

The latest news and announcements from Easy Care Gardening



Easy Care Gardening is a not-for-profit organisation that has helped maintain the gardens of older people who need assistance within the Hornsby, Hunters Hill, Ku-ring-gai and Ryde areas since 1988.

In this edition of eNews:



- **Simon's Retirement**
- **City of Ryde Citizen of the Year nomination**
- **Farewell Renate**
- **Welcome Leslie**
- **Turrumurra Festival**
- **Volunteer Training Day**
- **Save the Date:**

+ Volunteer Appreciation Day Monday 15th May

+ ECG's 35th Birthday



3

New volunteers joined ECG team

1

New member of ECG office team

17

Volunteers attended annual ECG training

NATIONAL 15-21 MAY 2023
VOLUNTEER
THE CHANGE MAKERS WEEK



Simon Retires after almost 23 years with ECG

Simon started his career with Easy Care Gardening (ECG) in August 2000 as a Lawn Mowing Leading Hand. In addition to leading the lawn mowing team, Simon led the mulch team and assisted in garden teams until he retired. Simon always came into work happy and with a welcoming hello. Simon's lawn mowing clients loved his visits and his service with a smile and sadly after almost 23 years of dedicated service to ECG, Simon has decided to retire. He will be missed but will forever be a part of the ECG team.

The **Volunteer Appreciation Day** on Monday 15th May is a great opportunity to celebrate Simon's career with ECG. We invite you to attend and please remember to **RSVP here**.



City of Ryde Citizen of the Year 2023 Nomination - Marie Clarke



This year we nominated Marie Clarke for her incredible volunteer efforts over the last decade with ECG. Marie has clocked over 2300 hours and volunteered in over 750 gardens. Although on this occasion Marie was unsuccessful, we recognise her tremendous efforts and congratulate her on this outstanding nomination. Well done Marie!

Farewell Renate

ECG Garden Coordinator Renate Mason has left us for a 'Tree Change', moving to Oberon, NSW to live with her family. We wish Renate all the best.

We will be recruiting a replacement Gardening Coordinator for Area 5. The rest of the gardening team is ensuring that services will continue in this area.



Hello I'm Leslie Whelan, your new ECG Marketing Manager

With various formal qualifications in Business, Marketing and PR and over 15 years experience working in multinational corporations, I had an eye-opening moment after having my son. I realised that I wanted to work in philanthropy and for a company that cared about making a difference. In my down time, I'm an avid gardener and DIY'er and enjoy being outdoors and at the beach with my family.

I'm excited to be joining the ECG team!



With Deputy Mayor Barbara Ward

Turrumurra Festival

Our very own Leanne Babic, ECG CEO, and Cathy Daniel from the admin team attended the annual Turrumurra festival on Saturday 18th March. Sponsored by Ku-ring-gai Council, the community came together to enjoy a great family friendly day with people of all ages. The day was a great opportunity for ECG to showcase what we do. Over 200 people visited the ECG booth, resulting in three new volunteers being recruited. A big thank you goes out to Bunnings Pymble for donating gardening supplies and Ku-ring-gai council for their sponsorship.



Cathy and some of the families in attendance

Attention Volunteers! Stay up to date with vaccinations for Influenza, Covid-19 and Tetanus. [Click here](#) for more information on the importance of Covid-19 vaccinations for Aged Care workers or speak to your GP.



Volunteer Training Day, April 3rd

The annual training day was held on Monday 3rd April with 17 volunteers in attendance. A number of interesting topics were discussed at the session. Rowena and Nyree from Bunnings Pymble presented the Bunnings ethos of 'how to be a good neighbour', Nicola Clark from the Animal Welfare League talked through how to keep animals safe in the garden, Jennifer Bateman from Yoga for Gardeners demonstrated chair-based stretches for safe gardening and Peter Kirkland from PlantFile presented his online database of plants which helps users identify plant varieties and even persistent weeds.

Thank you to all our presenters for their time.



Pacific Hills Christian School Student Volunteers

On 5th April we welcomed 22 keen student volunteers from Pacific Hills Christian School in Dural, who worked tirelessly on a huge garden in Pennant Hills.

The students spent four hours weeding and pruning but the biggest effort of the day was the distribution of two cubic tonnes of mulch on the property.

Volunteers are the heart and soul of ECG and we are always thankful for their efforts. A big thank you to the students from Pacific Hills for your time and the garden coordinators for organising the teams. A fun and rewarding day was had by all!



ECG Volunteer Appreciation Day Monday 15th May 2023

NATIONAL 15-21 MAY 2023
VOLUNTEER
THE CHANGE MAKERS WEEK

To say thank you to our wonderful volunteers we have planned a fully catered "Appreciation Excursion". Let's enjoy a great day out while we explore our creative sides together.



To say thank you to our wonderful volunteers, we have planned a fully catered "Appreciation Excursion". Let's enjoy a great day out while we explore our creative sides together.

For the official invitation click [here](#)

Click [here](#) to RSVP by 9th May or call 02 9983 1644

Thank you to all volunteers who have left our ECG team and welcome to all new volunteers who have joined us.



It's Easy Care Gardening's
35th Birthday!

Tuesday, 8th August 2023

Stay tuned for more information.



The Green Crew Corner

The ECG Gardening Coordinators are a fun bunch, who like to keep their days in the garden interesting.

The annual Biggest Weed competition has stepped up a notch with a prize to be given at the end of the year for the gardener who pulls the biggest weed.

For the chance to win a \$50 Bunnings voucher, or to nominate someone, email us at info@easycaregardening.org.au Images of weeds will need a tape measure showing the true size of the weed.

The winner will be presented with the prize at the ECG end-of-year celebrations.



Steve, Area 3 with an enormous weed

Become a Volunteer



As a volunteer, you will help provide an 'easy care' gardening service by pruning, mulching and performing general garden maintenance to help support fragile, aged people stay in their own homes. An easy care garden is one that is safe and requires low maintenance and minimal upkeep while still providing the residents with a pleasurable garden.

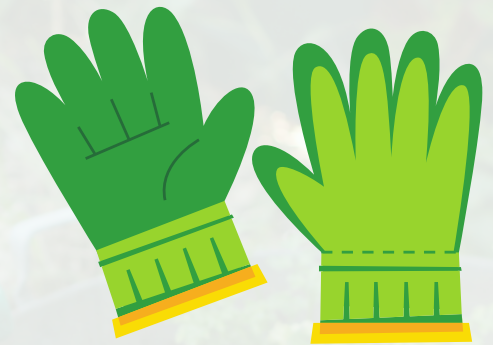
Click [here](#) for more information

Support Us

Easy Care Gardening is a not-for-profit organisation that relies on volunteers to ensure its work in the community can continue. Whilst we do receive funding from the Commonwealth Government, it is not sufficient to cover all of our administrative costs and the purchase of new tools and equipment.

Your donation today will help countless elderly residents keep living longer in their own home.

Donate now to Easy Care Gardening using a credit card or PayPal, [click here](#) to make a secure payment. For other ways to donate click [here](#). Donations of AUD\$2 or more are tax deductible.



If you have an idea, or simply want to share feedback, we would like to hear from you. Contact us at info@easycaregardening.org.au or Phone (02) 9983 1644