

# Macarthur Rose Newsletter

Vol 28, No:1, July 2021

## Neutrog Shop

Neutrog has opened its online shop for purchases for the Spring delivery.

This will be the only opportunity you will have to purchase Neutrog for the next six months. You will need to consider what fertilisers you will need over the spring summer period to maintain and bolster your garden.

After 9th August the shop will close and you will be unable purchase at the special Macarthur Rose Society prices until Autumn 2022.

Now is the time to think carefully and plan ahead for the following growing season. You can purchase and pay at any time until the shop closes. Delivery will be in early September with the date to be advised.

### Important dates:

**Store Opens: NOW OPEN**

**Store Closes: 9 August 2021**

For those members who haven't ordered from Neutrog previously, please contact Graham Wright to give your permission to share your Rose Society details with Neutrog. Graham can be contacted on: 9606 5888. If you have done this and haven't received Neutrog's online store activation email, please contact Nicki via email at [marketing@neutrog.com.au](mailto:marketing@neutrog.com.au) or 08 8538 3500 or freecall 1800 65 66 44 during business hours.

For those members who have already activated their account and previously ordered online, you can simply click on this link to place your order: <https://neutrogshop.com.au/account/login>

## *Dear Rose Friends*

I am writing this after having to cancel our July 2021 meeting due to the Covid 19 NSW Government restrictions. While we may be exhausted from lockdowns, it is an opportunity to get back into our gardens, plant new roses and start to think about pruning our roses. Our cultural notes this month deal with pruning our roses. A good place to start with pruning are our climbing roses. They are very forgiving of our mistakes. Pruning is also a good time to look out for suckers and rid your roses bushes of them once and for all. See page 3 for more information about suckers.



**To help your rose planning for the October National Championships**, you may need to hold your pruning over until the middle of August. This will ensure that your roses will be at the right stage for the best display at the National Championships. Roses take between 40-60 days (depending on the number of petals) to bloom after pruning. Page 5 of this newsletter has a short biography of just some of the speakers who will be presenting at this event. Don't miss it, register now!

**Unfortunately, we have had to postpone our Camden RSL memorial rose garden pruning event** until Thursday 22 July 2021. By then we will all be ready to see each other again and enjoy ourselves out in the fresh air. Our annual pruning sessions are a good opportunity to work alongside experienced rosarians and learn. Remember that no matter how inexperienced we consider ourselves, we all have something to offer about our rose growing experiences and expertise.

**I look forward to seeing many of you there** on 22 July 2021 at 10:30am. It will be important to maintain our social distancing and infection control strategies, but we can still learn from and enjoy each other's knowledge of roses and rose growing.

**For those of you who have a Neutrog account you will have received the email** about the opening of their online shop for the Spring Neutrog delivery. Remember this will be the only delivery until the autumn in 2022. You will need to carefully plan what stock you will need over the Spring/Summer growing period.

**At our AGM in June**, many of you stepped forward to support our Rose Society and volunteered to part of the team that keeps the Rose Society running. I would like to thank you all and look forward to working with you all over the next 12 months.

*Judith*

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**NEUTROG**

## Pruning Roses

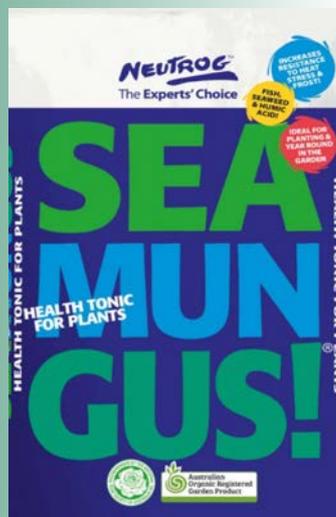
Pruning roses helps reduce disease, shapes the bush and encourages the production of good, solid, new growth. The best time to prune is in July or early August. If you live in an area of Macarthur that gets late frosts, wait until late July or early August to prevent frost burning the new shoots. Pruning can be enjoyable with the correct gear such as sharp pruners, good leather gloves and feet protection and by taking one's time.

Focus on the bottom half of the plant. Ideally, you want to retain strong, healthy, young canes and remove all dead wood, twiggy growth and weak branches. If sufficient new canes have grown from the base (water shoots), then you can remove old canes from the base.

Ultimately, you want a rose bush to resemble a cup shape. The outer canes should be reduced to one-third to half of their original height and cut to 1cm above an outwardly facing bud (eye).

