

feedback

winter 2005



GRAHAM AND SANDRA
ROSS WITH DAUGHTER,
LINDA AND SON, KENT.

morphetteville
racecourse
australia's open
garden scheme
winter fertilising
native produce
3 new releases!

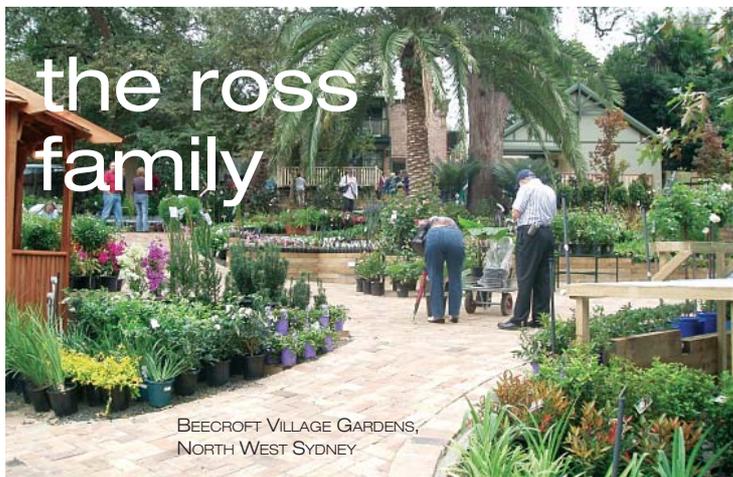
the ross family

The Ross family name is synonymous with gardening in New South Wales and across Australia. Graham Ross is currently best known for his television work on Channel 7's Better Homes and Gardens and his talkback radio program on Radio 2GB. Together with his wife Sandra, he has presented this three hour program on Saturday and Sunday mornings since 1980. It currently boasts Australia's highest gardening audience with 320,000 listeners. Graham was also the host of Channel 7's Ground Force for four years. In 1980 they established Ross Garden Tours International, a specialist garden tour company. They have taken more than 360 tours worldwide, visiting the best gardens around the world. In 2000, the Australian Horticultural Media Association presented Graham with its inaugural Electronic Laurel Award. This was in recognition of his horticultural radio and television contributions, in particular 2GB, Better Homes & Gardens and Ground Force television shows.

In 1982 Graham and Sandra established the Garden Clinic Club, which currently has over 25,000 members Australia-wide. The Ross's produce a high quality, full colour, A4 magazine, Ross Garden Magazine, over 80 pages long, for members of the Garden Clinic Club. This is the largest privately owned gardening publication in Australia. Other services for Garden Clinic members include prizes, member discounts on both holidays and plants at nurseries, access to daily Garden Advisory Services and entrance to exclusive lectures.

In more recent years, Graham and Sandra have been joined in their endeavours by their daughter, Linda and their son, Kent. Linda, a qualified landscape architect and horticulturist, joined the team at Better Homes and Gardens as a landscape architect and garden presenter. In 2004 she published a no nonsense garden design book called Design Your Garden with Linda Ross. Linda joins Graham and Sandra on 2GB, as a host on their garden tours and as Managing Editor of Ross Garden magazine.

>> continued inside



Their latest venture, which opened in May 2005, is Beecroft Village Gardens, a boutique garden centre in North West Sydney. This will also serve as the base for Ross Garden Tours International and the Garden Clinic Club. The logo for Beecroft Village gardens, "Plants are our passion", is demonstrated by the rare and unusual plants they specialise in, along side good stocks of more common plants. The Ross family and their team of staff aim to provide a high level of service, including full delivery assistance either to your car or to your home.

Beecroft Village Gardens also includes a library and meeting room facilities for Garden Clinic Club Members. These facilities can be used to relax or learn and be inspired about gardening. There are also plans for a coffee shop.

