

# feedback

summer 2006/07

- 
- Cummins House SA
  - Sudden Impact for Roses
  - Laurel Lodge Victoria
  - Carawatha Native Nursery SA

# Cummins House

Cummins House was the family home of Sir John Morphett (1809–1892) – a land owner, politician and one of the founding fathers of Adelaide, who arrived from London in 1836. He was knighted in 1870, and died at Cummins House in November 1892, survived by six daughters and four sons.



Cummins House, named after Sir John Morphett's mother's farm in England, remained within the Morphett family until 1977, when it was purchased by the State Government to secure it for posterity as an important part of South Australia's heritage.

The house was built in 1842 and began as a five roomed square structure of red brick exterior. Many features were added later, including a large circular drawing room, an arched entrance porch along with the servant's quarters, kitchen and maid's hall. The out-buildings still intact today include the original dairy, laundry and ironing room which features a collection of over 200 irons on display.

The gardens provide a magnificent setting for this historic home – a stroll around the park-like grounds is relaxing

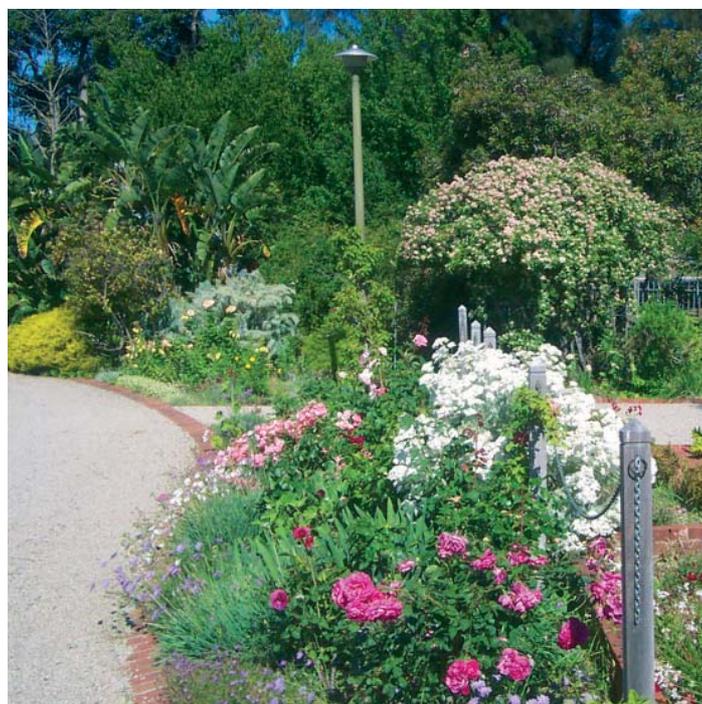
and a must for garden lovers. They are lovingly tended by a group of 14 volunteers, who have been using Neutrog's Sudden Impact for Roses for 6 years. "The roses are magnificent due to the application of Sudden Impact for Roses", Tom Gluis, the Head Gardener says. "Even due to the lack of rain and the heavy frosts this year, they are a continual delight to all visitors. We have to be careful about applying fertilisers the day before weekend visitors come, and in this respect, Sudden Impact for Roses is fantastic as it doesn't have a very strong odour". The heritage roses have been underplanted with dutch and bearded iris as well as many varieties of bulbs, which Tom has also seen blossom from the use of Sudden Impact for Roses with brilliant displays of color.

Additionally, the garden benefits from regular applications of Rapid Raiser. Tom says "Because the

gardens cater for weddings and functions, they are densely planted for color all year round amongst heritage trees, and Rapid Raiser is something all of the volunteers can spread on everything as a general purpose fertiliser without worrying about it affecting any historic plants". The volunteers are so impressed with Neutrog's products that they even use them in their own gardens at home. They are very proud of their efforts at Cummins House, and are looking forward to using Seamungus and Sudden Impact for Lawns in the near future.

Cummins House is located at 23 Sheoak Avenue, Novar Gardens in South Australia, and is open to visitors between 2pm and 4.30pm on the first and third Sunday of each month. The entry charge covers a guided tour and Devonshire Tea in the air-conditioned courtyard amongst the magnificent gardens.

