

Southern Highlands Rose Society



Newsletter



September 2020

Members,

There has been little let up in the need to be careful about gatherings and our local meetings have been a casualty. In previous newsletters I have suggested that we would meet in October but the need to distance and the uncertainty of recent times has resulted in a dearth of ideas about what an October meeting would look like.

Instead, the local executive is seeking your views on how we should proceed. If a meeting is held in November, certain conditions would have to be met. Gatherings can be no more than twenty people. Distancing is to be enforced and catering is problematic. And of course a meeting needs a subject or a speaker to make it interesting. On this we are seeking your views. You will have seen the questions posed in the email delivering this newsletter. Please take the time to respond. (Who remembers the old Public Service instruction: "Nil response required"?) So even if you don't particularly care or have a point of view, please let me know.

As for the newsletter – Another short Newsletter with some excellent cultural notes provided by Braidan Swan and an interesting article from Wagner's about mulching along with a piece about a rose gem. You may have noticed there was no newsletter in August as I had little to write about. So again, I send an impassioned plea to send me little bits that can be shared. (Articles in a pdf format are almost impossible for me to reproduce, so articles in word, photos etc are much better. Take a leaf out of Annette Lane's book – Annette writes her information up by hand and then sends me a photo of it. It works! Thanks Annette. If you like you can send me things that are handwritten and I will type them).

Jo Babb



Spring is sprung, the grass is ris,
I wonders where the birdies is.
They say the birds is on the wing.
Ain't that absurd?

I always thought the wing was on the bird

attributed to Ogden Nash



Many thanks to Wagner's Roses for this article from their September 2020 Newsletter. Their newsletter is always full of good information and members are welcome to subscribe. This is done by following the link:

https://forms.omniscrc.com/signup/v1/5cd278358653ed3e50c94fc1_5cd4e1218653ed76f6e71845.html

Members of NSW Rose Society receive a 10% discount when ordering online from Wagner's Roses. See your NSW Rose Journal for details.

Thanks to Benedetta from Wagner's for allowing the publication of this article and for up to date information about Wagner's.

Mulching in the right way

From some of our customers from Northern states, we've received images of their new roses planted, mulched, but burned on their base.

It's important to explain that mulching is really helpful during the warmer months to keep moisture around the roots, but if done in the wrong way can even kill the plant.

A young plant won't have any leaves or growth on its top, so it'll be totally exposed to the sun.

If you'll use a light colour mulch right around its base, you'll certainly burn it, because the mulch will reflect the light onto the stem and it'll increase the temperature around the plant.

Follow these simple tips to mulch in the right way:

HOW

- Don't mulch young roses right at their base, stay 20-30 cm away from the base of the plant.
- When you'll see the leaves growing and forming a canopy on top of the plant, you can start moving the mulch closer to the base, because the base is now in shade and can tolerate high temperatures better.

WHEN

- The right time to mulch roses is when temperatures start to increase and the soil starts to dry out.

WHAT

- Use preferably lucerne mulch, legume, bean or pea straw.
- Be careful with light colour mulch (like barley or wheat straw) as they reflect the light and can burn young plants.

HOW MUCH

- A quite heavy layer of mulch – around 10cm thick - should be enough for 12 months.

To know more about mulching, watch **Brian's video** [here](#) (press ctrl as you click) (It looks a bit messy in the end, but don't worry: the mulch will settle soon and will look nicer).



Is it spring?



Photo One: Struggling tulips, forcing their way out of the ground, Photo 2: a happy rose bud – what will it make of this week's cold weather? And photo 3: My first rose of the year. A poor specimen but undeniably the bravest of little blooms!

I love this Land Australia of gum and wattle tree
This vast and sunlit Continent is home from home
for me
And though I come from a distant Land when I have
had my day
Than underneath Australian soil where better place
to lay.

I love this Land Australia home of the kangaroo
Of echidna and wombat, platypus and cockatoo
Of lorikeet and rosella, koala, possum and emu
And other unusual birds and animals as I've
mentioned just a few.