Treat climbers more gently by training the best canes. Heritage roses just need pruning to shape and tip prune regularly. Remove any dead bits. Ground cover roses are easy to prune. Just use loppers to cut them back, almost to ground level. They will re-grow by spring, particularly with some fertiliser, and mulch.

Always look for an outward facing bud and cut. The new growth will then grow outwards and produce flowers around the outside of the bush. If you cut to an inward facing bud the direction of the new growth will cluster in the centre again.



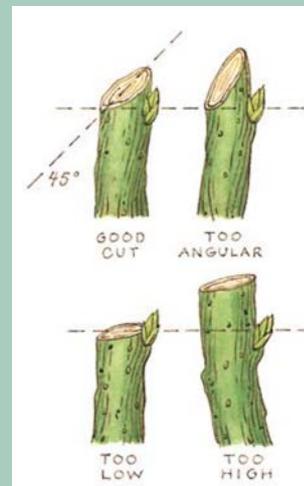
Follow spindly stems down to where they're about the thickness of a pencil and cut at the node just below the pencil thickness. Cut out any stems with dieback to new healthy growth that is the thickness of a pencil and an outward facing node. To retain and maintain that cup shape of the bush, cut out any stems that are crossing over each other.



Look out for water shoots -these are an olive green or even pink colour - and are essential. Take care of the water shoots because these are the young growth, and this is where the rose will have its flowers. Just prune it lightly, so it will shoot out and produce more flowers.

Don't be afraid to remove large sections of the rose bush. Do this every couple of years to rejuvenate new growth. Remove any old branches, or any stems that look warty and crinkly.

Aim to cut at about a 45° angle and make sure that the cut is sloping away from the bud so that rain and dew won't collect in the area where the bud forms onto the stem. This will help stop fungal disease.



Remove the clippings and pruning's from the garden. Don't put them into the compost, but into the rubbish bin. This stops the spread of disease.

Spray the pruned roses and the ground out to the drip line with lime sulphur while the plants have no leaves.

This will help to get rid of scale and other fungal type diseases. Repeat after 7-14 days. Spraying around the rose bush drip line helps kill off any fungal spores that have been blown onto the ground ready to spring forth in the warmer weather.

Mulch to protect the soil from frost and cold weather. Sugar Cane, Who Flung Dung and Pea Straw are ideal for keeping the soil at an even temperature.

Fertilise with Neutrog Seamungus about three to four weeks after you've pruned when the stems start to grow, and the buds are forming.

## Rose Understock

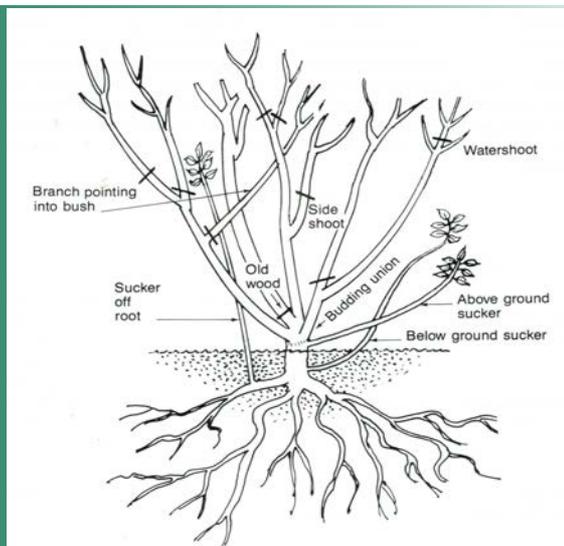
Cultural Notes about rose understock are courtesy of: Linda Ross from the Garden Clinic

### What is an understock?

Understock is the rootstock onto which a rose is grafted or budded. A good understock will grow in a variety of soil types and offer more vigour than roses grown from cuttings. Many roses are grafted onto 'Dr Huey' or *Rosa multiflora*. 'Dr Huey' is a vigorous, tough rootstock that grows well in hot dry areas, and can be readily budded or grafted. Its flower is deep maroon with a cluster of golden stamens. *Rosa multiflora* is an understock better suited to areas of higher rainfall, especially to Sydney and coastal NSW. Its flower is white. Both these understocks promote vigorous new growth, called water shoots, growing 2-3m in a matter of weeks during summer. These should not be confused with suckers.

