

# Macarthur Rose News

July 2025

Volume: 32, No: 12



Image Above: Robyn Bible

Robyn Bible is a guest speaker for the Australian Geranium Society and a passionate grower, collector and preserver of varieties. With over 420 varieties of geraniums and 280 pelargoniums Robyn knows everything there is to know about these hardy, colourful and beautiful plants. Robyn has specialised in the growing of geraniums and pelargoniums for more than 50 years and will happily share her immense knowledge with us.

Robyn will be our guest speaker at our meeting on 4th July. Come along and learn more about this amazing plant genus.



At Macarthur  
Rose Society

## Dear Rose Friends

This month is a very busy time in the rose garden. By now we should be well into improving our soil and making it ready for the new roses that will continue to arrive over the next two months. Treloar Roses now have an excellent video on their website to guide our new rose plantings.

After a long search, I am pleased to report that Mrs Margaret Appleby OAM has agreed to be our patron. Margaret has been a long time member of the Macarthur Rose Society and is a nationally renowned author, suicide prevention educator and counsellor. She was the 2021 Bert Mulley Award recipient for her contributions to the Rose Society.

Margaret is an avid rose grower and generously shares her roses with her local community who frequently use them to fundraise. Macarthur Rose Society has been a constant beneficiary of her rose generosity.

We are honoured that Margaret has agreed to be our patron.

Gary Wootton has provided us with all the information that we need to prune our roses and how to count back the days to get the spring blooms you want at your chosen time.

We will be holding our annual winter pruning session on Thursday 31 July starting at 10:00 am. Details of this session are on Page 3 of the newsletter. This will be a great opportunity to learn about pruning standard roses.

We now have a new Neutrog pick up location in Leppington. Graham and Janet Wright will be managing the delivery and distribution. Please take note of the delivery and distribution information on Page 5 of this newsletter.

Winter is also the time to repair and refurbish our gardening equipment. Page 4 gives us a quick refresher about keeping ourselves safe in the garden, and the repairs and clean ups that we may need to do to get ready for the new rose growing season. Now is the time to replenish, repair and renew our garden equipment.

Of great importance is the information and notes that are on Page 5 of the newsletter. Our AGM is coming up in early August and we very much need your help to keep our Rose Society functional and operational. Have a go and learn more about how the Rose Society is run and the many benefits our membership can bring. Many hands make light work!

At our meeting on Saturday we will be drawing our membership renewal raffles. There will be one draw for the May raffle and then another one for the June raffle. If you renewed in May you will have the opportunity to win in the June raffle as well. Thank you to everyone who has renewed.

Yours in roses

Judith



Macarthur Rose News, July 2025

Did you know that roses are probably one of the oldest flowers. There are rose fossils that date back 35 million years. Not only are they old and beautiful but all rose varieties are edible. Rose petals can be added to jellies and used as flavourings and rose hips are packed with Vitamin C. Cherries, apples, peaches, plums, pears, apricots and almonds are all relatives of the rose family.

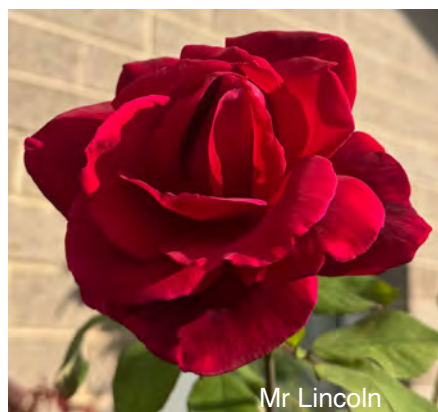
### Propagation

Continue to maintain your visual checks on the rose hips that are still growing (if they are still growing, leave them to mature on the parent plant, until mid to late July). Continue to maintain the moisture checks and application on the seeds in stratification, and plant them up as required. Also maintain visual checks on any cuttings you may have taken.



