Highlights in this edition

AGM - Special announcement Manager Bruce Taylor
Around the Pathways - A gardening challenge in Wahroonga
Pamper Sessions - Ku-ring-gai Council funded
Team Leaders Profile - An insight into Bill Ward
A word from one of our Sponsors - Parkers Nursery
Volunteers - Awards and achievements
CALM - Lawn mowing assistance
Editorial - Battling bandicoots and brush turkeys
NSW Rural Fire Service AIDER Programme - Free service for residents
Program of Events - 2012 events for your Diary - See last page, ready to be attached to your fridge. For our volunteers a separate calendar is attached

Wishing you and your families a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year ...the Easy Care Gardening Crew

Annual General Meeting - Brian Self President

Our Annual General Meeting in September was well attended and it was good to welcome a large number of Volunteers. The year under review was another productive one without the spectacular growth of the past. Wet weather inhibited our efforts to get into the gardens as much as we would have liked. Nevertheless, none of our Clients suffered and our good work continues amongst the increasing aged population. Let me acknowledge the large number of letters we receive from grateful Clients thanking us for the work done by our Volunteers. These communications are always heartening to receive. During the year, Client's garden fees were reviewed and restructured and this represents a reduction in most cases. Also, additional funding enabled the lawn mowing fee subsidy which our CALM Clients receive, to be progressively increased to $20, and this represents about 50% of the actual fee paid to contractors.

There were a number of highlights during the year but one I would like to mention is our Garden and Market Day in March at Mt Errington in Hornsby. This was a spectacular success and the exposure we received as a result of ABC Radio broadcasting on site all morning was enormous. In addition, over 1,100 people attended and most importantly, we gained 25 new Volunteers.

We owe a deep debt of gratitude to our loyal band of Volunteers and the great work they continue to contribute. Due to our strong marketing campaigns, through papers and on the internet, an additional 80 Volunteers joined us (an increase of 19%) and this is an excellent result. Many of our Volunteers have passed service milestones this year and it is little wonder we have such good stability, knowledge and dedication in our organisation. The number of volunteer hours worked during the year totalled 34,538 and at a conservative notional rate of pay, equates to $1,073,515. This demonstrates the value of the work we do in the community.

At the AGM I was sorry to announce the retirement of Bruce Taylor in March next year due to personal family reasons that need him to spend more time at home. After 15 years at the helm, it is hard to believe Easy Care Gardening will be without Bruce as Manager. Our huge growth and success are the result of his dedication and hard work put in over the years. He is a man of exceptional qualities and standards and is highly respected in the industry, by his Staff, our Volunteers and by the Management Committee. A lot more will be said nearer the time but the good news is he will remain with us in a part time capacity.

I am looking forward to our Christmas party on 26 November when I hope to see a large number of you there. This will give me the opportunity to personally wish you a happy Christmas and New Year. To those who cannot make this occasion, my very best wishes are extended to you for a bright and safe festive period.

Brian Self
President

Many thanks to Mrs Whitfield who donated a handmade knee rug to assist Easy Care Gardening with raising money to continue with the great work carried out by our volunteers.

The knee rug was auctioned (silent auction) at the AGM in September.

Easy Care Gardening Inc
9983 1644 (Hornsby/Ku-ring-gai) 9144 1699 (Ryde/Hunters Hill)
PO Box 502 Turramurra NSW 2074
www.easycaregardening.org.au ECG charity No. 10507

Easy Care Gardening Inc is a Home and Community Care Service, funded by the Commonwealth and State Governments and supported by Ku-ring-gai, Hornsby, Ryde and Hunters Hill Councils
**Around the Pathways - A gardening challenge in Wahroonga**

On a warm and sunny day in September Jenny Nakhla organized three teams to tackle a lovely old and very overgrown garden in Wahroonga. The garden is owned by the granddaughter of the family who originally planted it and is much loved.

The volunteers found roses and bluebells and even wisteria under a great weight of honeysuckle, wandering jew and many more weeds covering the entire garden.