I like Australian people if poor man make good they
say
The man he is a battler, good on him anyway,
In Land of wedge tailed eagle there's room to
spread one's wings

And in the lucky country the battler is a king.
I love this Land Australia it's home from home for
me,
Home of the kookaburra and gum and wattle tree
And bell bird and bell magpie who through the
Winter sing
A Winter oft times milder than Ireland in the Spring.

I love this Land Australia of sunshine and bird song
And with each passing day my love for this great
Country grow more strong
And though I come from a distant Land when I have
had my day
Than underneath Australian soil where better place
to lay.

Francis Duggan – (Born Ireland -1946 – now
Victoria)

A beautiful rose for a beautiful Cathedral – St Saviour’s Rose

By Jo Babb



St Saviour’s Rose



St Saviour’s Cathedral



Noni and Pie – rose helpers

On 10 June this year my husband and I travelled to Goulburn for a meet up with friends. We always travel with our little dogs, Noni and Pie so after lunch they got a walk around the Goulburn Visitors Centre. Their well tended gardens had a very large bed of beautifully scented roses which had clearly managed the drought, the cold of May and June (possibly early frost) and the horrible smoke that enveloped Goulburn during summer. I fell in love instantly.

An enquiry to the staff at the visitors centre revealed the name - St Saviour’s Rose.

St Saviour’s is of course the beautiful Anglican Cathedral in Goulburn. At home I searched far and wide with online rose suppliers but none had any rose called St Saviour’s. But I was determined to own one if I could.

I wrote to the Cathedral and my email found its way to the very helpful and friendly Diana Body who is the president of the Friends of the Cathedral group.

Diana explained that the Friends of the Cathedral embarked on a project to recognise the 150 anniversary of the Diocese and St Saviour’s Rose was the outcome.

Swanes obliged and provided a rose which had not been released in Australia and could be named for the Cathedral. It was an American rose and was known by the name Wide Blue Yonder which sounded very Australian to Diana. Swane’s did all the budding and as well as the roses that went to the Cathedral for sale and planting, Goulburn Council also obtained 150 roses to coincide with the anniversary of Goulburn being a city and they are planted at the Visitors’ Centre. Only a few roses were planted in the grounds of the Cathedral.

The crushing news was that there were none left for sale.

After some discussion with Diana about my love of the rose and disappointment at not being able to obtain one, Diana came up with a generous plan. As the roses at the Cathedral had been planted in an area that was less than ideal, they were not thriving (unlike the ones tended by Council) and that if I was willing to make a donation, she would organise to dig one up for me as a special gesture.

I didn’t hesitate. I met Diana at the roses and indeed the roses were in need of some care and attention. We pulled out weeds, gave them a nice dose of liquid Seamungus (end of June so no pruning or feeding) and generally made them happier.



Diana Body and Jo Babb



St Bede's Braidwood



No roses in sight but they are here!

I relayed to Diana a story about St Bede's in Braidwood which had an extensive rose garden that had suffered badly with neglect and drought but had been brought back to life by my brother in law, Phil Owen through lots of feeding, soil improvement, pruning etc. The roses in St Bede's seem to have been selected by their religious namesakes and include Kardinal, Peace, Pope John Paul II, Saint Patrick and others. On hearing this, Diana made another generous offer of providing one for St Bede's too to add to their collection.

My rose is happily sitting in its pot awaiting a newly prepared garden bed and the rose destined for St Bede's is in Braidwood awaiting its planting. Both responded well to being lifted and doted on and their future looks secure.

In late September I have an arrangement with Diana to go and tend the St Saviour's roses in the grounds of the Cathedral where they will get a good feed of Sudden Impact some weeding and some mulch. They too might end up as very happy roses. I can report that the ones around the Visitors' Centre in Goulburn are looking very healthy and happy and are full of new growth having been beautifully pruned by the Goulburn City gardeners.

Diana also provided an article which appeared in the Friends of St Saviour's Cathedral Newsletter:

Newsletter 47, Issue 1/2011.

