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A Word from Our Patron Judy Horton

Spring/Summer 2023

Everyone loves spring. There's something so special about the explosion of new growth in the garden that makes us humans also feel reborn.



Shade-loving summer Torenia blooms

However, as you all know, it takes some discipline to keep all that growth under control. In my own garden I subscribe to the little-bit-at-a-time principle. This drives my husband crazy as he is a 'slash and burn' kind of fellow. If there's a job to be done, he wants to get it over with quickly. But I find it's amazing how much you can achieve when you just keep at it. Every morning when I go out to pick up the newspaper (yes, still delivered!) I take a pair of secateurs, loppers or scissors with me and snip as I go along. I particularly love using scissors in the garden. They are perfect for removing dead blooms, trimming errant shoots before they get too woody, and even clipping the shaped sasanqua that sits just near the front door. Old-fashioned nasturtiums are one of my favourites for late spring, summer and autumn blooms. They grow readily from seed but it's important not to wait too long to sow them as they don't like the soil to be too warm. I find they do best in morning sun, afternoon shade and seem to bloom more prolifically in rather poor soils. My shade-loving choice for summer blooms are torenias.

Happy gardening!



ECG volunteers, clients and staff celebrating at the Masonic Hall Turramurra, including ECG founder, Anne Shires (centre)

Easy Care Gardening's 35th Birthday Celebrations, the Masonic Hall Turramurra

On Tuesday morning the 8th of August, ECG celebrated its 35th birthday with high tea at the Masonic Hall in Turramurra. Among those in attendance were volunteers, members of staff and clients past and present as well as one of ECG's original founders, Anne Shires.



The Sydney Siders Chorus

The celebrations began with an acknowledgement of country by ECG CEO Leanne Babic, followed by a welcome by ECG President, Frank Windeyer. The morning was filled with celebration as attendees reminisced on what the organisation had achieved over the past 35 years.

As high tea was served, the Sydney Siders Chorus serenaded guests with their classic harmony. Guest speakers included The Honourable Mr Alister Henskens, SC MP member for Wahroonga,



L-R: ECG Volunteer Manager Coralie Jensen and CEO Leanne Babic



Guest speaker The Hon Mr A. Henskens, SC MP member for Wahroonga

Lastly the Pymble Ladies College year 10 elective music group also performed before a group photo was captured.

Thank you to all who attended. A great morning was had by all.

Our Valued Supporters

The Hon. Kylea Tink, MP

We are very fortunate to have a number of supporters and sponsors here at ECG. Ms Kylea Tink, Federal Member for North Sydney, was recently instrumental in assisting us in winning a volunteer grant. Without the support of Ms Kylea Tink and her office, it might not have been possible.

Volunteer Lorrie Crowfoot and ECG Committee member Daniele Di Paolo recently met with Ms Tink to thank her personally.



L-R: volunteer Lorrie Crowfoot, Ms Kylea Tink and ECG committee member Daniele Di Paolo



L-R: Bryna Zhao, Julia Velijanskaia, Kal Watson, Fred He, Arpit Gupta, Lulu Tjahjadi

JAMF Corporate Gardening Day

Our corporate gardeners are always welcome here at ECG. They enable us to fill garden slots where we may have teams unavailable. On the 27th July a number of employees from JAMF worked tirelessly on a garden with Garden Coordinator Manager, Lynda Wightman.

“It was a great opportunity to get to know the client and hear their story. Sometimes they just need more companionship rather than the end result of a tidy garden.”

Lulu Tjahjadi, JAMF corporate gardener

Lulu Tjahjadi thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to volunteer. “It was great to get out of the office and do some physical work. The garden looked so different after our clean-up and I also learnt some gardening tips and plant names!”.

The team felt a sense of teamwork as each person was assigned an area of the garden and shared the same goal of tidying up the garden. The feedback from the team has been incredibly positive, with some volunteers already expressing an interest in coming back. Thank you JAMF for your hard work in the garden.



L-R: Bryna Zhao, Fred He, Kal Watson, Julia Velijanskaia

Farewell to our CEO, Leanne Babic



L-R: Leanne Babic with City of Ryde Citizen of the Year Nominee, Marie Clarke and ECG Volunteer Manager, Coralie Jensen

***"I wish Easy Care Gardening many more years of success, and doing what we do best - helping older clients to stay safe and live independently in their own homes."* Leanne Babic**

A change of management is in the wings at ECG following Leanne Babic's resignation after two busy years at the helm of the organisation.

Leanne joined ECG in mid 2021 during the height of the Covid-19 Pandemic, a difficult and uncertain time when she demonstrated the flexibility and determination necessary to lead the organisation through that time. The first challenge right out of the gates was to navigate the ever-changing Government's health regulations in the Aged Care sector in order to ensure the organisation continued to service our elderly clients.

In the two years Leanne led ECG, the Wyse terminals were replaced with new laptops in Q3 of 2022 thanks to a successful Ethical Jobs donation campaign. This enabled staff to be nimble in their work environment with the ability to be more mobile.

A number of systems were also introduced to transition the organisation to a paperless work environment, one of which was a new Financial platform with Xero allowing employees to complete timesheets online. Last but not least, the biggest project completed yet was the database cloud migration, which was not possible without the grant won from the James Kirby Foundation. These projects were made possible thanks to Leanne's leadership and persistence to deliver a better service for our clients and the valuable contribution of the ECG staff who actively assisted in these projects.

The future is looking bright for the organisation and we wish Leanne well in her future pursuits.



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

