



# Macarthur Rose Newsletter

Vol 29, No: 8, June 2023



## Membership

A gentle reminder that our membership renewals will fall due on 30 June 2023. The renewals can be paid at any time from now until the end of June.

There are several ways to pay your membership. You can:

🌹 Pay directly at a meeting. Bring along your money and make the payment to our Subscription Secretary Maureen Thackeray.

🌹 Make a bank transfer from your bank account directly to the NSW Rose Society bank account. The bank details are:

**BSB:** 012 429

**Account:** 2784 41863

**References:** Your Initial, Last Name, Region (Macarthur) Membership Number.

🌹 Make a direct deposit at an ANZ branch using the above BSB and Account number.

**NOTE:** If you choose to bank your renewal in person at a branch you will need to use your membership number as a reference. The NSW Rose Society has over 700 members and your membership number is essential to distinguish your payment.

Membership Fees are:  
Single: **\$40**  
Dual: **\$45** (Two members/per household)  
Junior: **\$5** (under 18)  
Associate: **\$40** (e.g. a local business).

We look forward to you continuing your Rose Society membership.

## Dear *Rose Friends*

Winter is settling in well and our roses are slowing down and beginning to rest after their exertions over the previous growing season. Now is the time to concentrate on the quality of our soil and replenish and nurture the soil for the next growing season.

The big even this week for the Macarthur Rose Society is our Annual General Meeting. All positions are spilled each year and I strongly encourage you all to consider taking on a small role. If we all volunteer for a small task, then the tasks become smaller and more effective for everyone. If you are unable to attend all our meetings, there is always someone who will take on the role for that meeting.

This year we are losing two of our long standing volunteers - Sheryle Albeck and Sheryl Shaw.

Sheryle Albeck has been looking after our library for longer than I have been a member of the Rose Society. Thank you Sheryle for your years of dedicated work looking after the library, tracking loans and generally keeping it in good order for us all to be able to use this resource. We look forward to having more time to talk to you at our meetings to gain the benefit of your gardening skills and rose exhibiting knowledge.

Sheryl Shaw who volunteered to look after the afternoon tea at her very first meeting (how good is that!) several years ago has also advised that she will not stand for this position again.

Thank you both for your outstanding contributions as the librarian and afternoon tea coordinators.

At our general meeting this week, Cut Above Tools will be presenting to us and will have a display for us to view. There will be plenty of time at the end of the meeting for us all to browse and look at the display and make decisions about pruning tools and other essential items. 😊



Our cultural notes this month range across several topics such as bare root roses, gardening safely, curl grubs and growing roses in pots.

Curl grubs seem to be arriving in plague proportions as our soils dry out with the end of the rains. While we usually treat these in the Spring, they can be treated at this time to ensure they are not happily munching on your rose plant roots over winter.

We also have an adaptation from a presentation that Mark McGuire has given to several organisations on how to grow roses in pots. For many years, Mark has successfully grown all of his roses in pots at his residence. He is a champion rose grower and exhibitor and his garden is a highlight on the Sydney Garden Tour circuit. This adaptation provides very sound advice on how to successfully grow roses in pots. His advice is straightforward, simple and sound.

Miniature roses particularly benefit from being grown in pots and they provide beautiful displays close to the house and on our verandahs.

Several of our members have been unwell recently and we wish you all a speedy return to good health and look forward to seeing you all at our next meeting.

Yours in roses

*Judith*

## June Cultural Notes

It was really encouraging to see so many members at our most recent meeting. A short walk into the CWA room, a warm environment and friendly rosarians can always brighten up a day. With more people in attendance it means that more ideas can be shared. Often the best lessons can be learnt over a cuppa.



June is one of the less demanding months in the rose garden but there are opportunities for preparation and planning. The established roses do not need feeding or spraying. Water is always a requirement as a dried out plant in dried out soil is not a good mix. My aim is to aerate our soil, remove all weeds and mulch well. I can wait a little longer for the Seamungus. When I get closer to the Spring I also want to give the Popul8 a good trial. From what I saw in a garden recently this Neutrog product could be a real boost for water shoots.

Planting new roses is an exciting time. The anticipation of colourful healthy blooms encourages us. Make sure that a good sized hole is prepared. A shallow hole would mean poor drainage so have plenty of soil under the roots. Width is a factor with allowing the roots to spread. When you sit the young plant on top of a fist of soil make sure that the roots radiate down. With some Seamungus a little above the covering soil you are looking for a good start. Water in well when the hole is half filled and then top up with more soil and a final watering. For sometime now it has been the practice to sit new bare rooted roses overnight in water before planting. A seaweed concentrate added to that water will be good too. That water can be used when the roses go into the garden.

