



# Macarthur Rose

Newsletter Vol 27, No 3



Signature Rose:  
Hilton Edward



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## Up Coming Events

September meeting guest talks about Phalaenopsis orchids.

The Exhibitors Workshop is on again on 6 October – see page 6 of this newsletter.

Macarthur Rose Show at Mater Dei School on the 20th October.

## Chairperson's Report

### Dear Rose Friends

The official start of Spring began on 1 September and after the long, slow winter rest, our gardens are starting to come alive once more despite the blustery conditions of the last few days. New leaves and buds are appearing and we can begin the next phase of our preparations to ensure a bumper rose season over the next few months. The days are becoming longer and warmer and the water restrictions present a new challenge as we prepare for summer.

Spring is the time to ensure the best blooms in your garden and to exhibit them at the rose shows. Our monthly show bench is a great opportunity to test and develop your skills for these events and to ensure you have beautiful blooms in your garden and in the home. We have experienced rose exhibitors on hand at each meeting to provide advice and guidance in a less formal setting than at our Rose Shows. Exhibiting your roses at our monthly meeting also provides a beautiful display for us all and an opportunity to learn from each other. The monthly Show Bench Schedule is on Page 4.

Another opportunity for anyone considering exhibiting their roses is the Rose Exhibitors workshop that will be held on 6 October. This is a great learning opportunity and a social day out. Places are limited so book early. Further details are on Page 6.

As we can all appreciate, volunteers are the backbone of a successful Rose Society. They contribute time and skills in many diverse areas, including

administration, baking, meeting preparation, book keeping and other activities. Please consider what you can do to make Macarthur Rose Society continue to be such a great organisation. Specific opportunities to volunteer are detailed in the column on the right.

As the weather starts to warm over the next few weeks, it will be important to ensure that your roses obtain enough water. Remember that Level 1 water restrictions are now in place. The water restrictions are available on the Sydney Water website but a summary is detailed on Page 3 for you.

At our next meeting Mr Daniel Webb will be presenting on '10 Ways to Kill a Phalaenopsis'. We have all seen these beautiful, delicate orchids at the florist's, outside the supermarket or other places. If you have purchased one of these, Daniel will be able to tell us how to keep those flowers producing rather than consigning them to the bin.

Kind regards *Judith*

## Volunteers needed

**Macarthur Regional Rose Show** at Mater Dei School on 20th October. Volunteers are needed to help set up on Saturday and throughout the day on Sunday. The volunteer sheets will be circulated at the 14 September meeting. It is a great opportunity to see the best roses in NSW on display, and talk Roses in an informal setting with other rose enthusiasts and experts.

**Secretary:** The role of Secretary remains unfilled. If you have administrative skills and can contribute some time each month, this is the role for you. Tasks are varied and interesting, but not onerous, and we can offer you lots of support to learn the role. Please consider volunteering and making a valuable contribution to Macarthur Rose Society.

**Meeting set up each month.** Volunteers are needed to help with set up and clear up before and after the meetings. If you are able to volunteer with these tasks please come to the meeting 30-45 minutes early or stay after the meeting to help for approximately 30 minutes.

Your contribution will be greatly appreciated and special thanks to those who already help.



## Cultural Notes

*As the new rose growth starts to bud and leaf following the rain and warmer weather, it is time to start fertilising your roses and control the influx of the hordes of insects. This will ensure you have beautiful colours, strong stems and plentiful blooms on each bush, ready for the spring Rose season.*

*Plants can readily absorb liquid products and the newly formulated liquid of our favourite rose food – Neutrog's Sudden Impact for Roses – is easy to use and an ideal addition to your fertilising program for all your roses and fruiting plants (except for Australian natives and bare-rooted roses).*

Spring is also the time to when the insects arrive to gorge themselves on the new soft succulent rose growth.

Aphids are what we usually notice first. They are soft, around 2 – 3mm long, have a shiny, transparent body and are most active in spring and autumn. There are many aphid species (around 4,000) and they attack just about every type of plant. About 250 of these species find roses the perfect environment and food source in spring in Australia. They are particularly attracted to yellow coloured roses and flowers. Depending on aphid species, they vary in colour and may be white, green, yellow, brown, black, or even pink.

