



# Macarthur Rose Newsletter

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## Neutrog Update

Neutrog orders are closing this week on 2 August. This week is your last chance to order Neutrog products at a greatly reduced price until next autumn.

Note that Neutrog has several new products that you may want try over the Spring and Summer. It is important to get the best blooms possible this season as we have many exciting occasions ahead to show them off.

The delivery date is unknown at this stage but I will keep you informed as soon as I become aware of the truck delivery. As always it will be short notice, so please keep up with the notices in the form of emails and texts so that you do not miss the delivery times.

Once again I apologise for inflicting this short notice on you but it seems to be unavoidable despite extraordinary efforts to improve the timeframes.



## Dear *RoseFriends*

At long last it seems as if winter is starting to release its grip. It has been an extraordinarily cold and miserable season this year. Now is the perfect time to get out into the garden and get your roses organised for the next season, which will be upon us before we know it. Your new roses should be arriving and pruning underway. Pruning and spraying lime sulphur afterwards will give you a head start.

If you have not yet paid your membership renewal, it is now overdue. Please remember that if you are not a financial member, you will not be able to purchase Neutrog products at our greatly reduced prices after this delivery as you will be removed from the Macarthur membership online shop. Thank you to all our members who paid before 30 June 2024. Your promptness is greatly appreciated.

Over 15 people turned up to prune at the Vitoccos in July. It was a lovely crisp afternoon and we all enjoyed the open fire and delicious afternoon tea that Mrs Irene Vitocco always provides for the pruners. It is always good to prune roses under the guidance of the many experts we have in the Macarthur region. Thank you to all who turned up and provided expert advice and assistance with the pruning.

I am sad to report that one of our members passed away last month after a long illness. Many of our long term members would remember Bruce Raines very well as he has been a Macarthur Regional member for many years. Bruce was an avid and very successful gardener, and always keen to help out. His specialty was dahlias rather than roses and over the years he and his wife Lonny have educated many of us about the beauty and joy of growing dahlias. Bruce grew dahlias similar to soft, billowy, miniature clouds. He was always generous with his knowledge and time. Our sympathies are extended to Lonny and Bruce's extended family.

Our next meeting is on 3 August and we will be holding our annual general meeting before our August general meeting. Your support to run our very successful Rose Society will be greatly appreciated. Even the smallest contribution is important and welcome. Many of the roles that need filling are very small and not onerous but having you help makes a bit difference.

This year we need someone to take over the raffles. Janet Wright has been doing this role for a long time. It would be nice if someone else could take over this role for her. Our care convenor can also only continue for the next few months. This role can be done from home and again requires little effort but it is one less job for those who already carry a big load.

Your willingness to make our regional active and interesting is greatly appreciated. Please come to our AGM ready to help in some small way. A small contribution often returns an enormous amount in rose knowledge and friendships.

Finally don't forget to register for the free webinar on 18 August where we can hear Dr Uwe talk about the best way of using our Neutrog products. It is a great opportunity hear and ask questions from Neutrog's chief scientist.

Yours in roses

*Judith*



## August 2024

The new growth which bursts forth during this last month of winter should be matched by our enthusiasm for our favourite plants. The rewards are considerable when we consider the number of blooms produced and the display that they make.

Such results will only accrue if we match up the important factors for success. Hopefully we have selected cultivars which we will like and thrive in our environment. That should be an easy task when we consider the wide range of roses available. On the one hand we may learn to love some roses which will last as long as we do. I could use Elina as an example there. However we should always be able to find space for a newer release. I try to avoid impulse buying but I recently bought two plants of Day-breaker. I had read about it in American publications and admired our daughter's splendid version of this highly acclaimed Floribunda.



Photo by Melanie Trimper

It is not too late to plant new roses in August, even those which are bare-rooted. Potted roses tend to be around for the entire year. Often they are a good buy but there are always cases of plants which have been screaming for freedom. It would be good to be able to see the roots but certainly the foliage is a good indicator. Prices can vary widely and bargains can be obtained as sales outlets are always keen to move on surplus stock.

Now that we have our roses underway we should commence our regular feeding program. The fundamentals are Seamungus and Sudden Impact for Roses. Late winter is a great time for seaweed and a month or so later for Neutrog's most famous product Sudden Impact. It is worth remembering that this Australian company commenced its association with the Rose Societies over 20 years ago and has withstood challenges from others. POPUL8 and various other products have been added to the Neutrog range. Read their newsletters and publications and listen to Dr Uwe to enhance your knowledge. I really hope that you have placed your orders for the next delivery which are due shortly.

It is pointless applying fertiliser if it is not watered in properly. We need action in the root zone before the new foliage emerges. Watering should be one of our easiest garden tasks. Holding the hose is a relaxing and worthwhile exercise. Sometimes we get a bonus when it rains. If too much rain falls we have hopefully constructed our beds so excess water can drain away. Have a good irrigation system in place ready for the dry spells.



If roses are growing strongly and healthily they are less likely to be troubled by fungal diseases. Ideally we should spray them with environmentally friendly products. If used properly and regularly they should be just as effective and safer than the chemical versions. I usually use Eco Oil, Eco Carb and E-Seaweed to prevent blackspot and powdery mildew.

Some people are very concerned with aphids but in reality they are easy to counter. The nurseries have a wide range of products which can be sprayed to remove them. No longer is there a need to use poisonous chemicals. Good results can come from hosing those little pests off the foliage.

We spoke at length previously about the importance of mulching and that should work in conjunction with the above measures. If we are not getting good results it means that our heart is not in the task or we are not using the right methods.

