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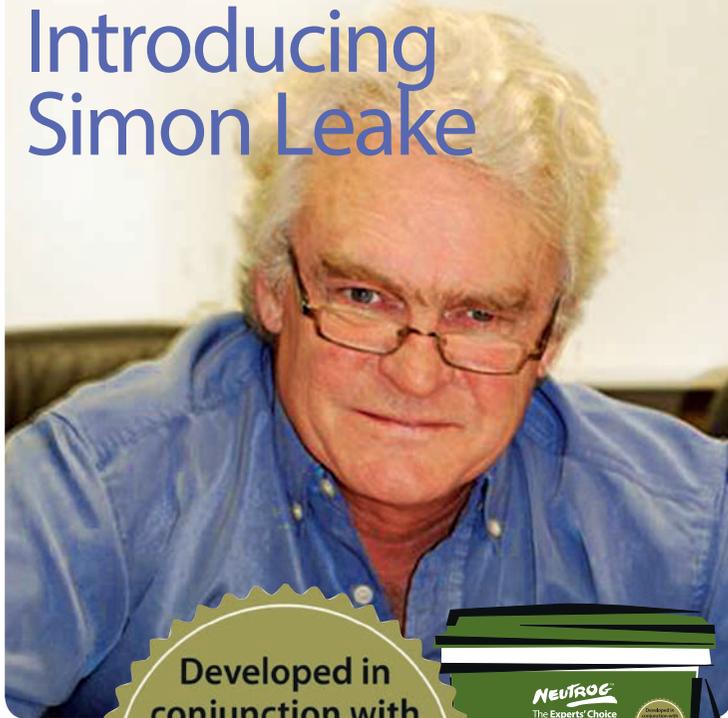


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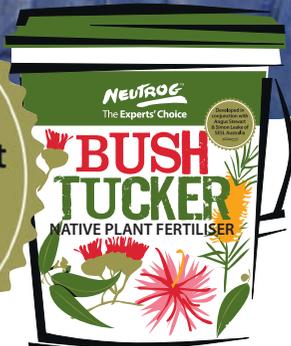
YOUR REGULAR GARDENING NEWS FROM NEUTROG

JULY 2015

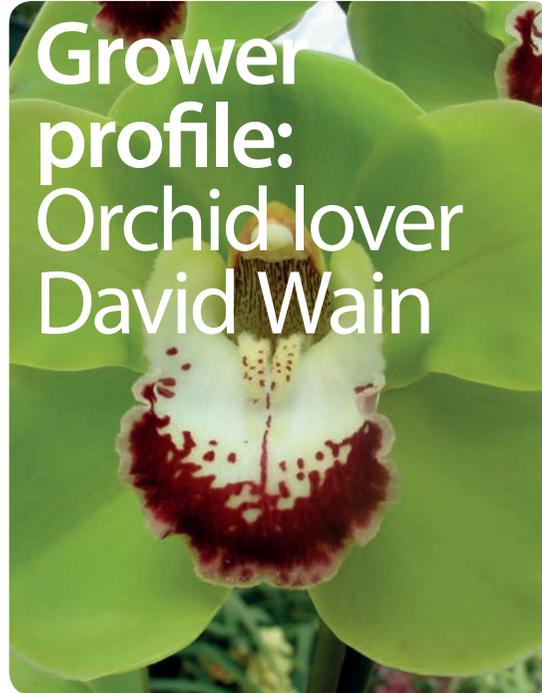
## The science of soil: Introducing Simon Leake



