



# The Pooh Bah News



**Dear Pooh Bah Club subscribers,**

Winter has officially made its grand entrance, and what a cold start to the season it has been! Now is the time to start your winter fertilising routine to prepare your garden for a spring like no other.

This month we have some really exciting stories to tell, including an event hosted by Neutrog with the Adelaide Botanic Garden at our factory in Kanmantoo. We also explore the benefits of Kahoona, speak to Bernard Terry from the Brighton Community Garden in Western Australia and learn about the Durban Botanic Gardens in South Africa. We have also included a yummy recipe at the end of this newsletter, for those with laden citrus trees.

We encourage you to visit our social media pages for more news and stories and be sure to invite your friends to join the "Pooh Bah Club" by forwarding this email so they can also enjoy this newsletter.

Happy gardening!  
**The Neutrog Team**



## Photo of the Month / Crocus laevigatus by John Flens



**When choosing a Photo of the Month for June we couldn't go past these miniature flowers photographed by John Flens. John has perfectly demonstrated that 'beautiful' in the garden does not necessarily have to be 'big'.**

Whilst these delicate micro displays don't take up much space in the garden or overflow their pots, they still make a stunning impact with their neat, micro features.

**“Sometimes I think Crocus look more attractive closed, rather than open... this species is found in Greece and many of its islands.” — John Flens**

This is such a fascinating bulb which flowers beautifully in Autumn. It looks fantastic in pots, and when it's in flower you can move to a position where you can take full advantage of their blooms. Minute and dainty, and so worth the effort to track down the bulbs.

To the left are more of John's miniature captures including *Biarum davisii*, *Lachenalia longituba* and *Iris histroides*. You will notice a clever little feature amongst these images- they all feature a golden thimble to show just how small these delicate flowers are.

John's Facebook is filled with more of these stunning displays of flowers and an interestingly shaped hedge which we will explore in next month's newsletter.



[Click here to see more from John Flens.](#)

## Malcolm's 'Sweet' Retirement

If you knew Malcolm Maksimovic, our National Retail Sales manager, you'd know that he loves lollies. LOVES lollies.

So much so that we couldn't think of a better way to mark his retirement than with a parade of over 50 Neutrog staff, each gifting him a bag of Allen's lollies. It was a sweet send off...



All puns aside, Malcolm has been a genuine, inclusive, warm, pragmatic, thoughtful leader, who has developed our sales team through his natural ability to put people before anything else. The same goes in the way he has engaged with our retail partners like Bunnings and Mitre10 and our endorsing societies.

Generous with his knowledge and experiences, a trip to the coffee machine won't be the same without a story from "back in the day"!

We will miss you Malcolm (and Clyde), enjoy those sleep ins!

## Happy Birthday Helen!

Last month we celebrated Helen Lovel's milestone birthday.

Helen is our Customer Relationship Manager in Victoria, and is an extremely valuable member of the Neutrog team. Her love for horticulture and passion for helping gardeners has been nothing short of inspiring.

Helen regularly presents at garden clubs and society meetings- so many readers may recognise this smiley face, and distinctive rosy red car!



## Branded Trucks & Crest Contracting

After 16 months of planning, last week the team at Neutrog were excited to witness the new branded trucks arrive at our factory in Kanmantoo for the first time.

This development is a part of a bigger change at Neutrog as we welcome our new transport partner, Crest Contracting. Chicken manure for our fertilisers will now be delivered to the Neutrog factory via these branded trucks which will be operated by Crest.

The Crest team bring with them a wealth of knowledge and experience in the chicken farming industry, with owners Tyson and Jess Barolo also owning Redcrest Farm in Monarto, South Australia (one of the best performing Inghams farms in Australia).



# Planting Winter Vegetables

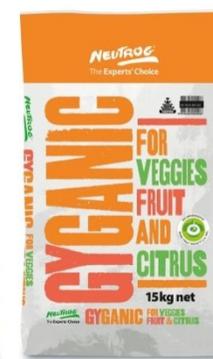
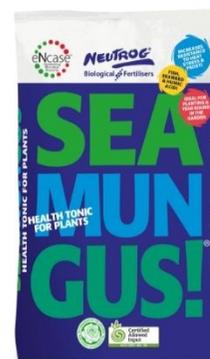


As the seasons change, temperatures drop and the days become shorter, there is nothing quite like relaxing indoors with a hot cup of tea. While the warmth of the indoors is tempting, there is still plenty that can be done in the garden so that by the end of winter you could be harvesting a terrific crop of vegetables.

