



# Macarthur Rose

Newsletter Vol 27, No 7



March 2020

## Volunteers for our Autumn Rose Show

Many of you have already volunteered for our Autumn Rose Show. However many volunteer opportunities remain.

### Table Set Up - Friday 17 April

Rosalie Vine  
Graham Wright  
Mary Cammilleri  
Bob Stibbard  
Ian Thackeray  
Judith Carll

### Show Pack Up - 18 April 3:00-4:00pm

Rosalie Vine  
Graham Wright  
Janet Wright  
Mary Cammilleri  
Bob Stibbard  
Ian Thackeray  
Judith Carll

More volunteers needed so we can complete this task quickly and easily.

### Rose Box Preparation

18 April 12:00pm - 4:00pm  
Rosalie Vine

Please consider volunteering as Rosalie cannot do this task on her own. This is a major fundraising effort for the Region. Your help is appreciated.

### Rose and Raffle Sales

9:00 - 1:00pm - Rosalyn Tidsley  
11:00am - 12pm Maureen Kennedy  
1:00 - 2:00pm - Jan Priestly  
2:00 - 3:00pm - Rosalie Vine  
3:00 - 4:00pm - Mary Cammilleri

At least six additional volunteers are needed to help with the rose and raffle sales.

### Judges Runners and Stewards

9:00am - 12:00pm

Ian Thackeray  
Margaret Hudson  
Chris Vine  
Graham Wright  
Judith Carll

More volunteers needed. Take a turn - its one of the best volunteering tasks available.

## Dear Rose Friends

I trust this newsletter finds you all well as we enter into the autumn weather with the cooler nights and the warm days. Not only that we have all been experiencing the relief of rain every few days to help us with our gardens. It is a great bonus for the roses to finally have some rain water to encourage their growth for the autumn shows.

Our autumn show is looming in mid April and once again Campbelltown Council has kindly agreed to sponsor the show. We are still seeking additional volunteers. The more volunteers we have the lighter the load for everyone and being involved can help to enhance your enjoyment of the rose. If you can spare an hour on Saturday 18th April your help will be appreciated. The people who have already volunteered are listed on the left of this page and you see that we need many more helpers to make this show a success.

Recently we received news that the health of one of our long term and well liked members - Muriel Harris - has deteriorated and she has entered into palliative care. Muriel's daughter was keen to keep us up to date on Muriel who is a much valued and liked member of our Rose Society. Our thoughts are with Muriel and her family at this time.

Many of us will be receiving the new rose catalogues over the next few weeks and taking the opportunity to order bare root roses. While the new roses that will be available offer some interesting and exciting roses, there are also some old favourites that do well in the garden. Especially if you love having roses in the garden and in a vase in the house. Many of these are very disease resistant and provide good, fragrant blooms from September to June each year. They are well worth purchasing. Three of these excellent hybrid tea roses are featured on page 3 of this newsletter.

The NSW Rose Journal was emailed to members last week and the hard copy will arrive over the next week to 10 days. Receiving this journal is one of the benefits of joining the Rose Society and it has many interesting articles to read and enjoy. It can also be downloaded from the NSW Rose Society website at [www.nsw.rose.org.au](http://www.nsw.rose.org.au) in the secure members area. The login details and the password are on the inside cover of the journal.

Camden Agricultural Show is being held on 27-28 March and it is great opportunity to enter a local show with your roses. It is a Rose Society of NSW accredited show and well worth entering if you want to exhibit some of the beautiful roses in your garden. It is also a great opportunity to support our rural and regional neighbours who have been so badly impacted by the bushfires earlier this year. Contact the Camden Show organisers on 02 4655 9847 to obtain the schedule and enter or use their website at [www.camden.show.com](http://www.camden.show.com).

Member contributions such as ideas about new ways to do things are always welcome and appreciated. It also creates the opportunity to meet new and interesting people who have a shared interest and love of the rose in all its forms. Contributing a short article is also a great way to share your ideas and photos about the rose. Please contact me directly on 0410 444 562 if you have a great idea.

