

feedback

summer 2005/06



gardening on
a grand scale at
carrick hill

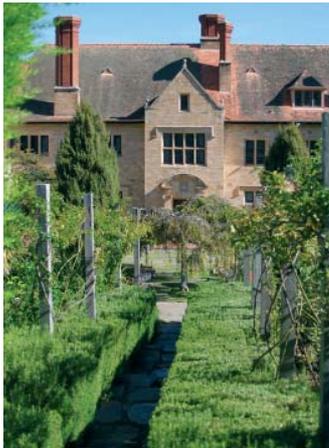
CSIRO testing bush tucker looking overseas
national rose garden at woolmers, tasmania
new products reviewed



Carrick Hill

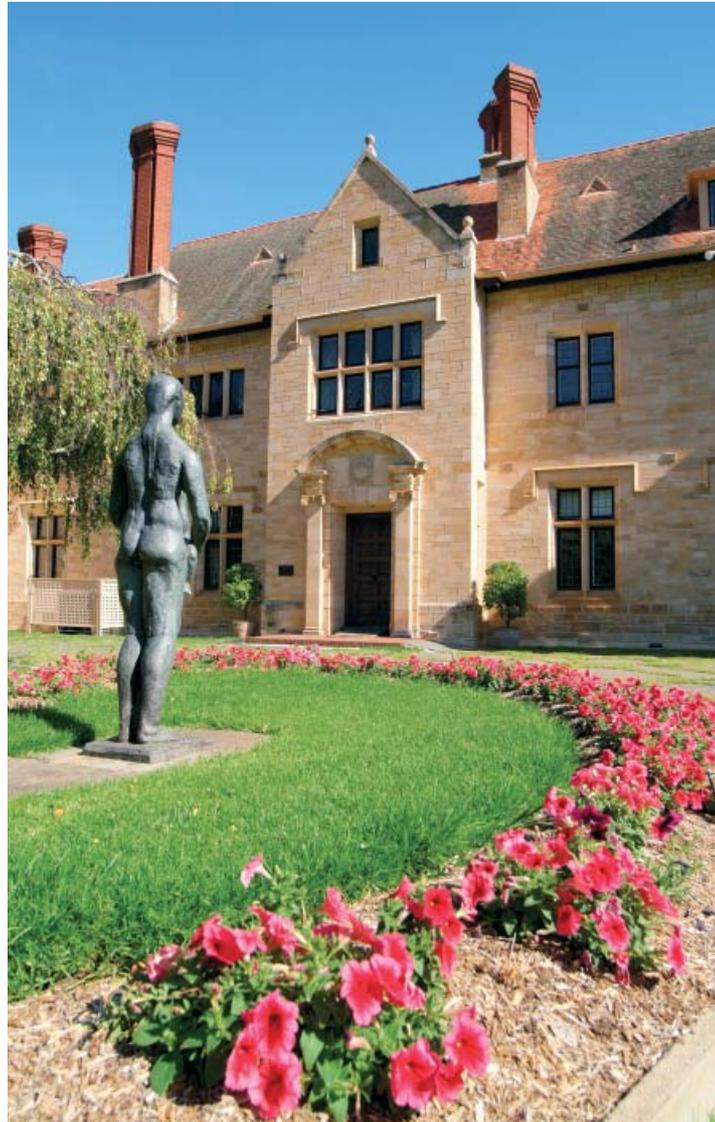
Carrick Hill is without a doubt one of Adelaide's best known and loved historic homes. Situated on the hills face at Springfield, this 100 acre property is fortunate to be one of the few period homes in Australia to survive with its original contents almost completely intact and its grounds undiminished.

The beautiful Carrick Hill estate is the result of the marriage in 1935 of members of two of Adelaide's most prominent families - Edward (Bill) Hayward (son of the wealthy merchant family, who for more than 100 years owned John Martin's Ltd, once Adelaide's greatest department store, and who was later knighted for his service to the community and to business) and his bride, Ursula Barr Smith (daughter of an even wealthier family of pastoralists).



The land on which Carrick Hill now stands was a wedding present from Ursula's father. During their year-long honeymoon they acquired much of the sixteenth, seventeenth and eighteenth-century panelling, doors, staircases and windows from the demolition sale of Beaudesert, a Tudor mansion in Staffordshire, England. The house was designed around these fittings, with the overall appearance of a seventeenth-century tudor style English manor house.

