

Macarthur Rose News

February 2025

Volume: 31, No: 7



Neutrog Orders

The Neutrog online shop has already closed, but as it is so early in the year, I have asked Neutrog to reopen the shop for a short period. I know many of you will have missed the early closing date - I did. The closing date caught me and I assume others by surprise.

I will contact you all if I am able to get the shop reopened.



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 a natural, non-toxic, and safe product that contains a blend of beneficial microorganisms that help to improve soil health and plant growth. It is suitable for use on all types of soil and is easy to apply.

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Dear Rose Friends

Happy New Year to you all. I hope that you have had a joyful and peaceful Christmas and New Year and are ready for a new rose year. As you can see there has been an update to the look of the newsletter.

The start of the New Year seemed like a good time for a change. If you have any ideas or comments on how you would like the newsletter improved, let me know as I am always open to your ideas and contributions.

The New Year begins our serious preparations to hold the 2026 National Championships. As usual, we will be looking for volunteers. Any size contribution for any length of time is warmly welcome. Please contact me if you can help in any way. Our first National Championship organising meeting is 3rd February at 10:30am. Please let me know if you want to participate. will ensure that you are advised of the meeting details.

The next Macarthur meeting is on 1st February 2025. The details about the meeting venue and times are on Page 7 of this newsletter. We have a guest speaker coming to talk to us about how to photograph our roses with our mobile phones. Speaker details are on Page 6 of the newsletter. Bring your roses for the show bench and to photograph after presentation.

Gary Wootton will also be presenting on the next step in propagating our roses. It will be nearly four months since we tagged our roses and the hips will be well on the way to ripening now. Our cultural notes provide some detail and Gary will provide more information in his presentation.

The new name badge art work is shown on Page 4 along with cost and payment details.

The Summer 2024 NSW Rose Journal was issued on 23 December 2024. This was our first electronic journal. If you wish to receive a printed copy of the Journal there will be a charge of \$15 per copy. Contact me if you want a hard copy of the Journal.



The local agricultural shows are now in full swing. Last Saturday the Albion Park show was held and the Berry, Kiama and Nowra shows will be

held over the next eight weeks. Most of these shows have a single rose class - not necessarily exhibition roses and classes for bowls of roses. If you have some beautiful single roses, have a go and enter one of these relaxed rose shows. It's great practice for the Camden Show and a lovely day out.

I look forward to seeing you all on 1st February.

Judith



Macarthur Rose News, February 2025



At Macarthur
Rose Society

In January the heat makes our roses small. Their bloom cycle is shorter and they have less colour. The best tonic is water, water, water.

Australian Bred Roses

can offer high quality, disease resistant, and beautiful roses. However, they are often hard to source commercially. If they are available from the large commercial growers, they generally have a short period of popularity and then become hard to source again.

This is where your Rose Society membership has great advantages. This membership can link you with our members who hybridise, graft and/or grow roses very successfully from cuttings or seeds. These processes produce unique and fabulous roses that are not commercially available. They can also help you grow that special inherited rose in your garden that you are worried about losing and can no longer source commercially.

Talk to each other about the roses you grow and what roses you like and would like to grow. It is one of the often hidden benefits of your membership. Use the buy, sell and swap table at our meetings to obtain roses that you can't buy anywhere else. Talk to the growers such as Ian Thackeray, Gary Wootton and Graham Wright at meetings and if available, purchase unique roses while encouraging their efforts and giving them great information about how their roses grow in your garden.

Some notable Australian rose breeders include Alistair Clarke (VIC), Alan Read (Illawarra) who did extensive work on minifloras. His notable roses include Sarah Ann and Hot Jack. Eric Welsh (Woman's Day), Bert Mulley (Daphne), Trevor Grant (Governor Macquarie), Bruce Chapman (Joyce Abounding, Melbourne Town, Amazing Grace), Richard and Ruth Walsh (Dusky Moon, 100 Not Out), Marguerite Parkes (Sharon Louise).

These are just some of the well known Australian rose breeders and of course we have our own Gary Wootton who is a skilled rose breeder and successfully bred several beautiful and robust roses.



**At Macarthur
Rose Society**

February Cultural Notes

Gary Wootton

Happy New Year! As we look forward to 2025, check on the mulch in your rose garden. This includes the mulch in your potted roses and refurbish as required. Leave the existing mulch in place and simply boost the mulch with the addition of new mulch. Remember that the mulch that is currently there is already breaking down and leeching out its minerals and nutrients.

