



Macarthur Rose Newsletter


Vol 29, No: 7, May 2023



Membership

A gentle reminder that our membership renewals will fall due on 30 June 2023. The renewals can be paid at any time from now until the end of June.

There are several ways to pay your membership. You can:


 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.

NOTE: If you choose to bank your renewal in person at a branch you will need to use your membership number as a reference. The NSW Rose Society has over 700 members and your membership number is essential to distinguish your payment.

Membership Fees are:
Single: **\$40**
Dual: **\$45** (Two members/per household)
Junior: **\$5** (under 18)
Associate: **\$40** (e.g. a local business).

We look forward to you continuing your Rose Society membership.



Dear *Rose Friends*

The warm autumn weather continues, turning our roses into large, vibrant and full coloured blooms. It is a great time to work in our garden.

Welcome to all our new members. We hope you have a long and enjoyable association with the Macarthur Regional Rose Society. We look forward to meeting you all at our regular meetings on the first Saturday of each month.

Our members have been very successful at the Royal Easter Show. Our stand out winners have once again been Ian and Maureen Thackeray, who achieved another championship for their roses. Ian has also been very busy clearing the rear garden at our meeting venue. Congratulations to Ian and Maureen and our newer members who also exhibited roses.

Our membership fees for FY24 are due to be paid before the end of June 2023. Information about how to pay your membership are detailed in the column at left. Remember that purchasing one bag of Sudden Impact for Roses bought through our exclusive membership arrangements with Neutrog will give you savings greater than the cost of the membership fees.

This month, the newsletter provides you with information on how to prepare your garden for new roses, purchasing roses and propagating of your favourite roses. Now is a good time to undertake these tasks and Pages 2-4 provide you with information on how to go about these tasks.

Neutrog has a new product on the market - Human Beans - which is a coffee grounds based fertiliser. Page 5 has more details about this product. I have used this product during the trial stage and found it very effective on my vegetable and flower garden. I have found that it really encourages worms, which can only be good for the garden.

May is traditionally the month when we present the trophy to the person who has the most points for placing their roses on the show bench each month since October the previous year. If you have persistently exhibited your roses on our meeting show bench, you are in the competition. Come along to our next meeting and see who has won our great trophy. Many of our current best exhibitors and judges have been past winners of this trophy.



Remember that now is the time to stop feeding your roses so that they have the opportunity to slow down and begin to rest for the winter months. Allowing them to rest over winter will help you to grow better roses in the spring.

Autumn is also the best time to look after your soil and attend to any deficiencies that may have occurred due to the recent growing seasons. Producing good crops and blooms is hard work for the soil and autumn is the time to refresh. Testing the soil and ensuring that you have the correct PH balance is essential for the next growing season. Applying nutrients to the soil now allows them time to work and break down over the cooler months in time for Spring.

Yours in Roses

Judith

cultural Notes by Graham Wright

The last month has been a busy time for rosarians. When we joined the Rose Society, we were not aware of the term 'rosarians' but it has a nice ring to it and a feeling of being part of a group of people with common goals.

Those common goals were very obvious at the Royal Easter Show and the Judges and Exhibitors workshop held at Mt Annan. We all want to grow the best blooms that we possibly can and to do that we need cultivars which will be the best performers. By viewing displays and talking to our friends we can learn to achieve those goals. It is better to use the term cultivar than variety as it is more botanically correct to do so. I am a firm believer in using the correct terminology whenever possible. For example, D and NND when used in a schedule should be retained. It is simple to remember that D stands for different and NND stands for not necessarily different.

Congratulations to those people who participated at The Royal. It is an experience in itself and you can be proud of having negotiated the challenges to get to the point of staging your roses and other horticultural exhibits. Macarthur was strongly represented and it was very pleasing to see some of our newer members involved.



Kardinal

Amongst the roses most commonly seen at the show this year were: White Spray, Apricot Nectar, Fairytale Queen, Sir Cliff Richard, Kardinal, Moonstone, Gold Medal, Joyfulness, Seduction, Irresistible and Elina. There were others which are newer releases but more difficult to obtain. I am hearing that nurseries seem to exhaust supplies more quickly than was the case in earlier times so we have to work harder to obtain our choices. It is also a fact that plants cost a lot more so we need to be selective. In coming months, be on the lookout at Bunnings and similar outlets for clearance sales of roses. Just a few years ago I picked up a couple of good plants of Seduction.