**Golden Beauty** is a new floribunda rose that has just come onto the Australian market. This prolific bloomer is a Gold Medal winner both Internationally and at the National Rose Trial Awards. It also received the People's choice award in 2018. The glowing amber, high centred blooms are produced in large clusters on a very healthy compact bush of dark green leaves. A great performer in hot dry climates with fragrant blooms that don't fade. From the classic to the romantic this rose is a great addition to any garden and has a fragrance as well. It grows to 1.5m and is available from Treloars Roses and other good rose suppliers.



Computer skills are not needed - just the ideas.

Judith

## Watering our roses

**Watering your garden is an important job. Plants need water in order to survive and thrive. Ideally you want to have happy and healthy plants using the least amount of water to help save on your water bill and conserve the precious resource.**

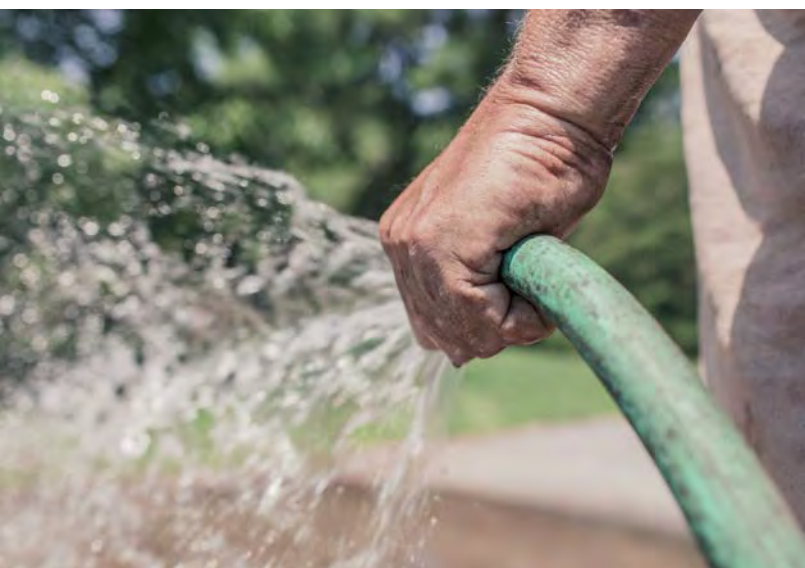
**Why Do Plants Need Water?** Plant cells consist of up to 70% water. They utilise the water to perform all their vital functions, including growth, transpiration and photosynthesis. During photosynthesis, plants take in Carbon Dioxide and release Oxygen and water into the atmosphere, so to compensate for this loss; the water must be replaced through the plants root system. Here are some ideas on best practice to water effectively.

**Something as simple as the time you water** not only saves water, it is also provides greater benefit to your plants. The best time to water is in the early morning or the evening, when cooler temperatures will greatly reduce the amount of water lost during watering through evaporation. Watering at these times will ensure better penetration into the subsoil around the root systems.

**Watering deeply in the morning or evening** allows the plants to soak up the water before the high temperatures of the day. If they are satiated with water when the heat hits, they will be more resilient.

**Don't be tempted to sprinkle the hose around on a hot day** – it might make you feel cooler but it won't do your plants any good at all! In hot winds, the water will just evaporate in a matter of minutes. Because the water is evaporating at such a fast rate you will end up just wetting the surface of the soil, which can encourage shallow root growth. Watering at a time when the moisture will remain in the earth encourages the roots to proliferate lower in the soil profile, which enables them to stay cooler and draw from the water reserves lower in the ground.

**In some areas wetting the foliage on a hot day** can actually scorch or burn delicate leaves by magnifying the sun's rays. The water evaporates so quickly it concentrates the undissolved salts which can damage the plants tissues. This is especially true of bore water, some regional areas and South Australia.



**Neutrog Hint:** Top up your rose beds with Whoflungdung – it is especially important for weed suppression at this time of year. It's also time to feed your roses and other flowering plants with Sudden Impact for Roses before winter

## How often?

It is not desirable to water daily, and if you have the right approach to water-wise gardening, you shouldn't need to, (well, ok, unless you are establishing new plants in hot weather, then you will need to).

