

9 November 2023

Greenlife Industry Australia Limited | ABN 59 634 584 017

Dear GIA Members,

Notice of Annual General Meeting 2023

I am pleased to notify you of GIA's AGM which is taking place on **Thursday, 30 November from 4pm to 5pm (AEDT) in Canberra**. There are two options for attending the meeting:

1. **In person** at the office of the National Farmers Federation, 14-16 Brisbane Avenue, Barton ACT 2600

OR

2. **On-line** from your computer, tablet or smartphone using the following Microsoft Teams link:

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 480 662 031 017 Passcode: 85WozP

[Download Teams](#) | [Join on the web](#)

All the information you need for the meeting is available here:

1. Agenda & papers
2. Resolutions for your consideration & guidance on voting
3. Attachment A: Proxy form, if you cannot attend the meeting but would still like to vote
4. Attachment B: Audited financial statements for the year ending 30 June 2023
5. Attachment C: GIA's Constitution, as amended
6. Attachment D: Nexia Canberra audit services proposal
7. Profiles of the candidates for director elections
8. Ballot, for those members entitled to vote in the director elections

If you are a GIA business or association member, and you have paid your membership fees, or you are a honorary life member, you are entitled to vote for or against the resolutions proposed by GIA. You are also entitled to vote in the director elections. If you are an affiliate, individual or student member, you are not entitled to vote. If you are not sure of your membership status, please contact us before the meeting so we can help clarify.

Please note that GIA's Constitution requires ballots for the director elections to be completed **in advance of the AGM**. We cannot count your vote unless you submit it by the deadline of **23 November**. If you are a voting member, you will be issued with a ballot paper stating your voting entitlement.

All members are most welcome to attend the AGM but we do ask that you RSVP if you wish to attend in person to ensure that we have sufficient space and refreshments for everyone.

We look forward to welcoming you to GIA's 2023 AGM.

Yours faithfully,



Alina Sedmak, Company Secretary

AGENDA

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Item 4: Respectful remembrance of industry figures

GIA pays our deepest respects to the industry figures mentioned below who died during the year.

Robert Percy	Aspley Nurseries	QLD
Edward Bunker	Redlands Young Plants	QLD
Darryl South	Darwin Plant Wholesalers	NT
Peter Carl Engel	Peter Engel's Garden Centre	SA
Jacqui Wilson	Garden City Plastics	VIC
David Vanderuit	Tall Trees	VIC
Bruce Brundrett	Brundrett Roses	VIC
Kaye Pollard	Wodonga Plant Farm	VIC
Herman Van Loon	Van Loon's Nursery	VIC
Caterina Diaco	Diaco's Garden Nursery	VIC
Francisco (Frank) Lazzaroni	Flora Nursery	NSW
Allessandro (Sandro) Lazzaroni	Flora Nursery	NSW
Val Sonter	Sonters Fern Nursery	NSW

With thanks to NGINA, NGIV, NGIQ, NGIWA, NGISA and others for providing the information.



Item 5 Report from the Chief Executive, Joanna Cave

Welcome to GIA's 2023 Annual General Meeting. I am pleased to report that we have made great progress since last year. In May, we gathered with our most important partners, the state nursery and garden industry associations, at a Stakeholders' Summit in Canberra. Here, we collaborated to define GIA's unique role in supporting and complementing the work of our state associations, as what have become known as the five pillars.

GIA's 5 Pillars

1. Advocacy
2. Best practice
3. Nursery levy
4. Biosecurity
5. Marketing

GIA's new headquarters in Canberra place us at the heart of federal policy decision making which has been critical as we advocate for better investment in the fight against Red Imported Fire Ants, protest the proposed Biosecurity Protection Levy and participate in Treasury's competition review. Our extension programs have grown this year, and at the time of writing, more businesses than ever before have participated in our national statistics project. We are excited about the prospect of relaunching GIA's national conference, which will be held in Brisbane during winter 2024.

