



GCA BULLETIN October 2017

Important: It would be useful for your committee to be aware of the following items. Please read out the items of general interest at your next club members' meeting and add them to your newsletter.

- **Forms**

Most forms required by GCA can be downloaded from our website (www.gardenclubs.org.au) from the 'Member Clubs' Area' page. They are also included with this mail out. Please note the stated dates of return.

- **Special Event**

Why not invite a GCA committee member to your meeting or zone day to help the celebrations? Contact your Zone Coordinator or email secretary@gardenclubs.org.au.

- **The GCA 2019 Calendar photograph submissions**

With the successful release of the 2018 Calendar, images are being sought for the 2019 Calendar and close on the **1st March 2018**. There is no entry fee and the conditions for entry are on the GCA website www.gardenclubs.org.au. There is no limit on the number of images you can send and they can be emailed to photocomp@gardenclubs.org.au. Members whose images are chosen for the 13 main pages receive \$100 each, so have a go!!

The smaller "filler" images chosen do not attract a prize, but members get the satisfaction of having their image published in the Calendar.

- **The GCA 2018 Calendar is now available**

Ensure all your members view the lovely Calendar that has returned to its previous larger size with event dates etc. included. If, like many Clubs, you sell the Calendar at the purchase price of \$7.50 you may wish to remind members that this price is not much more than the cost of an up-market gift card they perhaps normally give family and friends.

- **The 2018 Annual Photographic Competition**

The closing date for entries is the **5th October 2018**. Remind your members the total prize pool valued at \$1,400 is the largest in Australia for a non-commercial organisation photographic competition, with no entry fee.

Entry details are on the GCA website www.gardenclubs.org.au or from photocomp@gardenclubs.org.au.

- **Insurance Matters**

This year's decision to email out most affiliates' Cover Confirmations did not go as smoothly as hoped - for several reasons, but the main reason was the fact that they were "bulk emailed" by our contract secretarial service (RSAJ Secretarial Service) and many club contacts did not recognise the emails as being, albeit indirectly, from GCA and simply ignored/deleted them. For this reason, we are assigning a generic, more instantly recognisable email address to our contract secretarial service (info@gardenclubs.org.au) so that in future affiliates will have less trouble recognising any future bulk emails as coming from GCA.

It has also been noted that quite a few affiliates are contacting our Broker (Trident) directly and we would like to remind our affiliates that their first port of call on any insurance related matter should always be GCA's Insurance Officer - who will be changing after the AGM so please refer to our website, or the latest copy of the Our Gardens magazine, for contact details.

- **The Ann Williams Clark Award**

for 'Long and outstanding service by a member to his / her affiliated club' was established in 1998 by the Federal Committee. The Ann Williams Clark Award was first presented at the 1999 AGM to Nell Jeffery, Twin Towns and District Garden Club. It was presented each year until 2011 when the numbers of nominations had increased to such an extent that a review of the Award was required.

The Judges and Committee in 2011 made the decision that affiliated clubs may nominate one member of their Club per calendar year to receive this Medallion. The award, for presentation by their club, is in recognition of the nominee's long and outstanding service to his or her club.

Ann Williams Clark, born in Philadelphia into a very musical family trained as a nurse and when American troops were being sent to the Philippines in WW2 decided to enlist. Unfortunately, the nurses were taken prisoner by the Japanese and were confined in very poor circumstances. Eventually freed, she married an airman and they were posted first to New Zealand and then to Sydney.

Ann's many interests included her garden; she was a born horticulturist and knew every tree and plant by their botanical names. She loved music and attended the opera regularly.

Ann really enjoyed being active and for many years in the Garden Clubs of Australia she helped in the formation of clubs as well as visited outlying clubs to have direct contact with members and provide advice.

She had two sons; one residing in Sydney, the other in America. When she could no longer fly, she missed being able to see her two grandchildren and it was a delight when they visited. Ann died on January 2, 1999.

She was a much loved member of the GCA committee, who, by her actions, promoted the GCA motto 'Friendship through Gardens'. In 1982 she was awarded a Life membership of The Garden Clubs of Australia. Ann was a member of both Killara and Chatswood Garden Clubs

- **Website Update**

The GCA website is in the process of significant change, viz 'under construction'. More information in regard to this will be made available later. In the meantime please continue to use our current website.

- **Facebook**

The GCA has an active Facebook page. You are invited to look at it and to use it. Please bring relevant content to the notice of your club members.

- <https://www.facebook.com/gardenclubsaustralia/>

- **Our Gardens magazine**

Thank you to all clubs who have sent Club News, Zone News and other reports of celebratory events to be included in the *Our Gardens* magazine.

So that we can include as many items as possible, could you please keep the number of words to a maximum of 150. Please include a high-resolution photo, with caption, of the event.

The address to send items to is E: carolyn.dawes@bigpond.com

- **National Gardening Week 2017**

Australia's Inaugural National Gardening Week 8-14 October 2017 has come and gone and I would like to thank all the affiliates who participated and celebrated this new addition to the gardening calendar. Numerous clubs and societies across the country celebrated the event in many varied and colourful ways including a spectacular 'vintage high tea' in Nambour (QLD) with 25 clubs represented, a park ramble and tree planting in Gloucester (NSW), a Drinks & Nibbles evening hosted by The Camellia Society Adelaide Hills (SA), School Garden Clubs (WA) focusing a week on environmental/sustainability in the garden and my own charity high tea event held in my *Winchelsea Gardens* (NSW).

Given the short notice (the initiative was only launched in March), I'm heartened by the number of events organised and the enthusiastic response I have received from all sectors across the country.

Next year the dates will be 7-13 October 2018, so why not start planning an event now or tie in with an existing event such as your local Flower Show or Open Garden.

Why not **Dig In & Celebrate** your passion and spread the word! - George Hoad, President