

**Minutes**  
**GCA Annual General Meeting**  
**Wednesday 13 September 2023**

<b>Welcome to Country</b>	<b>Date of Meeting:</b> 13 September 2023
<b>Welcome &amp; Open Meeting:</b> Lynne Turner opened the AGM and welcomed the Life Members present.	<b>Meeting Opened:</b> 9.10am
<b>Venue:</b> Club Macquarie, 458 Lake Road, Argenton	
<b>Present:</b> As per the Delegate & Proxy Registration Register - attached	
<b>Apologies:</b> As per the Apology Register - attached	
<b>Confirmation of Previous Minutes:</b> Board Meeting held Tuesday 13 September 2022	<b>Moved:</b> Joy Duke <b>Seconded:</b> Lynne Faux
<b>Next Meeting:</b> Sydney 2024 – Venue, date and time TBA	<b>Meeting Closed:</b> 12.00pm

ITEM / ISSUE	DISCUSSION/COMMENTS	ACTION	BY WHOM	BY WHEN
<b>BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES</b>				
	There was no business arising from the Previous Minutes			
<b>REPORTS</b>				
President's Report	Welcomed all attendees and Life Members and expressed it was an honour and a privilege to represent GCA. Thanked the Toronto & District Garden Club for hosting the 2023 Biennial Convention around the beautiful Lake Macquarie. Thanked all the Zone Coordinators for the wonderful work they do and acknowledged some retirements during the last 12 months. Report available in GCA Annual Report available on the GCA Website or by requesting a copy from the GCA Secretary.	<b>Moved:</b> Lynne Faux <b>Seconded:</b> Jan Graham		
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 or by requesting a copy from the GCA Secretary.	<b>Moved:</b> Jan Ball <b>Seconded:</b> Paul Lucas Carried		
Presentation of Life Membership Awards	President Lorraine presented Life Membership to: Paul Lucas who is an ex GCA Board member of 6 years plus President, Photographer, Judge, Editor and Club Member of many Garden, Photographic and Probus Clubs in Victoria.  GCA Board Director of Communications Sue Mowle presented Life Membership to: Peta Trahar who is a knowledgeable horticulturist and talented landscape designer receiving Awards of Excellence for her promotion of horticulture and conservation of rare and			

ITEM / ISSUE	DISCUSSION/COMMENTS	ACTION	BY WHOM	BY WHEN
	<p>unusual plants. The well-known Collectors Plant Fair was Peta's brainchild where she was convener from 2005 to 2015. Peta is also a regular contributor to Our Gardens Magazine.</p> <p>Judy Horton OAM, Editor of Our Gardens Magazine along with Carol Hampson and Jenny Swan presented Life Membership (post humorous award) to Hazel King OAM FAIH who was one of Australia's most highly respected horticulturists. Hazel was awarded the Ann Williams Clark Medallion and the Doris Killian Award in 2014 along with many other awards over the years. She has held many senior positions within organisations along with being a Fellow and Life Member of the Australian Institute of Horticulture. Sadly, Hazel passed on 31 August 2023 – vale Hazel King OAM FAIH.</p>			
Election of GCA Board Members	<p><b>Nominated Office Bearers for ratification:</b></p> <p>Frances Cairns Hon. Treasurer</p> <p>Shirley Haslam Hon. Secretary</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As there were no nominations for these positions both <i>Frances Cairns &amp; Shirley Haslam</i> were duly ratified to continue on the GCA Board.</li> </ul>		
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. Advised Dar Brookes will take over writing the Seasonal Tips in the <i>Our Gardens</i> magazine.</p> <p>George Hoad AM spoke on National Gardening Week and advised there were Flyers available to take back to Clubs.</p>			
Guest Speaker – Kevin Stokes, Hunter Region Botanic Gardens	<p>Kevin gave an informative presentation on the history and operations of the Hunter Botanic Gardens.</p>			
Presentation of GCA 2023 Awards by Maureen Lucas	<p>It is with great pleasure that I wish to announce the winners of the GCA Major Annual Awards for 2023.</p> <p>These were judged by a highly qualified panel of anonymous judges and the nominees also remained anonymous for this process. The best was chosen, irrespective of state or club. My grateful thanks to the nominating clubs as well as the very wonderful judges. As with all</p>			

