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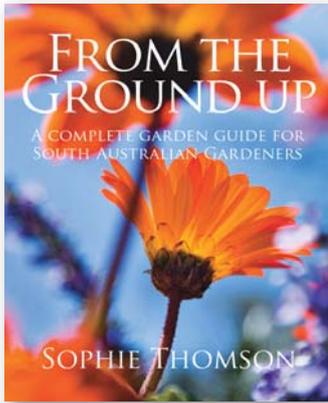
summer 2009

From The Ground Up book launch
Araluen Botanic Park
Royal Tasmanian Botanic Gardens
Walter Duncan



Angus Irwin (Neutrog's Managing Director)
Sophie Thomson (Author & Gardening Australia)
Keith Conlon (Channel 9's Postcards, FIVEaa)

From the Ground Up



Five years after Neutrog commissioned Sophie Thomson to write a book specific to gardening in South Australia, 'From the Ground Up' was finally released in November last year. It is a collaborative effort utilising the recommendations of many South Australian plant experts, combined with Sophie's vast plant knowledge and experience. Following the success of the book, plans are underway to produce books specific to other States.

From Sophie's Introduction to 'From the Ground Up'

"When Neutrog Australia first broached the idea of sponsoring me to write a book about gardening in South Australia, I was immediately interested and excited about the proposed project. Put simply, gardening is my passion.

Over the past 15 years, I have spent many hours talking to home gardeners around South Australia. Be it on talkback radio, at Garden Club meetings, or more particularly in my role as a home garden consultant, I am constantly asked about the various problems home gardeners are encountering in their gardens.

'From the Ground Up' has been developed in the hope that it can answer many of these questions for a broader audience and, at the same time, I trust that it will help ease some of the pain and frustration from their gardening experience!

I believe that happy gardeners make for healthy souls, just as healthy soils make for happy plants!

For their part, Neutrog Australia have long been keen supporters of gardeners throughout this

State - regularly sponsoring myself and others to carry out talks to Garden Clubs and most significantly, teaming with the Rose Society of SA Inc to develop the very successful product, 'Sudden Impact for Roses'. This fertiliser has now also been endorsed by the Rose Societies in Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland, and is used by nearly every major public rose garden in the country, including the famous Flemington Racecourse Rose Garden.

Starting from a small factory at Kanmantoo in the Adelaide Hills, Neutrog has grown to now include a licensed operation in Cape Town, South Africa. From these two factories, Neutrog supplies some of the most magnificent grounds and gardens around the world - from Kirstenbosch Botanic Gardens in Cape Town and the Singapore Turf Club to our very own Botanic Gardens of Adelaide, as well as AAMI Stadium. Neutrog is well recognised as a supplier of premium high quality fertilisers.

This kind of prestigious use, along with their numerous product endorsements certainly gives me the confidence to personally use Neutrog's products and recommend them throughout the book.

The book has been created to cover the basic principles that relate to gardening in South Australia, as well as to suggest some 'sure fire' plants that gardeners will have good success with, provided that they understand these basics. Whether people are new to gardening or have been gardening for a while, I am keen to introduce them to the joy that can come from gardening with a deeper understanding of the basic principles involved. Hopefully this book can be used as a ready reference for the future should things in your garden challenge you.

Gardening can be as hard or simple as we make it. Many experts try to complicate it, by getting themselves involved in the details, when a broad overview is a far better place for the novice to begin. I prefer to introduce people to gardening by simplifying the processes. The newer gardener or beginner will have success

even at a more basic level, so that they are encouraged to continue gardening and expand their knowledge and interests. Gardening should be simple and fun, and with basic knowledge specific to this State, I hope this can become the case.

Finally, don't forget that gardening is a very important component in our lives from the point of view of health and well being. Recently, a number of medical studies

have shown that gardeners live longer. I believe it provides a significant purpose in our lives. It helps to bring us closer to nature, it 'grounds' us, inspires us, and it can also help to provide relief from the stress and tension of our fast paced world."