Gold Medal

Take as much time as you can to prepare the site for new roses. Remove old soil if possible and replace with quality. I know of someone who recently imported some soil into their property from a garden centre and it was infested with curl grubs. The ideal situation is if you are able to find some in your vegetable garden or similar.



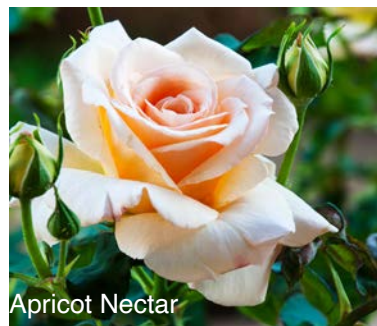
Sir Cliff Richard

For various reasons people sometimes plant new roses in pots. It is worth noting that our current leading exhibitors, the Morphetts, grow a number of theirs in that way. You are able to control the environment but there is extra work. As with all plants try to give them a good start. Many years ago the great Charles Lawn recommended Debco potting mix. It is rich and friable and is still available. We obtain ours at Costco at a good price.



White Spray

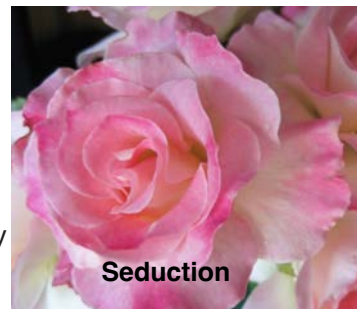
This is a good time of the year to try some cuttings. There is still some warmth in the soil and yet the cuts will not be cooked. Some cultivars will strike very easily but some whites and yellows are harder. Just as with the subject of pots the science with cuttings is a full lesson in itself. As a shortcut to information try the internet for many alternatives. Ian Thackeray is a master with cuttings and I know that he is always happy to share his knowledge. I am about to set about 70 Miniature cuttings trying a new method with Jiffy pots with wicks. We seem to have a chronic shortage of Minis so I hope to be able to share.



Apricot Nectar

We are looking forward to a pruning day at Irene Vitocco's garden, hopefully in July. I know that Judith will keep us informed. We should really have a good roll up of members on that occasion. Now that the Covid issues have eased let's see our numbers up again at the meetings. We are proud of the activity in Macarthur and are looking to see the attendance up

over 30 again. *Graham*



Seduction



Irresistible



Joyfulness



Moonstone



Elina



Fairytale Queen

Propagating Roses

Roses are relatively easy to propagate and it can be one of the best, most magical parts of having roses around. There are several practical reasons to do this. If you have a variety that does especially well in your garden, rooting a few cuttings from that rose provides an inexpensive way to increase your collection. Or you may want to create backups of a rare variety or a family heirloom rose. Homegrown rose cuttings are also great for swapping with other gardeners.

Best Time to Take Rose Cuttings

You can successfully root rose cuttings any time of the year. But for more consistent results, plan to take your cutting when daytime temperatures are above 12°C and below 32°C; the ideal is between 21°C and 27°C. The next four weeks is an ideal time before the winter cold sets in. It's also best to take cuttings early in the morning.

What You Need

Sharp pruners, scissors, or knife. Disinfect these well (methylated spirits works well).

A 5-12cm deep pot that drains well. This could be as simple as the cut-off bottom of a plastic milk container or the bottom of a soft drink container with holes punched in the base.

Materials

- A 50/50 mix of perlite and potting soil. The mix should be sterile and hold roughly an equal amount of air and moisture.
- Rooting hormone. This powder improves your odds of success, but it's often not necessary. It should always be used on harder-to-root rose types like white and yellow roses, when using older wood, or winter cuttings.
- A clear cover to hold humidity around the cuttings. You could use the top part of that milk or soft drink bottle. A clear dry cleaning bag propped up with stakes around the pot can work too.

Instructions

Overall, rose growing from cuttings is a simple process. Whenever you prune your rose plants or cut off the faded flowers, the balance of hormones in the removed stem changes. Under the right conditions, the changes stimulate it to grow roots. The resulting plant is identical to the parent.

Water the Day Before

Healthy, well-hydrated roses root better and watering the plant the day before will achieve this.

Take Cuttings

Choose stems immediately below flower buds that are just about to open. The second best option is to use stems beneath flowers that have begun to drop their petals. Aim for cuttings that are 10-20cms long with three to five nodes (the regular intervals where buds, leaves, and stems emerge).



Bonus tip: Heel wood often roots more easily. It's located at the base of a stem right where it emerges from another stem. Try pulling your stem straight out from where it attaches. Or cut slightly into the older shoot with a sharp knife.