Reproduction is fast when weather conditions are favourable, and this quickly leads to population outbreaks. Cold conditions slow their rate of development and movement. When conditions are favourable and aphids have no reason to migrate, most adult aphids are wingless. However, when plants become unsuitable habitats, or when overcrowding occurs, winged aphids develop and migrate to other plants or crops.

Initially aphids and the damage they cause may not be obvious because they congregate on the lower leaf surface. Their favourite place is on the tips of new



growth and the undersides of new leaves.

Aphid affected plants appear water-stressed and leaves turn yellow and fall. Sometimes the leaves and flowers curl up and wilt. New growth may also be distorted, and blooms fail to open. Aphids are also sap sucking and exude a 'honeydew' which attracts ants that in return protect the aphids from their natural predators. The sudden appearance of ants around your garden may be a sign that aphids have arrived.

Failing the organic and biological approach, detailed in the column to the right, broad spectrum insecticides such as Pyrethrum and Mavrik are effective. Spraying every three to four days will help to break the breeding cycle. Thrips also appear in the garden in September ... *Cont next page*



Aphid infestation on a new rose bud. This will severely affect the growth and bloom of the rose.

## Organic Aphid Controls

Aphid infestations can be prevented by keeping your roses well-watered, fertilised and healthy. GoGo Juice contains thousands of different microbial species, of which some will survive and thrive in the conditions of your garden. Diversity in your soil not only gives you the best chance of success, but also gives you an ecosystem that is more robust to changing conditions and seasons. Using Sudden Impact for Roses alongside GoGo Juice provides an additional shot of fast-acting nutrients.

Alyssum, yarrow and dill are known to attract aphids so it may be worthwhile keeping these plants further away from your roses. If despite your best efforts, the aphids come to dine, there several options.

Companion plants that may help control aphids include petunias, chives, perennial basil, coriander, garlic, onions, and radishes. Perennial basil can become invasive and chives spread rapidly so considering planting in a pot. If your infestation is mild, you can squash the aphids by hand. It's icky! but effective. In addition, aphids emit a chemical signal in their death throes that repels other aphids.

Alternatively, spray your roses with a strong jet of water (either with a hose or kitchen spray bottle) and knock them off the plant. They are poor climbers so find it difficult to re-climb the rose bush. This will need to be done every two to three days to effectively interrupt their lifecycle.

Homemade sprays such as insecticidal soaps (2ml liquid soap/100ml water), and a garlic or chilli soap mix sprayed onto the rose bush can also be effective. Target the underside of the new leaves when spraying.

Horticultural oils such as Neem Oil (Azadirachtin) and Eco Oil will smother the insects and reduce infestations. However, these organic products should not be used when the weather is above 32°C because they can burn the rose leaves. It is a Spring weather option only for aphid control.

Encouraging beneficial organisms which attack aphids, such as ladybirds, hover-flies, parasitic wasps and lacewings, will help to keep aphids to a minimum. Biological controls can be purchased online from companies such as Bugs for Bugs. They take time to work and have to be part of a holistic gardening approach - but they work.

Some web links for biological controls:

<https://biologicalservices.com.au>

<https://www.horticulture.com.au/globalassets/hort-innovation/resource-assets/ny15002-aphids-rapidly-reproducing-problem.pdf>

<https://biologicalservices.com.au>



## Cultural Notes

Following the aphid infestations the next to arrive are the Thrips. They are very good at spoiling rose blooms particularly white and other light-coloured roses. Thrips are very small insects with a slender body and are either black or straw coloured. There are wingless as well as winged varieties

### Lifecycle of Thrips

During the spring season, the female troops emerge from the pupal stage and start laying the eggs in the plant tissues of leaves, flowers and stems. Each female insect lays more than 80 eggs and it will get hatched within a few days in warmer weather. After passing through two or more moulting stages, the thrips drop to the soil to start pupating. The pupae, as well as the adult insects, overwinter inside the soil. After pupation, the insect repeats the cycle. In a single year, more than 12 generations are produced. During warm weather, the life cycle requires only 16 days.

