



Macarthur Rose Newsletter

Vol 30, No: 7, March 2024



Neutrog Update

Thank you all for responding so quickly to the instructions about the pickup. Our volunteers appreciated your patience and willingness to wait safely while your fellow rosarians had their orders loaded into their cars.

The Neutrog shop is again open for business and you can begin to order for the Spring delivery sometime in early September.

While we are all in the ordering phase or our seasonal Neutrog journey, I would like to remind you all that the Neutrog arrangements are for Rose Society members ONLY. It is not OK to order for friends, neighbours or relatives or other garden club members. The benefits from this arrangement are for Rose Society members.

The NSW Rose Society has a signed contract with Neutrog. The conditions of the contract require us to only allow Rose Society members to benefit from this arrangement.

Ordering on behalf of people outside the Rose Society puts this arrangement at high risk of being cancelled for all Macarthur Rose Society members.

Neutrog tracks our orders from season to season. The company is aware and notes when an individual suddenly begins to order different and larger amounts of products.

Other States and Garden Clubs have had their Neutrog contracts cancelled when the company has become aware of people not adhering to their contract. These organisations have never been able to reinstate this very beneficial arrangement with Neutrog.

Please act ethically and responsibly when accessing these special arrangements

that we have with Neutrog and which benefits all Rose Society



Dear *Rose Friends*

It was a pleasure to see so many of you at our first meeting of the year. At long last we were able to successfully use our new audio visual equipment. So many members worked long, hot, exhausting days at Bunnings BBQ's to raise this money and it is good to see that their efforts are being rewarded. I look forward to many more meetings that highlight particular features of the rose and rose growing using this equipment.

A special Thank You to Mark McKenzie and Terry Ryan who between them lifted three pallets of Neutrog fertilisers into Rose Society members cars. You made our distribution so much easier and your help is greatly appreciated.

Now is the time to be purchasing your new bare root roses for delivery from June to August. In response to your requests, this month I have highlighted one of the newer miniature roses that several rosarians, including myself, have found to be a great performer in the garden. As so many of the great performing miniature roses are now hard to source, it is good to be able to welcome a new miniature rose that performs so well in the garden.

As the Camden Show will be on in three weeks, further information about exhibiting roses adds to last month's information to help you prepare for the show. This information is also applicable to the monthly show bench. If you have been bringing your roses to the monthly show bench - and we should all be doing so - then consider entering the Camden Show. It will support our local community and ensure a great rose display for the show.

Page 2 has Graham Wright's very useful Cultural Notes and Page 3 has information about the bloom cycles of the different types of roses that we discussed at the last meeting. This will help you to make the decisions for pruning to get roses for the occasions that you want them rather than when they appear.

Oasis is one of the essentials when displaying your roses and Page 4 provides some information about how to use Oasis and where to purchase this product.

Autumn is a good time to be in the garden as the weather cools slightly and the roses start to regrow again after the heat of summer. Now is the time that water shoots will appear. Page 5 has an article on water shoots and suckers.

Remember to bring your roses to the meeting for our show bench. We need to look like a Rose Society and the display we have each month is beautiful for us all to see and provides a focus for learning more about roses and rose growing.

Yours in Roses

Judith



Cultural Notes by Graham Wright

Although there were plenty of very warm days in recent months we managed to avoid the extreme temperatures which can literally burn plants. As a result we should be seeing plenty of new growth to set us up for a lovely Autumn flush. Blooms at that time usually display deeper tones. The stems may be longer and the foliage dense and more attractive than ever. Another positive is that the flowers last longer, whether on the bush or in the vase.

There is still time to provide nourishment for your roses. This will be the last opportunity until the Spring although Neutrog do recommend that Seamungus should be applied during the cooler months. Besides the Sudden Impact for Roses there are numerous options. Janet recently gathered up the worm castings and the response to those will be interesting. Blood and Bone also gets a good run in this household. There is no doubt in my mind that well-fed, well-hydrated plants are very resistant to diseases.

Disbudding is a recommended practice, not just for the exhibitor but for roses in general. Many roses send up cuts with multiple blooms with the terminal (or top bud) well in advance of the others. With Floribundas, Miniatures and Minifloras it is a simple matter of nipping out that top bud at an early stage to let the others mature at a similar rate. That may also apply to some Hybrid Teas and Grandifloras. For roses in the Exhibition Rose classes, Bud to Fully Open Bloom or Bunch Rose Classes remove any side buds.



