

feedback

summer 07/08



Dr Harry at home
Stewartdale SA
Strike Back for Orchids
Growing Pains
Greenacres NSW

Dr Harry Cooper

Born in Sydney in 1944, Harold Leonard Cooper, better known as Dr Harry Cooper or simply Dr Harry has had a love for animals since a young age. His father bred canaries, show poultry, racing pigeons and fox terrier dogs, and they always had a large group of Muscovy ducks. His first pet was a Muscovy duckling called 'Squeaker' (who lived in the house), and his earliest childhood memory is of falling asleep in the straw while his father was showing dogs.

As a primary school student Harry excelled in maths and history, and went on to be dux of the school. Secondary school was a different story though, with Harry saying he felt "like a round peg in a square hole", however he gained his certificate with two A's and four B's and went on to Sydney University, where he graduated with second class honours in veterinary science aged 21. Dr Harry still uses the black leather vet case which he bought with his second pay in February 1966. (He spent his first pay on a surfboard!).

Dr Harry's favourite drink is whisky and milk, his favourite pop group is Status Quo, and his favourite holiday destination is Ireland. Known for his trademark caps, Dr Harry has a collection of more than 80, and never leaves home without one. "I think they breed in the wardrobe" he says. He is also very partial to a good shiraz.

After graduating from University, Dr. Harry practised for two years in Gladesville NSW before travelling to the United Kingdom to work in the English countryside for two years. On returning to Australia he joined a partnership in NSW, specialising in horses, greyhounds and birds. In 1980 he set up his own practice in Annangrove, NSW - still specialising in greyhounds and birds, and five years later in June 1985 he married Janine, and their daughter Heidi was born in May 1986.



Dr Harry began his media career on breakfast television as the vet expert on a Sydney chat show. In 1984 he began talk back radio with Don Burke and then went on to 'Burke's Backyard' in 1986. In 1989 the family moved to a 600 acre property in Tasmania taking 9 horses, 27 cats, 4 dogs, 6 ducks, 3 geese, 80 budgies and a cockatoo. Here he set up his own veterinary clinic in Exton whilst also farming 1500 sheep. Due to the downfall in rural produce prices they were forced to sell the property in 1991.

After two years of hard work and not much to show for it, they rented for over two years before finally settling down at Relbia near Launceston, where they now live in a beautiful American Tudor house on a hill with 65 acres.

In 1993 Dr Harry hosted 'Talk to the Animals' on Channel 7 for four years whilst slowing down on his vet practice, and from 1997 until 2003 was host of 'Harry's Practice'. He then joined the 'Better Homes and Gardens' team in 2004, giving viewers' advice on their pets as well as his familiar house calls.

In February 2005, Dr Harry opened his beautiful property to the public as a hobby farm. "One of my main aims in life is to teach children a love, understanding and respect for animals - knowing they'll carry that through

to adult life and hopefully translate that into a love and understanding for their fellow man. The hobby farm concept will help to further this goal" he says.

The farm features Burmese, Siamese and Oriental cats - all of which Harry and Janine exhibit with great success. There are also Welsh Mountain ponies, sheep, lambs and miniature pigs, as well as rabbits and guinea pigs... not to mention the chickens and ducklings. There are countless other animals including mice, rats, birds, fish, dogs, ducks, turkeys, geese, pigeons, over fifty rare breeds of poultry, and Wilma - a 250kg pig.

Tours are personally conducted by Dr Harry or Janine when their busy schedule allows, and with the emphasis on touch and feel, both children and adults can handle the animals in the nursery. The tour also encompasses the working farm, of which 90% is wheelchair accessible.

After the tour, the Clucky Chook Café is a great place to have a drink or something to eat - this incredible English style building has vaulted ceilings and Tasmanian hardwood floors, with spectacular views from the huge verandah overlooking the lake towards Mount Barrow and the ranges beyond.

Dr. Harry's other passion is his roses - he has a huge collection of old fashioned roses, as well as many of the old favourites in both hybrid teas and floribundas.

