



The Pooh Bah News



Dear Pooh Bah Club subscribers,

Welcome to 2024!

This is our favourite newsletter of the year as we take the opportunity to look back at the last year and share some of our favourite stories – along with a few new ones.

We like to think that as you read it, you are sitting surrounded by your plants and likewise reflecting on just how much a garden can change in twelve months!

In 2023, around Australia, gardeners would have been tasked with supporting their plants through establishment, flowering, bearing fruit, managing inclement weather (be it hot, cold, wet, dry or all of these!) and the challenge of pests and disease. However, it is the combination of all of these factors and the joy that gardening brings, that makes it the rewarding activity that it is.

We hope that our complete fascination with soil and microbiology and their potential for growing healthier more resilient plants, has come to life in our stories each month to both inspire and educate you.

We wish you a happy 2024 and happy gardening!

Happy gardening!
The Neutrog Team

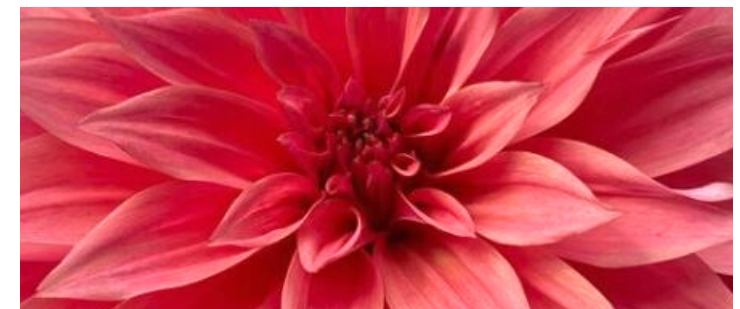


Photo of the Month / 2023 Rewind!



FEBRUARY
Going Green with Sudden Impact for Lawns + POPUL8

Nick from Southwest Sydney, NSW, sent in some fantastic photos of his lawn and hedges after receiving our newsletter in January, telling us that his garden is thriving after applying Sudden Impact for Lawns + POPUL8.



MARCH
Zygoneria Kuitpo 'Brooklyn Parl'

Winners of the Orchid Society of South Australia's Registrars Choice divisions were shining with colour, with many of them fertilised with Strike Back for Orchids to achieve their award winning condition.



APRIL
POPUL8 Triumph on Murraya Hedges

After the release of POPUL8 into the home garden market, Neutrog customer Garry from NSW decided to conduct his own 'at-home' trial of POPUL8 on his 20 year old Murraya Hedge. The results spoke for themselves with plenty of new growth.



MAY
Official Launch of Human Beans

Human Beans is the culmination of over 7 years of research and trials between Neutrog and Foodbank SA to identify ways to economically collect and repurpose spent coffee grounds. Human Beans was launched in April 2023.



JUNE
2023 People's Choice Rose Award

Every year the National Rose Trial Garden of Australia hosts the Autumn Rose Show and People's Choice Weekend, an event that Neutrog has proudly supported for many years.



JULY
The Botanical Planet

Rae from The Botanical Planet has mastered the art of native plants with over 250 plants in her garden. With plentiful nutrition from Bush Tucker, her garden thrives with an array of colours.



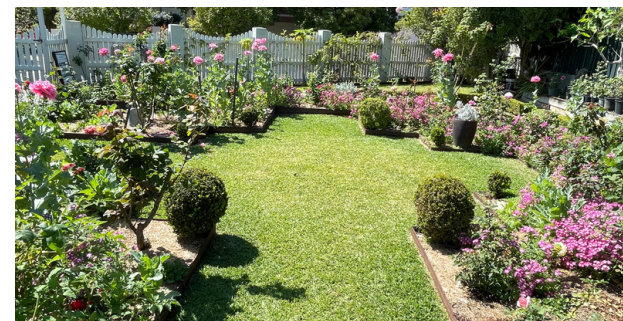
AUGUST
'Peter Frankenfield' Rose

After reading our July newsletter, we were delighted to receive this photo of a rose from Rose Society of South Australia members, Kaye and David Neale who have over 250 roses in the Adelaide Hills.



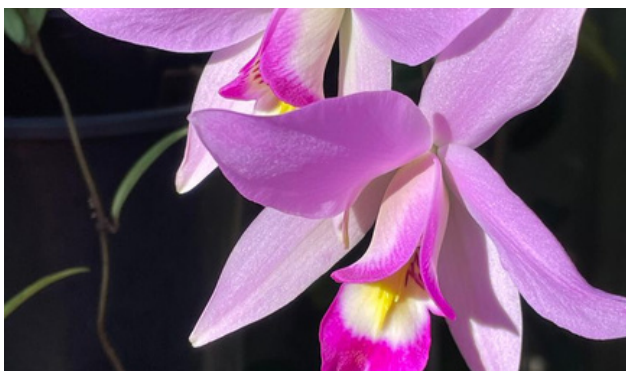
SEPTEMBER
Australian Wildflower Conference

WildFlowers Australia is the national industry association representing and supporting the commercial wildflower industry, and this year they were the hosts of the 10th Australian Wildflower Conference held in VIC/NSW.



