

Easy Care Gardening Inc.

Winter 2012 Newsletter

Highlights in the Winter edition

Bruce Taylor - Thank You High Tea.

Around the Pathways
- On the Road - Our New Look.

Stories from our gardens - Book Launch.

Mayoral Senior Awards - Anne Gearing - Thomas.

Profile of a Team Leader - Eric Smith.

A word from one of our sponsors - Eden Gardens.

Volunteers - New Volunteers, request for volunteers and Monthly Awards .

Who's for Sushi / We go the Extra Yard - What our volunteers get up to.

Anzac Day - All the memories.

Crossword - enjoy.
Gardening Tips - Jo McGahey.

Seniors Week gardening talk - Judy Horton at Eden Gardens.

Australian Plants Society - North Shore Group.

Become a Friend of Easy Care Gardening
- every year we invite the community to become a 'Friend' of Easy Care Gardening Inc, [see last page](#).

Thank You Bruce Taylor



A wonderful afternoon 'High Tea' (prepared by Tony the Chef of Meals on Wheels) was attended by 80+ volunteers and staff thanking Bruce Taylor (photo on left) who retired after 16 years as Manager at Easy Care Gardening. Words of thanks came from Lyndell van Noort, Anne Shires, Margaret Love and Bob McKenzie, with Brian Self, our President, making the presentation.

An extract from Brian's speech. ' Bruce dedicated 16 years of his working life in the position. He did this professionally, skillfully and with great integrity, in a calm and unruffled way and always worked closely alongside his staff and volunteers, encouraging the best from his people. These qualities in a manager cannot be demanded but must be earned. Bruce you have been a great friend and supporter to so many of us. We salute you and we thank you and we hope the future will hold a lot of joy, happiness and good health for you and your family.' **Bruce Taylor's response:** 'This is a unique organisation and it has been an enormous privilege to work here. The commitment, guidance, and support of the Management Committee members, the absolutely terrific staff team, you wouldn't find a better one, and of course, the wonderful, caring volunteers, all of whom have made this Service what it is today; you are all a great encouragement to me, and a real example to follow, as are many of the lovely clients and the other Community Care colleagues that I have met, and got to know over the years'.

Then and Now

Easy Care Gardening Inc changed greatly over the sixteen years that Bruce Taylor was at the helm. In January 1996 Bruce was appointed full-time Coordinator with a part-time Clerical assistant. At that time, Hornsby/Ku-ring-gai was the only area in Sydney with such a service. By 1998 two other groups had been established, Manly/Waringah and Baulkham Hills. Bruce advised and assisted these groups as they established themselves as he did for all the similar groups that now operate in Sydney and the Central Coast, now totaling 18. As well as assisting new groups to start up to help pensioners in other areas of Sydney, Bruce also was expanding the Hornsby/Ku-ring-gai organisation. In 2002 ECG applied for and received a grant from the State Government to provide a subsidised lawn mowing service to clients in the Northern Sydney region, 11 LGAs. Bruce set this up as (CALM) Community Assist Lawn Mowing in late 2002. Only six months later he appointed two part-time gardening Assistant Coordinators to enable the expansion of gardening activities into Ryde and Hunters Hill local government areas. Each of these new activities grew steadily over the years under Bruce's stewardship. ECG has received several awards in recognition of the service provided to the community. In January 2007 the Australia Day Community Service Award was received from Ku-ring-gai Council. In March 2007 Bruce accepted the 2007 Premier's Seniors Week Achievement Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Paid Workforce and in September 2008 the Hornsby Advocate True Business Award for Community Contribution was awarded to ECG. These awards recognised the valued contribution that ECG was making in the local area.

When Bruce joined ECG, there were 80 volunteers with approximately 400 hours a month of gardening, now (2012) there are 550 volunteers including 127 corporations and groups, 17 office and nine lawn mowing volunteers, which equates to approximately 27,600 hours per year. Gardening clients have grown from 360 in two local government areas to 1,230 in four local government areas. Bruce also introduced CALM, which now has 1,400 clients in 11 local government areas. This amazing growth has seen a staff of one part time person now requiring 17 part time people to administer and manage the clients receiving a very worth while service.

Quite an achievement I am sure you would agree!

Events for your diary

28 June Thurs 10.00am - 1pm: Plant and Volunteer Information stall. Venue: Outside ECG garage, Gilroy Lane, Turramurra.

10 July Tues 10.00am - 11.30am: Volunteer Networking and Info morning: Venue Meals On Wheels room, Turramurra. Ph: 99831644 for bookings.