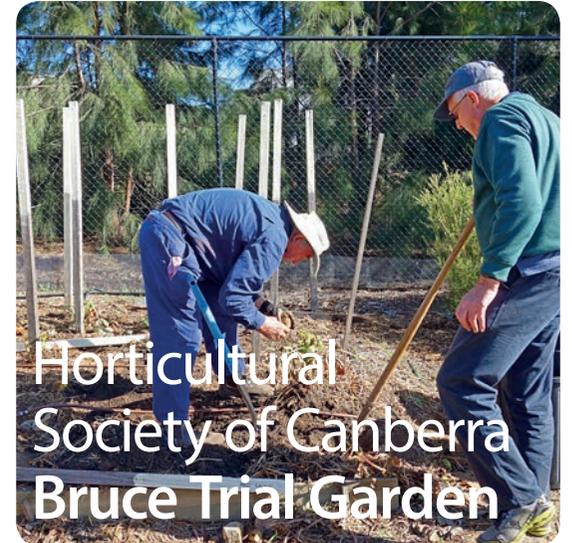
Developed in conjunction with native plant expert Angus Stewart and soil scientist Simon Leake



## Grower profile: Orchid lover David Wain



FEED IN WINTER  
FOR A HEAD  
START IN SPRING



Horticultural  
Society of Canberra  
Bruce Trial Garden



## What can I plant now?

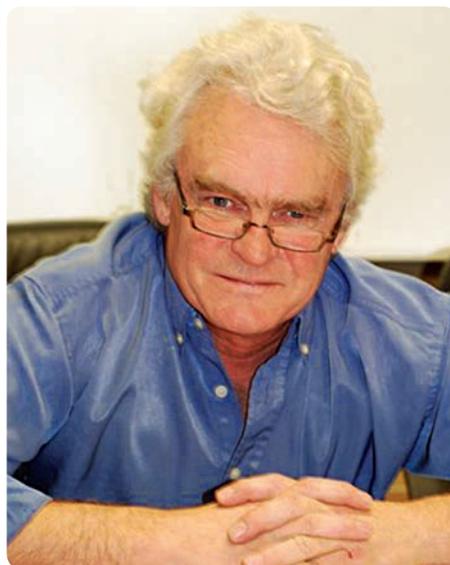
# The science of soil: Introducing Simon Leake

Trials are underway for Bush Tucker - the native fertiliser currently in development with the expertise of media personality and native expert Angus Stewart and leading soil scientist, Simon Leake. Following on from our introduction of Angus in our last newsletter, we thought in this edition we would discover more about Simon.

An eminent soil scientist and former consultant on the Olympics 2000 Homebush Bay site, Simon Leake is a founding director and principal soil scientist for SESL Australia – a leading consulting and laboratory service specialising in agriculture, environment and horticulture since 1984. Simon's education and interests are focussed on soil science and soil chemistry.

Simon has risen to become one of the best-known urban soil scientists in Australia with a particular interest in the nutrition of Australian native plants including several publications in this area.

His knowledge and expertise naturally led him to composting science, and he has been consulting to the composting industry for over 12 years.



His many affiliations include the Australian Society of Soil Science, the Australia/New Zealand Soil and Plant Analysis Council, the Waste Management Association and the Australian Standards Association. He was also part of an expert reference panel to assist the Royal Botanic Gardens Trust Committee in the design, technical specification and implementation of planning at the Royal Botanic Gardens in Sydney, Mount Annan and Mount Tomah; his particular expertise being landscape technology within design constraints, sustainable horticulture and soil management.

Simon has more recently been involved as soils advisor, designing and specifying soils for the Barangaroo Headland Park project in Sydney.

Simon lectures to hundreds of interest groups, seminars, conferences and various universities including University of Technology Sydney, University of NSW, University of Sydney, and TAFE Ryde School of Horticulture, speaking about urban soil science, turf root zone soils, tree root zone management, pedology (the study of soils in their natural environment), soil chemistry, soil management and modification and plant nutrition.

Similar to Angus Stewart, Simon is frequently called upon to give advice on radio and television programs, having conducted many radio interviews and has made appearances on TV gardening programs such as 'Burkes Backyard'. For more information about Simon or SESL Australia visit [www.sesl.com.au](http://www.sesl.com.au)

Neutrog are thrilled to have Simon working on the development of Bush Tucker with us and we look forward to reporting on the current trials in future newsletter editions. 