Sandra has used Sudden Impact for Roses in her own garden since it was first launched in South Australia in 1999. "I just love it", she said, "It's the best!". "Since feeding my roses with Sudden Impact for Roses, my roses flower better, for longer, and they have more vigour.

This in turn makes them more resistant to fungal diseases. In Sydney, we struggle with roses due to the fungal diseases which flourish

in our humidity. I find that I can now get away without spraying for fungal diseases. Sure, my roses still get a bit of black spot, but they are definitely happier and healthier". Consequently, since its official launch in NSW in July 2004, the Ross family have been keen supporters and promoters of Sudden Impact for Roses. They recommend it to their listeners and readers, and have more recently been selling it through Beecroft Village Gardens.

For further information about Ross Garden Tours International and the Garden Clinic Club visit www.rossgardentours.com.au or visit them at Beecroft Village Gardens, 83 Beecroft Road, Beecroft.



Morphettville Racecourse, home of the South Australian Jockey Club, has seen some major changes over the last five years. This racecourse was developed in 1874, and apart from some minor upgrades to a small section of the track, it has remained the same for over 125 years. After the washout of the 2000 Adelaide Cup, major renovations to the 150 plus acre site were undertaken. This included major earthworks for the construction of an all weather race track of international standards— involving the laying of more than 23 acres of instant turf and its accompanying irrigation infrastructure. In addition to this, a wetland was developed in the centre of the track for the reclamation, filtration and recycling of the storm water which moved through the site. The track hosts 37 race meetings a year, with the major event, the Adelaide Cup weekend, drawing over 40,000 people.

As part of the major renovations to improve the drainage and camber of the track, extensive earthworks took place on site. Huge volumes of soil were brought in to raise the level and to create an appropriate filling and batter for the new all weather track. In a cooperative project with the Patawalonga Catchment Management Board, wetlands were created within the open space in the centre of the track to improve the water quality in the catchment area. Soil excavated in the construction of the wetlands was used for the racetrack development. This represented significant cost savings for both projects.

Storm water from neighboring suburbs, a catchment of 150 hectares, is channelled through a series of wetland ponds. These ponds remove sediment, debris and other pollutants. Up to 600 megalitres of water, cleaned by the wetland via the filtration ponds, is pumped down into the underlying

aquifer (which is 75 metres below the surface), using an Aquifer Storage and Recovery Scheme. In the warmer weather this reclaimed water is then pumped from the aquifer as a sustainable supply of quality irrigation water for the racecourse. Prior to the wetlands development, the track and grounds at Morphetville were watered with poor quality bore water.

When this water became so saline that it was unsuitable for use on the track, mains water was used. The cost of using this water was capable of exceeding \$80,000 per year. Not only do the Morphetville Racecourse wetlands create a sustainable supply of irrigation water for the racecourse, they also reduce the amount of pollution which was previously discharged into the sea. The wetlands were established with over 100,000 aquatic plants of 30 species and are a haven for native birds.

Neutrog fertilisers have been used following the renovations in both the establishment of the new turf when the track was replanted in 2001, as well as part of the on going maintenance program. This organic fertiliser was initially incorporated in the ground beneath the turf as a "booster" to assist the instant turf to quickly establish in its new environment. Being organic, it did not burn the roots nor did the nutrients leach within the sandy soil.

"Sudden Impact for Roses" is used to feed the 1700 roses that grow around the racecourse and in the outer carparks with great results. Plants produce masses of quality blooms, whilst growth remains strong and healthy. A side benefit of using Neutrog's organic based fertilisers is the improvement in soil structure, along with increased earthworm and microbial activity.

At Morphetville Racecourse, the long term view is toward sustainable, environmentally friendly, practices.

Australia's Open Garden Scheme

Australia's Open Garden Scheme is a non profit organisation founded in 1987. Its mission is to promote the knowledge and pleasure of gardens and gardening across Australia. It does this by opening Australia's most inspiring private gardens to the public. Next year over 650 gardens will be open to the public as part of the Scheme. These will include 71 gardens in South Australia, 155 in Victoria, 180 in New South Wales and 87 in Queensland.