5 Aug Sun 10.00am - 5.00pm: Moocooboola Festival - Volunteer Information stall. Venue: Boronia Park, Hunters Hill. [To assist on stall call office 99831644.](tel:99831644)

6 Sep Thurs 10.00am - 2.00pm: Plant and Volunteer Information stall. Venue: outside ECG garage, Gilroy Lane, Turramurra.

16 Sep Sun 10.00am - 4.00pm: The Bushland Shire Festival - Volunteer Information stall. Venue: Fagan Park, Galston. [To assist on stall call office 99831644.](tel:99831644)

20 Oct Sat 9.00am - 4.30pm: Granny Smith Festival, Volunteer Information stall. Venue: Rowe Street, Eastwood. [To assist on stall call office 99831644.](tel:99831644)

5 Dec Wed - International Volunteers Day.

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



A Service For All Seasons
Patron: Jennifer Stackhouse BA (Hons), Dip. Hort.

Around the Pathways - On the Road - Our New Look



Watch out for the two Easy Care Gardening utes. Just returned from a makeover, courtesy of a generous donation from the NIB Foundation, the utes are sporting brand new "car skins", featuring advertising to attract new volunteers. Many thanks to Trish Muller and her wonderfully good-natured team who posed for the photo featured on the utes.

Stories From Our Gardens

In 2010 the City of Ryde offered funding for "Projects that celebrate personal or community stories, and contribute to the City's identity". Easy Care Gardening Inc applied for funding as we knew that many of our elderly clients have lived in the area for most of their lives and many have very interesting life stories to tell.

Our grant application was successful, and we received funding to interview and then write and publish a small book of the personal stories of 12 residents of the City of Ryde. The stories, history and photographs will be shared with younger and newer residents of the area.

A "book launch" and morning tea to celebrate with the Project participants, their family and friends and some of the volunteers who have worked in the City of Ryde, will be held in mid June. Officials from the City of Ryde will also be invited, as well as the local newspapers. Obviously, we hope that the publicity that Easy Care Gardening gets from this will enhance people's understanding of the importance of the service that we provide, and that we will therefore be able to recruit more volunteers to work in the gardens.

Mayoral Seniors Week Award - Anne Gearing-Thomas

Congratulations to Anne Gearing-Thomas who recently received a Certificate of Appreciation from the Ku-ring-gai Mayor, (photo on right). As part of Seniors Week, the Mayoral awards were made in acknowledgement of contributions by seniors to the community. Anne has been a volunteer with Easy Care Gardening for nearly 10 years, most recently as the Client Representative on the Management Committee. In this role, Anne is responsible for phoning our clients to check on the work that has been done by the volunteers and ensure that the clients are pleased with the work that has been done for them. Anne is a genuinely empathetic and caring person and has a very gentle manner with the clients. The conversations are usually long and she is able to report not only on the work that they have received but on their general well-being. Easy Care Gardening Inc is just one of the many voluntary roles that Anne is busy with. As Anne says herself; "I do a little bit here and a little bit there and when you sit down and think about it, which I never have before, it is really quite a lot. Now I know where all the hours go in a day!"

Profile of a Team Leader - Eric Smith

Eric Smith retired in 2000 and joined ECG in 2001. "The activities of ECG organisation sounded the most practical, and more or less in my geographical area of Sydney ," said Eric.

Primarily employed as a gardener and Team Leader, Eric has also done other jobs for ECG such as making the ground sheets, engraving tools, delivering mulch, etc. He has always been interested in gardening and spends a lot of time in his own garden. Like many volunteers, he also volunteers for other organisations including the SES (Sydney Northern Region - Hornsby unit) and is a committee member of the Australian Plant Society - North Shore Group, and is also involved in church activities.

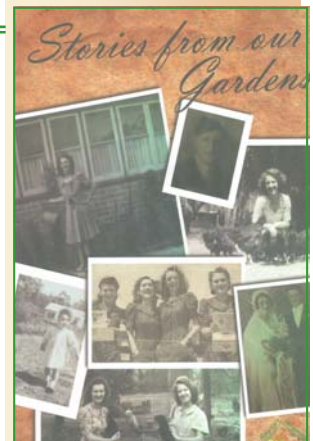
Eric enjoys helping people. "I think most clients are grateful, and pleased with the work we do" he said.



Gardening Quotes:

Take care of the land and the land will take care of you.

