



The Pooh Bah News



Dear Pooh Bah Club subscribers,

Spring has certainly not disappointed this year with fresh perfume and blooms making for a wonderful scene. The gardens in front of Neutrog's head office have come to life with greenery, the trees are covered with new leaves and colours have appeared on the natives.

This month we hear from commercial growers Hahndorf Lavender Estate and Freshwater Farm, we catch up with Neutrog in South Africa to find out about sustainable farming happening at Abalimi Bezekhaya and plenty more.

Do you have a great gardening story or photo that you would like featured in our newsletter? We would love to see it! Submissions can be sent to marketing@neutrog.com.au

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 / From Sterile to Stunning



After sending out the October edition of our newsletter, we were so pleased to hear from a number of home gardeners about their gardens. One of those who wrote to us was Janine Morton, who shared with us the story about her verge garden make-over in Mosman Park on the coast of Perth.

Janine started work on her verge in 2018. Prior to that it was an area used for vehicle parking with couch and Guildford grass, resulting in compact soils. She began the renovations by removing weeds then using a bobcat to remove the topsoil. "I sifted all the dry sand during the summer through a grain sieve to remove the dormant Guildford grass bulbs. I actually recovered half a large trug of tiny bulbs. That was the hard bit but so worth it."

A range of Cottesloe coastal plain indigenous plants were chosen for planting. A native mix was applied around the garden followed by a wood chip mulch which was planted into along with applications of Bush Tucker, GOGO Juice and a soil conditioner. As for irrigation, Janine says "I started out without irrigation but, with Perth's really hot summers and the wind it was too hard, so I have irrigated it. I only water it for the ten minutes three times a week which is what we are allowed here."

Janine has continued to use Bush Tucker and GOGO Juice and is happy with the results she has seen. GOGO Juice is used all over her garden including on her vegetable patch.

Giving your natives some attention and care can have a wonderful effect, particularly when feeding regularly.

Bush Tucker and GOGO juice will not only supply essential nutrients but will also introduce billions of beneficial bacteria to the soil, allowing your natives to thrive.

Apply Bush Tucker evenly to pre-soaked soil around the drip line of the plant and water again well. Keep fertiliser at least 20cm away from the base of plant and avoid contact with foliage or flowers. Apply after signs of new season growth and thereafter every 12 weeks, or as required, throughout the growing season.



Staff Lunch & Visitors

Each month we hold a lunch for the staff at Neutrog catered by our friends at Billy Dohnt Does. These monthly events are a chance for Neutrog staff to take a break from the busyness of spring, welcome new faces to the team and enjoy a delicious meal.

This month we were delighted to include Ashley and Craig from the Farmer Johns team from Murray Bridge who also did a site tour following lunch.



Factory Tour / Auto Collectors Club of Murray Bridge

After some months of planning, we were delighted to welcome members of the Auto Collectors Club of Murray Bridge to the Neutrog factory for a tour, they were eager to learn more about our biological fertilisers and the processes used to produce them.

Starting at their club in Murray Bridge, the group travelled to Kanmantoo through Monarto in a convoy of beautiful old-fashioned cars.

Once arrived at the site, they enjoyed morning tea while listening to an informative presentation from our Customer Relationship Manager, Paul Dipuglia. They then joined Neutrog's Managing Director, Angus Irwin on a bus to tour the site, before having a tour of the lab with Dr Uwe Stroehler.

With plenty of exciting R&D projects and new products around the corner, it is a pleasure to welcome and host groups at the factory and share our passion for healthy gardens and biological solutions.



Growing Great Veggies / Urban Veggie Gardening

Carol Cunningham is a mum of three small children and lives in Western Sydney. With a huge following on Instagram, Carol's 'gardentogut' page covers permaculture, urban gardening, organically grown veggies and sustainability.

