

# feedback

commercial

UPDATE FROM NEUTROG #13

## HENTLEY FARM VINEYARD THE ROYAL MELBOURNE GOLF CLUB GOGO JUICE TRIALS



# HENTLEY FARM VINEYARD

Set among the rolling hills on the banks of Greenock Creek at Seppeltsfield in South Australia's Barossa Valley, Hentley Farm is a boutique, single-estate vineyard that produces distinctive wines reflecting the diversity of terroir that exists on its 100 acre property.



Founded by Keith and Alison Hentschke in 1997, Hentley Farm's unique property was located with the aid of a 1950's soil map of the Barossa Valley region.

Keith had extensive experience in the agriculture and wine industry, having worked for Elders, Orlando Wyndham, Fabal and Nepenthe, and he knew that careful vineyard selection was imperative to producing high quality wines. So in the 1990's he undertook extensive research with local Barossa Valley winemakers and soil scientists, aiming to find out where the best red wine grapes were believed to be produced in the Barossa.

This research pointed him towards the red brown soils in Western Barossa, and the quality of wines already being made in the area confirmed the selection of Seppeltsfield as their preferred area. Using the old soil map, they strategically located parcels of land, and after a number of years were fortunate enough to acquire the Hentley Farm property; an old vineyard and mixed farming property at the time which Keith then replanted with vines.

With a great diversification of east and west facing slopes, and a 100m altitude range from the top to the bottom blocks, Hentley Farm has a huge variety of terroir, and specialises in producing premium quality single-estate and single-block wines solely from the vines grown on this property.



The focus is foremost on the vineyard, with the winemaking strategy aimed at accentuating the differences and qualities of the fruit from the various blocks. In light of this commitment, two years ago Keith employed Greg Mader as a full time vineyard manager. Keith says "We are very lucky to have Greg Mader as our vineyard manager. He mixes a respect and understanding of Mother Nature with scientific knowledge of both the land and grape growing. He takes a high quality approach to every aspect of what he does."

Greg too comes with a wealth of experience in the wine-growing field, having mixed work with study over a 12 year period at Penfolds, managing some of their most premium fruit (including a couple of famous Grange blocks) prior to joining Hentley Farm's team.

Greg says, "My approach to vineyard management is to produce exceptional wine grapes that reflect the land and capture the very essence of the special soils and microclimates that make up Hentley Farm. Notwithstanding, the undertaking of sound environmental practices supporting agricultural sustainability and biodiversity is paramount and therefore at the forefront of all vineyard activities. I nurture the vines to their optimum potential in regards to canopy management, pruning, irrigation and soil health. But as we all know 'Mother Nature' plays a significant role in any given vintage.

Essentially, my part is to ensure our vines are well balanced and have the ability to produce the small intense-flavoured berries that allow us to make high end classic wines."

Keith and Greg have a strong focus on sustainable and biological farming practices, they reuse winery waste in both irrigation and compost, use sheep for strip grazing, and avoid cultivating the soils. Given this focus, they have also used Neutrog fertilisers across the entire vineyard. When Keith first planted the vines, he sourced Rapid Raiser as a local, organic product with excellent quality control processes to ensure no unwanted risks to the young vines. The slow-release product was the perfect kick-off for the plants, and ensured the health and quality of the soils. Greg continues to use Rapid Raiser, Bounce Back and Seamungus to condition and build up the soil health gently each year, and has recently applied Rapid Raiser to a new planting of dry-grown, Shiraz bush-vines.

In addition, GoGo Juice is being applied, as a trial, to a small troublesome area (where Grenache is grown), which lacks vigour & is prone to water logging.

Since the first vintage in 2002, Hentley Farm has experienced great success and has cemented itself as one of South Australia's leading boutique wineries, being awarded a rare 5 red-stars by acclaimed wine writer James Halliday, with the comment "It hardly needs to be said the emphasis is on quality". Their most well known and acclaimed wines are their single-block luxury end red wines, which include 'The Beauty' and 'The Beast' Shiraz, the 'von Kasper' Cabernet and their flagship, the 'Clos Otto' Shiraz.