Duet (Hybrid Tea, Decorative)

Problems with pests are more seasonal. You can always expect aphids on the early Spring foliage. Sometimes a spraying with water will be sufficient to remove them. Otherwise you can choose an insecticide from the long aisles in the garden shop. It is now much easier to find something non-toxic. Beetles and caterpillars can also cause issues as the weather cools. Be observant and apply remedies from the nursery.

Whilst enjoying the blooms which are coming through we can make decisions about the development of our gardens. Sometimes we may be so impressed with a cultivar that we decide to increase the numbers. Alternatively, we may decide that a rose has had enough chances and has an appointment with a spade. There is no point in persisting with a rose which disappoints.

It is not too early to prepare the soil for new plantings. Loose, friable soil with plenty of space should be the aim. Remember that the root systems of roses grow considerably. A good root system is reflected in the canopy of stems and leaves above. We will say more about planting in coming months. Choose roses which you like, not necessarily ones which have been pushed by advertisers. Sentiment can play a part too. *Duet* was my mother's favourite rose and we are glad that she made such a wise choice. We had numerous successes with it on the show bench in the Decorative Rose class. It was bred in the 1960s and has endured the passage of time. One of our *Duets* commenced life as a cutting in 1979 and continues to be productive. There is also plenty of satisfaction in trialling a new release and finding it to be a surprise packet. We were fortunate to receive *Unconventional Lady* early on and have enjoyed seeing its acceptance.

With the confirmation of the new National Judges Handbook we can all benefit from a study of the different categories of roses. There has been a rise in the number of roses now classified as Shrub. They come in all shapes and sizes. For example, *Bonica* is small and neat and some of the David Austins, like *Graham Thomas*, are large and bold. It should be remembered that the naming and classification are in the hands of the breeder, NOT the growers.

Sadly there are not as many rose shows than was once the case but it is more important than ever for us to support those on offer. It is significant to say that we belong to an organisation which celebrates 110 years in 2024. Well-attended shows tell the public of our existence. It was very encouraging to see 32 people at our last Macarthur meeting. Enthusiasm is infectious.

Best wishes to all rosarians,

Graham



Bloom Cycles

Rose buds that are showing their petals and starting to open may be just two days from full bloom. Standard roses, with petals compact but starting to spread, will be fully open about three to four days later.

The Bloom Cycle is the time it takes the rose bush to produce another flower. The beginning of the cycle is the moment you deadhead off the old bloom and the end is when a new bloom opens up. Often we want to do this for a special event such as a party, a rose show, when we need flowers for a special event. Regardless of the reason knowing the bloom cycle can be very useful.

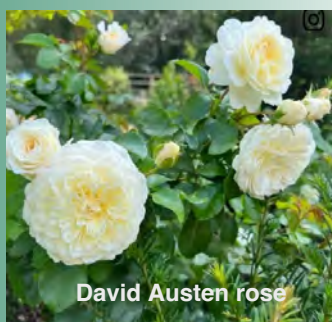
Timing the bloom cycle involves cutting off all blooms and buds so the bloom cycle for the entire bush begins and ends at the same time. Exhibitors do this to get ready for a big show. Getting all the bushes blooming in your garden at once gives a spectacular display in any garden.

Usually our deadheading only involves cutting off the blooms that are faded or no longer have petals. This encourages the bush to constantly replenish itself and gives you a pretty constant bloom growth over the growing year.

In comparison to our usual deadheading, we need to undertake radical surgery to get all the bushes blooming simultaneously at the time you want. To manage the bloom cycle for any event, you start with the normal deadheading techniques. This time, count down to the second or third leaflet group and make your cut at an angle just above it.



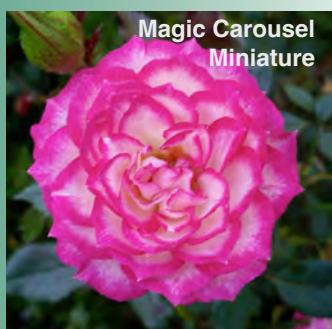
Governor Macquarie Hybrid Tea



David Austin rose



Lady of Australia Floribunda



Magic Carousel Miniature

Shrub roses don't need cutting above inward or outward facing eyes. Just make sure with shrub roses that you are cutting above healthy vigorous growth.

All the blooms, new and old, and all the buds have to be cut off. No exceptions. A true expert can play with this rule but this kind of touch is beyond most of us. So cut off everything. New buds, **new and old** blooms.

The bloom cycle chart below is timed at the level of the second or third leaflet group below the bloom or bud. The further down you go, the longer it takes for the bloom to come back. This general rule of thumb is to add approximately five more days for each additional leaflet group that you go down.

