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**Special points of interest:**

- Fun and Tips section
- 'Become a Friend' form

## *A word from ECG's President*

With winter coming, we should see the growth in plants and lawns slow down, but there will continue to be plenty for both volunteers and staff of ECG to do. As well as the gardening volunteers, the office volunteers, Management Committee and the staff have all been working hard to support the volunteers.

There have been several changes in staff and in the membership of the Management Committee. Joan Smith joined the Committee as the client representative. Joan, who has a background in banking, volunteers in the office on Thursday mornings phoning clients to see if they are happy with the service we provide (which they nearly always are) and helping to identify, and where possible to iron out, any issue a client might have, or to identify ways we can improve our service. Unfortunately Joan has decided to resign through ill health. David Swinbourne has joined the Committee as Treasurer. As a CPA and Chartered Secretary, David has a background in financial management. He spent 15 years with CSR Limited working in a number of overseas countries in various financial management roles, nine years with Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu as a Senior Manager in corporate advisory, and 15 years in his own business as a Financial Consultant to a range of large corporations.

Caryn Thompson has resigned to pursue her own business. There have also been new staff appointments, Karen MacDiarmid and Mitch Harris have been appointed as Coordinators. The position of Volunteer Manager has been filled by Coralie Jensen.

We welcome all of these newly appointed people and also, of course, all the new volunteers who have joined us. With an increasing number of volunteers gardening on Saturdays, it became necessary to have Coordinators working on Saturdays. Mitch Harris and Karen MacDiarmid are filling that role.

Largely through the great effort of Yvonne Dewar, our Manager, the arrangement of having volunteers garden essentially in areas near where they live, and having Coordinators responsible for teams within a specific area rather than spread over a great distance and crossing each others paths, seems to be working well. Naturally there have been some upheavals and initial misgivings as both volunteers and clients become used to the new arrangements and new faces, but overall it has been well received. Certainly it makes the delivery of the service we provide more efficient. At the end of February the members of the Management Committee and Yvonne met for the better part of a day to develop a strategic plan for ECG for the next three years. When the plan is formally adopted we will let you know relevant aspects of it. Whatever is happening, the basic aim of ECG will not change. It remains to provide through volunteers a gardening service to the aged and those with disabilities, to enable them to remain in their own homes for longer than they would otherwise be able to do. I look forward to continuing to work with you all to this end.

*Frank Windeyer*  
President

"It is very sad news that David (Dave) Denny died on 29<sup>th</sup> April, 2014 in a Glasgow hospital surrounded by his family. Dave was a very competent Coordinator for 6 years with ECG and is already missed by his co-workers, clients and volunteers. He always was considerate of others' welfare whether at ECG, Bushcare or his SES involvement. However his tenacious spirit will live on at ECG as he gave his all, right to the end of his life. Dave's memorial service was held in Newcastle, England on 9<sup>th</sup> May, 2014. We will plant a native tree in his honour. Our condolences are with Fran his wife, sisters and father in England".



Photo : Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park

Hornsby calls itself the 'Bushland Shire'. This is in reference to its location on a high ridge separating two expansive areas of natural bushland.



Ryde contains the oldest settler's cottage in Australia, Addington circa 1800, on Victoria Road.



Jennifer Stackhouse, guest speaker at the Garden Festival



Volunteer, Mithi Daver on left with Claire Breen ECG staff member and garden volunteer

## *Around the Pathways - History snippets of ECG area*

**H**ornsby Shire stretches from the suburb of Eastwood in the south to the Hawkesbury River town of Wisemans Ferry, some 53 kilometres to the north. Hornsby Shire got its name from the town of Hornsby at the eastern end of the Shire, and is derived from Convict-turned-Constable Samuel Horne, who earned distinction by capturing bushrangers Dalton and McNamara on 22 June 1830. In return he was granted land in the locality known as "Hornsby Place".

