



SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2011 - Survey & Bulletin included!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Hello Everyone - *Merry Christmas & Happy New Year to Everyone*

The Poinciana trees in my garden are shouting "Christmas Time is here" with their orange/red/crimson blooms. What a great tree they are; they make a wonderful shade tree as the spread of the canopy is very wide. The sight is stunning as they are heavily pregnant with blooms this year due I suppose to the rain we have received over the last twelve months. Of course the seed pods in the later months are a problem when mowing the lawn as they dry very hard. However, at present I can sit on my veranda and just enjoy them in the early morning light and also in the atmosphere of the storms we are having in the evenings at the moment. The frangipanis are providing the fragrance in the garden and the troublesome beetle/rust doesn't seem to be affecting them this summer. The Illawarra Flame trees are flowering very red at the moment; in our Zone they are used a lot as street trees.

DO YOU MAKE SHORTBREAD FOR CHRISTMAS? (Apologies to the those who do not bake).

Here is a recipe from Harvey Bay Qld for Old fashioned style Shortbread

200gm softened butter - 100gm caster sugar

250gm sifted plain flour

50gm semolina (or substitute with rice flour)

Plus extra caster sugar for dusting

Cream butter with sugar until light and fluffy. Gradually stir in the sifted flour with semolina (or rice flour if using).

Draw mixture together with finger tips, press into 2 small round sponge sandwich tins that have been greased well and lined on the base with baking paper. Prick all over with a fork then either pinch up edges with finger & thumb or ridge with prongs of the fork to make an attractive edge.

Bake in centre of a moderate oven, if using a fan oven 165degC or 170degC without fan for about 40 minutes or until colour of straw, best keep an eye on it towards end of time.

Remove from oven, leave in tin standing on wire tray, sprinkle with the extra caster sugar, then cut each shortbread round into 8 segments, leave in tin until cooled.

Note: **VERY IMPORTANT** to cut while still warm.

This recipe has become a tradition at Christmas at our house, tried and tested many times; it makes a nice Christmas gift from your kitchen. Place each shortbread round onto a board cut from firm cardboard and covered with foil then wrap in cellophane and tie with festive ribbon.

Phyll Wells

LET'S TALK AWARDS!

Nominations for the 2012 Annual GCA Awards

- Outstanding service by an individual to the GCA
- Outstanding contribution by an individual to gardening and/or horticulture
- Outstanding service by an individual to the community.
- Outstanding service by an affiliated club to the community.
- Outstanding service by an individual to the environment.
- For excellence in floral art.

Note: Outstanding service by a member to a club (now called Ann Williams Clark Medallion).

Details of how clubs can apply for this Medallion will also be listed as below.

Nomination forms will be available on the GCA website: www.gardenclubs.org.au in 2012 and posted to Clubs in May 2012. Information contact Margaret Watts 42 Spencer Rd Killara NSW 2071 email: hollmart@tpg.com.au

I might mention that Queensland dominated in the Awards in 2011 and the recipients were all able to attend the AGM to receive their Awards from President Jeanette. My own Club, Nambour Garden Club, won the Environment Award and the service to GCA Award.

PHOTO COMPETITION!

Get your cameras out and go for a walk around the garden - amazing what you can find to capture. Members of the GCA Committee are not allowed to participate which disappoints me as I am a keen photographer.

No doubt there will be a few entries of pictures taken at the Blue Mountains Convention which was very colourful with the azaleas and rhododendrons (or 'rhodos' as they are called there). Details will emerge early in the New Year.

MAGAZINE "OUR GARDENS"

I am continually amazed at the ignorance about the Magazine when I visit Clubs. What is going wrong?

Isn't the correspondence from GCA being read out at Club level? Members want to subscribe but don't know how to go about it. Very disappointing as it is a stunning publication all done by volunteers, you too could have an article published; contact me or any of the Magazine Committee. The sale of this magazine helps up to keep our fees at a low level so come on for just \$12 you get four editions, Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter.

May this season of cheer at the end of the year be especially happy for you, and leave you with memories to brighten your days all through the year ahead, too. Merry Christmas & Happy New Year.

GLENYS BRUUN - Director of Zones for Australia - email: gbruun1@bigpond.com - Tel. 07 5441 2692



THE GCA BULLETIN

Attention all Club Secretaries and Presidents.

Please note the following and read out to all your club members at your next club meeting or add to your newsletter.

1 New Membership Secretary for GCA

Please update your files as all future club communications regarding membership with GCA should now go to

Rowena Margetts, email rowenamargetts@bigpond.com
38 Harding St,
Kallangur Qld 4503 Tel 07 32856862

2 GCA Website

See the GCA website www.gardenclubs.org.au for photos from the 2011 Photographic competition, diary dates and seasonal tips for your garden.

3 Awards for 2012

See the GCA website for changes to the Ann Williams Clark award for outstanding service by a member to a club or contact Margaret Watts (02) 94992296 hollmart@tpg.com.au

4 Our Gardens, the GCA quarterly magazine

Each affiliated club receives a complimentary copy which should be made available to all members to read. Subscribe through your club for your own copy for just \$12 for 4 editions or, for \$18 you can have it posted to your home. It can be ordered any time of the year and so please talk to your club secretary or contact John Sowden P O Box 7073, Leura NSW 2780 (02) 47824344 jandesowden5@bigpond.com

5 Forms A reminder that all forms required by GCA can be downloaded from our web page. www.gardenclubs.org.au

6 Margaret Davis GCA's Founder Can you assist? Information, stories and photos are required for a biography on Margaret Davis and the GCA. See website www.gardenclubs.org.au or contact Judith Williamson, P O Box 211, Killara NSW 2071 consulting@bigpond.com (02) 9418 4458.

7 Special Event? Why not invite a GCA committee member to your meeting or zone day? Contact your Zone Coordinator.

2012 Zone Coordinators Survey

1. How do you communicate with the Clubs in your Zone? (Circle type)

Phone Email Post/letter/Newsletter Meeting

Comments:

2. How often is this communication? (Circle how often)

Monthly once twice three times per year

Comments:

3 Do the Clubs in your Zone have a Zone get together or a friendship day?

Yes No (circle)

If yes- what is the format

4. What specific information or questions would you like to be answered by the GCA Committee in relation to carrying out your role as Zone Co Coordinator?

5.How do you use the information listed in the Minutes from the GCA Committee?

6. The Resources and Development Report in the GCA Minutes is designed to assist Zone Coordinators with information to be passed on to Clubs – is this of benefit and how else can this Report assist?

Comments:

7. Have you ever surveyed your Clubs to assess their understanding of GCA?

Yes / No (circle one)

If Yes – what were some of the results

8. Are your Clubs aware of?

(i) "Ours Gardens" magazine and how to subscribe yes/no

(ii) GCA website www.gardenclubs.org.au yes/no

(iii) GCA annual Awards yes/no

(iv) GCA biennial Convention yes/no

(v) GCA sales products yes/no

Comments:

9. What skills, ideas, and information do you think you have or have gained from Clubs in your Zone that could be shared with other Zone Co Coordinators?

10. Would the formulation of the following items assist you in the role as a Zone Coordinator?

(i) Job description yes /no (circle)

Comments:

(ii) Information kit yes/no (circle)

Comments:

11 Please add any general comments in relation to ways GCA could assist you in the role as a Zone Coordinator.

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Please either email – (hollmart@tpg.com.au) or snail mail – (42 Spencer Rd Killara 2071) this information to Margaret Watts

* IT WOULD BE APPRECIATED IF THE SURVEY COULD BE RETURNED BY 15TH January 2012