

- **Membership Forms**

Please read the following information carefully and follow the instructions provided in the table attached which may be kept for future reference.

Forms 1, 2, 3, & 4 were distributed to all affiliates at the end of August this year and reminder notices and forms were circulated recently. (*Note Form 1 should read "Jan 1<sup>st</sup> 2022 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022"*)

It is extremely important that all GCA forms are submitted to the nominated person by the due date. Remember, all those receiving and processing the information on the forms you submit are, like you, volunteers giving of their time freely to support GCA. Consider they may prefer to be in their garden rather than sorting out paperwork.

- **Zones**

The Zone Co-ordinators handbook is now complete and distributed to Zone Co-ordinators and affiliates. The handbook is a resource for all current and newly appointed Zone Co-ordinators providing guidance on all aspects of the role. The Directors of Zones will continue recruiting, mentoring and training, ensuring quality and consistency. The Joint Directors are a resource for affiliates and welcome your feedback and requests for assistance.

Currently there are several vacancies for Zone Co-ordinators. Should you be aware of a member who may be interested in learning more about this rewarding role, contact your relevant Director of Zones.

- **Photo Competition**

The 2021 Photo competition has now been judged. The winners and highly commended entrants have been notified and the prize packs from our sponsors are being distributed. As in past years the standard of entries was very high. The winners together with their winning photos will be announced in the Autumn 2022 issue of "Our Gardens" and a selection of the highly commended photos will be included in "Our Gardens" throughout 2022. Next year the number of categories awarded prizes and the total prize pool will increase.

- **GCA 2023 Calendar Competition**

Members of affiliates considering entering the photo competition for the 2023 GCA Calendar should get busy snapping if they have not already done so. There is no entry fee or limit on the number of entries. Each landscape photo selected for the main calendar pages attracts a copyright fee of \$100.00.

Full entry conditions may be found on the GCA website. Entries close on 15 February 2022 and should be submitted by email to [photocomp@gardenclubs.org.au](mailto:photocomp@gardenclubs.org.au) or by post to Director of Graphics, 55 Duncan Drive Aratula Queensland 4309. Enquiries may be directed to Lynne Faux at the above addresses or on 0481 173 364.

- **Our Gardens Subscriptions**

Subscription details for 2022 should have been submitted to the Subscriptions Officer, Rob Horton by the end of November. If you are running late returning subscription details for your club or society please forward your information and Form 3, if required, to Rob as soon as possible at [subscriptions@gardenclubs.org.au](mailto:subscriptions@gardenclubs.org.au) or by post to 44 Middle Dural Road Middle Dural NSW 2158.

- **Small Grants for Not-for-Profits**

Most affiliates would be aware that local authorities often make small grants available to Not-For-Profit organisations for projects that benefit the local community.

The Garden Clubs of Australia has recently subscribed to The Grants Hub, a commercial organisation which collects information on available grants across Australia from Federal and State Governments, local authorities and private organisations. Over 1200 grant opportunities are available each week.

Affiliates who may be considering the organisation of larger scale events are invited to contact [planning@gardenclubs.org.au](mailto:planning@gardenclubs.org.au) and a search can be undertaken for appropriate opportunities or in particular circumstances, access can be arranged to the full service.

Affiliates are advised to allow plenty of lead time in developing ideas for projects since the window for grant applications is sometimes very short.

- **Facebook**

Pleasingly, more affiliates and their members are accessing the GCA Facebook page. The Facebook link is <http://www.facebook.com/groups/781160769133413>.

The Facebook page contains useful information and reports from affiliates and their members. It is a place to share gardening tips and a great way to keep in touch with other gardeners. Pictures, videos, club meetings, reports on speakers, and any other gardening related topics may be posted.

This is a closed Facebook group and all content is reviewed by the Facebook editor and administrators prior to posting.

- **Townsville Convention – register early**

Great News! The GCA National Convention hosted by Townsville and District Garden Club has been rescheduled to Sunday 11, to Thursday 15, September 2022. Registrations for the 2022 Convention are now open with an Early Bird draw if you register by Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022. Show your support for the hard work and organisation of the Convention Committee by joining us in Tropical North Queensland for this exciting event. Non gardening partners are welcome with a variety of interesting activities and tours to keep them amused. Convention details including the registration package may be found at [www.gcaconvention2022.com](http://www.gcaconvention2022.com) or by contacting Shirley Haslam at [townsville2022@gmail.com](mailto:townsville2022@gmail.com) or on 0438 253 312. Townsville “Beautiful One Day – Perfect the Next”.

Why not find out for yourself?

- **Life Memberships of GCA Awarded**

Congratulations to Glenys Bruun, George Hoad AM and Judith Williamson whose exemplary and long service over many years to GCA was recently recognised with the prestigious award of Life Membership”

- **Christmas Wishes**

The President and Board of GCA extend to all affiliates, their members and families every good wish for a safe and happy Christmas and a prosperous and gardening filled New Year.



Penny Whipp – Communications Officer.