Between 1937 and 1939 during which time the house was constructed, Ursula designed the garden. The 32 acres surrounding the house takes advantage of the sweeping views over Adelaide and St



Vincent's Gulf. The formal gardens, citrus orchard, pleached pear arbour, nuttery, cutting beds, poplar avenue, paddocks and bushland are as highly individual as the house's art collection. Ursula Hayward was a devoted gardener and collected a number of exotic trees, many almost unknown in Adelaide at the time. The main features are currently being returned to their original state as they were during the lifetime of the Haywards. There are ideal settings in the garden for open air concerts, theatrical performances and private

functions, and the sweeping lawns, pear arbour and rose gardens are very popular for weddings.



HEAD GARDENER, LIZ TREBILSIE

The gardens and grounds of Carrick Hill are maintained by two full time staff, as well as volunteers and TAFE students studying horticulture at Urrbrae, and are supervised by head gardener Liz Trebilsie. "Trying to maintain such a large garden with just a few of us can be a challenge", Liz says. "It is certainly an 'all hands on deck' job, but I love it. Whilst developing and maintaining the garden we look for things that we can do to make our tasks easier", she continued. "We try to keep the garden as healthy as we can by feeding everything well, and to do this we utilise Neutrog's fertiliser programs. With roses we follow the rose feeding program, while the garden and lawns are fed following the general garden and lawn feeding programs." For further information visit www.carrickhill.sa.gov.au



PLEACHED PEAR ARBOUR

The National Rose Garden at Woolmers

Situated on the banks of the beautiful Macquarie River at Longford within the historic Woolmers Estate, the National Rose Garden displays one of the finest collections of roses in the Southern Hemisphere. Twenty minutes from Launceston's city centre, this two hectare garden was officially opened to the public in 2001.

The garden was established with a desire to develop a nationally significant Rose Garden in Tasmania. The historic Woolmers Estate is arguably the most important and intact example of colonial settlement in Australia and has been granted museum status. Woolmers Estate was seen as a mutually beneficial site for the garden, enhancing the success of the estate as a tourist attraction. It is privately owned through a trust and managed by a board of volunteers.

The Garden aims to give visitors a "walk through the history" of the rose. The garden contains all of the recognised



rose families ranging from the earliest European and Chinese roses through to the roses of the twenty first century. The educational focus of this garden is a dominant theme.

Designed by architect Peter Watt, the plan of the garden is formal and symmetrical. The central parterre garden has sculptured beds and grassed pathways. To date more than 4500 roses have been planted. Other features of the garden include a lily pond, an elegant 24 metre long rill

within the parterre garden, and an 80 metre long rose arbor planted with the highly perfumed 'Westerland' rose. A pathway runs the length of the arbor leading to stunning views of the historic village of Longford.

The maintenance and upkeep of this garden is done entirely by volunteers. Pam Hutchens, the head Rosarian, is a passionate rose grower. She works with a team of garden volunteers and also utilises 'Work for the Dole' participants and horticultural

students from the local tertiary institution. Pam believes that it is important for people to see which roses do well in Tasmania's conditions, and admits that plant health is a big factor in getting roses to perform at their best. "The healthier your rose, the more resistant it will be to pest and disease problems", Pam said.

The National Rose Garden at Woolmers is a showpiece of Tasmanian horticultural excellence. For further information visit www.nationalrosegarden.org.au.



CSIRO is conducting an extensive research project to learn more about 'bush tucker' and how to put Australian native foods on the menu. The Native Food Trial is investigating all aspects of the commercial production of our productive native flora including plants, seeds and fruits.

The fledgling native foods industry (excluding Macadamia) is worth an estimated \$14 million annually, but its export potential is yet to be realised because it

CSIRO Native Food Trials



BRUCE HAWKE, CSIRO AND DON MUDGE, JAMESTOWN SCHOOLS GROUNDSMAN.

can't yet guarantee regular supplies of high quality produce. CSIRO is seeking ways to lower production costs and increase quality in order to meet a growing demand for these products. The benefits include conserving wild resources and helping to protect biodiversity, utilising Aboriginal knowledge and valuing traditional lore, contributing to combating salinity problems by introducing more perennials, encouraging farmers to diversify from traditional crops

and creating incomes and jobs for Aboriginal and rural communities.