For further information contact 8294 1939 or visit [www.wtcc.sa.gov.au/cummins](http://www.wtcc.sa.gov.au/cummins)



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# The Carawatha Native Nursery

The Carawatha Native Nursery is located at Wellington near Taillem Bend in South Australia, and specialises in native Australian plants. Brenton Tucker established the business in the Adelaide Hills 32 years ago, and has been at Wellington for 12 years.

Brenton propagates and sells not only trees, but many native shrubs and ground covers. 70% of his 20 acre property has been planted as a native garden, which is open to the public, and he is proud to say "The gardens have flourished with no artificial water for 8 years, which is fantastic considering that the area has a much drier climate than Adelaide".

Brenton has been using Neutrog's Rapid Raiser for 8 years with great results, as he needed something to rejuvenate the very infertile soils. He had tried numerous other brands before finding Rapid Raiser, but found them very slow to work, and now confidently says "Without the use of Rapid Raiser, there are certain plants that just wouldn't grow". He is very happy to say that he also uses Rapid Raiser on his

veggies with "incredible results", and has had fantastic results from recent use of **Seamungus** on ailing plants, which turn them from a sickly yellow to a vibrant green.

Brenton is also actively involved in the Australian Plants Society, which assist with helping the public and Society members understand more about Australian native plants, collecting and growing plants for their gardens, or doing something for the environment such as revegetation work. The Society is actively involved in several conservation initiatives, from managing a site that has the only remaining significant population of a rare and endangered plant, to returning a coastal habitat to what it was a hundred years ago. They are the only organisation to tackle the massive weed



Hakea laurina

infestation at a site near Cape Jervis, and restore the area to its original condition. The Society also holds special plant sales twice a year at the Wayville Showgrounds, where the public and members can purchase rare or unusual plants. At one of the meetings they hold a propagation evening, where everyone is invited to come and learn the sometimes challenging

skills required to grow Australian plants. For more information or to join the Australian Plants Society, visit [www.australianplantssa.asn.au](http://www.australianplantssa.asn.au) or give Brenton a call.

The Carawatha Native Nursery is open on weekends and public holidays between 10am and 4.30pm. It is also open most weekdays but it's best to phone Brenton first on 08 8572 7104.

## The Sudden Impact for Roses story

Sudden Impact for Roses began its life in 1996 as a specialist fertiliser for growing onions and potatoes in the Adelaide Plains, however in 1998 Neutrog was approached by members of the South Australian Rose Society who had tried this product, asking if Neutrog would be prepared to make some slight changes to the product analysis. Over the next 3 years numerous trials of various mixes were undertaken. This involved in excess of 20,000kgs or 20 tonne of product...enough to feed 200,000 roses! Various trace elements were added, and most significantly the ratio of NPK was changed from 10/2.5/10 to 9/4/12 - **making Sudden Impact for Roses an ideal fertiliser for all flowering & fruiting plants - not just roses.**

The product combines the best of both worlds. Its organic base provides a full range of plant nutrients in a slow release form,



whilst the carefully selected water soluble nutrients have been selected to maximize the performance of each application. The entire manufacturing process takes approximately 3 months from composting and aging to the actual pelleting process.

The resultant product was endorsed by the SA Rose Society, and launched on the 4<sup>th</sup> of August 2001 in the Adelaide Botanic Gardens.

In 2002 further trials were undertaken with members of the Victorian and NSW Rose Societies, and as a direct consequence some subtle changes were made to the product formula.

In early 2006 Sudden Impact for Roses was launched in South Africa, and is being manufactured from Neutrog Africa's factory in Cape Town.

Today, Sudden Impact for Roses is recommended and endorsed

by the Rose Societies of SA, Victoria, NSW, Queensland and South West WA. In addition, it has been endorsed by the Cape Town and Gold Reef Rose Societies in South Africa.

Most significantly, Sudden Impact for Roses is being used by most major rose gardens in Australia, including the Flemington Racecourse Rose Garden, the Morwell Rose Garden and the Victorian State Rose Garden in Victoria, the Old Parliament House Gardens in Canberra, the National Rose Garden in Tasmania, Araluen in Western Australia and Chateau Barrosa in South Australia.

Last year in excess of 15 million roses across two continents were fed with Sudden Impact for Roses—not a bad result given its humble beginnings!



