



Macarthur Rose

Newsletter Vol 27, No 6

January 2020



Noteworthy

Our volunteers for our Christmas lunch ensured we all enjoyed ourselves and were able to celebrate the season together by talking Roses and catching up with old and new friends.

An enormous THANK YOU to Maureen and Ian Thackeray for their substantial contribution to the success of the Christmas lunch. Maureen spent many hours making table decorations and a beautiful topiary Christmas tree to decorate the venue. Ian and Maureen also helped set up the venue before and after the event. Maureen even had the forethought to remind me to organise the smaller details such as tablecloths, napkins and other essentials. Maureen and Ian's contribution to the Rose Society is substantial. We extend our thanks to you both for your willingness to support Macarthur Rose Society in this way.

Lorraine Hawke once again ably took bookings, tracked payments and organised the raffles for our Christmas event. The raffle winners were all very pleased with their wins. Not only that, the Macarthur Rose Society raised funds from the raffle to support our activities over the next year.

Sheryle Albeck generously used her outstanding floristry skills to create two beautiful vases of roses using our Christmas theme of green and red to display on the raffle table. Sheryle then generously donated these arrangements to the raffle pool. The winners were delighted to take up such beautiful arrangements to place in their homes.

Graham and Janet Wright once again constructed the 'Rose Quiz', which we all participated in while learning new facts about the Rose. As usual the quiz was a great conversation starter and we all enjoyed the usual surprises about the answers. This is a great way to learn more about Roses. Graham and Janet also thoughtfully ensured we were able to celebrate the significant birthday of our long standing member and regular volunteer, June Head who turned 90 last year.



Dear Rose Friends

Welcome to 2020 and our first newsletter for the year. As many of you have noted, there has been a short break in the newsletter cycle since last November. During this time we have had our annual end of year event - the Christmas Party - and we have all received our quarterly NSW Rose journal. I trust that this newsletter finds welcoming the new year with good health despite the bushfires and the poor air quality.

Work has continued over the break on the planning and development of our activities for the 2020 Rose Year. First of all we will all be starting to get ready to peruse and study the new rose catalogues, that the specialist rose nurseries are starting to publish. A long study of these will not only provide us all with hours of enjoyment and dreaming about 'what ifs' but help us decide what roses will be worth acquiring for our gardens. As we all know, roses are like chocolates - you can never have too many!

On 18th April, there will be our Autumn Rose Show held in partnership with the Ingleburn Horticultural Society. April also brings the Sydney Royal Easter Show. This year will require an additional effort from us all to support the agricultural communities that have been so devastated by the bushfires. I encourage you all to consider participating with exhibits and offering practical help with the Easter Rose Show as a gesture of support for our rural neighbours. Later on there will be our Bunnings BBQ fundraiser and rose pruning demonstrations. Our Spring Rose Show will be held in mid October and last but certainly not least, the NSW Rose Society, which includes all the NSW Regional Societies will be hosting the National Rose Championship and Convention in Kiama. These events will of course be combined with several guest speakers at our own monthly meetings. None of these events are to be missed as they all support and promote our mutual passion for the Rose.

As we start the New Year and the traditional round of New Year resolutions, it is worth remembering that the Rose Society is only as good as its volunteering members. Our mutual interest in the rose holds the Rose Society together. By participating and being involved you can enhance your enjoyment of the rose, obtain valuable information to grow better blooms and in return make the Macarthur Rose Society a vibrant and rich community based organisation. We all offer skills, experience and knowledge that is of great value to other Rose Society members whether it be about a particular issue you have in your garden and how you resolved it or even how you arrange your blooms in the house.

Using our meetings and activities to have relaxed conversations about rose growing and participating in events can be rewarding. While volunteering can be hard work sometimes, all of our members who volunteer consider that what they gain from other Rose Society members at these events enriches their experiences and their connection with friends and community. Remember we make our Rose Society.