# ON THE GOGO

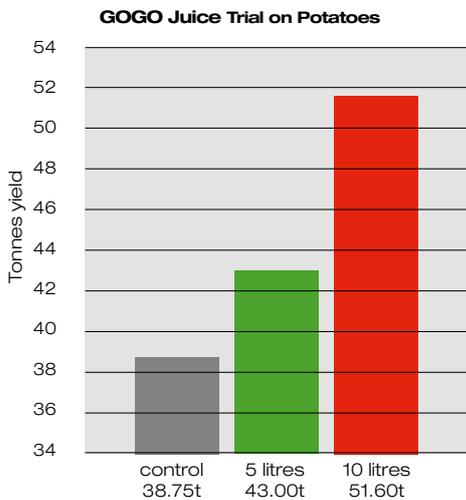
Exciting results have been received, from three formal trials commissioned by Neutrog, conducted on potatoes, parsley and spinach.



Protocols for these controlled trials were developed in conjunction with Vic Szabo – a well known horticultural consultant in South Australia. Vic oversaw the trial implementation, monitored the progress and reported on the final results.

These trials were established in the Virginia area of South Australia. Yields, nutrient uptake and product quality were assessed, along with a cost-benefit analysis carried out.

In each of these trials, growers used their standard fertiliser programme, which included Rapid Raiser or Seamungus at 1 tonne per hectare at planting. The trial areas had an additional application of GOGO Juice at 5lt per hectare on one area & 10lt per hectare on another – these areas were compared against a control area that had no GOGO Juice added.



The first visible difference in the GOGO Juice treated potatoes was 2 weeks after application. The treated plants showed a deeper green colour on the foliage and had grown more vigorously. At 3 weeks after application the treated

plants showed stronger stems and larger leaves. The stolons developments were compared – the treated plants showed 6-8 stolons, whereas the untreated plants showed an average of 4-5 stolons.

In the trial area where GOGO Juice was applied at 5lt per hectare, the yield was 43 tonne per hectare – an increase of 11% or 4.25 tonne per hectare. The 10lt per hectare application area yielded 51.60 tonne per hectare – an increase of 33% or 12.85 tonne per hectare.

Vic sums up, “GOGO Juice used on potatoes has performed beyond expectations. The variety, Lady Jane, was used in the trial, however it is expected that GOGO Juice will have a similar result on other potato varieties. The product certainly had a marked beneficial effect on the crop and the cost/benefit ratio is positive”.

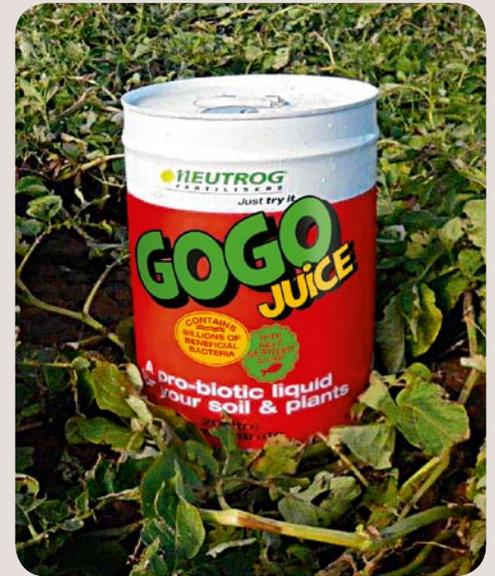


Parsley and spinach trial results have also been exceptional. Again, the parsley and spinach trials were monitored regularly. Two weeks into the trial, the parsley showed more vigour and colour intensity, with the spinach also showing improved colour. At four weeks, the parsley and spinach trial areas both showed a marked difference in growth and colour. At six weeks, the parsley plants were dug to sight the root system. A much improved root system was very evident, with improved length, density and strength.

After harvest, it was noted that the parsley showed a yield increase of 23%, with 307 bunches picked per row – an increase of 57 bunches over the control area. The spinach increase was 27% with 95 bunches picked per row – an increase of 20 bunches over the control area.

Vic’s conclusion with the application of GOGO Juice on parsley and spinach was that, “a superior root system and leaf structure is produced. In bunching crops, it is vitally important to have more vigorous and rapid growth. GOGO Juice produced both”.