H.Bennett



Anne Gearing - Thomas with the Mayor



Eric Smith

New Volunteers

Michelle Chang	Anthony Morris	Sharyn Walker	Aberdeen Asset Management
Natalie Ryan	Jack Francis	Ke Xu	ANZ Banking Group
Rocco Scardino	Tom Mann	Janice Castle	ANZE
Merwin Davies	Isobel Williams	Corporate	Bunnings
Lorna Moll	Elliot Nott	Stockland Corp	Pymble Ladies College
Alan Yong	Esther Duenow	Oracle Corporation	Riverview College
Roslyn McColl	Philip Summerfield	Redfield College	
Patrick Gregson	Andrew Deegan	Bayer Australia	
Mithi Daver	Augustine Lee	Bankwest	

Volunteers needed for the ECG Stall at events

We are always looking for volunteers to assist with the Easy Care Gardening stall at various events. Up and coming : **5 Aug Sun 10.00am - 5.00pm: Moocooboola Festival** - Volunteers Information stall. Venue: Boronia Park, Hunters Hill. **16 Sep Sun 10.00am - 4.00pm: The Bushland Shire Festival** - Volunteer Information stall. Venue: Fagan Park, Galston. **20 Oct Sat 9.00am - 4.30pm: Granny Smith Festival**, Volunteer Information stall. Venue: Rowe Street, Eastwood.

To assist on any of the above events please call the office on 9983-1644.

A word from Eden Gardens -

Shade Gardening – Belinda Thackeray, Education Manager at Eden Gardens

Use your imagination to add some interest to shady areas in your garden. Try massing with coloured and variegated foliage plants like hostas and coleus, or planting with white flowering plants like star jasmine and white impatiens.

From the traditional liriopes and hellebores for partly shaded areas, there are now a great range of more unusual plants available. The large shrub Brazilian cloak (*Megaskespa sp.*) has deep green foliage and stunning candle like red flowers, and the groundcover electric fern (*Selaginella sp.*) has soft lime green foliage.

Areas under trees can be tricky, with limited light and soil available. Dig a large hole, taking care not to damage tree roots, and fill with potting mix/compost before planting. Consider root depth when selecting plants, using groundcovers and planting from tubestock can work well.

Shady gardens need less frequent watering than sunny ones, but need to be kept moister if there are tree roots competing for water. Monitor soil moisture carefully, too much water can cause root disease, while too little water will decrease the vigour of plants.

Mirrors, water features, white pebbles and lime washed furniture can also be used to lift shady garden corners.

Easy Care Gardening Volunteer Garden Awards 2012

Eden Gardens

301 Lane Cove Road, Ryde.
Ph: 9491 9900



Hargraves Nurseryland

630 Old Northern Road,
Dural. Ph: 9651 1833



Parkers Nursery

45 Tennyson Avenue,
Turramurra. Ph: 9487 3888



January: Janet Williamson

February: John Dixon

March: Lesley Lowe

January: Geoffrey Davis

February: David Ralph

March: Lee Dickson

January: Quiang (Rose) Liu

February: Barry Pulsford

March: John Quigley



Bees pollinating on a lavender bush.

OUR THANKS

Our thanks to Andrew, son of Sarah Haddrick, office volunteer, for arranging the donation of Coca Cola Amatil soft drinks for our Open Garden Day on 10 April.



Brazilian cloak

Peter Whitehead Appreciation Award

Easy Care Gardening sends warmest wishes and congratulations to:

Susan Bowers

This award is for outstanding service to volunteering.

Words of thanks from our Clients

DG West Ryde: Thank you for a fantastic job.

PB Brooklyn: Thank you for sending those generous, hard working, lovely people to do my garden.

D&VMc Eastwood: Thank you for sending such a great team, we do appreciate their hard work.

JK Gladesville: I am absolutely delighted with the result, many thanks for your hard work.

JS T'murra: Many thanks for the great work, made a wonderful difference.

AC Pymble: I love living in my old home and can continue to do so thanks to the help I get from you.

D& V Mc T'murra: What a great bunch, busy, happy workers. Thank you.

D&L M Epping. Thank you for your willing and welcome work for us, and for your kind words.

Who's for Sushi?

