



The Pooh Bah News



Dear Pooh Bah Club subscribers,

Winter will be upon us very soon with the arrival of May already welcoming cooler mornings and evenings, shorter days, and delicious slow cooked meals. Whilst the warmth of the indoors is tempting, there is still time to tend to your garden and prepare for your winter fertilising program.

This month we introduce you to Simon Tolley Wines, our new hedge fertiliser called BANG BANG for Hedges, and Bonbeach Primary School Green Thumbs. We also show you some of the projects we have been working on this month, and explore our Strike Back for Orchids Advanced Formula. There is a lot to enjoy in this issue of our newsletter.

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 / Pink Waxflower

As the Photo of the Month for May we have chosen this vibrant Australian native called 'Pink waxflower', or *Crocea saligna*. Late autumn to winter sees this plant blooming with masses of pink star-like flowers creating a display deserving of being shared for all to see.

This small Australian shrub originates in eastern New South Wales and naturally grows in sheltered locations on sandstone. These plants are best suited to warm temperate or cool temperate climates and prefer moist soils in sunny or partially shaded positions. The versatility of this species makes them trouble free and easy to care for in the garden.

The Pink waxflower not only has a stunning appearance in the garden with aromatic foliage, but they also attract plenty of bees and butterflies. This makes May the perfect time to feature the Pink waxflower as World Bee Day is celebrated on the 20th to raise awareness of the importance of bees, in addition to being the Australian native birth flower for May.

As a native, Pink waxflower responds well to year round fertilising which will help to promote resilience to any climate and pest stress and encourage beautiful blooms. Our product Bush Tucker has been specifically developed in consultation with native plant expert Angus Stewart and soil scientist Simon Leake, to meet the needs of all Australian native plants.

Its development and trial over a number of years resulted in a unique product that is recommended by the Australian Plant Society of Victoria. An organic-based boosted fertiliser, specifically developed to meet the specialised needs of all Australian native plants it contains trace elements that have been added to lock up phosphorus, making Bush Tucker ideal for even the most phosphorus-sensitive plants such as grevilleas, banksias and proteas.

Natives like the Pink waxflower also benefit from mulching to suppress weeds and retain warmth and moisture in the soil. Our product Whoflungdung is a super mulch that is biologically activated, nutrient rich and weed free. Whoflungdung is also absorbent, as it helps retain moisture and warmth in the garden, which improves nutrient uptake. It adds nutrients to the soil for both the beneficial bacteria and plants to feed on – significantly reducing, if not eliminating, the nitrogen draw-down issues that are associated with most other mulches.



As native expert Angus Stewart says,

"Whilst native plants are great survivors in the garden, regular feeding helps them to thrive and reach their full potential. The benefits of doing so are not only enjoyed by yourself, by insects, bees and birds, but perhaps more importantly, the environment benefits - the greater the plant growth, the more carbon is captured."



Stone Wall

The main entrance to the Neutrog factory at Kanmantoo is used daily by staff, visitors, trucks delivering poultry manure to the site and the trucks that transport our products to stores and commercial businesses around the country. This entry point has continued to undergo changes including the construction of these curved stone walls and most recently the addition of our logo (pictured above).

The walls were assembled by local stone masons and produce a beautiful contrast to our factory and office buildings, and the surrounding garden. We were excited for the long awaited addition of the logo, which sits proudly for all visitors to the Kanmantoo factory to see.



New Bulk Export Loader

A very exciting addition to the Neutrog factory is our new bulk export container loader. Previously when loading shipping containers ready for export the fertiliser was 'blown' into shipping containers. With this new piece of machinery the fertiliser is delivered into the shipping containers via a conveyor belt.



The loader is positioned so the arm is extended deep into the container, inside the protective liner and it slowly retracts as the container fills. Once it is full the liner is sealed, followed by the container and then it's on its way to our international customers.

Staff Lunch

At the end of each month our staff gather for a lunch cooked by 'Billy Dohnt Does'. This initiative has taken many forms, starting as a simple grab-and-go lunch to an interactive opportunity for each department to mingle. This month staff enjoyed a sit down lunch on the lush green lawn at our facility at Kanmantoo. The morning rain cleared to reveal a beautiful afternoon- perfect for our lunchtime event!

After a productive morning staff tucked into a spread of roasted meats and vegetables, salad and fresh bread, finishing with a sweet sticky date pudding with butterscotch sauce and vanilla cream.

