



BULLETIN February 2019

Important

Please bring the following information to the attention of your committee and all club members. Please read it out to all your club members at your next meeting and/or add it to your newsletter.

Reminder - GCA Annual Awards

The Garden Clubs of Australia encourages clubs to nominate individuals or their club for one of the annual awards.

1. Outstanding contribution by an Individual to gardening and / or horticulture. (The President of The Garden Clubs of Australia Inc. Award.)
2. Outstanding service by an Individual to The Garden Clubs of Australia Inc. (The Margaret Davis Award)
3. Outstanding Service by an affiliated Club to the local Community. (The Eleanor McLeod Award)
4. Outstanding service by an Individual to their local Community. (The Doris Killian Award)
5. Outstanding service by an Individual or affiliated club to the Environment. (The Gwendy Hansford Award)
6. Achieving excellence by an Individual in Floral Art. (The Joan O'Brien Award)
7. Outstanding contribution to Gardening / Horticulture by a young Gardener. (GCA Young Gardener of the Year)

The details and nomination forms are on the GCA Website. If you have any questions contact Elizabeth Dobson, awards@gardenclubs.org.au or 0400116463

NB: Ann Williams Clark Medallion for outstanding service by a member of an affiliated Club. This Award may be applied for any time of the year - one per club per year.

Resources/Education

"Ideas for Club Activities" is a document produced by the GCA for all affiliated clubs. It has suggested ideas to stimulate/generate/ revitalise meetings.

Information includes

- meeting topics
- theme talks
- variety of activities for members
- ways to promote your club
- community activities and much more

A valuable resource for all Club Committees

For more information re this resource: do by any of the following:

- Check the GCA website under Resources / Education
- Phone Margaret Watts 0429617113
- Email on education@gardenclubs.org.au

Write to Margaret Watts 42 Spencer Rd Killara 2071 NSW

Resolutions for AGM 2019

Please note that resolutions for the AGM required to be received by **31 May 2019**.

Insurance Certificate

If you have not received your insurance certificate please advise the Insurance Officer so that a replacement can be supplied by email. From the end of May replacement Insurance Certificates will be provided at a cost of \$25.00.

David Gemmell
GCA Insurance Officer

Archives

Garden Clubs of Australia Inc is seeking copies of any GCA Journals from 1970 through to 1990. Please forward to: Margaret Watts 42 Spencer Rd Killara NSW 2071.

Planning for New Services. We Need Your Help

At the last meeting of the GCA Committee it was agreed to begin a process of planning additional services for our more than 700 affiliates across Australia.

Further to seeking your ideas and advice on what services your association might appreciate in addition to *Our Gardens* magazine and the national insurance scheme, we will be asking all affiliates to provide us with basic information about yourselves.

All of us make assumptions about “garden clubs” and your members so we need to refine a picture of our affiliates and your members.

Shortly we will begin a process of surveying affiliates. The survey will be designed to be anonymous as possible and of course any information you provide is protected by our Privacy Policy. Indeed, only one member of the GCA Committee will see the base data received.

The GCA Committee wishes to stress that your cooperation in providing this information is extremely important to us.

John Kitt

National Gardening Week

Australia's third National Gardening Week will be held this year from 13 – 19 October 2019. Australia's inaugural National Gardening Week was launched in 2017 at the Melbourne International Flower in Garden Show and over the last two years has been celebrated by garden clubs and related organisations across the country. Garden clubs have embraced the idea and over the last two years celebrated the event with a range of activities. Many have used the opportunity to reinvigorate their club and publicise their activities to the wider community, gaining new members and a raised profile.

This year the focus of National Gardening Week is on children. We are encouraging schools to become involved and organisations to promote events targeted at children, all with the aim of nurturing and inspiring the next generation of gardeners. Many clubs already have a connection with their local schools and I would encourage other clubs to do the same. Maybe donate some plants or trees to a school, offer advice or assistance with the school veggie patch – pass on your experience, knowledge and passion to the next generation.

Whether your club chooses to link up with a school or children's activity or simply 'raise a cup of tea' at your October meeting – I do encourage you to find an appropriate way to *Dig In & Celebrate!* National Gardening Week 2019.

For further information, please don't hesitate to contact me.

George Hoad

0265505890

president@gardenclubs.org.au

GCA's Convention on Norfolk Island October 2019

Places are still available! To date approximately 250 members have confirmed booking for the convention, which can accommodate up to 400 participants if required. There are still seats on flights from both Sydney and Brisbane but don't delay as these will book up quickly.

The theme of the convention is *Gardening Norfolk Island Style: Convicts, Community and Coral* and a wonderful week of gardens, unique history and natural beauty awaits!

Contact Maria Massey at Norfolk Island Travel Centre for details.

Ph: 0011 6723 22502 Email: maria@travelcentre.nf

GCA Committee Members Profiles

Frances Cairns



Frances joined Albion Park Garden Club three years ago and for the past year have been President. Her love for gardening goes back to primary school days. I had my own garden and when visiting parents, family and friends used to take cut flowers and cuttings of her plants. Her current garden consists mainly of potted plants due to an abundance of pebbles and concrete present on her block. From Wollongong, on the South Coast of NSW she nominated for The Garden Clubs of Australia committee because she thinks it is rewarding to contribute to community. Her nomination was accepted and she has been given the position of Assistant Treasurer. She has a background in accounting which will be helpful in running the association and is currently the working owner of two businesses – one a bookkeeping service and the other a Family History Research service. Aside from gardening, she has many interests and holds positions in other association; Treasurer of the Military

History Society of NSW and Secretary of Dapto Mothers Union. I have two children and four grandchildren. I can be contacted via email; frances.cairns@bigpond.com.

Judy Horton

Judy Horton is a horticulturist who worked as a garden adviser for Yates for more than 20 years. She was



responsible for updating six editions of *Yates Garden Guide*, the best-selling Australian gardening book.

For almost 20 years Judy has answered gardening questions on the Sydney ABC Weekends with Simon Marnie” program. She also writes regularly for *Gardening Australia* magazine. Since retiring from Yates Judy has become the editor of *Our Gardens*, the Garden Clubs of Australia quarterly magazine. She also travels as a botanical guide for Botanica World Discoveries and is a regular guest speaker. In the 2018 Australia Day Honours list she was awarded an Order of Australia Medal (OAM) for her contribution to the promotion of gardening. Judy is married to Rob. They have two adult children and five grandchildren. They live in Middle Dural where Judy occasionally finds time to fight with her own messy five-acre garden.

Elizabeth Dobson

In her professional life she was a teacher and counsellor but gardening is her passion now. She loves sharing this and belongs to a number of clubs. Elizabeth is President of the Stirling and Adelaide Hills Garden



Club but also in the Rhododendron Society, the Garden History Society and Cherry Gardens Garden Club. Clearly a garden tragic! She gardens on 20 acres, with an interest in cool climate plants, particularly bulbs and does a lot of propagating - luckily always able to sell plants as fundraising for clubs.

Whenever she travels it is to see gardens and garden shows, whether that be The Melbourne Flower & Garden Show or Chelsea.

Her role on the GCA Committee is to manage the Annual Awards - an important aspect of acknowledging and highlighting the contributions that Gardeners make to the community.

Graeme Whisker
Publicity Officer