**Ideally, you should water your garden deeply and less often.** A good soak is much better to as it encourages deep root growth, which helps your plants resist heat stress and reduces their dependence on constant watering. Water the soil deeply, so that the moisture levels remain even. Where possible always water the soil rather than the leaves.

**The roots are where the plants access the water** and utilise it for growth and function. Watering the foliage can encourage fungal disease, especially in spring and autumn as the foliage stays wet during the cool of the evening. In hot weather, if you water the foliage in the heat of the day, and the total dissolved salts is high, it can burn the foliage.

1. **Deep, regular watering** every week to ten days provides consistent moisture to enable the plant roots to grow at a healthy rate and create a strong, disease resistant plant.

2. **Watering too much too often** – the roots are not proliferating because there is not enough air in the soil to thrive.

3. **Shallow, frequent watering** encourages the roots to grow at the top of the soil where they are easily damaged and unable to access the stores lower in the soil profile, so less likely to survive dry conditions.

**You should aim to apply around 24L per square metre** every seven to ten days to keep your plants happy and healthy. Plants absorb water from the root zone which is usually 15-20cm below the soil, so aim to wet this deeply when you water.

**This 24L is roughly equal to 24mm of rain.** So when you hear the meteorologist tell you there has been 1-2mm of rain for the week, you still need to water, especially if the weather has been warm. The soil might look wet, but if you dig down you will see the rain has just touched the surface. However as the rain has touched the surface, it is a good idea to water, as it will help push the water down into the soil profile.

**If the weather has been hot and dry for many weeks,** or the soil has dried out, you may need to increase the amount and frequency you are watering in order to re-wet the soil. Re-wetting the soil ultimately uses more water than maintaining a constant watering program.

If you are unsure you are watering your garden enough, get your hands dirty! Dig down into the soil around the roots of your plants and have a look to see if it is moist. If the area around the roots is dry, more water is required. The soil should ideally be moist, and crumbly.

**A less invasive, and more obvious way to see if your garden needs more water is to examine the leaves.** If you plants have a darkening leaf colour, or wilted foliage it is a sign they require more water. Some plants will wilt before they are stressed and this is a good guide for watering, for others, waiting until the leaves are wilted can be detrimental to the plants as it is a sign of stress.

**Water Gently to enable the water to percolate into the soil profile** and not become run off, watering at a slow, at an even pace is best. A deluge of water could cause the soil to compact, reducing air around the roots, which is important to their survival. For this reason a drip, gentle hose with a shower or spray setting, a mister watering can is best. Fixed drip systems or flexible seep hoses are a brilliant choice for efficient watering. If you are creating new garden areas it is a good idea to incorporate a drip system into your ground work. Seep hoses are more easily installed in existing gardens. Mulch can be applied over the top of both to hide them if desired. Attaching them to a timer saves time and labour, in summer you should set it to water in the early evening to avoid water loss through evaporation. Be careful you are not watering to saturation point, you can easily adjust the system to suit the seasonal rainfall. Some systems come complete with rainfall monitors that can do all this for you which is fantastic, especially if you are away on holidays!



## What about the hose?

**Hoses or watering cans can be utilised very effectively**, but should be used on a gentle spray rather than a high burst of pressure, which makes this method quite slow and time consuming. However, it can be very therapeutic for the gardener, and spending extra time in the garden you may see early warning signs of pest or disease and cut them off at the pass! If you can afford the time, and your garden isn't too large, this method is certainly effective.

**Sprinklers are a convenient option, particularly for lawns**, but there is a risk that they can be forgotten and left to run for hours, which of course leads to massive water waste, you also lose some of the water due to evaporation.

**Reticulation systems offer convenience** and are very good for watering specific areas. These should be used in conjunction with an automatic timer for maximum efficiency and minimum waste.

**Here is a general guide to how much your plants need.** New plants such as bare root roses or own root roses that are establishing need to be watered frequently as they are susceptible to water stress. Their roots are only growing in the top few centimetres of soil, so they are unable to access any of the water in the soil profile. For this reason it is best to plant in autumn or spring when natural rainfall occurs to help maintain moisture levels in the soil.

**Established perennials have shallow root systems**, to only 10-20cm down, so need to be watered before hot dry weather so they can continue to thrive and flower well. Regular applications every week to ten days work well.

