



# The Pooh Bah News



Dear Pooh Bah Club subscribers,

With 2023 almost to an end, now is the time to reflect on the year that has been and look towards all of the great things to come in 2024 (and believe us, there's A LOT to look forward to!).

The year began with the long awaited release of the world's first recycled coffee fertiliser, Human Beans. Since then, the product has generated over 12,700 meals for Australians in need with Foodbank. Since then, we have made further advancements to the Neutrog range including the introduction of an Advanced Biological Formula of Sudden Impact for Lawns and Bush Tucker.

This year has also seen the continuation of other significant projects which will become even more of a focus in 2024, such as the establishment of the Australian Native Plant Arboretum and the planning stages of what will become the Education and Research Centre at Neutrog's Kanmantoo manufacturing site.

These projects merely skim the surface of what the year has involved, and we look forward to continuing to share more about these projects as they progress in the new year.

We have enjoyed hearing all about your gardening endeavors and have equally appreciated the opportunity to share them with our wider audience. With thanks to all of those who have contributed throughout the year, we encourage you to keep an eye out for the 'New Year 2023 Highlights' edition of our newsletter, which will be sent to your inbox on the 1st January 2024.

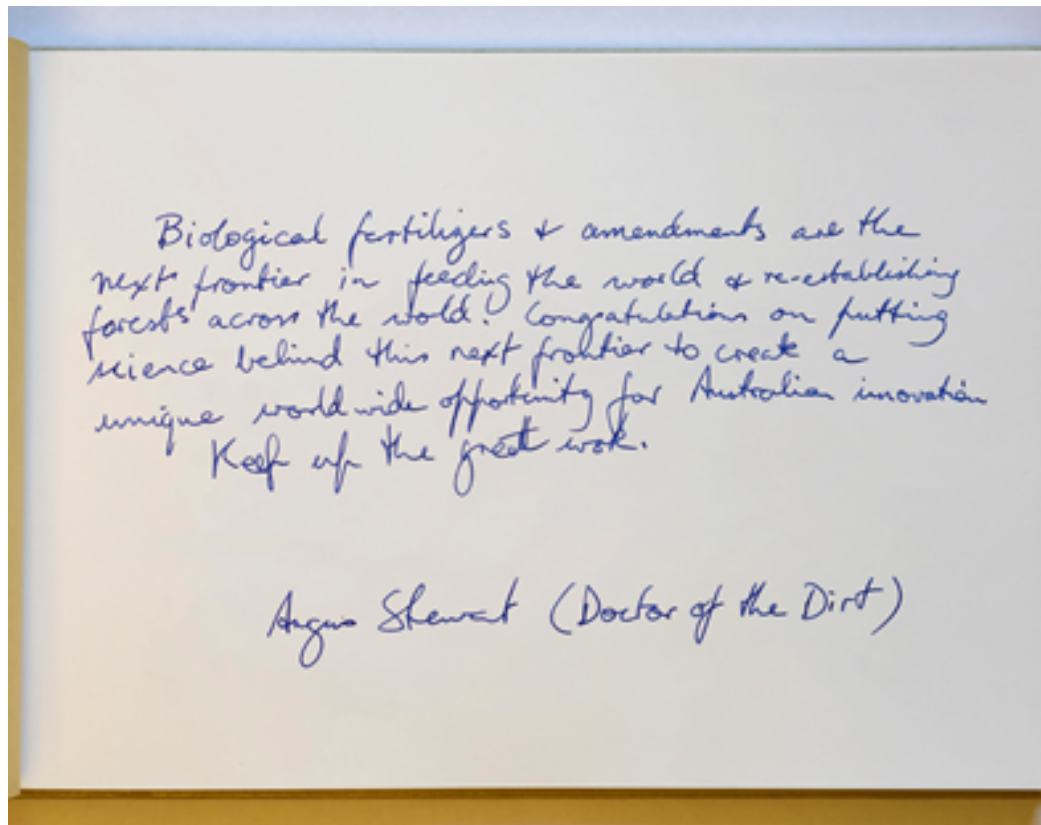
Have a wonderful Christmas and a very happy New Year!

**Happy gardening!**  
**The Neutrog Team**



# Doctors of the Dirt

with Dr Uwe Stroehrer and Angus Stewart



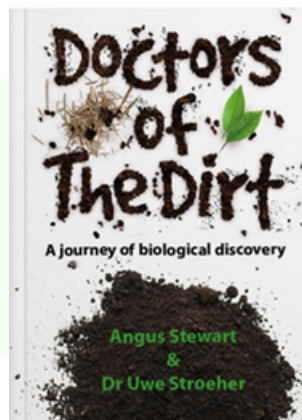
Earlier this year, native plant expert Angus Stewart wrote the message above in the guest book of Neutrog's Managing Director - and the manner in which he signed it off, brought to life a concept that has been in the works for some time.

