



Royal Botanic Garden Sydney

Located on the side of an undulating piece of land with breathtaking views of Sydney Harbour and the city skyline, the Royal Botanic Garden, Sydney was the first area of cultivated land on the Australian continent. The garden is now home to an outstanding collection of plants from Australia and overseas.

In 1788, Sydney's Domain was set aside by Governor Phillip as his private reserve and his personal servant, Henry Dodd, established a small grain farm on the site of the future Royal Botanic Garden. The first grain was harvested in July 1788, however, most of the crop failed due to being planted out of season, the poor soil and being eaten by rats.

British settlers were also devastated to learn that most of the fruit varieties they brought with them from England didn't thrive in Australia because they required a cold winter to set fruit, and the soil quality was so poor that fertiliser was required. Initially they expected that their new colony would be growing much of its own food within two years; however none of the grain crops flourished in the sandy soils.

The Royal Botanic Garden was established in 1816 by Governor Macquarie, and is one of the oldest botanic gardens in the Southern Hemisphere. The Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust is custodian of four sites in NSW – the Royal Botanic Garden, Sydney, the Domain, the Australian Botanic Garden, Mount Annan and the Blue Mountains Botanic Garden, Mount Tomah, and in these modern times they are all flourishing.

In the late 18th Century, the biggest news in the field of botany was the discovery of a

new continent filled with exotic plants never seen anywhere else in the world - the Australian Botanic Garden at Mount Annan now displays over 4000 of these plants. This garden has been developed over 1000 acres, making it the largest botanic garden in Australia.

The Australian Botanic Garden, Mount Annan features treasures such as the Wollemi Walk of Discovery, Eucalypt Arboreta, a Woodland Picnic Area and a Fruit Loop Garden. The Big Ideas Garden is a favourite for many people, as it explores sustainable ideas that help home gardeners to reduce, reuse and recycle valuable resources. Ideas and tips on waterwise plants, watering, mulching, composting, pruning and fertilising are all on display.

Dan Bishop, Manager Horticulture at the Australian Botanic Garden, Mount Annan

says, "We are pleased to be using Neutrog products in our garden such as Rapid Raiser, Seamungus and GOGO Juice to assist with propagation – we like the fact that they are organic with no chemical additives".

The Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust undertakes a myriad of activities for the public, which are designed to inspire the appreciation and conservation of plants. Free courses and tours, guided walks, community education and outreach programmes, International scientific research and workshops are all offered to the public.

The Royal Botanic Garden is open from 7am – sunset daily. The Australian Botanic Garden is open 10am – 4.30pm daily (closed Christmas Day). Further information can be found at www.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au.

Our new look Botanic Range. Perfect for your own botanic garden too



Look out for the new look Botanic Range in your local hardware or garden centre.



Daniel Lutz. A passionate ambassador

Growing up in suburban Adelaide, Daniel Lutz has certainly had his share of obstacles in life.

Diagnosed with dyspraxia as a young child and later with autism, Daniel found learning very difficult. It also affected his speech and coordination, so much so that it was doubtful that he would ever be able to communicate.

Now at the ripe young age of 20, Daniel is truly an inspiration. Not only is Daniel a market gardener, a seed saver, a seedling grower and a student of horticulture, he is the Youth Ambassador for the Botanic Gardens of Adelaide's Kitchen Garden Project, a member of 2 orchid clubs and the Rare Fruit Society, he is an orchid breeder and also works on an organic seedling farm and market garden.

Don't stop there, the list continues... on weekends he works at a farmers market and in the fruit and vegetable section of a local supermarket. Daniel also grows all the vegetables for his family, sells his own produce and maintains a large part of the garden devoted to his vegies, orchids, chickens and rabbits.

His passion began by spending many hours working with his grandmother and grandfather (who he lovingly refers to as Oma and Opa) in their vegetable garden from a very early age. In doing this, Daniel was able to develop his motor skills and learned to read and write using vegetable cards.

Daniel has a photographic memory and has encyclopaedic knowledge about all things gardening, particularly vegetables and orchids. He is always experimenting with new varieties of vegetables and planting methods – one year growing 34 varieties of tomatoes. He is a real ambassador for fresh produce and the 'from fork to fork' philosophy.

Also a highly recognised orchid grower and breeder, Daniel has over 500 orchid plants that he tends to – mainly cymbidiums but also some natives and cattleya. He is continually winning prizes within the clubs of which he is a member, as well as at the Royal Adelaide Show. He is currently working to create a new colour combination for International distribution.



Daniel has been a fan of Neutrog for many years. He says that 95% of all fertiliser he uses on his orchids and 100% of what is applied to his vegetables are Neutrog products. He was using Rapid

Raiser on his vegetable garden for a few years until he switched to Seamungus and saw "great results". He is now excited to start using Rocket Fuel, as he says that rotating the three different fertilisers over a lengthy period of time breaks the cycle to give the plants and soil a more diverse range of minerals.

When Daniel talks about **GOGO Juice** you can hear the enthusiasm in his voice. "GOGO Juice is a fantastic product, especially for young seedlings and when replanting" he says. "The plants get a really good boost and they establish so much faster... it's amazing!"

Daniel uses either Rapid Raiser or Seamungus on his orchids when being re-potted. As he has just started trialling Strike Back for Orchids Liquid, he says "if it works as well as Strike Back for Orchids it will be a fantastic product".

