



EASY CARE
GARDENING

Easy Care Gardening Inc
27th Annual Report
Year ended 30th June 2017



EASY CARE GARDENING INC - HISTORY

The founders of Easy Care Gardening Inc had a vision in 1988 to commence a gardening service for elderly people and people with disabilities living in Ku-ring-gai Municipality. Ku-ring-gai Council granted \$1,500 for a six month pilot program. After six months there were 30 clients.

Easy Care Gardening currently has over 1,157 gardening clients and over 560 volunteers across Hornsby, Hunters Hill, Ku-ring-gai and Ryde local government areas. Easy Care Gardening continues to make a difference to hundreds of people every year. It is hard to believe how the early vision discussed amongst the founders in a lounge room has grown to where it is today.

Mission Statement: Easy Care Gardening Inc provides gardening and lawn mowing services, largely by volunteer teams, to aged people and eligible people with disabilities to enable them to remain in their own homes.



Easy Care Gardening Inc

20 Bridge St, Pymble 2073 (PO Box 5337, South Turramurra 2074).

Tel: 02 9983 1644 - ECG

Tel: 02 9488 8390 - Community Assist Lawn Mowing (CALM)

Email: ecg2074@easycaregardening.org.au

www.easycaregardening.org.au

ABN: 96 338 250 354 Charity No.: 10507

Easy Care Gardening acknowledges the traditional land owners, the Terramaeragal people of the Gu-ring-gai tribe.

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ORGANISATION STRUCTURE

For year ended 30 June, 2017

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Frank Windeyer	President	Tony Chahine	Treasurer
Chrys Karas	Secretary	Sue Curry	Gardening Representative
Hugh Hamlyn-Harris	Public Officer	Peter Read	Committee member
Mithi Daver	Client Representative		

STAFF

Glenn Stimpson	Manager	
Coralie Jensen	Volunteer Manager	
Pam Drysdale	Accounts	To 23/9/2016
Alice Jiao	Accounts	
Lynne Bentley	Administration	
Claire Breen	Administration	To 3/3/2017
Elizabeth Duffy	Administration	
Lyn Garling	Administration	
Alison Mutton	Administration	
Paola Alpago	Coordinator	Parental leave from 1/8/2016
Greg Bendeich	Coordinator	
Robbie Cunningham	Coordinator	
Larissa Hansen	Coordinator	
Mitch Harris	Coordinator	
Jennifer Nakhla	Coordinator	
Simon Rock	Lawn Mowing	

CONSULTANTS Mrs Anne Shires Mrs Lyndell van Noort

LIFE MEMBERS Mrs Anne Shires Mr Ian Calder Mr Peter Icely

Mr Bob Mackenzie Mrs Lyndell van Noort

AUDITOR Mr Ray Barham

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

For year ended 30 June, 2017



During this year Easy Care Gardening has continued to adapt or prepare to adapt to changing circumstances in order to provide a gardening service to older people.

Performance, Financial Result and Volunteers

The year resulted in a net surplus of \$109,277 (against \$28,757 in the previous year). This is a satisfactory result, the surplus enabling us to build up a reserve, necessary to meet future demands and contingencies.

During the year we have had over 500 gardening volunteers (including volunteers from groups and some other participants). We also have a number of office or administration volunteers.

We have provided about 1,699 garden services to about 1,157 clients. These numbers are lower than last year, but through the efforts of the volunteers and field staff and contribution through CALM, we continue to do more than our funding agreement requires that we do. Our ability to provide more frequent services to existing clients and to service new clients is limited by the availability of volunteers. Like many volunteer based organisations, ECG has had some difficulty in recruiting new volunteers. A significant challenge for us now is to recruit new volunteers to take the places of those leaving. I am pleased to report that there seems to be an improvement in rate of recruitment of new volunteers.

During the year volunteers have enjoyed the Annual Volunteers Meeting at Turramurra, followed by lunch, the Christmas Party at the Denistone Sport Club with a number trying their hands at lawn bowls before dinner, and an outing during National Volunteer Week in May to Barangaroo.

Future direction of home care services

Since the end of 2016/2017 the Federal Government has produced a report on the provision of home care services to the aged. I am aware that a number of us responded to this report. Clearly the Government is moving to a consumer driven system, predominantly with package funding to individuals.