We may be approaching the end of summer, but we should be keeping up a good watering regime and still water regularly. Depending on when you started your fertilising program, another fertilising treatment may still be required this month. Don't forget to water your fertiliser in well.

Insects or any bug that may see your much loved roses as a delicious meal. As well-educated rosarians we should be conscious that what we are using on our roses may be impacting on the environment that surrounds those roses.

I am myself am a keen user of pesticides, but I also want to know what adverse effects the pesticides are having on the good guys – ones that pollinate or the ones that attack and rid my garden of the bad guys.

Simply put, I want to rid my garden and therefore my roses of aphids. But I would also like to have mother nature's pollinating team appreciating my garden too. For that reason, I prefer to use systemic products, that will impact on those pesky pests that like to chew on my roses and have less impact on those that don't.

So, let's look at and discuss the ways to attract the pollinators and their predatory garden colleagues.



Most beneficial insects will drink nectar, as well as eat insects. If you plant the right flowers in your garden, you will get the most beneficial insects to drink the nectar, as well as eat pest insects.

We are trying to attract a variety of predatory insects, including, lacewing, ladybird and hover flies, which are the aphid eaters. Now, attracting the pollinators and their predatory garden colleagues, is not as simple as placing out a Bug Hotel and supplying them with food, and hoping that these buddies

Lacewing



will come running, or crawling, or flying to your garden. Your local environment may not support your endeavours, and you may need a helping hand. Backyard Buddies are obtainable from Organic Crop Protectants. The Backyard Buddies range uses the power of beneficial insects to control pests in your garden. These are available online from OCP, <https://www.ecoorganicgarden.com.au/products/backyard-buddies/>

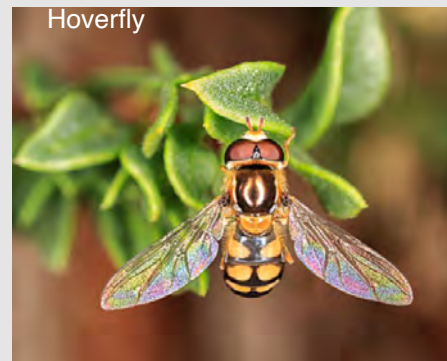
Propagation

February is not too late to continue to observe, mark and record, for propagating your roses for the purposes of growing from seed. This month is generally considered as your last chance for this task.

If you wish to propagate your roses by cuttings, then now is the time for this. Semi-ripe cuttings can be taken in late summer or very early autumn. In December the stems have started to mature and will be firmer and less flexible but not completely hardened.

Gary

Hoverfly



February is time to feed our roses. Whether you decide on continuous blooms or a heavy autumn crop, start to fertilise for the best results.

Sunburn can cause extensive damage if the soil becomes too dry. Thrips will usually still be present, but seldom do any harm because the blooms open too quickly. Mildew and aphids will cause very little bother.

Depending on the night temperatures and rain, black spot may be causing de-foliation. Note that while we have had a very hot, dry December and January to date, the Weather Bureau has just advised we may be in for a sustained period of wet weather. Keep up the regular spraying. Remember that black spot forms long before we notice the disfiguring black spots. Prevention is key to keeping it under control. Now is the time to prevent.

Do not cut blooms with long stems as there is insufficient time before the days shorten for the new growth to deliver the roses you want.

Climbing rose canes will have grown to a sufficient length to necessitate tying them vertically to the supports. These will stay there until May - June.

Cutting your flowers

The hot weather brings particular challenges for keeping your roses in good condition after they are picked. Picking your roses at the right time of the day and treating them with care will insure that your roses have a longer life as a cut flower.

Roses are better picked after about 4:30pm. This is because the roses open mainly between dawn and midday. After that, they use energy to maintain the inner working of the plant. This means that they open very little after the sun is past the half way mark.

Keep the bucket of water close by, cut the flower and immediately place it in the bucket cutting about 1/4" under water. Strip the prickles and leaves. Only put up to 10 blooms per bucket so that they are not squished and touching. Leave them in water for at least an hour before putting in a dark, cool place at temperatures ranging from 6-10°C.