### What is a sucker?

A sucker is a growth that originates from the rootstock of the rose, below the bud union where the rose was grafted. With bush roses, suckers may grow from rootstock below soil level. With standard or weeping roses, the suckers may grow from the trunk or stem of the rose. Foliage of a sucker differs from that of the budded rose, helping with identification. Suckers grow from a point on the rootstock where there has been an injury or trauma. Digging for weeds around a rose can cause such injury, so beware!



## Why Remove Understock Suckers?

If suckers aren't removed they will eventually take over the rose. Flowers produced from sucker growth are not the flowers of the rose variety purchased.

### How is it done?

Suckers are best removed when the soil is moist. Scrape soil back to expose the sucker. Using thick gloves and brute strength rip the sucker off. With luck it will come off with a 'heel' (a piece of the older wood) and the point at which the sucker is removed from the rootstock will scar and 'heal'. Suckers are more easily removed when new. If you wait until they are several years old and have had a chance to establish, it is a difficult task and you may not succeed. Cutting the sucker off will encourage more suckers to grow.

### Exceptions

Wild roses and some old heritage roses are not grafted but instead are grown from cuttings on their own roots. Suckers of these roses are identical to the parent plant and can be dug up and transplanted when the rose is dormant.

## Feature Rose

Regarded as one of the best red roses, Mr Lincoln is a hybrid tea rose popular for both the deep red flower and its fragrance. It is a tall growing bush rose, also available as a standard and as a climbing rose and it is versatile and hardy. As this is a rather vigorous grower it is best grown towards the back of the garden border.



Bred in the United States in 1964, and named after President Lincoln, this is a rose that has proved itself over 60 years. As it is a thorny rose and also tall growing, a spot away from pathways is suggested. Not too far back in the border as you will want to pick these wonderful red roses.



## Help Me Find website

Help Me Find is a very useful website well worth getting to know. It is devoted to roses, clematis and peonies and all that is gardening related, including selecting, buying, breeding, caring for and exhibiting.

The website has listed over 44,000 roses and more than 160,000 photos along with thousands of rose nurseries, public and private gardens, rose societies, authors, breeders, hybridizers and publications from all over the world.

You can explore, enjoy, and help the website grow by contributing your experiences, expertise and photos to the site. It offers a wealth of helpful information.

You can use HelpMeFind without joining. But the free membership gives you significantly more information when you log on using your membership details. You can also pay a small fee and get access to even more information and help with everything roses. The website has a very good search engine and there are many Australian bred roses on the site. HelpMeFind is well worth a look. Help Me Find can be found at the following web address:

[www.helpmefind.com](http://www.helpmefind.com)

**HelpMeFind** Roses, Clematis and Peonies  
and everything gardening related.



Photo above courtesy of Ian Thackeray from our annual general meeting held on 12 June 2021. Many thanks to Ian and Roslyn Tildsley for their attention to details and taking photos to record our events. Your help is appreciated. Photo right courtesy of Roslyn Tildsley. Hans demonstrating his enthusiasms for the use of rose petals in all things culinary.

## Bread and Roses

This beautiful slogan has accompanied the workers movement and the struggle for women's rights. It has generally been attributed to Karl Marx, but the thinker as he himself has stated, owed the expression to the German romantic poet Heinrich Hein (1797-1866) whom he met in Paris in 1843.

Marx was 25 years old at the time and Hein was 46, but each had a great influence over the other. Hein was greatly engaged in politics and appalled at the extreme poverty of the German people. As a result he published '*Germany, a Winter's Tale*' a moving poem in which he wrote the lines:

*We should, right now on earth,  
A kingdom of heaven proclaim...  
Enough bread grows here on earth  
For all mankind's nutrition  
Roses too, myrtles, beauty and joy  
And green peas, in addition.*

Marx understood the idea to mean that people's needs were not only the material, they also included the right to beauty and trivialities as expressed by roses and green peas.



In 1912, in the American state of Massachusetts, during a major textile workers strike, many of whom were immigrants, the workers sang a song written by James Oppenheim, '*Bread and Roses*', which included the lines 'Hearts starve as well as bodies: give us bread but give us roses!'

(From: *The Little Book of Roses*)



## Pruning at the RSL

At our last meeting we agreed that we would meet on 15 July 2021 to pruning the roses in the Rose Garden at the Camden RSL on Cawdor Road. One of our members, Ian Thackeray, is the current custodian for this memorial rose garden and it is a great opportunity to support one of our Macarthur members, get advice on your own pruning skills and generally enjoy the company of rose enthusiasts.

