



Volunteers Celebrate 2014 Christmas

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Easy Care Gardening invited volunteers and partners to celebrate Christmas with the ECG staff at Brush Farm House. The venue was quite lovely and the volunteers and Easy Care Gardening staff had a wonderful time mingling and enjoying a great festive Christmas dinner.

Our President Frank Windeyer presented two of ECG volunteers with a certificate for the nomination of "Recognition in the 2014 NSW volunteer of the year" awards, two worthy ECG volunteers.

Brush Farm House



Phil Nicholls (right) receiving the certificate from Frank Windeyer



Bill Ward (left) receiving certificate from Frank Windeyer



ECG staff enjoying timeout. Left to right; Glenn Stimpson, Robbie Cunningham, Claire Breen, Mitch Harris



Volunteers enjoying the dinner

Special points of interest:

- **New plant discovered**
- **Fun and Tips section**
- **Outing to visit the "Dinosaur Tree"**

ECG Management Committee Changes

Ian Calder, ECG's Public Officer, has recently resigned from the Committee after 20 years' service (refer to article on page 3).

Michael Bull, who has been Secretary for several years, will also be our new Public Officer.

Helen Andrews has advised she will be stepping down from her position after five years as Gardening Representative. We are very pleased to advise that she will continue her role as a gardening volunteer with the ECG teams.

Sue Curry is the Gardening Representative.

Peter Read has commenced as a committee member.

Please join us in thanking the departing Committee Members and welcoming new Committee Members to the ECG's Management Committee.



Hibbertia, or guinea flower, is a genus of trees, shrubs, trailing shrubs and climbers of the family Dilleniaceae.
Courtesy Wikipedia

Around the Pathways - New plant discovered in Ku-ring-gai

One of Ku-ring-gai Council's bushland officers has discovered Sydney's first new plant species in decades.

The new plant is in the Hibbertia genus and is only found in one known location in Ku-ring-gai which will not be publicly disclosed. It has been an eight year journey for Andrew Robinson, the Council's Bushland Technical Officer, who first came across the plant in 2006

Mr Robinson has received official approval to

name the plant after a close friend who died four years ago. As a result the common name for the new plant will be Julian's Hibbertia.

Council are also taking steps to protect the plant's location and have applied to have the plant listed as critically endangered to give it the strongest legal protection as well.

Published 10 November 2014

Courtesy Ku-ring-gai Council - Media contact: Sally Williams



Our keen garden teams have been hard at work transforming client's gardens. Recently a team visited a courtyard in St Ives that was very overgrown. It required two visits with a total of 20 hours of gardening.

It is just amazing what the team discovered under the weeds, and transformed the garden to a space that the clients can sit and enjoy.

Photo on left 'before', photo on right 'after'



Kung Hei Fat Choi 2015 - Happy New Year

These beautiful photos celebrating Chinese New Year, were taken in our glorious city. (Provided by the Editor and a previous volunteer of Easy Care Gardening.)



2015 Year of the Yang belongs to the goat, the ram or the sheep because Chinese use the same word "yang" for all three.



ECG Management Committee Member Ian Calder

I retired in 1994 and not long afterwards I was approached by a member of ECG Management Committee, and fellow Rotarian, Peter Icely to join the Committee as Secretary and Public Officer, as ECG had just been incorporated.

As a professional company secretary, I accepted the invitation and joined the Committee on Friday 16 January 1995.

I was born and raised in Melbourne and from my late teens have always been involved in community service, much of it to support the interests of my four children.

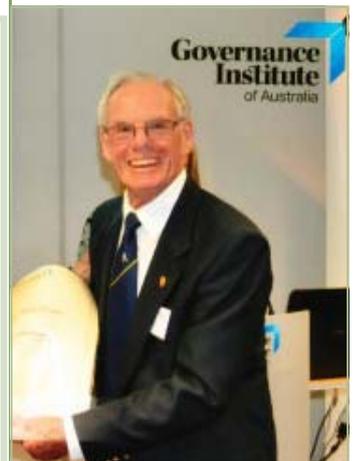
By quirk of the calendar the first meeting of the Committee meeting in 2015 was again Friday 16 January and I decided to retire from the

Committee to make way for some new blood with fresh ideas.

The growth of ECG over that 20 year period has been quite staggering – 73 volunteers to well over 500, five part time staff to 17 including two full time. Volunteer hours have increased from 1,387 to 38,591 and income from \$115,544 to \$1,065,747.