June and July presents an ideal time to start planting out your vegetable garden with spring veges. There is a great selection of vegetables to choose from depending on your climate such as silver beet, broad beans, cabbage, spinach, onions, leeks, potatoes, turnips, and beetroots.

An application of Seamungus will give your veggies and herbs a great start when planting in winter. You can also incorporate Gyganic for Veggies Fruit & Citrus throughout the soil at planting. Cover the treated area with fresh untreated soil and allow the roots to grow down into the fertiliser. Apply Gyganic for Veggies Fruit & Citrus every 8 weeks and GOGO Juice fortnightly.

Mulching with Whoflungdung will also serve your vegetable garden well through winter and provides numerous benefits. Whoflungdung helps to suppress weeds, retain moisture and regulate soil temperature, while also adding nutrients into the soil for both beneficial bacteria and plants to feed on.



[Click here to learn more about winter fertilising.](#)

# Product Profile / Kahoona



## KAHOONA APPLICATION RATES / Pellet Form

Apply Kahoona as per the below measurements to pre-soaked soil around the drip line of the plants, avoiding contact with foliage or flowers. Water again well and apply again after signs of new season growth and thereafter every 8-10 weeks throughout the growing season (spring to autumn). In winter apply Seamungus.

ESTABLISHED PLANTS- 100g per plant.

ESTABLISHED POTTED PLANTS- 15g per 150mm size pot then additional 5g per 25mm pot size increase.

PLANTING - Apply Seamungus at 100g per plant.

**Kahoona is an organic based, chemically boosted fertiliser, specifically developed to enhance the growth and flower development of acid loving plants. This includes camellias, azaleas, rhododendrons and many types of berries such as blueberries and raspberries. Neutrog's R&D Manager, Dr. Uwe Stroehrer gives an interesting insight into acid loving plants, and why they need a specifically designed fertiliser to meet their needs.**

"Plants which prefer to grow in acid soils do best if given a fertiliser specifically designed for these plants.

The reason for this is because acid soils have a different chemistry than alkaline or neutral soils, meaning that certain nutrients are more readily available in acid soils. In particular, nutrients such as iron, zinc and manganese are freely available, whereas other nutrients such as phosphate and magnesium are more tightly bound in acidic soils.

This means that many acid loving plants have evolved to take advantage of this differential nutrient availability. Acid loving plants crave iron, zinc, and manganese while high levels of other nutrients like phosphate can be detrimental to these plants.

The basis of Kahoona is composted chicken litter which contains good levels of nutrients such as zinc and manganese which is normally found freely available in acidic conditions. Kahoona has also been supplemented with iron, adding to the nutrients that help maintain healthy green foliage and aide in preventing the yellowing leaves which are often seen in late winter and early spring. The level of phosphate has not been enhanced, since some acid loving plants find excessive phosphate toxic.

Furthermore, the high levels of potassium found in Kahoona is designed to not only strengthen the plants ability to hold onto the magnificent flowers produced by plants such as Camellias and Gardenias, but also to enhance their ability to withstand particular drying and heat stress."

[Click here to learn more about Kahoona.](#)



**Neutrog works alongside many gardening groups and we are happy to announce the Queensland Camellia Society who have recently joined us as an endorsing partner.**

**"Many members have been using Neutrog products for a number of years – especially Kahoona – with excellent results. Other Camellia Societies throughout Australia have endorsed Neutrog products and the Queensland Camellia Society is excited to participate in promoting these to our members and the public."— Queensland Camellia Society**

The Queensland Camellia Society (QCS) has been in existence since the early 1960's in one form or another. Meetings were held monthly – as they are now – and during the seventies various displays were held in banks, shopping centres and nurseries during camellia flowering season. From 1973 to 1978 camellia displays were put on in the Queensland Room at McDonnell & East, a department store in George Street Brisbane. In 1979 the Show was moved to the Mt Coot-tha Botanic Gardens and has been there ever since, with only a few years absence in the mid 2000's during the worst of the drought.

The Camellia Show's main focus was a wonderful display with hundreds of named camellia varieties on tiered stands. These blooms were all provided by camellia society members. Plant sales were added to this, and also sales of the QCS camellia Culture Book gave people a good insight into varieties and their care and culture. Our annual show and sales brought in a good amount of revenue and donations were made to the Children's Hospital and the Cystic Fibrosis Association.