Spacing of plants in general is challenging as we have to estimate the size of the mature version. If I had my time over again I would not leave the 1.2m between roses but more like a metre. There is an awful lot of spare space between plants that needs care. Those figures are, of course, for hybrid teas or floribundas. With minis it would be much less and with climbers more. Most rose books give estimated sizes but this varies with conditions.



It is disappointing that so many roses are now difficult to procure. Nurseries have reduced numbers or closed their gates. In fairness plant production is a labour intensive operation and hard on the body. Some good detective work may still help you to find what you want. I know that Miniatures are keenly sought and part of the problem is that it is a long time since cultivars could easily be imported from USA. The Benardella collection and similar from that area were superior to many of the newer ones released today.

The presentation on tools at the next Macarthur meeting should give food for thought. I anticipate that will complement my views on caring for yourself. Just as the tools should be well cared for, so you should look after your body. Kneeling pads have made a big difference for us and you will not tire as quickly. Eye and ear

protection when on the brushcutter are essential. Boots which are strong above and below the sole are a safety measure. Overalls or similar help to avoid scratches. Masks and gloves worn when spraying or dealing with potting mix. I heard of a young local fellow who caught Legionnaire's Disease recently.

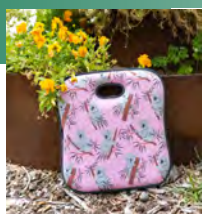
Perhaps at a meeting in the near future we can make a list of sensible garden practices.

Unfortunately we will not be able to attend the June meeting as we have a family commitment but can I make a plea for as many people as possible to offer to take a position at the election. It really is a case of many hands make light work. Full marks to Judith and the team for their contributions. In addition to being in full time employment she also looks after State responsibilities and similarly with Maureen with subscriptions. Still we do these things because we believe in a good organisation.

Best wishes to all rosarians, *Graham*

**Miniature/Minifloras Roses at Left Top to Bottom:** Red Gem, Figurine, Delicious, Radiant and Loving Touch

**Miniature/Miniflora Roses at Right Top to Bottom:** Baby Boomer, Vista, Child's Play, White Dream



## Curl Grubs

are the larvae of beetles in the family **Scarabaeidae** i.e. scarab beetles. This family is one of the largest beetle families in the world, with more than 2,200 species native to Australia. Species found in our lawns, gardens and pot plants include the African Black Beetle, the black-headed pasture cockchafer, Christmas beetles and Scarab beetles.



**They generally have distinct 'C' shaped pale cream or white bodies, six prominent legs and usually have a swollen darker tip to the abdomen. Larvae grow to 20 – 60 mm long depending on the species. The heads of larvae may be black, brown, red or yellow depending on the species.**

**Curl grubs will feed on the roots of a wide range of plants** with the exception of legumes (eg beans and peas). Potted plants are very vulnerable as their root system is limited by the pot size and any loss will affect growth more than if they were in the ground. For plants in garden beds they may simply fail to thrive for no apparent reason, until you dig up the soil and find loads of curl grubs!

**The life cycles of Curl Grubs vary in length from one year** to every two or three years depending on the species. Because of these varying generation lengths you may find Curl Grubs in the garden at any time of the year, depending on which species is involved. Female beetles lay eggs in the soil, which hatch and pass through about three moults feeding on plant roots, before pupating in the soil. Adult beetles emerge from the soil and may be drawn to lights at night.

**The African Black Beetle has a one-year life-cycle** with the most damaging grubs being active in late spring and throughout summer. Adults may be present from late summer and autumn to late spring the following season.

**Prevention is always better than cure, and you are more likely to be able to achieve that if you are out and about in your garden regularly.** Preventive products containing imidacloprid, thiamethoxam or clothianidin will consistently reduce 75-100% of the grubs if they are applied in June or July and if they are watered-in well immediately after application.



**You can also use lime pellets as an ongoing treatment** to control the curl grubs.



While it is often more expensive than powdered lime, it is an effective option. Lime powders will dissolve after the first rain, but pellets remain in the soil, helping to kill the grubs in your soil. However be aware that applying lime pellets to your soil will slowly change the ph balance. Aim for a 6.0 to 6.5 ph balance.

**Fortunately there are also non-toxic control methods** that can relieve the pressure, which are much more desirable when you have the family and pets around.

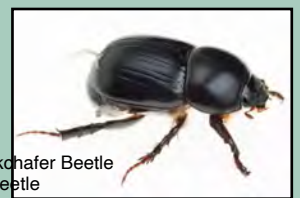
**Neem oil can be used to disrupt the curl grub's growth** and development. Once ingested they will stop feeding and die off. Neem oil is safe for beneficial insects as they do not eat the plants you will likely be spraying on. Mix neem oil in a watering can and pour over lawns, garden beds and your pot plants.



