



Macarthur Rose Newsletter

Vol 30, No: 2, August 2023



Hilton Edward

Neutrog

The online Neutrog shop will close on 10th August for our September (Spring) 2023 delivery.

Neutrog will be including a small bag of human beans for every person who puts a Spring order in.

This spring, Neutrog are making every effort to ensure that we receive our fertilisers and conditioners in time for the growing season.

Remember that access to the full range of Neutrog products at Rose Society concessional prices is one of the benefits of our membership.

If you place a Neutrog order, you will be contacted directly in early September about the specific pick up date. This will be after we are advised that the delivery is on its way to Sydney.

We will do our best to ensure you get as much notice as possible but sometimes we do not get this opportunity. Your cooperation and understanding around the deliveries is always appreciated.

If you have recently joined the Macarthur Rose Society and have not yet received your login details, please contact me directly so that we can ensure you can access the special Macarthur Neutrog shop in time to get your fertilisers ordered before the shop closes.

In the online shop you can access all of Neutrog's products and some other interesting or trial products at greatly reduced prices. I can be contacted at M: 0410 444 562.



Dear Rose Friends

Already we are seeing very early signs of the warmer weather to come with many of our roses starting to sprout leaves. This means that it is time to get pruning underway so your roses will be ready for the Spring displays. It is always exciting to see the new growth starting so start your pruning soon.

To give us a head start on how to prune, our next meeting is at the Vitocco residence for our annual pruning afternoon. This will give us all some practice on how to prune our roses. A map and the address of the Vitocco residence are detailed on Page 2 of this newsletter along with the essential items for pruning. Our cultural notes also provide you with some information about how to go about your pruning tasks.



have been grateful for the opportunity to display my roses, learn from the excellent feedback from Rosalie and other Rose Society members and gain in confidence.

Congratulations to June Hickey and Adam Pearce on their win. I am sure we are all waiting for the new growth to get started on showing our roses again in the Spring.



At our last meeting I was very excited to win the Trophy for last season's show bench. After more than 10 years of membership of the Rose Society, it is the first time I have made a serious attempt to exhibit roses at every meeting. I should have started 10 years ago as exhibiting every month has greatly improved my growing skills - focusing my thinking and helping me to better manage the rose garden in my attempts to ensure better roses at the right time each month. I



Special Congratulations to Bob Stibbard on turning 90. Bob was the Foundation Chairman of the Macarthur Rose Society, bred our signature rose Hilton Edward and over many years has generously devoted time and energy to Macarthur, the NSW Rose Society and the National Rose Society. Happy Birthday Bob!

Our Spring Show plans are continuing with the draft Schedule being finalised over the next few weeks. Once finalised, it is useful to become familiar with the Schedule and consider what classes you many want to enter. There will be good choices for the beginner exhibitor. Watch your garden as the blooms start and practice on those less than 'perfect' roses before the show. Have a go!

I have attached with this newsletter information about the roses we discussed during the Rose Doctor session at our last meeting. These are all roses that experienced Macarthur Rose Society members enjoy and have success with growing and displaying in their gardens and home.

Yours in Roses

Judith

Where would we be without the seasons to add so much variety to our lives. Almost dormant roses are showing early life despite the cold nights but they are appreciating the warmer days. They are asking to be pruned so that those buds can burst forth into rapidly growing stems.

The most common indicator that spring will soon be here are the wattle blossoms. Even a week ago the bush was quite subdued but we now have beautiful golden trees along our roadways and railway lines. The latter from Leppington to Glenfield is a treat. Just as these native plants know when to flower so too do roses. Those which have their homes in the natural areas of the northern hemisphere know when to bloom and they have been admired in those forms for centuries. Those roses are the forerunners of the cultivars which we enjoy today. La France from 1867 is generally regarded as the first Hybrid Tea which from a historical perspective is not all that long ago. By viewing a classification chart we realise that there are so many options when selecting roses.

To reboot our enthusiasm we should be prepared to try something different. That may be different cultivars or entirely new groups of roses. When Janet and I joined the Rose Society we were not aware of Miniature Roses despite the fact that we had both been familiar with the larger forms from early childhood. The Minis quickly won our hearts and we had much pleasure growing and showing them. We were fortunate that this interest coincided with the release of the roses from the great American breeder, Frank Benardella. Many of his creations are still available today...