The QCS has been instrumental in the establishment of camellia gardens in both the Mt Coot-tha Botanical Garden and the Brisbane City Botanic Gardens. This has been mainly in an advisory capacity, but the plants in the newly located camellia garden at the City Botanic Gardens were provided by our members at Camellia Glen.

The QRS have strong ties to the Australian Camellia Research Society – now Camellias Australia – and have hosted three national congresses in Queensland, the latest being in 2017 based on the Sunshine Coast. These congresses are held annually in a different State each year and give members an opportunity to see beautiful gardens and visit local attractions and meet up with like-minded people.

[Click here to learn more about the Queensland Camellia Society.](#)

# Adelaide Botanic Gardens / Partnership & Event

**On the 27th of May, the staff and supporters of the Adelaide Botanic Garden were hosted at the Neutrog factory in Kanmantoo for a range of tours and a formal lunch to celebrate our research and development partnership.**

This partnership will see the Adelaide Botanic Garden staff and Neutrog staff working together to trial Neutrog products in a range of applications in the Adelaide, Wittunga and Mount Lofty Botanic Gardens.

With a concerning amount of rain and wind on the lead up to the event, we were blessed with perfect weather resulting in a successful day.

Our guests were taken on a tour around the factory with Neutrog's Managing Director, Angus Irwin. They also joined R&D Manager, Dr. Uwe Stroehrer, in his lab to delve into the science behind our products, and finished with a commercial market presentation with Commercial Sales Manager, Daryl Higginson.

Lunch was enjoyed on the front gardens, with the greenery making for the perfect setting.

In our next newsletter we will discuss what the next 12 months has in store for this exciting partnership.



[Click here to learn more about the Adelaide Botanic Garden.](#)

# Neutrog South Africa / Durban Botanic Gardens



**One of Neutrog flagship sponsorships in South Africa is the Botanic Gardens in Durban. The Durban Botanic Gardens was established by the Natal Agricultural and Horticultural Society as early as 1849. The settlement of D'Urban at the time was little more than a village with three or four sandy tracks, an assortment of thatched cottages and huts, and a double-story house.**

Founding a botanic garden had been inspired by Cape Town's revival of the old Dutch East India botanic gardens in the centre of the Mother City. At first, Durban's botanic gardens was situated on the south bank of the Umgeni River, but it had to be shifted from this hippo- and croc-infested site to the lower slopes of the Berea forest in 1851. There it languished in splendid isolation, still visited by roaming lion, though somewhat cut off from the growing town by the famous Eastern Vlei, an extensive wetland.



The Durban Botanic Gardens began as an agricultural research station for the trial of agricultural crops that included tea, coffee, and arrowroot. However, it was sugar that proved to be the most successful and resulted in the development of the sugar industry in KwaZulu-Natal. Mark McKen, who was Curator of the Gardens at the time, was instrumental in bringing sugar to South Africa. McKen, having spent time at Bath Botanic Gardens in Jamaica, knew the sugar industry well and varieties such as Uba found their way into the Durban Botanic Gardens.

Today, the Botanic Gardens are a well-established part of the Durban experience. Events are often held at the gardens; however, playhouses and theatres have had to close due to the rise of covid. Organizers have instead opted for outdoor performances and productions in the gardens with Durban's winter weather creating the perfect setting! One such event that the gardens are well known for is the 'Trail of Lights' held in December, where the garden paths are illuminated with a magical display of lights.

Martin Clements, the current curator, is extremely appreciative of Neutrog sponsorship

**"We are currently using Bounce Back on our sunken garden and preparing the bed for our annual planting. With a Bollywood production shortly to be filmed here we need it to look its best. We also use Blade Runner on our lawns, and we are currently applying it to assist the lawns during the dry winter".**

As we introduce new products, Durban Botanic Gardens will be the first to trial them on their various plant beds and lawns.

[Click here to learn more about the Durban Botanic Gardens.](#)



## Bernard Terry / Brighton Community Garden

**Situated in Western Australia is a community garden that is much more than a garden. Brighton Community Garden Education & Resource Centre offers people of all ages the opportunity to contribute to a community project, but also to learn about gardening and health in an interactive way. Bernard Terry is one member who has played an significant role in this project since it's inception.**

"I was one of the people who helped to establish the Brighton Community Garden and have been the President since 2014. Gardening is a passion, I have enjoyed gardening for 70 years when, as a ten-year-old, I worked with my grandfather in the backyard of the family home growing vegetables. It helps to keep me young, I turned 80 this year and still feel like a 20-year-old thanks to getting my hands in the dirt! In 2019 I was awarded the Senior Citizen of the Year by the City of Wanneroo for the work I do with the garden. But I have to say that the community garden has given me so much back.

