

# Easy Care Gardening Inc.

## Summer 2012 Newsletter

A very Merry Christmas to you all from the staff at Easy Care Gardening.



### Highlights in this edition

### Annual General Meeting

#### Annual General Meeting:

*Special announcement - President retires*

#### Around the Gardens:

*Two of our clients speak at the AGM*

#### A word from the Manager:

*Yvonne Dewar*

#### Profile of a Team Leader:

*Beverley Honey*

#### Volunteers:

*New Volunteers, ECG, Paws awards and other awards*

#### Sculptor in the Garden:

*ECG publicity officer has other interest*

#### Corporate Teams:

*Helping in the community*

#### Gnome news corner:

*Garden Drum, a great blog to read with interesting garden snippets*

#### Bequests:

*How to go about it*

#### Summer Nasties:

*Article by Jo McGahey*

#### We prune You swoon:

*Extracts from an afternoon in the life of a Team Leader*

#### Program of Events:

**2013 events for your Diary** - See last page, ready to be attached to your fridge. For our volunteers a separate calendar is attached

Our AGM, held in September, was well attended and were fortunate that two of our clients spoke at the meeting on the benefits of ECG. Later in the newsletter there is reference to both clients, Dr Gaut and Mr Burdon.

Extracts from the President's Report for the year ending June 2012:

*'We have had a very busy year for a variety of reasons. It was this time last year that I announced the impending retirement of Bruce Taylor. We interviewed a number of possible candidates; and we are delighted Yvonne Dewar accepted the role and came on board at the beginning of this year.*

*At the end of 2011, ECG underwent a Community Care Common Standards audit by the Department of Health and Ageing. This occurs every three years and the interviews went exceptionally well. Our financial position is very sound and we are grateful to Government Authorities, Councils and all donors for generously supporting our worthy cause.*

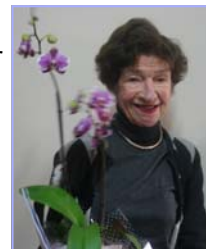
*The number of volunteer hours worked during the year totalled 36,825 and, at a conservative notional rate of pay, equates to \$1,127,163. The previous year's figures were 34,538 and amounted to \$1,073,515. It certainly demonstrates the value of the work we do in the community.*

*Our garden clients total 1,268 against 1,237 last year. CALM (lawns mowed by contractors) clients 1,489 against 1,307 last year. Each year the bar is raised, this does not happen automatically, it is due to the dedication and quality of our staff and volunteers. We are so fortunate to have such people who go about their duties quietly. They epitomize the words of Charles Dickens: "Do all the good you can and make as little fuss about it as possible". When individuals get recognised, which is occurring quite regularly now, we can all rejoice.*

Certificates of Appreciation were awarded for volunteers' service to ECG.

Thirty-seven people received a certificate for three years of volunteering, 18 for five years, two for 10 years, three for 15 years and one for 20 years.

Anne Gearing-Thomas, (photo on right) who has stepped down from her role as ECG Client Representative, was presented with a beautiful Phalaenopsis orchid for the wonderful volunteering work she has carried out for ECG.



Brian announced he was retiring as President, but will remain on the Management Committee. After eight years Brian believes it is time for someone else to undertake this important task. Brian's successor is Frank Windeyer, who has a legal background and is still a practising solicitor. Brian wished Frank well in shaping the next chapter of Easy Care Gardening. Ian Calder presented Brian with a gift and expressed the gratitude of all at ECG.

(Photo, left to right Brian Self and Frank Windeyer.)

On behalf of our clients, friends, the staff and volunteers of Easy Care Gardening, we thank Brian Self for his tremendous support and dedication in his position as President.

I (the editor) spoke briefly to Brian after the meeting and he said that ECG had grown so much in his eight years that it was now time for somebody else to take the helm. Brian you deserve some time to yourself, although I think you will still be heavily involved!

Please join me in saying thank you to Brian Self!