**K**u-ring-gai region is named after the Kuringgai tribe who once inhabited the area. The name 'Gordon' (administrative centre for the local government area of Ku-ring-gai Council) first appears as the name of the survey parish covering most of the upper north shore, and was assigned by the NSW Surveyor-General, Sir Thomas Mitchell. This is believed to commemorate Sir James Willoughby Gordon, with whom he had served during the Peninsular War and who was the quartermaster-general of the regiment in which Mitchell had served.

**C**ity of Ryde area extends from the Parramatta River to the Lane Cove River which encircles the area in the north, and is bounded in the east by the peninsula of Hunters Hill and the City of Parramatta in the west. Ryde is the third oldest settlement in Australia, after Sydney and Parramatta. Originally, known by its Aboriginal name Wallumatta. Ryde was named after the town of Ryde on the Isle of Wight. It may have been adopted from G.M. Pope, who came from Ryde on the Isle of Wight, and who settled in the area and opened the 'Ryde Store'.

**H**unters Hill situated on a small peninsula that separates the Lane Cove and Parramatta Rivers, the Aboriginal name is 'Mookaboola' or 'Moochooboola', which means *meeting of waters*. The area that is now Hunters Hill was settled in 1835 and named after John Hunter, the second Governor of New South Wales, who was in office between 1795 and 1800. During the 1840s, bushrangers and convicts who had escaped from the penal settlement on Cockatoo Island would take refuge in Hunters Hill.

## *Garden Festival to celebrate Seniors week*

**A**s part of Seniors Week, ECG held a Garden Festival at the Turramurra Centre for Seniors on 20<sup>th</sup> March this year. It was a lovely afternoon with over 60 visitors and volunteers attending.

Trish Muller, (photo bottom right) ECG Coordinator, gave a talk and demonstration on the low-maintenance garden methods undertaken by ECG's wonderful teams of volunteers. This was followed by Bob Mutton, (photo on right) a long-standing volunteer, who maintains ECG's tools. He gave an informative tool maintenance demonstration inspiring better maintenance of people's tools.

We were also very fortunate for Easy Care Gardening Patron, Ms Jennifer Stackhouse to join us as guest speaker. Jennifer gave a very enjoyable gardening talk and responded to a variety of questions from the audience.

Out on the balcony, volunteer Mithi Daver and ECG staff member and volunteer, Claire Breen, sold a selection of tube stock plants.

All visitors were invited to a sumptuous afternoon tea of scones with cream and jam, tea and coffee, while Ross and Ron sang favorite songs.

**T**hank you to all those who assisted on the day.



## ECG Gardeners Tie the Knot

**C**ongratulations to Ian Norman and Lisbeth Allen, who met as volunteers at ECG, and between them have been gardening for the ECG clients for 17 years.

Ian and Lisbeth will be married in October this year. So you see, romance does happen on the job and especially in a garden!



Welcome to all our new volunteers

*In the end, it's not going to matter how many breaths you took, but how many moments took your breath away.*

- shing xiong

## Winter Gardening – Belinda Thackeray, Education Manager at Eden Gardens

**D**o you want to create a different look in your garden or outdoor space?

**W**hy not try a vertical garden or green wall? These gardens are a great way to create a garden feature, especially where space is limited, for example on balconies and in courtyards. They can be created from old timber pallets, large hessian bags or bales of mulch. There are also commercially available ready-made systems, for example hanging garden bags or vertical systems like Versiwall, where polypropylene pots are clipped onto a back mounting panel. Use good quality potting mix and select compact, low growing plants with shallow root systems that suit the position. For sunny areas try gazanias, geraniums, succulents or trailing seasonal bloomers like petunias. For shady areas try ferns, violets, bromeliads or cissus. For edibles try trailing herbs like thyme, oregano and marjoram; leafy vegies like spinach and lettuce; or strawberries. Water and fertilise regularly, and enjoy the display.