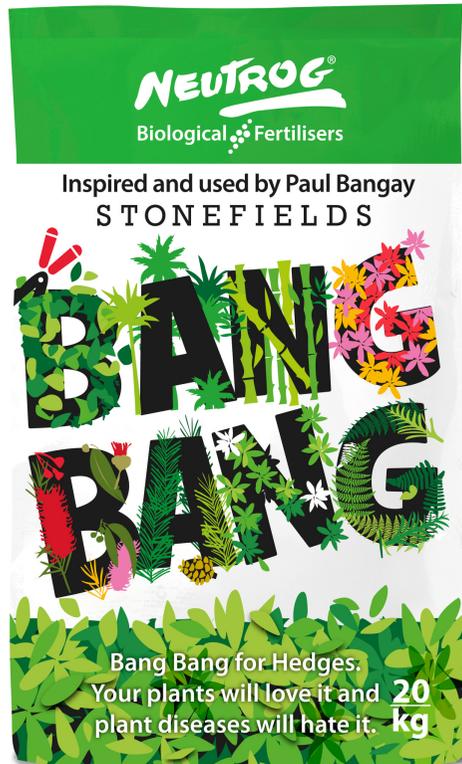


Welcoming a New Team Member

Julieanne Gommers is our new Production Manager who will provide support to our Operations Manager and the wider production team. She brings with her a wealth of experience, passion, and a skillset that we look forward to seeing in action here at Neutrog.



New Product Release / 2021



We are well known for our unique product names.

Our distinctive names initially started as a simple way to be noticed in a crowded market, but now, we see it as far more than that. The identity of each individual product must reflect the nature of the research, development, care, fun, energy and passion that goes into making all of our products unique and special.

And our first new release for 2021, needed a name that captured, an Australian first.

A specially developed biological hedge fertiliser, aligned with a family and a brand synonymous with iconic hedging in gardens around the world.

Ideas both obvious and obscure were contemplated, but historically the inspiration for Neutrog names start in unlikely places and in this instance it happened to be a passing comment during a conversation about favourite childhood films, specifically; Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, that created the spark.

When simplified to purely BANG BANG, the name cleverly references two unique elements. The first is the involvement of famous Australian garden designer Paul Bangay and his beautiful property, Stonefields (pictured below).

And the second is a reflection of the dual purpose of this biological fertiliser to feed a hedge whilst simultaneously helping to protect it against pests and disease.

BANG BANG for Hedges will be launched in 2021.

[Follow our Facebook page for updates!](#)



Our R&D Manager, Dr. Uwe Stroehler has been busy this month with the arrival of new equipment for the lab at our Kanmantoo facility.

Amongst the various pieces of equipment is a microbalance, a second incubator, vials, and a medical grade refrigerator and freezer. Each piece of equipment serves an important purpose:

1. This **microbalance** will allow Dr. Uwe to measure very small amounts of chemicals for use in his research. To add some perspective, your standard scale is approximately 100 times less sensitive than a microbalance.
2. This **medical grade refrigerator & freezer** is where bacteria can be safely stored long term, protecting them from fluctuating temperatures.
3. These **incubators** are used to grow bacteria and fungi, so having a second incubator will allow Dr. Uwe to grow these bacteria and fungi at different temperatures to observe changes in characteristics.



Nutrient Liberation Research

When Dr. Uwe isn't busy adding new equipment to his lab, he has been conducting research that involves testing soil from some of the best gardens, farms, and horticultural operations around Australia.

The purpose of this research is to compare the genetics of the soil to identify microbes that liberate plant nutrients such as potassium, phosphate, and nitrogen. Microbes are critical for making nutrients available for plants to use, however nutrients like potassium and phosphate are insoluble and become trapped in the soil and unable to be used by the plants.

Potassium is an important nutrient that allows your plants to hold onto its flowers and fruit, and is vital for the plant's ability to control water usage to improve drought resistance and decrease wilting of the plant.

For this reason, Dr. Uwe has successfully conducted tests on the soil samples to find microbes that can make potassium soluble so that it can be used by the plants. In figure 1 you can see a clear zone around the sample indicating that the potassium has been made soluble.

Once identified, these beneficial microbes can then be added to our products to improve them and give gardeners the advantage of using the very best microbiology in their garden.



Strike Back for Orchids / Advanced Biological Formula 1



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 Clubs of SA, NSW, WA and Victoria. Strike Back for Orchids is an organic based, chemically boosted fertiliser specifically developed to enhance the growth and flower development of orchids.

Strike Back for Orchids now has an updated formula called 'Biologically Advanced 1', which has bio control agents added to support plant health. This development follows extensive research by our R&D Manager, Dr. Uwe Stroehrer, who explains the process in a recent segment with Graham Ross 'The Garden Clinic'. Click on the button below to listen to this segment.