Patron: Jennifer Stackhouse BA (Hons) Dip. Hort.

### Easy Care Gardening Inc

PO Box 502, Turrumurra NSW 2074

Tel: 02 9983 1644 Fax: 02 9983 1659

Email: [ecg2074@easycaregardening.org.au](mailto:ecg2074@easycaregardening.org.au)

Website: [www.easycaregardening.org.au](http://www.easycaregardening.org.au)

ECG Charity No: 10507 ABN: 96 338 250 354



## Around the Gardens

At the Annual General Meeting we were very fortunate to have two of our clients, Dr Gaut and Mr Burdon, come along and speak.

Dr Patricia Gaut expressed her gratitude to the Easy Care Gardening volunteers. Dr Gaut has lived in the same house for half a century; land was cheap 'back then' and her house cost 250 pounds to build. The house has many memories and precious possessions, including a grand piano that she loves and has taught many children to play on. Dr Gaut said she would never want to leave her home and all the memories there, and thanked the volunteers for their friendship and help. "The gardeners not only bring energy and hard work, but a smiling friendship that makes their visit an event to look forward to", she said.

Mr Gerald Burdon has also lived in his home for 50 years. When he first moved into his house there was a huge hedge of bamboo; fortunately the council allowed him to keep it, providing it was kept under control. With the help of the Easy Care Gardening volunteers, he has managed to maintain it. He remembers when the team first came for a visit, the Coordinator, David, remarked 'this isn't a garden - its a jungle!'. Mr Burdon is very happy to be able to remain living in his home and thanked all the volunteers.

## A word from the Manager - Yvonne Dewar

November is such a lovely month. The warm temperatures have arrived and the gardens are growing. Thank you for such a warm welcome this year; I feel very privileged to be associated with such wonderful people. There have been many changes happening within the community sector which affect the future direction of funding and outputs. Our Staff and Volunteers have worked very hard and like meeting our clients, particularly hearing their life stories. Next year I hope to be out and about visiting teams in the gardens and meeting some of our clients.

Thank you to all our Volunteers who have made a difference. Gardening Volunteers and Office Volunteers combine to make the organization work efficiently. Unfortunately they do not have much time or opportunity to meet each other. To this end, we have organized a Volunteer Christmas party on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> December to say thank you. Please come along and share time together. I will be looking out for you.

Hoping you manage to have a rest and relax over the break, as we have many plans ahead for the new year. You are all very much appreciated and I wish you and your families a Merry Christmas.

## Profile of a Team Leader - Beverley Honey

Beverley Honey was nominated for a Ku-ring-gai Lions Club Community Service Award this year.

Beverley has been a volunteer in the gardens of frail, aged pensioners and those on a disability support pension for 16 years. She also takes on the added responsibility of Team Leader, liaising between clients, volunteers and the Easy Care Gardening office, as well as completing and submitting relevant paperwork.

Beverley's commitment to Easy Care Gardening means that she has helped countless elderly residents of Ku-ring-gai to remain in their homes. Like so many volunteers, Beverley gets on well with everyone, never expects thanks and tirelessly gets on with the job at hand.

Plants and gardens have been important to Beverley since her early childhood. She remembers her grandmother's garden in Lismore, with its gerberas, arum lilies, fuchsias, rhubarb, pumpkin and other vegetables in the back yard.

Beverly grew up in Lismore, studied at the University of Sydney and, shortly after, spent two years working in London, with frequent trips to Europe. This gave her a passion for travel, as well as plants and gardens! After leaving London, Beverley worked at the Royal Brisbane Hospital for three years, before returning to Sydney.

An avid gardener, in addition to her work at ECG, she also spends one day a week as a volunteer at the NSW Herbarium at the Royal Botanical Gardens; so both her volunteering activities involve one of her main interests - as Beverly puts it, "a fortunate state of affairs".

Visiting gardens both here and overseas is something else she enjoys. Fortunately her husband shares her interest in gardens, which enables them to enjoy garden holidays. Last year they visited the Taranaki region in New Zealand during Garden Festival time, enjoying several garden visits each day for three weeks.



