

The Garden Clubs of Australia Inc



Newsletter No. 4

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www.gardenclubs.org.au

'Friendship through Gardens'

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

Ann Williams Clark Award

From **Roses in the Illawarra** Facebook.
(Thank you Secretary Kristen Dawson)

Congratulations to Robert and Helen Curll on being awarded the GCA Ann Williams Clark Medallion presented at a simple ceremony at Walsh Park Jamberoo. About 20 members of the Illawarra Region of



the Rose Society gathered for the ceremony. The State President of the Rose Society of

NSW, Colin Hollis, presided and we were very pleased to have Graham Bevan, the Zone Coordinator for the Southern Illawarra Region of Garden Clubs of Australia present as a special guest. Kristin Dawson, the Chair of the Illawarra Region of the Rose Society presented the Medallion on behalf of the Region. The Illawarra Regional Committee nominated Helen and Robert because of their outstanding service to the Region through their promotion of the rose and the many activities associated with rose growing and showing. They both also made a great contribution to the Dahlia Society and the Kiama Garden Club. The nomination was approved by both the Awards Committee of the RSNSW and GCA.



What they say...

Holroyd and Parramatta Garden Clubs Christmas in July

The Holroyd Garden Club President Dolores Meilak and Parramatta Garden Club President Joan Joachim decided a little teamwork was needed and broke out for an enjoyable BYO *Christmas in July* luncheon at the Central Gardens Yarrabee Picnic area, Merrylands, NSW.

Dolores posted some great photos on the GCA Club Activities Facebook group and when I phoned her, told me they had a wonderful time. "The main thing was to get together after cancelling all our meetings for so long. We needed to get out and see each other after all this time. We chatted, we laughed, we ate and enjoyed each other's company, but mostly we chatted. We have 45% of our members in both clubs, so we thought it would be good to meet together."



Photo of Dolores Meilak and Juliette Sequeira giving elbow hugs.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FUNDING GRANT FOR CALLALA COMMUNITY GARDEN

Recently, I had a conversation with Victoria Maudson, from Callala Community Garden, after she sent me their newsletter. We were generally gossiping about what is happening in their part of the world and Victoria shared the story about the substantial grant their garden had recently received. Below is the May Facebook account, by Megan Hodges, of the grant process. Something to inspire you and your club.



“Two years ago, the Callala Community Garden applied to the Federal Government for a grant to cover the works envisaged for the Garden as shown in the DA. As nothing had been heard from them for over a year, it was presumed the grant was unsuccessful.

Robyn received from the Federal Senator, Arthur Sinodinos, a phone call in August 2019 saying that CCG had been awarded a grant under The Federal Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development & Communications and in a letter received from the Deputy Prime Minister, Michael McCormack dated 23 August 2019, we were offered \$370,000 to complete the works.

However, discussing the grant publicly or with our members would void the grant.

The Federal Government requested several documents from the CCG Committee, ie Feasibility Study, Business Plan, at least three quotes for every construction etc which had to be completed by the 23 November 2019. The Committee duly completed these tasks with the assistance of Greg Westlake, who volunteered to project manage the construction which proved invaluable due to his knowledge as an engineer.

All information required from the CCG had been sent to the Federal Government, but no final documents were received from them until 23 April 2020, although Robyn had been chasing them for many months. The contract was here – it was signed and returned. CCG have a very tight deadline with little scope for consultation. A construction management team (Batmac), along with Greg, will now be overseeing the project, a construction certificate is to be obtained from SCC and work to proceed to meet the target dates nominated by the Government. All works are to be completed by the end of October this year.

So, watch this space, Facebook or preferably wander past the Garden in the coming months to see the progress of a larger shed, water tank, green house, installation of irrigation to the gardens, a drinking fountain, sensory garden, permeable paths around the majority of garden beds and a perimeter fence. We really look forward to sharing all this with you and welcome any comments.”

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

Kununurra Community Garden

The **Kununurra Community Garden's** mission is to create and maintain space for community to engage in organic gardening activities, to demonstrate and educate sustainable practices, to build community resilience and to create local food security using permaculture principles. All this, in a fun and enjoyable way that also enhances a sense of community and belonging.

Mandy Milburn is the current Treasurer and has been involved in the community garden for some time now. As I spoke to Mandy, I got a real sense of her community pride.