Using the chart below is easy! Look up the type of plant you have and the number of days in the bloom cycle. Find the date of your event in the calendar, count back the number of days in the bloom cycle for that rose plant and that's when you should make your cuts. The chart was written for late spring/summer time temperatures. If you are in a cooler climate, add a few days and in a really warm climate subtract a few days.

If you aren't sure about the climate, cut 1/3rd of the bushes one day. A few days later cut another third and the remaining bushes can be done a few days later. At least something will have flowers when you want them.

Just remember the simple rules:

- 🌹 Take it all off old and new blooms and buds.
- 🌹 Make cuts above the second or third leaflet group.
- 🌹 The further down the stem you go the longer it takes for the bloom to come back.
- 🌹 Impress your guests and take the most and best roses to the show.

Type of Rose	Number of Days in Bloom Cycle
David Austen	All different but assume 50-60
Floribundas	50-55
Hybrid Tea	45-55
Miniatures	35-40



Exhibiting Roses

Find out which roses are well suited to exhibition so that you can use them at rose shows. Plant these roses in good soil and ensure they get the food and water they need and that they are kept pest and disease free as possible.

Check with the rose consultants – there is a list and contact details on the NSW Rose Society website and use the information available in your monthly newsletters, the Rose Journal and the website for information on growing good roses. It is advisable to have several bushes of the same rose so there are blooms for those classes that require different stages such as bunch or bud to full bloom. For example; three of Kardinal, four of Brass Band three of City of Newcastle or Good Samaritan.

Make sure you know that different classification of the roses and those you have in your garden. You need to know the difference between hybrid teas, floribundas, shrub, miniflora and miniature, David Austin, heritage roses etc. You can also see examples on our monthly show bench and your fellow rosarians are happy to help with this information. Learning your rose identifications will also help you to know that you are entering the appropriate rose to the section at the show.

Learn from other exhibitors – they are nearly all willing to share their knowledge and love of roses. You can learn by viewing and asking questions about the roses on the monthly show bench. Go to the rose shows and watch the exhibitors prepare their roses for exhibition. Try not to interrupt as it can be stressful getting ready for the show. Look for an exhibitors workshop to learn the skills and

CHANGE OF SEASON, IS A GREAT REASON TO POPUL8 YOUR SOIL



Get your garden autumn ready with a seasonal application of POPUL8 for healthy plant growth above and below ground.

POPUL8 is designed to occupy and populate the biological space in the soil and on plant roots which may otherwise be an available space for plant pathogens to inhabit - hence its name.

POPUL8 contains a diverse microbiome of 200+ naturally occurring microbes, plus a further 42 specifically selected bacteria and fungi have been isolated, identified and added for their individual and joint symbiotic purpose and beneficial characteristics.

The number and diversity of living microbes in POPUL8 can positively influence nutrient cycling, nutrient liberation, nitrogen fixation, production of plant growth hormones, protection and resilience against disease and bio stimulation

POPUL8 should be applied once per season across the entire garden, and then as needed for plants showing signs of stress.



Freecall 1800 656 644 | www.neutrog.com.au

What is Oasis?

Oasis is the green coloured floral foam that is placed inside the vase to hold the roses. The main things to know about the floral foam are:



🌹 Wet it by placing it in a tub of water that is filled up to at least twice the depth of the Oasis block.

🌹 The writing on the floral foam needs to face upwards.

🌹 When it is completely soaked it will float to just under the surface. It only takes a few minutes. Leaving it overnight will not make it more 'soaked'.

🌹 **Do not push it down into the water** as this will prevent it saturating as air bubbles will form.

🌹 After saturation, cut the foam to fit the container you are using. The foam should not protrude above the top of the vase except when you are exhibiting a bowl arrangement.

🌹 Do not reuse floral foam as it contains bacteria from previous uses. Air pockets form where it has been spiked. Foam that has been dried out, should never be reused.

🌹 Cut the rose stem on a slant to help it pierce the foam easily and create greater surface area to draw up moisture.

🌹 Use tap water or condition the water against bacteria by use of a small amount of antiseptic such as Listerine.

For more information about the use of floral foam go to the American Rose Society website. https://www.rose.org/rose_care_articles/best-kept-secrets-of-floral-foam

Floral foam can be purchased either as a single block or packs/boxes ranging from 4-60 blocks. It can be obtained from the floristry suppliers Koch or Apack. Prices vary from each supplier so it is worth checking out each website. Both allow the public to visit their warehouses and also do online orders and delivery. Buty from these suppliers is less expensive than buying a single block from the \$2 shop.



rose Information

New Roses



My Little Angel is a Kordes rose that was released into the Australian market in 2022. It is an exceptionally healthy miniature rose that is covered in masses of beautiful mauve blooms that flower late into the winter. The flowers are many petalled and hold their shape and colour. Flowers form in clusters and it responds well when the spent roses are cut from the cluster, quickly reforming its shape. It is near evergreen and it is proven to be a tough little performer. It grows to approximately 50cm high and 50cm wide and is suitable for pots and borders. It has a slight fragrance and has near constant flowering with a repeat of approximately 40 days.