The project involves establishing a series of field trials in a range of conditions to test the survival, growth and yield of key native food plants including the quandong, elegant wattle, native citrus, mountain pepper, lemon myrtle, lemon aspen, riberry, bush tomato and muntries. Mini orchards have been established over nine sites across regional

areas of South Australia, Victoria and New South Wales, and major planting took place in 2001 with over 400 plants per site. A single replanting took place in mid 2002 to replace plants that did not survive.

All of the larger sites were drip irrigated, and compost and mulch were applied to assist weed control, conserve water and add nutrients to the soil, however there was minimal improvement in plant growth and vigour.

In October 2005 the trial started using Neutrog's organic fertiliser, and initial results look very positive. Yvonne Latham, Project Officer for the trial was very impressed. "The difference is remarkable. There has been an obvious improvement in plant health in a very short period". Further use of these fertilisers is expected to show even better results with an ongoing cumulative improvement in soil structure, especially in sites with low nutrient soils and low earthworm and microbial activity.



YVONNE LATHAM, PROJECT OFFICER INSPECTING SUNRISE LIME TREE AT JAMESTOWN

what's news



The Gold Coast Rose Society has recently joined the Rose Societies of SA, VIC, NSW & QLD in endorsing Sudden Impact for Roses. Angela Sully, secretary of the Society has found Sudden Impact to be "...terrific. Growing roses up here is extremely difficult because of the humidity, but since using Sudden Impact for Roses my plants are lush and healthy and the blooms have been fantastic."



The Geelong Botanic Gardens & the National Rose Garden at Woolmers in Tasmania have joined the impressive list of great rose gardens around Australia who use Sudden impact for Roses. These include Flemington Racecourse, Victorian State Rose

Garden at Werribee Park, Hunter Valley Gardens, Old Parliament House Gardens in Canberra, Chateau Barrosa, Morwell Rose Garden, Bishops Lodge and Carrick Hill.

The composition of Sudden Impact for Roses makes it an ideal fertiliser for all flowering plants.



Sudden Impact for Roses is now available in a new 20kg carton.

new products



Sudden Impact for Lawns

For those wanting to turn their ordinary lawn into something extra special, Sudden Impact for Lawns is the key. Suitable for all lawn types, this is a chemically boosted, organically based fertiliser in granular form making it easy to apply via a lawn spreader or by hand. The chemical component will give your lawn an instant green up, while the slow release organic component will have longer term benefits, allowing the nutrients to be retained in the soil without leaching (a disadvantage of the purely chemical based lawn fertilisers), particularly in sandy soils. It also helps to improve the soil structure and its water holding capacity, making your lawn more waterwise. The higher proportion of nitrogen to potassium encourages foliage not flowers, making this product also ideally suited for use on all non-flowering plants such as palms, ferns, conifers and leafy vegetables and herbs.

Sudden Impact for Lawns was applied to Adelaide Oval before the recent Test Match.

Seamungus

Seamungus is a plant and soil conditioner and tonic combining seaweed, fish, humic acid and manure. It is made using a unique composting process, and contains growth hormones and stimulants to improve plant health, encourage root growth, overcome transplant shock and improve resistance to pests and diseases and other environmental stresses. The composting process also ensures it to be free of parasites, pathogens and weeds. Seamungus can be used as a general tonic throughout the garden, when establishing new and bare rooted plants including roses, and for winter feeding of established roses as recommended by the Rose Society of SA. It's organic composition and low level of phosphorous makes it an ideal year round fertiliser for Australian native plants.



Unlike liquid plant tonics, Seamungus comes in a solid form for ease of application and only needs to be applied every six to eight weeks.



The Experts' Choice.

Looking Overseas



The demand for Neutrog's products overseas continues to grow – over the past 12 months in excess of 1000 tonnes was exported to countries such as Vietnam, Korea & Singapore – the latter included some Rapid Raiser for use in renovating the race track at the Singapore Turf Club.

The Neutrog Africa operation (manufacturing under license) was established in Cape Town in March 2001. It now employs 35 people and produces over 10,000 tonnes of Neutrog fertilisers a year, including exports to Zimbabwe, Kenya, Mauritius and Tanzania. Trials are currently being negotiated with Sudden Impact for Roses in Kenya where some 2200 hectares of commercial roses are grown under cover.

In a similar situation to Neutrog Australia, Neutrog Africa has received endorsement for Sudden Impact for Roses from the Western Cape Rose Society.

Not bad progress for a small family owned Australian business.

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