We are excited to announce that in 2024, The Doctors of the Dirt, a book written collaboratively between Dr Uwe Stroehrer, soil microbiologist and R&D Manager of Neutrog and the original 'Doctor of the Dirt' Angus Stewart will be published.

This book, will be uniquely released chapter-by-chapter in a digital format, covering the A-Z of soil, expanding upon what is already known but with a grand focus on exploring the very little known about the fascinating biological aspects of soil.

Uwe's knowledge and experience of microbes, soil biology and their real-world impact are complemented by Angus' horticultural qualifications and practical understanding of gardening and sustainability.

Presented in relatable, commonsense language with the aim to educate and inspire all of those who wonder at the possibility that lives, in the soil beneath our feet.



## 'Doctor of the Dirt'?

Angus Stewart was given the moniker of 'Doctor of the Dirt, Surgeon of the Soil, Professor of the Paddock' by John Doyle, aka Rampaging Roy Slaven when they had a segment together on ABC Radio in the early 90's.

# Photo of the Month

## Roses of the Dardanup Visitors Centre



**The South West Rose Society (SWRS) was established in late 2000 and are a group of passionate Rose enthusiasts who wish to encourage and extend the cultivation of the Rose in an informal and social setting. The South West Rose Society (SWRS) have been associated with Neutrog since 2006.**

The SWRS had committed to design, construct and maintain a Memorial Rose Garden to celebrate the endeavours of the early settlers in the South West of WA. The site chosen was in the small township of Dardanup, situated approximately 10km from Bunbury.

The plot of land to be developed sits in front of the Don Hewison Centre, which is a one-roomed building, which also happens to be the original primary school for Dardanup. Built in 1896/7 of federation brick and iron, it is a restored heritage listed building with high ceilings and beautiful jarrah floor boards, and is now the home of the Ferguson Valley Visitors and Tourist Centre. The plot was donated by the Dardanup Shire Council.

There are approximately 120 roses that are individually named and numbered. Pruning is conducted in July each year along with an application of Seamungus. Sudden Impact for Roses is applied throughout the growing season.

A recent addition to the grounds is a beautiful Camellia Garden at the rear of the building. These were donated by Jenny Gardiner, a long term member, as a memorial to her late husband, who was the ex-President of the Dardanup Shire Council. It gives the centre year round colour. Kahoona is used in these beds to promote flowering and overall plant health.

The Tourist Centre and surrounding gardens are enjoyed by the local community as well as visitors and tourists.





**"I am looking forward to working with the other advisory board members and to explore new opportunities for Neutrog products." says Kirsty.**

### A new appointment to Neutrog's Biological Advisory Board

**We are excited to announce the appointment of Associate Professor Kirsty L. Bayliss PhD. to Neutrog's Biological Advisory Board, alongside Professor Paul Manning D.Sc. PhD. FASM FRMS and Associate Professor Renato Morona PhD.**

Kirsty is a plant scientist specialising in the management of diseases of agricultural and horticultural crops and postharvest pathogens associated with fresh produce and grain. She has a strong interest in solving industry problems, with a passion for the development of chemical-free methods for improving crop performance and managing postharvest moulds and decays, with the aim of reducing food loss and waste.

Kirsty attended the University of Western Australia and completed a Bachelor of Science in Horticulture (Hons) in 1996, followed by a PhD in Plant Pathology in 2000. After her PhD she was awarded an Australian Research Council postdoctoral fellowship to work on blackleg disease in canola. In 2003 she took up a Postdoctoral Fellowship at Murdoch University to work on diseases in tree plantations. In 2006 she was seconded to the Cooperative Research Centre for National Plant Biosecurity as Education and Training Manager for eight years where she was responsible for developing a national postgraduate curriculum in Biosecurity and also recruited more than 40 PhD students with the aim of building biosecurity capacity for Australia. Kirsty is currently Associate Professor at Murdoch University. She leads the Master of Biosecurity and Master of Food Security and also teaches undergraduate units "Paddock to Plate" and "Plant Protection and Biosecurity".