**You can use a simple soapy solution** with a watering can. They dislike this and will head to the soil surface where they can be picked off by any resident birds such as magpies and currawongs, or chickens if you keep them. Soap solution is made by grating soap into a bucket of water, leave until it softens and swish it around to dissolve it. Water it on with a watering can.

**Introduce nematodes is another solution. These microscopic worms** carry bacteria that will kill curl grubs and other pests. These microscopic worms carry bacteria that will kill curl grubs and other pests. Nematodes are not harmful to other plants, pets or humans and other beneficial insects. It can be found at the website [www.ecogrow.com.au](http://www.ecogrow.com.au) and is a great idea if pets or children use the areas of the garden that need to be treated. They can be applied very easily using a watering can.

**Where practical turnover the soil** to expose the curl grubs. Remove them by hand and feed to the birds. They love them! Minimise the use of outdoor night lighting as this may attract the adult beetles into the area.



Left: Redheaded Cockchafer Beetle  
Right: African Black Beetle



## How to Plant Roses

Very shortly the new bare root roses from the rose growers will begin to arrive. Already the rose growers are digging, sorting and bagging roses for despatch. Usually they take 7-10 days to arrive after they have left the growers. Most growers will either email or text you once the roses leave their packing sheds.

Roses are tough, but they do need sunshine and the more the better. In open, sunny gardens roses will grow happy, healthy and relatively disease-free.

In full shade they will struggle to grow and never reach their full potential. They may also become susceptible to fungus.

In part shade they can perform adequately, albeit with reduced flowering. Six hours of sunshine gives the best results. In exposed, windy conditions roses need protection; use a windbreak such as a solid fence or hedge.

- 🌹 Dig a planting hole at least 50cm wide and 50cm deep; wide enough for the roots to spread, and deep enough for stability.
- 🌹 Fill the hole with water (this saturates the soil before planting), then allow to drain.
- 🌹 Mound the soil in the base of the hole and spread the roots over the mound. Make sure the graft union (this looks like a knot on the lower stem) will sit 4cm above ground-level once planted.
- 🌹 Fill with soil that is fresh and improved, leaving a shallow depression so water will drain into the newly planted rose.
- 🌹 Firm the soil, then water again with a solution of seaweed nutrient. (Do not use fertiliser at planting time, as this will burn the new roots and result in die-back). You can use Seamungus as a general tonic and root support at this time.
- 🌹 Water each day as new growth appears; don't allow your rose to dry out until it is established (this can take 10-12 weeks).



Tony from CutAbove Tools will be visiting us at our Saturday general meeting and there will be a presentation, display and opportunities to ask questions and purchase tools if you wish.

Brands sold include CutAbove, G.F. Italy, Makita, Triton Trimmer Head, Verigrow, Vesco and WD40.

They import a range of pruning, gardening and cleaning tools mainly from Taiwan that are branded "CutAbove". The company has direct input into the design, manufacture and quality of CutAbove items. This range includes secateurs, loppers, shears, saws, trimmer heads and many other quality garden accessories. They specialise in high reach, extension pruning poles and long reach, extension cleaning poles.



Early in 2021 they started to sell a range of quality pruning tools from Vesco, Italy. They are also the Australian distributor for watering equipment from G.F. Italy. This range includes fittings, timers, nozzles, sprinklers and hoses.

The company believes in supplying a sustainable product and offers a comprehensive range of spare parts for most products. Their products come with a two year warranty.

## Neutrog Update

The Neutrog shop is open for purchasing. At this stage it is expected that the order will be delivered in early September.

Remember that you can purchase several times on the Macarthur shop website and the orders will be collated into the larger Macarthur delivery for distribution. This can help us to manage our budgets (hopefully we don't get too carried away) when purchasing fertilisers and other products.



Remember that you will be ordering for the peak growing season and potentially the start of autumn in 2024 depending on delivery dates.

Recently we received our royalty payment from our last (autumn) order. It was over \$500 reflecting the high levels of purchases that Macarthur members made for the autumn order. Not only do you get great growing products at vastly reduced prices but the Rose Society benefits directly with a small royalty payment depending on the total amount spent. This is making a valuable contribution to our budget and assists us to support you as rose growers without too many onerous BBQ fundraisers.

Support Neutrog and buy your fertilisers through the Macarthur/Neutrog online shop.

## Growing Roses in Pots

First of all pay particular attention to hygiene and safety. A face covering mask and gloves are essential as potting mix contains many organisms that are or can be detrimental to one's health, including the spores for Legionnaires Disease.