**Established trees and shrubs have lovely long reaching roots** so won't need to be watered unless there are drought conditions. It takes a tree or shrub up to five years to become established.

**Veggie gardens generally should be kept nice and moist**, especially if the seed is freshly sown. Adding a thick layer of mulch will help to reduce watering requirements. These plants need the most water when they are fruiting or flowering, the amount depends on the type of vegetable. Leaf crops like lettuce need constant moisture. Root crops such as beetroot and onion need less water. If crops such as tomatoes dry out it can affect their fruit.



**Neutrog Hint:** March in the garden is a great opportunity to revive any heat or sun-stressed plants. For best results, prepare the soil with some Seamungus, and replant when you know there's a cold spell on the way. The combination of warm soil and cooler air will give them the best chance to settle in. Don't forget to water in with GOGO Juice.

## Water Reduction

**The golden rule of reducing water waste in the garden is simple** – mulch, mulch, mulch! Organic mulch is absolutely the best method to seal in the moisture and reducing evaporation loss from the soil. The added bonuses are weed control, improving the appearance of your garden, and adding delicious nutrients to your soil.

**If the ground is dry, water deeply before applying your mulch.** A 7-10cm layer is ideal. You can mulch right up to the stem of the plant, just ensure it is low at this point so it doesn't encourage collar rot – a thin layer, up to 3cm of mulch near the plant stem will remain dry enough not to cause a problem.



**When planting new additions to the garden**, raise the soil slightly to form a 'moat' around the base of the plant as this will help to prevent water run-off and direct it down towards the roots where it is needed.

**If you are planting a new garden, or adding a new plant**, digging through some well rotted organic matter into the soil to a spades depth or more will help retain water in the soil.

**The condition of your soil** has a lot to do with how much you need to water. Sandy soils don't hold water well, and a crust may form on the surface, which can reduce water penetration. Digging through some compost will help water retention and drainage providing a more healthy soil in which your plants can grow.

**In clay soils the opposite is true as the soil holds the water too well** and drainage can be an issue. Heavy clay soils will require the addition of some coarse sand. Just adding organic matter will not be enough to improve drainage, and it will break down too quickly. Anol

**Adjust your watering to suit your soils.** Sandy soils have sharp drainage so are unable to hold water around the roots, therefore they should be watered more often.

**Heavy clay soils** can be watered with less frequency as they hold water well with the finer pores of their soil structure.

**Dig out any weeds**, they suck moisture from the soil that your plants could be utilising.

**Adding a dry tolerant ground cover to your soil** can act as a living mulch and help to keep your plant roots cool.

**So, to sum up, you want to water** your garden deeply on a weekly basis in dry weather. Water is most effective when applied gently to the soil around the roots, and in a cool part of the day.

Article courtesy of Tesselars at: <https://www.tesselaar.net.au>



## Powdery Mildew

The late summer, early autumn rain has been a great bonus for us all. But as the rain persists and the temperatures remain above 25°C during the day and cools down overnight to around or below 18°C, and the days become shorter, the conditions become ideal for powdery mildew. It is one of the most widespread and easily identifiable plant fungal diseases. From vegetable gardens to rose gardens, ornamental trees and shrubs, almost no type of plant is immune.

There are three things to know about powdery mildew - it's everywhere, I dread its arrival and I am never sure how to get rid of it. So, here's what you need to know to prevent, control and even eliminate it after it appears.

Although there are many different species of powdery mildew, the symptoms all look about the same from one to another. One good thing is that this fungus is host specific meaning that just because you find it on your roses it doesn't mean it will spread to the vegetable garden. The reverse is true as well – if your vegetable garden shows signs of powdery mildew it doesn't mean your roses will get it.

The first sign of powdery mildew is the appearance of white or grey powdery spots sometimes covering most of the leaf surface. It's also found on the rose stems and the blooms. It's rarely fatal but in its advanced stages can cause the rose foliage to yellow, curl or turn brown and eventually cause the plant to defoliate prematurely. It can also lead to early bud drop, weakened stems and reduce the bloom quality quite dramatically. While it is not fatal itself, it weakens the rose bush making it more susceptible to other pests and diseases that will kill the plant.



