



# Macarthur Rose Newsletter

Vol 30, No: 6, February 2024



## Neutrog

Neutrog have advised that their online ordering for the autumn/winter delivery will close on Friday **2nd February 2024**.

Note that this date is one week earlier than you would have seen in their online shop. Warehouse logistics have prompted this change.

As usual, delivery will be several weeks later depending on transport and delivery to Sydney. Everyone will be advised when the order leaves South Australia. The delivery date is usually 2-3 weeks after the order is despatched from South Australia.

Unfortunately, we will be on short notice to pick up our orders. Please be prepared to respond at short notice to the delivery of the order. We have no control over the dates and are at the mercy of transport logistics.

Your prompt responses to text messages and emails about order pickup times are always appreciated.



## Dear Rose Friends

Happy New Year to you all. I trust you have all been enjoying the long sunlit days and taking the time to enjoy the best of your roses. All financial members will have received their NSW Rose Journal over the Christmas period. If you have not received this Journal, please let our subscription secretary know.

One of the most enjoyable aspects of growing roses is thinking about what roses you might grow next. Roses are like chips – one is never enough. All the major rose nurseries are now open for bare root rose ordering for delivery in winter. It is good to get in early because they can run out of stock of the more popular roses very early in the season. There is a list of the most popular rose nurseries and their websites in this newsletter. You will also need to begin preparing the rose beds from March onwards.

Summer has certainly been wet at times followed along with hot and humid weather. If black spot has become a problem in your garden there is some guidance on page 3 for you. Graham Wrights Cultural Notes also tell us how he has avoided black spot infestations. Early treatment is best, but all is not lost if you leave treatment until later.

We start the year with our membership going from strength to strength and we welcome several new members to our group. I am expecting to use our new projector and laptop at our meetings this year to increase our knowledge of roses, rose growing and how to best display our roses whether that be in rose exhibitions or at home. Page 6 has the meeting diary.

There will plenty to plan for as the hosts of the 2026 National Rose Show and AGM. Volunteers are needed to assist with planning this prestigious event and presenting our local community and roses on the national stage. Anyone can volunteer and contribute no matter what your skill set or available time. All contributions will be greatly appreciated and the more volunteers the less work for everyone.

Our Christmas Party in December 2023 was greatly enjoyed. The food was good, the company even better and it was enjoyed by all who attended. Congratulations to Margaret Hudson who won the raffle. Page 5 has photos of this event. Thank you to Stefica Bikes, Maureen Thackeray and Jamie Carisol who organised this.

The Camden Show is being held on 15 March. I strongly encourage you all to enter this show. It is a great opportunity to start your rose exhibiting with such a friendly and welcoming atmosphere. It is also close to home and it is good to support our local community.

See you all Saturday 3rd February and remember to bring your roses so we look like the Rose Society.

Yours in roses

Judith

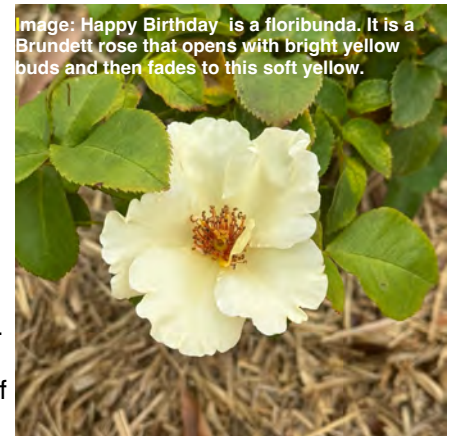


image: Happy Birthday is a floribunda. It is a Brundett rose that opens with bright yellow buds and then fades to this soft yellow.



# NEUTROG™

## The Experts' Choice

Rose Society members recommend  
Sudden Impact for Roses

## February Notes

No two seasons are the same and it is important that we continue to adapt to the conditions that we encounter. The last months have provided a mix of hot days combined with reasonable amounts of rain. Watering was required to supplement the latter but it has been possible to keep our plants moving.