He was first introduced to Neutrog through his good friend Graham Ross, and comments "Since using **Sudden Impact for Roses** and **Seamungus** my display has never looked better. Visitors are stunned by the vigour of the bushes, and the quality and profusion of the blooms".

"Even the foliage radiates a sense of stamina and well-being. I have never used anything better for my roses and my tall bearded iris and daylilies are flourishing and multiplying to a degree I've not seen before". Dr. Harry goes on to say "I have a part time gardener to help me with routine maintenance and she is 'blown away' by the way the roses look this year, particularly after a bad time in 2006 with the drought. It's the best rose food I've ever used by far".

The farm is located less than twenty minutes' drive from the centre of Launceston.

Bookings for the tour are essential, and can be made through the Tasmanian Travel Centre on (03) 6336 3133

...and don't forget your camera!

Stewartdale

Nestled near the Adelaide Hills township of Kersbrook is the garden of 'Stewartdale'. From the 1930's to the late 1980's this property was a working dairy. Much of the land was then subdivided, but this section remained intact with the large dam, homestead and shedding.

Jenni and Trevor Reece purchased the property in 1993 with visions of a large garden. Having a large dam was a bonus, however the garden was still planned with water efficiency in mind.

Apart from a few natives around the perimeter and the large pines along the driveway which were planted in the 1930's, only a small

neglected garden remained. The main garden was developed on the western side which is persistently hit by strong winds, so a windbreak of Castlwellan Gold conifers and a semi-circle of Evergreen Alders were planted.

Jenni says "We were lucky to have a deep top soil over a clay base and we continue enriching our soil by shredding and composting all of our prunings and cuttings. Along with adding our compost to the gardens the gardens are fed with Neutrog's Rapid Raiser".



This multi award winning romantic country garden features a formal seating area under the large 'Mop Top' Robinia, which is a favourite spot

in the garden for Jenni and Trevor, and after another 'Mop Top' unfortunately died a few years ago, Trevor has utilised the trunk by building a dove-cote on top.

Ballerina, Seafoam and Cornelia roses drape over the wooden railings overlooking the long lawned area. Pierre de Ronsard roses cover the arbour, whilst the Wedding Day and Buff Beauty also give good displays entwined with the Floribunda Crab Apple.

Living in the country presents some problems of its own, including the parrots which over recent years have frequently feasted on the roses of 'Stewartdale'.

Trevor and Jenni have come up with an ingenious solution to deter the parrots - a 'telegraph pole' on which fishing line has been strung - a simple solution which blends beautifully into the garden.

The most recent additions to the 'Stewartdale' story are the wooden garden shed made from recycled materials and the vegetable garden.

The health and vigour of the roses can be attributed to the Reece's love of gardening, the soil and the Neutrog feeding program of 'Sudden Impact for Roses' during spring, summer and autumn, with a winter application of 'Seamungus'.



Growing Pains

Many of you will already know Sophie Thomson, a renowned gardening expert. Sophie is a presenter on the ABC's Gardening Australia TV program, a regular contributor to the Gardening Australia magazine and Sophie also writes a weekly gardening column for the SA Sunday Mail.

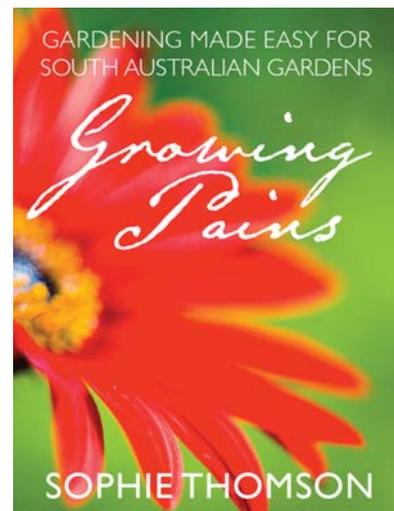
Some years ago Neutrog approached Sophie and commissioned her to write a book, "Growing Pains", about "gardening made easy for South Australian gardeners". A very apt title

given that Sophie has mostly written this book between the births of her five children!