She concurrently leads three major research projects totalling more than \$4.5m, primarily supported by Horticulture Innovation, CRC for Future Food Systems, DFAT, and the Department of Defence and industry partners. Of particular interest is her project on using the microbiome associated with crops to improve their growth, similar to the human gut microbiome being needed for good health. This is an international project that includes collaborators from the International Phytobiomes Alliance. Her growing team comprises three staff and several PhD students working on food crops as diverse as artichokes and Spirulina. She has received international recognition for her innovative research and presented keynote addresses to a wide variety of audiences.

Kirsty has authored more than 40 publications to date. She is a peer reviewer for international journals such as the European Journal of Plant Pathology, and also reviews grants for the Australian Research Council and equivalent international funding agencies.

Kirsty joined the Neutrog Biological Advisory Board in October, 2023.

### Elle-Rose joins Neutrog's R&D team for work experience



Research and development are central to the way Neutrog operates, and behind the scenes there are many trials taking place that require the hands of skilled and qualified individuals with a passion for science and microbiology.

As we've heard from our R&D team, science is a fascinating career path and one that high schooler, Elle-Rose is keen to explore.

For two weeks in November, Elle-Rose joined the R&D team for work experience, where she gained a hands-on experience, exploring the daily tasks of running a busy laboratory.

Working closely with Neutrog's Dr Uwe, David Yang and Juhee Hada, Elle-Rose tried her hands at preparing growth media plates and streaking them out for soil analysis, purifying strain isolates and inhibition trials for newly arrived pathogens.

She also gained experience using various laboratory equipment including a dissolved oxygen meter and the sub 82 degrees freezer.

It was a pleasure to have Elle-Rose join the team during her work experience, and can't wait to see what she achieves in the field of science!

### Welcoming guests to our final lunch and factory tour 2023



This year we have welcomed over 400 guests to the Neutrog factory and laboratory in Kanmantoo, and this month we had our final factory tour of the year with the guests of our company lunch for November.

Among the guests were Pam and James from Gardenworld in Victoria, Banko, Jack, Charlie and Kobey from the Botanic Gardens of South Australia, and ten members of the Open Gardens South Australia Selections Committee.

Open Gardens SA is a not-for-profit organisation overseen by this dedicated committee of South Australian garden lovers, including designers, horticulturalists, garden owners and several former committee members of the National Open Gardens body that ran for 25 years.

Established in 2015, the organisation has been a great success and continues to share great gardens in this state and bring garden lovers together.

The committee gained insight into the inner workings of Neutrog and had a glimpse into the extensive research that has formed each of our products.

If you would like to learn more about Open Gardens SA, or are interested in exploring gardens in your local area, visit [opengardens.org.au](http://opengardens.org.au)

# Product of the Month

## POPUL8



**POPUL8 is the culmination of over a decade of research and development at Neutrog and, since its release in early 2022, has taken the gardening world by storm. Harnessing the potential of microbiology for the both home gardeners and commercial growers, POPUL8 has become a staple for many, including Graham Ross from The Garden Clinic.**

But... how exactly does it work? To answer this very popular question, we turned to Neutrog's R&D Manager, Dr Uwe Stroehler:

"POPUL8 is an advanced biological soil inoculant, formed using our extensive base of knowledge and cutting edge technology to create a truly unique product.

POPUL8 contains a diverse microbiome of 200+ naturally occurring microbes which are grown in our exclusive fermentation system. To this base we then add 42 differing fungal and bacterial isolates which have been selected to maximise the range of functions POPUL8 can perform. This includes liberation of nutrients, promoting protection and resilience against disease, and stimulating plant growth via the production of plant growth hormones.

Furthermore, POPUL8 not only comprises this diverse variety microbe but also contains triacontanol as a plant growth hormone, seaweed for plant stress protection and well as humates to help in holding and capturing nutrients.

The probiotic action of the microbes in POPUL8 together with the prebiotic nutrients makes POPUL8 a unique synbiotic for soil and plant health. Synbiotics are a combination of prebiotics and probiotics that have a synergistic effect by enhancing the microbial activity."



**POPUL8 has become a staple for many gardeners, including expert's such as Graham Ross.**

**Tune into Better Homes and Gardens on Channel 7 on the 22nd December 2023 to watch Graham Ross as he shares more information about POPUL8.**

# Summer

## Planting and caring for waratahs



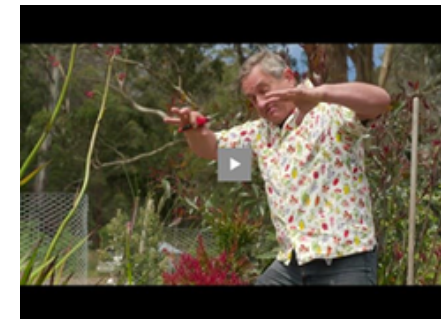
Waratahs are among the most iconic Australian native plants that produce striking large flowerheads in spring, with each including hundreds of individual flowers. Most people will recognise them as the floral emblem of New South Wales, with the red variety among the most common varieties on the market.