Probably there will continue to be some block funding to providers where it is most appropriate and efficient. Personally I believe that for a service such as ECG, provided largely through volunteers to clients on an as needs basis, block funding to the organisation is more suited than individual package funding.

Block funding through the Commonwealth Home Support Program (as we now receive) is to be continued anyway until mid 2020. However we have not been informed of the quantum of that funding for the last 2 years.

Whatever happens, we must prepare the organisation for change.

However, one way or another, ECG will continue to provide service to those in need through volunteers, even if more services are provided other than through volunteers. The Government knows that the provision of services to older people and those in need at home, whether through block funding or through individualised package funding, is

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

For year ended 30 June, 2017 - Continued

important to support their independence, promoting reablement and wellbeing of those individuals.

ECG must be prepared and ready to meet the challenges thrown at us by whatever changes there are, for there will surely continue to be changes.

Staff

All members of the staff have continued to perform well under the leadership and direction of Glenn Stimpson as Manager. Paola Alpago has been on parental leave but has now resigned. Her position as Coordinator has been filled by the confirmation of appointment of Larissa Hansen who has been filling the parental leave position. Pam Drysdale who had served us well as Accounts Manager, contributing much to management of our accounting and reporting, resigned last September to take up a full time position with Community Transport. Her position has been filled by the appointment of Alice Jiao. Claire Breen, one of our long term administrative staff resigned in March and her workload has been absorbed by the other staff.

Auditor

Ray Barham who has been our auditor for 10 years, and a term as president, has decided that it is time to hand over the role of auditor. Ray is calm, meticulous and inquisitive (as an auditor should be!) providing great support to the several treasurers and accounts managers whom he has assisted. Before he became auditor Ray volunteered for a number of years, including a term as President

Management Committee

At the end of the 2016 financial year Michael Bull resigned from the Committee having served as Secretary and Public Officer for about 6 years. His detailed knowledge of the workings of ECG and readiness to assist was invaluable. Chrys Karas who had joined the Committee as Secretary has resigned with effect from August 2017 as her personal responsibilities changed. I am fortunate to have the support of a Committee made up of talented individuals with differing backgrounds and skills.

Thank you to all Volunteers (gardening, lawn mowing, administration and Management Committee members), staff and supporters for your part in making this another successful year for ECG and I look forward to your continuing support as we face whatever challenges there are.

Frank Windeyer
President



Volunteers at Barangaroo in May 2017

THANK YOU FROM OUR CLIENTS

I just got home from hospital and the garden looks beautiful - thank you. AB Lindfield

Thank you to the amazing people who do the work; removing my weeds means so much. RW Berowra Heights

I am delighted with my recent garden visit and will be contacting my local paper. JM Turramurra

Daughter of the client called to say how grateful her parent is for the visit by the LH team; a fantastic job. MK Cherrybrook

I am so happy with the team; they did a really good job. DK Ryde

The caring support of the team is always “deeply appreciated in helping me to keep the garden well maintained”. LM Epping

The volunteer garden team did a marvelous job. JH Mount Colah

Thank you to G and the team for the job they did in my garden. JL Denistone

The team did a wonderful job; thank you. MT Putney

Thank you for helping me with me garden during 2016. MC North Ryde

COMMUNITY ASSIST LAWN MOWING

2015-2016	
Households	859
Clients	937
CALM Contractors	23
Services	7,859

2016-2017	
Households	694
Clients	882
CALM Contractors	21
Services	8,638

- Community Assist Lawn Mowing (CALM) provides a subsidy to clients to assist with ongoing lawn mowing costs by private contractors.
- Currently clients receive 10 vouchers each financial year valued at \$20 each.
- CALM covers the following local government areas (LGA's): Hornsby, Hunters Hill, Ku-ring-gai, Lane Cove, Manly, Mosman, North Sydney, Pittwater, Ryde, Warringah and Willoughby.
- Community Assist Lawn Mowing maintains a list of contractors who have insurance and an ABN.
- Community Assist Lawn Mowing: (02) 9488 8390.