Good gardening

Gary



Mr Lincoln



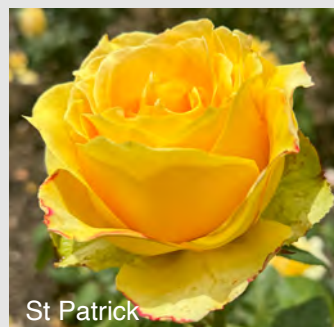
At Macarthur  
Rose Society

# July Cultural Notes

Gary Wootton



As we find ourselves in the middle of winter, it is essential to contemplate the practice of pruning. This task is met with varying attitudes among rosarians, some eagerly anticipate it, while others may feel somewhat overwhelmed, and still others approach it with a straightforward mindset. Let us examine several aspects of pruning with a focus on the theoretical elements rather than the physical act itself. Specifically the reasons behind it and the timing, as the rationale will impact on the timing.



St Patrick

To begin, we will explore the reasons for pruning. Roses require pruning to:

- To stimulate new growth for the new growing season.
- To promote the overall health of the rose.
- To eliminate dead, damaged, or diseased canes and shape the roses as desired.
- To enhance flowering, resulting in either an increased number of blooms or larger flowers.

While a rose bush can survive without annual pruning during its dormant phase, neglecting this practice may lead to a weak and poorly shaped plant with fewer and smaller flowers. Such a rose bush may appear untidy, neglected, and unhealthy, making it prone to pests and diseases.

The main reason for pruning is to clean up the rose and promote new and healthier growth. Another reason is to prepare for an upcoming Rose Show or event you may be holding and the need to vary your pruning times to meet these commitments and plans.

If you are pruning to meet an event, then you may consider moving your pruning routine forward slightly.

It can take approximately 42-50 days for Hybrid Teas to produce new blooms, 50-55 days for Floribundas and 35-40 days for Miniatures. Timing the pruning of your bushes to coincide with these event or show. Count back from show day or your event day and vary your pruning times to suit.

Another reason to consider varying your pruning time, back past mid-August is for the propagation of your roses by cuttings. It is a good way to use those otherwise healthy cuttings. July is a bit early for hardwood cuttings, but generally roses may be propagated from cuttings at most times of the year.

Although, it is variety specific and some do better than others. Hardwood cuttings are slower to root and require less care and can generally be taken a little later and grow well with minimal care until Spring.

Pruning is not a technical procedure, but there are things that will need your attention when pruning. Good advice includes:

- Use a good pair of gloves
- A very sharp pair of secateurs
- Disinfectant to wipe your secateurs after pruning each individual rose.
- A pruning saw is very useful and occasionally a pair of loppers.

The following is my plan of attack. You may wish to change some or all the following to suit your individual surroundings.

Stand back and assess the rose to be pruned, Start out the outside and work your way in and up.

Cut the roses back to a predetermined height depending on the rose variety.

**Cont.....**



Modern cultivated roses are the result of many crossings and re-crossings. Dominant and recessive factors are complex. This can frequently lead to rose 'sports' by way of colour variation, Just as a variety can sport, so can a sport revert to its original type, especially if it is pruned too hard.



# Rose Cultural Notes

Winter is the best time to prune

Stand back and identify a framework of three to five strong, healthy branches, and remove any other stems and old grey wood. Remove any branches growing from below the graft leaving any water shoots that are growing from the graft and around it. These are stems that will produce good roses this Spring.

Stand back again and carryout a visual inspection and start the finer pruning on the inwards facing branches. Ensure that the plant has been completely defoliated. Collect the fallen leaves and cuttings and dispose of them.

Now, do a visual inspection for any signs of disease, like rose scale a small sap sucking insect that sticks to the stems. They come in lots of different colours but are mainly white. Scale mostly appears on the stem of the rose and drill down into the soft tissue of the plant to feed. If left untreated scale can breed fast spread to nearby roses.

To treat rose scale, gently scrape off with your fingernail or an old toothbrush dipped in horticultural oil, then apply a protective application of lime sulphur over your pruned and treated rose to target overwintering pests and diseases. Do this before the new growth appears, as the lime sulphur can burn any new growth.

Disinfect your secateurs and move on to the next rose.

When all your roses are pruned, the ground cleared of rose clippings and old leaves, spray lime sulphur around each rose bush to kill off any overwintering fungi. Remember to mulch around your rose to maintain soil temperatures and enrich the soil. Good Gardening

## Pruning Demonstration

This year our pruning demonstration will be held at the **Camden RSL Memorial Rose Garden**.

This is a well ordered garden that has been under the care of one of our long serving members Ian Thackeray. It has a great range of standard roses ranging from very old roses to newer roses that Ian has planted. This rose garden is always in bloom, a testament to Ian's dedication.

