



28 March 2022

Dear (insert name of secretary of Club or Society)

In February 1954 on her first tour to Australia Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and His Royal Highness Prince Philip the Duke of Edinburgh commemorated their visit to Sydney by planting London Plane trees in Macquarie Place to mark the beginning of the Remembrance Driveway. Along this driveway stretching between Sydney and Canberra are a series of road side plantings, arboreal parks, plantations, and road-side rest areas that provide a living memorial in honour of those who have served in the Australian Defence Forces. This ambitious project was an initiative of our founder Margaret Davis who believed this was a fitting first project for the Garden Clubs of Australia.

This year 2022, Queen Elizabeth is celebrating her Platinum Jubilee. A recognition of her seventy remarkable years of unbroken service as monarch. To mark this unprecedented milestone the Queens Green Canopy initiative more affectionately known as the "treebilee" was launched by His Royal Highness Prince Charles the Prince of Wales when he planted an oak sapling in the grounds of Windsor Castle in May 2020. It is hoped that worldwide by the conclusion of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee year groups and individuals will celebrate, by planting trees and shrubs in honour of the Queen's lifetime of service. During her life, it is believed, the Queen herself has planted in excess of 1500 trees. A significant contribution to extending our green canopy.

Considering our history, it seems fitting that the Garden Clubs of Australia would embrace and support such a worthwhile initiative. Plans are well underway for a tree planting as part of the "treebilee" in Townsville during our Convention in September this year. We are asking all our affiliates to consider participating in the "treebilee" by planting trees and shrubs in honour of the Queen's service. Perhaps you may choose to do this as a Club or Society by planting a tree or shrub in a local park or recreational facility. Perhaps you may choose as individual members of a Club or Society to plant a shrub or tree in your own home garden to mark the occasion. Those affiliates celebrating anniversary milestones in 2022 may choose to mark the occasion by making a planting or plantings to mark these dual celebrations. You may even choose to do nothing officially but as individuals through your own gardening efforts may think of your next planting as participating in this worldwide initiative. It matters not whether your plantings are ornamental or productive. It matters that we plant.

Whatever you decide is a matter for your Club or Society. We would love to share your activities with all in our GCA family. Why not upload photos of your plantings 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?*

Grants and funding options for the Queens "treebilee" are being made available by different levels of government. These may range from funds to purchase plants and plaques to free tube stock for planting. It is worth checking what may be available in your own area.

Why not plant a tree or shrub and make a lasting mark in "treebilee" year 2022?

Your Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lorraine Emerson". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Lorraine Emerson
President, Garden Clubs of Australia