Figurine

... cont

The only disappointment is that import restrictions from the US have prevented the arrival of later champions from the newer hybridisers. Be that as it may it has opened doors for locals to follow with their own and it is not as difficult as some people may think.

I was recently asked a question about lime sulphur. It is applied as soon as pruning is finished to kill off any fungal spores. That early protection against blackspot can give us a flying start. Despite the bad smell it is not considered to be an environmental hazard. The instructions highlight winter strength and summer strength mixtures. I have not felt a need for the latter but have certainly tried to do the winter spray every year. It is available from produce stores in 20 litre drums and can be stored to use over a number of years.

The last three months have been very dry and it is important that we give our plants adequate water. Hardware stores have long aisles of irrigation equipment and there are plenty of options for various systems. In recent years we have used the Hoselink system. Like many things in life it is a case of paying a bit more for something which will make life easier. They have been around for quite a while now and the hoses and fittings are very durable. We particularly enjoy having control of the hose in our hand rather than having to run back and forth to the tap.

By the end of this month or early next month we can start our feeding regime. Remember that it takes time for Sudden Impact for Roses to be absorbed by the soil. Orders for the Neutrog products close shortly so plan well ahead. I intend giving the POPUL8 a go. Eco Hydrate from OCP may be relevant if the dry spell continues.

Best wishes to all rosarians,

Graham



<https://www.hoselink.com.au>



Pruning Roses

In winter roses need a prune to encourage good, solid new growth. The best time to prune in the Macarthur area is between July and early August - no later than mid-August. You can prune at other times but there are challenges outside these times such as late frosts burning off new growth and early Spring heat burning denuded stems.

Start from the top of the rose bush and work your way down.

Look for spindly stems. Follow these down to where they're about the thickness of a pen and then snip off.

Look out for branches that are totally dead as these need to be removed at the stump level. Cut off any die back down to new healthy growth.

Open up the centre of the bush, so there's more air circulating when the new growth arrives in Spring and during the growing season.

Look out for any water shoots - these are an olive green or even a red/pink colour - and are absolutely essential. Take care of these water shoots because these are the young growth and this is where the rose will have its best flowers. Just prune it lightly, so it will shoot out and produce more flowers.

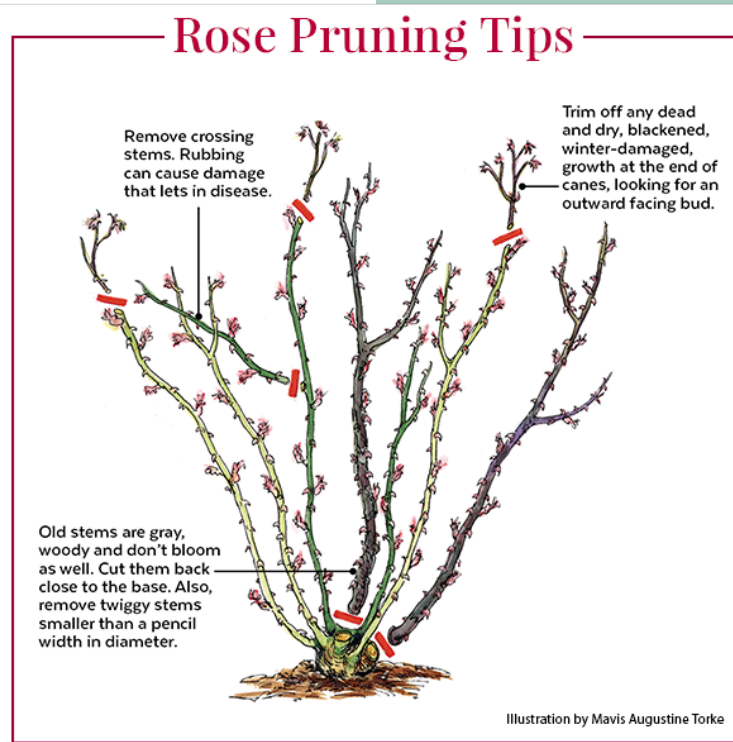
Remove any old branches or stems that look old, brown warty and/or crinkly. These are usually stems that are several years old and produce less flowers. Trim away and stems that are crossing each other. Rubbing causes damage that lets in diseases and it can crowd the centre of the bush.