### Flower Damage by Thrips

Thrips can cause terrible cosmetic damage to the rose blooms and other flowers. Dark streaks and spots may appear on the petals causing them to look 'dirty'. Sometimes, the flower buds even fail to open due to the deformity caused by the insect attack. The leaves become distorted and papery after losing the sap. Pale spots start appearing on the leaves and the leaves fall off prematurely.

As thrips are usually seen in dry weather conditions, if you keep your plants watered and not let them dry out completely for some time the lifecycle of the thrips can be disrupted. Other best ways to reduce infestations of thrips are similar to aphid control. Companion plants such as marigolds, petunias, basil, lavender and rosemary can repel. Keeping the garden well weeded is



effective as weeds and grasses can act as alternate hosts and allow the thrips to multiply rapidly.

As with aphids, a strong water spray can reduce the number of insects. Sticky blue coloured thrips traps and the use of biological controls like lacewing, ladybugs or pirate bugs can destroy the insects at different stages of the lifecycle.

Severe infestations can be treated with Eco-oil, Neem Oil and/or broad-spectrum insecticide sprays such as Pyrethrum, Success or Mavrik. However, these need to be used regularly, rotated to avoid resistance and used according to the instructions on the container. Controlling the insect arrivals and ensure a healthy and well hydrated soil will ensure that you have beautiful blooms.



Adult thrips swarming on a leaf. There are over 250 thrip varieties known to feast on roses.

## Water Restrictions

Sydney Water has introduced Level One water restrictions for the Sydney Metropolitan, Blue Mountains and Illawarra areas. The following rules apply.

Watering is allowed when done outside the hottest parts of the day.

You CAN water lawns and gardens:

✓ Before 10:00am and after 4:00pm using a hand held hose fitted with a trigger nozzle.

✓ Between 10:00am and 4:00pm using a hand held bucket.



✓ Any time with drip irrigation systems.

✓ Any time with water systems that have automated weather adjustments, rain sensors and/or soil moisture sensors.

REMEMBER mulching helps with moisture retention. WhoFlungDung is a biological mulch that is part of our available Neutro range.

You CANNOT at any time use:

- ✗ Standard sprinklers
- ✗ Soaker hoses
- ✗ Hoses without trigger fittings
- ✗ Tap timers





# Rose Society of NSW Inc

## MONTHLY SHOW BENCH SCHEDULE

Spring is the best time to start displaying your roses on the **Monthly Show Bench**. Just one or two roses from everyone provides a beautiful display for us all to enjoy. There is always help on hand if you are unsure about making a start.

Preparation takes place between 1.15 and 2.00pm prior to the meeting. The pleasure brought to members will be worth it and it is an opportunity to try out your show benching skills in time for the Spring rose shows. We will supply vases. Bring your own floral foam or buy from the trading table to help position your roses to best advantage in the vases.

### SHOW BENCH CLASSES

CLASS 1: 1 Exhibition Rose

CLASS 2: 1 Vase Bunch Roses, 5 stems, 1-2 cultivars

CLASS 3: 1 Vase Bunch Roses, 3 stems, same cultivar

CLASS 4: 1 Vase of Decorative Roses, 3 stem and/or cuts, same cultivar

CLASS 5: 1 Vase of Full Bloom Roses, 3 stems, NND (Not Necessarily Distinct)

CLASS 6: 1 Vase of Roses, Bud to Full Bloom, 4 stages, same cultivar

CLASS 7: 1 Vase of Floribunda roses, 1-6 stems and/or cuts, same cultivar, minimum of 10 blooms

CLASS 8: 1 Vase of Miniature Roses, 3 stems and/or cuts, same cultivar

CLASS 9: 1 Vase of Modern shrub roses, one stem or cut. This section included old types such as David Austin (and their equivalents from other breeders), Hybrid Musk, Ground Cover and Landscaping Roses.