For best results a black plastic container of 400 mm is the preferred size. You can use smaller pots but the results are not as good. Clean the pot thoroughly and ensure they have several weep holes so the water can disperse easily to prevent the roots becoming waterlogged. You can use a mesh or pieces of broken tiles or similar over the weep holes to prevent the soil mixture leaching out.

A high quality potting mix is essential such as one of the better Debco products, costing around \$12-\$15. These usually contain a wetting agent, controlled release fertilisers, water retaining crystals, and combination of trace elements and growth stimulants.

Combine the premium potting mix with a premium garden soil and mix to 50/50 proportions with small handful of Seamungus.

Next place your mixture in the pot leaving about a 100 mm gap between the top of the soil and the rim of the pot. Place in your bare rooted rose, or if taken from a smaller pot, check over the root system for any damage and if so trim back. Fan out the roots and place the plant into the soil making sure the bud union is slightly above the top of your soil mix.

With limited pressure make sure the plant is sitting firmly in the centre of the container. Apply a couple of soakings of water and then add about 50mm of cow manure, making sure it is kept well away from the trunk of the rose, and then place on top of the manure as much lucerne hay as the pot will allow without spilling all over your yard.

Cow manure is by far the best to use and readily available and lucerne hay (Alfalfa) is by far the best to use over other mulch in pots. As the soil descends during the growing season, keep topping up the pots with these two products.

By using this method you will encourage worms to multiply and greatly benefit the soil mix. Take note there is no soil in potting mixtures and therefore no worms. An abundance of worms means that your soil is rich and productive and that is what you need in your pots. Pure garden soil in a pot soon becomes solid and detrimental to plant growth.....



Cont...

To stop your pot from overheating be sure your newly potted plant container is not making contact with the concrete or tiles underneath.

Raise your pot by using a few small bricks or small terracotta feet that can readily be purchased in the nurseries. Never place your pot in a saucer type dish that will retain water as this will also eventually lead to root rot.

When do we need to feed? After potting/planting a good six months or so. Very little fertiliser is best. If the manufacturers recommend 100 grams then only apply about 20% of that every couple of months. Liquid fertilisers are easier for roses to absorb when in pots rather than pellets or granules. You need to give the pot a good drenching before hand and a good soaking afterwards. Water is still the best fertiliser!

If you wish to grow the bigger floribundas or hybrid tea roses in a pot then follow the same procedures. However you will need to use a larger size pot (approximately 20L).

It is necessary to water your pots every day and in really hot weather, twice per day. Don't be misled that when rain appears your pots do not need watering. You still need to water.

Using the above method, there should be no need to every repot the rose. Keeping the soil topped up with cow manure and lucerne, regular fertilising and daily watering should keep your roses going forever.

How to water your pots? Pots are best served by using a hand held rose wand making sure the water spreads all over the top of the pot. Using a drip type system can over time give you 'ant tracks'. Meaning the water flows down the little tracks without spreading over and through the whole mix and releasing the nutrients. The nutrients in the container need to be soaked to release.

You will need to check the soil pH regularly or when you suspect the rose isn't performing as it should. The ideal pH is 5.6 to 7.0.

With winter pruning there is no right or wrong way. Prune high or low as the results will be nearly identical. Low pruning appears to give more water shoots whereas cutting higher tends to produce more flowers.

Keep your bushes clear of deadwood and dieback during the growing season and deadhead regularly as they are detrimental to the future growth and reproduction of more flowers. Also be aware that some roses do not like pots. Once placed out in the garden they have taken off and become Grand Champions!!

Mark McGuire is a champion rosarian who grows exclusively in pots.





## June Birthdays

7th Debbie Cairnduff

12th Lorraine Hawke

27th June Hickey



# Macarthur Diary

**3rd June** - AGM followed by the general meeting and Cut Above Tools presentation

**30 June** - annual membership fees due

**1st July** - General Meeting  
Show Bench  
Presentation

4th - 5th November  
Macarthur Regional Rose  
Society Rose Show at the  
Macarthur Sustainability  
Centre.

**5th August** - General Meeting  
Rose Pruning session at Vitocco's

**2nd September** - General Meeting  
Helen Lovell from Neutrog

**7th October** - General Meeting  
Preparations for our annual rose show

**21-22 October** - National Rose Show in Perth WA

**4th or 5th November** - Our Spring Rose Show

**4th November** - General Meeting

**We meet at the CWA Camden Hall** on the first Saturday of each month other than January at 2:00pm. The venue can be accessed through the Coles Camden carpark either as a pedestrian or with a vehicle.



Camden CWA Hall

**Coles Camden is at 19 Murray Street, Camden.**

Alternatively, the carpark of the CWA can be accessed from the first roundabout on Cawdor Road opposite the Camden Bowling and Sports Club.

**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