



Dear Readers,

Our team have enjoyed catching up with clients new and existing in the past month and we share everyone's careful optimism for a great season ahead, across all industries, in amongst a pretty strange time in the world.

With much of eastern Australia impacted by restrictions, please know that our team are happy to meet with you over Zoom or Teams Meetings if face-to-face isn't possible.

In this month's newsletter we look at the positive impact that Rapid Raiser has had on the garlic in the Riverland, Neutrog's new partnership with Crest, fighting Phytophthora at Freshwater Farm with Dr. Uwe Stroehler and more.

We look forward to keeping in touch.

Kind Regards,  
**The Neutrog Team**



# Biocontrol of Phytophthora at Freshwater Farm with GOGO Juice

**Proudly 100% Australian made and produced with only the best natural ingredients, Freshwater Farm's range of luxury hair and body care products are made with your body and the environment in mind. "From our farm to your skin" is the idea surrounding everything they do, with the journey starting in the ground.**

A wide variety of oil producing plants are grown at the NSW farm, with Managing Director, Allan Hutcherson, passionately building up the plantation since 2018. 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 Stroehler.

With 2,000 plants in their care 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 Freshwater Farm who rely 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 for advice on how to fix the issue.



**Before treatment with GOGO Juice and the added biocontrol agent.**



**After treatment with GOGO Juice and the added biocontrol agent.**

After discussing the issue, Dr Uwe determined the best way to 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 density of the foliage also increasing back to a healthy amount.

**"GOGO Juice worked great, loss of plants has stopped, and sick plants have developed new shoots" says Allan.**

The biocontrol agents have also been tested in other products in Neutrog's range including Strike Back for Orchids Liquid Advanced Biological Formula with great feedback from trial in the Adelaide Botanic Garden.

# Crest Contracting / A New Transport Partner for Neutrog

**After a long 16 months of planning, Neutrog were excited to announce a new partnership with our transport partner, Crest Contracting. The team were excited to witness the new branded trucks arrive at the factory in Kanmantoo for the very first time earlier this year.**

This development means that chicken manure for our fertilisers will now be delivered to the factory via these trucks which are operated by Crest. The positive impact of this change has already been experienced by our team, with delivery schedules and increased communication lines allowing our teams to create more efficient processes with trucks entering and exiting the site.

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 the Redcrest Farm in Monarto, South Australia which is one of the best performing Inghams farms in Australia.



**Mick Golding, Cory Button, Tyson Barolo & Jess Barolo from Crest with Neutrog's David Ellis**



**George & Sophie**

# Rapid Raiser at Eyre Peninsula Garlic



Settled in the wetlands at Port Lincoln is Eyre Peninsula Garlic run by Ric Lawton and his family who reside at the property where the garlic is grown. After contacting Neutrog with some technical questions, Ric and a member of the Neutrog team got down to a fantastic chat about the operations with Eyre Peninsula Garlic.

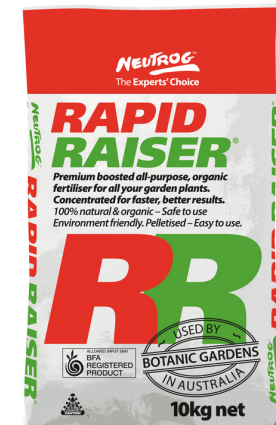
The property is called 'Big Swamp Station', and covers an area of 600 hectares. The history of this property is fascinating, as this was where Captain Henry Hawson, his wife and 13 children settled after arriving in Australia on the Brigantine Abeona from Canada in 1837. With them they brought all manner of items which would be required to settle in the remote colony of Australia including seedlings for a variety of trees, plants, vegetables and flowers. Among this collection was an old variety of garlic.

150 years on and there were still many clumps of this very old garlic variety growing happily around the garden. "Our Garlic is from the same garlic seed stock from that same original garden bed on our farm" says Ric.

Ric saw a market for the garlic and decided to start growing it. The garlic is laid out in garden beds, and initially a pelleted poultry product was used as part of the soil preparation. An agronomist with whom Ric works referred him to Neutrog's Rapid Raiser, a highly concentrated natural product that promotes faster, healthier, sustained growth for all plants, including garlic.

**"It's beautiful stuff, so easy to work with, it's clean and not dusty. Best of all, my garlic has doubled in size after using it. This year, I was so happy with the results that I halved my inputs." says Ric.**

Along with the thriving garlic plants, Ric also farms sheep and free range pigs which are sure to keep Ric and little Ric junior busy.



