

feedback

summer 04/05: watersmart gardening
flemington racecourse bishop's lodge
hunter valley gardens yalumba winery

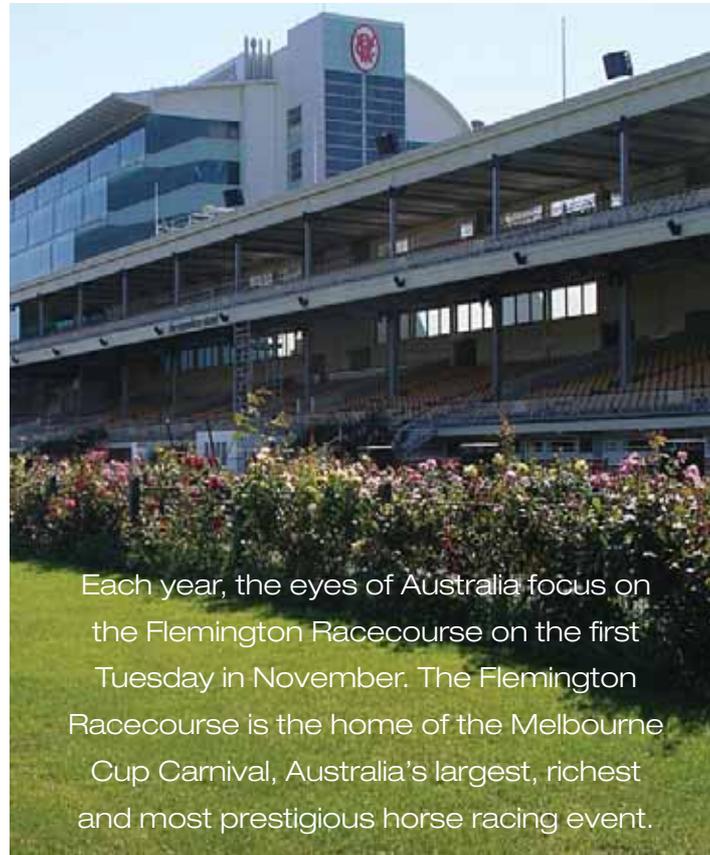
flemington racecourse

Each year, the eyes of Australia focus on the Flemington Racecourse on the first Tuesday in November. The Flemington Racecourse is the home of the Melbourne Cup Carnival, Australia's largest, richest and most prestigious horse racing event. The Melbourne Cup carnival, which started in 1861, now attracts over 370,000 people, as well as countless more that view the race on television. It can well boast to be 'the race that stops a nation'. A lesser known fact is that the Flemington Racecourse is the largest public rose garden in Australia. With more than 13,000 roses covering over eight acres, these roses make a spectacular display for the Melbourne Cup Carnival, but also continue to look stunning through into autumn. The rose gardens at Flemington were established in 1968 in an effort to minimise the cost and effort required to maintain the large annual beds which were a feature of the Racecourse prior to this time.

Amongst the many highlights of this beautiful rose garden are the 200 metre Rose Walk with over 1000 rose bushes, a special bed of the French bred Delbard Roses and a memorial garden dedicated to Princess Diana, Princess of Wales. Flemington Rose Garden has a close association with the Rose Society of Victoria.



SUDDEN IMPACT FOR ROSES FERTILISES OVER 13,000 ROSES AT FLEMINGTON



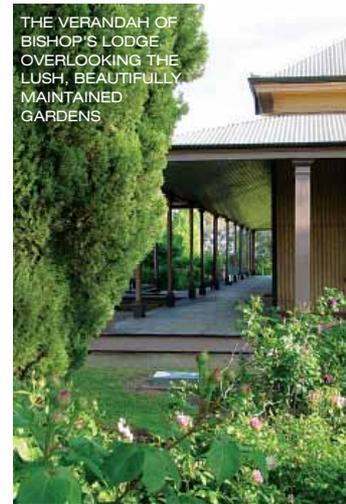
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Terry Freeman, the Grounds, Gardens and Facilities Manager at the Flemington Racecourse, along with his team of eleven gardeners, pride themselves on getting their roses to bloom on cue with the Melbourne Cup Carnival. They take great care to ensure that these roses grow at their peak and are as healthy and floriferous as is possible. After a trial in autumn 2004, Terry and his team started to use Neutrog's Sudden Impact for Roses as the specialist product for their roses. The trial was done using three different fertilizers, the rose fertilizer that had previously been used at Flemington, blood & bone and Neutrog's Sudden Impact for Roses. Three identical rose beds were trialed, and despite being late in the season, Terry was sufficiently impressed by the obvious improvement in the rose health that he changed to using Neutrog Sudden Impact for Roses.

