



Macarthur Rose

Newsletter

Vol 29, No: 4,
February 2023



Neutrog Orders

The online Neutrog shop will close on 9th February 2023.

Delivery is expected in early March. If you haven't yet placed your autumn order, you only have two weeks remaining to order. 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 March about the specific pick up date. This will be after we are advised that the delivery is on its way to Sydney.

Volunteers will be needed to help with the distribution of the orders. Many people order but may not be able to lift them into their car. Please consider helping others in the Rose Society. The distribution generally takes approximately two – three hours. Your support would be greatly appreciated.

If are unavoidably detained and cannot collect your order when required, please contact me directly M: 0410 444 562 to make alternative arrangements.

NOTE: We have no storage capacity at the distribution point it is important that you contact me prior to the delivery date if you cannot collect on the allocated day.

NEUTROG™
The Experts' Choice
Rose Society members recommend
Sudden Impact for Roses

Dear Rose Friends

Happy New Year to you all. I trust you have all had a happy Christmas, a restful break and catch up with your family and friend.

In the rose garden, summer after several wet years, has finally arrived. The weather has the typical rain, heat and humidity, which can initiate fungal growth and of course the insects are out in the millions ready to eat our blooms.

The deferred annual general meeting of the NSW Rose Society will be held at 10:00am on Sunday 19 February at the Mount Annan Sustainability Centre, 1 Mount Annan Drive, Mount Annan. All financial members are welcome to attend and vote at the meeting.

We are moving to our new meeting venue on Saturday 4th February. Remember that the week has also changed and we now meet on the first Saturday of the month at the CWA Camden Hall. As promised there is a Google map and details about the new venue in this newsletter on pages 4 and 5.

At our first meeting for the new year, we always canvass our members about what theme they would like the meeting to take for the following year of meetings. Come along with your ideas and suggestions for us to discuss.

Our banking options will also be discussed at the next meeting as we need to move away from using cheque payments. The banking system will soon begin to stop the use of cheques and we will need to be ready for the change.

Later this week is the time to be checking your roses to identify the ones you want to display on the bench. Page 3 has some information to help you to prolong the life of your cut blooms and give you more blooms to choose from for display.

At this time of the year we all have produce in our gardens. If you have any surplus to buy, sell or swap you are welcome to bring it along to the share table available at the meeting.

I have had several requests from members for more information about how to dismantle and clean our secateurs. With this in mind, we will have a cleaning and maintenance session at our next meeting. I have an expert fixer and handyman coming along to help and advise you on how to do this task. Bring along your clearly labelled secateurs and any maintenance tools and/or equipment that you have.



Finally I was extremely grateful to accept Graham Wright's offer to take on the task of writing the Cultural Notes for the newsletter. You can find his notes on Page 2. Graham is a learned and enthusiastic rose grower, who has contributed so much to our Rose Society. His cultural notes will add greatly to the quality of the newsletter.

I look forward to seeing you all at our first meeting of the year next week.

Yours in roses

Judith

Cultural Notes by *Graham Wright*



The first such notes that I wrote for the Rose Society were for the Sydney Regional in the early 1990s. Much has changed in that time but the rewards remain the same. A consistent effort in the garden combined with giving our roses optimum care will result in buckets of beautiful blooms.

The last 3 or 4 years have been very challenging for our plants. Sustained drought followed by our wettest year on record has made life difficult. The soil became too wet which resulted in much weed growth yet the surface has set like concrete. Penetrating this barrier will make it easier to manually remove the weeds, allow water to reach the roots, aerate the soil and make it possible for fertilisers to do their work.



I have been manually digging around the base of the roses but to do the whole bed is difficult. I have used the brush cutter on the parts away from the plants and plan to use Slasher, the OCP product to kill the grass. Herbicides are dangerous to people as well as plants and although the above is a much preferred option I will be using a watering can and not a sprayer. With the beds where we have opened up the surface we have applied gypsum which is recommended as a soil breaker.

I have often thought that it would be wonderful to be able to see what is happening below the surface of the soil. There is as much action there as with the plant above. I was taught in my high school days of the importance of aeration and I remain convinced. The wonderful work being done by the Neutrog team in developing new products can only lead to healthier soils. Popul8 and GoGo Juice are but two of their wonders. Their regular newsletters are helpful and motivating. Every Society member should have access to those newsletters including the Pooh Bah Club. We are very fortunate to be able to purchase their wide range at such discounted prices. Those benefits quickly pay for our membership. Macarthur orders are now being taken.