Thanks to all those businesses and corporations who encourage their people (staff) to assist in the community by volunteering with ECG. Just like the Sushi Bay volunteer team who joined Easy Care Gardening in July 2010, and who gardens for ECG clients every second month, Sushi Bay owners support their employees in doing community service one day per month. They share these days between ECG and Bush Care. They are wonderful people who are very enthusiastic and energetic, they are also great in the cleaning up afterwards - must be all that experience from cleaning up in restaurants! **Well done team!**

We go the Extra 'Yard' when Gardening

- * Our Volunteers really do care! One of our volunteers who recently won the gardener of the month award (a voucher from Parkers Nursery) insisted that the voucher be donated to ECG. A lovely gesture!
- * A team's visit on Tuesday 6 March was the day after Mrs. Hughes 99th birthday. Jenny Nakhla, one of our Coordinators, arranged for the team to take along a cake to celebrate. As you can see from the photo on the right, Mrs. Hughes was delighted.
- * Whatever next! Dave Denny's (another of our Coordinators) Friday's team believes in entertaining their clients. At a recent visit to one of the clients, the morning tea break became a musical event with one of the team members playing a tune on the client's piano. (Photo on right).
- * Another of our Coordinators, Caryn DiBagio, organised a fun picnic lunch for her teams. They all look like they enjoyed the break (photo on right).

Anzac Day March Brings Back all the Memories

WORLD War II veteran, Vincent Foley, a Mount Colah local and a client of ECG, kept the 'Black Cats' flying. An aircraft fitter and engineer for Australia's Catalina flying boats (Catalinas painted black were dubbed the 'Black Cats' and used for night missions), Mr. Foley was stationed at Seven Mile air base in New Guinea from 1942-44, his job during the World War II was to maintain the Catalinas. Mr. Foley told the North Shore Times 'I march to satisfy the day but its hard when one has memories of those who are no longer with us' (extract from the North Shore Times).

'We salute you Vincent Foley and all those that served for our freedom'.

Gnome news corner - become a 'Friend' of Easy Care Gardening

Support us in helping others in the community. When you become a 'FRIEND' you will receive opportunities to meet people with like interests, access to practical gardening workshops, plants at low prices, regular newsletters with practical gardening hints and news (via email or mail). **See last page for details and become a 'Friend'** If you have access to email then you can help us to reduce our carbon footprint by receiving your Newsletters by email. Simply email to the Editor at editor@easycaregardening.org.au that you would like the newsletter sent to your email address. Please include your name and postal address in the body of the email **or** contact the ECG office by phone 9983 1644 or mail.



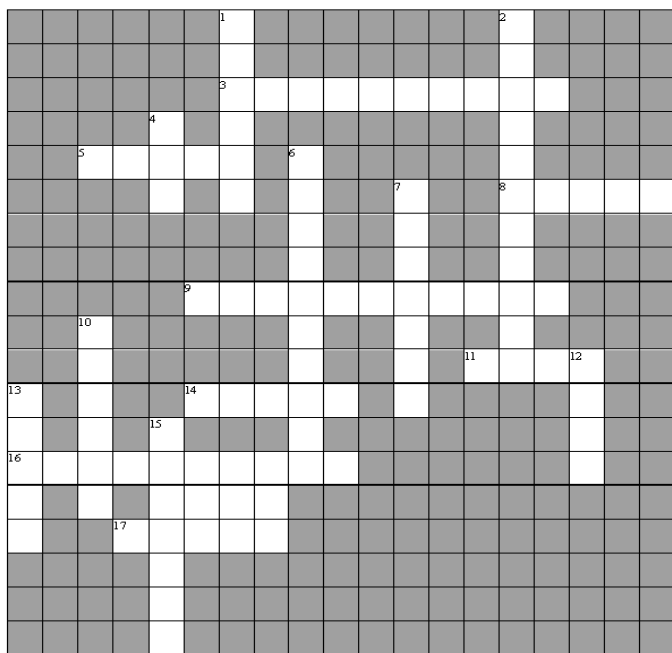
OUR THANKS

Our thanks and farewell to both Graham and Laurel Sherwin who have been our mulching volunteers for the past five years. We wish them both well in their future endeavors.



Easy Care Gardening Crossword

Easy Care Gardening Series one



Across

- 3. A good read
- 5. First name ECG Manager 2011
- 8. Protective cover
- 9. Apple festival
- 11. Pollinating insects
- 14. H2O
- 16. Famous Sydney landmark(2 words)
- 17. Four legs

Down

- 1. Season
- 2. Paper tree
- 4. Solar system
- 6. People who help others
- 7. Baby room or where you buy plants
- 10. Australian soldier
- 12. Garden ?
- 13. Birds of a feather ? together
- 15. NSW emblem

Gardening Tips for Winter - Jo McGahey

While clearing up leaf litter in winter, etc do make sure you don't disturb a somnolescent snake or three. They do like to hibernate when the weather cools down and their preferred diet of lizards, grubs, beetles and the odd bird's egg, is not readily available. BUT if this nice warm autumn we are having spills over into winter, they might still be a bit active. So do take care. The other good thing about winter gardening is you can pull out weeds by the barrowful and they are so slow to grow back. A generous helping of manure and some sugar cane or wood chip mulch will keep everything looking great. When using mulch, particularly wood chips, it is essential to use fertilizer under the mulch to prevent nitrogen drawdown.