The first application was made in early September with a second application made in late November and a third planned for late January.

The display of roses for Melbourne Cup day was impressive, despite the two inches of rain and major winds that buffeted the Racecourse just prior to Derby Day one week before the Cup. The roses bounced back after this onslaught. This increased resilience to climatic stresses, whether it be wind or drought, has also been noted by many other rose growers who use Neutrog's Sudden Impact for Roses.

Using Sudden Impact in early spring, late spring and summer will maximize the benefit of this premium organic based rose fertilizer to the plants. "We have always tried to use organic based fertilizers on the roses at Flemington", Terry said. "We find that these are friendlier to the soil and the environment. We also try to spray as little as is possible." Terry concluded "We believe that using Neutrog's Sudden Impact for Roses on our rose gardens will give us the best possible results with rose health and blooms. Otherwise, we wouldn't be using it!"



THE VERANDAH OF BISHOP'S LODGE OVERLOOKING THE LUSH, BEAUTIFULLY MAINTAINED GARDENS

Bishop's Lodge is a remarkable iron building at Hay, in New South Wales. It was constructed in 1889 as the official residence for the first three Anglican Bishops of the Riverina. Between 1935 and 1946 it also became the Linton House hostel for boys attending the Hay War Memorial High School. From 1946 until 1985 it was a private residence. The house and its charming nineteenth century garden are now maintained as a house museum by the Bishop's Lodge Management Committee.

In 1985 the Hay Shire Council purchased the property and the conservation of the property became Hay's major bicentennial project for 1988. This work was completed between 1986 and 1990. As well as the wonderful features of the house, the property features an acclaimed collection of heritage roses in a delightful nineteenth century garden.



Originally the garden covered an area of 21 acres planted with more than four hundred ornamental and fruit trees. Today the garden area is 3.5 acres. Various environmental conditions changed the nature of the garden over time. During the second Bishop's time (Bishop Anderson), the gardens were more formal, with well kept lawns, less tall trees and lots of roses - the rose garden being established between 1895 and 1915. When acquired by the Shire Council, the garden was in a state of utter neglect, with some fifty old rose bushes still managing to flower.

Volunteers have been working over the past eighteen years restoring

s lodge

the gardens to the former glory of Bishop Anderson's time. They have reconstructed the 'Hidden Garden' rose garden with its beautiful rose arbour, rebuilt trellis to support the vines, and the kitchen garden, along with the picking garden and shrubbery have been re-established. Existing trees have been protected by the Heritage Act and the rose gardens have been reconstructed. There are over 500 roses in the garden, including many of the original varieties, some of which are still to be identified. Roses featured in the garden include Alister Clark's Australian bred roses, species roses, hybrid perpetuals, hybrid musks, rugosas, bourbons and noisettes.

Bishop's Lodge is the headquarters of the Chaffey Rose Club, a branch of the Rose Society of South Australia. Many of the garden volunteers are also members of the Chaffey Rose Club. As a result of this, the roses at Bishop's Lodge are fed using Neutrog's Year Round Fertilizer Program for Roses, a winter feeding of Bounce Back followed by an application of Neutrog's Sudden Impact for Roses in spring, summer and autumn. "Initially we trialed Sudden Impact for Roses on the roses in our 'Hidden Garden'", said Colleen



Houston, a member of the Bishop's Lodge Garden Committee. "Many of these roses are the original roses planted by Bishop Anderson. The results were tremendous. We

noticed increased vitality and well being in these original old roses. They produced more blooms and had less disease problems." She concluded, "The results were so impressive that we decided to feed all the roses at Bishop's Lodge with Neutrog Sudden impact for Roses."

Bishop's Lodge is open to the public every week from Monday to Saturday, 2 to 4 pm. A number of special events are held, including a spring market held each year on the third weekend in October. These events draw huge crowds from both the local area and further afield. More than 3000 people visit Bishop's Lodge each year, not including those that use the property for a wedding venue.



100 YEAR OLD ELMS, EXTENSIVE LAWNS AND GARDENS SURROUND THE WINERY

Yalumba's story spans six generations of Australian history. It is the oldest family owned winery in the nation's premium wine area – the Barossa Valley. Founded in 1849 by Englishman Samuel Smith, Yalumba has built a reputation for handcrafting wines, with a strong and distinctive regional flavour.

From humble beginnings, Samuel Smith's original 30 acres have expanded to over 580 hectares (1400 acres) and Yalumba has an enviable reputation world wide as a producer of distinctive, consistent premium quality wines.