# Walter Sisulu Gardens in South Africa

**Neutrog has had a presence in South Africa for some 20 years and while the business differs to the operation in Australia, it is still a company that is passionate about biologically activated products that create genuine impact across a range of applications and is on track to repeat the success that has been achieved in Australia.**

Starting his early working life as a ranger in the Mala Mala Game reserve, Charles enjoyed the wildlife and surroundings while also getting the opportunity to escort some famous names around the park such as Keith Richard of the Rolling Stones, Grace Jones, Vanessa Williams and Christie Brinkley. Charles later finished a degree in Environmental Science which combined with his experience in the game reserve, grew his interest in the environment and the promotion of achieving production from land through mindful inputs. These interests aligned perfectly with the goals of Neutrog Africa back in 2000, and still do over 20 years later.



“The Neutrog business we run in South Africa differs slightly to Australia in that we hold the licence to produce Neutrog products and we work with manufacturing partners to produce and distribute the product. This model allows us to not only explore opportunities within South Africa but other countries that make up Africa. This means that in essence Neutrog South Africa is actually quite a bit smaller than the Australian operation but with the capacity for the Neutrog brand to start spreading far and wide.” says Charles.



Gromor, a well-established business in KwaZulu/ Natal with a long history in compost and organic products, have been Neutrog South Africa's production partners since 2018.

The factory is placed in the heart of the historic Zulu Kingdom and most of the factory employees are members of the Zulu people. The factory itself sits close to the capital of KwaZulu/ Natal in Pietermaritzburg, an area that enjoys a dry warm winter and hot rainy summers. This can make the composting of the raw material (chicken manure, just the same as Neutrog Australia) a challenge particularly as the extra moisture renders it a bit more “dynamic” due to the rain.



**Wanderers Stadium**



**Walter Sisulu Gardens**



**Abalimi Bezekhaya**

Currently Gromor are producing Bounce Back and Blade Runner – using the same system of production as Neutrog in Australia. Most of the product goes into the home gardening market but Gromor are working on plans to expand production to accommodate the requirements for commercial farming. They are currently working on securing more manure through contracts with poultry farmers which will lead to a further roll out of products such as Whoflungdung, Groundcover and Seamungus.

Alongside producing product for retail and commercial markets, Neutrog South Africa also sponsors the Wanderers stadium in Johannesburg (South Africa's biggest cricket test venue), the Walter Sisulu Botanical Gardens (a world-famous Botanical Gardens in Roodepoort – outside Johannesburg), the Durban Botanical Gardens, Abalimi (a township project creating small scale farms) and the South African College School (the oldest School in South Africa dating back to 1829).

Neutrog South Africa's future is promising, with interest from Mauritius and Zambia presenting potential future additions to the Neutrog family. Sustainable agriculture is currently a major 'buzzword' in Africa as is food security, so there is a lot of interest in the biological fertilisers that Neutrog has to offer.

# Neutrog Attends Akers of Lawn & Adelaide Oval Turf Events



**Dr. Uwe Stroehler discussing Soil Microbiology at the grand opening of Akers for Lawns.**



**The turf event at Adelaide Oval where attendees got a closer look at the grounds.**

**August was certainly a busy month for Neutrog's R&D Manager, Dr Uwe Stroehler, and Commercial Customer Relationship Manager, John Paynter, who recently had the opportunity to attend turf events with Akers of Lawns and Adelaide Oval.**

Akers of Lawns celebrated their grand opening in Lonsdale, South Australia, by inviting commercial teams, landscapers and members of the public to enjoy an afternoon of festivities and guest speakers. Dr Uwe was one of those guest speakers where he gave a fascinating presentation about soil microbiology.

Dr Uwe and John also attended an event at Adelaide Oval and met with a variety of grounds keepers and industry professionals to discuss turf care and maintenance.

For more information about Neutrog products, please contact our team.

Neutrog products are also suitable for the home garden, and you can find out more by signing up to receive our monthly retail newsletter for stories from gardening experts, product profiles and seasonal fertilising guides for home gardens.

If you would like to receive this newsletter, please email [marketing@neutrog.com.au](mailto:marketing@neutrog.com.au)



**SA**  
**John Paynter**  
0448 666 088



**VIC, NSW & TAS**  
**Julie Walker**  
0488 254 550



**SA & NT**  
**Andrew Duffield**  
0448 881 619



**WA & QLD**  
**Brian Klepzig**  
0417 580 817



**NEUTROG AUSTRALIA PTY LTD**  
**288 MINE ROAD, KANMANTOO SA 5252**  
**WWW.NEUTROG.COM.AU**