

Minutes
GCA Annual General Meeting
Tuesday 13 September 2022

Australian National Anthem: sung by Violet Seri - Voice Singing School	Date of Meeting: 13 September 2022
Welcome & Open Meeting: Lorraine Emerson opened the AGM and welcomed the six Life Members present.	Meeting Opened: 9.09am
Venue: Rydges Southbank Convention Centre, Palmer St, Townsville Qld	
Present: As per the Delegate & Proxy Registration Register - attached	
Apologies: As per the Apology Register - attached	
Confirmation of Previous Minutes: Board Meeting held Tuesday 21 September 2021	Moved: Lynne Faux Seconded: Jacqui Bateman
Next Meeting: Wednesday 13 September 2023, Club Macquarie, 458 Lake Road Argenton, NSW 2284	Meeting Closed: 12.01pm

ITEM / ISSUE	DISCUSSION/COMMENTS	ACTION	BY WHOM	BY WHEN
BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES				
Suzanne Bushell queried why this AGM did not include Zoom for those not able to attend the Convention?	At its meeting held on 4 August 2022, the GCA Committee, having regard to logistical difficulties and significant costs associated with a Hybrid AGM allowing electronic participation, resolved that electronic access to this year's AGM would not be made available. This decision was not taken lightly and was based on formal advice from Prolegis Solicitors that in the absence of a Special Resolution amending the GCA Constitution the 2021 AGM motion regarding on-line access was not binding on the GCA Committee.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Holding future GCA AGM's will be assessed on the logistics and associated costs of including electronic participation. 	GCA Board	Ongoing
REPORTS				
Treasurer's Report	Report was presented outlining the Statement of Income and Statement of Financial Position as per the GCA Annual Report available on the GCA Website.	Moved: Frances Cairns Seconded: Martin Boorer Carried		
Appointment of Auditors	GCA received a Letter of Disengagement from the current Auditors on 2 September 2022 advising that due to increasing costs and growth in the number of audit clients National Audit Group is now servicing, they have undertaken a through analysis of their clients. They identified several clients they believe will experience significant difficulty in providing their services to, at a cost which they are accustomed to paying. Given these circumstances it is their preference that The Garden Clubs of Australia Inc seek the services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current Motion was withdrawn. A new Auditor to be sought for the ensuing 12 months. 	Frances Cairns Frances Cairns	3.11.22

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	of another auditor for the year ended 30 June 2023.			
Greg Lane queried the disengagement reasoning.	The Auditor's cost last year was \$7,000, so have they provided a new quote higher than this figure or did they just refuse to do it for us again?	Frances responded that the Annual Fee is \$4,500 and they instituted a new system which created an overlap of payments. The accountant's fee is \$5,500. Personally, I think they just don't want to do it going forward. In the meantime, we have been given names of other Auditors to follow up with.		
Presentation of Life Membership Awards	President Lorraine presented Life Memberships to: Judy Horton OAM and David Lambert			
Election of GCA Board Members	<p>As the number of Nominations exceeded the number of vacant positions, a Ballot was necessary and an Authenticated Ballot Paper and Bio of Nominees was issued to all Nominated Delegates, Life Members and Proxies upon registration on this day Tuesday 13 September 2022. These Ballots were then collected and counted by the Returning Officer.</p> <p>Nominated Office Bearers for ratification: Lorraine Emerson & Lynne Faux</p> <p>Nominations for Ordinary Committee Members for election: Jan Ball, Jacque Bateman, Joy Duke, Maureen Lucas, Heather Pryor, Eric Bateman, Martin Boorer, Jan Graham, Sue Mowle & Lynne Turner</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Both <i>Lorraine Emerson & Lynne Faux</i> were duly ratified as a result of the Ballot. • The following Members were duly elected as a result of the Ballot: <i>Jan Ball, Jacqui Bateman, Joy Duke, Maureen Lucas, Martin Boorer, Jan Graham, Sue Mowle & Lynne Turner.</i> 		
Items from the floor	<p>Judy Horton OAM gave a brief overview of <i>Our Gardens</i> magazine and the Team and encouraged Affiliates to send in articles of interest and Club Information for inclusion.</p> <p>George Hoad AM spoke on National Gardening Week and advised there were Flyers available to take back to Clubs.</p>			