"We grow food in our small suburban backyard when we aren't at netball, dancing, swimming or little athletics. I started gardening and growing food three years ago - it's been a wonderful way to relax and teach the little ones about food and sustainability while watching them play and discover the joy of being outdoors" said Carol.

In her spare time, Carol studies Horticulture, and is a volunteer supervisor at the local community garden in Seven Hills.

"We spend at least two mornings a week watering, weeding, planting and taking care of the garden and chickens. Our community garden has several native gardens, some fruit trees, raised beds for growing food and an area for TAFE Horticulture classes. We have three chickens, lots of local birds, bees and bugs. We have monthly working bees at the community garden which are beautiful social events with people of all ages coming together to work in the garden and enjoy a shared morning tea".

When Carol asked her horticulture teacher about what he thought of Neutrog products, he responded with "Scientifically formulated", "certified organic" and "bang-for-your-buck."

"I've used some of these products at home" said Carol "and I absolutely love them, so I am super excited to also add your super mulch Whoflungdung to the mix and start making daggy puns about it on my Instagram page".



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

Lawns / Before & After



With summer right around the corner, now is the perfect time to give your lawn some extra TLC to make it lush and green in time for summertime gatherings. Adam, from New South Wales, follows our Neutrog Instagram account and sent us a message about his transformation of a patchy piece of turf into a healthy sea of green with help from Neutrog's Sudden Impact for Lawns.

To start, Adam managed the weeds before applying Sudden Impact for Lawns just before the rains hit.

He maintains a consistent routine to keep his lawn in good shape, by mowing regularly and leaving some clippings on every second mow. Recycling grass clippings back into your lawn can provide a boost of nitrogen and other nutrients, however leaving too many can cause the grass to burn and lose colour.

"I use the sprinkler to water if there is a large gap between rain" says Adam, "I mow higher in spring, and regularly in summer".

The results have made for a fantastic before and after shot, showing what can be achieved with a little persistence and routine!

Sudden Impact for Lawns is an organic based, chemically boosted fertiliser specifically developed for new and established lawns.

Its high nitrogen to potassium ratio, coupled with its full range of macro and micro elements, including boosted levels of iron and magnesium (the primary nutrients that play a crucial role in the formation of chlorophyll, which is the substance that makes plants green) make this product ideal for all other non-flowering plants such as bamboo, conifers, palms and ferns (including those plants grown indoors).

Apply every 6-8 weeks throughout spring, summer and autumn.

[Click here to learn more about Sudden Impact for Lawns.](#)



R&D / Nutrient Leaching Trial with R&D Partner

Dr Uwe Stroehler and Research Assistant, Juhee Hada recently visited Matt Coulter from the Mount Lofty Botanic Garden, which is the site of a pot trial on nutrient leaching with our R&D partner, Adelaide Botanic Garden.

Nutrient leaching is a focus for research teams around the globe as we see the effects that it can have when water run off picks up sediment, nutrients and contaminants which ultimately flow into the ocean, impacting water quality. A reduction in water quality is one of the factors leading to the bleaching of the Great Barrier Reef.

This trial is seeking to determine if urea/ammonium nitrate (UAN) combined with a new Neutrog product in development called "POPUL8" can increase plant growth and development while also influencing/reducing nutrient leaching.

The trial began in September with Juhee and staff from the Mount Lofty Botanic Garden planting a total of 90 pots of Buttercrunch lettuce - a variety chosen for its reliable germination rate - in the controlled environment of the Mount Lofty glasshouse.

To test different conditions and trial parameters, the pots have been split into 4 groups.

The first group is the control, and is only given water.

The second group is given only UAN.

The third is given UAN and POPUL8

The fourth is given UAN, POPUL8 and a potential leaching reduction agent.

During the trial there are 3 critical characteristics that both the Botanic Gardens and Neutrog will be assessing - vegetative growth, root development and the level of ammonia and nitrate leaching that occurs. By examining the water that leaches from the pots weekly, by the end of the trial there will have been a total of 1080 samples examined.