# Laurel Lodge



The City of Greater Dandenong in Victoria covers an area of 140 square kilometres with 650 hectares of public open space and 120 hectares of ovals and sports grounds.

Nestled in the very heart of the City of Dandenong is the historic precinct of Laurel Lodge and Benga. Laurel Lodge is one of the oldest buildings in the area, dating from 1869 and initially began operating as an exclusive private ladies college. A number of local identities who contributed significantly to the area have also been in residence at Laurel Lodge over the years.

Benga dates back to the 1930's, and the garden is styled in a

formal cottage garden layout.

The Benga garden is a delight with wonderful planting diversity. Being a private residence for over 50 years, it is now the home of the first Oral History Centre of Australia, which documents the history of the surrounding district. Included within both gardens are a number of rare, mature trees, including a truly beautiful specimen of *Agathis robusta* which is commonly known as the Queensland Kauri. This is one of the few mature Queensland Kauri trees dotted throughout Melbourne and is over 130 years old. The Queensland Kauri has distinctive tan-orange bark which is lightly dappled with grey.

Benga and Laurel Lodge are now also very popular venues for weddings and wedding receptions.

What seems to get the most comments from travellers and passersby when they are in a new town? Is it the architecture? Is it the activity around the town? Is it the number of great eating places or is it the colour in the public parks and gardens? Most likely, it's a combination of all of these, but there would be few of us who do not take a great deal of notice of a well planned and planted annual bed.

Justin Herbert from the City of Greater Dandenong manages the gardens of Benga and

Laurel Lodge, and is also responsible for the planning and planting of the annual beds throughout Dandenong. "I am always interested in looking at options which are going to assist my gardens in accessing soil nutrients" Justin says. "I have used Neutrog's Sudden Impact for Roses and found it excellent for growth, health and flowering, and was particularly keen to use Seamungus... it sounded ideal. My plan was to use Seamungus on the annual beds and also around the gardens at Benga and Laurel Lodge. We began using Seamungus during the winter and the results have been fabulous, with strong, healthy growth and excellent flowering".

The horticultural team add Seamungus to the soil prior to planting, and also use it as a general application for established plants, particularly around the cottage plants at Benga, and have been taking particular note of how wonderful the annual beds have been performing. "Seamungus will now be part of our feeding programme as I believe that it is important to use environmentally friendly products, but also those that perform at the same time, and Seamungus perfectly encapsulates the two" said Justin.

Benga and Laurel Lodge may be contacted on 03 9793 4511 or via email [HeritageHill@cgd.vic.gov.au](mailto:HeritageHill@cgd.vic.gov.au)

**NEUTROG FERTILISERS**

**Neutrog Australia**

Neutrog was formed in 1988 and commenced operations in 1989 at Kanmantoo, 60 kilometres south of Adelaide. The factory site covers an area of some 20 hectares.

The company name 'Neutrog' was born from the combination of nutrients and organic to accurately reflect the true nature of the products manufactured.

Neutrog processes poultry manures drawn from the local industry. Manures are composted to a strict specification, and are formulated before being pelleted and heat treated in the processing plant. Neutrog has developed and refined the procedures and the efficiencies over the years, and now operates a sophisticated plant with an output of up to 8 tonnes of pellets per hour. From initial production levels of around 400 tonnes in 1988-89, the business has grown to now process in excess of 15,000 tonnes of pelleted fertiliser annually.

Neutrog's products are exported to many countries throughout the world. Neutrog has also licensed its technology to South Africa, and now operates a factory in Capetown.

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**A Quality Product.**

Neutrog has developed a range of high quality 100% certified organic products, which are manufactured to strict specifications. This consistent and reliable quality, and ready supply, has ensured the successful growth of Neutrog in the fertiliser market. The use of quality organic fertilisers continues to expand worldwide as growers search for safe, environmentally friendly and cost effective solutions. Pellets are easy to store, handle and spread - important whatever the application.

The range of Neutrog's fertiliser products are utilised by a wide variety of commercial growers and home gardeners alike - all demanding the best results.

## Register online for updates

To receive regular updates of new products, catalogues and newsletters, visit our home page at [www.neutrog.com.au](http://www.neutrog.com.au)



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