



February 2020 Newsletter

Welcome from our CEO – Craig Perkins

Dear Members and Customers,

Thankfully, the heavy rain predicted has now brought an end to the immediate Bush Fire situation. The rain will provide a great opportunity to sow pasture and fertilise your paddocks as we head to Autumn. Make sure you contact Alex, our Agronomist, so we can assist you with Seed supply and the planning process.

Hopefully all our members received my letter regarding the Co-op's commitment to providing bushfire support. We have had several Members respond and we are working with them to provide specific support.

The Co-op has decided to host a major Bush Fire Appeal day on Saturday 22nd February (8am – 3pm) on site. The Co-op will be donating 50% of our profits on the day to the Bush Fire Appeal. In addition to this we have over \$15,000 worth of products donated by our Suppliers, which we will Silent Auction on the day, with 100% of these proceeds going to the Bush Fire Appeal.

To maximise sales on the day, we will have a huge range of products on sale, including 20% off all plants (excluding punnets) as we launched our new Garden centre. We will have a local RFS station in attendance to discuss fire plans and advice around replacing trees and plants to minimise the risk of future fire danger.

Our Agronomist, Alex Good, will be on site to discuss everything Agronomy with Autumn around the corner. We will have a petting zoo on display for the kids and we have other activities planned.

This is an excellent opportunity to raise a significant amount of money for the Bush Fire Appeal and I look forward to the support of all our Members and Customers.

I am also delighted to announce our new Bowral Co-op website will be launched on February 11th. In addition to this, the new Saddleworld website and Online store will be launched on February 13th.

Bowral Coop is www.bowralcoop.com.au

Saddleworld is www.saddleworldbowral.com.au

Enjoy the newsletter

Best Regards

Craig Perkins

AGRONOMY

The rains are here! Maybe a little bit too much in places but, we won't complain! With good rain after dry weather there are unique problems you will face that can be easily avoided but, will cause long term problems if ignored. These problems all revolve around planting, spraying and fertilising.



With an extended dry period prior to this rain, every seed in your soil will be attempting to germinate, which if they are seeds you've put there, is good news! However, there will without doubt be weed seeds also germinating, especially where ground cover is poor and there may have been recent cultivation. Best practice in paddocks to be re-sown is to allow as many small weeds to emerge as you can without building up excessive trash and spray out with Glyphosate or a mix containing glyphosate to leave paddock as clean as possible for newly pasture to be sown into and establish strongly. If you sow soon after the rain and there are only a few weeds you are probably only seeing around 10% of what will eventually emerge. Those weeds will provide direct competition to your desired species and more than likely beat the desired species to establishment. Controlling young, small weeds without any sown pasture present that is trying to be kept means more cost-effective stronger chemical can be used such as glyphosate. By allowing weeds to survive you will more than likely must use a selective chemical that will be more expensive, less effective given weeds will have progressed in maturity and could risk killing some species in your crop or pasture mix.

Established pasture or crops where it is too late to use glyphosate are at risk of being overrun by weeds following this rain as they are only just emerging at the same time as the weeds or have been over grazed leading up to the rain and are going to be slow to recover. If you are concerned about this it is important to act quickly as small weeds, no bigger than 6 leaves present are the easiest and cheapest to control. You need to be out scouting your paddocks for the next little while to make sure you catch these weeds. If you can see them driving past the paddock, they are already getting difficult to control without damaging the pasture in some way. To help the pasture recover it is important to make sure soil nutrient levels are adequate and that the pasture can fully recover before being grazed again. This is normally when the pasture reaches canopy closure or when all the bare soil has been covered by the desired species.

Sowing into wet soil is also bad practice and will lead to poor establishment and reduced seed emergence. Both tyne drills and disc drills can smear the soil leaving it hard and impenetrable to roots when it dries. As the drill passes through the soil it should be friable and dry enough fall back into the trench created by the drill or be easily compressed by the following press wheel without leaving a shiny finish. This is normally an issue when we go into to sow too soon after rain or may even have compaction issues deeper in the soil not allowing water to drain freely.

