

EASycARE GARDENING

Autumn Newsletter

www.easycaregardening.org.au

MARCH 2008

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20th Anniversary Big Breakfast

On the 8th August, 2008

Easy Care Gardening will have contributed 20 years of amazing service to the community. To celebrate this, we will be holding a **'Big Breakfast'** with entertainment, nourishment and wonderful company. More will be revealed in the next newsletter.

URGENT!!!

2 OFFICE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

- ECG requires the services of a volunteer to assist with computer & telephone work.
- CALM would love a volunteer to assist with data entry & answer the phone 5 to 7 hours per week.
- Please phone [LIZ](mailto:liz@easycaregardening.org.au) on 9983 1644 if you can help.



A Volunteer Home and Community Care Service
P.O. Box 502, Turrumurra, NSW 2074

Tel: 9983 1644 or R/HH 9144 1699

Email: ecg2074@easycaregardening.org.au

Web Site: www.easycaregardening.org.au

Patron: Mrs. Shirley Stackhouse O.A.M.



SAVE PAPER, INK, POSTAGE, TIME, ...

To **STOP** receiving printed newsletters
please contact the ECG office:

Email: ecg2074@easycaregardening.org.au

Phone: 9983 1644 or R/HH: 9144 1699

www.easycaregardening.org.au



Rainy days come — so gardeners can get the housework done !!!!

Welcome.....NEW VOLUNTEERS

GARDENING

Paul Bennett
 Matthew Birtwistle
 Kris Clarke
 Carole Forrest
 Linda Gilchrist
 Michael Grothaus
 Ahmad Hassib
 Sampson Lai
 Yuin Yuin Lai

Matt Maiden
 Nicole McGregor
 Fiona McLaren
 Juliet Nahabedian
 Carrie Newbold
 Peter North Ash
 David Ralph
 Wendy Ralph
 Elizabeth Rivera
 Janet Roberts

Linda Stephenson

Nicholas Theodore
 Graeme Williams
 Marcus Wong

LAWN

MOWING

Mark Dobson
 David Heilsen
 Harvey Liu
 Mark Reed
 Andrew Storrs
 Richard Wyndham

OFFICE

Dorothy Smith



Playing cards from the Bushland Shire

Hornsby Council has produced a deck of **educational playing cards** which showcase some of the Shire's unique threatened species, vegetation communities and bushland reserves. Each card has a photograph and descriptive text which highlights the links between native animals and the vegetation communities which form their habitat. Significant bushland reserves have also been included to provide residents and visitors with a guide to exploring the local natural environment. Whether you feel like a game of Poker with your mates or a game of Snap with your kids, have a read of these cards and you're bound to discover something interesting about your local environment!

The decks are **\$5.50 each** and are available from Council Chambers, 296 Pacific Hwy, Hornsby and branch libraries.

For more information please contact: Environment Customer Service unit on **9847 6853**.



To the Staff at ECG,
 Thankyou for the beautiful book of photographs of Sydney's Natural World. It is a joy to help in gardens & work with such a wonderful team.

Thanks & Best Wishes,
 Lyn Dundas

FOR SALE:

Stihl leaf blower:
\$190 ono
 See [Bruce Taylor](#)
 if interested.

AUTUMN

A tangerine and russet cascade
 Of kaleidoscopic leaves
 Creates a tapestry of autumn magic
 Upon the emerald carpet of fading summer

[Judith A Lindberg](#)



Gardening Fees from 1 Jan '08

Gardening:

\$10 per visit if one person team (approx \$3.33 per worker per hour)
 \$30 per visit if team has 2—3 members (ie \$5/worker/hr)
 \$40 per visit if team has 4—5 members (ie \$3.33/worker/hr)
 \$55 per visit if team has 6 or more members (ie \$3.05/worker/hr)

Mulch Supply:

\$40 — for one trailer load
 \$30 — smaller trailer load
 \$4 each for bags of mulch

Plants: \$4 each



AWARDS—congratulations Recipients:

Eden Gardens

301 Lane Cove Rd, Ryde
9491 9999

Oct **Judith Davison**

Nov **Kathy O'Sullivan**

Dec **Ian Norman**

Hargraves Nurseyland

630 Old Northern Rd, Dural
9651 1833

Oct **Silvano Lucietto**

Nov **Barbara Lattin**

Dec **Janet Williamson**

Parkers Nursery

45 Tennyson Ave, Turramurra
9487 3888

Oct **Chris Fuery**

Nov **Peter Sadler**

Dec **Barbara Davis**



What kind of socks does a gardener wear?
Garden hose.