Their goal is to be the finest independent wine company in the Australian Wine Industry. Labels under the Yalumba portfolio include Heggies, Hill-Smith Estate and Pewsey Vale at Eden Valley, Jansz in Tasmania, Nautilus Estate in the Marlborough Region of New Zealand and Oxford Landing alongside the Murray River in South Australia.

A cross section of awards received by Yalumba in 2004 includes the top awards at the 2004 Adelaide, Perth and Melbourne Wine Shows. In Adelaide it was a Top-Gold medal for Yalumba Shiraz + Viognier 2002 (Barossa), in Perth a Top-Gold medal for Yalumba The Signature Cabernet Sauvignon and Shiraz 2002 (Barossa), and in Melbourne, it was Top-Gold for Yalumba Y Series Viognier 2004.

At Yalumba, no aspect of the wine making process is left to chance. Yalumba is the only winery in

Australia, and one of a select few around the world with its own on site cooperage. It also established its own vine nursery in the 1970s. Today, the Yalumba Vine Nursery is one of Australia's largest viticultural nurseries, supplying high quality vines to winemakers throughout Australia.

Yalumba also has a comprehensive environmental management plan which spans the whole of the Yalumba family business. This plan has a broad spectrum approach, comprising an integrated vineyard management system (which is a holistic approach to ensure that the product delivered to the winery gate is clean and green), the setting aside of land as a wildlife and animal sanctuary, and waste reduction and recycling programs. Yalumba recently became the first Australian winery to join the Greenhouse Challenge – a national initiative dedicated to reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Those that have visited Yalumba know that not only do they produce a very fine drop, but the grounds of the winery itself are also very "fine". Four ground-staff maintain the gardens around the 70 acre winery site. Even in production areas, garden areas are used to add beauty, soften the sheds and to screen the winery from the surrounding countryside. The garden around the tasting area and office complex includes eight

acres of lawn, and magnificent old trees, including elms which are over 100 years old.



Brian Linke, the Grounds Supervisor, is passionate about gardening and the gardens at Yalumba, having worked there for the past 30 years. He has propagated or germinated many

of the newer plants that grow on the site. "I prefer to use organic fertilizers if I can, because they are better for the soil and the plants", Brian said. "We have been using Neutrog's fertilizers here for the past ten years. Despite the saline water, limestone base and extreme heat of the summer months, we have still been able to create a wonderful garden." Brian continued, "The benefits of following Neutrog's Year Round Fertilizer Program on both the gardens and the lawns have been dramatic. We have noticed an increase in pest and disease resistance, an increase in earthworm activity and an increase in drought tolerance. Despite the heat of summer, we still manage to keep all the lawns looking lush by watering just once a week. The roses have also improved since we started using Sudden Impact for Roses."

Yalumba have been making wine for more than 150 years and they are committed to sustaining their success.

watersmart gardening

Water conservation continues to be the focus of gardeners across the nation as they look to make their gardens more watersmart. Aside from the focus on plant selection (choosing plants that are appropriate to our gardens individual conditions), mulching, and adopting efficient and effective watering techniques where required, we also need to consider what can be done to improve our soil's structure and consequent water holding capacity.

The addition of organic matter to the soil, whether it be in the form of composts, mulches or organic based fertilisers, helps to improve the soil's structure, as well as promoting earthworm and microbial activity. This results in an increase in plant root growth, increasing the plants' ability to draw moisture and nutrients from the soil in the summer. Our plants will then be happier, healthier and better able to withstand the stresses due to heat or limited water.

The old belief that we apply fertilisers to 'feed the plants' has been replaced by an understanding that organic based fertilisers 'feed the soil' and that as a result of this the plants grow better.

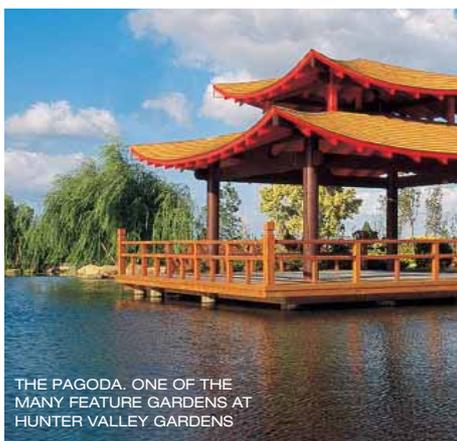
So, to help your plants and garden beat the heat ...and the water restrictions follow **Neutrog's Year-Round Fertiliser Program**



"Happy, healthy plants don't get sick, and they can better withstand heat stress". This can be achieved by following **Neutrog's Year Round Fertiliser Program** in your garden. Summer is not generally a time when people think to feed their gardens, but the application of **Bounce Back** to gardens and **Blade Runner** to lawns will result in sustained healthy growth, extended flowering and reduced inclination to pest and disease problems. Summer feeding with manufactured or 'chemical' fertilisers can actually be harmful to plants in the hotter months, because they promote a lot of lush new tender growth that is easily scorched in the heat.