VOLUNTEER AWARDS - July 2016 to June 2017



EDEN GARDENS

Volunteer Award

Michael Crane

Yeon Sook Kim

Mario Magbanua

HARGRAVES NURSERYLAND

Volunteer Award

Louise Finckh

Andrew Fraser

Philip Summerfield

Douglas Jamieson



PARKERS NURSERY

Volunteer Award

John Coady

Morris Nakhla



PARKERS

of turrumurra

Peter Whitehead Award

Fran Appleton

Brian Self Award: Michael Bull

Kathleen Ciemiega Award: Trevor Long



Al, Trevor and Phil at the Annual Volunteers Meeting October 2016

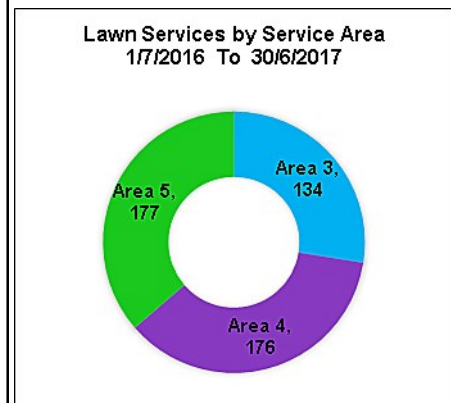
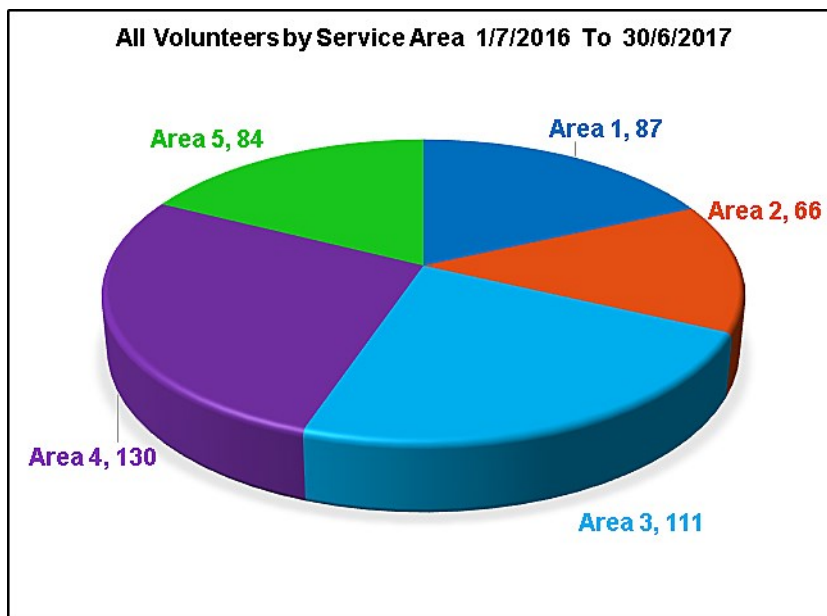
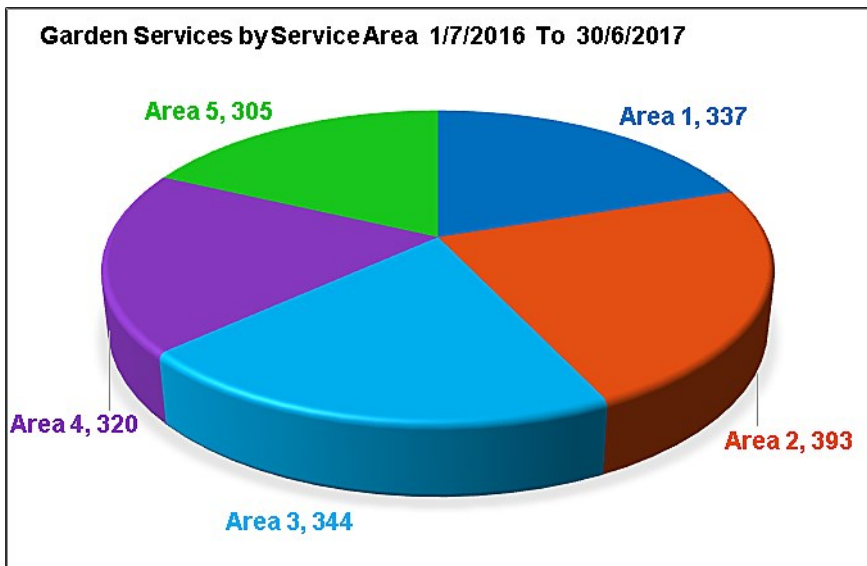
COUNCILS, CLUBS, & SPECIAL DONATIONS

July 2016 - June 2017

Ryde Council	\$3,443
Hornsby RSL Club	\$2,222

Easy Care Gardening would like to also thank the many people who have kindly donated a total of \$10,993. These donations are greatly appreciated.

