

Roses have a long and colourful history. They have been symbols of love, beauty, war and politics. The rose is, according to fossil evidence, 35 million years old. They were used as confetti at celebrations, for medicinal purposes, and as a source of perfume.

During the fifteenth century the rose was used as a symbol for the factions fighting to control England. The white rose symbolized York, and the red rose symbolized Lancaster, as a result, the conflict became known as the "War of the Roses".

Roses were in such high demand during the seventeenth century that royalty considered roses or rose water as legal tender and they were often used as barter for payments. Napoleon's wife Josephine established an extensive collection of roses at Chateau de Malmaison, in Paris during the 1800s. This garden became the setting for Pierre Joseph Redoute's work as a botanical illustrator. In 1824 he completed his watercolour collection "Les Rose", which is still considered one of the finest records of botanical illustration.

Roses are once again enjoying a resurgence in popularity, specifically, shrub roses and old garden roses. Gardeners realize that these roses fit the lifestyle of today's gardeners and want roses that are not as demanding with regard to disease control, offer excellent floral quality, have excellent winter hardiness, and fit into shrub borders and perennial gardens without seeming out of place.

Attention to plant selection, a basic knowledge of the wide array of classes available, basic culture information and information about potential disease and insect problems will go a long way in making roses an enjoyable addition to the garden. (Ref: University of Illinois-Our Rose Garden)

Neutrog has 2 new products available for us to purchase. Nincompoop-a poultry manure compost and Rooster Booster .



For your stock of Neutrog products please contact Geoff Johnson on ph: 4937 2635 to place orders.

March meeting is at the beautiful home and garden of Dorothy. A map is attached.



Governor Macquarie Rose –Signature Rose of the Hunter Valley Regional Rose Society

Members of the Hunter Valley meet on the <u>second Saturday</u> of the month at 1.30 p.m. This month at: The home of Dorothy Sneddon 6 Sturt Street, East Maitland. Next meeting-14<sup>TH</sup><sup>March</sup> 2020 AT 1.30pm. For further information contact:

Tracy Whyte – Chair tracywhyte20@gmail.com

Helen Dawson – Secretary martin.dawson@bigpond.com

lan Mead- Treasurer <u>ianmead.propertymaintenance@</u> <u>gmail.com</u>

Or Dorothy Snedden (hospitality) on: PHONE: 02 49338121