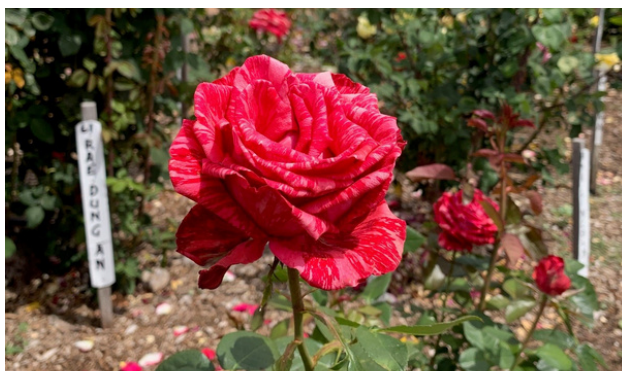
OCTOBER
Vivienne's Garden

There is nothing quite like stopping to smell the roses in spring, and this month Vivienne Dixon from The Oxley and Districts Garden Club is doing exactly that after recently hosting a garden club meeting to showcase her garden.



NOVEMBER
Blooming Success with Strike Back for Orchids

Orchids are popular plants and for good reason – they flower for long periods, make great gifts and come in a huge range of varieties and colours. Ann Lee recently sent in these photos of her orchids, which made the perfect fit for our photo of the month!



DECEMBER
The South West Rose Society

Ferguson Valley Visitors and Tourist Centre in Dardanup WA comes to life from spring to autumn with blooms from the Memorial Rose Garden, established and maintained by the South West Rose Society Inc. to celebrate the endeavours of the early settlers in the South West of WA.



Could your photo be next?

If you have a photo that you think would make a great addition to our Photo of the Month segment, please send to info@neutrog.com.au

Hills Hydrangeas



With large flower heads and bold foliage, hydrangeas are coming back as a beautiful statement for shady gardens and a popular feature in bouquets and events. They produce an incredible show of large, rounded flowers in shades of pink, blue and white, and make the perfect plant for gardeners of any skill level.

Hydrangeas are gaining back some popularity, and ahead of the curve is mother of four and part-time flight attendant, Carla from South Australia. After purchasing her Adelaide Hills home six years ago, she has added 'entrepreneur' to her list after establishing 'Hills Hydrangeas' in 2020.

The property was already decorated with many well-established hydrangea plants, giving Carla an opportunity to learn how to propagate them.

"I dabbled with propagation and growing conditions in 2020 and had huge success with farm gate sales, so I decided to plant more hydrangeas and start offering them for sale at the Stirling Market during the hydrangea season," says Carla.

"I grow Hydrangea macrophylla and currently have 75 white plants and 80 blue/pink plants in the ground from which I collect bi-annual cuttings. I am going to plant another 100 white plants this season to keep up with the high demand for white flowers for special occasions such as weddings."

To achieve healthy blooms ensuring plenty of flowers to offer customers, Carla pays special attention to the positioning of her plants.



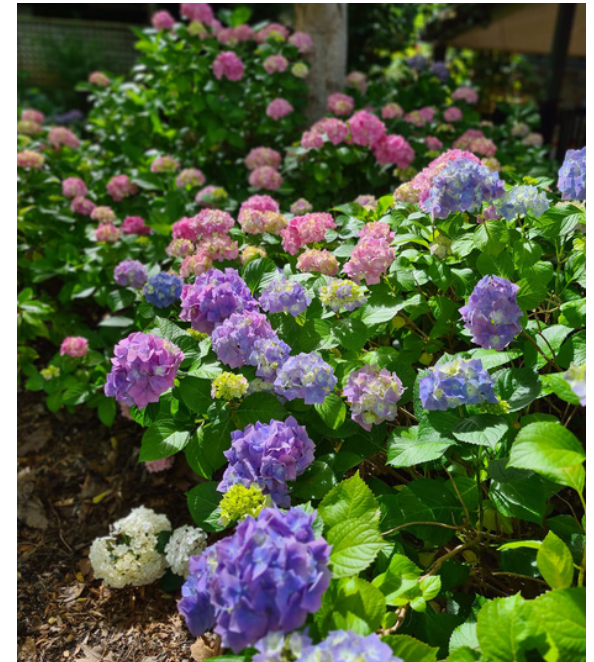


"Choose your spot well. Even leave your hydrangea in its pot for a while to see if the spot you have chosen is a happy one."

"Planting in the right spot is crucial for the plants to thrive. We have a heavy clay soil on our property and the advantage of mature trees to provide afternoon shade. Hydrangeas love a position with morning sun and dappled afternoon shade. Watering frequently (but not waterlogging) also ensure they are happy.

I also use an application of GOGO Juice at planting into the base soil, and then use Seamungus every two months throughout the year and mulch with Whoflungdung to keep the plants in optimal condition.

Hydrangeas are very hardy. You might become disheartened thinking they have been neglected on a hot day when they droop, but after a water they will return to their former glory."



To learn more about Hills Hydrangeas, [CLICK HERE](#).

Kilmore Garden, Victoria



After long careers as cattle farmer and Qantas Captain, Coleen and Douglas moved from their farm in rural Victoria into town where they have worked hard to establish a magnificent garden.

We caught up with Coleen and Douglass in 2023 for a wander through the garden, followed by a delicious lunch on the patio. They told us that their farm and garden was their absolute delight, but after much consideration, that they wanted to build a new garden from scratch.

The only plantings when they moved to their home were conifers (Lleylandi) planted as a boundary. They provided a necessary wind break to allow the garden to established but have since been removed. Professional landscape designer 'Robert Boyle Landscape Design' was engaged to plan and plant the new garden. This happened almost 9 years ago, with everything planted in August 2015.

Coleen and Douglas were introduced to Neutrog products via Robert through his use of Rapid Raiser for the garden and Rocket Fuel for the vegetable garden. "These are still the basis of our fertilising program, but we've added Seamungus, Cock'n'Bull, and have just begun using Gyganic on the vegetables and fruit trees.