You can keep up with all of Dr. Uwe's discussions with Graham Ross on Radio 2GB, via our Facebook page.

[Click here to find out more about Strike Back for Orchids](#)

Simon Tolley Wines

You can tell when a person is truly passionate about what they do, and such is the case with Simon Tolley of Simon Tolley Wines. As a fifth-generation grape grower Simon has made a career out of doing what he loves while facing some extreme unforeseen challenges along the way.

Neutrog has had a long running relationship with Simon which started in the schoolyard with our Managing Director, Angus Irwin, and our Commercial Sales Rep, John Paynter. Angus and Simon were classmates, and John was Simon's teacher. Over time this friendship has continued, with Simon now a passionate believer and user of Neutrog products on his vineyard, and the Neutrog team equally as passionate about Simon's wine. Who knew wine and fertiliser would make the perfect pair!

Offering cool climate wines, a beautiful cellar door experience, and the luxury accommodation called Simon Tolley Lodge, Simon continues a long family tradition of viticulture. From his ancestors trading wines and spirits from 1874 and developing Tolley Wines vineyards at Hope Valley in 1892, the Tolley name lives on at the 27-hectare family vineyard at Woodside in the Adelaide Hills, and 40 hectares spread across two properties close by.

During the summer season of 2019/20 (now commonly referred to as 'Black Summer') Australia became overwhelmed with bushfires that burnt an estimated 18.6 million hectares across Australia. Among the many areas that were affected was Cuddle Creek in South Australia.



After an incredible effort by Simon and his team to save their home and protect the vineyards, Simon Tolley Wines was hit along with a third of the region's wine production. The property suffered extensive damage where 90% of the property was affected and 30% of the vines destroyed. Thankfully, their accommodation was left untouched and was able to continue to operate.

With passion and an eye for the future, Simon Tolley Wine's recovery effort was nothing short of extraordinary. From replanting and cutting back thousands of vines to building the new cellar door for their growing wine brand to call home, it is hard to imagine what the property looked like just over 12 months ago. Located next to Simon Tolley Lodge, the new cellar door is now officially open for guests to enjoy tastings with alongside a beautiful view across the vineyards.

"We choose Neutrog products because I've seen fantastic results first hand in our vineyard's recovery from the fires & Neutrog are continually trialing & improving their products over and over... we trust their products." — Simon Tolley

[Click here to learn more about Simon Tolley Wines](#)

Arboretum Update / What Happened in May



This time of year is typically a quiet time in the Rare Fruit Arboretum at our facility in Kanmantoo, South Australia. Winter temperatures have begun to set in with a nice amount of rain providing the fruit trees with plenty of water. As you can see in the image below, the trees are beginning to look sparse without their leaves due to the seasonal change.

Under the guidance of the Rare Fruit Society of South Australia, we will soon begin winter fertilising as part of our year-round fertilising program. Caring for your plants during winter will help ensure you will have healthy trees producing plenty of delicious fruits when spring comes around.

As part of our winter fertilising program in the Arboretum we will be applying Seamungus followed by an application of GoGo Juice.

Seamungus is ideal as a year round health tonic and winter fertiliser for all plants- including the fruit trees in the Arboretum. Its ability to aid in the protection of the fruit trees from frost will be vital as winter starts to set in.

You may also remember our segment about the various varieties of figs that we grow in the Arboretum featured in our April newsletter. Whilst wondering through the Arboretum during May we captured these images of the various fig trees showing signs of fruit. We look forward to a fruitful harvest later in the year when they have ripened.

About the Rare Fruit Arboretum:

The establishment of the Rare Fruit Arboretum at Neutrog's Kanmantoo site is a joint venture between Neutrog and the Rare Fruit Society of SA. Around 500 rare and endangered fruit trees have been planted, including apples, pears, peaches, nectarines, figs and quinces. Along with helping to ensure their preservation, Neutrog uses the trees to carry out fertiliser and biological application performance trials, as well as researching the microbiology in and around the root zone of each species, and determining their optimum nutritional and biological needs. One such product used in the Arboretum is Gyganic for Veggies, Fruit & Citrus, which was developed in conjunction with the Rare Fruit Society of South Australia.



[Click here to learn more about the Rare Fruit Arboretum](#)

Bonbeach Primary School Green Thumbs/ Kitchen Garden

You can't beat chatting with some-one who is passionate about something. It doesn't matter what that something is. They inspire you. Jade Kavanagh is one such person.