## ABOUT GOGO JUICE



GOGO Juice is literally teeming with beneficial micro-biology and is essentially a pro-biotic for your soil and plants.

GOGO Juice combines the “catalytic” power of the billions of beneficial bacteria with the well documented benefits of applying kelp seaweed, fish, coal and lucerne.

The carefully selected microbes have been proliferated utilising complex carbohydrates and sugars through a unique aerobic brewing system in which kelp, seaweed, fish, coal and lucerne have been digested by these bacteria.

As a result GOGO Juice not only contains a wide variety of bacteria, that perform many beneficial functions within the soil, but it also contains numerous other beneficial elements such as natural growth hormones, humic and fulvic acid, amino acids, vitamins etc (all of which are derived from those digested organic compounds), which also serve to enhance soil and plant performance.

**“Just try it”** and see how it goes for yourself.

# THE ROYAL MELBOURNE GOLF CLUB



The Royal Melbourne Golf Club was formed in 1891 and is considered the oldest continuously existing golf club in Australia. The Club was formed by a group of men including John Bruce, Tom Finlay and Hugh Playfair who were from St. Andrews and William Knox and Tom Brentnall from Edinburgh.

The original course was laid out by Finlay and was situated close to the Caulfield Railway Station. By 1896 housing was encroaching on the course and a new location, Sandringham selected. The new course was opened in 1901 with the first Australian Open being played here in 1904. This course was extended in 1905 and again in 1909 but by 1925 houses surrounded much of the course.

It was decided to design a new course further to the south-east at Black Rock. The President at the time, Mr. L.K.S. McKinnon was asked to find the best golf architect available. On advice from the R & A at St. Andrews, Dr. Alistair McKenzie was invited to visit Melbourne. He arrived in Melbourne in October 1926 and with assistance from greenkeeper Mick Morcom and member Alex Russell designed a new course – the West. In 1929 further land was purchased and a second course designed by Alex Russell with help from Mick Morcom, known as the East.

The Club has held 34 major tournaments since World War II and in 1959 held the Canada Cup. Large galleries were expected and the decision was taken to use 18 of the 21 holes in the home paddock to be known as the Composite Course (12 west and 6 easts). This course is regularly rated in the top 10 in the world and has hosted a number of tournaments such as

the 1998 Presidents Cup and will host the Presidents Cup again in November 2011.

The courses are renowned for their classic bunkering, native vegetation, fast greens, wide fairways and natural appearance. McKenzie outlines 13 essential features of an ideal golf course all of which he incorporated to some degree in the West Course. Maintaining these features forms the basis to a number of our maintenance practices as implemented by the Club's previous greenkeepers (Superintendents); Morcom, Crockford, Williams and Porter.

In 2009 the Club embarked on a major re-grassing program encompassing the West Course and Composite East holes. The program included re-seeding greens with Suttons Mix, turfing surrounds and approaches with Fine Fescue, line planting fairways with Legend Couch and returfing selected tees with Santa Ana Couch. In addition to the re-grassing work a new irrigation system was installed in the fairways and green surrounds. During this period considerable resources have been allocated to an extensive water production and treatment system involving bores, stormwater and filtration treatment.

Preparation for this year's Presidents Cup is now gearing up with infrastructure construction due to commence in

early September to accommodate the expected 35,000 plus crowds each day. Richard Forsyth is the current Course Superintendent and is charged with the responsibility of preparing and presenting the course for the prestigious event.

The Club's Links maintenance staff of 30 will be bolstered with a volunteer team of 30 for two weeks leading up to and during the event. The volunteer Greenkeeping team are coming from as far away as the UK, USA, NZ and all states of Australia. The Staff have put in many hours of extra work over the last two summers during the renovation work and they are looking forward to showing off the course to the world later in the year.

Attention to detail and responsibility to the environment is important in the maintenance of the turf, vegetation and landscape areas at Royal Melbourne. Nutrient applications are carefully considered and alternatives evaluated on a regular basis. Neutrog's Seamungus has been used on areas including fairways, new vegetation plantings, in preparation for new turf and in the landscape areas with pleasing results. The crumble form is used in preference to the pellets as it breaks down more rapidly. Other products such as Go Go juice are under evaluation and may have a place in the future.



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