Sophie

All the best and 'Happy Gardening'.

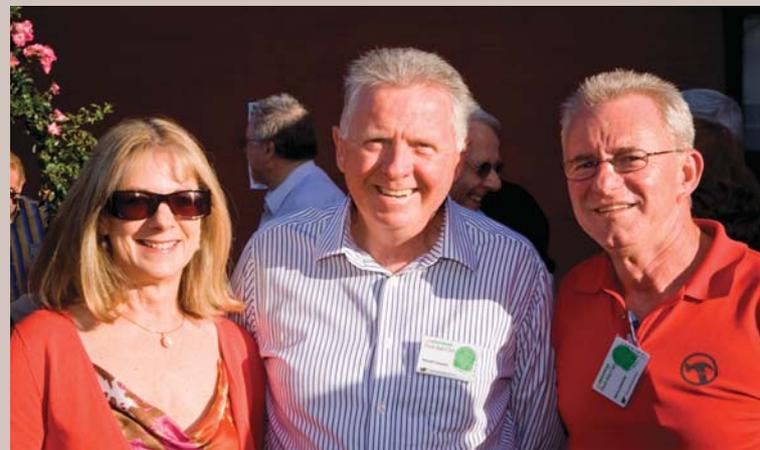
The launch of 'From the Ground Up' was held in the International Rose Garden at the Botanic Gardens of Adelaide on the 13th of November, and was officially launched by Keith Conlon (from Channel 9's Postcards, FIVEaa), who made everyone laugh with his very entertaining speech. Over 300 guests attended, including many South Australian and inter-



state garden personalities, including Jane Edmanson (3AW & Gardening Australia), Linda and Sandra Ross (2GB & Better Homes & Gardens), Jennifer Stackhouse (Gardening Australia Magazine editor), Michael Keelan (Out of the Blue & FIVEaa), Malcolm Campbell (ABC Radio) and of course Sophie Thomson.

'From the Ground Up' is a fantastic resource for any gardener - novice or expert. It is available from all good bookstores and garden centres.

Jane Edmanson
(3AW / Gardening Australia)



Annie Campbell, Malcolm Campbell (ABC radio presenter),
Morris Lamacchia (Bunnings Head Office, SA)



Nadia Matijevic (Adelaide Garden Design) Michael Keelan (Out of the Blue / FIVEaa),
Linda Ross (2GB / Better Homes & Gardens)

Araluen Botanic Park



Araluen Botanic Park is a paradise nestled in a deep valley in Roleystone, 35km south east of Perth. 'Araluen' is an Aboriginal word meaning 'singing waters', 'running waters' or 'place of lilies'.

In 1929, a holiday camp was established for Young Australia League members on the site which is now Araluen. Set on 60 hectares (150 acres), the garden was created by members and volunteers who built pathways, waterfalls and roads. Terraces were also constructed in memory of 88 Young Australia League members who died in World War 1.

The State Government purchased the park in 1990, which is now managed by the Araluen Botanic Park Foundation, a not for profit volunteer organisation dedicated to Araluen's cause. Many heritage buildings have since been restored to their former glory and much work has been done to the gardens, however this is an ongoing project – much of the work done by approximately 200 volunteers, some who contribute on a regular basis, others less often, but considered as the "lifeflood of the organisation". Weekly groups include the affectionately known 'Wednesday Wonders' and 'Deadheaders'.

Members of the Rose Society also come in to help with rose pruning.

Araluen's vision is 'To create a unique world-class botanic park of great natural beauty and tranquility which is accessible to and remembered by all who visit', and it certainly lives up to this. Magnificent stone terraced gardens and mature trees form the basis of the park with creeks flowing throughout. A moist, cool environment is created because of its location in the valley. Araluen's loamy soils and high rainfall has guaranteed the success of many exotic and native species of plants and trees, and plantings of camellia, rhododendrons, eucalyptus and jarrah have also continued since the early days. The park is abundant with magnolias, peonies, daphnes, tulips and lilacs - the millions of bulbs scattered everywhere create a riot of color in the spring.