**F**or unusual plant varieties, check out Eden Gardens' new rare and unusual plant selection. This features plants with unique characteristics that normally wouldn't be found in a garden centre. All the plants are suitable for growing in the Sydney area and include *Quisqualis mussiendafolia* 'Red Riot' (photo below) with its mass display of bright red flower bracts; *Alocasia plumbea* 'Metallica' with its huge variegated, textured foliage; and *Solanum mammosum* with its ornamental yellow fruit that are shaped like the udder of a cow.

Happy winter gardening!



Two hard working volunteers on the job – Peter Garrard (on left) and Trevor Giblin

## Easy Care Gardening Volunteer Garden Awards 2014

### Eden Gardens

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

### Hargraves Nurseryland

630 Old Northern Road,  
Dural. Ph: 9651 1833

### Parkers Nursery

45 Tennyson Avenue,  
Turramurra.  
Ph: 9487 3888



January: Douglas Gibbons

February: Mark O'Neill

January: Leon Roberts

February: Louise Catoe

March: Barry Pulsford

January: Donald Sams

February: Stephanie McInerney

March: Peter Garrard

### Peter Whitehead Appreciation Award

Easy Care Gardening Inc sends warmest wishes and congratulations to:

**Lyn Dundas**

This award is for outstanding service to volunteering.

Imagine if you had a view of natural beauty like this from your kitchen window.

(Photo courtesy of ECG staff member while on holiday in Kakadu NT.)



## Fun and Tips Section

Did you hear about the two water buffalos that escaped from a photo shoot charged down the main street of Newtown? Maybe this sign recently spotted in the Northern Territory would have been ideal to post around the Newtown area!



Australia Post is offering MyPOST Concession accounts for those with a Federal Government concession card. Pop along to your local post office, show your concession card and see if you are eligible, they will sign you up then and there.

You get five FREE postage stamps sent to you within a few days along with a MyPOST concession card that you can use to purchase up to 50 concession stamps per year. You can purchase from any post office in packs of five for just \$3.00 a pack, that's 60c a stamp - a saving of 10 cents a stamp.

Most countries that subscribe to the four seasons start them on the solstices and equinoxes. For Australia this would be -

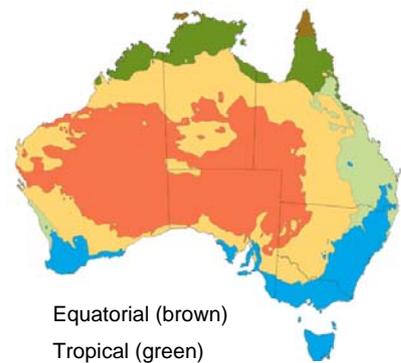
Winter 21 June  
Spring 22 Sept  
Summer 22 Dec  
Autumn 20 March

## Seasons - Is that four or six?

Due to the size of the Australian continent, there is not one single seasonal calendar for the entire continent. Instead [there are six climatic zones](#) and this translates as two main seasonal patterns. There is a Summer / Autumn / Winter / Spring pattern in the Temperate zone, also affecting the Desert and the Grassland climatic zones and, a Wet / Dry pattern in the tropical north which includes the Equatorial, Tropical and sub-tropical zones.

Depending upon where you are each month, the season will vary on whether the weather is defined by the Temperate zone seasons or the tropical seasons.

*Sourced from the Australian Government website*



- Equatorial (brown)
- Tropical (green)
- Subtropical (light green)
- Desert (pale orange)
- Grassland (yellow)
- Temperate (blue)

## Our Most Recent Volunteer

ECG most recent volunteer comes with some extraordinary capabilities. This volunteer can turn over the weeds and garden beds within minutes, the envy of many a volunteer in the team.

Weighing in at just five kilos, yet to have a police check, our volunteer 'Pig' has been thrilling many clients when he comes along with the team to help with the garden.

'Pig' is heading off to live on a farm in the Southern Highlands.



'Pig' surveys the land



'Pig' in action turning the soil.