Waratahs make great additions to the garden, attracting a large range on nectar-eating birds. Perhaps the best reason to keep them around is the cut flowers that it provides.

Native plant expert, Angus Stewart has a great deal of knowledge about caring for waratahs, and has offered his best advice for fertilising and pruning which you can watch via the video links below:



Click on this tile to learn how to fertilise waratahs with Angus Stewart



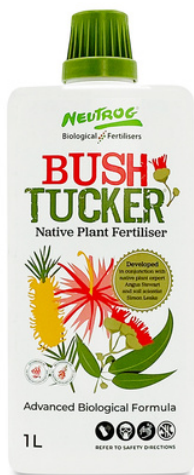
Click on this tile to learn how to prune waratahs with Angus Stewart

### Bush Tucker Applications

Bush Tucker Advanced Native Biological Formula is a biologically diverse, complete, organic based fertiliser to meet the specialised needs of Australian native plants.

Dilute one capful (40ml) of Bush Tucker in 10 litres of water. Apply once per fortnight. Bush Tucker should be applied directly to the soil and watered in well.

Store in a cool place away from direct sunlight. Shake well before use. Do not mix with other fungicides or bactericides. Use diluted Bush Tucker within one (1) week of dilution.



When planting a waratah, choose a position with well-draining, loose sandy soil that is mostly sheltered but has exposure to morning sun.

Angus recommends fertilising your waratahs in spring with a low-phosphorus fertiliser to keep them strong and growing at their best. The unique formula of Bush Tucker and Bush Tucker Advanced Biological Formula includes trace elements that have been added to 'lock up' the phosphorus component meaning it releases at a rate that enables Australian plants to thrive, rather than merely survive.

Once properly established and producing flowers, be sure to prune during or after flowering to ensure your plant produces even more flowers the next time spring rolls around.



**Neutrog are undertaking a trial with the Adelaide Botanic Gardens at Mt Lofty to see if the flavour of capsicums and tomatoes can be improved – with microbes.**

It is known that the microbes in the soil and on the plant can influence a whole variety of plant characteristics including, increasing the level of antioxidants and altering flavour.

During the trial, two varieties of each of these plants will be assessed with some plants being given a biological inoculant currently under development, known as SALIV8.

SALIV8 is a formula comprising specifically chosen microbes that the Neutrog R&D team believe will enhance the flavour.

**“The ability to enhance flavours, and potentially nutritional value, by the use of a microbial inoculant represents an exciting opportunity not only for the home gardener but also in the commercial setting” Dr Uwe Stroehrer, R&D Manager, Neutrog.**

The control group will be given water instead of the microbial inoculant. After the fruits have ripened a blind taste test will be conducted. The testers will not know which plants have been given SALIV8 and which are the control group.

Hopefully, those given the inoculant will have improved flavour, and perhaps even smell.

In total there are 32 plants in the trial. Four of each variety and species given SALIV8 and four control plants in each grouping.

We look forward to sharing how the trial progresses.





**Events season has been in full swing at the Adelaide Botanic Gardens with visitors coming from all over to see the plants in their prime and the roses in full bloom in the International Rose Garden.**

After a successful Resonate Festival with Illuminate Adelaide during winter, many areas of the garden were in need of renovation to bring them back into good condition for spring. This included many of the turf areas, including the space adjacent to the International Rose Garden which was in need of some attention.

This is a popular area for visitors to sit and enjoy the garden, and includes a large events marquee surrounded by lawn, so keeping the area in top condition is an important job for Horticulture Curator, Andy Hart and his team of horticulture staff.

**"We applied Seamungus Lawn in winter and have now given it a short cut and core then fertilised with Sudden Impact for Lawns + POPUL8. We then watered the area with GOGO Juice," says Andy.**

By boosting the microbiology in the soil and providing plenty of nutrient for the plants to take in, the horticulture team have ensured that the lawn is looking lush and green in readiness for the new season.