Mulching provides many benefits with our aims to achieve the above goals. WhoFlungDung is a marvellous mulch as it adds to the nutrition as well as suppressing weeds and retaining moisture. It is particularly good for smaller gardens. Recently I have taken to using sugar cane mulch. It is easy to apply and some good deals can be found at the supermarket. I tried 2nd grade Lucerne hay last year but that was responsible for the outbreak of weeds.

February is a real action time in the garden. Give your roses a nice feed with Sudden Impact for Roses. Make sure that plenty of water is applied onto the cultivated soil. Humidity is usually high this month so preventative sprays to control blackspot and powdery mildew are advisable. I am happy to use Eco-carb, Eco-oil and a liquid seaweed concentrate. With the latter I use Eco-seaweed or Seamungus.

It can be possible to summer-trim your plants to try and time blooms for the Autumn. For many years people closely followed the advice of Dr A.S. Thomas in "Better Roses". That suggested that it takes 56 days for blooms to grow and mature. A lot has changed since he wrote in the 1950s. Newer cultivars can flower more quickly and we have more aids at our disposal. I tend to prune a few at a time and that gives a succession of flowers. Ideally we should all keep a diary of what actions we take and when. Varying weather conditions will still play their part.

Rose growing is meant to be enjoyed so don't be too fazed if it does not turn out to be just right. **Graham**

Images left to right: Radiant, Red Gem, Baby Boomer



Storing our Roses

Whenever we display our roses, it is best to pick our roses at the best time for them to give us the freshest and most beautiful display. Often we can't control the outside factors that impact the quality of the rose. However there are things that we can do to help us have the best roses on the day. You can pick your best roses several days before you need them and store them in the refrigerator at between 5-8°C. Be aware that this is slightly warmer than we need to keep food safe in the summer. Storing the roses in this way will keep them fresh for several days.



Florist buckets such as these are ideal for storing roses. They are inexpensive and fit in the refrigerator quite well. Try to place no more than 10-12 roses in each bucket to avoid the roses touching and being damaged.



The best time to pick is early morning before the sun settles on the roses. Take a bucket of water that is cool but not cold. Choose the rose, snip it to a length of approximately 30-35cm long, place in the bucket of water immediately and snip approximately one centimetre off at a 45° angle while the stem is underwater. This will avoid an air bubble forming in the stem and helps the rose to stay hydrated while being stored and displayed.

After picking, take the roses inside and allow to condition for 1-2 hours. After this, cover with a **frost cloth** and place in the refrigerator until you are ready to prepare the roses for display. Conditioning and storing your roses correctly, allows you to pick roses over several days. This gives you many more roses to work with and keeps the roses fresh and longer lived.



Image above: A frost blanket, which have a heavier density that the cloths.

Frost cloth can be purchased from Bunnings. It comes in a roll of several metres in length. A roll costs between \$15 - \$25 depending on the density of the cloth. It can be cut with scissors. One roll will last you a long time because the cloth can be used over and over again. The frost blankets are good for protecting our delicate blooms on those very hot summer days.

Rose storage cont...





Be aware that no matter what process you use, some roses will not preserve well in the refrigerator. Red roses such as *Kardinal* (image at right) often do not like to be kept in the refrigerator for more than a day. The edges of the petals burn off and they lose their 'fresh bloom'.



Roses with fewer petals such as *Double Delight* (image at left) can also open out very quickly even in the refrigerator. Try to experiment with the different roses you grow to find the best timeframe for picking, storing and displaying.

Flower preservation products

You can use flower preservation products to help the roses to preserve longer. They all work to varying degrees! You can either make your own or use commercial products. There are many recipes available on the internet and they all use simple household products are readily available. Here is one common preservation solution that is effective.

-  2 tablespoons white vinegar
-  2 tablespoons sugar
-  ½ teaspoon household bleach
-  500mls of warm water.

For all recipes, stir until the sugar dissolves, and let the water cool, before adding the flowers. Remember to replace the solution every few days as the bleach and vinegar deteriorate quickly.



Alternatively, you can buy commercial products from floristry suppliers. These products



come in both liquid and dry powder (right) form. The liquid (left) is most effective but the powder can often be purchased in smaller quantities and can be a better cost and storage solution.



The two main floristry suppliers in the Sydney region are Koch and Apack. Both of these companies have warehouses in Auburn and you can either visit personally or they will deliver. Both warehouses are worth at least one visit each when you have plenty of time. Their websites are very comprehensive and delivery is fast – usually the next day.

-  The Koch website is <https://www.koch.com.au>
-  Apack website is <https://apack.net.au>.

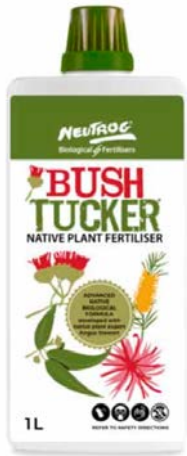
Rose Information

New Neutrog Product!