As sponsors of the Rose Garden at Araluen, Neutrog is pleased to say that Araluen's collection of Tea Roses has now been identified as among the world's finest by the US Heritage Rose Foundation. Rod Ross, General Manager of Araluen expresses the view

that "Araluen's roses have never looked better – they are beautiful". Jacqui Davies, one of Araluen's dedicated specialist rose care volunteers from the 'Deadheaders' group shares this sentiment.

When the park started using **Sudden Impact for Roses** and **Seamungus** three and a half years ago, the use of sprays was stopped at the same time, in order to increase the roses' resistance to pests and disease. Gardens Manager Grant Nixon is pleased with the results, stating "Since we've started using **Sudden Impact for Roses** and **Seamungus** the roses have gone ahead". His tips for growing roses include regular applications of good fertilisers, regular dead heading, and not pruning them too hard.

Whatever time you visit Araluen, you will find the streams flowing, plenty of grassy areas on which to enjoy a barbecue or picnic or see the parks' native wildlife and wildflowers on many of the bush walking tracks. The park is located at 362 Croyden Road in Roleystone, and enquiries can be made on 08 9496 1171 or via email info@araluenbotanicpark.com.au

The Royal Tasmanian Botanic Gardens

Prior to European settlement, many years before sailing ships ever entered the mouth of the Derwent River in Tasmania, Aboriginal tribes established camps on what is now the site of the Royal Tasmanian Botanic Gardens (RTBG). Mounds of oyster shells can still be seen throughout the gardens as traces of their habitation. Historic structures including convict-built walls are also still standing.

The gardens were established in 1818 on the Queens Domain, which is a woodland area close to Government House – a short walk from Hobart's CBD. The gardens cover approximately 34 acres (14 Ha), and feature a number of significant trees and plants, many dating back to the Nineteenth century. One interesting specimen is the King's Lomatia - a shrub which has shiny green leaves and bears pink flowers, but yields neither fruit nor seeds. It is unusual because all of the remaining plants are genetically identical, and only one colony of King's Lomatia is known to be alive in the wild.

The Gardens also have the world's only Sub-Antarctic Plant House, accommodating one of the most unusual collections of plants not found anywhere else in the world. The 'House' measures 14 x 6 metres and has been designed in the shape of a tear drop, and climatically-controlled surroundings include chilly winds, fog and mist to house these rare plant species so they can be studied under realistic conditions.

Adding to the beautiful parklands there are extensive native collections of plants including many rare and endangered species, a Fuchsia garden, Japanese and Chinese gardens featuring maples and cherry blossom, a rain garden demonstrating innovative and environmentally sensitive ways of reducing the damaging effects of urban storm water runoff on the environment, as well as Peter Cundall's veggie patch (featured on the ABC's Gardening Australia TV program), where you can learn about organic gardening.

The RTBG have been using both **Sudden Impact for Roses**

and **Seamungus** for 3 years, and have recently incorporated **Sudden Impact for Lawns** into their fertilising program. Don Dabner is Secretary of the 'Friends of the Gardens' – these 170 members volunteer their time in tasks ranging from tour guide operators to propagating plants. Don's role is to deal directly with the 'Friends', and he comments that he has had a lot



Jan Kelly, Public Officer for the Friends of the Gardens with Gruss an Aachen blooms.

of feedback regarding Neutrog's products. "The feedback from members of Friends who trialled the products has been of the highest possible level" said Don.

"We trialled Sudden Impact for Roses and Seamungus, which made a real difference to people's gardens...they are really surprised and impressed with the results". Don goes on to say "The RTBG is now keen to trial **Strike Back for Orchids**, as they feature annually in the conservatory".