Jade, and her fellow parent friend, Amy Dowling set up a kitchen garden at Bonbeach Primary School in 2013. Both were parents of children at the school and had a dream to see children involved in gardening. They started out small and installed one garden bed, growing peas on teepees. "We referred to it as our TeePea", Jane laughed. "Once the peas were ready, Amy and I would stand in the playground and as the children came past we would encourage them to pick the pods, open them and eat. They could not believe that that's where peas came from, with many of them commenting that they thought they came in a bag from the freezer. That was our defining moment and we decided then and there to do as much as we could in the way of planting, growing, collecting seed, caring for the garden and learning how to use the produce".

The veggie patch is now huge and the entire school student population is involved. With 300 students this is managed on a seasonal/semester rotation. A huge variety of produce is grown and then shared through cooking lessons. There is a chicken coop, a series of compost bins which is contributed to through the community and a wonderful glasshouse for raising seed and cuttings.

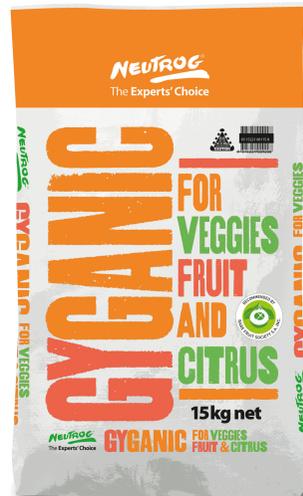
Jade says, "we have a wonderful principal who allows us to do what we want. Most of the improvements we have made over the years has been because of community fund raising through farmers markets and other school events. We are so proud to have heaps of school and garden awards as well."

Jade and Amy are huge fans of Who Flung Dung. They'd felt a need for more organic matter, because last year, the community were unable to contribute with their organic waste. Having heard great things about Who Flung Dung, they decided to give it a go and have been thrilled with the results. Jade tells us that, "the moisture retention is wonderful, but so is the growth we are seeing in our gardens. The kids have a bit of a grizzle at the smell which gets us all giggling – it's all part and parcel of that healthy gardening smell which we gardeners love."

So, this busy lady was enjoying a day off when we spoke and concluded our conversation by saying, "I think I'll go back to the school garden – I'm feeling inspired to go and do more." And, it doesn't get any more community minded and spirited than that.



Growing Citrus / Fertilising & Care Tips for Citrus Trees



Citrus trees can be among the most rewarding plants to grow in the garden, and with the winter season on our doorstep we have started to see the trees producing their zesty fruits.

This is the time of year when the work done to look after your citrus really starts to pay off, with citrus trees beginning to deliver their yields of fruit. Citrus trees are available in many varieties that cope well in most climates with some also suitable for growing in pots or running up trellis against a wall. As your tree begins to bear fruit, it will need plenty of feeding to help the fruit to develop to full size. If you have a tree that is fruiting prolifically, remember that it may still need watering (depending on the rainfall), and to be mindful of the stress that large amounts of fruit can not only put on the nutritional requirements of the tree, but also on its structure. Sometimes, it can be better to have less fruit and a happier tree that recovers well.

Across the year, your citrus trees will benefit from regular fertilising as they are heavy feeders. Gyganic for Veggies Fruit & Citrus applied every 8 weeks is ideal to ensure you get the most out of your harvest ensuring plenty of flowers, a great fruit set and a strong, vigorous plant. If you are growing your citrus in a pot, apply Gyganic at $\frac{1}{4}$ recommended rate for a ground grown plant, depending on pot size. i.e. 15gm per 150mm pot. Increase/decrease in 5gm increments relative to pot size.

To make the most of your harvest of lemons, be sure to Follow and Like our page on Facebook and look out for our June newsletter for a recipe.

[Click here to learn more about Gyganic for Veggies, Fruit & Citrus](#)

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

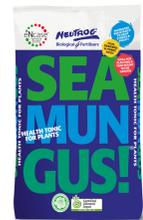
Established Australian natives, including phosphorous-sensitive natives such as grevilleas, banksias & non-natives in the Proteaceae family will all enjoy being fed during the winter.

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.

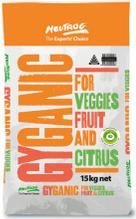
VEGETABLES, FRUIT AND CITRUS

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 Bonbeach Primary School Green Thumbs who use Whoflungdung in their vegetable garden. 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.

In June's newsletter we will have some exciting things to share with you, but for now we hope you have a lovely month and enjoy the last few weeks of autumn.

See you in June!

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?

