



## **BULLETIN June 2017**

### **Important**

Please bring the following information to the attention of your committee and all club members. Please read it out to all your club members at your next meeting and/or add it to your newsletter.

### **Archives**

Garden Clubs of Australia Inc is seeking copies of any GCA Journals from 1970 through to 1990. Please forward to: Margaret Watts 42 Spencer Rd Killara NSW 2071.

### **Emailing Bulletins**

The GCA Committee is always concerned to minimise costs to affiliates and their members. In recent times though, the promulgation of resources together with increasing administrative costs, especially postage, has made our policy of information on paper posted out, untenable. After 31/12/17 as far as it is possible GCA Bulletins, together with other GCA material will be emailed to affiliates. To receive such materials it is essential that each affiliate club has an email contact. Ideally this might be the Club secretary but it could, indeed, be any member of the affiliate club who is prepared to act as the email recipient for the club.

### **The GCA's 11th Annual Photo Competition 2017**

Prizes total \$1,200 from GCA and our gardening sponsors! Please remind your members and subscribers to the *Our Gardens* magazine that entries close on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2017, and that there is no entry fee. The entry form is on the GCA website [www.gardenclubs.org.au](http://www.gardenclubs.org.au), or contact Paul Lucas on email [photocomp@gardenclubs.org.au](mailto:photocomp@gardenclubs.org.au)

### **National Gardening Week**

Garden clubs are encouraged to get behind a new and exciting addition to the Australian gardening calendar – Australia's inaugural **National Gardening Week**, 8-14 October 2017. This offers clubs a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the simple joys of gardening and also an opportunity to promote their own clubs within the local community. Throw a garden party, host a charity fundraiser, set up an information/plant stall in your local shopping centre, open your garden - the list of possible activities is endless! Check out the GCA website ([www.gardenclubs.org.au](http://www.gardenclubs.org.au)) and let GCA president George Hoad (Email: [ghoad@internode.on.net](mailto:ghoad@internode.on.net)) know of any planned activities.

### **Launching Australia's inaugural National Gardening Week 8-14 October 2017 *Dig In & Celebrate!***

A new and exciting addition to the Australian gardening calendar was launched at the recent Melbourne International Flower & Garden Show – Australia's inaugural National Gardening Week, 8-14 October 2017. National Gardening Week offers a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the simple joys of gardening and to highlight the associated environmental, social and health benefits. Whether it be maintaining a few pots on a balcony, a suburban backyard or a large country expanse, the enjoyment, the improved mental and physical wellbeing and the satisfaction gardeners gain from 'getting their hands dirty' is universal.

The driving force behind the idea is passionate gardener and The Garden Clubs of Australia President, George Hoad. "I was first made aware of a National Gardening Week on a visit to England in April 2013. The week was celebrated throughout the country with colourful floral displays, show gardens and special events, all focused on the practice of gardening. The Royal Horticultural Society (UK) had launched the inaugural National Gardening Week in 2011 and it has grown into the country's biggest celebration of gardening. I would like to see a similar celebration of gardening and gardeners here in Australia."

The Garden Clubs of Australia Inc., established in 1950, is the nation's premiere organisation for garden clubs and other like-minded groups and today has more than 700 affiliates representing over 45,000 members.

'I see the establishment of a National Gardening Week as an extension of The Garden Clubs of Australia's primary objective, to extend the culture of gardening into the wider community for the benefit of all citizens. With our large network of gardeners to promote and celebrate this event, I feel confident that the Australian community will embrace the idea and be inspired to participate,' George Hoad said.

National Gardening Week is open to everybody - people of all ages - organisations, businesses, local communities, local councils, schools, etc. - to participate in and celebrate gardening in any way they choose. Throw a garden party, visit a local park, join a garden club, plant a tree, visit your local nursery or just spend a day relaxing on the lawn - the list of possible activities is endless!

Australia has a long and proud tradition of gardening and garden creation, often against the odds and in adverse conditions. The indigenous aboriginal inhabitants viewed the landscape as one big garden and were well versed in the culinary and healing properties of Australia's native flora. Within days of the First Fleet's arrival in Port Jackson in 1788, the soil was being dug over and a productive garden planted. Over the ensuing two and a quarter centuries, the practice and pleasure of gardening has grown into one of the nation's favourite pastimes.

Many other countries celebrate annually this great national pastime of gardening. These include the USA and Canada. Last year, New Zealand and South Africa held their inaugural celebrations. It's now Australia's turn to dig deep, cultivate the country and delight in the sheer pleasure of gardening!

**For further information contact: George Hoad Phone: 02 65505890 Email: [ghoad@internode.on.net](mailto:ghoad@internode.on.net)**

### **Ulladulla Convention**

It's less than 6 months until the 2017 GCA Convention which runs from 5-10 November 2017 is held in Ulladulla, South Coast, NSW.

The organising committee has been working very hard to make this a great and memorable event. Exciting guest speakers have been engaged including Paul Kirkpatrick, John Gabriele and UK based award-winning garden designer Anthea Guthrie, who will be speaking at the GCA AGM on Wednesday 8. A fantastic mix of half and full day garden tours is offered including a visit to the magnificent Willinga Park – boasting a state of the art Equestrian Centre and over 20 hectares of landscaped gardens. Visits to gardens in Ulladulla, Batemans Bay, Jervis Bay and historic Berry are also offered. A large range of stalls, a Melbourne Cup luncheon, Life Savers demonstration, BBQ and a dinner dance have all been organized for your enjoyment.

Registration closes on September 5 2017, so please advise your club members of Convention details, Registration Form, etc. Check out our website [www.gardenclubs.org.au](http://www.gardenclubs.org.au) for full details and Registration Forms. Enquires to Valerie Tranter Email: [valerie.tranter@bigpond.com](mailto:valerie.tranter@bigpond.com)

### **GCA Committee Recruitment**

The GCA constitution provides for up to 20 Committee members and is currently operating with 14, fulfilling the necessary duties to keep the organisation running. Some committee members have indicated they will not be standing for re-election over the next few years. This makes recruitment of new members a priority and a necessity to ensure the smooth and effective management of the GCA. The Committee meets in Sydney approximately 6 times each year, travelling from across the country (costs are reimbursed). Email access is essential for members, with organisational skills and previous office bearing experience desirable.

For further information please contact:

George Hoad 02 6550 5890 [ghoad@internode.on.net](mailto:ghoad@internode.on.net) or

Carolyn Dawes 02 62515779 [correspondence@gardenclubs.org.au](mailto:correspondence@gardenclubs.org.au)

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