Some of Lorraine Hawke's prize winning exhibits at the Illawarra Spring Rose Show. This is the third consecutive year that Lorraine has won the C Grade Championship at the Illawarra Rose Show. Congratulations Lorraine. Photo: Ian Thackeray



Thank you to everyone who supported the Macarthur Regional Rose Society in 2019. I look forward to working with you all enjoying the Rose over the next 12 months and meeting up with you at all the events we have planned for 2020 where we will all be enjoying our passion for the Rose. *Judith Carill*

Christmas Party 2019

All photos courtesy of Janet Wright and Ian Thackeray



cultural Notes



Understanding the bloom cycle

can help us understand what the roses need to be prolific bloomers and what extra work might be needed at what stage of the bloom cycle. This is particularly useful if you want your garden to look its best whether for a particular event such as a garden competition, a family event or if you want to show your roses at a Rose Show. Look at the calendar for the time of your event, count back about 7 to 8 weeks and begin your program.

Preparing for the next bloom cycle is a good opportunity to shape your rose bushes to encourage the roses to put more of their resources toward producing good new buds. With a little attention here and there, you'll begin to see more dramatic flower production by the time the days start getting shorter.

In the heat of summer it is best to avoid heavy pruning, but once the weather improves and the rain starts to fall, remove burnt and diseased foliage and stems. If the stems show browning when you cut, remove a little more until they show white. Just trim off around 30% of the overall growth. The aim is just to tidy and encourage good new growth. Use a good sharp pair of scissor type or bypass secateurs. Stop between each rose bush to dip them into a container filled with cleaning solution. Any all-purpose household cleaner will do and will lower the chance of accidentally spreading disease from one plant to another.



After weeding, pruning and disposing of all dead material, it is a good time to apply GoGo Juice to feed the soil and Seamungus liquid as a foliar spray. Apply the GoGo Juice around the drip line of the rose bush being careful not to disturb the hairline roots close to the main graft.

Water in well with the watering can to comply with the water restrictions. Remember to top up your mulch to help suppress the weeds and retain moisture in the soil.

When there is about 5cms of new foliage on the plant, it is time to feed your roses a fertiliser that is high in nitrogen such as Sudden Impact for Roses to help promote stem and foliage growth. Apply it evenly to pre-soaked ground around the drip line of the rose. This will help promote the growth of the stems and foliage. Continue your regular spray routine as pest insects such as aphids, red spider mites, caterpillars, white fly, hibiscus beetles and fungal diseases such as black spot and powdery mildew are encouraged and positively thrive when there is new growth and warm and damp conditions.

At this stage 'thumb prune' to identify the stems that seem to have the best 'rose bloom potential'. Also get rid of the weaker stems that are unlikely to produce good blooms. By cutting down on the number of stems on each rose bush you will force the plant to put its energy into only the very best stems and blooms.

At about four weeks the buds begin to set and you need to support bloom development rather than the soil or roots. Cut back on the nitrogen feeding and boost the phosphorus to support good bloom development. Liquid potash is a great way to boost the blooms.

It is also the time to start 'disbudding'. Look at each stem and decide if you want to grow a single bloom or a spray. For a single bloom, leave the largest central bloom on the stem and remove all other buds. For a spray, remove the single bloom in the middle of the smaller surrounding buds, allowing the surrounding buds more energy and nutrients to grow. Blooms usually start appearing about two weeks after buds appear.

Hint: really big sprays with many blooms can be encouraged when you notice that the side buds that you left have left have now grown side buds. In this case, repeat the process of removing the centre bud and leaving the new side buds again. That's how good exhibitors get those really big sprays that can look so spectacular in a vase in your home. and are such constant winners at the rose shows.



Maureen Thackeray's winning floral art display at Illawarra Spring Rose Show. As successful exhibitors Ian and Maureen carefully follow the bloom cycle to ensure the best blooms for when they need them and also ensuring a beautiful, healthy and vigorous garden display and many blooms for the home and friends.

When the stems are long, the buds are large, but the sepals have not yet cracked be careful not to overfeed. This can cause the centre of the bloom to become distorted and unattractive. You can add an iron supplement to darken the foliage.

The final stage is the last two weeks when the roses are blooming. Do not feed your roses at this stage but start to cut out any undesirable growth that may be obstructing the path of a rose that looks really promising. You will also want to be careful to avoid getting water on the rose blooms at this point. Standing water will often leave unattractive spots on the petals.

Finally, the roses bloom! No need to use fertilisers at this point but do cut any growth that might be obstructing your rose. Blooms will last on average two weeks on the plant.