These photos show how much can be achieved with a great design, a lot of hard work, careful plant selection, soil preparation and fertilising. All ongoing work since then has been managed by Coleen who is an absolute dynamo.

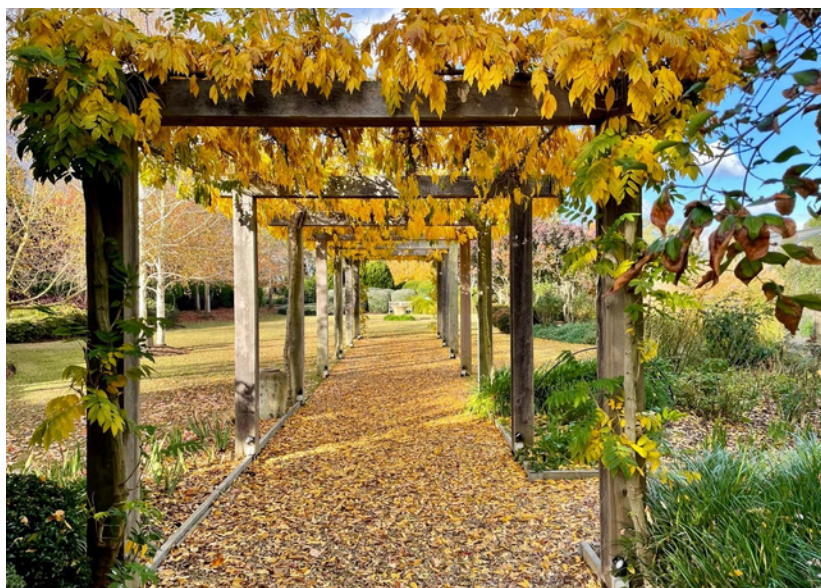


Up until 2022, Douglas was still flying, but upon retirement has set up the most fabulous systems for watering that you'd be likely to see in a domestic garden. Douglas says, "The watering system design includes the ability to run liquid fertiliser through it such as GOGO Juice and POPUL8 to water 1000 square metres of lawn and similar sized garden. The water is delivered through 6km of dripper line." As part of this, two enormous tanks (capable of holding 22,500 litres each!) were also installed, holding water supplied by the bore. He commented that he was a little concerned whether there'd be enough to do upon retirement, and then laughed saying that he is constantly flat out with things to do around the garden.

The view from the patio encompasses much of the garden, but either side of that view are further garden beds and plantings. You are lured from spot to spot and constantly find more beautiful plantings to admire. The vegetable, herb and fruit garden is fully enclosed to keep out the marauders and a great range is grown here. Coleen is a fabulous cook too – which we can attest to. The wisteria covered pergola is stunning. When we visited it was covered in lush green foliage with hundreds of green seed pods dangling down – a statement within itself. There's lots of great tough plants, including roses, pittosporums, nandinas, grasses, Cotinus and agapanthus. Silver birches and maples abound, providing stunning autumnal colour.

Douglas says, "There is a bench seat at the far end of the garden centred in line with the arbour. To sit there with Coleen and being with nature is very relaxing. From there, we think of new things and projects to construct." Coleen loves that there is interest in the garden all year round, with either foliage, flowers, or fragrance.

"I find it hard to pick my favourite part of the garden. I love being able to pick flowers for the house, but I have to say that growing your own vegetables is just ridiculously satisfying," she says.



POPUL8 Saves 20 Year Old Murraya Hedge



A lot of people ask us “What should I expect to see after I use POPUL8?” and obviously, that can be a tricky one to answer due to so many variables. But these photos are a great example that reflects a lot of the feedback that we have received to date.

Neutrog customer Garry from NSW decided to conduct his own ‘at-home’ trial of POPUL8 on his 20 year old Murraya hedge. With sparse foliage, the hedge was noticeably struggling to maintain vigor and put on new growth.

Remember when comparing these photos that POPUL8 is NOT a fertiliser – so this is not a comparison between plants that have been ‘fed’ and those that haven’t.

POPUL8 has given the plants a potent blend of over 200 naturally occurring microbes plus 42 individual beneficial bacteria and fungi, which work on many levels to help plants thrive by liberating nutrients in the soil, helping to increase resilience to pathogens.



“I would have taken the plants out before... I have recommended POPUL8 to anyone I know for what it will do to the soil,” says Garry.



Veggie Patch Success with Gyganic for Veggies, Fruit & Citrus



There is something about growing your own produce that creates excitement in the garden. Taking your garden from a bare piece of soil to a productive vegetable patch is a journey, and one that Emily from Ace Ohlsson McGraths Hill is enjoying all the benefits of.

As a member of the Ace Ohlsson team, Emily knows all too well the importance of good nutrition for a quality crop, no matter what their customers are growing. The same goes for the home garden where a healthy soil is essential for a thriving garden.

These principles were applied to Emily's home vegetable patch, where she regularly feeds her garden with Gyganic for Veggies, Fruit & Citrus, mulches with Whoflungdung, and waters with POPUL8 with great results.

She now proudly shares her veggie gardening experiences (and produce) with her Ace Ohlsson colleagues and customers, and happily recommends the Neutrog range in store.



Petal Head Farm & Florist



Flowers are a gift of nature, enriching spaces with beauty, colour, and design. Growing cut flowers and creating floral arrangements can be a delightful artistic outlet, and one that is cherished by Erin Dore in Gympie, Queensland, who established Petal Head Farm in 2021.