The trial is expected to last 16 weeks, with the pots receiving treatments on a fortnightly basis during that time period.

This research holds numerous benefits for both home gardeners and commercial growers.

By accelerating plant growth and reducing nutrient leaching we can improve agricultural processes and increase yields and also gain greater insights into how we can encourage plants to take up a greater amount of nutrients as opposed to allowing them to leach into the soil and run off.

We look forward to keeping you updated as we progress.



Freshwater Farm / Fighting Phytophthora with GOGO Juice



Our friends at Freshwater Farm develop a wide range of oil producing plants like Lemon Myrtle and Lemon Scented Tea Tree on their property on the mid-North coast of NSW, the pure essential oils that are extracted from these plants are used in their extensive range of hand, body and hair care products that are widely available in Woolworths stores Australia-wide.

Managing Director, Allan Hutcherson, has been passionately building up the plantation since 2018 when he saw the huge potential in an abandoned Tea Tree Plantation that was in need of some love and dedication. Allan got to work adding Lemon Myrtle and Lemon Scented Tea Tree to the existing plantation with the view to add these beautiful scents into the Freshwater Farm range of hand and body care products. In early 2021, Allan noticed patches of the lemon myrtle trees in distress and decided to seek help from NeutroG's R&D Manager, Dr. Uwe Stroehrer.

With 2,000 plants already in the ground and a further 2,000 being planted over the next 12 months, Allan is no stranger to dealing with the challenges that come with operating a commercial plantation. After 12 months of very wet weather, he noticed 3 groups of the lemon myrtle trees were deteriorating. With discoloured leaves and low-quality foliage, the trees were in poor condition with no signs of improving. After sending soil samples to be examined by the Department of Primary Industries, Phytophthora cryptogea was identified as a present pathogen.

Phytophthora cryptogea is a species of water mould that poses a significant risk to plants, especially large commercial plantations like ours at Freshwater Farm where we rely heavily on healthy crops. To stop the plants from dying off and the pathogen from spreading, Allan looked to biologicals as a possible solution and got in touch with Dr. Uwe at Neutrog for advice on how to fix the issue.

After discussing the issue, Dr. Uwe determined the best help return the plants to good health would be to mix GOGO Juice with a biocontrol agent from his lab which had already shown promising signs of fighting other pathogens such as Pythium. Dr. Uwe prepared a 20L drum of the GOGO Juice and biocontrol agent mixture and sent it off to Freshwater Farm for trial on the effected plants.



The results speak for themselves with Allan noticing a quick and significant turnaround of the health of the plants. The discoloured foliage had returned to its natural shade of green, with the volume of the foliage also increasing back to healthy volumes. Freshwater Farm highly recommend GOGO Juice for your garden!

Freshwater Farm are exclusively offering Neutrog customers 30% off their beautiful range of Australian Made hand, body and haircare products.

Click the button below to find out more and claim your discount.

freshwater FARM®
A U S T R A L I A

[Click here to claim your discount.](#)

Product Profile / Bush Tucker

Australian natives... they're certainly a resilient bunch that survive well in tough conditions. Whilst they are hardy survivors, using an organic based, boosted fertiliser specifically developed for native plants can help them to thrive. That's where Bush Tucker comes in!

Bush Tucker was developed back in 2016 in consultation with soil scientist, Simon Leake, and native plant expert, Angus Stewart. The goal was to develop a biological fertiliser that is low in phosphorus to mimic the low phosphorus formulations recommended for growing native plants. All plants need phosphorus, however some natives such as grevilleas, banksias and proteas are very sensitive to high levels of it.

As with all Neutrog products, trials were conducted prior to the release of Bush Tucker. Angus and Simon performed trials on a notoriously phosphorus sensitive plant, Grevillia Poorinda 'Royal Mantle', and a non-phosphorous sensitive plant, Anigosanthos flavidus 'Landscape Lilac'.