HINT: Maureen and Ian Thackeray use Sudden Impact for Roses in October and approximately 7-8 weeks later, with monthly waterings of GoGo Juice. They have just started using GoGo Juice mixed in with Sudden Impact for Roses liquid and have noticed that the roses - even the Hybrid Teas - are clustering a lot more. There are multiple flowers on one stem. They also use Seamungus in the winter and follow Neutrog's Year-Round Fertilising Program in their garden.



NEUTROG™
The Experts' Choice

Volunteering at the Rose Show

The common reason for being part of the Rose Society is to arouse, foster and maintain the interests of our members and the public concerning roses of all varieties.

Exhibiting roses is a great way to inform both Rose Society members and the general public about roses and for exhibitors to extend their knowledge and understanding of growing and exhibiting roses. This benefits us all as we get to share their knowledge and expertise. It is also a great opportunity to see the best roses to purchase and grow, ask questions and generally admire all varieties of the rose.

Holding a rose show requires substantial effort on the part of Rose Society volunteers and exhibitors. However not all jobs are equal and some of the best volunteering roles at a rose show are as a 'runner' and 'assistant steward' to the Judges and Stewards. These roles are essential to the success of the rose show and provide support to our Judges and the Stewards who also volunteer their time and skills on the day. These roles require volunteers to turn up promptly on the day approximately 30 minutes before Judging starts.

Once the judging of the exhibition roses starts, the role of the 'runner' is to carry the class card that the Steward will give you after the judging of each class to the Show Secretary. After it has been correctly marked and signed, return to Steward for the next card. After completion of the judging, you get to help the Steward and Judges to put out the ribbons and cards for the classes you were involved with. The assistant Steward volunteer role has more responsibility but can these can be easily learnt.

You don't need any particular rose knowledge, just a willingness to volunteer and participate, take direction and not volunteer information about the rose exhibitors and exhibits. As a runner and assistant Steward you will be able to see the Rose Exhibition before the general public, observe highly skilled and experienced Judges make some very difficult decisions about the best roses on display, come to understand the finer points of rose classes and where they differ and generally enjoy the Rose Exhibition.

At our next meeting there will be a session on how to be a runner and/or an assistant steward at a Rose Show. This is a great way to volunteer if you have a couple of hours on the day of the show. Its out of the sun, quiet, beautiful roses to see up close and you get to help. The Autumn Rose Show will be a great place to practice your new skills.



Photo: 'Mudgee Red' Hybrid Tea rose has well shaped blooms of a consistent medium red colour and grows to about 1.5m. It does not have a special perfume but it is hardy and disease resistant and well proven as a good rose for NSW gardens.

Water Wise Hints

Despite the welcome rain that we have all experienced over the last few days, we are still in drought and the extreme heat we have been experiencing all summer has not finished yet. It is important to continue all the water wise strategies we have been using over the summer:

The Level II water restrictions are still in place and just to remind us all about what we can or can't do with watering.

Gardens can only be watered before 10:00am and after 4:00pm with a watering can or bucket.

Unattended hoses can not be used and no hosing of hard surfaces except in an emergency.

Smart and drip irrigation systems can only be used for 15 minutes each day.



Roses are very hardy plants. Established roses can withstand most things including scorching temperatures, and even fire. But they can't thrive in these conditions especially if the bush has been newly planted or is in a pot. With restricted water and extreme heat plants such as roses enter into survival mode. The aim is to keep the plants alive until conditions improve. Even if the stems and foliage are burnt, as long as the graft is still alive the rose can be saved.

You can use grey water on your roses, providing you are not using detergent with high phosphate levels and sodium. Look for a laundry detergent with 'P' meaning a low phosphorus (shown as <math>< 7.8\text{g}/\text{wash}</math>) or better yet 'NP' meaning no or less than 0.5% phosphorus. Liquid detergents are generally lower in sodium and phosphorus than powder detergents.

Watering early in the evening gives the rose time to absorb the moisture and distribute it to the growth areas before the scorching sun reappears. Keep the watering to once a week for established roses and to twice a week for the newer plants. A 10L bucket of water each time will ensure that there is enough water to reach the roots of the rose.

