

To ensure the timely flow of information to all Affiliates, GCA Committee has made the decision that such communication will now be through an enhanced Bulletin issued directly to Affiliates.

Membership

We have been pleased to ratify the GCA membership of 11 new clubs in the past few months with no resignations received and bringing total club membership to 755.

Incorporation & Constitutions

There has been a number of recent enquiries from clubs regarding Incorporation and Club Constitutions. Clubs should note that there is no legislative requirement for clubs to incorporate nor does the GCA require clubs to do so. Incorporation can place some additional costs and legislated reporting obligations on Clubs which given the financial size of most clubs is not mandatory. Club Constitutions are a matter for individual clubs but model constitutions for various associations can be found on the web pages of the administering departments in each State or Territory.

Respective State or Territory Association legislative provisions can be found by conducting a search of the web using, “the relevant State of Territory prefix, with Associations Incorporation Act” in the browser.

Zones

The Directors of Zones have been working on a “Handbook for Zone Co-ordinators” which will be presented at the training session in Townsville. This will be available to both current ZCs and those newly appointed. We are confident this will assist ZCs in liaising with affiliates within their respective zones.

Awards

In order for clubs to recognise the long-term contribution of individual club members to the advancement of a gardening culture both within their clubs and externally, amongst other awards, the GCA sponsors the *Ann Williams Clark Medallion (AWCM)* award.

Affiliated clubs can submit nominations of worthy recipients to be considered for this prestigious award. In addition and to enable ongoing recognition of an individual’s achievement, an AWCM Badge is also available for order at a cost of \$10.



Medallion



Badge

National Gardening Week (NGW)

George Hoad, GCA Immediate Past President has been appointed for a 2-year term as National Gardening Week Ambassador representing GCA, promoting NGW to industry and government and assisting in raising the profile of the GCA nationally at various events across Australia. NGW is to be held 10-16 October this year.

2021 Photographic Competition

Closing date for digital or post card entries is the **October 1, 2021 - with no entry fee.** Total prizes amount to \$1,300 There is no time limit on when or where the photographs are taken.

Entry details are on the GCA website www.gardenclubs.org.au

Consider entering your children/grandchildren up to 16 years old in the Junior Section.

Entries to be: - emailed to photocomp@gardenclubs.org.au or posted to Paul Lucas at 64 Timbertop Drive, Rowville, Vic, 3178.

2022 Calendar

The photographic quality of the Calendar always relies on members and magazine subscribers submitting their digital images of Australian gardens.

Entries can be submitted to: photocomp@gardenclubs.org.au Closing date is the **15th February 2022 - with no entry fee.**

The conditions are on the GCA website www.gardenclubs.org.au or email Paul Lucas, details above.

There is no limit on the number of images you can submit.

The prize pool is \$1,300 with members whose images are chosen for the 13 main pages receiving \$100 each. The smaller “filler” images chosen don’t attract a fee, but members get the satisfaction of having their image published in the Calendar along with their name.

Judging

In the interest of efficiency, professionalism and brand risk avoidance it is recommended that the current GCA Judges Register be closed.

2021 Biennial Convention – Townsville – 12-16 September 2021

Members are reminder that this year’s GCA Convention in Townsville includes an exciting programme of events, presentations and networking opportunities amongst garden club delegates from around Australia. Programme details and activities are available at –

www.gcaconvention2021.com

Nominations are filling fast and it is recommended that Affiliate members register their interest in attendance at their earliest opportunity. Registration details can be requested by emailing GCA Townsville Convention at –

Perfect2021@mail.com

Members should be aware that the official GCA Facebook page can be reached via the link in **Garden Clubs of Australia Inc** website.