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Guest Speaker – Belinda Caunt, Account Director, Trident Insurance	Belinda gave an informative presentation on the GCA Insurance and how it benefits our Clubs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A copy of the Trident Presentation will be made available on the GCA Website. 	Shirley Haslam	15.10.22
Insurance questions from the floor	<p>Lynne Faux, Boonah & District Garden Club, Qld - I open my garden where club members have stalls etc. and a percentage goes to their club – are these stall owners covered?</p> <p>Ray Black, Townsville & District Garden Club, Qld - According to current paperwork we are now issued with a Certificate of Placement does this term replace the Certificate of Currency or should we have a Certificate of Currency as well?</p> <p>Ray Black - If we should ever have a problem and require the Certificate of Currency, are we able to acquire this?</p> <p>Howard Duke, Maryborough Horticultural Society, Qld - If Members hold a stall and keep the return for themselves and does not give a percentage to the Club are they covered?</p> <p>Howard Duke - We have 2 members go around to inspect the gardens prior to them being open - if they miss something can they be personally liable or is the club liable?</p> <p>Geoff Crowhurst, Ivanhoe Garden Club, Vic - Club bus trip and a lady slipped on slate path injuring her forearm and was able to get attention at Public Hospital so Club was no way involved in any payment. Been a member of Garden Clubs 20 years or more and never heard of anyone claim on their insurance. Has there ever been any claims on the Insurance Policy?</p>	<p>Response - Stall owners who are members of the Club are covered but not stall owners from outside who need to hold their own insurance.</p> <p>Response - That language is essentially a technicality as the document has the same purpose from an insurance perspective. A Certificate of Currency can only be issued by the Insurer and as we are the Broker, we issue a Certificate of Placement but they have the exact same purpose.</p> <p>Response - Yes, should you need to provide this then contact us and we can provide for you.</p> <p>Response - This is a grey area as there has never been an insurance claim to test it but to ensure coverage it would be best practice to request the member to contribute something to the Club.</p> <p>Response - They won't personally be held liable but if something happens then the Club will be held liable and can make a claim on policy.</p> <p>Response - We certainly see claims everyday so there is always a steady number of claims each year, although nothing major has been claimed.</p>		

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	<p>Anne Barwick, Quirindi & District Garden Club, NSW - Been a Judge of Gardens and Flowers for many years and GCA used to have a Register and we presume we were covered by Insurance because they were on the Register. If I go and judge at any sort of garden competition, is she still covered?</p> <p>Maggie Swan, Vacluse Garden Club, NSW - I am very grateful for your presentation. If at an outing or meeting of our members and there was an accident, is it correct there is a \$500 excess per member per claim on all Insurance Claims or would it be one excess of \$500?</p> <p>Eric Bateman, Solitaire African Violets & Gesneriads Inc, - 1. On the Certificate of Placement there is a segment for Interested Parties – What advice can you give Affiliates in using this section?</p> <p>2. Increase over the last few years of Community Gardens of which some are fenced and some not. How does Insurance cover the casual walk throughs and the children of club members who work in these gardens?</p> <p>Greg Lane, Cottage Garden Club, SA - On behalf of GCA have we had any claims in the last 12 months and if so, have they been settled?</p>	<p>Response - If you are a member of a Garden Club and you are judging on behalf of the Club then you are covered but if it is not on behalf of a Club then you would not be covered. You need to ensure all activities are recorded by your Garden Club for Insurance purposes.</p> <p>Response - The excess is per occurrence so if there are a group injured by the same circumstances then this is considered one claim.</p> <p>Response - An Interested Party is usually a local council or a property owner of the hall can be added to the Certificate. A record is kept and added to your Certificate each year. Responsibility is up to each club to notify Trident who an Interested Party may be.</p> <p>Response - Environment should be as safe as possible and should take every precaution possible to ensure your moral obligation is upheld so that if someone is hurt they cannot hold the club liable as lawyers would investigate. If club was found liable then they could claim on the policy.</p> <p>Response - Yes has been claims, can't remember specifics or timing but not significant and they have been settled. Generally, run very well and not many claims that is why the premium is stable.</p>		