The trials were set up at a production nursery at Somersby in NSW where virgin sandy topsoil derived from infertile Sydney sandstone was used to grow the plants in. Each trial had 3 plants with a control (no fertiliser used), 1kg per cubic metre application of Bush Tucker and 3kg per cubic metre application of Bush Tucker. Click the video below to learn more about this trial from Simon Leake and Angus Stewart:



The results demonstrated a highly successful trial, clearly showing by the growth of the plants that Bush Tucker was extremely beneficial and perfectly safe for both phosphorus sensitive and non sensitive native plant species.

Since its release, Bush Tucker has become a trusted product among home gardeners who have reported significant benefits particularly for flowering and fruiting varieties. Many of those stories we have been able to share in our previous newsletters and on our Facebook & Instagram pages.

Bush Tucker is also recommended and endorsed by numerous native plant societies including The Australian Plants Society VIC and The Australian Plants Society NSW, providing gardeners with the confidence to use a trusted product.



“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.”

— Angus Stewart

The Expert's Choice / Flemington Racecourse Rose Garden

Neutrog and Flemington Racecourse have enjoyed a partnership for over twenty years and our products form the backbone of their rose feeding program.

Seamungus, GOGO Juice, Whoflungdung and - not surprisingly - Sudden Impact for Roses are all part of a year round biologically activated fertilising approach for continuous soil improvement. Through this combination of products, it is little surprise that from spring, all the way through until autumn, Flemington features some of the most famous roses in the world.

In this video, Team Leader, Steven Campbell, who has been a part of the Flemington Race Course garden team for over twelve years, talks candidly about the process that he and his team follow throughout the year to care for the over 16,500 roses.

We'd like to thank Steve for stepping in front of the camera (never an easy job!), and giving us a lovely insight into a pretty enviable job!



[Click here to watch the YouTube video.](#)

Hahndorf Lavender Estate / A Family Venture



Hahndorf Lavender Estate is South Australia's largest lavender farm with over 50,000 plants. The family venture between father and son duo, Peter and Thomas Mahar, aims to add to the booming tourism industry in the Adelaide Hills. They plan to open a café and guest shop selling products made with lavender oil harvested on the property which has been in the Mahar family for over 40 years. After a 2-and-a-half-year transformation, Peter and Thomas' dream is on track to becoming a reality.

Unlike the processes traditionally used by lavender growers, Peter and Thomas have researched and utilized a variety of modern production methods. This point of difference has carried through to the way they irrigate, the way they handle weeds, and also the way they fertilise and prepare their soil for planting.



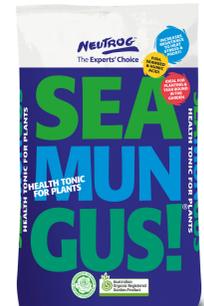
Neighbouring Hahndorf Lavender Estate is Kirsty Miller, friend of Peter and Thomas, owner of 'Solace' and long-term user of Neutrog products. Kirsty has specialised in garden maintenance and design for 15 years, and after using Seamungus with great success on her own gardens, she recommended it to Peter for the lavender fields.

Seamungus has since become part of Hahndorf Lavender Estate's fertilising program where it is applied to the soil at planting. Peter has observed some noticeable differences, saying

"The plants love it. the flowers were 20-30mm longer than previous which I put down to Seamungus. Bigger flowers mean more oil, and that's what we're after."

GOGO Juice is also applied to the lavender as recommended by owners of the Victorian based Warratina Lavender Farm and horticulturalist, Tim Manders. The powerful combination of Seamungus and GOGO Juice ensures a soil rich in biological activity and enables strong root system development.

[Click here to learn more about Hahndorf Lavender Estate.](#)



Neutrog South Africa / Sustainable Farming at Abalimi Bezekhaya



Neutrog has had a presence in South Africa for some 20 years now, and during that time Charles Bertram, Director of Neutrog South Africa, has had the opportunity to learn and contribute to some incredible organizations and projects.

