

GCA Board Retirements and New Appointments

At the November meeting of the GCA Board, members voted to accept with regret, retirement letters from Frances Cairns and Janice Graham. We extend our heartfelt thanks to Frances for her dedication and unstinting service to Garden Clubs of Australia as Treasurer and to Janice for her contribution as a Committee member. We wish them well in their future endeavours.

Welcome to Mike Abberfield who will take up the responsibilities of Treasurer and to John Parsonage who has been allocated the Marketing portfolio. We are pleased to welcome them onto the team and wish them every success in their new roles.

Members of the Board were very sorry to say goodbye to Glenys Bruun, who is retiring after serving as Zone Coordinator for the Sunshine Coast for 25 years! For many years Glenys was a member of the GCA Committee and held the position of Director of Zones, appointing, guiding and inspiring zone coordinators all over Australia. We thank Glenys for her invaluable service to members of affiliated organisations of Garden Clubs of Australia and wish her well in her retirement.

GCA Insurance – with Martin Boorer

The Insurance Renewal form (Form 2) for 2024/2025 has been posted on the GCA website and was sent to affiliated clubs in September. It asks you to declare the maximum number of members that you have had since last February and can be sent any time before the 19 February 2024 deadline. 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

As 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?

That extension covered me when I opened my garden in **National Gardening Week** and there were over 70 people visit my 600m block.

Our Gardens magazine - with Judy Horton

Can all clubs please return their subscription forms (Form 3) **as soon as possible**. Since COVID the numbers of club-based subscriptions have dropped and we really need your support to keep this fabulous magazine going. The next issue, Autumn 2024, will be the 100th. What a great milestone.

I would also love to hear from anyone who has an idea for a story for the magazine, especially from states other than NSW. We always want to keep the magazine as national as possible. Articles can be about your favourite plant, your own garden, a garden you've visited in Australia or overseas, or something else related to Australian horticulture. Please contact me if you have any ideas editor@gardenclubs.org.au.

Information about your club's activities can go to 'In Touch' editor Carolyn Dawes carolyn.dawes@bigpond.com. I have some copies of the summer issue that are spare so if you would like some to promote the magazine or a club function, please email me.

Treasurer's Report - with Frances Cairns

The Garden Clubs of Australia forms' package has been distributed to all Affiliates concerning 2024 administration.

I would like to draw your attention to Form 1. Please fill in the bottom part of this form and return to treasurer@gardenclubs.org.au if there have been any changes to your club's banking details. i.e., new bank and/or new account number.

In addition, please be advised that the Affiliation fee for 2024 will be \$85 and will be direct debited on or near 14th January 2024. Please ensure that there will be 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.

I have resigned from the GCA Board and will be finishing up on the 30th November 2023. Over the past five years as Treasurer, I have been able to assist with many of your enquiries and I wish your club a long and happy life.

GCA Photo Competition - with Lynne Faux

Entries in the photo competition for 2023 have been judged and the winners and highly commended notified. The winning photos will be included on the GCA Facebook page and GCA Website, <https://gardenclubs.org.au>

GCA 2024 Calendars – with Lynne Faux

The 2024 Calendars are still available to purchase, follow the GCA website links – very easy. There are some lovely photographs on each page and recipients I have spoken to are very pleased.

GCA Facebook - with Joy Duke

GCA Facebook invites all Affiliates to join their Facebook page. Respond and answer the 3 questions and participate by posting your Club's activities, milestones, events and garden visits.

National Gardening Week 2023 – with George Hoad

National Gardening Week 2023 was held this year from 15th to 21st October and celebrated by numerous garden clubs and organisations across the country. Several shared photographs of their activities with the GCA Facebook page and their local newspapers. The activities arranged by the clubs to celebrate the event were largely social, such as a High Teas, fancy hat competitions and garden visits. Some clubs involved their local schools by providing advice, plants and seeds. All the events undertaken certainly promoted friendship and goodwill and assisted in raising the profile of the clubs involved, along with the GCA.

I would like to thank all the clubs who participated this year and I encourage everyone to join in the fun in 2024. All in all, another successful event where gardeners took the opportunity to Dig In & Celebrate and celebrate Friendship Through Gardens.

GCA Awards - with Maureen Lucas

I am trying to find out additional information about the people that the Major Annual Awards are named after. If anyone out there has information I would be very pleased to accept it. I have enough information on the Ann Williams Clark Award. Thank you. awards@gardenclubs.org.au

Wishing you all a very happy Festive Season.

Sue Mowle

Director of Communications