The timing of the demonstration is perfect for us to learn and refresh our skills in time for pruning our own roses. There will be experienced rosarians there to answer questions and guide us to prune for the best roses next season.

If you can hold off pruning your roses until early August, your roses will bloom just in time for our show on 18 October. Come along to learn, socialise and enjoy yourself.

Afterwards we will seek refreshment at the RSL club (late morning tea or early lunch) and socialise.

## ALL WELCOME

Bring along your gloves, secateurs, pruning saw and loppers if you have them.

The pruning will start at **10:00am on Thursday 31 July at:**

Camden RSL  
Memorial Rose Garden  
Cawdor Road  
Camden

The garden is directly opposite the the Biccential Equestrian Park carpark. There is good parking either along the driveway beside the Memorial Rose Garden or alternatively across the road in the Equestrian Park carpark.



At Macarthur  
Rose Society

Gary



## Protective Clothing

Roses have prickles that can cause scratches or puncture wounds. When pruning, protect yourself - wear long sleeves, pants, and sturdy leather gloves. Wear a good pair of sturdy shoes that support your ankles to help prevent trips, slips and falls.

## Use the right tools

Ensure you have the right tools for pruning, including sharp pruning shears, loppers, and a pruning saw. Dull tools can slip and cause accidents, so keep your tools well-maintained and sharp. Inspect your tools for any damage or wear and replace any broken tools to prevent accidents.

When doing your winter prune, work systemically to avoid rushing and making mistakes. After your winter pruning, clean your tools with alcohol or a bleach solution to prevent the spread of diseases. Properly maintaining your tools ensures they remain safe to use in the future. Collect and dispose of all pruned branches and leaves promptly. Leaving debris around can create tripping hazards and attract pests. After pruning, monitor your roses for any signs of distress or disease. Early intervention can prevent issues from becoming severe.

## Additional safety tips

Consider these additional tips to enhance your safety while gardening. Stay hydrated as gardening can be physically demanding and ensure you are drinking water regularly especially if the weather is warm. Avoid fatigue by taking regular breaks. Continuous pruning can lead to mistakes and accidents. Be mindful of your surroundings and watch out for obstacles and uneven ground to avoid accidents.

Pruning your rose garden is a vital aspect of maintaining the health and beauty of your roses. By following these safety tips, you can enjoy a productive and safe winter season in your rose garden. Happy gardening!



At Macarthur  
Rose Society

# July Rose Notes

How to stay safe in the rose garden and be ready for Spring

## Garden Safety

Winter encourages us to stay indoors, but it is a good time to review and update the condition and functionality of your tools, organics and chemical products. There is time to evaluate what you have in the shed, what you need to replace, repair and get working again.

As a first step if your organics or chemical products have expired – discard them. Read the container labels to find out what is the most appropriate way to discard each chemical container. If in doubt about what to do, use your local Community Recycling Centre to safely dispose of the chemicals or chemical containers. The NSW Government funds all Councils in NSW to offer these services for responsible and environmentally sound chemical disposal. Use these services rather than disposing to landfill or discarding in the recycling bin.

## Tool Maintenance and Care

If your tools need to be repaired, cleaned or sharpened or discarded, then winter is the ideal time to undertake these tasks. Once spring is here you will be too busy to do these tasks and will face another season using blunt, broken or inadequate tools. If you are lucky enough to own a pair of Felco secateurs there are many step-by-step videos on You Tube to show you how to go about sharpening your secateurs. Here is a link to one of the best videos on how to prune Felcos <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aBnyrFwxmfY>.

This is a three-part series and it walks you through each stage of secateur dismantling, cleaning, sharpening and then reassembling.

## Gloves and Sprayers

Every winter I always end up with one glove of a pair. Throw the remaining glove out. You will NEVER be able to use the remaining glove or find the other one – it has disappeared to garden heaven never to be seen again.

Make sure the gloves you do have are functional, have no holes and are flexible enough to move your fingers. Clean them up and make them ready for the pruning days. I

give mine a light brush and quick soak in warm water and hang them on the line for a few hours until they are just dry rather than over dry.

If you use a battery-operated sprayer in your rose garden, late

winter is a good time to do preventative maintenance. Check that the battery is still functional after sitting in the cold shed for several months. If the battery doesn't hold a charge, is corroded or leaks then it needs to be replaced. It is very frustrating to go out to do your first spray of the year and the sprayer will not work!!!