**Neutrog Hint:** Michael Ryan, Senior Manager of Grounds and Garden at the famous Flemington Racecourse has a message for anyone that grows roses. "It's that time of year again to feed your roses with Neutrog's Sudden Impact for Roses" he says. "They love it here at Flemington!"

## What to do about it

Prevention is best because it is easier than trying to control the fungus. Proactive steps to avoid or minimize this risk include planting disease resistant varieties. Many of the new roses available from the established growers have an excellent range of roses that are very disease resistant.

Provide good circulation around your rose bushes to ensure that the air can circulate between the plants and dry off that moisture. Make sure the roses bushes continue to get good light and trim any overhanging trees or branches that may have recently taken advantage of the rain to put on a spurt of growth. Try to water early in the day or whenever leaves will dry quickly, to ensure dry foliage at night. Check all new plants for symptoms upon receipt. Scout all plants at least once a week, preferably every two to three days.

A regular spray routine every 14 days using alternative types of fungicide e.g. Eco-Fungicide, Mancozeb Plus and/or Triforine at the concentration recommended on the packet. Remember that using more spray only wastes the spray rather than improves its effectiveness. If it rains you will have to reapply the fungicide after the rain. However, if the infection seems to be spreading, increase the frequency of spraying but not the concentration of the solution

Simple home made organic sprays can also be effective. Use one tablespoon baking soda and one-half teaspoon of liquid, non-detergent soap with eight litres of water, and spray the mixture liberally on the plants. As part of the alternative spray routine can use the mouthwash you use on a daily basis to kill the germs in your mouth. It is very effective at killing powdery mildew spores. Use one tablespoon of mouthwash and one-half teaspoon of liquid non-detergent soap to eight litres of water.

**NEUTROG™**  
The Experts' Choice





# other Events

## Autumn Rose Choices

Mail order catalogues will soon start arriving for winter bare root planting selections. There is ample time to do planning, homework and careful selections. Catalogues can't speak for all the areas of Australia at one time. Colours and growth habits vary widely. Your best option is a little research.

Local gardens, whether public or private give you an opportunity to view size and sample fragrance and perhaps answer some questions. Local autumn rose shows will also benefit. Newer cultivars and old favourites can be viewed at leisure. Local rosarians in attendance will be happy to answer your questions. NSW Rose publications and the Australian Rose Annual "recommended roses" are other sources of information. You can cross reference your catalogue selections with the gardens you viewed and the rose show results in your area.

Colour is high on most buyers lists. Photos in sales oriented catalogues can be anything but realistic. Fragrance is a must for some people. If you are into 'roses for noses' trust your own nose as proof.

Disease resistance is something to consider closely. If you have no intentions of spraying as required, then look for bullet proof roses. If you are keen to start showing roses, exhibition form is paramount. Generally speaking the bloom is high centred with petals that open in a spiral fashion. Multiple bushes of the same cultivar are recommended.

After you determine which roses suit your needs, order as soon as possible. Hard to get roses and newer varieties sell out quickly. Specialist rose nurseries can answer any further queries you might have. Good luck with the roses of your choice by *Jim Cunningham, Rose Consultant*

## Roses to consider

Many of us grow roses to display in the garden or to have their fragrance and beauty in the house and to share with friends and to indulge our passion for being outside and in the garden, rather than for participating in rose exhibitions. However be warned, the joy of growing beautiful roses for the home can inspire a desire to take up rose exhibiting.

The NSW Rose website at [www.nswrosesociety.org.au](http://www.nswrosesociety.org.au) has a great range of recommended roses and beautiful photos of roses that grow well in NSW. These can all be recommended as good choices for the garden, but there are many other newer roses that also provide a wonderful show in our gardens and give a seemingly endless supply of blooms from September to May each year. They also have excellent fragrance, stem length and disease resistance.



