



Macarthur Rose Newsletter

Vol 31, No: 6, December 2024



Neutrog

The Neutrog shop is due to close in February for our autumn delivery in March 2025.

Now is the time to start to think about what products you will need over the autumn and winter period. Remember autumn and winter are the best times to rejuvenate your soil.

Remember you can place multiple orders. This means that you can order when you remember rather than waiting until the beginning of February and then trying to remember in a hurry. Check your history in your Neutrog account. This will show you all the invoices for all the products you have ordered and of course they are dated to help us remember.

Dear *Rose Friends*

The end of the year is speeding to an end with the Christmas festivities beginning, the seasonal rain arriving, which is a mixed blessing, and the heat starting to build up.

Over the next few weeks we will be able to enjoy the results of our recent work in the rose garden as the second flush of roses arrive.

Gary Wotton has kindly provided us with two months of cultural notes to see us through the holiday period over December and January. Gary has also included guidance for those of you who are starting their rose propagation journey.

Thank you for supporting the Macarthur Regional Rose Society over the last year. Your willingness to participate is what makes our Rose Society successful. Your presence and enjoyment of our fellow rosarians and the rose allows us all to learn, meet new and old friends and be part of a vibrant community.

For those who have not kept well this year, we wish you a quick return to good health and a better year to come. I wish you all a peaceful and enjoyable Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Judith

Christmas Celebration

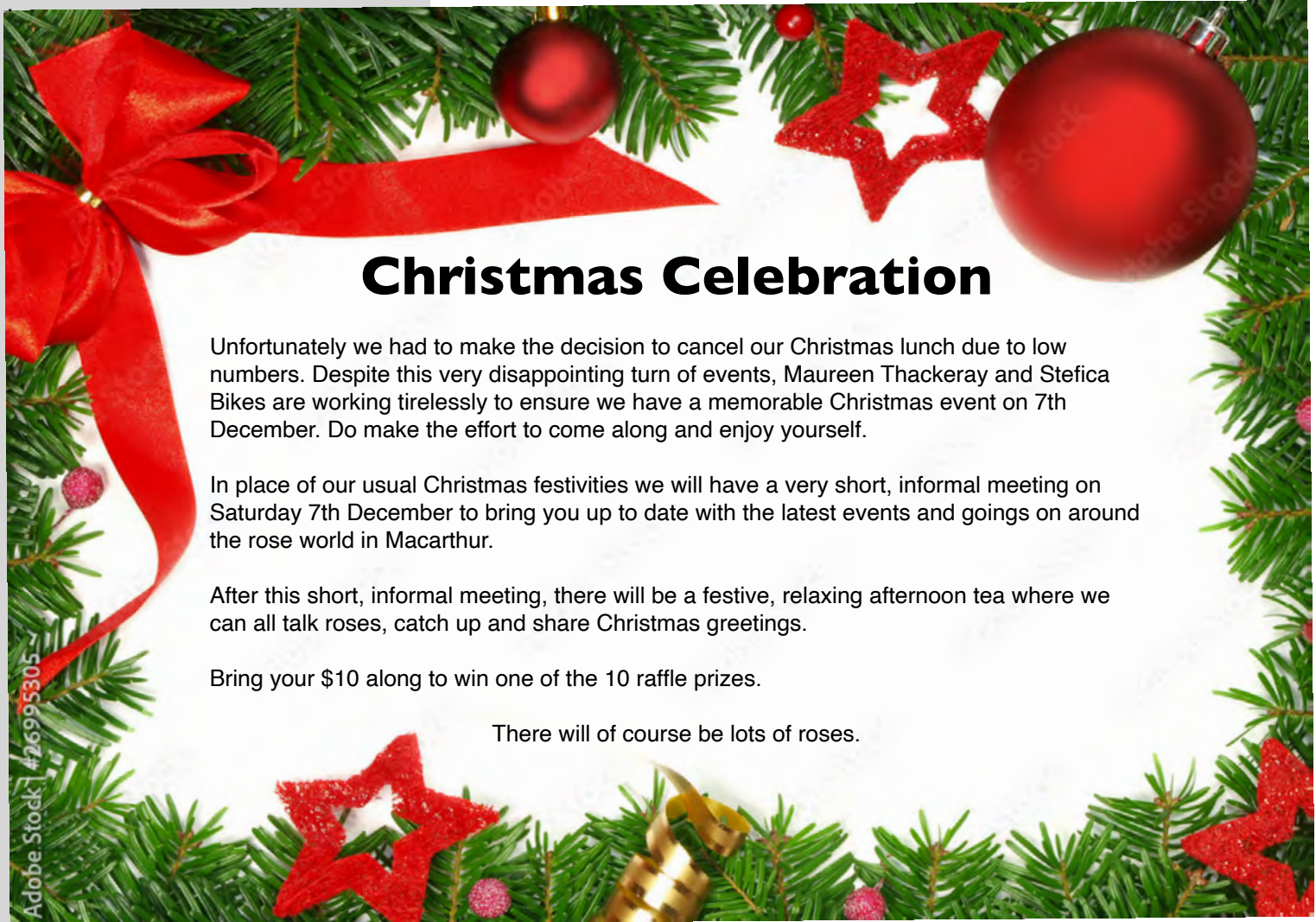
Unfortunately we had to make the decision to cancel our Christmas lunch due to low numbers. Despite this very disappointing turn of events, Maureen Thackeray and Stefica Bikes are working tirelessly to ensure we have a memorable Christmas event on 7th December. Do make the effort to come along and enjoy yourself.