Gardens are intensely personal places, where many gardeners relax, find peace, and express their creativity. A great deal of effort and energy is put into creating their own little piece of Australia. Many people find it a privilege to have the opportunity to visit open gardens. As a result they learn more about gardening and about plants that are suitable for their area. Visitors can also see first hand what can be achieved and get a great deal of pleasure from experiencing a beautiful environment. After the openings, the garden owners themselves are usually aglow with the positive comments they have received about their garden and the incredible job they have done. A credit to the Open Garden Scheme is the wonderful amount of money that the organisation raises for charities Australia wide.

AOGS opens many private gardens that you would not normally be able to visit. The range of gardens is diverse from courtyard to inner city, and coastal to native gardens. Open gardens generate a really good community spirit and can involve gardening clubs and local organisations. These can include the CFS, schools, clubs and societies, such as the Mediterranean Garden Society and Garden History Society.

Since 1987, Australia's Open Garden Scheme has given over \$650,000 to community garden projects. More than \$2.5 million dollars has been donated by these garden owners to charities and local causes. Since it began, Australia's Open Garden Scheme has been involved in the funding of approximately 250 worthwhile community garden projects across Australia. These range from Botanic Gardens and horticultural colleges to therapeutic

gardens for hospitals and retirement villages. The Scheme has also contributed to the restoration of historic landscapes and the development of new community parks. Their commitment to the gardeners of the future is demonstrated by the substantial number of school gardens which have received funding.

One garden owner who has opened her garden since 1992, as part of South Australia's Open Garden Scheme, is Ruth Irving of Al-Ru Farm at One Tree Hill. Ruth's passion for the scheme is demonstrated by her two openings each year, one in August and one in October. Over the past thirteen years, nearly fourteen thousand people have taken advantage of the opportunity to visit Al-Ru Farm. "Being part of Australia's Open Garden Scheme is such a rewarding and pleasurable experience", Ruth said. "Sharing my garden with other people is a bit like 'baring my soul'. I love getting their feedback, and I also love having a deadline to work towards. It helps me to keep on top of the garden, making sure that it performs in a set period. My garden is always developing and changing. I think that developing a garden is an ongoing process. I find that many of the people come to visit my garden year after year, to see how it has evolved. Having charities involved is also great as they have the opportunity to raise some money through helping out on the day, serving refreshments or other fundraising activities."

"Personally, I love visiting other open gardens – it is such a wonderful experience" Ruth continued. "There is always some inspiration that I can glean from visiting another person's garden, and I love it when there are plants there that I can buy!"

Margaret Beard of Norwood, SA has opened her garden as part of Australia's Open Garden Scheme on a number of occasions. "It makes me keep the garden up to date", Margaret said, concluding that "I am inclined to let things slip if I don't have a deadline. People genuinely appreciate you sharing your private garden with them, as I do when I visit

another open garden." As for the frustrations that can occur when opening your garden as part of the Scheme, with dates chosen often more than twelve months in advance, Margaret said "You always aim to have your garden at its best, but often due to weather conditions it has yet to reach its peak or may even be past its best. Although this