---

**Profile of a Team Leader - Bill Ward falls in love**

Bill Ward, a retired businessman can’t believe how lucky he was to discover Easy Care Gardening while watching an ABC program. Bubbling with great enthusiasm, he says: “I can’t believe how lucky I am that Easy Care Gardening exists. I would pay to be a volunteer, if that was necessary. I love it.”

Yes, Bill does love it and ECG also loves to hear such a response. A volunteer gardener for the past two years, Bill joined because “gardening is something that I do well – at least I know a weed from a flower – and it allows me to give something back to the community”.

Perhaps, before joining ECG, Bill had a far tougher task (from an emotional point of view) working as a volunteer for the MSS Society, where he was introduced to an elderly man (92) who had just been admitted to the nursing home.

“I enjoyed going there a couple of times a week and we would play chess,” Bill said. “I often brought my dog Heidi along and other residents enjoyed the dog’s company. However, one day the inevitable happened and the old man passed away.

After his death, I joined Easy Care Gardening, which I found more appropriate. After about six months working with an ECG co-ordinator (Jennifer Nakhla) on a weekly basis, I was deemed suitable to have my own team, and I was promoted to Team Leader.

I now have three ladies (Barbara Higgon, Sui Dong and Elizabeth Brand) whom I garden with every Tuesday afternoon. I also garden on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons, as a member of another team.”

Before retiring, Bill worked with his wife Trish in computer supplies (toners and inks etc) business which they sold. Commenting on ECG, Bill said: “It has allowed me to make new friends, not only with other Volunteers, but also with clients. I get to hear about people’s lives and I meet their children and grandchildren as they are often visiting when we are gardening.

The clients I visit as both team leader and team member are always happy to see us. Often it is the only communication/contact they have for weeks at a time. Tea and biscuits are provided and it is at this ‘tea time’ the bonding takes place”

Thank you Bill!
New Volunteers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gardening</th>
<th>Anqi Chen</th>
<th>Tess Noble</th>
<th>Gregory Daly</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Donna Taylor</td>
<td>Sonya Marshall</td>
<td>Holly Bennett</td>
<td>Kate Hatcher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alexander Perry</td>
<td>Scott Di Michiel</td>
<td>Donald Sams</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simon Perry</td>
<td>Frank Tian</td>
<td>Alan Wendeborn</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tian Du</td>
<td>Edith Huang</td>
<td>Donna Palmer</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pam Rosser</td>
<td>Penny Finckh</td>
<td>Jamie McMillian</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florence Kellett</td>
<td>Louise Finckh</td>
<td>Rosario Thurston</td>
<td>Wavelength International</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miu Ling Choy</td>
<td>Alison Campos</td>
<td>William Palmer</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Xuejiao Yin</td>
<td>Daniel Clarke</td>
<td>Christopher Woodman</td>
<td>United Way AMP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rinshu Jain</td>
<td>Jenyfer Joy</td>
<td>Shyani Seneviratna</td>
<td>Sylvanvale Foundation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joan Smith</td>
<td>Jacob Decates</td>
<td>Hai Yuan Li</td>
<td>Ethos Corporation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antoni Mitchell</td>
<td>Lin Yuan</td>
<td>Leanne Murdoch</td>
<td>Deloitte</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Misuki Zhang</td>
<td>Lucy Pedrana</td>
<td>Amanda Howard</td>
<td>National Australia Bank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Max Wang</td>
<td>Cheynee Ray Burke</td>
<td>Emily Holsworth</td>
<td>American Express</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melissa Clarke</td>
<td>Glen Margaret Trezise</td>
<td>Bill Sheppherd</td>
<td>AAPT</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A Word from one of Our Sponsors - Parkers Nursery

What is a Summer Garden?
This could mean many different things to different people. It could mean lush lawns and shady trees or bright annuals and clipped topiary – or a thousand other variations! Have you thought on a different level other than purely a visual one?