Kununurra Community Garden was recently awarded grants from the Water Corporation and Lions Club Broome. One is the Kimberley Community Grant and the other a COVID-19 Relief Fund grant. In typical Western Australia spirit, representatives from KCG had to 'pop over' to Broome to receive the awards, with other deserving community groups.



Let's put this drive into perspective. Go to Google Maps and put in the two destinations. The drive times, on a good day, will be at least 11 hours. Just think about the dedication of these intrepid gardeners. Would you jump in the car and drive from Canberra to Brisbane to have your photo taken and receive your certificate, knowing the government could have posted it to you?

Such is the dedication of this intrepid group. For those who have never been to Kununurra, the ground temperature reaches 70 degrees (that is Celsius not Fahrenheit) in the hot season, 47 degrees in the shade. These are tough growing temperatures, but grow they do.

The garden grows community, with St Joseph's kindy kiddies' regular visits, parent and children gardening, busy bee workshops, East Kimberley College work-ready students' work experience, supplying produce for the Community Kitchen, practising permaculture practices and taking youngsters on country retreats with community elders to learn about the land.

It is well worth giving Mandy a call, to listen to the many activities in Kununurra Community Garden.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/137129953101665/>

GCA Calendar 2021

Ordering the GCA 2021 "Beautiful Gardens of Australia" Calendar.

Several members have queried the GCA Calendar ordering system during this Covid-19 period when clubs are not having in-person meetings or outings to easily assemble bulk club orders.

The 2 points to note are:

1. There is no closing date for ordering the 2021 Calendar. Most members will order by the end of October, at the latest, as many want to receive their copies and repost some to family and friends overseas, so they receive their copies by Christmas.
2. Individual members can use the existing order form to have copies delivered directly to their home address for the same price of \$8 per copy delivered.

Naturally, some Clubs will assemble member orders as usual and send a bulk order to Bartel using the same order form, as they have done in the past.

Paul Lucas. 64plucas64@gmail.com



The current order form for the calendar is attached to this email.

Community Garden Facebook!

Over the past month many of our Community Gardens, Urban Farms and Permaculture groups have been tagged in the GCA Facebook group below. Those who have liked the other groups have been invited to like the Community Garden group too.

GCA members are encouraged to share stories, activities and photos of their group's endeavours on the Facebook group. Please like the page and share it with other people. Let's build our community!

Community Garden Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/810519969464289/>

Rose is a Rose is a ...

I was chatting with Kristen Dawson from Illawarra Rose Society, NSW the other day and we thought some of the tips from their newsletter might be of interest to you.

So, in the garden this month:

- Keep making sure your roses don't dry out and have enough water
- Dead head your roses and use white oil to kill off any scale that can get on to the roses at this time
- Prepare the soil for any new roses you have ordered – don't forget the Seamungus.
- The roses will be getting tall and straggly and you will find a lot more blackspot because of the cool damp weather. Don't worry pruning will happen soon and those leaves will be cleared.
- Begin to clean and sharpen your tools ready for the winter pruning.
- Check to see you have lime sulphur to spray on the roses after pruning
- Enjoy the last of your blooms before they are pruned off.

<http://nsw.rose.org.au/illawarra-region.html>



The Rose Family by Robert Frost

The rose is a rose,
And was always a rose.
But the theory now goes
That the apple's a rose,
And the pear is, and so's
The plum, I suppose
The dear only know
What will next prove a rose.
You, of course, are a rose
But were always a rose.

Conversation Starters

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

What is meant by Open Spaces in gardens?

- How to develop and maintain them.
- Lawns vs other materials. Eg – gravel, paving
- Homes, community areas – how designed etc.
- Growing and maintaining lawns.
- Grass selection for sun, shade, frost and heavy traffic areas.
- Other ways of dealing with Open Spaces.



OUR Treasurer is the BEST!

Firstly, let me say unequivocally, our GCA treasurer, Frances Cairns, is one of the best and it is a privilege to work with her!

The position of treasurer, in any organisation, is often the most difficult position to fill. There is a huge responsibility that goes with the position, but the treasurer is really a pivotal member of the committee.

I am sure you have been involved in an organisation where, at every meeting, you are listening to the dollar amount and wondering “Why is there so much money in the bank, if we are a community group and not using it?” That it felt like it was the treasurer’s money and the sole purpose was to grow the bank balance. *(I know your head is nodding).*

We have all heard the reasons why the money isn’t spent.