It has been both a privilege and a pleasure to participate in and contribute to the management of ECG during this period of growth. I will always be available to assist ECG in other ways as the opportunities arise.

Photo on right; Ian Calder being presented with his 50 year membership certificate last year for the now named Governance Institute of Australia.



Awards and Recognitions

Not only has Bev Honey volunteered for 18 years at Easy Care Gardening, now its official, Bev has been recognised for volunteering with the Royal Botanical Gardens and Domain Trust for 25 years. Assisting with the curation of plant species, Bev said 'the transition from her career as a pharmacist into volunteer work hadn't been that drastic'. Well done Bev, you are a champ!



Congratulations to Lyndell van Noort who received OAM on Australia Day for her wonderful commitment. Volunteering 27 years with ECG and other organisations, a well deserved award and a wonderful honour. Well done Lyndell we are very proud of you.

Easy Care Gardening held a small celebration with Lyndell and her team. Photo below front centre Lyndell and her team.



Welcome to all our new volunteers

Easy Care Gardening Volunteer Garden Awards 2015

Eden Gardens

301 Lane Cove Road, Nth Ryde.
Ph: 9491 9900



October: Colin Hall

November: Gladstone Jebanasam

December: Alan Wendeborn

Hargraves Nurseryland

630 Old Northern Road,
Dural. Ph: 9651 1833



October: Peter North Ash

November: Richard Ames

December: Sharyn Walker

Parkers Nursery

45 Tennyson Avenue,
Turramurra.



October: Lyndell van Noort

November: Karen Bones

December: Trevor Giblin

Peter Whitehead Appreciation Award

Easy Care Gardening Inc sends warmest wishes and congratulations to:

April Waldron

This award is for outstanding service to volunteering.

Ph: 9487 3888



The house with no steps!

Fun and Tips Section

Running out of pots for your garden, or need a new letterbox? Why not be adventurous and think outside the square, like this local gardener has?



Outing to visit the "Dinosaur Tree"



ECG received a grant from the NSW Government to celebrate Seniors' Week. We have organised a coach trip to Mt Annan Botanical Gardens on Thursday 19th March. It will be an enjoyable day with morning tea, a barbeque lunch and an informative talk about the Wollemi Pine by Mitch Harris, one of our Coordinators. There will also be time for you to wander the gardens or relax at the picnic site.

The outing is free for anyone over 60 years. Please ring the office to book your seat. Looking forward to seeing you and chatting over lunch.

Kind Regards, Yvonne
Manager

Gardener's Lament

*The things I sow
somehow don't grow
I'm sorely
disenchanted:
But, oh, what luck I
have with stuff
I never even planted*

- Anon

Composting in Autumn - Jo McGabey

I think I have written about this before but it is worth repeating. Use your lawn clippings, old newspapers and Autumn leaves in the compost heap but don't forget to hurry things along with some compost activator. You can buy this - why not make your own? It's heaps cheaper.

To 20 litres of water, add a 10 litre bucket full of old compost, animal manure or bone-meal. Any of the three will do the job. Now toss in a can of flat beer and a cup of household ammonia. Some aficionados suggest just a dash of urine..... you decide.

Mix well and sprinkle a litre or two over the top of the heap at fortnightly intervals. Keep covered.

Do not let the heap get to wet. Damp is just right.

NB If you use thick, tough leaves like those from Plane trees or similar, it will pay you to first chop as finely as possible.

Happy composting!



Gnome news corner - Royal Botanic Gardens Activities



I could not believe the number of activities that the Foundation and Friends of the Botanic Gardens offer, from painting, talks, trips and even getting your hands into their beautiful soil.

If you're into painting activities these include 'Learn to paint still life with acrylics', 'Colour your textiles with plants', 'Botanic painting for beginners'. Or how about basket weaving, yes there are courses for this as well. Why not take a coach trip to the Blue Mountains botanical gardens. Find out what happening with the Barangaroo Headland Park. Help cultivate the Gardens while gaining practical experience with horticultural experts. Go along to the 'The Birds and the Bees Opening Night' and enjoy a drink and delicious canapés in the beautiful gardens of Lion Gate Lodge.

These are just a few of the activities taking place in March, April and May. The list goes on and on, so why not jump onto the web site to find out more about the Foundation and Friends of the Botanic Gardens and if you're interested, you can book for events via the web site -

www.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/foundationandfriends, or by phoning their office on 9231 8182.