GIA's unique role as the custodian of the nursery levy has never been more important as management of the investment advice mechanism is handed over to us, placing industry at the heart of the decision-making process. Look out for opportunities next year to share your ideas for how levy funds should be invested. GIA continues to coordinate the national response to biosecurity threats, a role that alleviates a burden on industry as one new plant pest or disease emerges every week, on average. GIA is engaging with state-based stakeholders more than ever before, as nursery businesses help us to create the most effective ways of communicating, refine our extension programs and improve our understanding of the risks and opportunities in our industry.

Crucially, GIA created some much-needed stability this year: our new management team means we have the expertise we need to build the five pillars; and the sale of the Castle Hill property has enabled us to create a reserves fund for the first time, safely invested in no-risk term deposits.

So that our progress can continue, GIA is asking members to vote in support of some changes to the Constitution this year. Included in the proposed changes is the addition of some wording that will enable GIA to apply to be a registered charity. Our main motive for doing this is financial: unlike many peak industry bodies, GIA does not receive any government funding. For GIA to be successful now and viable in the future, we need to save money wherever we can and generate more income. These goals are made easier with charitable status. We are not alone in taking this step: many organisations we know and work with, such as Hort Innovation and AgForce, are registered charities.

Applying for charitable status does not require GIA to change our purpose or alter our activities in any way and none of the proposed amendments place any new impositions or obligations on our members. The GIA board has carefully considered these proposals and sees only benefits and no downsides. I hope therefore that you will vote in support of the resolutions.



It only remains for me to pay tribute to GIA's Chair, Glenn Fenton, who retires from the board after completing his maximum term. Glenn has worked incredibly hard in your interests and he will be greatly missed. As for me: it is an honour to serve the Australian greenlife industry, and I look forward to representing you with energy and commitment in the year ahead.

Item 6: Resolutions requiring a vote

If you are a GIA business or association member, and you have paid your membership fees, or you are a honorary life member, you are entitled to vote for, against or abstain from the resolutions proposed by GIA. If you are an affiliate, individual or student member, you are not entitled to vote.

GIA's Constitution directs that voting at general elections must follow these rules:

- Article 14.7 states that resolutions put to the vote at a general meeting must be decided on a show of hands, unless a poll is demanded.
- Article 14.8 states that at a general meeting every member present (including by proxy) has one vote.

If you would like to vote but cannot attend the meeting, please complete the proxy form at **Annexure A** and submit it by **midnight (AEDT) on Thursday, 23 November 2023**.

This year, there are three resolutions requiring members to vote. Each resolution will be voted on separately.

Resolution 1) Ratify the minutes of the 2022 AGM

Resolution 2) Approve the Audited Accounts & associated reports for the year ended 30 June 2023

Resolution 3) Approve amendments to GIA's Constitution

Different rules apply for voting in the director elections. These are explained at page 11.



Item 6.2 Resolution 1) Vote to ratify the minutes of the 2022 AGM

DRAFT MINUTES: 2022 GIA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

DATE & LOCATION

Monday 28th November 2022 at the offices of Plant Health Australia, 1 Phipps Close, Deakin, ACT and online.

PRESENT

Glenn Fenton	Chair
Ben Grange	Deputy Chair
Davina Boyd	Company Secretary
Nick Hutchinson	Director
Brian Acworth	Director
Simon Smith	Director

IN ATTENDANCE

Joanna Cave	Chief Executive
Jolene Brown	GIA staff & minute taker
Steve Blyth	GIA staff
Duncan Brown	GIA staff
Celeste Cook	GIA staff
Janelle Dahler	GIA staff
Coline Hunt	GIA staff
John McDonald	GIA staff
Gede Baron	BDH Leader (for item 6 only)

Meeting opened at 3.06pm AEDT

Item 1: Acknowledgement Of Country

The Company Secretary welcomed members and observers attending in person and online and acknowledged the Ngunnawal people.