In place of our usual Christmas festivities we will have a very short, informal meeting on Saturday 7th December to bring you up to date with the latest events and goings on around the rose world in Macarthur.

After this short, informal meeting, there will be a festive, relaxing afternoon tea where we can all talk roses, catch up and share Christmas greetings.

Bring your \$10 along to win one of the 10 raffle prizes.

There will of course be lots of roses.



December Notes

We are now into December (happy festive season to everybody), your roses should be or be about to begin their second flush. This is the time to sit back and enjoy the fruits of your labour. Well, don't sit back and enjoy for too long, garden maintenance cannot wait.

Garden hygiene is a never-ending task. I incorporate my garden hygiene into my spraying regime, in that the day before I spray, I conduct my garden hygiene by removing any fallen leaves or any discoloured leaves from the bush (no point spraying over the top of contaminated leaves).

Consider alternating two or maybe three different types of spray to prevent a build-up of resistance to any one spray. Don't forget your potted roses (if you have any), when conducting your garden hygiene. Carryout the same hygiene routine as you did in the garden, by removing any contaminated leaves from the plant as well as from the top of the pot and weed the pot if required. Now that your potted plants are clean and weed free, lets discuss....

MULCH, yes, we need to have a mulching plan for our potted roses, as we do for our garden roses. We would normally mulch our garden with a mulch like Whoflungdung, a great product for your garden, but the particles are a bit large for your potted roses.

When mulching your potted rose, look for a product that has characteristics like Whoflungdung, I have found that a horse feed product called Lucerne Chaff is a very good substitute. Some additional advantages of Lucerne Chaff are, it contains high levels of protein, provides many important minerals, including potassium, calcium, iron, folic acid, and it also stimulates healthy root growth.



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Not all the visitors to your garden are annoying pests, some just wish to visit and borrow a bit of your rose bush. This is the handiwork of the Leafcutter Bee a native Australian Bee, which snips a neat circle or oval from your rose leaf. She will use these leaf pieces to weave tiny cradles for her eggs inside her nest burrow and are found all over Australia. She always cuts extremely neat circles and ovals, unlike caterpillars which leave irregular holes in leaves. The leaf cutter bee work is not very aesthetically pleasing, but no damage done.

Propagation: We are now in December, and we should be continuing to select and record our flowers/hips to grow a rose by seed. The hips should be starting to show signs of success, swelling, don't be too concerned if you have some failures, remember that the flowers are pollinated by mother nature and her team of pollinators, and they don't care how much pollen they place on your roses or what plant that they visit prior to proceeding to your roses. As mentioned, we are into the second flush of flowers and can start to consider the taking of Softwood Cuttings, these are generally taken in early to mid-summer when the plant is putting on its new growth and there are a lot of growth hormones in the plant system. For Softwood cuttings, select the slightly firmer pieces of plant material, as they usually strike more successfully and can be taken during summer. Softwood cuttings are generally the quickest to form roots, and do so most easily, but they are, also more susceptible to fungal problems and environmental issues.

Keep up the good work. Good gardening!

Gary



January Notes

We have survived the festive season and looking to welcoming in the New Year with fantastic roses. The hot summer days are still with us and can dry out the soil around your roses and cause them to suffer and your potted roses will dry out even quicker than your in-ground plants. Roses, need to be watered deeply 1–2 times a week. More frequent watering will be required for Roses growing in pots. Whenever you water your roses, apply the water gently around the base of the plant, rather than watering over the foliage. Water splashing up from the soil or potting mix surface can transfer disease spores onto the leaves and wet leaves can also increase the spread of disease.

Diseases are not the only annoyances that are interested in reaping the benefits of your hard work, your roses are also prone to attack from sap-sucking Aphids and Mites. Aphids often cluster on new leaves and stems as well as flower buds and are at home in our hot, dry summers. Caterpillars can also cause damage to your roses in summer, chewing through leaves and into the centre of your roses.

Pests are not only interested in the top of your roses, they also attack the roots systems of your roses. We need to deter the adult Scarabaeidae beetle from laying her eggs, (Curl Grubs) in your pots. Some remedies to combat the Curl Grub are, firstly, apply some mulch (Lucerne Chaff in pots or Whoflungdung in the garden) to deter the adult Scarabaeidae beetle from laying her eggs in the first instance.