Also a fan of Sudden Impact for Roses, Daniel applies it to roses, all flowering plants and even his tomatoes. "It works really good... you can see the difference

after using Sudden Impact. The plants have better quality flowers and there are more of them, and they are stronger and healthier plants".



Daniel aspires to self-sufficiency and sustainability. With his passion, enthusiasm, knowledge and ability to overcome obstacles, Daniel Lutz is certainly a young man that many young people and adults could learn a great deal from. To connect with Daniel, you can visit his Facebook page <http://www.facebook.com/daniel.lutz.581> or email danielrox43@hotmail.com.

Available NOW!

Seamungus and Strike Back for Orchids are now available in a 1 litre liquid concentrate. Ask at your local hardware store or garden centre.



FROM THE GROUND UP TIP:



Give your compost a kick - Dilute some **GOGO Juice** in a watering can and apply it to your compost heap for a faster breakdown.





Feeding community spirit

Have you been toying with the idea of growing your own veggie garden but don't know where to start? Or maybe you don't have the room at home? Why not consider getting involved in your local community garden.

Community gardens have been prevalent in Europe and the UK since the early nineteenth century. As early as 1819, plots were available to working class people, providing produce to supplement a family's food supply as well as offering a breathing space in crowded industrial cities.

Due to the economic hardship brought about by the Recession and World War 2, interest in community gardens surged and then declined afterwards, however the demand for garden plots around the world is again on the increase. Germany has more than 500,000 allotments alone, with around 35,000 each in Switzerland and Sweden.

Nunawading in Melbourne was the first Australian community garden to be established in 1977, and the Collingwood Children's Farm soon followed in 1979 when a community committee leased a small area of the convent gardens. The aim was to enable children living in an urban environment, often without backyards to learn to care for animals and nature and also have fun outdoors.

In these present times with more focus on sustainable living, healthy eating and 'getting back to basics', there is renewed vigour in the establishment of community gardens.

Networks are being established all over the

country...both in gardens and online to foster this healthy way of living.

The Glandore Community Garden in Adelaide was initially set up about six years ago. Group meetings can involve guest speakers and discussions on a variety of topics such as saving energy, how to grow organic vegetables and how to make your own environmentally friendly laundry liquid. Harry Harrison volunteers with the Glandore Community Gardens and is incredibly passionate about productive gardening and encouraging people on to their own garden path. One feature of the garden is a wood fired oven, in which the most delicious pizzas are made using fresh produce from the garden. Another feature is the amount of compost the gardens generate, using pigeon manure, food scraps, horse manure and lawn clippings.

A long time user of Rapid Raiser, Harry is currently trialling Neutrog's new product Gyganic on his avocado and fruit tree seedlings. "You can see the growth after applying Gyganic – it really sparked them up, especially in leaf colour" said Harry.

Most community gardens have a range of plot holders as well as a communal area for people who don't want to maintain a garden bed all year round but still want to get involved in gardening and share in the food.

Visitors and new gardeners are welcome. For more information or to find your local community garden, visit <http://communitygarden.org.au/category/community-gardens-in-australia/>

Community support for Drouin



The Drouin Golf & Country Club were targeted by vandals earlier this year when six of the greens were sprayed with an extremely strong and long-lasting residual herbicide.

We are pleased to hear that the turf has now been replaced thanks to a donation of 2,800 square metres of turf, and products and services contributed by businesses and other golf clubs who heard of their plight. Club President, Peter Daniel sent us this snap of some of the 70 members, volunteers and course staff who gave of their time proving that many hands do make light work! Great to see that they have given the turf the best start with Neutrog Blade Runner. Well done to all involved in the restoration project – a great community effort.

Gyganic for Fruit and Citrus

Gyganic is currently in development and being trialled by a number of commercial fruit and citrus growers and selected societies and groups. We are pleased to announce that after successful trials by The Rare Fruit Society SA Inc., they have given Gyganic their endorsement.

Keep an ear out for more 'Gyganic for Fruit & Citrus' news.



STOP PRESS

The prestigious 'Australian Rose Award' for outstanding service to the rose was presented to three recipients at the annual National Rose Society dinner over the weekend. We pass on our congratulations to **Kelvin Trimper** (The National Rose Society and The SA Rose Society Inc.) and **Veronica O'Brien** (The Victorian Rose Society Inc. and the Victoria State Rose Garden Supporters, Werribee Park), along with our very own Managing Director, **Angus Irwin**!

NEW PRODUCT LAUNCH: KAHOONA HITS THE MARKET!



Neutrog Australia is excited to launch their brand new product Kahoona into the market place. An organic based, chemically boosted fertiliser, Kahoona is specifically developed to enhance the growth and flower development of acid loving plants such as camellias, gardenias, azaleas and rhododendrons.

Kahoona is manufactured into a pellet form for uniform nutrient uptake and ease of application. Each pellet contains the full range of macro and micro plant nutrients along with a higher potassium to nitrogen ratio. It is this ratio which plays the most significant role in enhancing flower growth and development. In addition, the nutrient levels of iron and magnesium have been boosted to aid in maintaining healthy green foliage throughout the year.

We are also pleased to advise that following successful trials, Kahoona has been endorsed by the Camellias South Australia Inc. This endorsement provides you with the confidence to promote, use and recommend this product.

Further endorsements will be announced soon.

Available from all good garden centres and hardware stores.

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For more information, please contact:

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"... following successful trials, Kahoona has been endorsed by Camellias South Australia Inc"



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