

## GCA National Convention and AGM - 10<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Register now for the GCA Convention in Lake Macquarie, NSW. Don't miss out on a week of 'Friendship through Gardens' in Lake Macquarie. Registration is open until **30 June 2023**.

The Convention Venues are in Warners Bay, Speers Point, Argenton and Rathmines. The bus trips and the Lake Macquarie cruise leave from Speers Point Park, which has plenty of parking. Newcastle Car and Truck Hire in Glendale are offering a discount to Convention members and it is recommended that you have a car or organise a car pool. A shuttle bus service will be provided on 9-10 September from Fassifern Station to your accommodation or to pick up a car from Glendale (car pick up is mornings only on weekends). Shuttle bus bookings are essential, register by email [tdgcpres@gmail.com](mailto:tdgcpres@gmail.com)

Information about the program, accommodation, transport and activities is available on the website at [www.gcac2023.com](http://www.gcac2023.com) Extend your stay to include Lake Macquarie Living Smart Festival and Kariong Plant Lovers Fair or enjoy Hunter Valley Gardens, wineries and more local attractions.

**To register** – complete the Registration Form on the website [www.gcac2023.com](http://www.gcac2023.com) and submit online or download and print. Tulloch Wines are offering wines to purchase **any time** after you have registered and will donate 20% of the wine sales to support the Convention. To place a wine order simply follow the instructions on the Registration page of the Convention website. Collect your wine order on registration day.

If you have any questions or for further information about the Convention please contact the secretary, Ann Watkins at [secretarytdgc@gmail.com](mailto:secretarytdgc@gmail.com)

**GCA AGM 2023** – will be held on Wednesday 13 September 2023 during Convention week. Lunch will be provided for registered AGM attendees only. Information on the AGM will be sent to all Affiliated Clubs by 24 July 2023.

**GCA Awards** – a reminder that the Annual Major Award applications close on **31 May**. Please check out the 8 major awards and consider nominating a worthy recipient from your club. Detailed information was emailed to each Affiliate in March and is also on the GCA website [www.gardenclubs.org.au](http://www.gardenclubs.org.au) or by emailing Maureen Lucas, Awards Director on [awards@gardenclubs.org.au](mailto:awards@gardenclubs.org.au)

**Treasurer's Report** – Insurance premiums have been direct debited from Affiliates accounts except those who have changed their bank account details and were rejected by the bank. It is important to notify the Treasurer of any change to bank details by submitting **GCA Form 1** directly to [treasurer@gardenclubs.org.au](mailto:treasurer@gardenclubs.org.au) or posted to 11 North Terrace, Dapto NSW 2530. Insurance certificates have been sent to Affiliated Clubs.

**Future Conventions** – closing date for submissions for the 2025 Biennial Convention is 30 June 2023.

**GCA Facebook** - is available only for members of a GCA affiliated organisation. The administrators welcome photos and a few lines of friendship days, club celebrations or special events, to share on our friendly and active Facebook page.

**Zone Coordinators** – Congratulations to the new Zone Coordinators who have recently been appointed in their respective zones. The role of Zone Coordinator is an important link between our Affiliated organisations and the GCA Board. Information on the Zone Coordinator Role is on the GCA Website Home page, scroll down to the link General Information or by emailing NE Director of Zones, Lynne Turner [nedirectorzones@gardenclubs.org.au](mailto:nedirectorzones@gardenclubs.org.au) for members living in Queensland, NSW and the ACT. For members in Victoria, Tasmania, South Australia, Western Australia and Northern Territory contact SW Director of Zones, Jan Ball by emailing [swdirectorzones@gardenclubs.org.au](mailto:swdirectorzones@gardenclubs.org.au)

**Our Gardens Magazine** – The Winter edition has been posted out to subscribers and is packed full of interesting articles, club news in the 'In Touch' section and 'Diary Dates'. Editor, Judy Horton would welcome information and photos of gardens anywhere in Australia to feature in future editions - contact Judy by email [editor@gardenclubs.org.au](mailto:editor@gardenclubs.org.au)

**GCA Website** – is a wonderful source of information about all aspects of Garden Clubs of Australia, why not check it out – [www.gardenclubs.org.au](http://www.gardenclubs.org.au)

**GCA 'Join a Garden Club' Brochures** are FREE either by downloading from the GCA Website/Publications/Join a Garden Club or by emailing Shirley Haslam [secretary@gardenclubs.org.au](mailto:secretary@gardenclubs.org.au) with your postal details. You can add your Club details on the blank section of the brochure and use at Events or leave at Nurseries, Community Centres etc.

**National Gardening Week - 15 to 21 October.** Dig in and Celebrate! National Gardening Week offers a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the simple joys of gardening and to promote an activity that is good for both mind and body. Plan an activity for your organisation this October. Contact George Hoad AM, National Gardening Week Ambassador for further details – [ghoad@internode.on.net](mailto:ghoad@internode.on.net) or check out the GCA Website. George will be at the Garden Expo in Nambour, Queensland in July.

NGW Flyers are now available for distribution to all Clubs and Zone Coordinators to use at events and visits. Requests for flyers should be emailed to Shirley Haslam, [secretary@gardenclubs.org.au](mailto:secretary@gardenclubs.org.au) with return postal details.

*'Friendship through Gardens'*

Sue Mowle  
Director of Communications