Place Cuttings in Water

Immediately put your cuttings into a container of water out of direct sunlight. Or wrap cuttings in damp paper towels and place them in a cooler. You want to keep the cut stems as hydrated as possible.

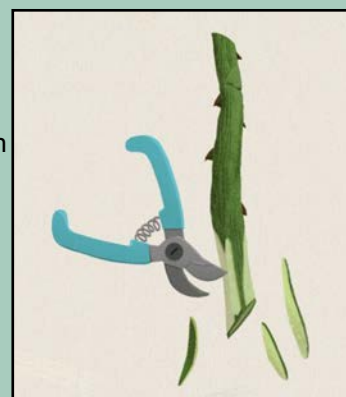
Slice Bottom End of Cuttings

Rooting is part of a wound response for roses. Encourage increased rooting by vertically slicing through the green skin on the bottom inch of the cutting. Do this two to four times spaced roughly equally. Or you can gently scrape a strip or two of the green skin on the bottom inch (just don't remove the skin all the way around the stem). If the variety has large prickles, ripping them from the base also wounds the stem enough to encourage roots to develop.



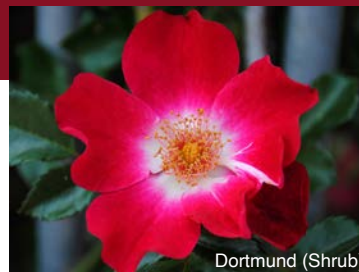
Dip Cuttings in Rooting Hormone

Apply the rooting hormones to about 5.0cms of the base of your cuttings.

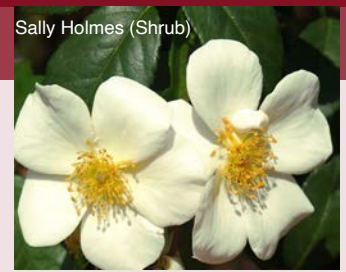


Propagating Roses

...Cont



Dortmund (Shrub)



Sally Holmes (Shrub)

Remove Flowers and Most Leaves

Cut off the flower bud or spent flower and all but the top leaf or two. Reduce the top leaves to three or four leaflets total. Slice the bud from the lowest node to encourage roots to grow.

Place Cuttings Into Potting Soil

Stick your rose cuttings about two inches into a container of potting mix. Press the mix around the stem and water thoroughly. Then add your humidity cover and place the pot in a location with indirect sunlight. A humidity cover can be as simple as a plastic bag or plastic lid. Place the containers on a covered porch, on the side of a shed, or under trees. Some people choose to root rose cuttings indoors on a shady windowsill.



Check Cuttings Periodically

If your humidity cover doesn't have ventilation, lift it briefly a couple of times a week. You shouldn't need to add more water unless the potting mix seems to be completely drying out. Whenever you're lifting the cover, check for cuttings that have turned brown all the way to the base and remove them.

Rooting can happen within a couple of weeks, but expect it to take a month at least and maybe up to two. When you start to see roots from the side or bottom of the pot and new leaf growth, you can begin to acclimate the new roses outside of the humidity cover. If you rooted several in a single pot, you should carefully repot them into individual containers.

Plant Rooted Cuttings in the Garden

Give your rooted rose cuttings 9 to 12 months to develop enough to plant in your garden. During that time you may want to move them to a slightly larger pot with a 20/80 mix of perlite and potting soil with slow release fertilizer to fuel new growth.

Remember it will take two to three growing seasons before you get a strong, healthy rose that produces prolifically. It will produce in the first two years but the best growth will occur after the third year.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Can you grow roses from commercial cut flowers?

Maybe, if you're sourcing from a local flower farm that offers roses cut the same day. It's not ideal, but you can always give it a try. If the rose has been imported (nearly all florist roses are imported in Australia) they will have been subjected to bio-security procedures at the border, which effectively prevents them from being propagated.

Is it okay to propagate patented roses?

Plant patents last for 20 years, so any patented roses cannot legally be propagated during that time without a license. However, the overwhelming majority of rose varieties are legal to root. Many of the older varieties actually depend on gardeners to preserve them by reproducing and sharing them. If you're interested in preserving historical roses, rooting them can be a great way to get involved in rose societies and historical sites in your area.

Can you grow roses from cuttings using potatoes?