We are on the WEB  
[www.easycaregardening.org.au](http://www.easycaregardening.org.au)

*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.*

*Do you know anyone requiring gardening assistance who is frail or has a disability?*

Thank you to the 12 AMP volunteers who weeded, pruned and mulched a clients overgrown garden. They did a wonderful job, the client was delighted by the chatter and laughter that filled her yard.



### Confusion with Seasons - Jo Mcgahey

This time last year I wrote ' *If you haven't noticed serious climate change in the last year or so you must be living on another planet.* 'And then went on to describe the early flowering of many Spring plants. Some were flowering, I might say, before we even had Winter ! I also said that ' *It would be interesting to hear from any ECG volunteers as to what they are noticing.* ' Since I had not a single reply I must assume no one is noticing much change in the gardens these last few years. Is it just me? No ! That can't be right. Come on folks let's hear it.

So far I have observed the emergence of several anemones plus three hyacinths are poking shyly through the soil; ditto the daffodils, and is only late April. AND almost all my hydrangeas have managed two full flushes this Summer, the second came in late January. Do let me know what you have found.

Jo

*If you would like to contact Jo, you may do so via email at [mcpahey@ihug.com.au](mailto:mcpahey@ihug.com.au)*

### Garden Creatures!

ECG volunteers have made a client's garden the ideal place for the client to display his art. Now the garden is tidy, the art work around the garden has increased enormously, extending Stan's gallery almost to his front gate.

Stan makes fiberglass creatures from recycled milk bottles, palm fronds, and a variety of other materials, and also paints amazing murals on his fences (photo on left). It is unique and very special. The gardening volunteers love visiting him.

### Gnome news corner - Easter Show



Our Easter Show just gets bigger and better. It was wonderful to meet some of the farmers that were displaying cattle, sheep, pigs, goats and their produce. They were all so happy with the latest rainfall and the support that the city people give them. Watching the little children exploring the different animals was a delight.

Many of our volunteers would have lingered in the flower and garden displays which were magnificent. (Photos on left, winners in their categories. Photo below, a wonderful garden display.)

Despite only seeing half of the exhibits, it was a wonderful day.

Yes, I couldn't resist, as we left the Easter Show I had to grab a show bag or two!

EDITOR

The woodchopping was fantastic as the father and son teams from across Australia competed against one another ( NSW won the heat I watched, yeah).

The dog show, one of my favorites, was most enjoyable, with the handlers dressed to the nines as they paraded their beautifully behaved and not so well behaved dogs.

The main arena was full of excitement for the gymkhana and horse jumps. Those horses are poetry in motion to watch.

Onto the District exhibits, oh my, the produce displays were beautiful.





**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 Turrumurra 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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)*

Receipt required? Yes  No  Total \$ .....

Name: .....

Address: .....

Suburb: ..... Postcode: ..... Date: .....

Email Address: ..... Tel: .....

Please send my newsletter to my email address. *(Tick the appropriate box)*

Please send me information about making a bequest. *(Tick the appropriate box)*

**Please note:** Friends or those making a bequest do not have any voting rights at the AGM.

**When completed return this page to Easy Care Gardening Inc PO Box 502, Turrumurra, 2074.**

**Option for Electronic Payment:**

If you choose to use the electronic payment option, it is very important that we know **who is making the electronic payment** (to ensure we record payment of subscriptions correctly and send receipts for donations to the correct addresses).

**To enable this tracking, please:**

1. Contact the office for your 'reference number ' as this must be included in **your online transaction** along with your surname. If the reference number the office provides you with is 01234 and your name is Smith, enter in the description box on your online transaction **01234Smith** .

2. Log into your bank account online and select the option "Pay Anyone" and complete as follows;

**A/c Name: Easy Care Gardening Inc. Bank: Westpac BSB: 032 089 A/c No: 243864 Description: Your reference number and surname (eg 01234Smith )**

3. **Send an email** to notify ECG of the payment, including your **reference number, name, address, payment amount and date of payment**. ECG email: [ecg2074@easycaregardening.org.au](mailto:ecg2074@easycaregardening.org.au)