Team Leader Ian Normans' teams for Mondays and Wednesdays were nominated for a **NSW Volunteer Team of the Year Award** for their work in the gardens.

(above photo of Ian Norman working in one of the gardens)



Beverley Honey



## New Volunteers

Kuistan Al-Khaleefa	Jane Amanda Hannam	Ruth Nannelli	<u>Corporate</u>
Alison Li-Rosenbaum	Jennifer Magers	Saloumeh Saeedi	ANZ Banking Group
Anthony Rudolph	John Lau	Samuel Englund	Aztec Information Services
Bettina Rosemary Pearce	Junette Pamela Norbury	Seung Hoon (Kevin) Song	Johnson & Johnson Medical
Bhenita Treebhowon	Lucinda Donnelley	Shih-Hsien (Wilson) Yung	Optus
Bridget Holland	Manqiu Xie	Stephanie Boyd	Oracle
Carmelita Jara-Gallego	Martha Cooper	Tatianna Lee	Singtel Optus
Chan Wu	Mauli Trivedi	Thomas Squires	United Way - ACE Insurance
Cheuk Son Liu	Michael Jordan	Trien (Harry) Tran	United Way AMP
David Sumner	Nathalie Rump	Zita Walker	Eremeran Hills Study Centre
Erin McRitchie	Nellie Howes	Khushbu Vanjara	Macquarie Group
Geoff Suggate	Nicola Longhurst		United Way - Fuji
Geoffrey Kirk	Qin Liu		
Gregory Stedman	Ramesh Gowda		



## Invite your Friends and Family to become a Volunteer

Just a few hours each week makes a difference in so many ways.

Personal fitness, great exercise and being outdoors in the open air. By helping others you are helping yourself, you will feel great, forget all your worries and enjoy the company of others.

This is a great opportunity to share gardening knowledge, meet interesting people, learn new tricks of the trade and help our community to stay in their homes.



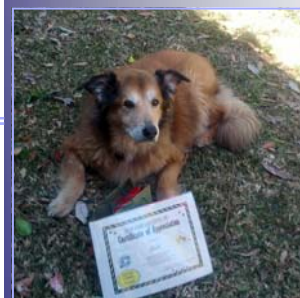
**WISHING ALL THE WONDERFUL VOLUNTEERS AND OUR LOVELY CLIENTS A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS.**

**SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR WONDERFULL SPONSORS AND ALL THOSE THAT CONTRIBUTE TO THE NEWSLETTER. FROM THE EDITOR**

## PAWS award - Appreciation award for Bella

Bella and Mark (her owner) joined ECG in August 2009 and have been consistent members of Karl Arbidan's team. When clients ring for their next garden visit, they often can't remember the team leader's name, but know that it's the one with the dog!

Our photo (right) shows Bella receiving her special "PAWS" Award and doggy bag full of treats. Three cheers for Bella, a very special dog!



Bella with the "PAWS" award

## Easy Care Gardening Volunteer Garden Awards 2012

### Eden Gardens

301 Lane Cove Road,  
Ryde. Ph: 9491 9900



July: Daniele Di Paolo

August: Brenda Dilven

September: Gladstone Jebanasam

### Hargraves Nurseryland

630 Old Northern Road,  
Dural. Ph: 9651 1833



July: Peter North Ash

August: Dennis Wallace

September: Silvano Lucietto

### Parkers Nursery

45 Tennyson Avenue,  
Turramurra.



July: Lyndell van Noort

August: Pru Gudex

September: Richard Ames

Ph: 9487 3888

### Peter Whitehead Appreciation Award

Easy Care Gardening sends warmest wishes and congratulations to:

**Lorraine Smith**

This Award is for outstanding service to volunteering.