For all sprayers- handheld or battery operated, check for leaks in the hoses, make sure the couplings are tight, clean the nozzle on the spray rod and closely inspect the O-rings and filters to ensure they are clean and functional. Generally, these small parts are cheap to buy from the local hardware shop and make such a difference to the functioning of the sprayer. Clean the tank by pumping diluted white vinegar (5% acidity) through the system. You can do this with your spray bottles that you use for shows and displays too. Make sure you triple flush the tank afterwards to remove any residue.





## Neutrog Orders

The Neutrog online shop is open for orders. To ensure that we receive our orders well before the new growing season starts, the online shop will close on **14 July 2025**.

**The Smeaton Grange pick up location is no longer being used.**

After some considerable efforts from Graham and Janet Wright we now have a new pick up location in Leppington. Storage King in Bringelly have generously provided us with a space for deliveries and the use of a forklift to unload these.

Graham and Janet Wright are now organising the deliveries and distribution. The short notice for delivery that we experienced at Smeaton Grange will continue. You will need to respond at short notice for pick up of your order.

Please note the new pick up address below and ensure you are ready to pick up your order when you receive notification that the orders have arrived.

**STORAGE KING**  
**431 BRINGELLY ROAD**  
**LEPPINGTON**  
**NSW 2179**

There is ample parking at the site but please be aware of pedestrians at all times. This is a commercial site and people are moving around the parking area 24/7.

Drive into the driveway and make your way slowly down to the parking area at the end of the driveway. Park your car and wait to have your order picked prior to loading your car.

If you have time to help with the loading of vehicles it would be greatly appreciated. If you are unable to load your vehicle, please bring someone with you to help you put your purchases in your vehicle.



**At Macarthur  
Rose Society**

## July Rose Notes

### Neutrog changes, AGM and Membership Renewals

#### Annual General Meeting

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday 5th August 2025.

All positions will be spilled at the AGM. We desperately need nominations for all positions. It is impossible for the Rose Society to be functional with the few overworked people that currently undertake the work.

Your contribution can be as small or as large as you decide. Any contribution is greatly appreciated and helps to share the load.

We have three big events coming up over the next 18 months. Our Spring show, our 40th anniversary - lets not make it our last one - and the National Championships. Your assistance at helping the Macarthur Rose Society to deliver these events will be essential.

In return you will learn more about successful rose growing, be part of group with like minded interests and meet old friends and make new friends and be able to access the Neutrog benefits for your garden.

The roles that need to be nominated to and need volunteers include:

**Chairperson**  
**Vice Chairperson**  
**Secretary**  
**Assistant Secretary**  
**Subscription Secretary**  
**Treasurer**  
**Assistant Treasurer**  
**Auditor**  
**Publicity Officer**  
**Librarian**  
**Care Convenor**  
**Hospitality (afternoon tea)**  
**Raffle organiser**  
**Show Bench Steward**  
**Show Secretary**  
**State Council Delegates (2)**  
**Alternate Delegates**

#### Membership Renewals

A gentle reminder that our membership fees for FY2026 are now due. Your current membership expires on 30 June 2025. A membership form is attached to the email that delivered this newsletter.

Whether you are a new member or a renewing member, the membership form must be filled out and returned to our Subscription Secretary Maureen Thackeray. Details are on the form for return.

There are two ways that you can pay. In cash at our meetings which requires you to bring the money to our meetings along with a completed membership form and give these to Maureen Thackeray who is our subscription secretary.

Alternatively, you renew using an electronic funds transfer from your bank to the Rose Society of NSW bank account. The details are:

#### Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT):

Account Name:  
**Rose Society of NSW**

BSB: **012 429**  
Account No: **2784 41863**

Reference is:  
**Your Initial, Your Last Name or Family name and Macarthur (region)**

If you are a recently joined new member (since 1 January 2025) you do not need to renew. To all of you who have already renewed.



# Our Meetings and Events

4th July 2025

Robyn Bible - Geraniums

2nd August 2025

Our Annual General Meeting

6th September 2025

4th October 2025

11-12 October

National Rose Championships

Brisbane

18 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 5th July

# July Birthdays

22nd  
Bob Stibbard

