



# Macarthur Rose Newsletter

Vol 30, No: 4, October 2023



## Neutrog

Thank you to everyone who collected their Neutrog on time. As usual we had very little notice about the delivery. I appreciate your help both with the distribution and responding so quickly to the pick up notification.

Chris Vine was once again incredibly helpful and covered the pallets until we were able to start distribution. His help is always crucial when the deliveries arrive and we are grateful for his help and support with the Neutrog.

## THANK YOU

The shop is now open and you can start to order for next winter. The next delivery will be in March 2024.



Joyfulness

## Dear Rose Friends

The warm weather has arrived and our roses are responding with an enthusiastic growth burst.

This month our cultural notes talk about the importance of watering for our roses. Last week we were lucky enough to get good showers of rain overnight. But it does mean that our roses were wet for an extended period of time. They are now in danger of developing fungal diseases such as black spot and powdery mildew. Don't forget your daily review of your roses to help keep these in check.

Our Christmas celebration arrangements are well in hand and Page 5 of the newsletter provides further information about this event including the menu.

I have finally purchased a small laptop and some software so that in future we will be well placed to have presentations about interesting topics at our meetings. In our library we have several very good DVD's about rose growing. At suitable times next year we will be able to present this information to you at our meetings to support our rose growing.

Our Rose Show well be held in a little over five weeks. Preparations are well in hand for the show but as with any community group, volunteers are needed to assist on the day of the show and prior to and after the show.

Please volunteer as our Rose Society cannot function without volunteers. It is only through the work of volunteers that we are able to operate a Rose Society. We all contribute to its success when we volunteer.

Don't forget to enter the rose show. Remember your roses are good enough to enter. Page 4 has detailed some good reasons for you to enter a Rose Show. Surprise and delight yourself. You will enjoy the experience. Now is the time to look at the schedule, which can be accessed from the main page of the NSW Rose Society website. Download the schedule and start planning. On the website in the members section there is a small .pdf booklet with some tips on exhibiting roses. Our own Rosalie Vine was one of the authors of this booklet. it is a very useful little booklet to have on hand. The log in is [remember](#) and the password is [Seduction](#). HAVE A GO! enter the Rose Show.

We now have a Macarthur Regional Facebook page called [#rosesinmacarthur](#). Join the page, take a photo of your roses and upload and comment on the roses. Let's share our joy and knowledge of the rose.

Yours in Roses

Judith

<p><b>AT</b> Macarthur Centre for Sustainable Living 1 Mount Annan Drive MOUNT ANNAN NSW 2567 Sunday 5th November 2023 <b>ENTRIES CLOSE</b> 9:00PM Thursday, 2nd November 2023 Late entries will not be accepted</p>	<p><b>SHOW SECRETARY:</b> Rosalie Vine M: 0423 050 532 <b>EMAIL:</b> rosalie.vine1950@gmail.com The venue will be open to exhibitors for staging from <b>6:30AM, 5 NOVEMBER 2023.</b> Judging will commence at 9:00am Sharp <i>All exhibitors must vacate the exhibition area during judging.</i></p>
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## October Cultural Notes

Without a doubt the most important consideration for us now is watering. Mulching goes hand in hand with that as the materials can help to retain the moisture. For those members not on town water that will particularly be the case. I have recently taken to using sugar cane mulch. It is relatively inexpensive, is easy to apply, is not overly heavy and most importantly it does not harbour weeds. Of course WhoFlungDung is a wonderful product too.

With less roses to care for I am hand watering as much as possible. It is easier to direct the water to where it is really needed, which is around the drip line. Sometimes we can switch the flow on to the leaves and stems to wash away aphids, bird droppings or other unwanted blemishes. As we always emphasise, observation in the garden is very important. It pays to keep ahead of problems. If possums or birds or deer are causing damage we want to know early so that some measures can be taken.

Whilst watering or just observing the plants it is a good idea to carry your cutters and a bucket. It is more than likely that you will find a stem with some dieback, or an unwanted spent bloom. It is much easier to fix the problem whilst watering with the hose rather than later trying to remember where to go. The best way to get to know your roses is to spend time with them. The quality of the blooms, the growth habits and flowering times can all be appreciated at that time.

One important change which we will see in our roses in coming months is the development of water shoots. These are the framework of the future and must be protected. They grow from just ABOVE the bud union and will attain a good height very quickly. As I write these notes in mid-September I already see some emerging.

A tomato stake or similar should be placed next to the shoot so that it can be tied firmly. To delay is to invite wind damage.

We have a drip irrigation system in place and that can be used when time is short. It does not always convince me that the water is getting to the roots but it serves a purpose. Big hardware stores and nurseries carry a wide range of irrigation equipment. Sprinklers can give the beds a good soaking but certainly the water rates will take a hit if they become the chosen method.

To sum up with watering, there are plenty of options. The most important thing is to make sure that the plants are well hydrated at all times. I know that our much respected former Chairperson, Rosalie Vine has often said that Eco Hydrate is her favourite OCP product. With drought forecast it may be worth using more of it this season.