## Words of thanks from our clients

B&FN - Berowra: Thank you for all the hard work, the butterflies, bees and flowers are having a wonderful time. D&LM - Epping: We would like to thank you for your visit. J - Gladesville: What an unexpected, wonderful surprise, to find you pruning my roses. MT - Putney: Thank you for the wonderful team, they did a great job. AV - West Ryde: Thank you all who gave up their Saturday morning to do my garden. PB - Brooklyn: I am so grateful for the wonderful help. LM - Asquith: Many thanks to the team for all their hard work. CMc - Ryde: Wonderful job in the garden, many thanks. AC - Pymble: Thank you all for your hard work and the little extras. GB - Wahroonga: A wonderful blessing, I am so very grateful. CW - Killara: Marvellous workers and garden looks amazing, happy Christmas to you all. J&R

## Sculpture in the Garden

If you want to relax, try a sculpture class. That's a tip from this group of north shore sculptors who hosted their first exhibition at Lindfield in October. Wendy McCready (ECG Publicity Officer), Sherree Hooper, Sharon Curby and Catie Sully, along with Pamela Drewitt Smith and Kasia Catt, met at Helen Leete's life sculpture class at Ku-ring-gai Art Centre in Roseville about three years ago. "Sculpture is very therapeutic ... you get completely engrossed in it," Wendy said. "The three hours of that class are the fastest three hours of the week." The group decided to host their exhibition in the gardens to "get ourselves out there". "We're very supportive of each other", Wendy said. The diverse works include small decorative pieces and large statement sculptures for the garden. The photo (right) shows some of their sculptures along with the sculptors.



Wendy McCready, ECG Publicity Officer, far left

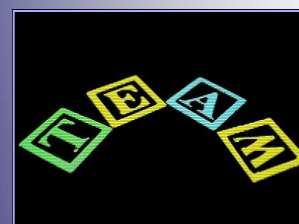
## Group Teams - helping in the community

Group teams are formed by people who work, worship or study together and share a common wish to help in the community. These people are from all walks of life, from businesses, small and large, to clubs, schools and churches. Gardening is a great activity for these community days, as there is always something for everyone to do – from attacking large privets to sweeping the paths. Fortunately, an increasing number of group teams are finding their way to Easy Care Gardening. These teams can have anywhere from four to five and up to 20 enthusiastic workers. Usually they spend about six hours in a garden, stopping for breaks for morning tea and lunch, when both they and the lucky client can enjoy a picnic atmosphere. At the end of the day the team, who feel enormous satisfaction, usually poses for a photo amongst the large amount of green waste that they have produced. A number of the teams this year have been out of the ordinary. In May one large team cleared up three gardens in one street in Thornleigh; another group (organized from their head office in Perth, WA ) helped for an afternoon in Turrumurra. In June a large team split up over four gardens and competed against one another to create the largest amount of green waste! In September a school group on a visit from Melbourne took a day out from sightseeing to help in a garden in Hornsby. A local church youth group has been helping ECG clients on Saturday afternoons during school terms for the last two years. Unfortunately there were several teams earlier this year whose planned days were rained out. Many found it difficult to re-schedule, whereas others had fine weather for their second attempt. One team who planned a second day, yes, you guessed it, was rained out once again. Hopefully it will be third time lucky for this group of people. Several teams have returned for their third year helping ECG and we are very grateful.

If you know of any group of people who are interested in helping the community and don't mind a bit of perspiration and getting their hands dirty, please ask them to contact Margaret Love at Easy Care Gardening on 9983 1644.

## Gnome news corner- Easy Care Gardening write up in the Garden Drum

We are used to getting gardening information from the television, radio, newspapers or magazines but there's a new and exciting way to read about gardening and that's on line. Here you'll discover gardening blogs. Many are the work of passionate and knowledgeable gardeners, and most are free. Our Patron, Jennifer Stackhouse, recommends and contributes to a blog site called Garden Drum; this is an Australian site which has contributors from around the world, as well as Australia. The site has been created by garden writer and landscaper Catherine Stewart, who wrote a great piece promoting the ECG *Stories from our Garden* book, follow the link <http://www.gardendrum.com/2012/10/05/review-stories-from-our-gardens/>. There's also information about new products, interesting gardening snippets and great ideas. Have a look at the site - you'll enjoy exploring what's on offer. Find it at [www.gardendrum.com](http://www.gardendrum.com)



## Bequests

Making a will is an important thing to do – it gives you the opportunity to safeguard what is important to you and to decide how you want your assets to be managed.