Having always been creative, Erin studied a Bachelor of Design at QUT and majored in Interior Architecture and graduated with honours. Her career as an Interior Designer began in Sydney and continued for over 10 years before moving back to the countryside.

“For a girl that grew up on a farm, sitting behind a computer screen all day was a bore! So, I up and left at the end of 2020 and came back to Gympie with no real plans other than to catch up on sleep,” says Erin.

Her flare for design didn't go to waste in her downtime however, establishing her boutique flower farm and florist where she has a hand in the entire process from growing flowers from seed, to designing unique and whimsical arrangements for bouquets and events.



"We grow a wide variety of flowers and foliage so that we can accomplish fully realised bouquets and wedding offerings throughout the year. I spend most evenings researching flowers that may have been forgotten or hunting down a flower I may have seen a favourite florist from abroad use. However, some of our main crops are Dahlias, Gerberas (unusual varieties only!! No carnival coloured Woolworths types), Delphiniums, Snapdragons, Stock, Zinnias, Icelandic poppies, Roses, Ranunculus, Flannel Flower, Lisianthus just to name a few. My favourite flower of all time is probably the most difficult to grow in Queensland, the Icelandic Poppy- I love that you can observe it throughout its fleeting lifespan, from the cracked bud stage to this gloriously wild and unreal looking paper like bloom. I also have an obsession with Delphiniums... they're just indescribably magical. "

At Petal Head Farm, you can expect a natural, wild and whimsical floral style. Erin prefers to work with nature, and not against it, and as a result produces free spirited arrangements. All blooms are grown with help from Neutrog products to ensure healthy soil and strong plants.

"We use as many Neutrog products as possible! We use Sudden Impact for Roses on all of the flowers at the farm and it is perfection. GOGO Juice - the smellier the better I always think, and this definitely delivers. We use this on newly planted seedlings as a bit of a rescue remedy to alleviate transplant stress and also foliar fertilise the entire farm. Whoflungdung was one of the first products we ever used. We probably began using it about 6 months into the Petal Head Farm journey and we noticed the effects almost immediately.

Bush Tucker is used on the natives we grow which are Geraldton Wax, Thryptomene, Flannel Flowers and all of our Gum and Wattle Trees."



Black Kangaroo Paws with Angus Stewart



Kangaroo Paws are available in an impressive range of eye catching colours and are among the most recognised native plants to grow. They are fascinating to native plant enthusiasts across Australia, and a favourite of native plant expert, Angus Stewart, who recently shared a particularly interesting variety with us:

"Kangaroo paws are one of Australia's most iconic wildflowers, with the red and green kangaroo paw (*Anigozanthos manglesii*) being perhaps best known, being the floral emblem of Western Australia. There is one other kangaroo paw that has similar show stopping qualities, namely the black kangaroo paw.

Whilst being related to the dozen other species of kangaroo paws in the genus *Anigozanthos*, the black kangaroo paw is in a botanical group on its own, *Macropidia*, meaning that it is quite unique botanically, as well as its stunning appearance as one of the world's very few black flowers.

Highly prized as a garden and cut flower plant, unfortunately it has proven to be a very demanding plant in cultivation. In its wild habitat on the sand plains north of Perth, it grows in very well drained gravelly soils, and this is the clue to growing it in the garden - it needs perfect drainage.

If you want to take on the challenge of growing the black kangaroo paw (*Macropidia fuliginosa*) you need to ensure that your soil is very well drained and also keeping the foliage dry, especially in summer will help a lot. If you do not have a situation like that of its natural habitat north of Perth (dry summers and well drained soils) then growing it in a good quality potting mix in a position with as much sun as possible such as a suitably positioned greenhouse or awning, where you can stop the foliage getting wet, whilst also providing perfect drainage.

Another way of experiencing the black kangaroo paw is as a long lasting cut flower, which will generally last 2 to three weeks if you recut a couple of cm from the stem every few days as well as refreshing the water."

A regular feed with a slow-release fertiliser like Bush Tucker will supply essential nutrients and allow your natives to thrive in the garden- not just survive- encouraging an increase in high quality blooms. Apply GOGO Juice monthly to give the soil a microbial boost.



Mona Vane Garden



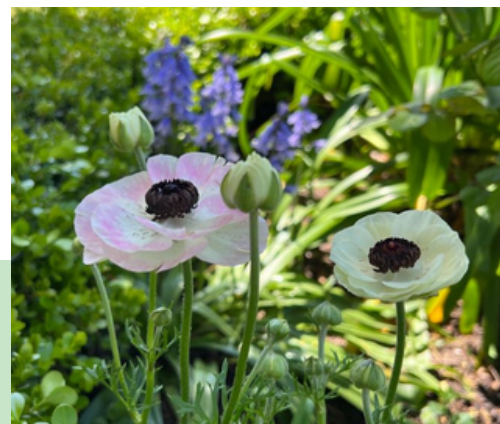
Science tells us that gardening can do wonders for your wellbeing, boosting your mental health by improving serotonin levels. Simply planting a seed, digging into the earth or picking some fresh blooms can provide a valuable boost of happiness, something that Jess from Mona Vane Garden knows better than most.

Jess and husband James moved to their 1890s homestead, Mona Vane, just outside of Warren in central west NSW in 2015. Since then, they have welcomed three daughters - Elsie (eldest) and twins Audrey and Eliza.

Their time at the property hasn't come without its challenges however, with droughts, floods, and personal struggles. After a long battle with cancer, Jess' mother passed away when Elsie was only seven months old. While dealing with the loss, Jess also noticed her health had taken a major setback while on maternity leave after having her twins.