**Winter Sun** is one of the Kordes Eleganza rose series. It is a hybrid tea rose that has a very high disease resistance especially to black spot and powdery mildew. e maintenance. It has lovely full medium (8-9cm diameter) that are born mostly solitary with 40-50 petals. It blooms and repeats quickly and can be successfully picked as bud as it always progresses to open in a vase. It also stores well in a refrigerator for several days if



you need to hold some roses for a special 'bunch'. This rose is a neat tidy bush in the garden and grows to 1.2m. While it doesn't have the most 'tidy' or classic looking bloom for a hybrid tea rose, its lovely soft, intense fragrance can be counted on to make any vase or bunch of roses have that particular 'wow' factor of fragrant beautiful roses.

**Perfume Passion** is the rose to buy if you want a healthy rose with a huge fragrance and long nearly thornless stems. It has great form, healthy foliage and great resistance to black spot and powdery mildew. In 2012 it won the 'Most Fragrant Rose at the National Rose Trial Gardens 2012' and it certainly lives up to its reputation. The fragrance is sweet but intense and it is a beautiful addition to any vase display.

It is a delight for cutting as it is almost thornless and the blooms are produced on a single stem, are high centred up to 12cms across and with as many as 45 petals. As

with Winter Sun it is stores well in the refrigerator and has the most soft fruity fragrance. It grows to 1.5-1.8m high and 60cm wide so it needs some space in the garden. Despite this, its disease resistance, ability to stand up to the intense heat of summer and retain colour and fragrance make it a firm favourite to share with friends and family. This rose is slower to repeat than Winter Sun but its fragrance makes it a stand out winner for any gift bunch and is well worth considering for the garden.



**Joyfulness** quite simply lives up to its name. It produces blooms of soft shades of apricot, pink and cream and a deeper apricot blush that actually gives the blooms the impression they are glowing. It has large, usually solitary, very fragrant blooms that are freely produced on long strong stems. It generally has strong, healthy growth, although I found my two rose bushes both had a severe case of powdery mildew in the spring. Despite this, they have bounced back after treatment and continued to produce



prolifically over the summer (even during the intense heat) and now into the autumn. All these features make Joyfulness perfect as a cut flower and it a great rose to try your hand at exhibitions because its thicker petals help it keep form and shape. It is a compact small rose that grows to a height of 1.3m

# other Events

## March Birthdays



- 3rd Pauline Jelich
- 14th David Hawke
- 26th Helen O'Hearn
- 27th Jan Stibbard
- 28th Andrew Wardle  
Maureen Kennedy

## NEUTROG PRODUCTS - where to buy

Remember that as a member you are able to purchase Neutrog products at special prices. Graham Wright has just placed our order with Neutrog so now is the time to start thinking about what you need such as **GoGo Juice**, **Seamungus** (liquid, crumble and pellets), **Gyganic** (for fruit trees), **Meatworks Blood and Bone**, **Who Flung Dung** (to protect our soil from the cold) and the new **Nincompoop**.

Simply give Graham Wright a call on **9606 5888** 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.



Maureen Thackeray receiving her Championship prize at the Illawarra Rose Show in November 2019.

From left: Colin Hollis, President Rose Society of NSW, Kristin Dawson, chair of the Illawarra Rose Society and Maureen Thackeray.

Congratulations Maureen for a well deserved win!



**Neutrog hint for the Autumn:** Feed all stone fruit trees with **Gyganic for Fruit and Citrus** to encourage new growth. Apply around the drip line and water in well. Make sure all fruit trees, including citrus, have a regular supply of water over the summer months. This will reduce the risk of fruit splitting and improve fruit and flavour development.

## DATES FOR OUR DIARIES

27 - 28th March - Camden Show [www.camdenshow.com.au](http://www.camdenshow.com.au)

28 March - Illawarra Regional Picnic Day at Farmborough Heights in the garden of Hans and Lyn Van de Haar

05 - 14th April - Sydney Royal Flower and Garden Show

18 April - 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 classes for roses. It is a wonderful local opportunity for all our members to try their hand at exhibiting at a local venue.



## 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:** [macarthurosesociety@gmail.com](mailto:macarthurosesociety@gmail.com), or Tel: 0410 444 562.

## Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be held at 2:00pm on 14 March 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 or even how to display them better at home. The monthly show bench is an opportunity share, learn and grow better roses or even just 'smell the roses' at the meeting.