Including a gift to your favorite community group is one way to continue your support. If you would like to leave a bequest to Easy Care Gardening, please contact the office who can provide you with helpful words to include in your will. **However**, it is important that you seek legal advice when preparing a will.

## Summer Nasties - Jo McGahey

Just a word of warning for all gardeners to watch out for some of the nasties of summer.

By that I mean ticks, snakes and mozzies. In spite of what some authorities tell us, I am afraid Lyme Disease, Ross River Fever and Q Fever are about.

So what to do? To deter mozzies, cover up, particularly at dusk and use insect repellent.

Here is a good recipe to repel all arachnids, including ticks and, obviously, spiders. Mix equal parts of oil of cloves, ti-tree and lavender oil together. Chemists stock them all. Put a teaspoon or two of this mixture into 500ml of water and spray all over yourself.

Use the spray under eaves to deter spiders from setting up house.

Oh yes, the snakes! Just keep a lookout and remember they are really, really frightened of you!

Happy Gardening and Happy Christmas.

## We prune -You swoon - Extracts from an afternoon in the life of a Team Leader

Written in the hope that one day it may be made into a movie called *You'll be need'n our weed'n*.

When I joined Easy Care Gardening and went to my first job, they told me to relax and be myself. I'm no fool - that's how I lost my last job!

12.30pm: Park your car in full view of the other volunteers. Never park your car in a side street even if access is easier. Volunteers are people of habit, if they cannot see your car they assume the job is cancelled and will turn round and go home. This has actually happened and moving a trailer-load of mulch by yourself is no fun. All you can do is try and get some passerby to assist. Good luck with that one! Approach the front door while making sure your name tag is the right way up. Notice that you are wearing slippers. (Make mental note to take gardening shoes next week.) Look for door knocker and knock. You are off to a rocky start when the client shouts out "Who is it?". Reply by shouting out "Easy Care Gardening!" When they yell out "I was expecting you tomorrow!" bite your tongue and look up to heaven. Volunteers come over asking for the keys of the car. (Make mental note to leave car boot open next week). At last it's time for tea. Knock on the door and call out to client "It's half past twooooo!" Silence. Check job sheet and notice that it says "provide own tea". Damn! (Make mental note to READ the gardening schedule more carefully!) Spend ten minutes writing down how many teas and coffees you need. Cannot decide what biscuits to buy, so buy a chocolate cake instead. Return to a hero's welcome, but without a knife to cut the cake you have to resort to the trusty secateurs and the gloss soon wears off. Eventually reach for your hot cup of tea! But wait - someone has taken your tea and left you with a lukewarm coffee. At this stage it is easy to call out "OK, tea break over", but remember you are the Leader and as such you must control yourself. Time to count how many bags and bundles you produced. Today there is a mountain of bundles - why can't volunteers leave bundles side by side - it makes counting so much easier. Lift a bundle to check quantity underneath and, as usual, a badly-tied bundle spills onto the footpath. No one comes to help - too busy telling each other how many weeds they eliminated whilst saying goodbye. Hang on, it's not over yet! Now you have do the following on your own: write the receipt and give it to the client. Receipt shows what work was done that day. However due to the tiny space on the receipt, most of the details have to be written on the reverse side. On windy days the carbon paper is a bugger to keep in place, so do all writing in the car with windows up.

