

Southern Highlands Regional Rose Society

August 2023 Newsletter



Signature Rose Best Friend

Hello Rosarian Friends,

Spring is just around the corner and it's time to get busy in the rose garden. What a dry, cold winter we have had to date.

My rain gauge recorded 42mm of rain in June and only 19mm in July.

Alas, this lack of rain has been accompanied by many days of gusty wind.

The ground on my property is like concrete and the garden needs a good soak at least once a week.

At last it's time to prune our roses reducing bush height by half. Remove and bin all leaves on bushes and around rose base.

Spray with lime sulphate on bare roses and lightly around rose base to kill fungal spores.

I am eagerly awaiting the delivery of Honey Dijon from Wagners Rose Nursery. This rose was added to my "bucket list " after seeing it in Sydney Botanical Rose Garden last year.



Honey Dijon

Hopefully, you enjoyed Kristine Gow's talk on local native plants. I loved her no nonsense, engaging presentation style. I will follow up on her generous offer of a tube plant for interested members.

This months guest speaker is Bud Townsing.

Bud and his late wife Maureen are renowned publishers of historical books featuring towns, homes and gardens in NSW. Bud is a prolific writer and photographer for the Southern Highlands branch of Australian Garden History.

His latest published work is Berrima Bridge Nurseries-Isobel and Claude Crowe.

This is the theme of Bud's presentation. Claude and Isobel had a huge impact on the history of gardens in the Highlands. They even had a Rose Catalogue!!

Looking forward to chatting at our meeting.

Your Chairperson, *Annette*

A funny... Soil: a type of dark mud found in short supply in the garden but readily found on paths, patios, verandahs clothing, boots etc....

Cultural Notes for Autumn

Courtesy of Jacqueline Tweedie—Rose Society of NSW

Have you sharpened those pruning secateurs, saws etc. in preparation for the August pruning time in the Sydney basin?

If you live in an area that is frost prone in August, leave pruning until the frost threat has passed as frost can burn new emerging leaves. You now have your fresh supply of lime sulphur, (liquid version mixes easier). This product is used at the recommended strength once you have completed pruning to help control disease that can still be present on foliage and fallen leaves. Spray the soil around the bush as it will help kill spores that are on the soil and insects that are over-wintering in your garden. Lime sulphur is not compatible with other sprays. You have reduced watering to help the bushes complete dormancy.

New plants have been planted in their growing position?

Do not fertilize these newly planted bushes until at least November, thus allowing the new roots to grow, as fertilizing too soon will burn those tender new roots. The newly planted bushes still need to be kept moist to encourage growth.

If scale is a problem in your garden, clearly visible once pruning has been done, you should try using a smothering agent like Pest Oil at the recommended strength. Some members have resorted to using a toothbrush or small kitchen brush to remove scale from canes. You do not want to damage the cane. Scale, if found, usually appears on the shaded or protected side of the stem.

Spring is the best time to mulch your rose beds.

As the warmer weather is on its way, it's time to start mulching. Soil needs organic material in reasonable amounts to encourage and promote beneficial soil bacteria and earth-worm activity. As the mulching material slowly decomposes, essential elements are released that are readily available for your plants to absorb.

Soil is what your plants stand in, it's what's in the soil that makes them grow. Without mulching, bare soil tends to compact over time, water absorption is reduced, oxygen cannot penetrate, and soils become less fertile.

When the soil starts to warm up your choice of mulching material will depend on many factors, availability, cost, etc. There are some things to consider when deciding on mulching material. Properly made compost and any animal manures are excellent. These nutrient rich mulches slowly leach valuable major and minor trace elements into the soil.

A layer around 5cms deep all over the bed would be sufficient. Neutrog product WhoFlungDung can be used.

It is unlikely you would be fortunate to obtain this quantity from its natural source if you have a large area to cover.



Cultural Notes for Autumn Continued

Lucerne hay is still a favourite of many rosarians.

It is rich in nutrients and provides a good deep cover and breaks down readily. It is also a good slug and snail repellent.

Sugar cane mulch is also gaining popularity; it is readily available in a milled form. It is relatively cheap and can cover a large area.

Stockpiled deciduous leaves can be used directly around your roses. Leaf mulch and grass clippings can be mixed in equal parts. This will minimize temporary nitrogen loss in your soil and cover a larger surface area.

Good mulching will prevent your plants from drying out at this critical time of year when plants are bursting into growth.

It will act as a blanket to insulate roots against sudden changes in temperatures; it will inhibit weed growth by denying them light. Just some of the benefits of mulching. Your plants will be healthier and more disease resistant.

Mulch can be from 5 – 10cms deep. The deeper the better, as long as it allows water to penetrate through it.