- What if the (fill in item name) packs it in and we need to buy another one?
- If we pay for the Christmas party, all those who haven’t been to a meeting for a long time will rock on up and expect to have a free meal.
- The club has had this many dollars in the bank for 30 years, we can’t spend it. What would the old guard say?
- We can’t let the new person do something innovative and spend money. What if they waste it all and we end up with nothing?
- That was a donation from so-and-so and we can’t spend it. They might be offended.
- It has never been done that way!

And the list goes on.

What are the objectives, ethos or values of your group? Is it to make as much money as possible and squirrel it away? Is it time to re-evaluate what your club is about? Not just from the treasurer’s point of view but the whole committee. Look at the successful clubs; there is a balance of activities and money spent. The members feel like they are valued parts of the group because the money from all the raffles is being used well.

Below are the treasurer’s 10 commandments:

1. Issue receipts for all monies received.
2. Promptly bank all monies received.
3. Seek the safest and most productive place to bank the organisation’s cash.
4. Do not pay out any money without the authority of the committee.
5. Do not issue petty cash without receiving a voucher.
6. Clearly distinguish between capital, revenue and expenditure.
7. Record receipts and payments clearly and accurately.
8. Make sure the balance shown on the bank statements can be reconciled to the balance in the cashbook.
9. Report the past, present and future financial progress and position of the organisation to all committee meetings and the AGM.
10. Faithfully discharge your responsibilities to the committee of the organisation, its members, its sponsors and others with whom it does business.



TIPS AND TRICKS

Tips from ‘*Companion Planting in Australia*’ by Brenda Little.



Snails. A morning tour of the garden after a wet night can make the hand-picking of snails a satisfactory but lengthy job. Cabbage leaves left on the ground at night will offer snails cover from which they can be collected and destroyed. Encouraging birds to the garden, will help to keep the population down but not low enough. Hand to hand combat is the most effective way of getting rid of them. Citrus skins, left inverted among plants, will collect the pests in satisfying numbers for slaughter.

Paul’s Photography Patter

Many of you may not know that our very own GCA committee member Paul Lucas is a professional photographer. This is one of the articles he wrote for a Melbourne newspaper which may be of help to you when taking photos of your garden.

What a wonderful array of devices is available today to take photographs. However, good photography has much less to do with the gear and is more about the person taking the image. Everyone can take countless photos, but how do you make as many as possible interesting to viewers?

Four questions to ask yourself when about to take a photo.

1 - What is the purpose of the picture?

Microsoft recently found that, due to the rapid pace of modern tech-infused lifestyles, people have an average attention span of only eight seconds - shorter than a goldfish!

Grab your viewer's attention with subjects that clearly identify the reason for the shot. This results in more rewarding photos and richer memories.

2 - What do I want my viewers to see or feel?

Now you know what the purpose of your photo is, take the concept one step further and ask yourself what story, feelings, symbols, or other elements you want to impart to your viewer's.

Do you want them to feel happy, sad, curious, introspective or nostalgic?

3 - How do I use the surroundings to create a better photo?

One of the easiest ways to create a compelling, interesting, and visually appealing photograph is to take a few seconds to examine the context in which the picture is being taken. Try to position yourself, your subject, or your camera in such a way as to create maximum visual impact.

Remember with practise, this can be done in a matter of seconds.

4 - How can I control my camera to get the image I want?

Many people take great pictures with just the Auto option on their camera. A new world of photography is in front of you if you can learn how to control the aperture of your lens, the shutter speed of your camera, and the ISO sensitivity of your image sensor. These controls can make all the difference between a forgettable snapshot and a wall-worthy masterpiece. You will more often get the image that's in your head and not the picture that your camera thinks you want to take.

Summary

With practice, these 4 steps can become second nature and, hopefully result in an increased number of "better" photos.

HINT: Try to spend the few seconds to include your best answers to the four questions above.

Happy snapping, Paul Lucas.



Thank you for your kindness!

As I put the finishing touches to this newsletter, my husband presented me with the mail and urged me to open the envelop from Scamander, Tasmania. Inside is a lovely book written by Peggy Bogar, *Bushfire Heartbreak*, a personal account of their bushfire journey. The inscription inside made me feel special. Not sure why I was given the book, I gave her a call and she said that 'last time we spoke you were feeling down, so I thought I would give you a gift to help'.

Well, this was one of the nicest things someone has done for me in forever. I thank all those who have given not only to me, but to others who 'need a little extra loving' in these tough times.

Kind Regards
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