Jess started the Instagram page for Mona Vane Garden a few months into her maternity leave, saying "It forced me outside as I wanted to get my hands dirty and connect with likeminded people. It got me outdoors and moving, became an excellent stress reliever, helped me feel better and gave me more energy. I was more motivated to get up off the lounge to achieve more in the day. I needed sun on my face and wind in my hair.

Gardening helps me to escape the monotony of motherhood. Being outside gives me the time to reflect. Reflect on the time I spent with my own mother who loved gardening... Gardening made her happy, and I believe it makes me happy too."



"I believe mental health is like gardening - it's forever changing, ever evolving and may need a dose of fertiliser to keep us happy and healthy," says Jess.



The existing gardens at Mona Vane included a beautiful range of Moreton Bay figs and Jacaranda trees, creating a thick blanket of purple petals every November. Perhaps the most unique feature on the property is a bougainvillea climbing up the water tank stand. Roses have become a key component of the gardens, with Jess having planted more than 150 roses in an assortment of colours including pinks, oranges and creams.

Jess uses a variety of Neutrog products to keep the soil productive and the plants thriving including Seamungus, Rapid Raiser and POPUL8. A favourite of hers is Sudden Impact for Roses Advanced Biological Formula and pellets. She gives flowering plants a regular foliar feed to ensure strong flowers and encourage a longer flowering period.

The Farm — Clarendon



Located in Clarendon, just a short drive from South Australia's McLaren Vale region, Ryan French and Emma Gilbert run 'The Farm - Clarendon'. At the heart of The Farm is a poultry hatchery, but over time they have also developed a strong passion for growing stunning organic flowers and produce.

Emma has had a longstanding passion and love for dahlias and is involved with the Dahlia Society of South Australia as a member of the committee. When she isn't tending to the animals including 80 different breeds of heritage poultry and highland cattle folds, she spends her time maintaining 100 square metres (and growing - much to her partners heartache!) of raised garden beds.

'The Farm' is currently only using certified organic products across the property including Neutrog's Rapid Raiser, Seamungus, Rocket Fuel, and Blade Runner which form their year round fertilising program to nourish the soils and lush lawn areas.

Emma and Ryan say, "Farming is in our blood, we want to leave this land in better shape for future generations".

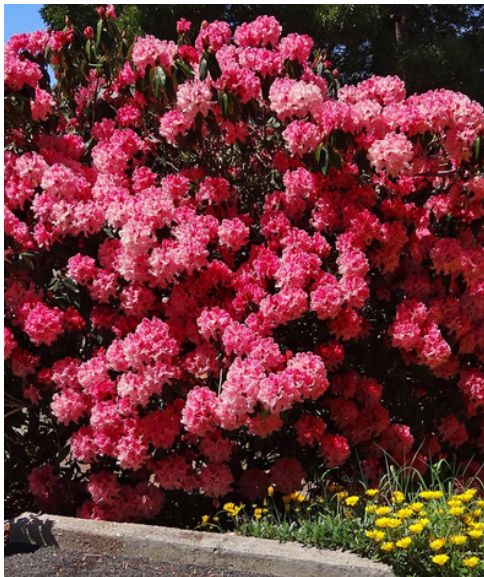
Both the farm and the garden are holistically managed following principles outlined by Allan Savoury for 'future-focused' land management. They use a no-dig principle, and with approximately 1200 chooks at hand, there is never a shortage of poultry manure to nourish the gardens. "The biodiversity and soil structure are the biggest elements to our success when growing our bold, vibrant cut flowers and heirloom vegetable varieties."

Emma's passion for flowers begun years ago and was significantly influenced by an online course she underwent with US flower specialist, Erin Benzakein from 'Floret Flowers'. These learnings inspired a new trajectory for Emma, who now grows a wide range of cut flowers at The Farm with her specialities being dahlias, zinnias, ranunculus, sweet peas and cosmos. She also grows a range of natives including baby blue eucalyptus and king proteas.

Emma currently is hosting workshops to help educate fellow flower lovers on how to dig, divide and take cuttings from various cut flowers at their 20 acre farm. Guests can take a walk through the garden and learn about different plant varieties and how to grow them.



Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden, Tasmania



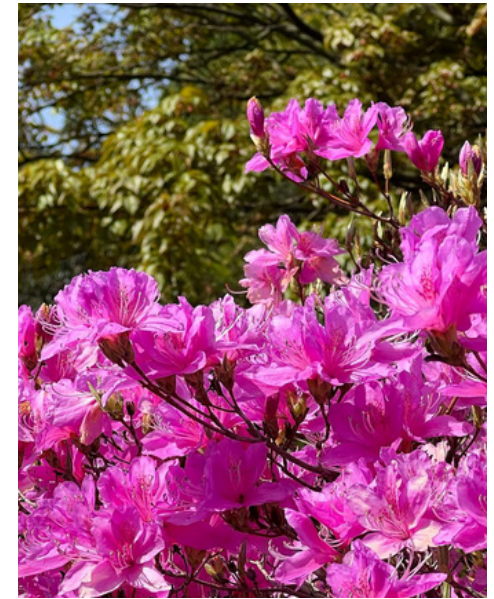
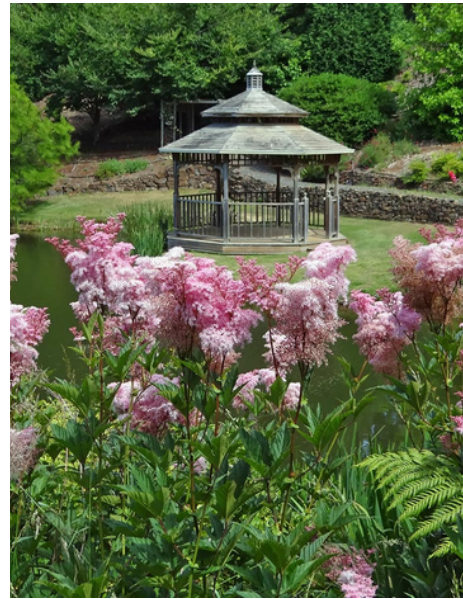
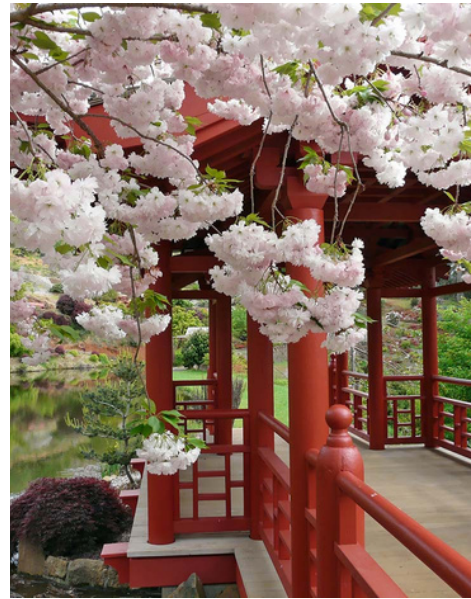
Situated on Tasmania's north-west coast just 8kms from the town of Burnie, is the internationally acclaimed Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden. The garden covers eleven hectares with extensive landscaping including lakes, waterfalls, bridges, gazebos and walking tracks, with a vision to conserve rhododendron and other rare species.

In 1977, members of the newly formed Rhododendron Society, in northwest Tasmania, started looking for a block of land suitable to start a new garden. Their vision was to display species and hybrid rhododendrons in a woodland setting, and to create a pool of genetic material for scientific research and hybridizing. A site was found thanks to the generosity of its members, and in 1981 the Australian Rhododendron Society National Council members were invited to plant the very first rhododendron. It was called 'Golden Dream' – for that is just what it was; a dream the garden would become a reality.

Emu Valley is sited on a natural amphitheatre and the soil is rich and volcanic. The walls slope into a large, stepped basin, fed by natural springs which form a series of lakes. This creates a perfect haven from the extremes of weather for some frost sensitive rhododendrons, meaning that that we are one of the only non-tropical gardens to grow tropical vireyas outside.

Celebrating over 40 years since the gates officially opened to the public, the garden now boasts over 24,000 rhododendron species, hybrids and companion plants, arranged to showcase their area of origin from around the world, each themed with authentically constructed pavilions and gazebos. In addition to the amazing array of rhododendrons, there are glorious azaleas, camellias, wonderful ornamental trees such as paulownias and to top this off - incredible cherry blossoms.

The rhododendrons are at their peak from September to November, however, this truly stunning garden provides year-round interest. Autumn is a delight with rich hues of purple, red and gold as the deciduous trees and the many species of maple turn their leaves. Even in winter, the quiet serenity and beautiful birdsong is thoroughly enjoyable.



The gardens are now owned by the members of Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden Inc. As a voluntary organisation, membership is vital to see that the Garden is further developed and maintained for future generations. Each week, dedicated groups of volunteers meet to work together, whether in the garden or running the café and catering.

Horticulturist, Juanita Wood works with her team of volunteers to manage this unique garden. Their goal is to develop and maintain what is essentially a plant museum, completing tasks such as, propagation of plants, growing plants for sale or for planting out into the garden, establishing new areas and maintaining existing beds. Many of the rhododendron species grown are currently, or are at risk of becoming, endangered in the wild.

Over the last few years, Juanita has been fertilising with Kahoona as it is the perfect food for acid loving plants. She has found that the plants have been stronger, healthier and more floriferous. Seamungus will be used on juvenile plants next season as well as GOGO Juice to encourage microbial activity.

This garden has it all – perhaps you're looking for a place to volunteer, a wedding or function venue, or an activity to add to your trip to Tasmania's north-west. Whatever your reason, or the season, you will not be disappointed. Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden offers guided tours by arrangement, has disabled facilities and plenty of parking for motorhomes and caravans. For more details visit www.emuvalleyrhodo.com.au.

Sgorra Bhreac Garden



Now a sprawling stretch of colours, scents, and textures, it's hard to imagine Sgorra Bhreac Garden once existed as a simple one-hectare plot of farm pasture.

However, when owners Cynthia and Graeme Nicholson purchased the Strathalbyn land in 2010 with plans to build a home surrounded by a splendid garden, planting began immediately to make them a reality.

Although the couple refer to the garden as their retirement sanctuary, the grounds have also become significant for many others. Roughly translated from its Gaelic meaning of 'Hill in the Mist', the now-established Sgorra Bhreac Garden enjoys countless visitors from tours and groups and is appreciated privately by the Nicholsons and their loved ones.

Over the years, Cynthia and Graeme have lovingly planted, tended, and grown Sgorra Bhreac to its splendour today, complete with a stunning Tasmanian sandstone house they call home. The use of Neutrog's range of products throughout the garden – and their ongoing care – has ensured each plant reaches its full potential.

A testament to the community spirit of gardening, many have been included in the process of cultivating Sgorra Bhreac to the beauty it is today: the Murray Bridge Social Garden Club, which Cynthia belonged to, Strathalbyn gardener Colin Digance who helped the couple create a microclimate with plants that suits the area, and Cynthia and Graeme's grandchildren, who witnessed their visions of dinosaurs and fairy gardens spring to life.