Nitrogen losses are also a major issue after heavy rain. Sometimes we can be hasty to apply nitrogen fertiliser at the first sight of rain. If you did apply nitrogen-based fertiliser prior to this rain, there is high chance it may have been leached from the root-zone and is no longer available to the plant. This can even be the case for unfertilised pastures too that rely on nitrogen fixation and mineralisation of organic matter. The pasture or crop will go through a brief period of yellowing and will be set back in development. As the soil dries mineralisation should kick in and the plants should begin to grow and lose the yellowing. It is crucial not to graze the paddock when it is stressed by things such as Nitrogen deficiency. Once the plants have recovered and ready to be grazed try to apply nitrogen fertiliser again but looking ahead to not apply prior to rain in excess of 50-100mm.

If you are concerned about the health and weed burden in your paddocks following the much-needed rain, give us a call!

For all Agronomy queries, please contact Alex Good
Mobile: 0434 642 663 or Email: agood@bowralcoop.com.au

WATER MANAGEMENT SOLUTIONS



Our Irrigation team has been busy assisting those home owners impacted by the fire.

These images show the impact of the Bush fire and, as you can see, the water tank and bore have been totally destroyed.

If you require assistance with any aspect of Water Management following the fires, please don't hesitate to contact Chris and his team for assistance.



PRODUCE SHED

With the current fire conditions affecting the Southern Highlands and surrounding areas, a lot of our customers have been inquiring about helping the remaining wildlife by purchasing feed for them and asking where to distribute it. We have compiled a list of appropriate feeds (as per a member who is a part of WRSC and Wombatised)

Kangaroos and Wombats:

- **Water** is a huge necessity right now. Leave buckets of water around the forest areas.
- **Hay:** Any meadow hays, ryegrass, clover etc. or oaten hay (these come in your traditional bale or a compact bale).
- **Pellets:** Economix, Bio Mare Cubes, Extra Cool (access to water is a must when distributing pellets. If water is not available, they will bloat and can get very sick).



Birds:

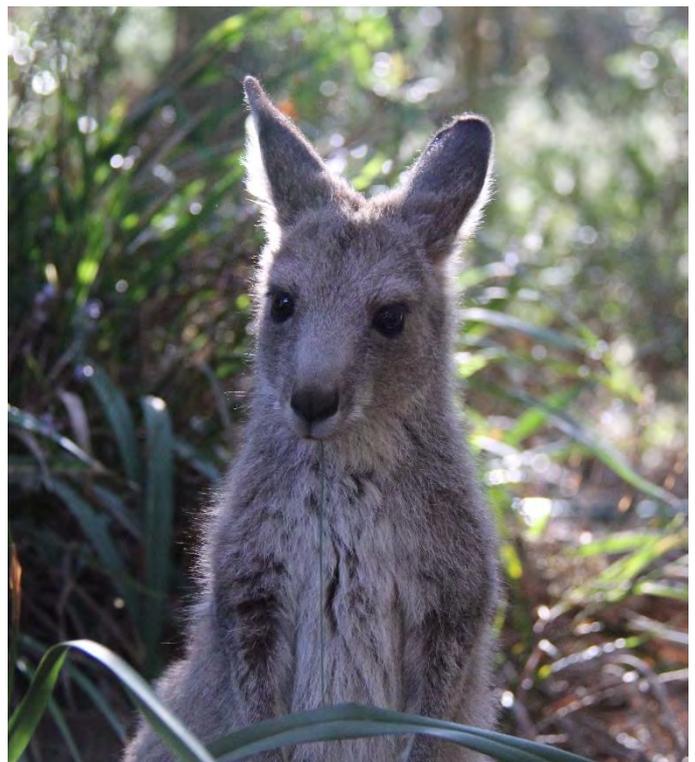
- Wild bird seed, scratch mix, sunflower seeds or grains

Distribution:

Our recommendation to anyone wanting to help feed the affected wildlife, is to get in contact with the companies below and have them distribute it for you. Many of the affected areas are still considered danger zones and are private property. Placing the feed in the right spot is essential for everyone's safety.

You can distribute any donation of feed to Wombat Care Bundanoon, call your local WIRES, contact Future for Wildlife Australia or Dimmocks Retreat Wildlife.

Call Jono on 0488 009 150 or email
jfudge@bowralcoop.com.au



RETAIL STORE

We have a great range of Stetson hats now in store - made in USA and Mexico since 1865.



We still have firefighter pumps in store along with the hose kits and more on the way.