Seniors Week Gardening Talk - Judy Horton

Well known gardening guru – and Communications Manager for Yates – Judy Horton addressed a very interested group of Seniors as part of NSW Seniors Week on Tuesday, 20 March, at Eden Gardens, North Ryde. Judy is well known as a speaker at Easy Care Gardening Inc events, and was part of the lineup in March last year at our very successful Gardening and Market Day, at Mt Errington, Hornsby. Judy also is often heard on radio answering a myriad of questions from the public on gardening matters. Judy was keen to explain the ways and means of making gardening care more easy care, with lots of hands on props in the way of plants and products. Following the talk, there was an opportunity for a “Q and A” session from the audience with Judy offering very informative replies, followed by lunch on the terrace at Eden Gardens. We would like to thank both Judy and Eden Gardens for their assistance with this very informative and successful event.

Australian Plants Society-North Shore Group - Rae Rosten

The Australian Plants Society – North Shore Group is part of a nationwide organisation which promotes the appreciation and growing of Australian native plants. The local group meets on the second Friday of the month at 8pm in the Willow Park Community Centre, 25 Edgeworth David Ave, Hornsby, with speakers on a wide variety of native plant related topics. The dates of meetings and other information can be found at www.blandfordia.org.au The meeting ends with a friendly chat over supper. The group also runs a Monday Walks and Talks programme at the Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden at St Ives. Visitors are always welcome and no particular knowledge is required, merely an interest in native plants. Age is not a barrier. Members usually enjoy a walk each month. Other activities include an annual plant identification course, and the provision of an annual scholarship to a suitably qualified researcher. So, you can see that there is something of interest to everyone and you will not be pressured to be involved in more than you want to be.



Four photos below crossword clues



Judy Horton

Answers to crossword

15. Waratan	17. Table
13. Flock	16. Opera House
12. Shed	14. Water
10. Digger	11. Bees
7. Nursery	9. Granny Smith
6. Volunteers	8. Mulch
4. Sun	5. Bruce
2. Crepe Myrtle	3. Newsletter
1. Winter	
Down	Across

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Be a "FRIEND" of EASY CARE GARDENING Inc. and support us in helping others in the community

When you become a 'FRIEND' you will receive opportunities to meet people with like interests, access to practical gardening workshops, plants at low prices, regular newsletters with practical gardening hints and news (via email or mail).

If you would like to become/continue as a "Friend" of Easy Care Gardening Inc. complete the section below and return this page to **Easy Care Gardening Inc** PO Box 502 Turramurra 2074 .

Remember, if you are already a "Friend" of Community Assist Lawn Mowing, then you are already a "Friend" of Easy Care Gardening.

I enclose my voluntary annual contribution \$10 (due 1st July each year) \$.....

I have also added my donation to give help in the Community (Optional) \$.....

(Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible – Charity No. CFN 10507)

TOTAL \$.....

Name:

Address:

Suburb: Postcode: Date

Email Address: Tele (.....)

I would also like my newsletter sent to my email address. *(Tick the appropriate box)* Yes No

Please send me information about making a bequest. *(Tick the appropriate box)* Yes No

I understand that I do not have any member voting rights.

Option for Electronic Payment:

If you choose to use the electronic payment option it is extremely important that we know **who makes electronic payment** (to ensure we record payment of subscriptions correctly and receipts for donations are sent to the correct address).

To enable this tracking could you please do the following two things:

1. Include some identifying information in your online transaction (in the "description box")

For example: FS (which stands for **F**riends **S**ubscription) followed by **0** (zero) then your **SURNAME** followed by **0** (zero) then the **initials of your Suburb** (zeros are inserted to separate the necessary information)

e.g. – Friends Subscription for Miss **Smith** from **Hunters Hill** would be: **FS0Smith0HH**

Log into your bank account online and select the option "Pay Anyone".

A/c Name: Easy Care Gardening Inc.

Bank: Westpac

BSB: 032 089

A/c No: 243864

2. Send an email to notify ECG of the payment, please include your **name, address, payment amount** and **date made**.

ECG email: ecg2074@easycaregardening.org.au