

4 May 2016

## Saluting our dedicated Blue Thumb volunteers

As part of National Volunteer Week, the Central Coast Regional Development Corporation would like to acknowledge the support received from our very own volunteers who give numerous hours of service and make an important contribution to the Mt Penang Parklands and Gardens throughout the year

Simon Officer, Chief Executive Officer for the Central Coast Regional Development Corporation says that the Blue Thumb volunteers are the backbone of the Mt Penang Parklands and Gardens, serving in various capacities, from gardening to running programs such as the Gardens' guided tours, events and Mt Penang parkrun.

“We are very grateful to the Blue Thumbs who generously give of their time, talents and skills. The incredible support of so many dedicated volunteers helps make each guest's visit to Mt Penang Gardens beautiful and enriching.”

“Our Blue Thumb volunteers play an important part in cultivating and reinforcing Mt Penang Parklands as a ‘place for people to meet, celebrate, play and enjoy.’ They make our community a better place to live,” Mr Officer said.

Each year a Blue Thumb volunteer is recognised for their significant contribution and exemplary volunteer service to Mt Penang Parklands. Dianne Greening is the 2015/2016 recipient of the Don Crease Award, in memory of a cherished Blue Thumb volunteer, Don Crease. Dianne has been a Blue Thumb since July 2014, volunteering in 46 Mt Penang parkrun events, as well as actively involved as master gardener, tour guide and special event assistant.

“I love volunteering at the Parklands and being active outdoors. This beautiful place is full of character, thriving with heritage and native flowers where people can appreciate nature, garden, learn about the site's history and share stories with interesting people,” Ms. Greening said.

“Dianne is an incredible example of what Mt Penang Parklands is all about. We appreciate her countless contributions and how she continually goes above and beyond – giving of her time, connecting to our community and caring so passionately about this place,” Mr Officer said.

Interested in becoming a Blue Thumb Volunteer? Mt Penang Gardens is always looking to welcome new Blue Thumbs. Get involved and contact us on (02) 4340 1002 or email on [info@ccrdc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:info@ccrdc.nsw.gov.au).

## **CCRDC**

The Central Coast Regional Development Corporation (CCRDC) is a State Government entity and part of the Department of Planning and Environment NSW cluster. CCRDC is a self-funded entity and does not rely on annual allocations from the State budget to fund operations.

CCRDC owns the land known as Mt Penang Parklands. The Corporation is charged with securing the on-going management of public open spaces and community facilities at Mt Penang. The Corporation is tasked with protecting and enhancing the broad Mt Penang Parkland Precinct, including remnant bushland and ensuring that over one hundred years of Central Coast history is preserved and enjoyed by the community.

---Ends---

**For more information and interviews contact:  
STEPHANIE PROUSE on 0477 726 490**