I have reproduced it below although I am unable to include the photos which are in the original article.

The Swane's Story

The Swane's story began in 1919 when Enterprise Nurseries was established in Ermington. The operation moved to Dural in the 1960's and the name changed to Swane's. This site was set up as a state of the art production and retail facility, encompassing motherstock gardens, laid out for utilitarian purposes, but to be enjoyed by the public as well. Swane's has been instrumental in introducing and trialling many new plant varieties – Grevillea Superb, Golden Robinia and most famously, in the 1970's, the rose Double Delight.

The Narromine Field Nursery was established in the 1970's on 60ha after the Swanes met up with some growers from the USA. This is where the St Saviour's Rose is being developed. As Narromine is a long way north, the growing period is extended and the heat helps harden the timber of roses which are grown through consecutive summers. Narromine has become the testing ground for new varieties that rose breeders in Australia are interested in releasing. Swane's now also receives roses from all over the world for evaluation and release.

(Two photos were included: Pot Production at the Narromine Field Nursery and Support gardens provide propagation material. Photos were courtesy Swane's Nurseries).

Post Script: Swanes are no longer using the Narromine property as a Field Nursery.

And from Annette Lane, our latest rain figures -

CLIMATE CHANGE ?

The table below shows the record temperature and rainfall on the Ciib Mittagong for the last 3 years over Winter.

WINTER RECORDINGS

YEAR	JUNE		JULY		AUGUST	
	AV C°	MM	AV C°	MM	AV C	MM
2018	11	114	12	5	13	47
2019	12.5	82	13.2	18	13.5	33
2020	12	40	12	174	12.5	174

Winter this year has been the coldest and wettest. I am interested to see your figures Janet for Sutton Forest.



Many thanks to Braidan Swan for the Cultural Notes for August which are probably more relevant to us in September here in the Southern Highlands.

SOUTHERN SYDNEY REGIONAL CULTURAL NOTES AUGUST 2020

Spring is upon us, by now roses should be showing signs of life again new fresh shoots will soon be an array of red leaves, a beautiful sight.

The odd rose might even send off the odd flower or two.

With the new shoots growing it can be like ringing the dinner bell for Aphids, quickly multiplying in there thousands to the unseen eye, Regular applications of Eco Oil or Multi crop eco insecticide will help eliminate them. Remember to always read the label and avoid spraying in the middle of the day, if Rain is due, or excessive winds.

Keeping your soil in condition should continue as I do this year round by using Neutrog's "Seamungus Liquid" and "Gogo Juice" once a month. I believe having a healthy soil and keeping all the microbes and worms happy will help produce not only beautiful flowers but bushes that can withstand the elemets of the heat in Summer and insect and fungal attacks.

I would look at feeding now to late August with "Sudden Impact for Roses" it really is the most ideal fertiliser on the market for Roses. I would then look at feeding again in December or January but that's what I do. What works for me might not work for you. Remember I am growing roses for exhibition so I want to try determine as much as I can when they flower.

For Roses in Pots "Strike back for Orchids" is just a little easier on them.

Get the mulch ready to spread around your roses; this will also help with black spot to avoid splashback of soil etc. onto the leaves from irrigation and/or rain. "Whoflungdung". You cannot beat it. Its jam packed full of goodness anything you spread it around will go off like a rocket.

By now the Nurseries would have sold out of their Winter bare root roses, whatever is left over will be potted up and made available in a few weeks, so still a chance to purchase some new roses for your garden or for a friend who might want to have a go. Get them to join the Rose Society of NSW as well.

Now as spring is upon us get ready to sit out in your garden with a nice bottle of wine and get ready to smell the Roses.

Yours in Roses,

Braidan Swan

Southern Sydney Rose Society



Sudden Impact for Roses is ideal for all flowering plants except natives and bare-rooted roses.

- Pellet form
- Organic-based
- Boosted fertiliser
- 9:4:12 – plus the full range of secondary nutrients and micronutrients in a natural form along with boosted levels of Iron and Magnesium.