Combine the production of good roses with the enjoyable social interaction which comes from being a happy Rose Society member and you have the best formula. We need look no further than our dear friend Bruce Raines who passed away in July. He believed that if we belong to an organisation we should contribute to its functioning. In reality, roses were a lesser hobby for Bruce but he was a major player with exhibition poultry, dahlias, gesneriads and show administration in general. Above all he was as generous a person as you could ever meet and that generosity will always be remembered.



Best wishes to all rosarians, *Graham*

## Why an AGM

Each year our organisation is legally required to hold an Annual General Meeting (AGM). They are important not only from a governance perspective but also provide a platform for members to share their views and ask questions. This helps to ensure the organisation is being run in the best interests of the members. AGMs also encourage transparency and opportunities to participate effectively in our community group.

The AGM allows all members to:

- clearly understand our financial position
- review what we have done over the last year
- discuss the annual report
- set directions for the next year.

To help us achieve transparency and effectiveness to meet our legal and other requirements, our constitution requires us to refresh our office holders each year. This effectively means that all the positions that are held in the Macarthur Regional Rose Society automatically end on the date of the AGM. We then carry out a voting process to fill the positions to operate the Rose Society for the next year. Anyone can nominate for any position that is available and can be appointed by popular vote at the meeting.

No community organisation can operate successfully with only 4-6 people working very hard to do the many tasks required to make the group successful and enjoyable. The more people involved in the operation of the group the more successful, vibrant and useful it becomes to us all.

Renewal and sharing the load is important for all community groups. If we don't renew and share the load, the potential for the organisation to become stagnant and uninteresting is very real.



# VOLUNTEER



We join the Macarthur Rose Society because we are interested in and love roses and just as importantly, we generally enjoy each other's company. It is a focus for our rose growing, a common point of interest with other members with opportunities to learn and understand better rose growing and display.

Being part of the Rose Society should never be a chore. It must always be a joy and lightness for us all to attend meetings, enjoy each others company and most of all enjoy and learn about the rose.

Being a member of the Macarthur Rose Society also gives us opportunities to meet people both nationally and internationally who are also interested in roses. This expands our thinking and knowledge of roses and provides great opportunities for new friendships and interests.

Enjoying roses doesn't have to be just about exhibiting roses although that is very important. Some of us are interested in growing roses to enjoy at home and with friends and family. Others are interested in learning how growing roses can make their gardens better and more beautiful. Many others are interested in propagating roses to achieve the best ever possible rose. Some of us just love being outside in the garden and enjoying the seasons and the challenges they bring for rose growing. What ever your interest, we all have the common interest of loving roses and wanting to learn more about them.

At our coming AGM it would be helpful if you could all consider taking on one small task to assist with the operation of the Macarthur Rose Society. There are many small tasks that need doing to keep the Rose Society functional and we need your help. If we don't participate in this way to the best of our capacity, eventually the Rose Society will not be able to operate.

Many of the tasks that need doing are small and some are larger. For example, bringing the tea and coffee or volunteering to bring the milk for afternoon tea to our meeting. We all enjoy the afternoon tea and this contributes and lightens the load for the afternoon tea tasks. It also gives an automatic back up to each other if you can't attend a meeting.

Another task is the raffle. This requires the raffle manager to decide on the raffle prize, organise the ticket sales and the tickets. It is not an onerous task but it becomes one when the raffle organiser already has multiple tasks to carry out for the meeting.

Our two State Council representatives have an important role in representing Macarthur at the State level. This requires attending four two hour meetings each year and a verbal report back to our meeting. At these meetings you get to meet and enjoy the knowledge and company of rosarians from the eight other regions. An immediate expansion of our rose world. It is a vitally important task but it is not onerous.

Please come prepared to volunteer in some small way at the AGM to support the ongoing success of the Macarthur Rose Society.

## Roses to Grow



**Image above:** If you are looking for a new rose to plant before spring arrives, the very appropriately named Glorious is worth considering. It is a beautiful, buttery, yellow hybrid tea. Its large flowers are of classic double hybrid tea form that bloom well throughout the season. Glorious holds its colour in the heat, rarely marks when exposed to the rain and humidity. It has thick petalled blooms that hold well in a vase. All the local nurseries currently have Glorious for sale. **Image:** Janet Wright



**Image above:** Some of our members putting the final touches to the pruning, clearing up cuttings and generally learning from each other and enjoying the day in the crisp air.

## Pruning Day

We had a good turnout of people at our annual pruning day in July. The weather was bitterly cold but we all turned up in our warm clothes and got to the task at hand.



Here are some photos from the day. At right is a photo of one of the many laden citrus trees that are dotted around the gardens.

At right is our esteemed Treasurer, Bill Reilly who has not only been Macarthur's longest serving office holder (Treasurer for over 15 years) but who always turns up to volunteer on any occasion. He helps run our rose shows, keeps the accounts, volunteers at our fundraising events, always turns up to the pruning sessions and is a long term volunteer at Camden House historical garden. This is a man who knows a lot about plants and roses.



At right is the horticulturist who has responsibility for the expansive Vitocco garden helping to prune a very prickly bed of Winx roses. The pruning day is a great opportunity to learn and enjoy each other's company despite the cold.



**Below:** The delicious afternoon tea was welcome after our efforts





## August Birthdays

1st Adam Pearce

8th Jim O'Hearn

14th Bill Reilly

20th Michael Riley

24th Maureen Thackeray



## Macarthur Diary



2 August 2024 - Neutrog shop closes

3 August 2024 - Meeting

7 September 2024 - Meeting

**Neutrog Pick Up - Early September**

5 October 2024 - Meeting

18 -19 October - Macarthur Rose Show

2 November 2024

Visit to Wollongong Botanic Gardens,  
Rose Garden and Peace Park Kiama

7 December 2024 - 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 is at 19 Murray Street, Camden.



Camden CWA Hall

**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.