Charles recently visited the township farmers at Abalimi Bezekhaya in Khayelitsha (an area outside of Cape Town). Each farmer in the town has a small plot of land where they grow a range of vegetables including eggplants, spinach, carrots, broccoli and onions. The vegetables that they grow are sent to the urban markets where they are sold, providing income for the farmers while supplying healthy food to an impoverished area.

Charles conducted a workshop about soil health and creating long term sustainability in farming. With very nutrient deficient sandy soils, the farmers have used Bounce Back and compost to build up the soil, creating ideal growing conditions for their vegetables. Due to lack of funds, all inputs are 100% biological with Neutrog supplying Bounce Back to use in their program as part of a sponsorship.



Below is a video taken by Charles on his visit to the township, noting how the sustainable farming has numerous benefits including the return of native vegetation and wildlife:



Arboretum Update / A Spring Feed with Gyganic & GOGO Juice



The sun was shining when president of the Rare Fruit Society, Brenton Kortman visited the Rare Fruit Arboretum last month to give the fruit trees a fresh feed with Gyganic for Veggies, Fruit & Citrus to encourage a healthy harvest when the time comes.

In total, 200kg of Gyganic was used across the two sites of the arboretum. With a bucket in tow, Brenton simply filled the bucket and spread the pellets by hand. The pellets were tossed to the base of the fruit trees, before being watered in with GOGO Juice.

The combination of Gyganic and GOGO Juice will not only provide the fruit trees with a full range of nutrients, but also introduces billions of beneficial bacteria into the soil that assist in maximising the nutrients available to your plants.

As mentioned in last month's newsletter, the weeds have really been making their presence felt - especially nettles. To manage these, they've since been slashed and sprayed but a lot more work with regards to weeds will be undertaken. As we all know, that's a job which never goes away.

Next month we hope to show you around the plots to see what fruits are starting to appear!

[Click here to learn more about Hahndorf Lavender Estate.](#)

Archives / Neutrog in Vietnam

Neutrog has been involved in overseas markets since 1992, involving shipping product around the world to places such as Singapore, Indonesia, Guam, The Middle East, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Malta. Another is Vietnam, where over the past 10 years many farmers and growers have been introduced to Neutrog products.

Vietnam stretches 1,650km, north to south, and is only 50km wide at its narrowest part. Over 70% of the population of over 92 million people live in rural areas and derive their livelihoods from agriculture production. Vietnam stands as the world's largest producer of cashew nuts and black pepper and the second largest exporter of rice and coffee.

Limited land resources has been a challenge for Vietnam, and with the increased need for fertilisers, the government encourages farmers to use organic and biological inputs to improve agronomic practices and management. Bounce Back was approved for use in Vietnam in 2005, as did Rapid Raiser, Blade Runner and Upstart the following year.

Nguyen Tien Anh from Vietrade is Neutrog's exclusive agent in Vietnam. Based in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietrade is a family business with a large network of agents who distribute Neutrog products into urban and rural areas all over the country. These are used to grow organic rice, coffee and tea, rubber trees, vegetables, flowers and fruit trees.

Anh has introduced many farmers and growers to Neutrog products through seminars, trade fairs and trials. Anh says,

"All of the Neutrog products have proven themselves to be products of quality and bring many benefits to farmers, as well as the environment. They have shown the remarkable ability to make the soil more fertile".



Year Round Fertilising Guide / Summer

Neutrog's Year Round Feeding Programme can be tailored to your type of garden, lifestyle and budget. A garden which is regularly fed – at least once each season – will reward the owner with strong, vigorous and healthy plants, as well as plenty of colour and fragrance.