To ensure that we can meet and undertake this commitment the pruning get together has been postponed until 22 July 2021. Hopefully the Covid 19 restrictions will be lifted by then and we will be able to get together for this planned pruning session. I will provide further advice to you all closer to the time.

## Using Rose Petals

Below is a photo that Roslyn Tildsley took at our last meeting. Roslyn had the presence of mind to capture the various products that Hans our guest speaker demonstrated at our June meeting. Hans brought along rose water, cup cakes decorated with rose petals and various herbs and spices that had been enhanced with rose petals. These petals were all donated from my own roses indicating that you don't need many roses to be able to use them in various ways to enhance our love of roses. Hans gave a lively and generous talk about using rose petals and his enthusiasm about using roses in the culinary arts was as great as our own at growing better roses in the garden.



## Roses by the Seaside

Will be held at The Pavilion in Kiama from 15-18 October 2021. This is It is a great opportunity for us all to visit this spectacular national rose show and championships. Below are profiles of just two of the guest speakers who will be speaking at this event. There is a small charge to hear each guest speaker to cover costs. All of the guest speakers have a shared passion with us of wanting to grow better roses while meeting the challenges of climate change.

Make sure you book your place at their presentations to hear what they have to say about growing roses in the 21st Century at: [www.nsw.rose.org.au/roses-by-the-seaside.html](http://www.nsw.rose.org.au/roses-by-the-seaside.html).

### CAZ OWENS



#### Organica Floret

Rose growing began for me after I left the Corporate world in 2009 due to ill health. With a new property needing gardens to be established and with my husband told 'I just want to grow roses' so my Rose journey began.

Being located just outside the hinterland hamlet of Eudlo on the Sunshine Coast of Queensland, the new gardens quickly expanded and flourished due to the location, aspect and sub-tropical weather.

So why Chemical Free gardening you ask? Well, my husband Paul and I both realised that we had a very unique opportunity and obligation to preserve and nurture the native bees, frogs, birds and insects found daily in the Rose gardens and in the environment beyond so we both made the decision to be strictly Chemical Free to ensure our environment remained pristine and in better health than we found it. We have also been a release site for rehabilitated native wildlife for over 10 years.

### DIANA SARGEANT



Diana Sargeant has been a consulting rosarian for 30 years, designing private and public rose gardens, presenting on radio talkback gardening programs, doing stints on television and talking with customers. Her passion is to assist gardeners to create environmentally friendly rose gardens – 'do it once, do it right' being her motto. Diana, along with husband Graham, run Silkies Rose Farm in Victoria where their organically grown roses can be purchased in person or via mail order.

Diana is the author of a beautiful book: All About Roses - A guide to Growing and Loving Roses.



## July Birthdays

**4th Judy Rudd**

**10th Rowena MacAlpine**

**12th Sandra Pinkerton**

**22nd Bob Stibbard**



## Membership Fees

Membership fees are now due. Payment can be made either directly to Maureen Thackeray our Subscription Secretary or via electronic funds transfer (EFT). EFT payments can be made via this bank account:

**BSB:** 012 429

**A/C:** 2784 41863

**Reference:** Initial, Last Name, Region (Macarthur) and Membership Number

**Note:** If you do not reference your name, region and membership number in your bank transfer, your payment details may not be able to be matched as a renewal, resulting in your membership being unfinancial.

# Macarthur Diary 2021



## Meeting Dates for Macarthur District Regional Rose Society

Our meetings are held on the second Saturday of each month from February to December, at 2:00pm at Elderslie Public School, 170 Lodges Road Elderslie.

### Important dates ahead

10 July - monthly meeting (**Cancelled due to Covid 19 restrictions**)

22 July (pruning session at Camden RSL Cawdor Road, Camden)

14 August (monthly meeting - information about the Christmas Party)

9th September (monthly meeting)

9th October (monthly meeting)

15 October - decoration of the Macarthur Frame for the National Championship display at Kiama

15-18 October - Roses by the Seaside National Championships

13 November (monthly meeting to be held in the garden at Lorraine and David Hawkes place)

11 December (Christmas Party)



**Contributions** to this newsletter are always welcome. If you have items of interest including photos that you want to share for distribution, please send them to:

Judith Carll, at E: [macarthurosesociety@gmail.com](mailto:macarthurosesociety@gmail.com) or Tel: 0410 444 562

We operate in a Covid safe way with sanitiser available and sufficient space to keep a designated safe distance. Visitors are welcome.