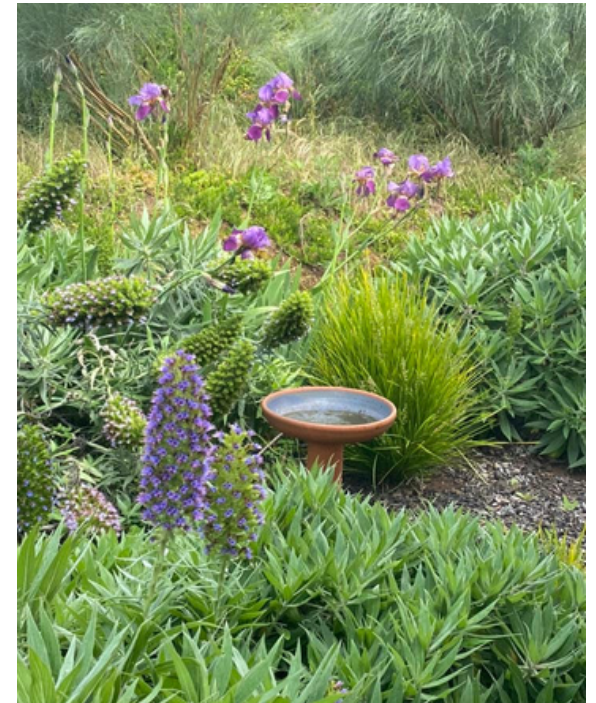
With a passion for turning old into new, Sgorra Bhreac contains creatively evolved additions, such as a 100-year-old prison door from the Adelaide Gaol, now used in the fairy garden. The century-old discarded wine vats from the local Bleasdale Winery form the Jarrah bridge. Cynthia and Graeme's old favourites, including roses, agapanthus, hibiscuses, irises, and salvias, take pride of place in the flower garden. Garden ornaments, a spectacular cactus garden, a moat and island, and a dwarf fruit tree section are among some of the sensory delights guests enjoy.





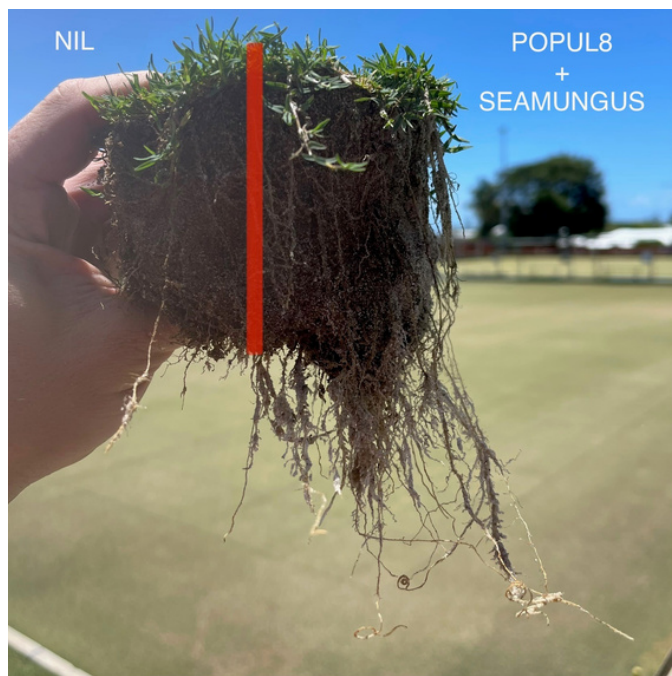
Bordering the garden are carefully selected natives, including Acacia species of Pendula, Silver Princess, Pycantha, and Paradoxia, plus hakeas and grevilleas, to encourage birdlife. The inner garden contains hibiscus, frangipani, crab apples, mulberry, and crepe myrtles, to name a few. Perennials, shrubs, and long-lived trees are favoured, allowing visitors to relax and relish their surroundings, while the owners enjoy a low-maintenance garden for the retirement phase of their lives.

To explore the stunning Strathalbyn based garden for yourself, visit Sgorra Bhreac's Facebook page to learn more.



To learn more about Hills Hydrangeas, [CLICK HERE.](#)

Commercial Highlights - POPUL8 Controls ERI at Bowls Club in QLD



Ectotrophic root-infecting fungi, better known as ERI, is the name given to fungi that cause a number of root diseases in turf. They are soil-borne and produce black mycelium (fungal threads) on the surface of roots and stems, causing patchiness and poor root health. If not controlled, the scaring from the disease will stay visible and effect the playability of any turf surface.

ERI is one of the most prominent pathogens in South East Queensland and has been a major issue at the Scarborough Bowls Club in Queensland for a decade. Along with ERI the greens have also developed a significant layer of thatch which has inhibited root growth, providing a significant challenge for Greenkeeper, Rhys Thurlow after he took over the maintenance of the greens in 2022.

Rhys says, "With complex rebuilds out of the question, alternative measures needed to be implemented and after extensive research, I believed that the combination of POPUL8 and Seamungus Advanced Biological Liquid would be the perfect solution for my situation to turn thatch into organic matter whilst simultaneously suppressing disease, promoting plant strength and accelerating root growth.

The two greens that had ERI pathogens running rampant in them for nearly a decade had immediate results when applying the products regularly, and haven't showed a single sign of disease since."