Peter Whitehead Appreciation Award

Peter Whitehead, formerly of Rast Bros Nursery, has been a staunch supporter of Easy Care Gardening over many years. This award is kindly sponsored each quarter by **The Monthly Chronicle** to show special appreciation to one of our volunteers.

EasyCare Gardening sends warmest wishes and our congratulations to

Phil Nicholls

Phil started the lawn mower on 2nd January, 1977 and has now been pushing the blades around clients lawns notching up 6,771.21 HOURS. Of course this actually means that he has been mowing for 935 days of total commitment to the lawns of lovely folks in Hornsby and Ku-ring-gai. Thank you Phil for your dedication to the job



Mulch

There are four important reasons to MULCH.

The first, and probably the most important, is for **water conservation**. Mulch stops the top of the soil drying out, keeps the soil moist, and can reduce watering by about 60 per cent. Mulching also **prevents weeds and weed seed germination**, which compete with plants for moisture and nutrients. Mulching also **keeps the soil temperature constant**, and using an organic mulch means you're **adding extra organic matter to the soil**. So that's an added benefit.

Mulches can either be organic or inorganic. Organic mulches break down and add organic matter to the soil. This improves soil structure and drainage, and encourages earthworm and soil microbial activity.

Bark based mulches are a great organic choice. An advantage of the bark based mulches is they take longer to break down so you don't have to apply them as often. They come in a range of grades, from fine through medium, and coarse. It's best to use medium to coarse grade bark mulches because they don't absorb any moisture and allow rainfall, or irrigation water, to penetrate the soil where it's needed. The disadvantage of using a finer based mulch is it absorbs moisture and can also form a seed bed for weeds.

The depth of mulch depends on the type of mulch used. For coarse mulches a layer of between 2 and 6 centimetres is ideal.

PLEASE remember—Level 3 water restrictions apply across Sydney, Illawarra and the Blue Mountains.

Level 3 water restrictions are:

- Hand-held hosing of lawns and gardens and **drip irrigation** is now allowed only on **Wednesdays and Sundays** before 10 am and after 4 pm
- No other watering systems or sprinklers are to be used at any time
- A permit from Sydney Water is required to fill new or renovated pools bigger than 10,000 litres
- No hosing of hard surfaces including vehicles at any time
- No hoses or taps to be left running unattended, except when filling pools or containers
- Fire hoses must only be used for fire fighting purposes – not for cleaning.

Recycled water, bore water and water used for testing fire systems, fire fighting and related activities are excluded from restrictions.

A fine of \$220 applies for all breaches of Level 3 restrictions by individuals. The Water Restrictions Patrol is carrying out random audits to ensure compliance with the new exemption conditions.

The following are still permitted **at any time**:

- Using a bucket or watering can to wash and rinse vehicles or water lawns and gardens.
- Topping up any existing swimming pool.
- Filling a pool less than 10,000L capacity.
- Using water from a rainwater tank, as long as it is not connected to or topped up from Sydney Water mains.
- Using a hose with a trigger nozzle or high pressure cleaning device to clean boat bilges and boat trailer brakes and wheels.
- Using a hose to flush boat engines.

Cleaning garbage bins using a hose fitted with a trigger nozzle or with an on/off switch. This should be done within an official bin wash area or on grass.

<http://www.sydneywater.com.au/SavingWater/WaterRestrictions/>



Gloves Trial



We have been trialing some different types of gloves. Here is some of the feedback we've received:

Soft cloth glove – These are nice and cool, but best used for soft gardening. Avoid rose bushes, asparagus fern and anything else with prickles.

Rubber palm / cloth backed glove – These gloves are really effective for all types of gardening, but can get a bit sweaty due to the rubber palm.

Leather glove – These are a good hardy glove, great for all types of gardening. However, we trialed a cheaper variety, and its only downfall was that the stitching in the seams came apart too quickly.



How can you help reduce the spread of weeds?

- Compost garden waste in your backyard or dispose in Green waste bin, never dump garden waste in bushland areas
- Remove noxious weeds from your property and replace unwanted plants with locally indigenous native species
- Don't over fertilise you garden as nutrients can wash into waterways increasing weed growth

<http://www.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/environment/index.cfm?NavigationID=582>