One thing that I think a summer garden must contain, no matter the size or scale, is scent. Think about some happy memories from your childhood or times past. Where does the scent of a rose take you? Or a philadelphus? I bet there are certain fragrances that immediately put you back a decade or more even to your childhood. I think of Grandma’s violets which she had growing near the back door, or of my Mum’s roses, which she loves to pick and bring inside. A strong association of scent for me is the scent of gardenias. It puts me back to being an eight or nine-year-old child and having a sleepover at a friend’s house. His mother had planted a gardenia outside his bedroom window and in summer the scent would waft in as we eventually drifted to sleep. Plants I regard to have the best fragrances for summer are gardenias, philadelphus, buddleias, port wine magnolia and heliotrope. Citrus also have beautifully fragrant flowers (with many uses), and of course Roses. For roses with fragrance try the French Delbard varieties. Many of these plants can be grown in a variety of ways - as standards, in a pot by the door, espaliered against a sunny wall, or climbing over a trellis to create a shady nook for a summer afternoon siesta. They can also be cut and brought inside for all to admire. Extra water to help the roots establish quickly is a must. After planting, always treat your plants to a drink of Seasol® or Harvest® and use a planting compost to help hold the moisture around the root system. While I would recommend these things at any time of the year – they are especially important for summer planting. Get these things right and you are half way to a glorious summer garden.

So try including some summer fragrance in your garden this summer, create some memories and see where it can take you!

Rohan Parker Assistant Manager

Easy Care Gardening Volunteer Garden Awards 2011

Eden Gardens
301 Lane Cove Road, Ryde.

Hargrave Nurseryland
630 Old Northern Road, Dural.
Ph: 9651 1833

Parkers Nursery
45 Tennyson Avenue, Turramurra. Ph: 9487 3888

July: Sui Dong  August: Sue Beatty

July: Julie Taylor August: Andrew Fraser
September: Roy Hunter

July: Michael Bull August: John Coady
September: Michael Power

Peter Whitehead Appreciation Award
Easy Care Gardening sends warmest wishes and congratulations to:

Len Warren
This award is for outstanding service to volunteering.

“How doth the little busy bee improve each shining hour, and gather honey all the day from every opening flower.”
Isaac Watts

Gardening Quotes: “And when your back stops aching and your hands begin to harden...You will find yourself a partner in the Glory of the Garden.”
Rudyard Kipling
**Word of thanks from our Clients**

MS - Turramurra: Thank you to everyone for their wishes, enjoy your great company.

JS - Turramurra: Thank you for the wonderful work, much appreciated.

PB - Brooklyn: Thank you to the cheerful men and women for the wonderful work.

MR - Turramurra: Thank you for the tremendous help in my garden.

BW - Beecroft: Thank you for the wonderful work in my garden, the salvation for all us elderly who are able to remain in their homes through such dedication and kindness.

C&JN - Turramurra: Thank you for a wonderful job.

PB - Brooklyn: Thank you for the beautiful job volunteers did in my garden, very grateful.

---

**Battling Bandicoots and Brush Turkeys - Jo McGahey**

Gardeners may have noticed a proliferation of brush turkeys and bandicoots in their gardens of late. This, I am told, is due to the success of fox baiting. Now some may like to encourage these protected peepys creatures but for those who do not here is a bit of advice. Either enclose your entire garden with wire mesh or try the following. Remember to rotate on a weekly basis as most of these deterrents will only work for a short time. This information is according to advice given by a helpful but anonymous National Parks person.

**Noise:** For bandicoots, use a motion sensor operated gizmo at night. High pitched and beyond the range of the human ear, it is sold to deter rodents so it should work with bandicoots. But do check if there are dogs or owls about before using.

**Lights:** Again use motion operated sensors, unless you want to stay up all night.

**Stinky stuff:** Turkeys don't like strong smells. So plant strong scented salvias or plectanthus amboinicus. Scatter cloves, naphthalene flakes, mothballs, pepper, chilli powder, garlic on the garden. Spray something like ‘Possoff.’ Don’t bother with curry powder, the wretched love it!