CLASS 10: 1 Vase of Heritage or Old Garden Roses, one stem or cut

### BEGINNER'S CLASSES

CLASS 11: 1 Rose at any stage of development

CLASS 12: 1 Vase Bunch Roses, 3 stems, NND<sup>1</sup> (Not Necessarily Distinct)

**Stem** – a stem is defined as original new growth, which carries one bloom or bud and has no check from pinching, stopping or pruning from the time of growth start to flowering. Disbudding is not regarded as a check to growth under this definition. The stem should be proportionate in thickness and length to the size of the bloom it supports.

**Cut** – a cut is similar to a 'stem' (original new growth) that carries more than one bloom, and/or bud(s).

**Foliage** – should be adequate in quantity and size, undamaged, fresh and clean in appearance and of good colour and quality for the cultivar.

<sup>1</sup> NND means Not Necessarily Distinct i.e. the stems can be of the same cultivar (e.g. hybrid tea, floribunda)





# Exhibiting Roses Workshop

**6 October 2019**

Macarthur Centre for Sustainable Living  
1 Mount Annan Drive, Mt Annan, NSW 2567



## Agenda

- |        |   |                         |
|--------|---|-------------------------|
| 9.30am | Registration / Welcome Tea and Coffee       |                         |
| 10.00  | Preparation for and Travel to the Rose Show | Rosalie & Chris Vine    |
| 10.45  | Workstations Demonstration and Practice     |                         |
|        | 1. Exhibition and Bunch Classes             | Graham & Janet Wright   |
|        | 2. Decorative and Floribunda Classes        | Ted & Meryl Morphett    |
|        | 3. Miniature and Miniflora Classes          | Maureen & Ian Thackeray |
|        | 4. Bud to Full Bloom and Full Bloom Classes | Glynis & Doug Hayne     |
| 1.00pm | Lunch (bring your own)                      |                         |
| 1.45   | Benching Your Blooms                        |                         |
| 2.30   | Judges Appraisal                            |                         |
| 3.00   | Q & A                                       |                         |
| 3.30   | Close                                       |                         |

Please bring as many blooms as you can from your garden for this practice exercise. We will have some to share, but as it is early in the rose blooming season, we will need your roses too.

## Map of How to Get There



# Dates for your Diary

- 06 October Exhibitors Workshop at Macarthur Sustainability Centre, 1 Mount Annan Drive, Mount Annan.
- 12-13 October Nepean Blue Mountains and Hawkesbury Spring Rose Show at St Dominic's College Gascoigne St Kingswood 2747
- 19 October Sydney Regional Spring Show
- 20 October Macarthur Regional Spring Rose Show at Mater Dei School  
229 Macquarie Grove Road, Camden 2570  
Doors open at 6:00am for competitors
- 25-28 October National Rose Society AGM and Spring Rose Show
- 2-3 November Illawarra Spring Rose Show at Jamberoo School of Arts Hall
- 9 November Macarthur Regional Rose Society monthly meeting
- 10 November Upper North Shore and Hills Rose Show at Galston Community Centre, 37 Arcadia Road Galston
- 14 December Macarthur Regional Christmas Party at Macarthur Sustainability Centre, 1 Mount Annan Drive, Mount Annan 2567



## September Birthdays



12th Judy Reilly  
30th Kerry Watson



Remember, that as a member of the Rose Society of NSW, you are able to purchase Neutrog products at special member prices. Product availability includes: Sudden Impact for Roses, Kahoona, GoGo Juice, SEamungus, Gyganic, Blood and Bone, WhoFlung Dung and more.

Simply give **Graham Wright** a call on **9606 5888** to order and arrange a time to collect from Graham.



### Contact Us:

Your contributions to the Newsletter are welcome. Please send items of interest and your photos to:

**Chairperson:** Judith Carll, E: [judithcarll@gmail.com](mailto:judithcarll@gmail.com), T: 0410 444 562

**Next Meeting:** 2:00pm Saturday 14 September 2019, at Elderslie Primary School, 170 Lodges Road Elderslie .

**Guest Speaker:** Mr Daniel Webb speaking on '10 Ways to Kill a Phalaenopsis'.