

GCA Board Appointments and Resignations

We extend a warm welcome to Judith Williamson, Phyllis Sequeira, and Lynne Turner all of whom have joined the GCA Committee since the February Bulletin was circulated and are filling casual vacancies created by recent resignations. Judith, who has previously served on the Committee, has recently been appointed to the role of Acting Vice President. This responsibility is in addition to her role with Resources and Development. Phyllis is responsible for Policy and Procedure. Lynne whose appointment was ratified at the May Committee meeting has joined us to take on the challenging and important role of Director of Zones North East. Our President, Lorraine Emerson will continue to act as Director of Zones South West. Our thanks to Paul McQueen and John Kitt, both of whom have resigned from the Committee, for their contributions to GCA.

GCA National Convention – Townsville, 11 – 15 September 2022

It is time to confirm your registration for the national Convention to be held in Townsville, North Queensland from Sunday, 11 to Thursday, 15 September. An educational and fun packed program is planned with opportunities to extend your stay to take in the many optional extras made available to Convention attendees at reduced prices.

Confirmed guest speakers include Tim Marshall and Brandan Espe. Tim is a leader in organic agriculture and certification in Australia and a significant contributor to organic standards and certification in worldwide forums. He is a prolific author having written four solo books, co-authored another, been a contributor to many, written more than twenty training manuals and more than two thousand eight hundred newspaper and magazine articles.

Brandan is currently employed at James Cook University as Environmental Officer, with a focus on consultancy, design and implementation of landscaping with particular emphasis on species selection, rehabilitation of degraded land and weed management. Brandan is responsible for the James Cook University greenhouses, poly-houses and glasshouses where there are over five hundred species, variants and cultivars many of which are not found in any other collections and are considered rare or endangered. To register or find out more visit www.gcaconvention2022.com or contact Shirley Haslam at townsville2022@gmail.com or by phoning 0438 253 312.

Registrations must close Thursday 30 June 2022.

GCA Annual Awards

Each year through our annual awards program the GCA provides an opportunity to recognise a club, society or community garden affiliated with the GCA or a member of one of our affiliates who has achieved excellence in gardening. There are six possible awards on offer and nominations are now open.

In addition to these awards the GCA aims to recognise the achievements of an individual under thirty who is making their mark in the world of gardening and horticulture. Nominees for this award need not be a member of a club, society or community garden affiliated with the GCA but must be nominated by one that is. All members of our affiliates are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the awards offered by the GCA. The nomination form and criteria for nomination may be found on the Awards page of the GCA website.

Nominations remain open until Sunday, 10 July 2022 and must be submitted to awards@gardenclubs.org.au. Enquiries may be directed to Elizabeth Dobson at awards@gardenclubs.org.au or by phoning 0400 116 463.

GCA 2023 Calendar Competition

The judging for the 2023 Calendar Competition is now complete. The layout including the winning entries has been finalised and is with our printers Bartel. The calendar will be available to purchase in September.

In 2024 why not be one of those sharing in the \$1300 prize pool provided by Bartel Calendars? Entries are now open and will be accepted until Wednesday, 15 February 2023. The entry form and competition details may be found on the GCA website. Enquiries may be directed to Lynne Faux at photocomp@gardenclubs.org.au or by phoning (07) 5463 8201.

2022 Annual Photo Competition

The GCA annual photo competition is also now open with an increased prize pool of cash and products from our generous sponsors *Organic Crop Protectants, Seasol International, Richgro, Yates Australia* and *Neutrog Australia*.

There are five possible categories for entries - garden scenes, garden visitors, floral art arrangement, close-ups of flowers, foliage or plants and productive gardens or edible plants. The entry form and competition details may be found on the GCA website.

Entries remain open until Saturday, 1 October 2022. Entries and enquiries should be forwarded to photocomp@gardenclubs.org.au or by post to Lynne Faux, 55-57 Duncan Dr, Aratula, Qld 4309.

Our Gardens

The winter edition of *Our Gardens* is now available and once again the editorial team are to be congratulated on producing another wonderful issue containing an array of interesting articles from Australian gardeners. Stories from our subscribers and readers are always encouraged and welcomed by the editorial team. Why not share with other readers your favourite plant, a gardening success such as growing a rare or unusual plant, or an interesting garden you have visited on a garden club trip? If you have a story idea, please contact Judy Horton at editor@gardenclubs.org.au or by phoning 0419 604 701.

The Queens Green Canopy Initiative – ‘Treebilee’

The ‘Treebilee’ is gaining momentum with the public celebrations of Her Majesty’s Platinum Jubilee beginning. The GCA is encouraging our affiliates and their members to join with us in recognising the Queens seventy remarkable years of unbroken service as monarch through planting trees and shrubs.

Share your activities with the GCA family on the GCA Facebook page or submit a short article (100-150 words with 1 or 2 captioned photos) to carolyn.dawes@bigpond.com for In Touch in *Our Gardens*.

Insurance

Club, Society and Community Gardens secretaries and Committee members are invited to review the recently revamped Insurance page on the GCA website which may be found by selecting Affiliation on the home page. Take time to familiarise yourself with the forms and requirements related to obtaining insurance through the GCA master policy. It is hoped that the information provided will assist you to better understand GCA procedures and form requirements relating to insurance coverage together with answering any questions about insurance that may come up from time to time. If the answer to your question or concern cannot be found on the website contact Eric Bateman our Insurance Officer at insurance@gardenclubs.org.au or by phoning 424 430 844.

Penny Whipp
Director of Communications