

The Garden Clubs of Australia Inc



Newsletter

ABN 74 058 867744

www.gardenclubs.org.au

Secretaries: Please email this directly to your committee & members.

Hello gardeners!

With the world being turned on its head at present, we are so lucky to have the one great constant in our lives, our consolation, our passion – our gardens to keep us company. If we must stay at home, who could ask for a better companion to while away the hours with, exercise together - keeping fit and active and even enjoy a glass or two with at days end! Unfortunately, I had to cut short my early spring garden tour over to the UK, returning to 'self-quarantine' at home. The lock down means that I won't be able to visit clubs or attend significant anniversaries/events for the foreseeable future, one of the great pleasures of being GCA president. But the up side is being able to spend endless weeks in the garden weeding, pruning, planting, mulching, mowing and loving it! I have achieved so much and I can feel my batteries recharged and my soul nurtured – I hope you are feeling the same.

Happy gardening,
George

"Our Gardens" Magazine

Look out for the Winter edition of *Our Gardens* magazine with these really great stories:

- Our garden's recovery after the fire
- Replacing *Carrick Hill's* century-old trees
- Gardening in the best of all worlds
- A treasure of a garden in Canberra
- Reviving a long-lost garden competition
- Great gardening at *Great Dixter*
- *Gardening on the Edge* in Maleny
- A community garden in Exmouth WA
- My cottage garden makeover

There are Magnolia, Zygo and beekeeping articles and seasonal tips aplenty.

Editor Judy Horton loves to share your gardening journey. Don't wait to be asked. Write something now!

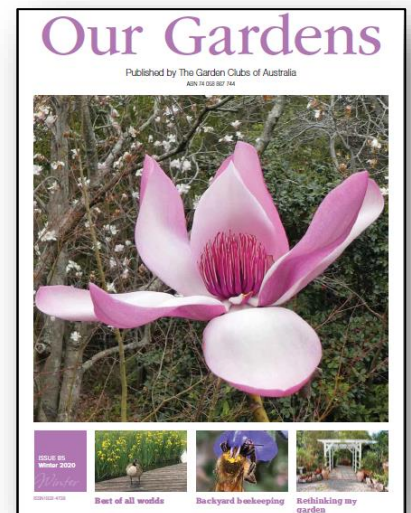
Is Facebook Safe?

Recently, a conversation with a gardening enthusiast went something like, "*I don't do Facebook or those other social media app thingies because you can be hacked by a virus.*"



Well, as you can imagine, we spent some time exploring the issues of the internet and I felt at the end we were making progress to understand 'those app thingies' and the issues surrounding them, a little better.

Every time you connect your computer to the internet there is the possibility of being hacked or your computer get a virus. However, programs like Facebook generally have security built in which helps protect you and your information. Facebook works hard by



employing antivirus & anti-spyware programs to keep the systems clean and free of security threats from virus & spyware infections.

There are basic things you can do to help. Keep your anti-virus protection up-to-date. Be vigilant. Keep your passwords safe. Never give a password to anyone! Don't share personal information and be aware of emails asking for your help. If in doubt, delete!

There are more positives than negatives using those social app thingies, like staying in touch with loved ones and being informed about the world around us. Enjoy the journey!

But what are clubs doing with Facebook?

Club members have been doing virtual tours videos of their garden, using their phone/camera and uploading the video to their club Facebook group. Members can sit in the comfort of their home and tour with the host, looking at the pot plants, trees, garden beds and garden art all from the comfort of their couch. Feel free to share it on the GCA Gossip Facebook Group too and invite a friend.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/562479981146811/>

Online Conferencing

By now you will be hearing the word Zoom everywhere. What is it? How can it help a garden club? Is it safe?

The Garden Clubs of Australia has been using Zoom to conduct online meetings over the past month and have found the experience to be an excellent substitute for our usual face-to-face meetings.

We are always finding new ways to explore the usage of the app and the latest one is YOU CAN USE YOUR PHONE TO CALL IN AND HEAR AND BE HEARD. You don't need a computer to participate.

Here's the link to know more.

<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362663-Joining-a-meeting-by-phone>



There have been a number of affiliates using the Zoom app for their meetings. Following are two reports about the usage.

Kate O'Brien

My name is Kate O'Brien and I am newly appointed Zone Co-ordinator for the Adelaide South region. I am also Show Co-ordinator of the Lilium and Bulb Society of SA Inc and President of the Echunga Garden Club.

I have now attended several Zoom meetings; some I have just joined and others I have been the host of. Hosting was a challenge to start with as I am really good on the computer with what I do regularly, anything else takes a little while to get the hang of. To start with I had a laptop also going so that I could read the steps while actually setting it up on the computer, still managed to make mistakes but after several attempts I can now set up a meeting fairly easily.

What I have found is the some of our older members have trouble navigating their way around the Zoom site. They either ask for help from younger family members or some have gone to their place and helped to install it.