Prune back by about half. Never be afraid to remove large sections of the rose bush. Do this every couple of years to rejuvenate new growth. Always from the top. And if you do that, you're going to find you get many more good shoots for flowers.

Look for an outward facing bud and cut. The new growth will then grow outwards and produce flowers around the outside of the bush. If you cut to an inward facing bud the direction of the new growth will cluster in the centre.

Aim to cut at about a 45° degree angle and make sure that the cut is sloping away from the bud so that rain and dew won't collect in the area where the bud forms onto the stem. This will help stop fungal disease such as die back and black spot. Wipe the newly cut edge with a clean cloth soaked with methylated spirits to prevent diseases.

Heritage roses don't need a lot of pruning. Just prune them to shape and tip prune regularly. Remove any dead bits.



Ground cover roses are easy to prune - so easy that you could practically run over them with a motor mower. But if you are using loppers just cut them back, almost to ground level. They will re-grow by spring, particularly with some fertiliser, and mulch.

Add some Seamungus and GoGo Juice and begin fertilising as the bush starts to produce leaves - usually three - four weeks after pruning.

Remove the clippings and prunings from the garden. Clear them up. Don't put them into the compost, but into the rubbish bin. This stops the spread of disease.

Spray the bushes with Lime Sulphur while the plants have no leaves and are dormant. That gets rid of scale, black spot and other fungal type diseases.



Rose Information

What is a Sucker on a Rose Bush? A grafted rose bush consists of the above-ground rose bush you desire and the below-ground rootstock. The above-ground portion is typically not hardy enough to survive in all climatic conditions. Thus, it is grafted (budded) onto another rose that is extremely hardy so that the overall rose bush is capable of surviving in most climates.

Grafting has many positives, but sometimes the rootstock gets over zealous and decides not to support the grafted rose and top and sends up vigorous canes that we call 'suckers'. Sucker canes will, if left to grow, suck the majority of nutrients necessary for good growth and performance from their grafted counterparts, weakening the upper part of the bush – many times to the point that the upper portion dies.

This is why removing rose suckers as they sprout is important. Sucker canes will usually take on a totally different growth habit from the rest of the rose bush. They will grow tall and a bit wild, much like an untrained climbing rose. The leaves on the sucker canes will differ from the leaf structure and sometimes vary a bit in coloration too, with few or no leaves.

Rose bush suckers typically will not set buds or bloom, If a sucker cane is suspected, take a closer look and follow the cane down to the base of the plant. Grafted roses will have a bit of a knuckle at the grafted union. If the cane is growing out of the top part of that knuckle union, it is likely the desired rose bush. If the cane is coming from below ground and underneath the knuckle union, it is most likely a true sucker cane and needs to be removed ASAP.

To remove rose suckers, follow them down as far as possible, moving some soil back to the point where it connects to the rootstock. This will ensure you are removing a sucker rather than the stems of the grafter rose.



Once you have found the point of connection, prune the sucker cane off as close to the rootstock as possible. Seal the area of the cut with either some tree wound seal or even with a glue from a craft store.

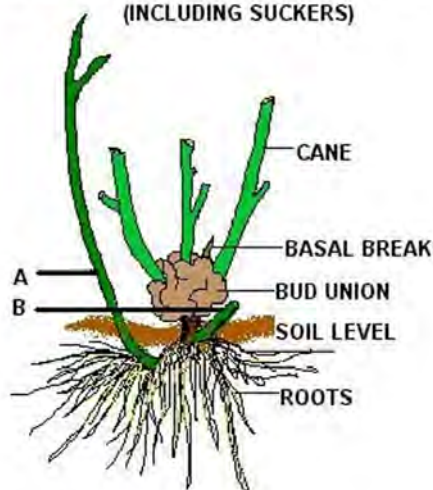
Not pruning back far enough only allows the suckers to grow right back. The rootstock may continue to send up more that need to be dealt with in the same manner. Some will continue to have this problem for the entire life of the rose.