Neutrog recently announced a newly available product. It is currently available exclusively to Rose Society Members through the online Neutrog store.

Building upon the existing pelleted Bush Tucker formula, **Bush Tucker liquid** provides nutrients quickly, with an added boost of beneficial microbes. It is a complete, organic-based boosted fertiliser, specifically developed to meet the specialised needs of all Australian native plants.

As with all Neutrog products, the Bush Tucker formula was developed over a number of years and was widely trialled by numerous expert native plant growers prior to release.



Neutrog developed Bush Tucker in consultation with native plant expert Angus Stewart and soil scientist, Simon Leake. Utilising a unique process, trace elements have been added to lock up phosphorus, making Bush Tucker ideal for even the most phosphorus-sensitive plants such as grevilleas, banksias and proteas.

Bush Tucker not only directly supplies a wide range of essential nutrients, but more importantly provides a catalyst (through the introduction of beneficial bacteria/

microbes) for stimulating the natural processes that occur in the soil – unlocking further nutrients and enhancing root growth. Greater root growth provides a greater soil surface area from which your plants can draw nutrients and moisture.

Meeting Changes

As previously advised, we have changed both the location and the day of the month of the Rose Society meetings.

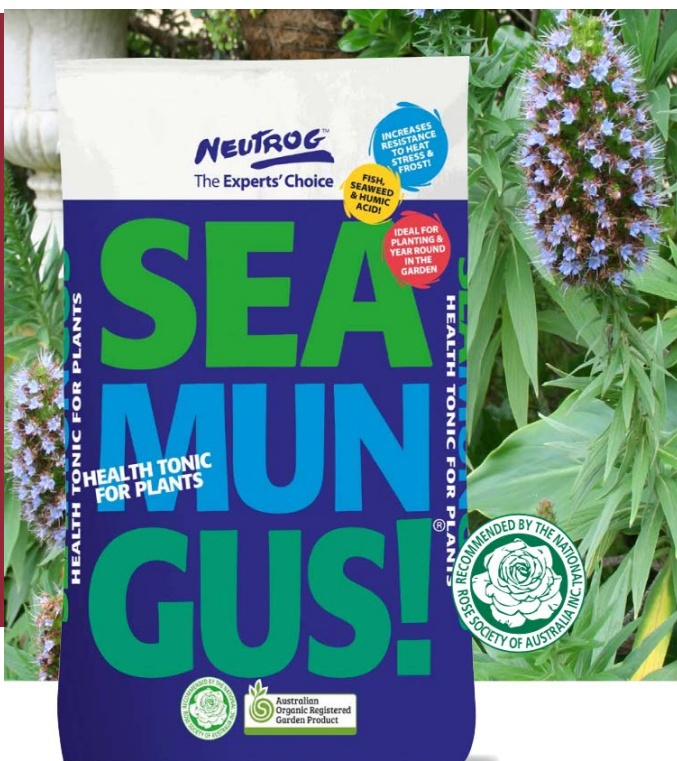
Our first meeting for the year will be held on the **FIRST** Saturday of the month. That is, Saturday 4th February 2023. The meeting will start at 2:00pm. The venue for the meeting is the CWA Camden hall, which is located at the end of the Coles Camden carpark.

Below is an image of the CWA Hall. Note its location in relation to the main entrance of the RSL in Camden (RSL is at the left of the photo). The Coles carpark is not in this photo but the empty carparks in the foreground of this photo back onto the Coles carpark.