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Presentation of GCA 2022 Awards by Maureen Lucas	The judges had a very difficult task this year as there were so many very worthy nominations for these prestigious awards. In the end of course, there can only be one winner in each category, although you could say that they were all winners in as much as they were nominated. I would like to congratulate every one of the winners, each one of these people has done much, more than I can possibly list here.			
Category 1 - The President of The Garden Clubs of Australia Award - Outstanding contribution by an Individual to Gardening and/or Horticulture.	Winner - Kate Stanley (posthumous award), sadly Kate passed away recently. From upper North Shore and Hills Rose Society and instrumental in setting up this Club, of which there are now 106 current members. Many monthly meetings were held at her home and also reputed to have been a member of 14 Clubs or Societies and Mentor to many.			
Category 2 - The Margaret Davis Award - Outstanding service by an individual to The Garden Clubs of Australia Inc.	Winner - Helenie Carmody From Young Garden Club she helped to established the ANZAC Memorial Garden, organised to plant trees at the Young Retirement Village, opened her garden on many occasions for charity and Zone Coordinator for South West NSW.			
Category 3 - The Eleanor McLeod Award - Outstanding service by an affiliated Club to the local community	Winner - Buderim Garden Club The Buderim Garden Club has been going for 75 years and held many community events, raised a large amount of funds for many garden related charities and working together with other clubs in the vicinity to create gardens for historical and other venues and holding garden photographic competitions.			
Category 4 - The Doris Killian Award - Outstanding service by an individual to their local community.	Winner - Kevyna Gardner Kevyna is Vice President of the Balaklava Garden Club and she created the club Newsletter, worked as the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen School Garden Teacher. Created a timepiece garden and created attractive gardens throughout the grounds of the Balaklava Primary School.			

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Category 5 - The Gwendy Hansford Award - Outstanding service by an individual or affiliated club to the environment.	Winner - Faye Arcaro From Perth Garden Club as past President and participates in Garden Radio, TV and Writing, Facebook, Instagram pages, Public Speaking, Teaching and Volunteer. Faye has won various awards including ABC Gardner of the Year 2007.			
Category 6 - The Joan O'Brien Award - Achieving excellence by an individual in Floral Art.	Winner - Cecily Rogers OAM Attended the first Floristry Course held at the Sydney Technical College and has taught Floral Art for many years. Cecily has studied overseas, won many awards and was Chairperson of the Flora Australis Event. Cecily is also a qualified Australian Floral Art Judge.			
Category 7 - GCA Young Gardner of the Year - Outstanding contribution to Gardening/Horticulture by a young gardener.	Winner - Hugh Grant Hugh is a member of Central Coast Bonsai Club, which he joined as an 11-year-old. He is a leader in the development of Australian Bonsai at State, National and International level. Hugh helps young people with his knowledge and skills. His formal Bonsai Learnings came from an Internship with Ryan Neil (USA) an internationally respected Bonsai Artist. Hugh is always happy to share his knowledge with other Clubs.			
General Business:	Motion from Lenah Valley Garden Club Tasmania: <i>That the Annual General Meeting of the Garden Clubs of Australia Inc confirm the appointment of Mrs. Heather Pryor as Zone Coordinator, Tasmania Southern Zone, for a further 3 years.</i> Moved: Seconded: <i>The President responded with – ‘rather than put this motion forward, I wish to say that Clause 16 of the GCA Constitution defines the powers and responsibilities of the Committee and Clause 37.1 provides that the appointment of Zone Coordinators shall be the province of the Committee. This motion seeks to override a committee decision not to reappoint Mrs. Pryor and as such would require a change to the constitution to be binding on the Committee Clause 33.3 stipulates that a change to the Constitution must be dealt with as a Special Resolution.’</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As this matter was not submitted as a Special Resolution, I must rule that this Motion is out of order and cannot be dealt with at this meeting. 	Lorraine Emerson	N/A

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Guest Speaker - Rod Jones, Director, Raven Tours of Townsville	Rod gave an informative presentation on the History of Townsville and outlined many of the very important historic features and places of interest in the area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A copy of the Townsville 1864 to 2022 Presentation will be made available on the GCA Website. 	Shirley Haslam	15.10.22
Meeting Closure	<p>President Lorraine Emerson congratulated all the GCA Award winners, welcomed the newly appointed Board Members, and thanked all Delegates, Life members and Attendees for their attendance.</p> <p>President Lorraine also thanked the Townsville & District Garden Club and Convention Committee for their wonderful organization of a fabulous Convention and all the hard work they put in to ensure its success. She then reconfirmed that the next GCA Convention would be organised by the Toronto & District Garden Club in September 2023 and wished them all the best in their preparations.</p>			