I will certainly use some foliar feeds during this month. They give a quick response and follow up the solid fertilisers applied in the weeks before. As with all spraying choose a cooler part of the day. It is courting danger to spray on a hot day as burning is likely to occur and no benefits will be gained.

There is always a balance with garden care. If we are not mowing, we will be watering. Fewer weeds appear in the dry times but cultivation becomes more difficult with hard surfaces. Spraying for fungal issues will be needed less but it is likely that there will still be some blackspot. Mildew likes warm days and cool nights so conditions will dictate our actions there.

Our October meeting will be a good opportunity to discuss our show in November. If everyone from our Regional can enter even just one vase it will ensure that we have a display. Our little shows at Ingleburn eased us into the fun activity of exhibiting. Then we attended a big Regional show held down at Wollongong University. Numbers were big in those days and I remember looking at the winning B Grade Championship entry and thinking "If that is B what does A look like?". Time takes care of all questions.

Even if we are unable to exhibit there are plenty of opportunities to be involved with the event. One of the most important is to chat to visitors. Horticulture people are good talkers because they are enthusiastic about their hobby. That is one reason why our Regional is going so well.

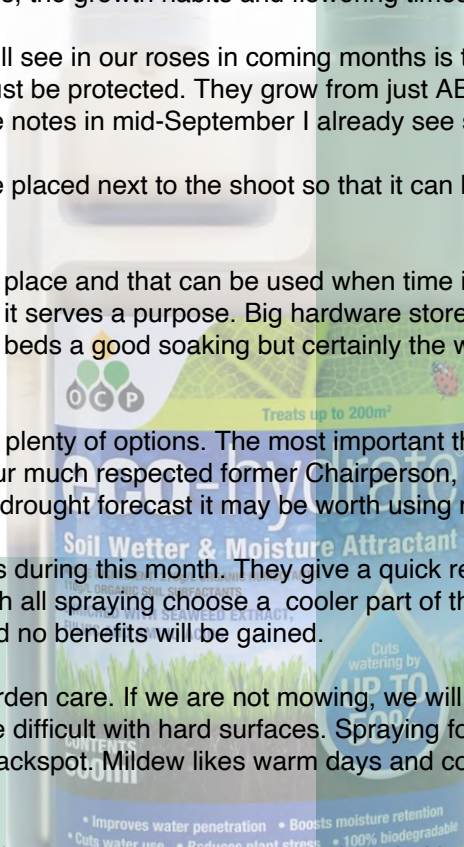
Please have your questions ready for the October meeting.

Best wishes to all Rosarians

*Graham*



Grand Impression



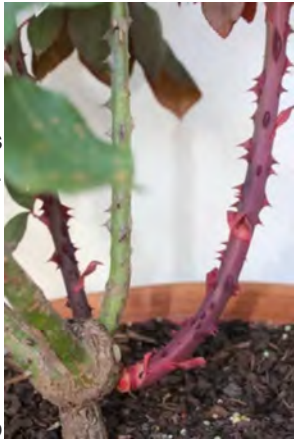


## In the Garden

Watershoots are the tall canes which can be seen growing upright on your rose plant. They are often thicker than the normal canes and can grow to excessive heights.

Water shoots are beneficial to the structure of the rose, but suckers need to be removed or they will take over your plant. As they look very similar, it can be confusing whether to cut them out or let them grow.

Water shoots (aka basal shoots) are new growth that occurs from the bud union or graft. They will have the same foliage and flowers as the remainder of the plant. They are often bright red or olive green. They will form the main structure of your rose for the next few years and will produce the most blooms. We want to encourage these stems.



Water shoots can often grow very tall and tower over the remainder of the rose. This is especially noticeable in the first year after planting. It is also very common to occur during Autumn.

If your rose is producing very tall water shoots, then it is time to stake them to keep them safe in the wind. Remember that the Sydney region gets very strong equinoctial winds during October and November.

If your rose is established and continually producing very long water shoots, it may indicate that the rose is not getting enough sunlight or that it is being over fed.



**NEUTROG**  
Biological Fertilisers

## Other Notes

As your new roses start to bud and bloom, the aphids arrived but as they start to reduce the next pest arrives to feast on your roses. As the hot weather arrives so do the Hibiscus Beetles.

The Hibiscus Beetle is a small oval-shaped black or dark brown beetle, 3-4mm long, which can be found on roses, other flowers and fruits such as strawberries. They like the warmth of the sub tropics and emerge in hot weather when the plants are flowering.



The beetle hides in the flower buds making them very difficult to find. They feed predominantly on pollen and nectar, though they do like to snack on petals too, and they chew holes in the petals and foliage. They are native to Australia and also found in New Zealand and parts of the South Pacific.

The females lay eggs in unopened flower buds near the source of nectar. This usually causes the bud to drop to the ground. When the larvae hatch they eat the bud from the inside then they move into the soil where they pupate. They can produce many generations during the year.