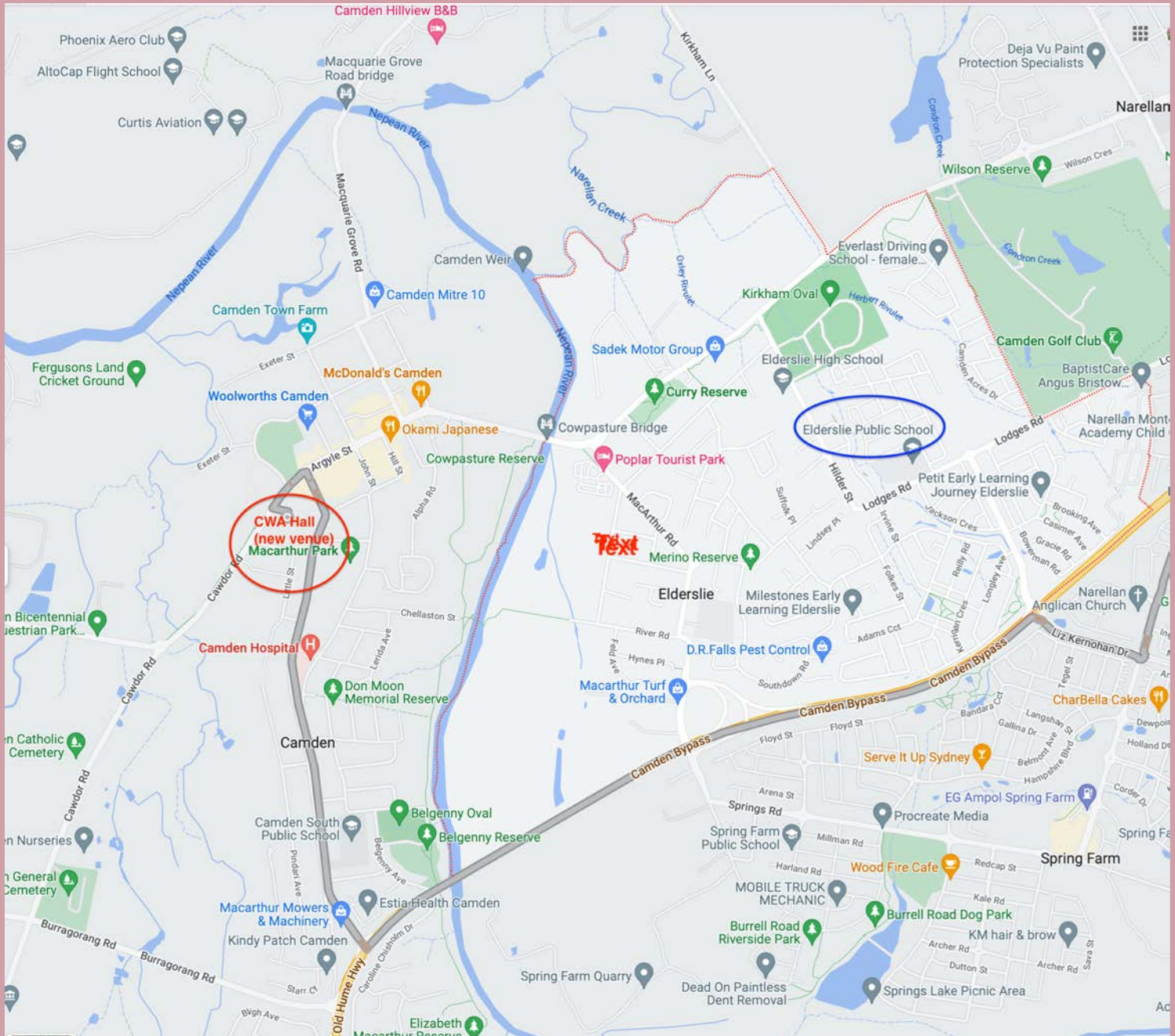


As with all our meetings, it is important for us to not only be a Rose Society but to look like a Rose Society.

Come along at 1:30pm in time to arrange your roses for the bench. One of our expert rosarians will be there to advise and assist you to stage your roses. Now is the week to be checking your roses and identifying the ones that will be suitable to put on the show bench. Blocks of Oasis will be available for \$1:00 per block.



Directions to the new venue





February Birthdays



8th Paula Wardle
14th Helen McCormack
18th Judy Clark



Image below: Seduction is a floribunda rose. It has medium large blooms with pink, wavy edges paling to ivory; very free flowing, long lasting flowers with slight fragrance. It has prolific growth on a low-medium sized bush. It has won many gold medals.



Diary for Macarthur Rose Society 2023



Essential Dates

- 4th February** - Workshop on how to clean and sharpen your secateurs
- 19th February** - AGM of the NSW Rose Society
- 4th March** - Visit to Vitocco Rose Garden
- 17th March** - Southern Highlands Rose Show
- 24 March** - Camden Show including the Camden Rose Show
- 1st April** - General Meeting
- 6th May** - General Meeting
- 3rd June** - AGM followed by the general meeting and Cut Above Tools presentation
- 1st July** - General Meeting
- 5th August** - General Meeting
- 2nd September** - General Meeting
- 7th October** - General Meeting
- 15 October** - Spring Rose Show at Mater Dei School
- 4th November** - General Meeting
- 2nd December** - Christmas Party



We meet at the CWA Camden Hall on the first Saturday of each month other than January at 2:00pm.



The venue can be accessed through the Coles Camden carpark either as a pedestrian or with a vehicle. 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 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 also available at our meetings. Come along enjoy great conversation and meet new friends. All are welcome. For further information telephone: 0410 444 562