If you have a rose bush that comes back from its winter nap but does not seem to have the same growth pattern it had previously, it is highly likely that the desired upper part of the grafted rose died and the hardy rootstock bush has taken over. In many cases the suckers are strong, fast growing canes, easily outgrowing the grafted rose canes. In

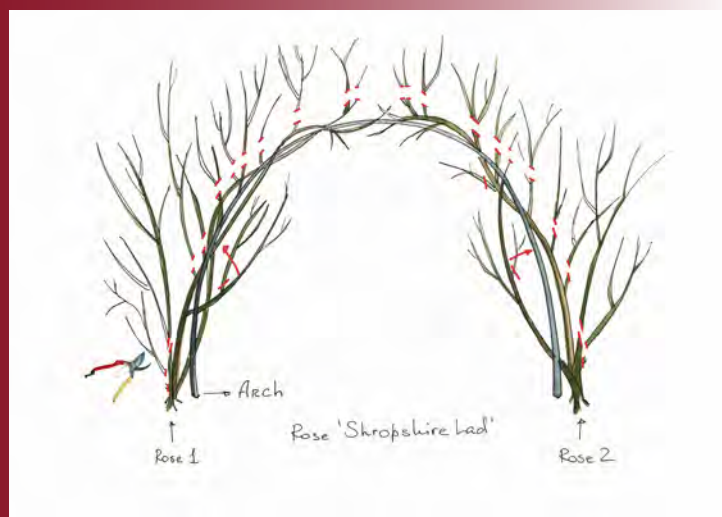
such cases, it is best to dig it out and plant another rose of the same kind that you had there or plant another one.

Wild roses, old heritage type roses and own root roses are not grafted roses. Rose bushes grown from cuttings are 'own root' roses and have their own root systems. This means that whatever comes up from the root system is still the desired rose. It is only grafted roses that get 'suckers'.

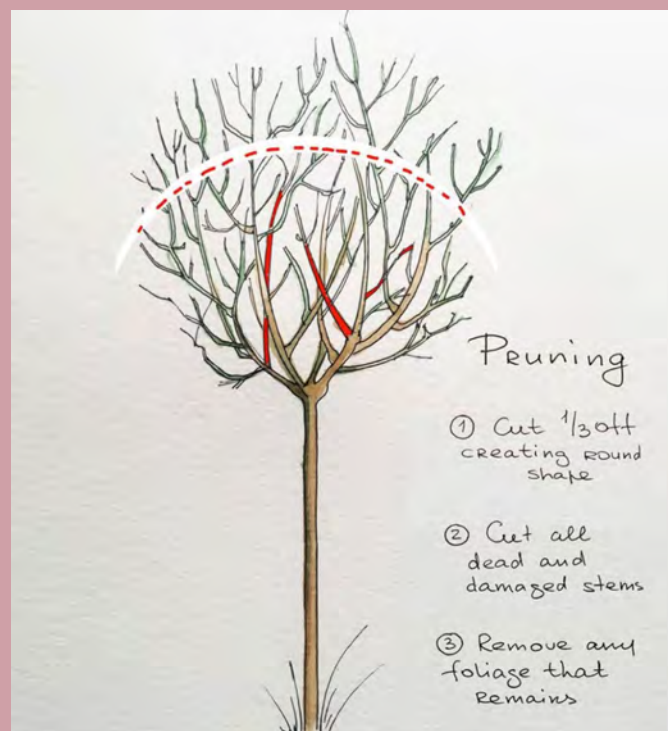
THE PARTS OF A GRAFTED ROSE (INCLUDING SUCKERS)



A = Sucker from the roots
B = Sucker from rootstock, below grafts



Picture above: Pruning a climbing rose
Picture at right: How to prune a standard rose.



Annual Fees



Our annual fees are now due. Please note that if annual fees are not paid before 30 September you will no longer remain a member of the Rose Society. Your name will be automatically removed from the membership list.

Details about how to pay your membership fees are:

🌹 Pay directly at a meeting. Bring along your money and make the payment to our Subscription Secretary Maureen Thackeray.