There's a longstanding theory that potatoes are the ultimate rose rooting medium. It's very tempting to believe that all you have to do is make a small hole in a spud, perhaps add some honey and cinnamon, stick in your rose cutting, and wait. But keep a couple of things in mind: potato tubers are actually alive. They have their own mix of plant hormones and immune defenses. And at least one academic study has found potatoes had a 100 percent failure rate as a rose rooting medium.

Will rose cuttings root in water?

You may have heard that roses root easily in water. While they may start the rooting process in water, it doesn't go anywhere. There may be exceptions, so you can always try it and see if you have any luck. But expect the best results following the above guidelines.



A pro-biotic liquid
for your soil & plants
5 litres ~ makes 1250 litres



Great for adding to the garden with new seedlings or bare root roses.

rose Information

Neutrog Update

A reminder that the Neutrog online shop is now open for you to order your Neutrog products for the Spring delivery.

There is a new product available for purchase. The coffee fertiliser Human Beans. Up until now, this product has been exclusively available to Neutrog partners such as the NSW Rose Society. It has been marketed to us in plain paper bags in our online store.



Neutrog recognised the opportunity of this growing waste stream providing they could collect the waste economically and turn it into a commercially viable product. As a result, Neutrog has now partnered with the Foodbank charity to collect this waste as part of their business model and they have been able to compost and activate the nutrients to turn the coffee waste into a viable product. This has led to the commercial launch of Human Beans. It is designed as an organic, versatile easy-to-use fertiliser, that feeds plants and improves soil health through the combination of nutritionally dense ingredients further enhanced with a biologically diverse formula called POPUL8.

Human Beans is available in the Neutrog online store in a easily handled 3kg pack and is a great fertiliser to combine with the planting of your vegetable garden.



Peace (Hybrid Tea)

NEUTROG™

The Experts' Choice

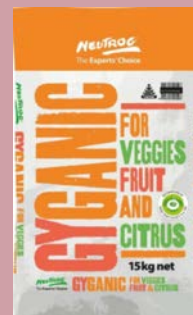
Rose Society members recommend
Sudden Impact for Roses

NEUTROG®
Biological Fertilisers

Other Neutrog Products

Other Neutrog products that are especially useful in the garden during the autumn and winter are **Gyganic** and **Kahoona**.

Gyganic has been specifically developed to enhance fruit size, quality and taste. It is a premium organic based, chemically boosted complete fertiliser with the full range of nutrients in an organic form, coupled with boosted levels of Nitrogen (N), Phosphorus (P), Potassium (K), Iron (Fe) and Magnesium (Mg).



Gyganic's unique organic base of manure, humates and rock phosphate have been composted and blended with the biologically active **GOGO Juice** containing kelp and seaweed – producing a very nutritious organic base product high in organic carbon.



Kahoona is an organic based, chemically boosted fertiliser, specifically developed to enhance the growth and flower development of acid loving plants such as Camellias, Gardenias, Azaleas and Rhododendrons.

The higher potassium to nitrogen rate within Kahoona, plays a crucial role in enhancing flower development, whilst the boosted levels of iron and magnesium help maintain healthy green foliage, aiding in preventing the yellowing leaves which are often seen in late winter and early spring. This organic carbon helps in retaining the water soluble nutrients within the soil, and aids in regulating their uniform uptake by plants.

Neutrog Fines

Sometimes as we browse through the Neutrog online shop we may see products identified as 'FINES'. Sometimes they sold in different sized packaging to the usual product line.

'Fines' refers specifically to the formation of the pellet. They are the by-product of the Neutrog manufacturing process, so they contain all the same ingredients as the normal pellet, but are a 'finer' product, more like a crumble. They are ideal for areas with lower rainfall or for feeding plants that need to access the nutrients more quickly.

Often these products are only available to commercial growers. When they become available in the members online shop they are worth considering as an alternative to the usual sized products. They are just as effective as the usual pellets.

Happy
Birthday

May Birthdays

7th Kerrie McLean
14th Penelope Wardle
24th Ross Quinn
Margaret Crawford
25th Lia Cataldo



Unconventional Lady

Macarthur Diary

6th May - General Meeting

3rd June - AGM followed by the general meeting and
Cut Above Tools presentation

30 June - annual membership fees due

1st July - General Meeting

5th August - General Meeting
Rose Pruning session

2nd September - General Meeting
Helen Lovell from Neutrog

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

21-22 October - National Rose Show in Perth WA

4th or 5th November - Our Spring Rose Show

4th November - General Meeting

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.



Camden CWA Hall

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 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.

4th - 5th November
Macarthur Regional Rose
Society Rose Show in
conjunction with Sydney
Regional Rose Society.