At Macarthur
Rose Society

February Rose Notes

There is a choice about the time and type of blooms to grow this autumn

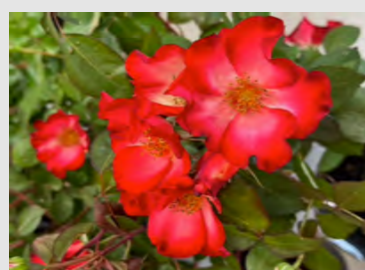
In the summer, flowers for indoor use must be gathered as fairly tight buds, handled carefully, and the stems cut underwater. Draw any badly placed water shoots to the outer part of the plant and secure them from the wind.

By mid to late January, you must decide which of two courses you prefer to follow for the rest of the season. The first option is to continue the steady summer/autumn blooming with moderate bloom numbers. These will decrease in late March and become sparse by mid April.

Alternatively you can summer prune in early February, sacrificing blooms from mid February until early April. This will result in a big flush of good sized blooms with excellent colour from late March into early May. Do not prune hard.

In the second part of January, hot dry weather with frequent scorching winds from inland are characteristic. If you chose to have steady autumn blooming, keep on watering regularly.

If you have chosen the other option of better blooms, profusion and a shorter and later bloom, reduce watering and do not cut long stems. Continue the regular spray cycle. In February, you can begin feeding again, continue watering and routine removal of spent blooms. These are the main needs for your rose garden.



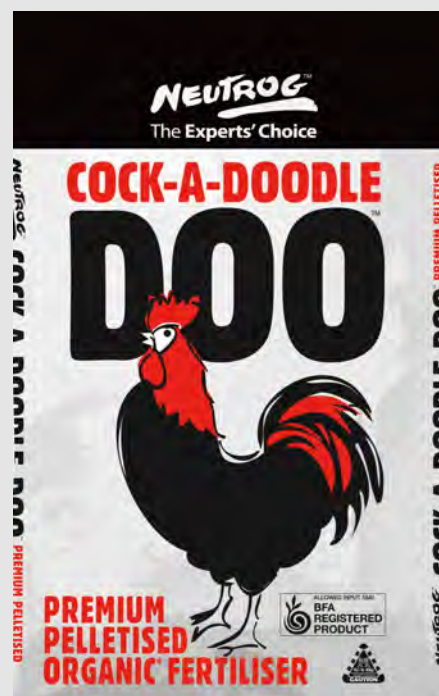
By mid February, if a heavy crop of autumn blooms is the objective, the soil must now be heavily watered and manured regularly - a little heavier than when feeding in August/September. Do not dig the manure too deeply.

Carefully examine your plants for dead or sickly wood and remove. This is

the time for summer trimming for those who want to delay blooming. There will be very few blooms and most will be the result of having missed cutting back. Some small branch growth will begin and will become vigorous.

The flower buds will form where little or no trimming has been done. There will usually be a good show of colourful roses as the cool season approaches. They are delightful, but a few hot days can ruin the whole crop. Watch for early mildew and other fungi, which will all return. You will need to treat these.

Keep the new stems tied up and add more mulch. If caterpillars are noticed, Dipel from Nature's Own is safe. Replenish mulch if necessary and undertake more nitrogenous feeding (Gyganic, Rooster Booster). Start thinking about new rose bed preparations.



We need a new Care Convenor

Jan Priestly has been our Care Convenor for many years despite residing on the South Coast and only being able to attend meetings infrequently.

Jan has resigned from this position as she has now transferred to the Illawarra Region, which is closer to her home.

The Care Convenor keeps track of our birthdays, sends Get Well and Sympathy cards when appropriate and generally ensures that we are all remembered and cared for as members of the Macarthur Regional Rose Society.

It is not an onerous task but does require consistency and care. Could someone please volunteer to take up this role. Your help would be appreciated. Please contact me directly on M: 0410 444 562 if you can take up this role for us.

Name Badges

At our last gathering in December 2024, there was a short discussion about name badges.

We have sourced a supplier. Name badges will be \$13. They will have a magnetic (very good magnet) clasp.

If you want a permanent badge as detailed in the artwork above with your name, please let us know at our next meeting in February.

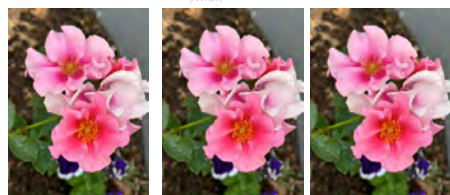
Payment of \$13 can be made either in cash or by bank transfer to the Macarthur Rose Society.