Try not to leave decomposing mulch in contact with trunks of rose bushes, as this could cause collar rot.

Remember to top up the mulch as required in the growing season.

When ready to apply the mulch give the existing beds a dressing of fertilizer. 'Sudden Impact' for roses is used by most rosarians. Be sure to give a deep watering after fertilizing. Careful around those new bushes with the fertilizer. Remember a well mulched garden produces healthy soil and vigorous, disease resistant rose plants.

Long wooden/cane supports or stakes may be needed later in Spring as the new watershoots start to grow so that when the strong winds arrive, the new watershoots are not torn off the bush.

Stake and support the new watershoots with a soft material binding.

Sudden Impact for Roses.

The balance and ratio of nutrients combined with the very best of raw materials are the secret to the success of Sudden Impact for Roses. The organic raw materials are conditioned utilising a unique composting process and once completed, the water-soluble nutrients are carefully blended into the organic base before being pasteurised and pelleted.



From The American Rose Society Magazine

Pruning

First is timing.

In cooler areas it should be as spring growth starts but don't leave it too late as you will be cutting off the lovely new spring growth which will waste the rose's energy.

Start by cutting out any dead and diseased stems as well as any stems that look particularly old and tired. Don't be afraid to cut these out hard.

Roses are amazing for their ability to send up new young stems right from the base and they will be much better for it. Now is the time to reduce the height of the rose.

For practically every rose, how much you cut back depends within reason, on how tall you want that rose to grow in that position.

The general rule is to reduce the height between a third and three quarters. Harder pruning will encourage a shorter plant while light pruning will encourage a taller plant.

Generally, the harder pruning is for bush roses like the hybrid teas and floribundas while lighter pruning is for shrub roses like the English roses and modern shrubs.

Pruning at an angle just above an upward bud is recommended, however you can safely forget the rule and still have good results.

Roses are very forgiving, so you can often prune the bush to fit the space it lives in.

For those of you who know that I attend a floral art class given by our friend Deidre Hill, in Jamberoo each month.

I must be retaining some of Deidre's detailed teachings as I was very pleased with my result at our recent event.

This was my entry in the NSW Floral Art Association Competition held recently at South West Rocks.

In Novice Class 7 the title was "Shells, Sun and Sand "

I was awarded **1st Place**.

All the orchids were from my own garden.

Carol McVeigh



Renewal of membership

Single membership	\$40.00
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Joint Membership	\$45.00
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There are a few options for you to renew your membership.

By cash.

At our meeting, please see our Treasurer, Roz Mulligan.

By EFT

The banking details are: BSB 012 429 Account Number 2784 41863

Please put your membership number, your surname, initial and region in the reference section.

By cheque:

The cheque is to be made payable to The Rose Society of NSW Inc and posted to:

The Subscription Secretary, Maureen Thackeray,
31 Tallow-Wood Avenue, Narellan Vale 2567

If you have had a change of address, contact number or email, please complete a Renewal Form, which can be located on the website nsw.rose.org.au / Become a Member / Print out form and send to Maureen.

Neutrog Ordering

Orders have now closed

When the delivery date is known, we will advise you.

Our Next Meeting

10.00 am Wednesday 16 August 2023

Our meeting will be held at Renwick Community Centre

Renwick Drive, Renwick

Our Guest is:

Bud Townsing

The History of Berrima Bridge Nurseries

Berrima Bridge Nurseries Isobel and Claude Crowe

Author Ruth Bailey

Many people wondered why there wasn't a slide deck on Claude and Isobel Crowe and their impact on the history of gardens in the Southern Highlands when the *Gardens and Landscapes in the Southern Highlands - Then and Now* was being created and opened at the Berrima Museum in February 2022. Although much material was available the task of creating a slide presentation was going to be a long and arduous task so was tabled until a later date. That work has now been done by Bud Townsing who has worked tirelessly over the past 5 months gathering this information into 70 slides as well as additional information all of which will be published soon in a photo book.



Claude and Isobel Crowe at their wedding in 1943, courtesy BDIS



Berrima Bridge Nursery as it was in 1943, courtesy BDIS. The original nursery is marked in red; Claude also grew nursery stock in the area marked in yellow as well

At each meeting held we invite members to bring roses from their own gardens to place on both our Judging Table and our Members Choice Table .

Judging Table

*For the Judges bencha single rose bloom from your garden,
That's if you still have roses.*

*Please feel free to enter more than one single bloom
if you have more in your garden.*

Members Choice—Any Bloom

*A single bloom of any flower from your garden
or a floral arrangement if you feel creative.*

Help needed.

*If you are able to arrive a little early we could use some help
in setting up our room.*

*Also, at the end of the meeting if you are able to lend a hand to tidy up
that would be appreciated.*