As it is such a good performer, it sells out early in the season. Some growers sell this rose as a 30cm standard. It gives the bush a little more height making it easier to place in the garden and keeps the bush from being overwhelmed by the bigger roses planted nearby.

This miniature is becoming popular on the show bench as the characteristics that make it a great garden rose also work on the show bench in the miniature classes.



A cluster of buds on a My Little Angel rose bush

Rose growing

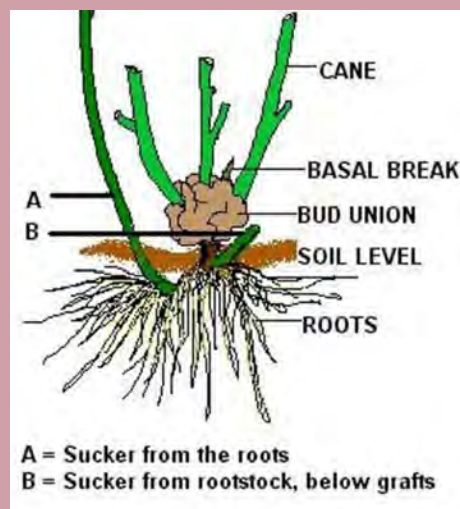
Autumn is one of the best seasons in the rose growing calendar. The weather cools making it much more enjoyable to be out in the garden and the roses love it too after the scorching sun of summer. The roses will come back bigger than in spring, the colours intensify and the fragrance deepens again.

Now is also the time that the water shoots appear. Water shoots are the lovely red and green shoots that appear above the bud union of the graft and grow rapidly to great heights. They are often thicker than normal canes. Water shoots are beneficial to the structure of the rose but suckers, which look similar need to be removed or they will take over your plant. The photo below shows a water shoot growing from the bud union. Keep this one! Stake it so the autumn winds do not break it off. They will have the same foliage and flowers as the main plant.



Suckers, as shown in the diagram at right, appear below the graft and look very similar to the water shoots.

Suckers need to be removed as they will take over your plant and you will be left with root stock rather than the grafted plant





March Birthdays

14th David Hawke

26th Helen O'Hearn

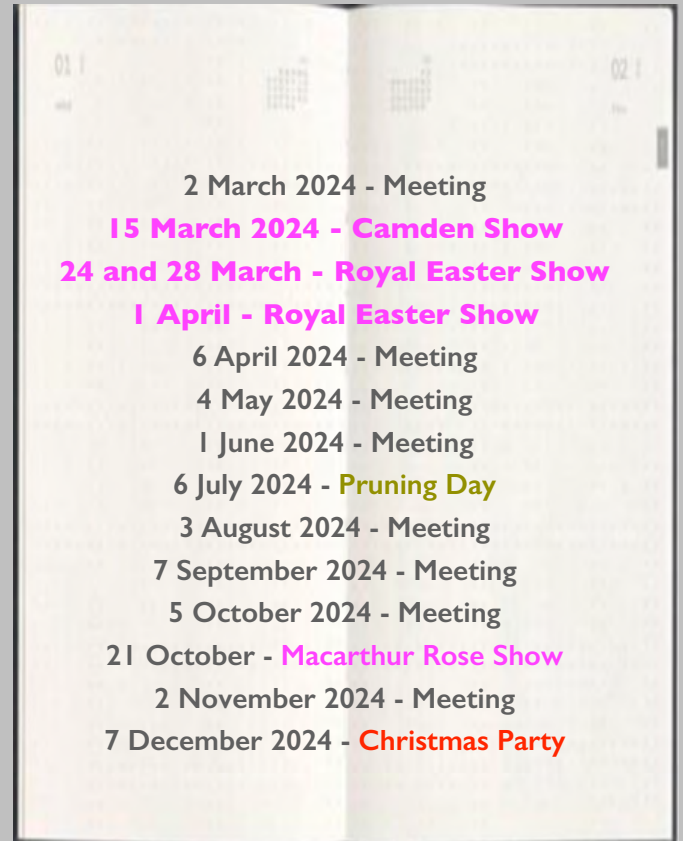
27th Jan Stibbard

28th Andrew Wardle

Maureen Kennedy



Macarthur Diary



2 March 2024 - Meeting

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 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.