Gemini (Hybrid Tea)

In years gone by such conditions would have led to trouble with fungal diseases but thankfully the healthy bushes have shown very little in the way of black spot. I last sprayed in October. Along the way the roses have received Seamungus, Sudden Impact for Roses, Blood and Bone, Popul8 and worm tea. Janet has kept the plants “smiling” and it is no wonder that they have been so strong. We could have adopted a scientific approach to this by recording the times and amounts of applications but in general we can appreciate that such variety is good.

Years ago it was common for plants to be fed the same diet for extended periods. It may well have worked for some time but in these days when we have so many good products out there, particularly from Neutrog, we should mix it up. Let us not forget the animal manures if they are available. I know of one of our members who has a real menagerie so her roses would be getting an interesting diet from those animals. The veggies in their garden do pretty well too.



The recent weeks have made me very aware of the density of the rose plants. We have all survived situations where, instead of a rose garden, we have a collection of isolated sticks! Such gardens do nothing for the reputation of roses. Occasional good blooms will not balance the ugliness of isolated roses. It is possible to rejuvenate these sad plants and get them flowering again. I have some 43 year old plants of Duet and Shell Queen and they have responded to the extra attention and Janet’s care with dead heading. The dense bushes are now providing large shadow patches on the beds. That can have a cooling effect and protect the lower canes which may well have been sunburnt in the past. Light removal of spent blooms has still resulted in stimulation to produce new ones yet the plant has been protected.

I have said for some time that my original plantings left too much space between roses. With recent changes we have fitted more in the same space and we do not have the ugly gaps. There are savings with mulch, fertilizer and water. Roses are expensive and valuable plants and we need to make the most of them. Photosynthesis is the process by which plants use sunlight, water and carbon dioxide to create oxygen and energy in the form of sugar. Our plants should thrive if all of these factors are in place. Our leafy stems are working hard to produce good blooms. The more leaves, the better.

Much is said about Summer pruning but that is particularly relevant to people wanting Autumn blooms for a show or a special event. Depending on the season it will take about six to eight weeks for roses to mature at that time. Just on half of our exhibitors at our Spring show were C graders, which was encouraging. We need a new generation to come through. Camden Show is supported by our Regional and we need to build on the numbers. The Rose day is **Friday 15th March**.

In closing I would like to pay tribute to the late Kelvin Trimper from South Australia. His contribution to the Rose Society in Australia and on the world stage was massive. The influence of Australia in rose promotion far outweighs our numbers, and the wonderful response to the Adelaide Convention was testimony to his efforts.

Best wishes to all Rosarians,

*Graham*



New Hampshire  
(Miniature)

## Summer Roses

*These notes originally appeared in the NSW Rose Journal December 2015 and were written by the late Sue Kingsford a well remembered and notable rosarian. Her notes remain applicable today.*

Summer is the most stressful time of the year for roses, but there are things we can do to help them survive and flourish.

**Water deeply** to keep the roots from drying and stressing the plant. Sprinkling the foliage can deter thrips and spider mites, but light sprinkling often will keep the roots close to the surface and a heatwave can kill them. Deep watering once a week in the hot months is the only fertiliser roses can handle.

**Mulch heavily** after a good watering or heavy rain. This is the best summer care, keeping the soil surface damp, suppressing weeds, and if an organic mulch, feeding the soil as it breaks down. Bare soil will bake hard on the surface and could repel life-saving moisture. Well-rotted manures and compost are the very best mulches as they enrich the soil and feed the plants. Wood chips, bark and other uncomposted mulches need some nitrogenous fertiliser dropped in to help prevent nitrogen drawdown in the soil.