An infestation of hibiscus beetles usually shows up when the petals of your roses start to fall off onto the ground. Light coloured roses such as white and lemon seem to be most impacted by these beetles. Early tell-tale signs of their presence is the browning of the edges of the roses.

Yellow or white containers filled with soapy water may attract and drown beetles. Remove flowers which have been dropped by the plant. A neem drench at the base of the plants may stop the larvae from pupating. Parasite wasps and flies and predatory beetles can also help control these beetles.

These beetles are difficult to control because of their hard elytra (wing casings) and they are usually hidden right inside flower. The other problem with using any sprays is that bees are likely to be affected by any residues that may be on the pollen.



# rose Information

## Rose Shows

Rose shows are an important part of our Rose Society. It is how we celebrate our Roses and display them at their very best and it is available to us all. Every rose grower can exhibit their roses. Here are some reasons to exhibit your roses:



It is a way to connect with people with a common interest and making it fun at the same time.



We can show the roses we love in our garden that few will see in their moment of glory.



It is a way of showing roses to the public and enthusing and inspiring them to grow the roses that appeal on the show bench.



It is a great learning experience, a new skill and one is so proud if there is a place card or ribbon beside your exhibit.



Even if there is no place card, there is the thrill of a member of the public enjoying your rose and being inspired to grow one in their garden.



It is a positive contribution to our community of interest.



It teaches us to congratulate the winner and appreciate their rose when it is judged better than ours on the show bench.

## Volunteers

As with everything that is done in a community group such as the Rose Society, volunteers are always needed. Volunteers are how we manage to show roses, hold meetings, enjoy the rose and get things done. Volunteers are the backbone of any community group. Without volunteers - nothing happens.

You can volunteer for any task and for as long as you are able. That may be for half an hour or for half a day. Please support our Rose Society and Volunteer to help us with the Rose Show.

We will need help **on Saturday afternoon 4th September** starting at 4:30pm to help set up and get ready for the Rose Show.

**Tasks that need doing include:** helping to put the tables in place, cover them with the tablecloths, ensuring access is clear for exhibitors and members of the public and various other set up tasks. Depending on how many volunteers arrive, it is estimated it will take approximately 1-2 hours to set up on the Saturday afternoon.

**On Sunday morning early (from 6:00am),** we will need assistance to support the rose exhibitors and to make them feel welcome and valued at their participation.

Assistance will be needed to direct exhibitors to the preparation area, offer refreshments (tea and coffee) to the exhibitors and setting up a welcoming place for the judges. Help will be needed from 6:00am until 9:00am when the judging starts.



There are also specific tasks that need volunteers to support the judging of the roses. These include: Being a runner - this involves running back and forwards from the judges to the scoring table with the judging notes. This is a most interesting task for anyone to learn and hear how roses are judged. Have a go and learn at the same time. Stewards are also needed and we have detailed guidance for stewards to help make the task easier.

Volunteers will be needed to help throughout the day to make up boxes of roses, sell roses, direct the public, answer rose questions and generally being prepared to help out. Assistance to pack-up and clear-up at the end of the day will also be essential.

Remember you can volunteer for as long as you are able. **All help will be gratefully received and remember - volunteers make our Rose Society.**

# Volunteers

# Needed!





## Christmas Celebration

Our December meeting is always our Christmas celebration. We use this celebration to give back to our members for all their support and participation over the previous year. It is also an opportunity to sit down with each other, catch up, talk roses and generally get to know each better. All members and their partners/friends are welcome.

Over the last several years it has sometimes been challenging to hold this celebration. Bushfires, the Covid pandemic followed by floods and rain have all conspired to wreck havoc on social arrangements. We were not excluded from these challenges.

However this year, we have once again formed an organising committee to work on the Christmas Celebration arrangements. After much discussion and ideas it has been agreed that we will hold our Christmas celebration at our regular meeting venue - the CWA rooms in Camden.

Our enthusiastic committee have great plans for the venue and we have engaged caterers to deliver a delicious Celebration lunch.

The cost of the Christmas lunch will be subsidised to keep the cost to a minimum for all members.

For catering purposes, members will need to let us know about whether you will attend the Christmas lunch. A list will be circulated at the next meeting.



## Christmas Menu

**Grazing Platter** with marinated vegetables, dips, salami and Turkish bread.

Roast pumpkin spinach and feta salad with honey mustard dressing

Green leaf salad with Vinaigrette dressing

Dinner rolls with butter portions

Cold Leg ham platter with condiments

Roast Beef and Red Wine Gravy

Roast Turkey with Cranberry Gravy

Roasted potatoes

Roasted vegetable medley

Pavlova with fresh fruit and cream

Sticky Date pudding with Butterscotch sauce







## October Birthdays

10th Gary McLean

15th Kathy Mena

19th Janet Wright

20th Brian Quinn

23rd Sheryle Albeck

28th Helen Fahey



# Macarthur Diary

## Meeting Dates

**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



Camden CWA Hall

We meet at Elderslie Public School on the second Saturday of each month other than January. The meeting starts at 2:00pm but we are open from 1:30pm to give you time to arrange your roses for the show bench prior to the meeting.

