



Easy Care Gardening

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Seniors Festival: 25 March to 3rd April

There is so much going on for Seniors Festival and we are thrilled to be able to join with with Seniors Expo, Hunters Hill Council, The City of Ryde and Ku-ring-gai Council for a series of exciting events.

We will be potting up herb baskets, creating succulent bowls, teaching how to make a kokedama ball and delving into bulbs as part of the headline events at Seniors Expo in Darling Harbour.

If you're able to come along and help out as a volunteer, we would love to hear from you ASAP. We will shout you lunch, and throw in a limited edition Easy Care Gardening apron to wear on the day and take home as a keepsake.

Coffee Breaks Are Back! Have you got a recipe for us?

We are collating our favourite recipes for cakes and slices and would love to include yours. If you have one to share, please send it to us.

Email
marketing@easycaregardening.org.au
or mail it to PO BOX 5337, South
Turramurra, NSW 2074



Be a Friend

Support us by becoming a friend of Easy Care Gardening. Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible. Contact administration@easycaregardening.org.au. For more details go to our website - we have an online payment system being developed.

Charity No. 10507 ABN. 96 338 250 354

www.easycaregardening.org.au PO. Box 5337 South Turramurra

**HERE'S HOW
YOU CAN HELP**





Betty's Garden Makeover

Nonagenarian and ECG client Betty was delighted to welcome the ECG team of volunteers to her house. It has been a while since the garden had been weeded and pruned. "I have not been able to manage my garden for quite some time", she exclaimed, and now "My garden looks like someone lives here again! This looks like my old garden again".

At a break in the gardening, Donna Palmer was officially thanked by Leanne Babic, CEO for Donna's Australia Day nomination. Leanne explained that as a result of the nomination, Easy Care Gardening won the Ku-ring-gai Council Mayor's 2022 Australia Day award for outstanding contribution for a community organisation.



"The many bags we filled and the bundles we placed at the front of the garden were proof of how much work we achieved in our 3 hours!!" Leanne Babic

We are Chuffed

Can You Help us with our fundraising campaign? Donate and Double the Impact with matched donations from Ethical Jobs anytime from 24th till 31st March, 2022

We are hoping to raise enough funds to buy a new vehicle, and would love to move towards environmentally friendly IT equipment solutions to make sure the only footprint we leave is the muddy boot of our green teams after garden visit. We also would love to get our volunteers some specialised PPE and sun protection gear, and translate our flyers into Farsi, Mandarin and Korean.

If you can't donate but would still like to help, perhaps you can share this fundraiser on your social media pages or deliver some cards or flyers for us? Donations can be made directly to the office, or through our [Chuffed Page](#).



Honour Roll



Rowena (left), the Activities Organiser for the new Pymble Store with ECG coordinator Renata (right)

Easy Care Gardening has been helped by the generous support of Bunnings Warehouse (Pymble, Thornleigh and Belrose) and Fiskars following on from attending their community events in December.

We have plans to go to some local nurseries, with Flower Power being the first to host us at their Terrey Hills Store on the weekend of the 21st and 22nd May for National Volunteers Week. If you can help us to hand out flyers and answer questions over the weekend we would love some assistance.

Dressed for the job

Uniform - Get It On!



Do you need new gear?

Wear it with pride!

We are organising some new 100% cotton long sleeve shirts in navy, in a variety of sizes. This is thanks to the generosity of Mr Rose, a client who has supported us generously. Let us know what you need and we can get you outfitted ASAP! Email coordinators@easycaregardening.org.au

Timely Advice: What To Do in the Garden by our patron Judy Horton

- 🔥 Plant winter/spring flowering colour – pansies, poppies, sweet peas and violas for sunny spots, primulas, polyanthus and cinerarias in the shade.
- 🍂 Buy spring-blooming bulbs ready for planting when soil is cool. Put tulips and hyacinths into the fridge (not the freezer) for a six-week pre-winter chilling.
- 🍁 Remove spent flowers from easy seeders such as agapanthus before they have a chance to spread.
- 🍂 Look around your suburb for the trees, shrubs and vines that produce the best autumn colour in your climate.
- 🍁 Re-pot crowded container plants into a slightly larger pot with fresh, good quality potting mix.



Want to connect? We would love you to connect with us.

We now send out a monthly e-newsletter that you can sign up to receive... and don't forget to like us on Facebook and Instagram and tag your friends!



Or simply phone to talk to us on 9983 1644 or sms 0423 717 948



National Volunteers Week: 16th -22nd May, 2022

On May 16 we invite volunteers to join us for an excursion to the Coal Loader, Waverton as we discover the Sustainability Centre and new platform.

We will have a tour of the platform gardens by Matthew Tancred from Open Space Projects, who project managed the construction, and take a look into the 160-metre-long tunnels below.

We love the chance to spoil our

volunteers and let them know how much they mean to us.

We hope this day will be both fun and educational, and fully catered. Details on how to RSVP will be sent soon, so look out!

The Coal Loader, on the waterfront, has an interesting history. The remnants of the wharf and underground systems tell a story of our industrial harbour and its workings historically, and the centre and garden paint a picture of best practice today in terms of sustainable technology.

You'll discover not only the community gardens there, but also a native plant nursery.


The Sustainability Centre also has a Book Swap Library operating, and information on solar power and storm water harvesting.

The site is also incredibly important to our Aboriginal culture, with whale rock carving there that is thought to be thousands of years old.



NATIONAL 16-22 MAY 2022
VOLUNTEER
Better Together WEEK

VOLUNTEER GARDENERS! WE NEED YOU!

9983 1644 easycaregardening.org.au 

Welcoming Backyard Visitors

If you have a garden, there are many ways you can contribute to making it more welcoming for wildlife. Here are the basics:

1. Provide water in a small dish, bird bath or pond. This will entice lots of native animals in for a drink or a splash. Keep it clean, fresh and topped up. Your wild visitors will love you for it and watching birds splashing about may also keep you entertained!
2. Provide shelter and shade by scattering a few logs, rocks and fallen branches throughout your garden, creating spaces for them to keep warm/cool and safe from predators. Leave fallen leaves under shrubs, which will serve as mulch as well as food for your smaller visitors. Keep some areas grassy and leafy.
3. Control pets and pests, avoiding the use of harmful chemicals.
4. Share some food. Flowering bushes will satisfy a whole range of flying creatures - birds, bees, butterflies etc.
5. Enjoy: take a seat in your garden and watch your short-term and permanent visitors enjoy their stay.

GARDEN CRITTERS

by Daniele Di Paolo and Meredith Kirton

In warmer months spiders and reptiles are common in the garden.

Spiders are Arachnids, and differ from insects which have six legs. Few are harmful, and even those that are, like the Sydney Funnel Web Spider, are important in medical research and pest control.



Argiope keyserlingi

The St Andrew's Cross Spider has yellow and brown stripes on their abdomen, and its eight legs folded like four when relaxing in its web – a web that is known for reinforced zig-zags that form a cross in the centre that apparently reflect UV light in order to attract insects. If you're not a bug it's preying on, it's pretty harmless!

Skinks

The Fence Skink

Cryptoblepharus virgatus

The white stripe you see on most skinks around Sydney identifies them as the Fence Skink, and yes, they can climb vertical surfaces!

Sunny days bring out all reptiles to sun bake, as they are cold-blooded animals and need the warmth of the sun's rays to heat them up enough so they have the energy to feed on insects, favourites of which include moths and crickets. Lizards are great to find a home for in your garden as they truly are wondrous pest controllers.

To encourage them to make a home in your yard, keep cats and dogs inside, provide habitat like some leaf litter, rocks and hollow logs.