Roses in pots can be particularly vulnerable to heat stress and require much more water. They can be perfect recipients of that water we have saved from our in-house water saving strategies. In the summer they need watering every day. Group them all together so that they can offer some protection from the heat and conserve moisture. Try not to use black pots because they become much hotter than lighter coloured pots. Pots in pots is a great way to reduce the heat. Sitting them in the lee side of a fence or wall from the westerly sun can also provide some afternoon shade or providing a shady cover can also help them manage the worst heat of the day. This shade will bring relief to the whole pot, not just the root zone.

Put down a good layer of chunky mulch on all the pots and the garden. Keep it topped up over the summer so that you can keep the soil as cool as possible. The chunkier the mulch the better it is at keeping the heat and evaporation down and letting the water through to the plant. Fine mulch is less effective and can soak up the water before it gets to the plant. A good layer of mulch helps retain moisture



in the soil and helps keep the soil cooler. Good mulches to use are WhoFlungDung, sugar cane, lucerne and pea straw. Mulches are available from local nurseries and there will be a Neutrog delivery to Graham Wright of WhoFlungDung in the autumn.

Do not use eucalyptus mulches as Roses do not like this mulch. It changes the acidity of the soil, decreasing the plants immunity to infections and pests and it may eventually kill your roses.

Happy Birthday

Happy Birthday to everyone who has celebrated their birthday over the summer season. Each month has traditionally been allocated a flower known as the 'birth flower'. But these flowers are usually related to the northern hemisphere season.

This month as part of our support for the Australian native species that are under increasing threat from intensive bushfires I have highlighted three Australian native species that bloom during the summer season. They have been noted in a variety of sources as ideal flowers as 'birth month' flowers.

Australian native plants are unique, well suited to the environment and conditions and even better still they usually work well alongside our roses providing shade and ground cover and often thrive in the ideal rose growing conditions.

December Birthdays

2nd - Kim Baker
9th - Kevin Bell
31st - Iris Britten (90th)



January Birthdays

07th - Chris Vine
11th - Carol McVeigh
18th - Rosalie Vine and Margaret Appleby
23rd - Jan Priestly
25th - Rayleen Quinn
29th - Greg Priestly



The birthday cake photo and other photos are courtesy of PixarBay (www.pixarbay.com/users), which is a 'commons' website. The Australian flowers, information and photos, are from Australian Native Plants Online. Information courtesy of Wikipedia and Australian Native Plants Online.

Blandfordia grandiflora is naturally found in swampy areas from the coast of Sydney up to Brisbane.



It's commonly known as Christmas Bells because it tends to flower around Christmas time (November to March), although has been known to occasionally flower at other times of the year. The flowers are large and can be picked and kept as cut flowers for up to week. The flowers can attract native birds to your garden, and the seed heads are not unappealing and can be used in floral art displays.

Hibbertia scandens is a hardy prostrate plant that can be grown as a climber or prostrate ground cover. Its large golden yellow flowers, 5-7cm across, occur throughout the year but are most commonly seen in late spring and throughout summer. The individual flowers usually last only a day or two but it repeats quickly and over a long period. An attractive, brightly coloured plant that can be used as a 'living mulch'. If grown as a climber on a small trellis, it can provide welcome shade for those miniature roses particularly sensitive to the heat.



February Birthdays

8th - Paula Wardle

Brachycomes flower almost all year above dense but fine foliage



and spread up to a metre or so. Colours include lavender lilac, blue, pink and white. Give them a sunny spot with fertile, well-drained soil and keep them well watered in the summer to encourage additional blooms. This daisy is attractive to bees, butterflies and birds and will make an impact out of all proportion to its size. Attractive and bright ground cover that lasts

for many years and grows beautifully among the roses. It doesn't even mind the occasional footstep crushing its blooms.



other Events

Roses by the Seaside

On October 24-27, the NSW Rose Society will be hosting the National Rose Championships and Convention at Kiama.