"With absolutely no fungicides needing to be applied in less than 12 months and a club full of happy members, I can safely say that I'll be applying POPUL8 and Seamungus indefinitely in all my maintenance programs and look forward to seeing the soil composition continue to improve over time."

Neutrog's R&D Manager, Dr Uwe says, "POPUL8 contains a number of bacteria which secrete compounds into the soil that have been shown to inhibit a range of pathogenic fungi. The most likely explanation for this situation is that the bacteria in POPUL8 have established themselves in the soil and have inhibited or killed the pathogen. The rapid and significant root development is likely due to other bacteria in POPUL8 that secrete the plant growth hormone indole-3-acetic acid (auxin). Auxins are the primary plant hormones responsible for root development.

What POPUL8 has done is reduced the pathogen load and increased root growth via biological synthesised compounds thus reducing or eliminating the need to apply harsh and potentially soil damaging chemicals."

Commercial Highlights - Freshwater Farms 18 Months on from POPUL8 Trials



Operating a commercial plantation comes with challenges that Managing Director of Freshwater Farms, Allan Hutcherson knows better than most. Having been in operation since 2018 growing a variety of oil producing plants such as tea tree, salt bush and lemon myrtle for their range of luxury hair and body care products, it wasn't until 2021 that one of their biggest challenges emerged.

With over 2,000 plants in their care with 2,000 more, Allan notices some of the existing trees had begun to deteriorate in various areas of the plantation. The trees were in significant distress with discoloured leaves and low foliage volume and quality.

Soil samples examined by the Department of Primary Industries determined that the root cause was the presence of *Phytophthora cryptogea*, a species of water mould that poses a significant risk to plants.

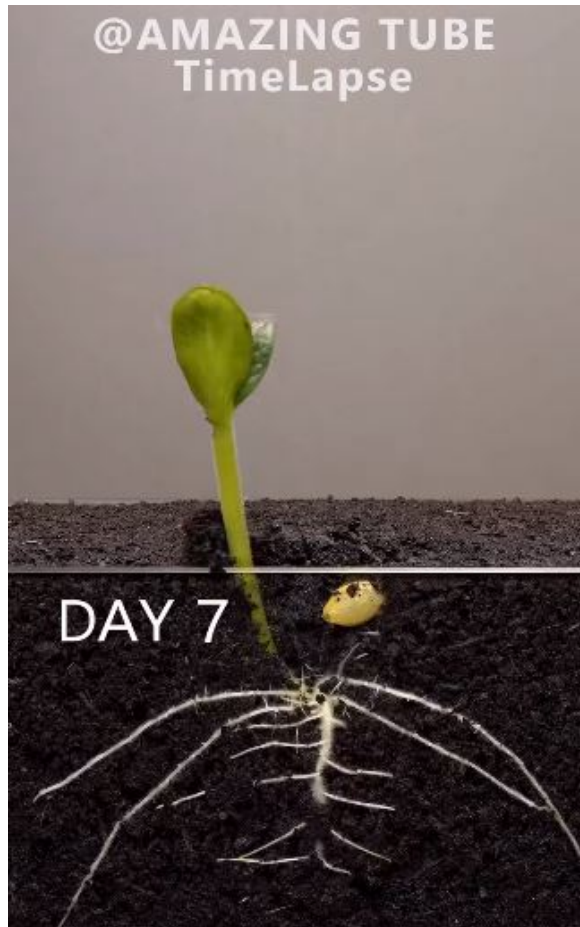
Freshwater Farm were among the first group of growers to trial Neutrog's Advanced Soil Biological, POPUL8 and GOGO Juice Advanced Biological Formula. The results of these trials showed a swift turnaround of the health of the plants, with discoloured foliage returning to its natural shade of green with increased quality and density.

Neutrog paid a visit to the farm in 2023 to see the progress with Farm Manager, Rick Tobin. 18 months on from the trial and plant numbers have now doubled with more plans in place for additional plantings.

Most significantly, plant losses to *Phytophthora* and fungal pathogens have reduced dramatically, and overall plant health has exceeded expectations and increased oil yields.

The farm continues to use POPUL8, GOGO Juice and Gyganic for both their greenhouse and field plantings.

2023 Social Media Highlights



On Facebook and Instagram 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.

We've had a lot of great content to share throughout 2023 but one post that stood out the most was this time lapse of a sprouting zucchini seed ([click this link to watch the full video](#)). The video was shot by @AmazingTube, who has many more of these fascinating videos on YouTube.

As the saying goes, 'it is better to put a \$1 plant in a \$10 hole, than a \$10 plant in a \$1 hole', and as this time lapse demonstrates, the right soil environment of soil, fertiliser, air and moisture will ensure plants have the best start.

While we had this video on repeat at the Neutrog Head Office, another 29,593,533 of you also watched it, 202,000 of you engaged with it, and over 13,000 of you shared it with your friends!

We were also sent in some great images throughout the year, including the two below.

The first photo (left) was sent to us by the team at the National Rose Garden at Woomers Estate in Tasmania. They cleverly demonstrated that Sudden Impact for Roses can be a gift that keeps on giving, using the leftover bags as protective sleeves for their tomato plants.

The second photo (right) was sent by Barrie, taken by good friend Rick, of some antics which caused plenty of mirth among passersby in Circular Quay last year. The reason that Barrie had a piece of a Whoflungdung bag (at lunch, whatsmore!), is part of a long running joke between the two, that began all the way back in the school yard in the mid-60's. There is no doubt that our product names are memorable!

Next Month / Keep In Touch Until February!



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 Mandy at Bremerside Iris Farm. 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 February!
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?