Account Name: Macarthur Regional Rose Society

BSB: 802 388

Account No: 100092316

REFERENCE: Your Name, Badge



At Macarthur
Rose Society

February Rose Notes

How to choose new roses among the online extravaganza of new releases and old favourites

All the local and interstate rose suppliers have opened their catalogues for new bare root rose purchases. But how do you choose just one rose? It is not easy. First of all, there are a lot of choices among suppliers. From the traditional bare root suppliers such as Wagners, Treloars, Ross Roses, Green E Roses, Swanes, Knights to other more immediately accessible suppliers. This includes Bunnings who have recently upped the quality of roses they are supplying and of course the ever reliable Tims Garden Centre in Campbelltown.

Dozens of new roses come onto the market each year. While roses are getting better as garden plants especially in terms of hardiness, disease resistance and capacity to withstand sustained periods of hot weather, there are still varieties coming to

market that have lesser attributes. I shovel prune roses each year that I had previously planted with high hopes. Usually the reasons for this are the failure of the plant to thrive or a propensity to disease such as powdery mildew or black spot. Others have encroached beyond their allocated space or have been planted in the wrong spot. But in the meantime I have lost my rose investment in years of growth because I chose a rose that when mature did not work in its designated place in my garden. Obviously you need to know the mature height and width of any rose you plan to buy and be able to give the rose at least six hours of sun a day.

This may be simplistic but before you buy a rose you 'MUST KNOW WHY YOU WANT IT'. Do you want long stemmed beauties to arrange in a vase, or a traffic stopping vivid splash of colour in the front yard, or do you want to hide a dead tree, add reliable colour to a perennial bed, edge a walkway with plants that bloom all summer, or plant a drought resistant garden bed. Do you want to grow the Championship Rose. Once you decide on the rose's purpose, you automatically limit the field to choose from.

The toughest question to answer is where are you going to plant the rose? Like many people, I have limited space. Every year my pot collection gets bigger and bigger as I try to make room for new roses that just seemed like an essential rose for my garden. This does not stop me from ordering new roses every year. Not smart but the roses always seem irresistible and so hard to resist. I dream about how wonderful they will look in my garden. SIGH.....



The only saving grace with this approach is that I can test out the new potted rose before I replace one of the roses in the garden.

Assuming you have a need for a new rose in your landscape, a specific need for a specific type of rose and assuming you know exactly where this rose is to be planted and you know what size rose can be accommodated in

the available space, consider the garden's location. In the Macarthur area we need roses that will survive and recover from consecutive days of over 40°C temperatures.

You need roses that have hardiness and vigour to be able to withstand this type of sustained heat. You also need roses that will withstand summers where we get sustained periods of rain and humidity. Our rose choice must have a reputation for living a long and happy life under these trying conditions.

For me the most reliable guide to hardiness and vigour is a rose's national origin. Roses from Kordes and Tantau in Germany, any South African bred rose and roses that have done well in the National Rose Trial Garden in South Australia are all good purchases. I tend to avoid roses that are from England and Ireland as they often have trouble in our hot, dry climate. David Austin roses I am especially careful and wait for other growers to try them before I purchase.
Cont



In our gardens this month we need to be very careful of our new water shoots. Tie them securely because they will be the big bloom producers next year.

Here are two well proven roses to consider. At right is a photo of Golden Beauty (S, F), which was taken in Maureen and Ian Thackeray's front garden. It is a relatively new addition to the Australian market. Golden Beauty provides a stunning show as you approach their house. Not only does it give a spectacular display in the garden but Golden Beauty is disease resistant, repeats quickly, withstands sustained high temperatures, has a good fragrance, lasts extremely well in a vase, has good stem length and has been a proven winner on the show bench. This is an all round good performing rose that is almost perfect for Macarthur conditions.



Pope John Paul II (HT) is a well proven clear white rose with a stunning fragrance and very good disease resistance. While not suitable as an exhibition rose, it has long stems, lasts well in a vase, doesn't mark in the rain and is a prolific bloomer with a good repeat cycle of four to five weeks. It is a steady performer and grows to 1.5m high. It has a tendency to spread but



continues to bloom well even if trimmed to keep to its place in the garden. It is one of the clearest and truest white roses on the market. It is easily available from all rose suppliers indicating its position in the market as an outstanding rose. It has won awards both in Australia and internationally for its robustness, form and performance. It retains its colour in the hottest of weather and of course it has great fragrance.



At Macarthur
Rose Society

February Cultural Notes

How to choose new roses, cont.....