Over summer ensure that you water deeply and if you've not already done so, mulch with Whoflungdung. Your garden will appreciate an application of liquid Seamungus every 2-4 weeks over summer. By doing this, your plants will cope much better with those hot summer days.



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 SUMMER

Planting all year round is possible with extra care taken during summer with regards to preparation, watering and mulching. Use ACO Seamungus, Rapid Raiser or Rooster Booster for any new plantings. Mix some pellets through the soil - it will help alleviate transplant shock. Water in with liquid Seamungus or GOGO Juice. Monitor watering carefully and mulch with Whoflungdung



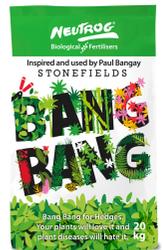
NATIVES

Native plants will settle in well and grow beautifully if planted now. It's also the ideal time to feed established native plants, including phosphorous-sensitive natives such as grevilleas, banksias & proteas. Apply GOGO Juice fortnightly.



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. Water in with GOGO Juice and continue to apply GOGO Juice every fortnight.



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

ACID LOVING PLANTS

Acid loving plants will benefit from a feed of Kahoona - 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. Apply GOGO Juice fortnightly.



Year Round Fertilising Guide / Spring

ESTABLISHED FLOWERING PLANTS

Flowering plants will thrive with Sudden Impact for Roses. The higher potassium to nitrogen ratio makes it ideal for all flowering plants, not just roses. Apply every 8 weeks and water in with GOGO Juice to encourage faster uptake of the nutrients by the plants, and to populate and activate the microbes in the soil. Sudden Impact for Roses liquid is also available and is recommended as a fortnightly application.



ESTABLISHED FLOWERING, FRUITING PLANTS AND ORCHIDS IN POTS

Potted flowering and fruiting plants will benefit from a feed of Strike Back for Orchids, which has an NPK of 8:3:10 and is boosted in trace elements – all of which are necessary for flowering or fruiting plants in pots. The only nutrition container grown plants can receive, is what they are given. Apply GOGO Juice fortnightly.



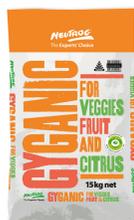
ESTABLISHED NON-FLOWERING PLANTS INCLUDING LAWNS

For those who wish to use certified organic products and/or prefer to simply use one general purpose fertiliser across your entire garden, you can use Bounce Back, Rapid Raiser, Seamungus or Rooster Booster on your garden, and Blade Runner on your lawn areas. Apply seasonally and water in well with Gogo Juice.



VEGETABLES, FRUIT AND CITRUS

To give your veggies, citrus and fruiting trees a boost of nutrients, now is the time to feed with Gyganic for Veggies, Fruit & Citrus. Citrus in particular are heavy feeders - ideally they're fed every 8 weeks. Gyganic contains all of the nutrients they need to encourage flowering and fruiting. Gyganic has a nutritious, biological, organic base which is high in organic carbon and containing naturally occurring growth hormones. It has been specifically developed to enhance uniform size and quality and flavour of fruit, flower and vegetable production. Apply every 8 weeks and apply GOGO Juice fortnightly.



SOIL CONDITIONING

GOGO Juice is the best medicine to condition your soil – literally teeming with beneficial microbiology, it is essentially a pro-biotic for your soil and plants. GOGO Juice combine the “catalytic” power of providing a wide diversity of beneficial bacteria and fungi with the well-documented benefits of applying kelp and humates.



MULCHING

If you've not yet mulched, then give your garden an insulating layer of Whoflungdung, which not only introduces a wide diversity of beneficial bacteria which act as a deterrent to pathogenic bacteria, it aids in weed suppression, regulates soil temperature and encourages earthworms that aerate the soil and move nutrients deeper into the soil profile.

- It introduces a wide diversity of beneficial bacteria.
- Beneficial bacteria act as a deterrent to pathogenic bacteria.
- Weed suppression.
- 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 absorbency.



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 Adam and his lawn. 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 December!

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?

