

March 2014

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The Editor spotted this Echidna whilst on holidays in Shoal Bay

Special points of interest:

- Garden Festival
- New - Season Tips
- Meals on Wheels

## *Easy Care Gardening celebrating Christmas*

**ECG held a Christmas party to thank our wonderful volunteers.**

The ECG Christmas party was enjoyed by over 90 volunteers and guests in the tranquil setting of the Ku ring gai Wildflower Garden.

A delicious barbeque was served and the dessert buffet proved to be very popular.

Thank you to the staff of ECG who worked tirelessly during the evening. They wanted to give the 'volunteers' a night off duty.

The B-B-Q was followed by entertainment from the talented 'Binaway Bandits'. These two ladies sang and played their instruments to a very appreciative audience. (Would you believe one of the ladies from the Binaway Bandits is one of ECG's staff)? Next up was the acapella group 'Amazing Grays' who treated everyone to a wonderful collection of songs.

We were delighted to also have a very informative talk from Yates garden expert, Judy Horton.

Judy also donated seeds to our volunteers so we can expect to see photos of the vegetables!

The evening was a chance for fellow volunteers to down tools, relax, catch up and look back over another successful gardening year.



The 'Binaway Bandits'



The 'Amazing Grays'



Judy Horton second from right with volunteers



Volunteers at function



*Grevillea banksii*, from the painting by Ferdinand Bauer circa 1805. The original may be found at The Natural Museum, London



*Grevillea banksii* R.Br  
Photo from Wikipedia

'It was Bank's botanical findings along the east coast of Australia that caused Cook to honour his work by naming their landing site Botany Bay'.

## *Around the Pathways - Sir Joseph Banks*

Did you know that Sir Joseph Banks, at the age of 25, supplied an estimated £10,000 of his own money to equip the expedition of one of the great missions of discovery in history? He joined the then Lieutenant James Cook on the Endeavour expedition in 1768, his first journey to the South Pacific. The primary mission was to record the transit of Venus across the sun, and although astronomy interested Banks little, it was considered to be of vital importance to the improvement of navigation, and was an event that would not be repeated again for more than a hundred years.

It was the secondary mission of the expedition that held Banks interest; to record all manner of plant and animal life encountered. The refit for the expedition cost £5,394, an expense covered by the Crown, while virtually all other expenses, such as scientific equipment, extra food and provisions for his team, were personally covered by Joseph Banks. The Endeavour originally cost £2,840 to build. Although direct comparisons are next to impossible, these sums could well translate into millions in today's currency.

Their first port of call was Funchal, Madeira, on 12<sup>th</sup> September, where the two botanists were the first ashore. They headed straight for the British Consul to introduce themselves, where they were provided with accommodation, horses, and guides for the duration of their stay.

This allowed them to collect almost 700 specimens in less than six days. The Endeavour set sail at midnight on the 18<sup>th</sup>, with the next landfall, Brazil, more than a month and a half away.

On the way around the world, Banks discovered the Bougainvillea in Brazil and named it after his French counterpart before continuing on to Tahiti, Java, Australia and New Zealand.

Banks was so interested in the flora of the east coast of Australia that he played a key role in the promotion of the first settlement. Because of his keen interest in the colony, Banks has been called 'The Father of Australia'. Bankstown was named after him; a monument to his memory is at Kurnell; and the north headland of Botany Bay was named Cape Banks by Cook. His name has been commemorated in the notable plant genus, *Banksia* Linn.f. and by some Australian plant species, e.g. a red spider flower, *Grevillea banksii* R.Br.; and the seaweed known as 'Neptune's necklace' or 'Bubble-weed'.

Banks advised the British government on all matters pertaining to Australia and was responsible for shipping many Australian botanical specimens to England. It was also Banks who introduced the Spanish Merino sheep to Australia.

*Partly sourced from Plant Explorer.com*

## *Garden Festival*

The word on the streets is that Easy Care Gardening will be holding a Garden Festival on Thursday 20 March in the Seniors Centre at Turramurra, from 1.00pm to 4.00pm.

Guest speaker will be Jennifer Stackhouse, Patron of ECG. There will be a talk by one of ECG's Coordinators, and a tool sharpening demonstration by one of ECG's volunteers.

Afternoon tea will be provided with music and songs from the 30's, 40's and 50's by signing duo Ros and Ron.

**Please RSVP for catering purposes: 9983 1644**



## New Volunteers

Douglas Hastings	Neil Wester
Michael Moroney	<u>Corporate</u>
David Swinbourne	Deloitte
Elena (Helen) Morelli	United Way - AMP
Jagannath Gunja	
Joseph Peng	



Photo on left:  
Peter Stanmore originally a gardening volunteer, now washes ECG vehicles every week.  
The vehicles have never been so clean, thank you Peter

## Cleaning up autumn - By Jennifer Stackhouse

I'm looking forward to autumn. Not only for the cooler days that are kinder on gardens and gardeners, but because I am all tooled up.

Each year our garden is deluged by leaves. Last autumn, when we were knee deep in fallen leaves from the tall deciduous trees that surround our house, a new rake arrived on the scene and transformed our garden maintenance.

