

GCA Treasurer

The annual fees for affiliation and magazine subscriptions were direct debited in January. Thank you to affiliates who advised the change in their bank details on Form 1.

There were ten rejections because of processing to accounts that were no longer current and/or did not have funds to cover the direct debit. This leads to time consuming follow ups by the Treasurer and the Membership Secretary.

The insurance premiums will be deducted on the 21 April. The amount will be determined according to the number of members advised on Form 2, submitted to the Insurance Officer before 19 February.

GCA Awards

Affiliates may nominate a worthy member of their club to be awarded the Ann Williams Clark Medallion. There is a limit of one nomination from each club per calendar year. Nomination form and cost details are set out on the GCA website, gardenclubs.org.au/awards.

The eight prestigious GCA Annual Awards present an opportunity to recognise a club member/s, a young gardener or club who have achieved excellence in the gardening world. They are judged by highly qualified judges with the winners announced at the Annual General Meeting. The judges and the nominees remain anonymous for the judging process. In accordance with standard judging practise no correspondence is entered into regarding the judging.

This year the closing date has been brought forward to 31st May to allow for the judging process and preparation of trophies. Award Guidelines and nomination forms can be found on the GCA website. Only nomination forms that are legible, i.e. printed clearly, will be accepted.

GCA Calendar Competition

The GCA Calendar competition is now closed and images are being judged for inclusion in the 2024 Calendar.

GCA Photo Competition

The GCA Photo competition is open until 1 October 2023. Entry is **free** and digital images may be entered in the 5 categories.

- Garden Scenes (anywhere around the world)
- Garden Visitors (birds, bees, bugs, animals)
- Floral art
- Close ups of flowers, foliage, or plants
- Productive Gardens or Edible plants and Vegetables

1st prize in each section is \$150, 2nd prize is \$100 & 3rd prize is \$50. There are also 3 Highly Commended prizes in each section, consisting of our sponsors products to the value of \$50. Entry forms may be found on the GCA website or from photocomp@gardenclubs.org.au

GCA Facebook

Any GCA affiliate may post photos of club meetings, images of special plants and flowers onto our Facebook page at Garden Clubs of Australia Inc. Administration may reject a post if it is considered to be unsuitable. We ask that comments are in line with the GCA motto 'Friendship through Gardens'.

Our Gardens Magazine

By now every affiliate should have received their copies of the autumn issue of the *Our Gardens* magazine. Please keep in mind when you are visiting local gardens and parks as you may see something of interest that would make a good story for the magazine. Representation from all states in the magazine is encouraged. A reminder that items for the Winter issue of the magazine should be emailed to editor@gardenclubs.org.au by 1 March 2023.

Guidelines for Secretaries and GCA Forms

A new comprehensive guide to GCA forms has been developed to assist Affiliate committees be aware of which form to use and when and how to submit the relevant form. A copy of the Guidelines for Secretaries is attached to this Bulletin and can also be found on the website. A list and information of all GCA forms is now available on the website accessible through a new tab (GCA Forms).

Gardening After a Flood

Author Kate Wall has written and released a free eBook, 'Gardening After a Flood', which is available on the GCA website under 'Publications' 'Education'.

Zone Coordinators

We extend a warm welcome to Glennis Clark and Malcolm McKinlay, both of whom have recently been appointed as zone coordinators for Sydney's North Shore Region and Lower North Coast NSW respectively. We wish them and those retiring all the best for the future.

Join A Garden Club Brochures

'Join a Garden Club' brochures are currently available from the GCA Secretary. Requests may be made by email - secretary@gardenclubs.org.au with the number of brochures required, club name and the postal address.

GCA National Convention – Lake Macquarie 10-15 September 2023

Registrations are now open for the GCA Convention. A tour of Lake Macquarie for two people is offered as an early bird prize. You will see the foreshores and beaches from the passenger seat on the stunning trikes driven by their proud owners from the Ulysses Club Newcastle, Lower Hunter Branch. Register by 31 March to go in the draw.

The convention venues are located along the northern shores of Lake Macquarie which includes Warners Bay, Speers Point and Argenton. Information about accommodation, transport and activities is available on the website. Why not extend your stay to enjoy Hunter Valley Gardens and much more.

To register go to www.gcac2023.com and complete the online form, which is downloadable if required. Tulloch Wines are offering 4 wines from their extensive range to purchase with your registration and are donating 20% of sales to support the convention. To place a wine order, download the form and follow the instructions to submit. You may collect your wine order on Convention registration day. For further information please contact Ann Watkins, Secretary of Toronto & District Garden Clubs at secretarytdgc@gmail.com