ITEM / ISSUE	DISCUSSION/COMMENTS	ACTION	BY WHOM	BY WHEN
	<p>competitions, I believe that every Nominee is a winner because they were considered good enough for their names to be put forward. Because of the caliber of nominees, there are often only very minor differences between those that won an actual award and those that didn't.</p> <p>However, there can only be one major winner in each of the eight categories for these awards. I have commented briefly on each one but be assured they have done much, much more than I have time to give the credit for today.</p> <p>I would like to urge clubs to consider nominating a candidate for next year. If yours didn't win this year, you can renominate them and they may win next time, against a different field and with another year's activity under their belt.</p>			
<p>Category 1 - <b>The President of The Garden Clubs of Australia Award</b> - Outstanding contribution by an Individual to Gardening and/or Horticulture.</p>	<p><b>Winner – Tom Baker OAM - ACT</b></p> <p>Tom has spent more than 40 years as a volunteer to promote gardening and horticulture or organisations such as Open Gardens Canberra, Queanbeyan Landcare, Radio Landcare and MCS Native Nursery. His dedication has resulted in him being awarded an OAM.</p>			
<p>Category 2 - <b>The Vice President of GCA Award</b> – Outstanding contribution by a couple to gardening and/or horticulture.</p>	<p><b>Winners – Edward &amp; Nancy Shaw – NSW</b></p> <p>Ted and Nancy have opened their gardens to clubs, TV shows, etc. including Gardening Australia. Their enormous contributions over many years to the Cottage Garden Club, Kuring-gai Horticultural Society, Native Orchid Society, Tropical Garden Society of Sydney, and volunteer work in a local public garden have been much appreciated.</p>			
<p>Category 3 - <b>The Margaret Davis Award</b> - Outstanding service by an individual to The Garden Clubs of Australia Inc.</p>	<p><b>Winner – Glenys Bruun - QLD</b></p> <p>Glenys has demonstrated a long-term contribution to gardening/horticulture in many capacities and in particular the GCA over more than 30 years. She was awarded Life Membership of GCA in 2020 and is a previous Director of Zones attending every GCA Convention this century. She lives their motto 'Friendship through Gardens'.</p>			

ITEM / ISSUE	DISCUSSION/COMMENTS	ACTION	BY WHOM	BY WHEN
<p>Category 4 - <b>The Eleanor McLeod Award</b> - Outstanding service by an affiliated Club to the local community</p>	<p><b>Winner – Woodville Academy of Floral Design - SA</b></p> <p>This amazing club, which was formed 60 years ago has contributed incredible flower arrangements for events such as the Miss Australia Awards, The World Rose Show held in Adelaide in 2022, the Adelaide Christmas Pageant and other special events. They have helped Ukrainian refugees, Kangaroo Island bushfire victims as well as Riverland Region flood victims.</p>			
<p>Category 5 - <b>The Doris Killian Award</b> - Outstanding service by an individual to their local community.</p>	<p><b>Winner – Michael Anlezark - NSW</b></p> <p>Michael has taught landscape design and done research for a TV gardening show. He has also managed several important botanic gardens throughout the country – each one a living museum of plants and has increased community engagement and visitor numbers during his tenure. Examples are: Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Garden and Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden.</p>			
<p>Category 6 - <b>The Gwendy Hansford Award</b> - Outstanding service by an individual or affiliated club to the environment.</p>	<p><b>Winner – Maureen Schmitt - Qld</b></p> <p>Maureen has from the 1980's onwards, when she joined the Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland, been passionate worker and volunteer to the environment through organisations such as Landcare, Clean-up Australia Day, Bush Heritage Trust and Bundaberg Organic Gardens Trust.</p>			
<p>Category 7 - <b>The Joan O'Brien Award</b> - Achieving excellence by an individual in Floral Art.</p>	<p><b>Winner – Blaire Ringwaldt - SA</b></p> <p>Blaire has been contributing to floral art for over 30 years and has been a committee member of her club in most positions during that time. She is an accredited Floral Art Judge, judging floral art clubs, Rose Society Shows, Regional Shows and the Royal Adelaide Show. She has arranged floral art displays for many well-known events in her state and has won many awards for her work.</p>			
<p>Category 8 - <b>GCA Young Gardner of the Year</b> - Outstanding contribution to Gardening/Hortic</p>	<p><b>Winner – Alana Camilleri - Vic</b></p> <p>Unlike some of the previous winners of this category, Alana is very young – just doing year 12 this year. Nevertheless, she has managed many things in addition to her schoolwork. She is passionate about plants and gardening and has joined her favorite garden club in</p>			