**Seamungus Lawn is part of Neutrog's new boxed lawn range at Bunnings, alongside Rooster Booster Lawn and Blade Runner. Each of these products are organically based and in a 'crumble' form, enabling the fertiliser to wash through the canopy of turf much easier than a pellet. The finer form allows for a quicker breakdown of the product, meaning the nutrients can be taken up by the plants much quicker.**

# Chally Bridge Farms

Australian Native Blooms in Western Australia



**When a flower farmer meets a florist magic happens, and that can certainly be said for Jack and Alli of Chally Bridge Farms. Harnessing the beauty of Australian native plants in Western Australia, as a team they navigate a challenging climate to grow cut flowers and achieve the floral visions of their customers.**

Jack has long been a part of the farming community, having grown up in an established WA farming family and studying agribusiness at University. Farming was always on the cards for Jack, and since purchasing his Northampton property he has been able to put his passion for innovative and sustainable farming practices into action.

Northampton lies on the North West Coastal Highway, and is known for its array of wildflowers. With a Mediterranean climate with semi-arid influence, Jack and Alli have employed the benefits of biological fertilisers and probiotics to keep their plants in top condition.

After a recent storm which damaged the strawflower seedlings for their upcoming summer crop, they almost gave up hope. A few frantic calls with her agronomists and Alli was advised to give the plants a good water with GOGO Juice through the irrigation system. Thankfully, she didn't have to wait long to see results.



Day after the storm.

7 days after GOGO Juice application. 16 days after GOGO Juice application.

**Seamungus & GOGO Juice make the best planting combination!**

Use Seamungus and GOGO Juice at planting and throughout the year like Chally Bridge Farms to condition the soil and to encourage a biologically active environment for your plants to thrive in.

Seamungus will help your plants resist heat, frost pests and disease as well as conditioning the soil and encouraging root growth. The addition of GOGO Juice will assist in the break down of organic matter and maximise the nutrients available to your plants.



**"By being able to stimulate and enhance root growth and health, we have not only been able to save a lot of crop that would have otherwise died, but the crop has recovered and regrown so well that you can barely tell that the crop is technically behind its expected growth stage," says Alli.**

Champions of Neutrog's range, Chally Bridge Farms are also big fans of Seamungus and its soil enriching qualities. "The mix of manure, fish seaweed and humic acid has plenty of goodness in it, and benefits like reducing erosion, increasing water retention, and improving nutrients," Alli says.

# Rose Society of Western Australia

## 2023 National Rose Society of Australia Championships & Conference



**In late October, rosarians from across Australia gathered for the 2023 National Rose Championships hosted by the Rose Society of Western Australia, of which Neutrog's Brian Klepzig was lucky enough to be in attendance.**

The event began with an exhibition at the South Perth Community Centre featuring displays of heritage roses, floral art and prize winners. As you can see in these photos, there was plenty for visitors to see as they wandered through the space which was filled to the brim with incredible blooms.

The event also included a visit to Patsy Durack's garden and cottage in Gooseberry Hill, where Patsy was ready and waiting for the visitors on her verandah.

Patsy and her late husband purchased this beautiful property in 1988 in an overgrown state, and quickly got to work to established what is now known as the Patsy Durack Rose Gardens.

Surrounded by the magical fragrances of roses in full bloom, a riot of colour and the serene backdrop of the old Archbishop's residence, this tranquil setting was the perfect location for show goers to enjoy the fruits of the hard work that goes into the garden.

The roses are lovingly cared for and fed with Sudden Impact for Roses to encourage good growth and consistent healthy blooms for Patsy and visitors to their garden.

If you'd like to learn about rose growing in Western Australia, head to the Rose Society of Western Australia website by [clicking here](#). Not based in Western Australia? You can find plenty of rose growing resources on the Neutrog website, including culture notes to get you ready for summer:



# Australian Native Plant Arboretum

New sign installed for the new arboretum



**This month we were thrilled to see the installation of the sign for the newly established Australian Native Plant Arboretum, marking the start of what is sure to be a long and 'fruitful' relationship between Neutrog and the Australian Plant Society of SA.**

The new arboretum is a joint project between Neutrog and the Australian Plant Society of South Australia, dedicated to rare and endangered Australian native plants, with a specific focus on South Australian natives.

**"Conservation is so important, and to have a repository where we can grow species that are so unusual is of such enormous value to not only Neutrog and the APS, but to the wider community," says Hans Griesser, President of the Australian Plant Society of SA.**

First plantings commenced in August, with further plantings to be added in the new year. We look forward to sharing more about this exciting project with you in 2024.



## Year round fertilising for year round health



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. 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 2024!**  
**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:



*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?*