**"Along the way I have found that people garden for a variety of reasons; to interact with nature, to share, to find sanctuary, to heal, to honour the earth. Through gardening I feel refreshed and whole."**



The Brighton community garden was part of the commitment to the community made by the developer of the Brighton Estate of which Butler is a suburb. A small group of people came together in 2009, Josh Burn of Gardening Australia fame was commissioned by the developer to work with the planning group to design the garden. The official opening of the garden took place in 2010. Since then, it has been managed by a committee, but all meetings are open to all garden members.

In 2015 the garden changed its name to include the words, 'Education & Resource Centre' because the garden is committed to educating the wider community on sustainable and environmental gardening practices. Over the years we have held many workshops on various topics including how to attract bugs and insects to the garden, where students from the East Butler Primary School attended these workshops and helped to build Bug Hotels. They also come to the garden once a week and have their own plot where they grow vegies that they take back to the school and cook for their lunch.

A planning workshop is held every year in February at which decisions are made about what will happen throughout the year. As well as individual plots that gardeners rent, we have communal planting areas that all gardeners share the produce from. Also, the garden has 27 fruit and nuts trees, including olive trees that we make our own oil from. As part of the planning workshop all gardeners 'adopted' one of the trees and take responsibility for making sure that it is regularly fertilised and cared for in accordance with a schedule. This work takes place as part of monthly Busy Bees. The Busy Bees are a great opportunity for gardeners to socialise, and a cuppa and cake is enjoyed by all at the end of our work.

In September, we hold a 'Spring Lunch in the Garden', when we light the garden pizza oven making food from the produce grown in the garden. So, not only are we healthy from eating organic fruit and veg we are also keeping healthy mentally through building a strong sense of community.

The garden is committed to sustainable and environmental principles, which means that only organic pesticides and fertilizers can be used. To ensure that our garden is well pollinated we recently acquired a beehive, and we look forward to our first lot of honey later this year.

We are delighted to have discovered Neutrog as all their products meet our strict sustainable and organic gardening practices. We have been particularly impressed with Who Flung Dung, what a wonderful name for a product, we reckon you could stand in it and grow yourself! Our fruit and nut trees are thriving on Gyganic, Seamungus is a great allrounder, Gogo juice helps the keep the soil microbes healthy and Rocket Fuel, it just that, our vegies are healthy and happy."



[Click here to learn more about the Brighton Community Garden Education & Resource Centre.](#)



**We often associate the winter months with cold and wet conditions and a time when we can ignore the garden assuming “nothing much is happening”. However, for rose enthusiasts, this period should be busy with planting new roses and pruning existing roses.**

The average daily temperature in Adelaide in June is 16.1°C, in July 15.4°C and in August 16.6°C. These months are usually wet with an average rainfall about 78mm in June, 75mm in July and 68mm in August.

It must be emphasised that temperatures and rainfall vary significantly in other parts of the State during this period with it being colder and wetter in the Adelaide Hills, the South-East and Southern Yorke Peninsula and Eyre Peninsula. Frosts are also common in country areas. Evaporation rates are very low and sunshine hours also decrease in this period.

The Rose Society of South Australia have produced the Winter Rose Culture Notes which can be accessed using the button below. These notes serve as a valuable resource for successfully caring for your roses during winter including watering, mulching, flowering, fertilising, diseases, planting and pruning.

**Images supplied by Melanie Trimper.**

[Click here to view the Winter Rose Culture Notes.](#)



# Recipe / Lemon Slice

**Citrus trees everywhere are laden with fruit and what better way to use them than in the Australian favourite - Lemon Slice!**

This super easy recipe requires very few ingredients, no baking required and while it's called 'Lemon' slice, it can be made with oranges too, and makes a fantastic morning tea or school lunch box treat.