The meeting that I joined was a committee meeting, I just followed the prompts, got online fairly easily but is a little more complicated now with more and more people using this method of communication. It was great not having to leave home and the meeting finished half an hour earlier than normal, possibly not having all the coffee that we drink during it.

While getting back to normal face to face meetings will be good, I think that for people who live a distance from any meeting destination, using Zoom also at the meeting will give them a chance to participate without all the travel.

Amanda Henderson

The Kulnura and District Garden Club held their monthly meeting on Monday via Zoom. A great number of members joined us for our first official virtual meeting since the isolation rules came into place.

Many joined in and age was no barrier. We were able to complete many items we

usually would cover in our meetings past. An added bonus was a live cross to the Princeton Wholesale Nursery at Mount White NSW that our normal meeting has been scheduled to visit.

We all agreed that using Zoom was easy and a great benefit to our club. We also see potential in future times where physical meetings aren't possible for some or bringing in guest speakers.

I'd encourage other clubs to come on board and use this great technology to keep your clubs connected.



Let's Get to Know Our Clubs!

With 730 clubs across the Australian territories it would be great to know a little more about our members. If you would like to feature your club story, let me know. Let's face it. We are really great big sticky beaks.

We have heard a little about Kulnura and District Garden Club, Liliium and Bulb Society of SA Inc and Echunga Garden Club and their use of technology over the past month. Here is another club sticky beak.

Maryborough Garden Club Inc in Queensland. We are a relatively new club with only a couple of years under our belt but pride ourselves on being the biggest sticky beaks around. We love visiting gardens and often come away with not only snips of plants but heaps of ideas to try in our own gardens.

Occasionally we enjoy a guest speaker but they have been few and far between as we have limited access to quality speakers. However, with the use of Zoom we have taken advantage of guest speakers from across Australia.

Our Kids Club has been a real treat with the productive gardens growing well and we are now in consultations with council for use of park land for our food forest. It has been an easy process to acquire 'working with children' cards for our adult mentors.

Probably the best thing about the Maryborough Garden Club is the number of partners involved in our outings as we really enjoy socialising. We enjoy our gardening family.

President Robin Shepperson.

Welcome

The Management Committee of the Garden Clubs of Australia would like **to welcome Lindy Bonser from NSW and Greg Lane from SA** to the committee. Both Lindy and Greg come with a broad range of experience that will add to the success of the committee.

We also look forward to working with **Jan Hall and Kate O'Brien from SA** as two new Zone Coordinators for Adelaide. Jan and Kate look forward to meeting their Adelaide clubs in the near future and enjoying "Friendship through Gardens". Please find an updated list of Zone Coordinators attached. Note also, there are a few vacancies so please contact Glenys Bruun glenysbruun@bigpond.com if you wish to know more about the role.

Seven clubs have recently joined our GCA gardening family:

- **Forbes Riverside Community Garden Inc, NSW**
- **Woonona Community Garden, NSW**

- Urban Planters Moreland Inc, Vic
- Artarmon Parklands Community Garden Inc, NSW
- Redland Organic Growers, Qld
- Launceston Bonsai Society Inc, Tas
- Inglewood/Mt Lawley Community Garden, WA

If there is ever anything we can do to help, let your Zone Coordinator know.

Conversation Starters

Here's an idea to get you started from the GCA "Ideas for club activities" booklet.

Examine factors to consider when selecting and planting plants.

- Preparing the soil - testing, type, improving
- Types of plants - exotic v natives
- Trees, shrubs, herbs, vegetables, annuals, perennials
- Consider aspect of site etc. e.g. N.S.E.W.
- Height/width/growing rates,
- Colour, texture, propagation techniques.
- Types of plants suitable for specific regions.
- Mulching -types and practices/methods
- Weeds/noxious plants - types and how to eliminate.
- Sun and shade areas vs dry and moist areas.
- Availability of water.
- Maintenance of garden.



Website update!

Soon you will be able to go to the GCA website, click on the map and find your club.

NOT NOW but SOON!

The 2021 GCA "Beautiful Gardens of Australia" Calendar

A new method advising affiliates and members of the Calendar commences later this year.

Every affiliate with an email address will receive a digital low-resolution copy of the Calendar and Bartel order form for onforwarding to all members on email. They can order individually or through their committee.

Those affiliates without an email address will receive a hard copy of the front/rear cover of the Calendar, together with a Bartel order form, to show to all their members.

This new process means the price of the traditional sized hard copy Calendar, delivered to you, remains at \$8 despite increasing production costs etc.

The 2020 Annual Photographic Competition & Calendar Photos.

The closing date for digital or post card entries is the **1st October 2020 with no entry fee** with a prize pool of \$1,400. There is no time limit on when or where the photographs were taken in the world. Entry details are on the GCA website www.gardenclubs.org.au Entries can be emailed to

photocomp@gardenclubs.org.au or posted to Paul Lucas at 64 Timbertop Drive, Rowville, Vic, 3178

Kind Regards

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