RUTH IRVING OF AL-RU FARM

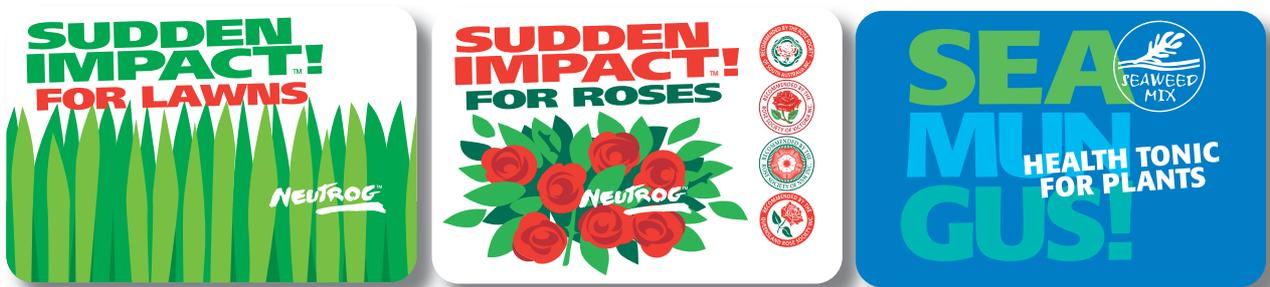
can be frustrating, most people that come and visit gardens understand and enjoy looking at gardens whether they are in full bloom or not."

More than 80% of gardeners who open their gardens as part of South Australia's Open Garden Scheme use Neutrog fertilisers. Like many other gardeners, Ruth Irving follows Neutrog's Year Round Fertiliser Program on her lawns and gardens and also uses Sudden Impact for Roses on her roses. Margaret Beard, as a member of the Rose Society of South Australia, has been using Sudden Impact for Roses since it was first developed and trialled by the Rose Society in conjunction with Neutrog back in 1999.

There are numerous ways to find out about Australia's Open Garden Scheme. The best way is to buy the guide, which is released at the beginning of each season and is available from all good bookstores and newsagents. The guide contains information about garden openings nationally and it is a great resource if you are travelling.

Alternatively, tune into gardening talkback programs and check local papers for further details.

3 great new releases!



A new 20kg pack of Sudden Impact for Roses will be available from this spring.

A new lawn fertiliser “Sudden Impact for Lawns” will be available in 2.5kg & 10kg pack sizes.

A new year round health tonic for plants “Seamungus” will be available in 2kg & 12kg pack sizes...packed full of goodness from the sea (including seaweed) your plants will just love it.

fertilising in winter for explosive results in spring

Fertilisers should do more than just feed a plant – they should feed the soil. By virtue of having healthy soil, we have healthy plants. Recognising this, people are taking a more balanced and holistic view to feeding their gardens. Quality organic based fertilisers, such as the range produced by Neutrog, do just that. They nourish and improve the soil by adding vital nutrients and organic matter, improving soil structure and drainage, and by encouraging earthworm and soil microbial activity. These factors are vital to maintaining optimal plant health which in turn, has the effect of reducing plant pest and disease problems.

For optimum results, organic based fertilisers should be applied on a regular basis, as recommended by Neutrog's Year Round Fertiliser Program. Developed, trialed and proven by experts, it provides consistent and sustainable growth of garden plants and lawns. This leads to gardens and lawns with less pest and disease problems. This reduces the necessity for toxic chemical treatments and therefore reduces the hazards to both the environment and the gardener.

This easy to follow Program makes people rethink their beliefs about when and how often they fertilise. The belief that they should just feed in autumn and spring is only valid for 'chemical fertilisers'.

These are leached too readily in winter and require higher soil

temperatures to be taken up by the plant. In summer they are ineffective, as they often promote lush new growth that is tender and gets burnt in the heat of this season.

Fertilising in winter gives your plants a head start in spring.



Rose Society of Queensland

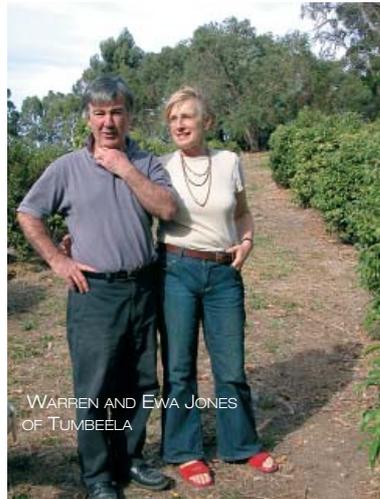
The Queensland Rose Society Inc has become the fourth Rose Society in Australia to endorse Neutrog's Sudden Impact for Roses. Already endorsing the product are the Rose Societies in South Australia, Victoria and New South Wales.