Call Amanda on 0408 114 947 or email apullinger@bowralcoop.com.au

GARDEN NEWS

The rain is coming so be prepared – be sure to add Satur-aid to your garden to retain the precious water. Our special price of **\$35.00 for a 30ltr Bag** - covers 600sq metres

A few tips to help your garden through this hotter weather.

1. Mulch your garden beds, although I'm sure you have already.
2. Apply Wetta soil liquid or granules so the precious water can reach the root zone.
3. Move pots into shaded areas if possible, or erect temporary shelters of shade cloth.
4. Water in the evenings if possible.
5. The use of anti stress liquids like Seasol, Envy or Yates Droughtshield will help with reducing water loss and ward off heat stress.

Garden Chores for February

- If you can beat the heat, feed camellias with a soluble complete plant food. Water thoroughly during dry periods.
- Azaleas can be fertilised and pruned back this month if necessary.
- Feed fruit trees with "Troforte" Fruit and Citrus fertiliser, this will ensure adequate plant food for bud burst and fruit set for next Spring.
- Prune long unwanted canes from wisteria, jasmine to keep them under control.
- Stake Dahlias and chrysanthemums to protect from wind damage.
- Prune roses to encourage an autumn flush by deadheading and removing any dieback.
- A dressing of Sudden Impact will do wonders at this time.
- Don't forget the lawn. Be watchful for Curl grub.
- A feed of liquid Seasol Plus or Powerfeed will boost the lawn no end.

February Special - 10% off Troforte Rejuvenator Fertiliser (all sizes)



Plantings for February

Vegetable Garden: Lettuce, english spinach, beetroot, carrots, silverbeet, strawberries, asparagus.

Herbs: Mint, sage, thyme, tarragon, chives, parsley, marjoram, coriander and oregano.

Preparing for cooler crops should be on your agenda. Harvest and prepare your beds for next month's plantings of Broccoli, Cabbage, etc.

Incorporate lots of organic compost and fertilizer for these hungry vegetables.

In the Flower Garden

- Petunias can be cut back for a second flowering, deadhead annuals for repeat flowering.
- Self-seeding annuals have the capability to shed their seeds throughout the garden and so flowers will emerge the next year in the most unexpected places. Allowing plants to do this gives your garden a sense of intrigue and interest, as garden 'pictures' will appear spontaneously.
- Perennials can be cut back as they finish flowering and the addition of a fertiliser will ensure strong growth for next year.
- Next month we will start to see the arrival of the cooler weather flowers.
- This month should be focused on tidying up and rejuvenating our garden beds for next season.
- February is also the time to plan for Spring Bulbs.

Again, this year we will have the ever popular Tesselaar Bulbs in stock.



Come and Browse our
New Sizzling Hot Pot Range from
Motyaj Design

Take advantage of our low introductory prices



Happy gardening, and I'll see you at the Garden Centre.

Stay safe,

Jenny



Email: gardencentre@bowralcoop.com.au



Introducing BARE Equestrian to Saddleworld Bowral.



DESIGN MATTERS! BARE Equestrian was born from a desire for excellent quality equestrian apparel which is **STYLISH** yet breathable and comfortable. At BARE, we are **INNOVATORS!** In a sport where tradition dominates, BARE is breaking the rules! We are proud of our designs and always looking for new ways to innovate.



We are an Australian based business passionate about creating superior products. We are active in the Equestrian sport, so all products are heavily tested by us to ensure quality.

We specialise in high quality innovative performance riding apparel. Our popular BARE Performance Tights boast superior GRIP technology! We all know your SEAT is the key to an amazing ride! BARE is style, confidence and security without the constraint of bulky traditional breeches. BARE breaks all the molds!



Horse Pilot designs technical clothes for the riders who experience riding as a sport. A sport which involves moving, sweating, enduring the rain and sometimes falling. To meet those needs, we use all the tools offered by textile

technology: materials, cuts and a garment construction that allow for posture, breathability, insulation and protection.



We think that with the appropriate equipment, you can ride longer and better, outdo yourself and enjoy it. Since we like riding horses, it would be a shame to deprive ourselves of all this. Currently up to **40% off HORSE PILOT** in store at Saddleworld Bowral!

Saddleworld Bowral is also excited to announce the launch of its website and online store.

www.saddleworldbowral.com.au

Don't forget to follow us on Facebook and Instagram.



@saddleworldbowral