## SPOTLIGHT

Recommended by the National Rose Society of Australia Inc., Seamungus is an Australian Certified Organic (ACO) registered product and is manufactured from seaweed, fish, humic acid and manure. Used for revitalising all plants throughout the year it is ideal for winter feeding and establishing new plants, particularly bare-rooted roses.

Seamungus is being used as a winter feed in numerous Botanic Gardens around the country and applied during rose pruning at the International Rose Garden, National Rose Trial Garden, Victoria State Rose Garden, Mornington Botanical Rose Garden and Morwell Centenary Rose Garden. Volunteers are always welcome and especially so at pruning time.

Contact the gardens direct if you can offer some of your time.



**NEUTROG™**  
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prev

next

# Grower profile: Orchid lover David Wain

As a winner of two Grand Champion Orchid awards at National cymbidium shows, David Wain is what most people would call a serious orchid grower. His interest in cymbidium orchids was sparked in the late 70's when visiting an orchid nursery in Ulladulla. At that time, aside from completing a university degree as a Science teacher, in his spare time he set up an orchid tissue culture lab in his house.

In the late 90's, David built Wain's Orchid Nursery, located in Templestowe, Victoria. Now with the help of his wife Ying, they propagate many orchids. The majority of these plants are cymbidium orchids, which are all grown under plastic and shadecloth due to the cold weather.

All plants at the nursery are propagated on site, and can be shipped Australia wide. They also supply major growers in China and Holland.

With the nursery housing over 30,000 orchids and with 15,000 plants at home, David certainly has his plate full.



*Street Tango 'Templestowe' – David Wain*

Not only is he is a member of the Cymbidium Orchid Society of Victoria, but is also a member at the Maribyrnong Orchid Club, the Victorian Orchid Club and the Warringal Orchid Club. He is also a full time chemistry teacher at Doncaster Secondary College, and spends as much time as he can at the nursery. David's orchid growing expertise is in demand and in 2013 he was invited to be a guest speaker at the Annual Cymbidium Congress in Santa Barbara, California.

The initial attraction to orchids for David, and in particular cymbidium orchids, was the tough robust flowers and the fact that they don't require too much care.

His fertilising regime includes the use of Neutrog's Strike Back for Orchids and Seamungus in pellet form when replanting or potting up, as well as his own liquid brew. David must be doing something right, as not only has he won two National Grand Champions, he has also won numerous other awards including Victorian Orchid of the Year in 2010 with Druoin Masterpiece 'Renae'. The two National Grand Champion wins were both with varieties originating from Valley Orchids in South Australia - Valley Olympic 'Pink Perfection' and Valley Splash 'Awesome'.

With his busy schedule David still manages to exhibit and sell plants at shows around Australia.

If you would like to meet David and learn more about these fascinating plants, he will be exhibiting and selling his plants at the 'Orchid Spectacular' - the National Cymbidium Show to be held in South Australia on the 22nd and 23rd of August at the Noarlunga Leisure Centre. 



## National Tree Day

Australia's largest community tree-planting and nature care event is celebrating 20



years! National Tree Day is on 26th July and Schools Tree Day on Friday 24th July. Tree Day is an opportunity to do something positive for your local environment and community and to reconnect with nature.

To find out more or to find an event near you visit [www.treeday.planetark.org](http://www.treeday.planetark.org)

## Online Store

Try Strike Back for Orchids and Seamungus with our **Orchid Lovers sample pack** at the Online Store.



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# Focus on: The Horticultural Society of Canberra and Bruce Trial Garden

Sixteen years after Canberra was first founded, the Horticultural Society of Canberra (HSOC) was established to encourage gardening in the new Nation's capital with the desire that Canberra become a 'garden city'.

Since its inception in 1929, the Society has been involved in many activities including working bees, floral displays, plant sales, distributing seeds to members, public talks, coach tours, garden and flower competitions (including four major flower shows annually), information evenings and demonstration gardens. The Society has also been involved in planning the National Rose Garden which is located in Parkes near the Old Parliament House building. This garden was officially restored and re-opened in 2004 following its decline after Parliament moved to the new Parliament House in 1988.