I won the rake in a competition. It was part of a collection of Fiskars tools. I felt a bit guilty as I have lots of garden tools, but as soon as I unwrapped the rake, I knew I'd won the jackpot.

We've been through lots of rakes here. Cheap plastic ones, more expensive plastic ones and metal ones – but this rake has outstripped them all.

Quite simply it is easy to use and rakes efficiently. In just half an hour my husband, Jim, and I had constructed a leaf bin from wire and metal stakes, raked up all the fallen leaves and dumped them in the leaf bin. And that's even with the pugs doing their best to spread the raked leaves all over the place!

The pluses of this new orange and black rake are its broad head, which measures 60cm across, and the strong rigid plastic tynes. Leaves don't get clogged in the tynes the way they do with traditional rakes and the width of the rake means it can be used to rake a large area very quickly.

The shaft is sturdy and light as it is made of hardened aluminium. To make it easy to hold, it has a soft grip surface on the shaft.

Called the Large Nyglass Rake, it retails for \$28.95 in Bunnings, where it has a 25-year warranty. Well worth it!

### Other joys of autumn

Putting my rake to one side, there are lots of other things to enjoy as autumn approaches because autumn really is an excellent time to plant. As the days cool it's a good time to plant trees, shrubs and of course bulbs. And the arrival of autumn also means it is planting time for pansies, poppies and sweet peas. And, to top it all off, the camellias are starting to bloom. Too good.



Dora the pug investigates the new rake.  
The Fiskars rake measures 60cm across.  
Leaf bin – made and filled in 30 minutes

## Easy Care Gardening Volunteer Garden Awards 2014

### Eden Gardens

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



October: Andrew Fraser  
November: Christopher Woodman  
December: Bill Ward

### Hargraves Nurseryland

630 Old Northern Road, Dural. Ph: 9651 1833



October: Wendy Addison  
November Herbert Schoch  
December: John Lloyd

### Parkers Nursery

45 Tennyson Avenue, Turramurra. Ph: 9487 3888



October: Sui Dong  
November David Duval  
December: Raniah Khalil

### Peter Whitehead Appreciation Award

Easy Care Gardening sends warmest wishes and congratulations to:

#### Len Warren

This award is for outstanding service to volunteering.

*We provide gardening and lawn mowing services to frail, aged pensioners, carers, and people on a disability support pension within the Hornsby, Ku-ring-gai, Ryde and Hunters Hill areas.*

We are on the WEB

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

*This allows them to remain in their own homes as the service helps to convert gardens to low maintenance ones, ensuring that the garden areas are safe and enjoyable.*

**Congratulations to Lyndell van Noort who has been volunteering with ECG for 25 years, and has clocked up 1,000 + days of gardening for our clients - a wonderful effort, thank you Lyndell.**

## *Clients thank ECG*

B&A B - Mt Colah: Thank you so much for the services these people do. PB - Brooklyn: They created miracles before they waved goodbye, such lovely people. AC - Pymble: Many many thanks for the hard working volunteers who did a wonderful clean up of my garden. JE - Turramurra: Very hard to express my thanks well enough to you, you have restored my pride in my garden. J&R B - Nth Epping. We thank you most sincerely for your assistance, a truly wonderful community service. AM - Berowra: From a very grateful client. CC - Ryde: I so appreciate your help with the garden. NS - Wahroonga: A wonderful organisation and volunteers to help us as we age.

## *Season Tips*

**T**icks are out there in force this year, wear tick repellent and of course, block out and your hat.

They provide a wealth of food for birds that visit the garden. Magnolia fruit attract parrots who feast on their seeds.

**A**utumn is the time to make new plants from cuttings. Take 10cm cuttings from hardwood herbs such as rosemary and bay or natives such as banksias, grevillea and coastal rosemary. Remove the lower leaves, dip cuttings into hormone powder and pot in small containers of premium potting mix. Keep just moist and shelter from strong wind and sun. Don't rush to prune spent seed heads.



**Daylight saving time ends on the first Sunday in April in the ACT, NSW, SA, Tasmania and Victoria. The Northern Territory and the state of Queensland and WA do not observe daylight saving time.**

## *Gnome news corner - Meals On Wheels*

**T**here are many people out there that would love a wholesome meal, but are either unable to cook for themselves or are not aware of the affordable, healthy meals on offer through the Ku-ring-Gai & Hornsby Meals on Wheels organisation. All meals are prepared and cooked fresh five days a week and delivered by volunteers (no delivery fee). A standard meal package consists of a main meal, dessert and fruit juice for just \$8.50, there are also sandwiches for \$4.00, soup package for \$5.00, and they cater for special dietary requirements.

On Mondays a 'Luncheon Club' is held at their Turramurra dining room (Gilroy Rd) where a delicious lunch in the friendly company of other people is served at a cost of \$12.00. They also offer transport if required for just \$5.00.

Meals on Wheels is available for all people, so if you know of anyone or yourself that may be interested we recommend you give this a try.

For more information contact telephone 1300 361 287 or 9144 2044 or 9482 2088

