that the flowers in January, February and early March will generally be smaller with less petals than are produced in the spring and late autumn flushes. This is heat related. In addition, due to high UV readings, dark coloured roses, such as red roses, can show scorched petals after very hot, sunny days. Like us, some roses can burn under these conditions. Temporary shade can prevent this occurring if desired.

If you haven't already mulched, it is time now to do it before the soil dries out. Spring rains will have built up the soil moisture but now that Summer is here it will soon be depleted. For mulch to be effective, it must be 10 -12 cm deep. Before applying mulch ensure that the soil is evenly moist. There are many suitable mulches on the market including WhoFlungDung, lucerne, straw, sugar cane and pea straw. If you use wood chips as mulch, it will be necessary to add a nitrogenous fertiliser such as Meatworks Blood & Bone to prevent your roses becoming nitrogen deficient as bacteria break down the wood chips. Whoflungdung has the added advantage of being partially composted and can provide nutrients to your roses. While it may smell for a few days it seems not to be liked by blackbirds. Watering this mulch with a Seamungus spray can help to reduce the smell until it naturally fades.

Finally keep a look out for emerging pests and diseases. Regularly check your roses and the leaves for any sign of disease or pests. Early identification is key to reducing any damage that pests and diseases may inflict.





November Birthdays

1st June Head

10th Kelvin McLean



December Birthdays

2nd Kim Baker

14th Gary Crawford

23rd Sheryl Shaw



Macarthur Rose Society Diary

2nd December - Christmas Party

Meeting Dates for 2024

3rd February 2024 (First meeting of the Year)

2nd March 2024

6th April 2024

4th May 2024

1st June 2024

6th July 2024 (Pruning session this month)

3rd August 2024

7th September 2024

5th October 2024 (Our Rose Show this month)

2nd November 2024

7th December 2024 (Christmas Party 2024)



Camden CWA Hall

We meet at the CWA Camden Hall on the first Saturday of each month (other than January) at 2:00pm. The carpark of the CWA can be accessed from the first roundabout on Cawdor Road opposite the Camden Bowling and Sports Club.

Alternatively you can access the venue via the Coles carpark .

We are open from 1:30pm to give you time to arrange your roses for the show bench prior to the meeting. Oasis can be purchased at the show bench preparation area for \$1 per block. There is also a Buy, Sell and Swap table for our home grown produce and other products we may want to share. Our library of rose books are available at our meetings.

Come along, enjoy great conversation, beautiful roses and meet new friends. All are welcome. For further information telephone: 0410 444 562.