ITEM / ISSUE	DISCUSSION/COMMENTS	ACTION	BY WHOM	BY WHEN
ulture by a young gardener.	Victoria – attending every meeting since she did so and bringing her father along as well. She hopes to attend university and do Agriculture, this making her contribution to fixing the environment. In addition to her studies, she is doing part time work as a large local nursery, has a garden plot at home, raises chickens, did volunteer work at a Botanical Collective and has provided care for a 14-year-old boy with spectrum disorder, also volunteering to help feed patients in a local nursing home.			
	Without exception, all nominees, whether award winners or not are to be congratulated for the astonishing amount of work they have done for the community and horticulture in particular. As an organisation, it is our pleasure to recognise what they have done. Please congratulate them, one and all.			
General Business:	There was no general business submitted and none from the floor.			
Meeting Closure	President Lorraine Emerson congratulated all the GCA Award winners, thanked all Delegates, Life members and Attendees for their attendance.  GCA Board Member Lynne Turner then closed the meeting.			



# The Garden Clubs of Australia Inc

## Attendees, Proxies and Apologies for the GCA AGM

### Wednesday 13 September 2023

---

#### **Represented by Attendance or Proxy:**

##### **GCA Board Members:**

Lorraine Emerson, President  
Lynne Faux, Vice President  
Frances Cairns, Treasurer  
Shirley Haslam, Secretary  
Jacqui Bateman, Membership Secretary  
Joy Duke, Director Promotions & Events  
Sue Mowle, Director of Communication  
Maureen Lucas, Director of Awards  
Jan Ball, SW Director of Zones  
Lynne Turner, NE Director of Zones  
Jan Graham, Committee Member

##### **Life Members:**

Glenys Bruun  
Jeanette Chown  
Lorraine Gillion  
George Hoad AM  
Judy Horton OAM  
David Lambert  
Rosalie Pollock  
Margaret Watts  
Irene Woods

##### **Special Guests:**

Paul Lucas  
Kevin Stokes  
Mrs Stokes  
Peta Trahar  
Peter Trahar

##### **Affiliates:**

Adamstown Kotara Garden Club  
Armidale Garden Club  
Albion Park Garden Club  
Beecroft & District Garden Club  
Berry & District Garden Club  
Bowen Garden Workshop Inc.  
Burrum District Garden Club  
Caboolture Garden Club  
Camden Garden Club  
Cessnock Garden Club  
Cherry Gardens Garden Club  
Christmas Bush Garden Club  
Coal River Valley Garden Club  
Concord Garden Club  
Coonabarabran Garden Club  
Doncaster Garden Club  
Dubbo Garden Club  
Five Dock RSL Orchid Society  
Friends of Albury Botanic Gardens  
Friends of Buninyong Botanic Gardens  
Galston & District Garden Club  
Gold Coast Rose Society  
Gloucester Garden Club  
Goulburn Argyle Garden Club  
Goulburn Community Garden  
Goulburn Garden Club  
Greenacres Community Garden  
Greenpark Garden Club  
Hallidays Point Garden Club  
Heritage Roses in Australia Graduates  
Hills Shire Garden Club  
Hunter Cactus & Succulent Society  
Killabakh Garden Club



# The Garden Clubs of Australia Inc

## Attendees, Proxies and Apologies for the GCA AGM

### Wednesday 13 September 2023

---

Killcare Heights Garden Club  
Ku-Ring-Gai Horticulture Society  
Lake Macquarie Garden Club  
Logan Village Garden Club  
Lupton Park Community Garden  
North Perth Community Garden  
Oberon & District Garden Club  
Orchid Society of Western Australia  
Permaculture Central Coast  
Ogunbil Dungowan Garden Club  
Quirindi & Districts Garden Club  
Revesby Workers Garden Club  
Royal Horticulture Society of NSW  
Roselovers  
SA Cottage Garden Club  
Solitaire African Violets & Gesneriads  
South West Rocks & District Garden Club  
Springdale Garden Club  
St Matthews Peakhurst Garden Club  
Tallangatta Garden Club  
Tamworth Cottage Gardeners  
Taralga Garden Club  
Toronto & District Garden Club  
Townsville Bonsai Society  
Townsville & District Garden Club  
Twin Towns & District Garden Club  
Vaucluse Garden Club  
Wagga Wagga Bonsai Society  
Wentworth Falls Garden Club  
Western Suburbs Orchid Society  
Wollondilly Garden Club  
Woolgoolga & District Garden Club  
Wyong Garden Club

#### **Apologies:**

Albany Orchid Society  
Echuca Horticultural Society  
Fairlight Garden Club  
Judith Williamson (Life Member)  
Ken Bradley AM (Life Member)  
Ku-ring-gai Orchid Society  
Martin Boorer, GCA Director of Insurance  
Sue Topp ICS