Bounce Back is a perfect fertiliser for gardens in summer. It replaces nutrients which the plants have expended in their spring flush and allows them to continue to grow and flourish. Similarly **Blade Runner** used on lawns in summer ensures a healthy lush green lawn. It is a slow release organic fertiliser that is lower in nitrogen, reducing the build up of thatch in lawns, and also reducing the need for extra mowing.

hunter valley gardens



THE PAGODA. ONE OF THE MANY FEATURE GARDENS AT HUNTER VALLEY GARDENS

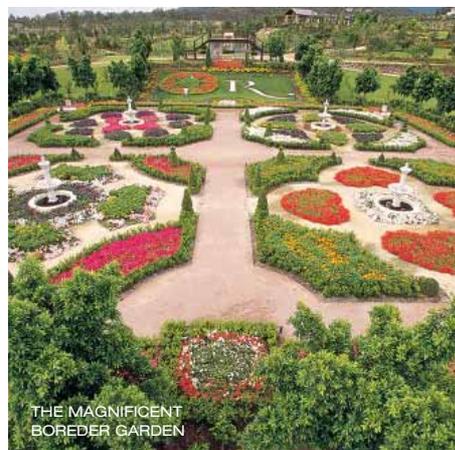
Nestled in the foothills of the Brokenback Ranges in the heart of the Hunter vineyards, is the Hunter Valley Gardens which opened to the public in October 2003, and has already become one of Australia's most significant tourist attractions. It has over 25 hectares of superbly manicured gardens, surrounded by luxury accommodation, a boutique shopping Village, Harrigan's Irish Pub and the magnificent Hunter Valley Vineyards. Awards received since it opened include the Best Significant Tourist Attraction, Best Meetings and Business Tourism and the Best Deluxe Accommodation 2004 at the "New South Wales Tourism Awards for Business Excellence".

Created by Bill Roche and his family, who form the Australian-owned company Roche Group, Hunter Valley Gardens is one of the larger employers of the region, it has in excess of 220 staff, including 50 for gardening services and maintenance. The centre-piece of the property is the 25-hectare display gardens. The master plan was designed with sight, colour, fragrance, shape and form very much in mind. Bill Roche has been personally involved in every detail, regularly walking the site to position the myriad of features as well as the plants and trees, and even deciding where seats should be placed. Visitors can immediately sense the passion behind the creation of the gardens. Bill says, "I have always loved the beauty of a well formed garden and the opportunity to share this with people from all over the world will be a great thrill."

Eight kilometres of walking paths wind through the twelve feature gardens. Each garden is unique, enhanced by a variety of rare statuary and unique architecture. These unique gardens include :- the Italian Grotto (which features a magnificent statue of St Francis of Assisi, patron saint of birds and animals), the Wishing Fountain (which is ideally placed in the classic European

Formal Garden), with the Chinese Moongate Garden only a stroll away, the Mosaic Tea Garden, (which is entered through 180-year-old antique traditional Indian elephant gates), and the Sunken Garden (which features a 10-metre waterfall). Visitors can also relive their childhood with their favourite larger-than-life fairytale characters in the spectacular Children's Story Book Garden, where you can join the Mad Hatter for a cup of tea!

The scale of this amazing garden is extraordinary. There have been over 6,000 trees, one million groundcovers and 600,000 shrubs planted so far. It is estimated that 500,000 annual flowers will be planted each year. An orchard, comprising 1244 fruiting trees with over 90 different varieties of fruit, nut and olive trees supplies the many restaurants on the property. Over 30,000 roses are planted throughout the property, which will make Hunter Valley Gardens the biggest show garden of roses in the



THE MAGNIFICENT BOREDER GARDEN

Southern Hemisphere. Eight thousand roses are planted in the formal Rose Garden where the array of colour and scent is spectacular. All the roses in Hunter Valley Gardens have been fed with Neutrog's Sudden Impact for Roses.



FIRST CLASS DINING AND ACCOMMODATION ARE PART OF THE HUNTER VALLEY EXPERIENCE

Hunter Valley Gardens have a strong commitment to environmental sustainability, which incorporates vegetation recycling, composting, mulching, utilization of integrated pest management and water recycling. General Manager, David Mulham, says that "We also

have a preference for using organic based fertilisers. This will help us improve the soil's structure and reduce artificial chemical use."

The whole garden provides an exciting journey among plants, trees and shrubs, giving every one a sense of discovery at every turn. Guided tours are available.



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