The endorsement of Sudden Impact for Roses by the abovementioned Rose Societies, coupled with its use by leading rose gardens around Australia including Flemington Racecourse, Hunter Valley Gardens, Victoria State Rose Garden, Morwell Rose Garden, Old Parliament House Gardens (Canberra), The Bishop's Lodge (Hay) and Chateau Barrosa, suggests a strong pedigree.

Queensland, although not often thought of by outsiders as a rose growing state, has many rose enthusiasts, not least of whom are members of the Rose Society of Queensland. The Society, which celebrates its 75th anniversary this year, has two branches, one on the Darling Downs and one on the Gold Coast. As president of the Society for the past six years, Tony Stallwood remarks, "We all learn to grow roses according to the climate that you are in. The humidity here on the coast causes a lot of fungal problems, but these are not as bad for those who grow roses in the drier heat further inland. After hearing about the results that the South Australian Rosarians were having with Sudden Impact for Roses, we decided to trial it up here. Personally, I just couldn't believe the results. I saw renewed vigour in old plants that were past their prime and the quality of blooms was definitely better. The leading exhibitor of roses in our Society was also more than impressed."

Tumbeela Native Bushfoods – growing native produce naturally



WARREN AND EWA JONES OF TUMBEELA

Tumbeela Native Bushfoods is at the forefront of the native plant food industry in South Australia. They produce premium quality Lemon Myrtle and Mountain Pepperleaf, two of Australia's finest culinary native herbs. It was established by Warren Jones in 1995 in response to the need to produce such native foods under farm conditions, so that the harvest could be sustainable and the quality reliable and consistent. Prior to this, the early pioneers of the bush food movement harvested natural bushlands to produce a flow of native product, a practise which was neither environmentally sustainable nor reliable with regard to quality.

The first trees were planted in October 1995 at Tumbeela's 3.5 acre property at Verdun in South Australia and there are currently more than 800 trees being cultivated and harvested. The two main varieties grown are Lemon Myrtle, *Backhousia citriodora*, a rainforest plant from northern New South Wales and Southern Queensland, and Mountain Pepperleaf, *Tasmania lanceolata*, an understory plant from Tasmania. Lemon Myrtle leaves can be used as an alternative to lemon, lemongrass or lime. They have a natural affinity to seafood, poultry and vegetable dishes, as well as stir fries and curries. Mountain Pepperleaf is superb with meats, pasta, curries, vegetables and tomato based dishes. Tumbeela markets these Australian herbs in fresh, dried and also ground form for use in fine cooking through leading

restaurants, quality retail outlets and international promoters of Australian cuisine.

"Everything involved in setting up Tumbeela has been a matter of trial and error", recounts Warren. "I knew that we needed to grow these trees under farm conditions but no one was able to tell me anything about spacing, watering or feeding – basically because no one had done it before. Eventually we came up with a successful formula that allows us to grow a consistent quality product and harvest all year round."

The trees are drip irrigated and fed around the tree's drip line in spring and summer with Neutrog's organic based fertilisers. "I wanted to compensate for the hot dry summers in Verdun that really knock these rainforest and temperate area plants, stressing these plants, making their leaves too hard and leathery. I tried using Neutrog's organic fertiliser three years ago. The resulting growth showed obvious improvements with brilliant green leaves that were much better quality after the summer heat. The leaf's increased resistance to heat while retaining its high quality, and without becoming leathery, was what we needed. There was also an improvement in the soil condition with a noticeable increase in earthworm activity."

"Sustainable farming practices are important to us, hence our use of organic fertilisers. In this case, the end product is the leaf and we don't want to do anything to damage or take away from that. I am no scientist when it comes to growing these plants, however I am in tune with them and I can see what works."



MOUNTAIN PEPPER



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