The use of one or more of the following measures should be employed throughout the year to control reinfestation. Neem based products, as they concentrate on chewing and sucking insects, used as a drench in pots should control them or the use of a similar systemic product. Note if you try this method, make sure that the detergent you use does not contain chemicals such as fragrances, bleaches, sodium or boron. Biodegradable detergents, if used repeatedly can harm soil microbiota and increase alkalinity.



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Don't be tempted to use this method on garden beds. Keep your pots well hydrated, especially over the summer, (water restrictions permitting) as the adult beetle doesn't like to lay eggs in wet soils.

Note: there is an unproven theory that the adult Scarabaeidae beetle may be attracted to your garden, if garden lighting is present.

Propagation: January is the time that I conduct my budding, the suggested budding season will expire at the end of February, we should be continuing to select and record our flowers/hips to grow a rose by seed, for about another month. The hips should be starting to show signs of success, swelling, don't be too concerned if you have some failures, remember that the flowers are pollinated by mother nature and her team of pollinators, and they don't care how much pollen they place on your roses or what plant that they visit prior to progressing to your roses. At this stage some hips may look a little yellowy to orange, some hips may keep this colour well into their development, other hips will adopt a reddish colour, this is not an indicator that the hip has reached maturity. Trouble signs to look for at this stage is that the hips, (irrelevant of their colour) or more correctly the stem supporting the hip may start to fail. The stem may start to turn yellow or brown, if this occurs, maintain observations to determine your actions. If the hip starts to wilt, along with the stem, and the hip was pollinated more than three months ago (this is why we keep records), collect the hip and advance to the stratification stage. Any number of methods are on the web. One is [How to Grow Roses from Seed: 13 Steps \(with Pictures\) - wikiHow](#).

We will also be doing this process at our February meeting. If the hips are growing well, just keep up the vigilance for a little while longer. Keep up the good work.

Good gardening *Gary*

News



Your biannual NSW Rose Journal will be arriving in your inbox within the next few weeks.

Due to very sharp increases in printing, postage and design costs, there will be no printed Journal for this edition.

Early in the New Year there may be some capacity to print the Journal if members are prepared to pay for their copy. Further information about the production of the Journal will be available after the next State Council meeting in February 2025.

Rose Society of NSW

Thank you to everyone who made the effort to vote in the recent Rose Society of NSW elections. Member participation in these opportunities means that we are engaged and interested in the governance of the Rose Society.

I am pleased to advise that Mr Colin Hollis was elected President by a 2/3 to 1/3 majority of votes. Colin Hollis greatly appreciated your support and confidence in him.

We are still looking for a permanent editor for the NSW Rose Journal. I have agreed to continue in the role temporarily but it really needs someone to take up the commitment. Remember it is our Rose Society and it is only as good as we make it.

State Council is a great way to learn about roses and what is happening in the National or International rose world. Think about taking up one of the vacant roles.



Evelyn Fison (F)

Our Meetings

Our first meeting of the new year will be on 1 February 2025. The meeting will start at 2:00pm sharp.

We will continue to meet in the CWA rooms. Remember that all are welcome.

At our first meeting we will have two speakers. Gary Wotton, who provides our cultural notes each month, will be updating us on where to go next on our propagation journey.

Glenn Smith the official photographer from the botanical gardens at Mount Annan has agreed to come and talk to us about photography. He will be talking about how to take photos of your roses with your phone. There will also be a demonstration and opportunities to take photos of the roses on the show bench using the skills that we learn from Glenn. This is likely to be useful for our propagation journey too.

Come along, bring your phone, your curiosity and be prepared to take great photos of your roses under Glenn's guidance.

In March 2025 we will have a presentation on how to prepare your roses for the Camden show. This will include how to 'petal out' your hybrid teas and how to transport and exhibit your roses to get the best effect.

In April there will be an opportunity to visit a rose garden. Despite conversations with Wollongong Botanic Garden prior, our visit to the garden in November clashed with someone's wedding day. To our disappointment we had to leave the garden after a very short visit. One compensation was the visit to Pearce Park in Kiama where the Illawarra Regional Rose Society meet regularly to maintain the roses. The roses were blooming well and Colin Hollis gave us a personal guided tour and history of the garden. However the rose garden at the Wollongong Botanic Garden remains a worthy garden to visit at a quieter time.

There will be other guest speakers through out the year. Please feel free to contact me to make suggestions and I will follow up and book the speakers. It is always good to have interesting and different perspectives on better ways to grow roses including tools, presentation and demonstrations. Anything from the soil up is of interest to us all.



Contact details are 0410 444 562.



2nd Kim Baker
14th Gary Crawford
23rd Sheryl Shaw



Happy
birthday

Macarthur Diary

Reminders:

Next meeting is on Saturday
1st February 2025 at 2:00pm
at the CWA rooms in Camden



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 is 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.