**Slice can be topped with a sprinkling of desiccated coconut or more lemon zest if you like it extra lemony!**

## INGREDIENTS

### BASE:

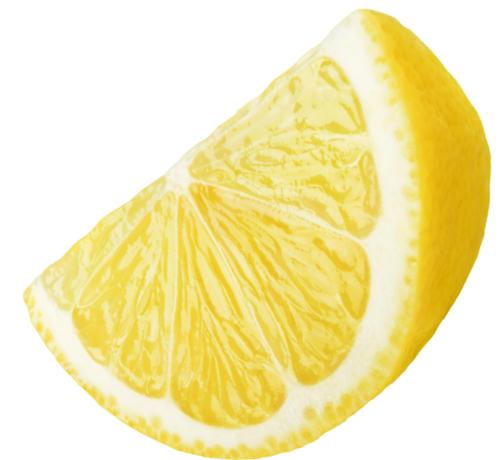
- 1/2 cup sweetened condensed milk
- 100g butter
- 200g biscuits (digestives, granita or similar)
- 1 cup desiccated coconut
- 2 tsp finely grated lemon rind

### ICING:

- 2 cups sifted pure icing sugar
- 20g butter, softened
- 2 1/2 tbsp lemon juice

## METHOD:

1. Grease a 3cm deep, 15cm x 25cm slice pan.
2. Line the base and sides with baking paper.
3. Put condensed milk and butter in a small saucepan and stir over a medium heat until smooth and combined.
4. Remove from heat.
5. In a food processor, process biscuits to fine crumbs.
6. Transfer to a bowl and add coconut and lemon rind and stir.
7. Add in the melted butter and condensed milk and mix well.
8. Press mixture over the base of prepared pan.
9. Cover and refrigerate for 1 1/2 hours or until firm.
10. To make the icing, put icing sugar, butter and lemon juice in a bowl and mix with a spoon until smooth.
11. Spread icing over slice and return to the fridge for the icing to set.



# Year Round Fertilising Guide / Winter

The plants in our garden are just like animals and humans - they grow best when they are well-nourished and fed regularly. Happy healthy plants don't get sick and are less likely to be affected by heat, frost, pests or diseases, which is going to make you a much happier gardener too!

Year round fertilising is not about applying more fertiliser but rather applying smaller amounts more regularly. Consider taking the quantity recommended for feeding your plants for the season and dividing it into equal parts, and apply 1 part in each month of the season.

At this time of year when there's not much happening above ground, we recommend applying Seamungus to your entire garden (there's still plenty happening below the ground). There are numerous benefits for doing this - Seamungus contains natural plant growth hormones which encourage strong root development (resulting in a greater root surface area for plants to take up nutrients), it encourages beneficial bacteria to populate and stimulate activity in the soil, and the seaweed component helps strengthen plant cell walls to cope with winter stress - particularly frost.



**Year round fertilising for year round health**

Like humans and animals, plants require regular feeding throughout the year – at least once in each season.

Happy, healthy, well nourished plants are more resistant to pests, diseases, heat stress and frost.

## PLANTING IN WINTER

Winter is the perfect time for planting! Use Seamungus, Rapid Raiser or Rooster Booster for any new plantings. Make sure the hole is at least twice the size of the root ball. Throw some pellets into the hole and mix through the soil, and water in with liquid Seamungus or GOGO Juice.



## NATIVES

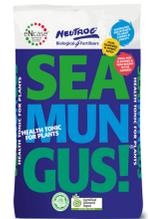
Established Australian natives, including phosphorous-sensitive natives such as grevilleas, banksias & non-natives in the Proteaceae family will all enjoy being fed during the winter.

There are some gorgeous grevilleas, acacias and hakeas to choose from now - your local nursery has an ever-increasing range of these beauties.



## HEDGES

Hedges love a fertiliser which has a higher nitrogen to potassium ratio, so during the growing season we recommend applying Sudden Impact for Lawns. In winter however, it's best to apply Seamungus, watered in with GOGO Juice. This will ensure great growth when spring arrives.



Once it is released, our new product 'BANG BANG for Hedges' will be recommended for fertilising your hedges.

## ACID LOVING PLANTS

Now is the time to feed azaleas, magnolias, rhododendrons and blueberries with Kahoona, as they are either in bud or coming into bud over the coming weeks. The higher potassium to nitrogen ratio within Kahoona plays a crucial role in enhancing flower development, whilst the boosted levels of iron and magnesium help maintain healthy green foliage, aiding in preventing the yellowing leaves which are often seen in late winter and early spring. All other acid loving plants such as camellias, daphne & gardenias will benefit from an application of Seamungus now, and followed up with Kahoona in spring.