**Groom your roses** - Keep them dead-headed, cutting back to a strong growth eye, trying to conserve as much foliage as possible to prevent stem sunburn. Probably there will be leaf scorch, but a scorched leaf is better than no leaf at all. This is also the time lovely new watershoots appear. These are usually thick and pinkish pale green (?), quite often producing a candelabra of blooms mostly smaller than type. Be careful with them, they are precious, so stake them before the summer storms tear them off. Use soft material in a loose figure-8 to prevent rubbing on the stake. Check on climbers, get rid of any dead or dying bits, cut off finished flowers, train the new canes in a



**Spray if you plan to exhibit** at the myriad of Horticultural Shows during the summer. Exhibitors must have clean blooms! In hot dry weather sap-sucking insects such as thrips and red spider ruin the blooms and are difficult to control – vigilance is needed to spot the first sign of red spider and destroy the leaf before you have to spend a fortune on biological control.

**If you see fine mottling** discolouration on the leaves, inspect underneath the leaf using a magnifying glass to see if there is fine webbing and the tiniest of mites. (There are oil based ecologically-friendly treatments available which can penetrate the fine webs.) On the other hand, humidity brings on all the fungal problems, particularly black spot which will quickly defoliate the bush – no leaves, no flowers! Hygiene is important – destroy any affected leaves and treat all new growth with a preventative spray.

**Late Summer Prune.** For a good autumn flush, cut off spent blooms down to a strong growth eye, cut out spindly unproductive stems, remove dead or damaged stems, nip off blind shoots, all the while trying to keep as much leaf coverage as possible. Pruning does not apply to fresh growth, particularly watershoots – just nip off spent blooms.

**All the once-flowering** old roses such as Alba, Gallica, Damask, Wichurana, Moss, Centifolia, Species, etc. can be tidied up, even pruned severely, to allow fresh growth for next spring's spectacular display; and Alister Clark roses seem to bloom best in late winter, so it is a good idea to give them their annual pruning in late summer.

Just when you thought you could sit back with a Gin and Tonic and admire your second flush of roses you find there are jobs to do! But think about it – a healthy rose is a happy rose and it will repay your TLC a hundredfold.

### Autumn Shows

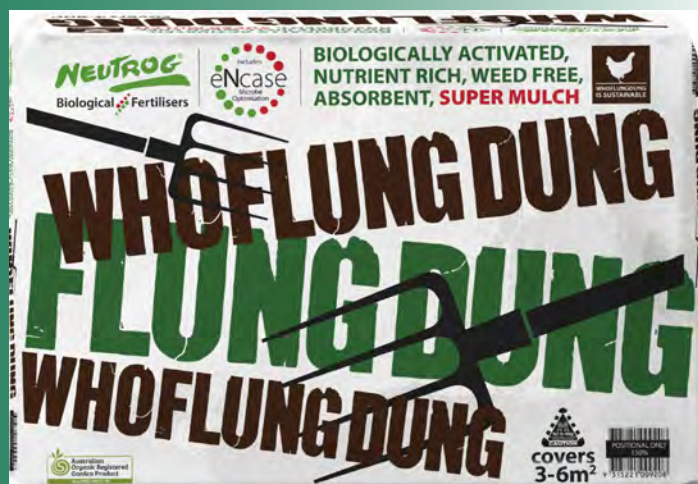
If you are going to enter the Autumn shows, most varieties will repeat blooms in 6-8 weeks so count back that time from the show dates. If you have several bushes of the same variety, try cutting half of them back 2-3 days apart.

Hybrid tea roses such as Moonstone, Tineke, Memoire, Elina and Signature all need close to 56 days after a prune. Kardinal and Happy Anniversary need about 45 days.

Floribundas such as Seduction, Evelyn Fison, Blueberry Hill, Fabulous, Pink Parfait, Apricot Nectar, and White Spray need between 49-56 days.

Decorative and shrub roses such as Baronne E de Rothschild, Gold Medal, Duet and Queen Elizabeth need about 49 days.

Miniature and Miniflora rose such as Joyce Abounding and Figurine need about 42 days.



# rose Information

## Popular Rose Nurseries

You can order in advance at these nurseries and the bare root roses will be shipped to you from June onwards. Generally the earlier you order the earlier the roses arrive.