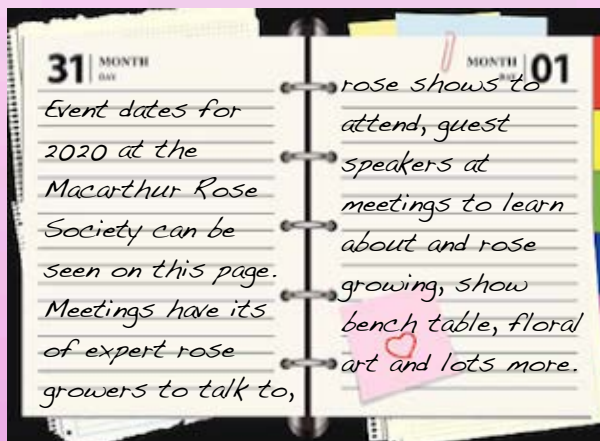
Over this three day period there will be a rose show, meetings and lectures. The lecture series will have the theme of an ecologically friendly way of managing our rose gardens and the impact of climate change on how we manage our rose gardens.

A highly regarded Irish rose breeder, David Kenny, will be delivering one of these lectures. David Kenny has been successfully breeding roses for over 30 years. He will be speaking on breeding roses of excellence. Kelvin Trimper one of Australia's outstanding rosarians, will be speaking on the impact of climate change on rose growing. This will be a very topical presentation with climate change induced rising temperatures, the new normal of constant drought and reduced rainfall and the increased intensity of our summers. Caz Owens is a leading Queensland rose grower who grows chemical free and organic roses and herbs will be speaking on organic rose growing. Judith Little is a successful, well known and respected Floral Artist who will demonstrate her art.

Book your place at the Championships and Conference NOW.



DATES FOR OUR DIARIES



Macarthur Regional Rose Society Meeting Dates 2020

- 08 February 2020
- 14 March 2020
- 09 May 2020
- 13 June 2020
- 11 July 2020
- 08 August 2020
- 12 September 2020
- 14 November 2020



12 December 2020 will be our usual Christmas Party at a venue to be decided at a later date.

There will be no meeting in **April** or **October**. In April members will be committed either as volunteers or as exhibitors to the Royal Easter Show and the Macarthur Regional Autumn Rose Show that is being held in conjunction with the Ingleburn Horticultural Show. either as volunteers or as exhibitors. Dates for these two big events are detailed below. If you are not exhibiting at these shows please consider volunteering - even an hour of volunteering helps to promote the rose.

Other important dates to note

- 27 - 28th March - Camden Show www.camdenshow.com.au
- 05 - 14th April - Sydney Royal Flower and Garden Show
- 18 April - 2020 Macarthur Region Autumn Rose Show at Ingleburn
- 18 October - Macarthur Spring Rose Show at Mater Dei School
- 24-27 October - National Rose Championships and Convention

The Camden Show is a local agricultural show that has RSNSW accredited classess for roses. It is a wonderful local opportunity for all our members to try their hand at exhibiting at a local venue and this

Contributions

Your contributions to this Newsletter are always welcome. If you have items of interest, including photos, that you may want to share or distribute please send them to:

Judith Carll, Chairperson at **Email:** macarthurrosesociety@gmail.com, or Tel: 0410 444 562.

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be held at 2:00pm on 08 February 2020 at Elderslie Primary School, 170 Lodges Road, Elderslie.

Monthly Show Bench

There is an opportunity at each meeting to display your roses on the Show Bench. If you come early to the meeting with your roses, there will be a Rose expert available to help you learn to display your roses on the show bench. This can also give us great ideas on how to make better rose displays at home. The monthly show bench is an opportunity share, learn and grow better roses or even just 'smell the roses' at the meeting.

NEUTROG Products

Remember that as a member you are able to purchase Neutrog products at special prices. Products available include: **Sudden Impact for Roses** in both the pellet and liquid form, **GoGo Juice** (including in 20L containers), **Seamungus** (liquid, crumble and pellets), **Gyganic** (for fruit trees), **Rapid Raiser**, **Who Flung Dung** and many more products. Let Graham Wright know what you want and he will make every effort to ensure that the products you want are available when the next Neutrog order is placed sometime in February or early March.

Simply give Graham Wright a call on **9606 5888**, let him know what you want and arrange a time to collect and pay for your Neutrog products. Having the correct money to give to Graham at the time of collection is greatly appreciated.



NOTE: access to Neutrog products is subject to the sponsorship agreement between the Rose Society of NSW and Neutrog. Sharing these details, including pricing, beyond the Rose Society is against the terms of the agreement. Breaching the agreement may result in Neutrog withdrawing from the agreement with the Rose Society and we will no longer have access to Neutrog products at these extremely competitive prices. Your ongoing discretion and support is appreciated