Plans are underway to produce a similar book for each state around Australia.

Growing Pains in SA will be released in time for Mother's Day 2008.

If you would like to register your interest in gaining a personally signed copy please call 1800 656644 or visit www.neutrog.com.au





Greenacres

Greenacres is a 5 acre property situated in Sydney's North West. It is owned and lovingly maintained by Wolfgang and Renate Kohnertz.

The property was purchased about 20 years ago, and there has been a considerable amount of hard work, imagination and a lot of trial and error gone into developing one of the most superb private gardens in Australia. Greenacres has been a finalist in the Australian Garden of the Year Competition, and has also featured prominently on a number of occasions on television programs such as 'Better Homes and Gardens' as well as 'Burke's Backyard'.

The gardens are abundant not only with annuals and perennials but also with many rare shrubs and trees, and there are hundreds of roses, along with a huge variety of flowering plants. At the rear of the property behind the dam are walking trails that wind through masses of different native shrubs and plants.

Wolfgang is now enjoying semi-retirement, and both he and Renate are very passionate about their garden. Neither have any formal horticultural training; they are self taught gardeners,

which is even more remarkable when you reflect on the extensive layout of this beautiful property.

Wolfgang and Renate have been using **Neutrog's Sudden Impact for Roses** on all of their flowering plants for some time, and have been extremely pleased with the results. "Using **Sudden Impact for Roses** has given everything a tremendous boost, with increased flowering and a reduced incidence of pests and disease" says Wolfgang. Renate adds "The roses are so damn good it must be the **Sudden Impact for Roses** working!"

More recently they have been using **Seamungus**, which has proven to be an excellent tonic for their whole garden as well as fantastic for their natives. "We are very impressed with the speed of recovery of the plants from the colder months and the growth has been terrific". Wolfgang said.

Greenacres has proven to be a very popular destination for garden clubs and community groups to visit. If your group is interested in visiting Greenacres, phone Wolfgang on 0428 284 747. Unfortunately children are not permitted due to open areas of water.

Successful Seamungus carrot trials

Vic Szabo from Sustainable Horticultural Crop Management (an independent consultancy firm) recently conducted a series of trials in South Australia on potato and carrot crops using **Seamungus** before planting.

Seamungus will retain up to 70% of its own weight in moisture.

The trial results demonstrated significant benefits including improvements in soil condition, water retention, plant health, yield return and cost benefits.

If you would like further information on these trials please forward your enquiry to info@neutrog.com.au



Strike Back for Orchids

Neutrog commenced development of **Strike Back for Orchids** in early 2006 through establishing trials with various commercial orchid growers and via the members of a number of Orchid clubs throughout Australia. Success in these trials has resulted in **Strike Back for Orchids** being recommended and endorsed by the Cymbidium Orchid Club of SA.

Strike Back for Orchids is an organic based, chemically boosted fertiliser specifically developed to enhance the growth and flower development of orchids – it is also suitable for all potted flowering and fruiting plants.

As orchids are grown in an inert medium with little or no nutritional value, **Strike Back for Orchids** has been developed with this in mind, and has added

magnesium, iron, manganese, zinc, copper, boron and molybdenum to the existing range of nutrients provided by its organic base, to supply the plant with everything it needs.



To find out the release date of **Strike Back for Orchids** and your nearest stockist of Neutrog products, register online at www.neutrog.com.au or freecall 1800 65 66 44.



To receive regular updates of new products, catalogues and newsletters, visit our home page and register your email address at www.neutrog.com.au



NEUTROG
FERTILISERS

The Experts' Choice.

Neutrog Australia Pty Ltd
Mines Road, Kanmantoo
South Australia 5252
T (08) 8538 5077
F (08) 8538 5094
E info@neutrog.com.au
W www.neutrog.com.au

For stockists freecall 1800 65 66 44 or visit www.neutrog.com.au