**Water:** Turkeys do not take kindly to being wet, but it takes me some time and agility to get to the hose. So I have recently purchased very big battery-powered water pistol. I can’t wait to try it out!

**Bird wire:** Cut sections of wire and peg down flat in the garden where turkeys scratch. They don’t like that at all.

**Mounds:** The male turkey may be deterred from his efforts to rake up your whole garden for his mound if the tree canopy over his chosen site is thinned so there is less than 80 percent shade. I also know of one desperate gardener who put a dozen hen’s eggs on the mound. When the eggs rotted and started to pong the turkey departed.

**Predators:** No you can't set Rover onto them. Remember they are protected.

Good Luck!

---

**Here comes the Hot Weather and Fire Season**

The NSW Rural Fire Service AIDER Programme (Assist Infirm Disabled and Elderly Residents) is a one-off free service, supporting vulnerable residents to live more safely and confidently in their home on bush fire prone land. AIDER work is one-off and includes such things as clearing gutters, thinning vegetation, removing leaf and tree debris, trimming branches from around and overhanging the home, mowing or slashing long grass. For more information call 8741 4955 or email aider@rfs.nsw.gov.au.


---

**Gnome news corner - United Nations of Easy Care Gardening**

Those wonderful Easy Care Gardening teams come from around the globe. One of the teams (the Friday team), which claims ‘is the best team in ECG’, has a great collection of people from around the world:

David Duval from France, Andrew Fraser from Australia, Mike Bull from England, Karin Yu from Austria, Boris Vasylyev from Russia, Steve Gan from the Philippines, Gladstone Jebanasam from Sri Lanka and David Denny from Scotland. Plus other volunteers from various countries also come along on a regular basis.

David Denny (Team leader) has put out a challenge to the other teams to beat this collection of people from around the globe.
### Program of Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Event Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>20 March Wed 11.00am - 12 noon: Talk on “Gardens of another era - gardens of today” (the trends towards easy care gardening) Refreshments provided. Speaker: Tom Richmond, Historian. Venue: Hornsby Library meeting room.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>20 March Tue 11.00am - 12 noon: Talk on “Easy Care Gardening” (followed by a light luncheon). Speaker: Judy Horton, Communications Manager at Yates. Venue: Eden Gardens.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>19 - 25 March - Seniors Week NSW Hornsby, KRG, Ryde, HH Councils.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>21 March Wed 11am - 3pm: Community Info Expo 2012 (Harmony Week). Venue: Eastwood Plaza (or Eastwood Masonic Hall if wet).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>29 March Thursday 10am - 2 pm: ECG Plant Nursery - plant stall. Outside ECG garage, Gilroy Lane, Turramurra. March Ku-ring-gai Garden Festival—This event to take place 2013.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>11 May Fri 9.00am - 2.00pm: HACC Volunteer Expo. Venue: TBA.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>28 June Thu 10.00am - 2.00pm: Plant and Volunteer Information stall. Venue: Hillcrest Ave, Pennant Hills.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>5 Aug Sun 10.00am - 5.00pm: Mocooboola Festival - Volunteers Information stall. Venue: Boronia Park, Hunters Hill.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>6 Sep Thu 10.00am - 2.00pm: Plant and Volunteer Information stall. Venue: outside ECG Garage, Gilroy Lane, Turramurra.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>16 Sep Sun 10.00am - 4.00pm: The Bushland Shire Festival - Volunteer Information stall. Venue: Fagan Park, Galston.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>20 Oct Sat 9.00am - 4.30pm: Granny Smith Festival, Volunteer Information stall. Venue: Rowe Street, Eastwood.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5 Dec Wed - International Volunteers Day</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Easy Care Gardening Inc

Easy Care Gardening Inc is a volunteer Home and Community Care Service “for all seasons”

7 Gilroy Rd Turramurra 2074, Ph: 02 9983 1644  [www.easycaregardening.org.au](http://www.easycaregardening.org.au)

RSVP Office (9983 1644) for all events so that we can book you in appropriately.