Silkies Rose Nursery also known as Roses Online.  
[rosesalesonline.com.au](http://rosesalesonline.com.au)

Wagners Rose Nursery offers a 10% discount for current financial members. Check out the advertisement in the latest NSW Rose Journal for details of Wagner's special offer.  
[wagnersrosenursery.com.au](http://wagnersrosenursery.com.au)

Knights Roses (SA)- [knightsroses.com.au](http://knightsroses.com.au)

Treloar Roses (VIC)- [treloarroses.com.au](http://treloarroses.com.au)

Ross Roses (SA) - [rossroses.com.au](http://rossroses.com.au)

Green E Roses (Galston NSW) - [greeneroses.com.au](http://greeneroses.com.au)

Swanes Roses (Galston NSW) - [swanes.com](http://swanes.com)

RosesOnline (VIC) - [rosesalesonline.com.au](http://rosesalesonline.com.au)

Brindabella Roses (QLD) - [brindabella-gardens.com.au](http://brindabella-gardens.com.au)

Garden Express - only start to sell online roses from May onwards. You need to check their website regularly or register to be notified. [gardenexpress.com.au](http://gardenexpress.com.au)

As the season advances from July onwards, other rose nurseries start to offer shipping of potted roses. If you have a favourite nursery, keep an eye out for their advertising of new roses. Tims Garden Supplies in Campbelltown usually has a good selection and from May onwards the big green shed has a limited selection of the more popular roses but there can be some lovely surprises hidden among the Iceberg roses so keep an eye out there. Happy Rose Shopping.



Image: Fire and Ice (Floribunda)



*Macarthur*

*Christmas 2023*

These photos are a reminder of how much we all enjoyed our Christmas Party in December 2023.

The organising committee trusts that you all enjoyed the Christmas Lunch. More photos on the next page.



## How to Manage Black Spot

### Prevention is best

Plant your roses so that there is room for the air to flow between bushes.

Prune so that the rose has plenty of space for airflow. Clear out the centre and ensure that the air can flow through the bush to keep it aerated and dry.

Water in the morning before the sun warms. Try not to water in the late afternoon because moisture stays on the roses overnight allowing black spot to form.

### When Black Spot arrives

As the weather is predicted to continue to be warm, humid and wet until the end of the summer, nearly all of us will develop some black spot on our roses. It is important to carry out preventative work to ensure the least amount of damage from the black spot that does form.

Every day try to pick up the damaged leaves from around the bush to prevent further infestation. You will need to spray on a regular basis with either Eco Neem, Eco Carb and Wettable Sulphur to slow down its spread. Try to spray late in the evening so that the bees and beneficial insects have had time to disappear.

At this time of the year, it can be better to keep the damaged leaves on the stem to protect the bush from sunburn.

As always prevention is best and when you are thinking about what roses to purchase for your garden, look for varieties that have good black spot resistance. For example, Double Delight is a great rose for a vase but is prone to black spot. Fire and Ice, which is a newer rose is very black spot resistant and easier to grow.

# rose Information





## February Birthdays

8th Paula Wardle

18th Judy Clark



## Macarthur Diary



3 February 2024 - Meeting  
 2 March 2024 - Meeting  
**Neutrog Delivery - Early March**  
**15 March 2024 - Camden Show**  
**24 and 28 March - Royal Easter Show**  
**1 April - Royal Easter Show**  
 6 April 2024 - Meeting  
 4 May 2024 - Meeting  
 1 June 2024 - Meeting  
**6 July 2024 - Pruning Day**  
 3 August 2024 - Meeting  
 7 September 2024 - Meeting  
 5 October 2024 - Meeting  
**21-21 October - Macarthur Rose Show**  
 2 November 2024 - Meeting  
**7 December 2024 - Christmas Party**

We meet at the CWA Camden Hall on the first Saturday of each month (other than January) at 2:00pm. You can access the venue via the Coles carpark. Coles Camden is at 19 Murray Street, Camden.



Camden CWA Hall

**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.