In fact, the RTBG have been so pleased with the Neutrog product performance that they have instigated discussions with Neutrog regarding endorsement of these products. Doing so would certainly be in keeping with the support and involvement Neutrog has with many such beautiful gardens, both in Australia and overseas, and we are proud to say that the list is getting longer.

Both adults and children can wander through the gardens or take a guided tour, enjoy a picnic or visit the gallery which has regularly changing displays by local artists, together with a display area containing the Gardens' own exhibitions. Enquiries can be made by calling Don on 03 6228 5624.

Walter Duncan

Walter Duncan is one of Australia's most highly regarded rosarians. He was the winner of the Australian Rose Award in 2007 and was awarded the TA Stewart Memorial Award and a Distinguished Service Award from the Heritage Rose Society in 2008.

His love of the rose was a gift from his mother, when at the age of 17, Walter broke his left hand and spent the next 13 weeks with his hand in plaster. His mother took him to the A. Ross & Son Rose Nursery where he learned to prune, as this was something he could do with one hand! At 19, his mother registered him as a member of the Rose Society of South Australia, and the following year he began pruning demonstrations, which he did for the next 20 years.

In 1960, Walter started writing cultural notes for the Rose Society, and was elected President from 1972 to 1974 and has been an Honorary Life Member since 1978. From a young age he loved the challenge of growing, pruning and feeding roses as well as the thrill of exhibiting - particularly Hybrid Tea and Floribunda roses, and grew old world varieties for pleasure.

His passion became his profession in 1976 when he established a rose and cut flower nursery 'The Flower Garden' which later traded as 'The Rose Garden'. Walter supplied bare rooted plants all over Australia, particularly to Melbourne and Victorian country towns.

His interest in roses led him to France in 1999 for an International Rose Conference,



Walter and Kay

where he took a bus trip on a "stinking hot day" to visit 'Rosaries Guillot' near Lyon. Here he met Jean-Pierre Guillot, and discussed with him the possibility of acting as an Australian agent for a new breed of roses called 'Rosa Generosa'. This breed of roses combines the wonderful fragrances of yesteryear's roses with the strength of today's roses, and Walter says "...these roses are hardy, drought tolerant, free flowering with a very even growth habit".



Walter was also responsible for the selection and the design of the old rose section of the Adelaide International Rose Garden. He was a lecturer at the 2008 Rose Conference in Adelaide and was a co-author of 'Botanica's Roses'.

Now calling the picturesque wine region of Clare Valley in South Australia home, Walter and Kay have established a 20 acre property at Sevenhill with over 2000 roses. Called 'The Heritage', it has featured in the TV series 'Postcards' and was awarded the 'Most Outstanding Garden in the Clare Valley' in 2004.

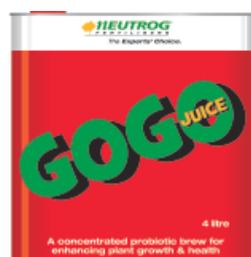
Walter has been using Neutrog for "a very long time". He initially started using **Blade Runner** on his turf which had long term effects resulting in a thicker and healthier lawn. He has also used **Seamungus** on problem spots in the garden, which has produced "a definite action", however his favourite is **Sudden**

Impact for Roses. "The secret to disease resistance is good plant health, strong healthy foliage and plant vigour, making roses more able to repel mildew and other diseases...a feature of **Sudden Impact for Roses** is its all round balance and its ability to make the plants healthier to reduce the incidence of pests and disease" says Walter.

Kay and Walter have also established the very romantic 'Heritage Cottage B&B' on the property, which is a beautifully restored 120 yr old cottage - a visit to Walter and Kay's garden is a wonderful opportunity to stroll through the extensive rose gardens, enjoying the perfume of the old world roses, and experience the best of the Clare Valley wineries.

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Walter and Kay can be contacted on 08 88434022 or [www.theheritagegarden.com.au](http://www.theheritagegarden.com.au) or email [kay@theheritagegarden.com.au](mailto:kay@theheritagegarden.com.au)

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