🌹 Make a bank transfer from your bank account directly to the NSW Rose Society bank account. The bank details are:

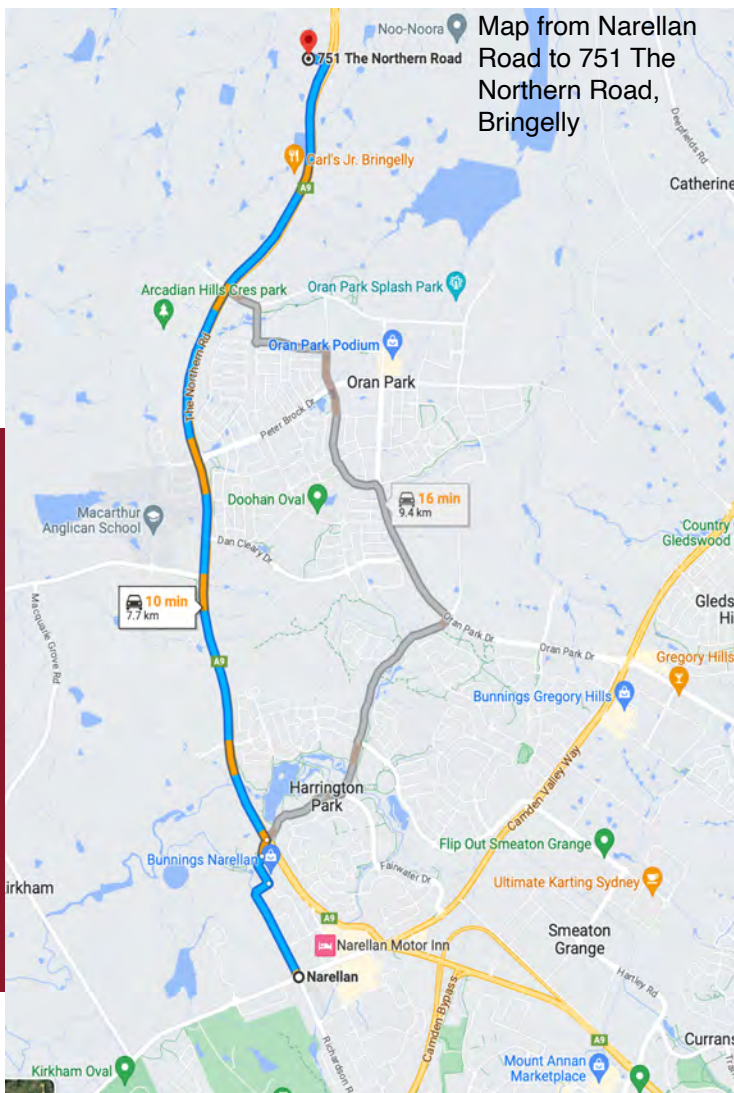
BSB: 012 429

Account: 2784 41863

References: Your Initial, Last Name, Region (Macarthur) Membership Number.

🌹 Make a direct deposit at an ANZ branch using the above BSB and Account number.

If you are having difficulty paying your membership fees please contact either Maureen Thackeray our subscription secretary or myself on M: 0410 444 562.



Rose Pruning

Our next meeting on Saturday 5th August will be held at the Vitocco residence. The address is:

**751 The Northern Road
Bringelly.**

Turn into St Mary's Link Road No 2 (off The Northern Road) and take the second drive way on the left. Park in the parking spaces before the house gates.

Pruning starts at 2:00pm and you will need to bring



A Sunhat and gardening gloves



Layers of clothing for all weather



Sturdy, flat shoes



Well sharpened secateurs and a pruning saw if you have one.



Be ready to enjoy yourself and learn new skills from experienced rose society members.



Afternoon tea will be provided



Happy
Birthday



August Birthdays

1st Adam Pearce

3rd Margaret Hudson

8th Jim O'Hearn

14th Bill Reilly

20th Michael Riley

24th Maureen Thackeray



Macarthur Diary

30 June - annual membership fees due

5th August - General Meeting
Rose Pruning session at Vitocco's

2nd September - General Meeting
Helen Lovell from Neutrog

1st-30th September - Spring Neutrog delivery
(exact date to be advised)

7th October - General Meeting
Preparations for our annual rose show

21-22 October - National Rose Show in Perth WA

4th November - General Meeting

5th November - Our Spring Rose Show

2nd December - 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.