

The Garden Clubs of Australia Inc.

Website

gardenclubs.org.au

Notice of GCA AGM - Wednesday 13 September 2023

Reminder – Forms for Notification of Appointment of a Delegate and Notification of Appointment of a Proxy are due by 5.00 pm Friday 1 September 2023. All forms are to be returned to secretary@gardenclubs.org.au

National Gardening Week – 15-21 October 2023

Dig In & Celebrate!

National Gardening Week is just around the corner, so what better excuse do you need to get out into the garden and enjoy all that mother nature has to offer. The week is there for every Australian, of every age group, to get out into the garden and enjoy. I have been contacted by several clubs and advised of some fun activities such as a High Tea, a Plant Swap Table, making flower garlands and tree plantings. What has your club planned to celebrate the event? National Gardening Week is an extension of The Garden Clubs of Australia's primary objective, 'to extend the culture of gardening into the wider community for the benefit of all citizens'. Whatever you choose to do, Dig In and Celebrate, enjoy the experience and perhaps send photos of your event to George Hoad AM, National Gardening Week Ambassador ghoad@internode.on.net or check out the GCA website for ideas.

GCA Awards - judging of the Annual Major Awards has been finalised.

There was a wonderful number of fantastic nominees for these awards and the Judges had a very difficult time choosing the prize winners. However, every one of the nominees is a winner in as much as they were good enough to be nominated, with their amazing contributions to the field of horticulture. For those who didn't get an Award this year they are welcome to try again next year when there will be a different field of contestants.

The Official Announcement of the prize winners – one in each of the eight categories – will be made at the GCA AGM at the Convention in Lake Macquarie.

GCA Calendars - The order form for the 2024 Calendar can be found on the GCA website at the end of August. Please note - the November main picture was incorrectly labelled as being the Tasmanian Botanic Garden when in fact it is a photograph of a private garden, taken by Bernard Pryor OAM (Friends of the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens).

GCA Insurance – the new Insurance Renewal 2024/2025 (Form 2) will be posted on the GCA website and sent out to affiliated clubs in September. It asks you to declare the maximum number of members that you have had since last February and **is due by 19 February 2024** but can be sent any time before the due date. Your numbers are used to negotiate with the insurance brokers and Lloyds in London to secure the best deal.

Open Garden at Member's Home – A special extension for GCA

Our policy includes property owners cover for Open Gardens held at a member's home if their property owners' home insurance policy does not provide cover for the insured activity, even if a fee is charged. The property owner must be a member of an affiliated club so if your club visits a special garden why not ask the owner to join your club?

GCA Photo Competition – Entries close on 1 October 2023. The competition is well underway and the Director of Graphics, Lynne Faux has already received some beautiful images ready for judging in October. Entries must be digital and sent as attachments to photocomp@gardenclubs.org.au. There are 3 cash prizes in each section as well as 3 highly commended gift packs. The entry form is on the GCA website or by email to the photocomp address above.

GCA Treasurer's Report

The Garden Clubs of Australia forms package concerning 2024 administration will be distributed to all Affiliates towards the end of September.

Attention is drawn to Form 1, Re-Affiliation Tax Invoice. Please fill in the bottom part of this form and return to the Treasurer if there have been any changes to your club's banking details, for example new bank and/or a new account number.

The Affiliation fee for 2024 will be \$85 and will be direct debited on or near 14 January 2024. Please ensure that there are sufficient funds to cover the direct debit and that your account details are correct. Rejected direct debits will incur a \$25 fee.

When becoming an Affiliate, Form B is required to be completed as it is an agreement for direct debits to be taken from your account for Affiliation fees, Magazine Subscriptions and the Insurance premium. The Direct Debit Request Service Agreement can be located on The Garden Clubs of Australia Website.

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 13 September 2023 during the Toronto & Districts Garden Club Convention and the Treasurer, Frances Cairns will present the Financial Statements Report for year ending 30th June 2023.

GCA 29th Biennial Convention - Lake Macquarie

Members of the Toronto & Districts Garden Club Convention Committee look forward to welcoming registrants to the Biennial Convention in Lake Macquarie, New South Wales 10-15 September. The 6-day program promises to provide an opportunity to meet up with friends and acquaintances while enjoying the wonderful gardens and a lake cruise in the Lake Macquarie area.

A great way to experience "Friendship through Gardens"

Sue Mowle
Director of Communications