# Year Round Fertilising Guide / Winter

## ESTABLISHED FLOWERING PLANTS

Now is the time to give your flowering plants (including roses, carnations, daisies, lavender and all other flowering plants) their winter feed of Seamungus before spring arrives. It will give them a boost when weather warms up. Make sure you water in well with GOGO Juice to activate the microbes in the soil.



## ESTABLISHED FLOWERING, FRUITING PLANTS AND ORCHIDS IN POTS

Sprinkle some Strike Back for Orchids over any plants in pots that flower in winter, such as begonias and hellebores. For your plants in pots that don't flower in winter such as fuchsias, they will appreciate a feed of Seamungus.



Many Cymbidium orchids are setting flower spikes now. Begin to feed 2 months prior to flowering and continue to do so whilst they're in flower. The pelleted version is used monthly and the liquid fortnightly.

## ESTABLISHED NON-FLOWERING PLANTS INCLUDING LAWNS

To get that beautiful lush growth which will be the envy of all, feed and water regularly. As we move into cooler weather, you can set your mower a little lower if you wish. Fertilise with Sudden Impact for Lawns and water in with GOGO Juice; sit back and wait for the compliments!



Now is a great time to fix bare patches in your lawn. Top dress the patches with Seamungus and spread lawn seed over the area. Water it in using GOGO Juice.

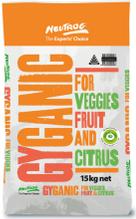
## VEGETABLES, FRUIT AND CITRUS

Some winter vegetables that grow well in drier parts of Australia include broad beans, broccoli, cauliflower, lettuce, peas, potatoes, garlic and spinach.

An application of Seamungus will give your veggies and herbs a great start. You can also incorporate Gyganic for Veggies Fruit & Citrus throughout the soil at planting. Cover the treated area with fresh untreated soil and allow the roots to grow down into the fertiliser. Apply Gyganic for Veggies Fruit & Citrus every 8 weeks and GOGO Juice fortnightly.

Winter is a perfect time to be selecting fruit trees for your garden. There are so many available including dwarf varieties which are ideal in large pots. At planting time, dig the soil to a depth 1 and 1/2 times the depth and twice the width of the pot or root ball of the tree you have chosen.

Dig plenty of organic matter through the soil. Rapid Raiser and Seamungus are perfect for this. Keep them well watered once they start to leaf up. Water in with GOGO Juice and apply monthly thereafter.



## SOIL CONDITIONING

GOGO Juice provides a huge boost of the living microbiology necessary for your soil and plants to perform at their optimum level, increasing their ability to resist pests and disease, and to withstand heat and frost stress.

The microbiology in GOGO Juice promotes plant growth as well as stimulating and improving root growth and development



## MULCHING

There are numerous benefits of applying Whoflungdung during winter, such as:

- It introduces a wide diversity of beneficial bacteria.
  - Beneficial bacteria act as a deterrent to pathogenic bacteria.
  - Weed suppression.
  - Moisture retention.
  - Encourages earthworms that aerate the soil and move nutrients deeper in the soil profile.
  - Improves water and nutrient-holding capacity.
  - Reduces, if not eliminates, nitrogen drawdown.
  - Puts organic material into the soil.
  - Regulates soil temperature.
  - Prevents erosion from heavy rain.
- Improves water absorbancy.



# More From Neutrog / Find out more!



In addition to our newsletter there are plenty of ways to keep in touch with us or to find out more. Below you will find link buttons to our Neutrog TV page (which is hosted by Youtube) where you can find a range of video's as well as copies of Dr Uwe's weekly chats with Graham Ross.

On Facebook we regularly post gardening tips, stories from gardeners who use Neutrog products to stunning effect, like Ted Angove on his avocado farm which will be featured in our next newsletter. We also feature staff news and videos from around the site. If you visit the page, make sure you click Like and Follow to ensure you keep seeing all the updates.

See you in July!

**The Neutrog Team**

## Our Partners

Over the years Neutrog has collaborated with many plant societies that have trialled and subsequently endorsed some of our products. These product endorsements provide retail staff and home gardeners with the confidence to use and recommend Neutrog products.

With a combined membership base of over 10,000, some of these endorsing societies include (click on a logo to head to their website):



and The Orchid Club of South Australia.

*We never have enough room in our newsletters to share all of our inspirational stories and tips from our gardening community, but they do appear on our Facebook and Instagram pages regularly...why not join us there?*