How do you know the source of the rose? The first three or four letters of a rose's registered (not market) name are an abbreviation of the producers name for example: 'Kor' for Kordes, 'Aus' for David Austin. The Help Me Find website is a great source of information about producer/breeders of individual roses. The other criteria for selecting a rose in order of importance are disease resistance, fragrance. (be aware that after 23-24°C, fragrance fades) and bloom cycle frequency. For example, I love the beautiful St Patrick rose, but its slowness to bloom and open drives me crazy. I grow it, but I don't want my garden planted with roses that are all as slow as St Patrick. Finally drought tolerance is essential for those many years when the rains just do not come.

These qualities can sometime be determined more by what is left out than what is included in the suppliers descriptions. Assume that if disease resistance is not mentioned, then you will need to spray frequently for black spot and powdery mildew. If fragrance is described as light, assume there is none.

If high centres or show or exhibition form are not mentioned, then assume that this rose will not be a Champion exhibition rose.

If your choice is needed for garden colour and arranging then you need a rose that is prolific bloomer and the description should say so.

Substance of a rose generally refers to the thickness, texture, crispness, firmness and toughness of the petals. It is a function of the amount of moisture and starch in the bloom. This is a factor in the rose's ability to stand up to rain, heat and other environmental stresses. Finally, remember that roses in the Macarthur area always grow around 15cm taller than the cooler northern hemisphere descriptions.

Now you know how to choose a rose, try not to fall in love with one in a catalogue photo, or one growing in a cooler, much milder climate than ours.



In the first half of January, the rate of roses increases with the longer hours of sunshine and the higher average daily temperatures. The blooms will be brilliantly coloured, but small and fleeting.

The latest edition of the

NSW Rose Journal was issued on 23 December 2024. This was our first fully electronic journal. If you wish to receive a printed copy of the Journal there will be a charge of \$15 per copy including packing and postage.



Please let me know if you want a printed copy before 31 January. Payment can be done as a bank transfer into the NSW Rose Society bank account. Please advise me when you have made payment so that I can order your printed copy. The bank details are:

Bank: ANZ
BSB: 012 429
Account Number: 2784 41863
Account Name: The Rose Society of NSW
Reference: Your Last Name, Journal

The printed NSW Rose Journal will be posted to you in mid February

Camden Agricultural Show

will be held on Friday 4th April and Saturday 5th April. The Camden Show is a great place to enter your roses to build your confidence and expertise with arranging your roses.

While the conditions were not ideal last year, we anticipate that this will be greatly improved this year. Now is the time to cultivate your roses for entry to the show. Have a GO!!!



At Macarthur
Rose Society

Glenn Smith Photography

Esteemed local flora, fauna and event photographer will present at our next meeting

At our February meeting we will be hearing from Mr Glenn Smith a well known local photographer.

Glenn has agreed to come along and talk to us about how to use our phones to best effect in our gardens.

Mr Smith is located in Campbelltown and specialises in natural and wildlife photography. He captures the beauty of Australian natural fauna, flora and fungi in the Mount Annan Botanic Gardens. Each month he holds photography workshops at the Gardens. His mission is to inspire appreciation and conservation of Australia's natural heritage through photography.



Glenn will give us a short half hour presentation. Following this he will use our show bench display to demonstrate how to take the best rose photos.

Bring along your roses for the show bench. We need as many different colours and types of roses for Glenn to be able to tailor his guidance

to the roses that we grow. He will demonstrate the best use of lighting, framing and generally taking the best photos we can achieve with that small powerful camera in our mobile phones.

The photo below is one of Glenn's photos that was recently showcased on the Australian Geographic weekly showcase.

These days we all have powerful cameras in our pockets in the form of our mobile phones.

Bring your roses, your phones and be prepared to soak up Glenn's knowledge and expertise to take the best rose pics. <https://glennsmithphotography.com.au>



Our Meetings

1st February 2025

1st March 2025

5th April 2025

3rd May 2025

7th June 2025

5th July 2025

2nd August 2025

6th September 2025

4th October 2025

25 October Spring Show 2025

1st November 2025

6th December 2025 - 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.

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 meeting show bench. Oasis can be purchased at the show bench preparation area for \$1 per block. You will need time to soak the Oasis.

Our Buy, Sell and Swap table has home grown produce and other goods we may want to share. Our library of rose books is also 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**



Next meeting:
Saturday 1st February

January Birthdays

7th Chris Vine

18th Margaret Appleby

18th Rosalie Vine



23rd Jan Priestly

25th Realeen Quinn

29th Greg Priestly