Area 1 =	Hunters Hill
Area 2 =	Ryde
Area 3 =	Hornsby 1
Area 4 =	Ku-ring-gai
Area 5 =	Hornsby 2



GARDENING REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

July 2016 - June 2017

The **2016 evening Team Leaders' meeting** was held at the Pymble office on August 11. It was attended by the Manager, the President, 2 Committee members, 2 Coordinators and 13 Team Leaders.



Glenn outlined developments at ECG:

- 1 Changes to the Draft Strategic Plan for 2017-2019.
- 2 Videos were shown on Consumer Directed Care and Personal and Professional Boundaries.
- 3 Reminders were given that non-battery power tools and ladders may not be used, and that insurance only covers non-Medicare expenses.
- 4 A video was shown on weeding and back care.
- 5 9 new trolleys for moving mulch have been purchased.
- 6 Team leaders need to be familiar with the ECG herbicide procedure and ensure that the client is notified of when and where herbicide is used and that spraying is left until the end of the session.
- 7 ECG is considering introducing a Work, Health and Safety Award.
- 8 ECG has registered with Time Banking.
- 9 Council amalgamations /new boundaries were explained.
- 10 It is wise to have someone else present when a payment is received from a client.
- 11 ECG can provide masks to wear when using potting mix/mulch.
- 12 Some groups use Bushman's spray to deter leeches and ticks.
- 13 It is valuable to encourage clients to do a little for themselves in their gardens *if they are able to do so*.
- 14 Volunteers should not agree to work overtime and must never work alone in a client's garden. Starting early could affect insurance cover.
- 15 As well as volunteers ECG has people working to qualify for Centrelink benefits and others who have been given community service orders.

I thanked Glenn, on behalf of all the volunteers, for his hard work, skills and willingness to consider suggestions and changes.

The **2017 morning Team Leaders' meeting** was held at Turramurra on March 2 and attended by the Manager, the President, 2 Committee members, Coralie Jensen, 2 Coordinators and 10 Team Leaders.

Matters addressed by Glenn included:

- 1 Working in the heat. Some groups have been starting earlier but the office must be notified of this. Work stops at 35 degrees.
- 2 Insurance. Volunteers who need to go to a hospital are advised to insist on being a 'public' not a 'private' patient. The office must be notified of any accidents.
- 3 Volunteer recruitment crisis. Coralie outlined a range of efforts being made to attract new volunteers. This is probably our greatest challenge and concern.
- 4 Training. Ryde Council provided money to be used for training on tool maintenance. The newsletter will be used to provide information on plant and weed identification.
- 5 First aid. Lyclear cream (for ticks) has been supplied to all groups. Every 6-12 months coordinators will arrange for the contents of all first aid kits to be checked.
- 6 Credit card payments. ECG would like to increase payments by credit card. Clients' details are not retained by ECG.
- 7 Job sheet payments. Glenn distributed copies of a new draft job sheet.
- 8 State government funding. From July 1 2017 ECG will no longer receive funding from the NSW Government for U65 NDIS clients. ECG will not become a NDIS provider.
- 9 Boundaries. No music is to be played in clients' gardens.

GARDENING REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

July 2016 - June 2017 - Continued

Many thanks to Coralie Jensen and her helpers for organising a most enjoyable 2016 Christmas Party at the Denistone Sports Club, where barefoot bowls proved to be a popular option! The tour of Barangaroo during National Volunteers' Week in May was equally enjoyable.

Volunteers also appreciated Coralie's organisation of the tool sharpening training in April.

I always appreciate feedback from volunteers, by email or phone. Your suggestions and comments help me to represent you more effectively at Management Committee meetings.

Sue Curry
Gardening Representative



Mayor Jennifer Anderson garden visit to Mrs Dumbrell February 2017

CORPORATE AND GROUP VOLUNTEERS

July 2016 - June 2017

CORPORATIONS

Aberdeen Asset Management Ltd

Aztec Information Services

Optus Sing Tel

GROUPS

Pymble Ladies College

Redfield College

St Ignatius College

St James Anglican Church

A Monday Garden Team at Work



ECG Volunteers' Christmas Party 2016