Notwithstanding its busy schedule, the Horticultural Society of Canberra also produces a book called 'The Canberra Gardener' – now in its tenth edition. It has been written especially for Canberra conditions, and draws on the gardening experience of a team of expert and enthusiastic local gardeners.



*Members at work in the trial garden*

The emphasis throughout the book is on minimal use of insecticides and fungicides, best practices in preparing and maintaining soil, mulching and watering techniques and choosing the most appropriate plants.

Adjacent to the Canberra Institute of Technology at Bruce, the Horticultural Society has developed a garden where plants are grown and trialled by members to determine what grows well in Canberra and the surrounding areas, including vegetables, perennials, daffodils, hedging plants, climbers and dahlia seedling trials on behalf of the Dahlia Society of Australia.

Results of these trials are recorded for the purposes of future editions of 'The Canberra Gardener', and information used in other Horticultural Society of Canberra publications such as its quarterly Bulletin.

Over the last twelve months, Society members have undertaken trials at the Bruce gardens – one being the use of exclusion fabric, which is a simple organic strategy that relies on preventing access by fruit fly, codling moth, possums and birds to the fruit or vegetable you want to protect, and in many situations it is much easier than spraying.



*Lifting and dividing Dahlia tubers Photos by Peter Hill*

Exclusion fabric can be used to cover the entire plant, clusters of fruit or individual pieces of fruit. In this case, one garden bed was covered with exclusion fabric and one was left without. Each bed contained the same produce and in this case all grew successfully, however there were some very interesting differences observed. In the case of beans, lettuce and corn, those grown in the exclusion fabric bed were harvested between 1 and 2 weeks earlier. In working under the fabric, it was noticeable that it was both warmer and more humid than the outside bed.

Neutrog proudly supports the Bruce Trial Garden and the Horticultural Society of Canberra. Many members are also using Neutrog products on their own gardens at home.

It is hoped by members that in due course the garden at Bruce will become more available to the general public. However, in the meantime it will be open for rose and tree pruning demonstrations on the 19<sup>th</sup> of July 2015 from 1pm – 3pm.

New members to the Horticultural Society of Canberra are always welcome. If you would like to become involved, visit [www.hsoc.org.au](http://www.hsoc.org.au) for more information. 



prev



next

# What can I plant now?

**Vegetables & Herbs:** If you haven't already done so, there is still time to plant rhubarb and asparagus crowns. Plant Brassicas (Broccoli, Cauliflower, Kale, Asian greens) as they are relatively easy to grow and look great with their differing colours and shapes. Add coriander and chives to herb garden pots and position in sunny windowsills, apply GOGO Juice monthly to the soil and cut as required. Freeze any excess in ice cube trays with either water or olive oil.

**Flowering Plants:** Look around your area to see what other gardeners are having success with as these plants most likely suit your local growing conditions. There are so many gorgeous flowering shrubs and annuals for winter colour and fragrance. Why not look for some of the more unusual varieties, such as Luculia, Chimonanthus & Pieris. Brighten up any area – whether sunny or shady – with Polyanthus. They come in such an incredible colour range. Look for beautiful pansies, dainty Primulas, tough English daisies & wonderful Lobelia. Plant perennials for spring from seedlings, including Delphinium, Canterbury bells and Lupins..

**Roses and Fruit Trees:** It's bare rooted season so now is the time to visit your nursery or order online. If room is a concern, look for dwarf varieties or consider pots. Select plants with strong and well-structured branches; remember to look for a healthy root ball too. Soak in a bucket of water for an hour or two before planting. Seamungus is perfect when planting as it is 100% organic and will not burn the roots. Water in with GOGO Juice to aid root establishment.



**For all new plantings:** Prepare soil well by adding Cock'n'Bull ahead of time. At planting mix Rooster Booster or Rapid Raiser through the soil around the root system and water all plants in with GOGO Juice or Seamungus Liquid. **N**

# FEED IN WINTER FOR A HEAD START IN SPRING



- Ideal for establishing new and bare rooted plants.
- Increase root development and frost resistance.



**Year round fertilising for year round health**



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