Check that all tools are returned. If a tool is missing and is not in the garden, it is most likely to be in one of the plastic bags. As ECG does not supply metal detectors, this tool will be hard to locate. Next ring the office to advise how many bags and bundles there are. If you have nothing to be collected there is usually a stunned silence at the other end of the phone and a strangled voice will say "OK, see you next week" - not that you ever do see them next week. If, on the other hand, you have, for example, five bags and six bundles to be collected, you become an instant hero! Holding the phone away from your ear, you can hear the office staff doing high fives as they wish you and your team all the best for the future.

4.30pm: Check your hair in the rear view mirror, moisten your eyebrows and head home.



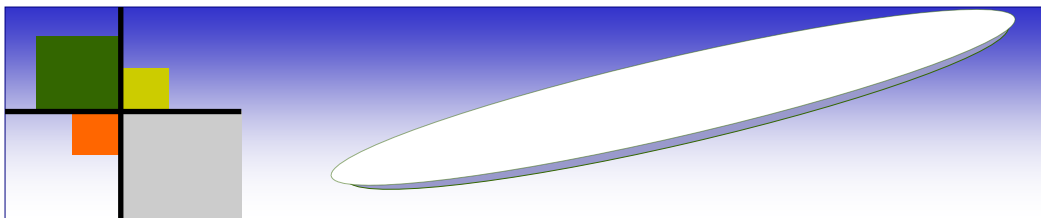
If you are on Facebook don't forget to check out the Easy Care Gardening page, where we are posting snippets of information. This includes volunteer awards and links to articles about ECG in local papers. Don't forget to share our page with your friends!



Hunters Hill Carols by Candlelight - Boronia Park, Ryde Rd, 6 pm - 9 pm, Sunday 2nd Dec. Look out for the Easy Care Gardening stall. Pop over for a chat if you see us there.







# Easy Care Gardening 2013 Calendar

## Program of Events

Draft – some dates to be verified

January						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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- 14 March Thurs 10.00am – 2.00pm:** Plant and Volunteer information stall. Outside ECG garage, Gilroy Lane, Turrumurra.
- 17 - 24 March** - Seniors Week NSW Hornsby, KRG, Ryde, HH Councils.
- 19 March Tues 9.30am - 12.30pm:** Seniors Security Expo (part of Seniors week) Venue: Turrumurra Uniting Church Hall, 10 Turrumurra Ave, Turrumurra.
- 20 March Wed 11.00am - 1.30pm:** Community Info Expo 2012 (Harmony Week). Venue: Eastwood Masonic Plaza (or Eastwood Masonic Hall if wet).
- 21 March Thurs:** Seniors Week - ECG event for clients (TBC)
- 9 May (TBC) Thurs 9.00am - 2.00pm:** HACC Volunteer Expo. Venue: P Block Function Room, Meadowbank, TAFE (entrance via See Street or Rhodes Street.)
- 13-19 May:** National Volunteer Week
- 16 May (TBC) Thurs 10.00am - 1.00pm:** H/KRG HACC Volunteer Expo. Venue: Westfield Shopping Centre, Hornsby (outside Kathmandu)
- 13 June Thurs 10.00am - 2.00pm:** Plant and Volunteer information stall, outside ECG garage, Gilroy Lane, Turrumurra.
- 4 Aug Sun 9.30 am - 4.30pm:** Moocooboola Festival - ECG Volunteers Information stall. Venue: Boronia Park, Hunters Hill.
- 12 Sep Thur 10.00am - 2.00pm:** Plant and Volunteer Information stall, outside ECG Garage, Gilroy Lane, Turrumurra.
- 15 Sep (TBC) Sun 10.00am - 4.00pm:** Hornsby Shire Council - The Bushland Shire Festival, Volunteer Information stall. Venue: Fagan Park, Galston.
- 19 Oct Sat 9.00am - 4.30pm:** Granny Smith Festival, Volunteer Information stall. Venue: Rowe Street, Eastwood.
- 5 Dec Thurs** - International Volunteers Day

Easy Care Gardening Inc is a volunteer Home and Community Care Service

“for all seasons”

7 Gilroy Rd Turrumurra 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.