Item 2: registration of attendees, apologies for absence & confirmation of quorum

The Company Secretary took the following register of attendees:

Attendee	Member
Karen Brock	Brocklands Nursery
Sonja Cameron	Cameron's Nursery
David Cliffe	Narromine Transplanters
Elaine Duncan	NGIQ
Gary Eyles	A T Eyles & Sons
Glenn Fenton	Nationwide Trees
Ben Grange	Grange Growing Solutions
Coilin Groom	Domus Nursery
David Jakobs	NGINA
Malcolm Lewis	Lewis Horticulture
Matt Lund	NGIWA
Chris Simon	NGISA
Simon Smith	Plantsmith Nursery
Attendee	Observer
Ian Atkinson	NGIQ
Andy Cameron	NGINA
Paul Lancaster	Sun Coast Water Gardens
Mike Meighan	NGINA
Leigh Siebler	GCA

Apologies for absence:

Penny Measham, GIA Director

Proxies received:

Completed proxies were received from Craig Taberner (NGIV), Mark van der Staay (NGIT) and David Matthews (Proteaflora). All three were held by GIA's Chief Executive.

Item 3: Welcome from the Chair, Glenn Fenton

Glenn Fenton, Chair, confirmed that proper notice had been given of GIA's 2022 Annual General Meeting and declared the meeting open. The Chair opened his address by highlighting that the extensive work that GIA's CEO, Joanna Cave has done in her first ten months in the role to reorganise and revitalise GIA. He acknowledged that GIA continues to deliver world class research and development programs across Australia. He paid tribute to his fellow directors and announced that moving forward, the roles of President and Vice President will be referred to as Chair and Deputy Chair, to better align with GIA's not-for-profit status.

The Chair informed the members that the planned liquidation of NGIA was not complete which marks a historic moment for the greenlife sector. He expressed GIA's gratitude to Karen Brock and the NGIA board for their assistance in concluding the process. The GIA staff were thanked for their hard work during the year.

Item 4: Respectful remembrance of industry figures who died during the year

GIA's Deputy Chair asked those present to observe a minute's silence in honour of the following industry figures who died during the year:

Name	State	Name	State
Penny Rose	NSW	Ralph Groves	NSW
Jack Reid	NSW	Roy Geoffrey Schirmer	VIC
Aldo Zanesco	NSW	David Vanderuit	VIC
Arthur George Sonter	NSW	Frank Mitchell	VIC
Ron Andrew	NSW	Simon Hunter	WA
Ralph Scott	NSW	Bob Melville	WA

Item 5: Report from Chief Executive, Joanna Cave

The Chief Executive reported that GIA is in need of administrative reform and whilst this process has been challenging, positive progress has been made since she joined the organisation. The Chief Executive has been working closely with GIA's most important stakeholders, the state associations, to better define all roles and responsibilities so that GIA can support and complement their work. GIA will be hosting a summit in Canberra in the new year to advance this dialogue. Canberra has been selected as GIA's new headquarters, in order to best influence national policy.

Item 6: Resolution 1) considered the minutes of last year's AGM.

The Chair asked the members present to consider several resolutions. He advised that GIA's constitution directs that votes be taken following the principle of one member, one vote unless a request for a poll is made. No-one present requested a poll.

GIA resolves that the minutes of the 2021 AGM as presented be approved.

The Chair invited questions from the floor. None were raised. The resolution was moved by Davina Boyd and seconded by Chris Simon. The following votes were cast:

IN FAVOUR: 15 AGAINST: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 2

The Chair declared the motion **carried**.



Item 7: Resolution 2) Approval of GIA's audited accounts 2022/23

The Chair welcomed Gede Baron from BDH Leader who was in attendance online to answer any questions from the attendees. No questions were raised.

GIA resolves that the Audited Accounts and associated reports for the year ended 30 June 2022 be approved and adopted.

The resolution was moved by Nick Hutchinson and seconded by Sonya Cameron. The following votes were cast:

IN FAVOUR: 17 AGAINST: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 0

The Chair declared the motion **carried**.

Item 8: Resolution 3) the appointment of GIA's Auditors

The Chair advised that GIA had been advised by not to change auditors during the liquidation of NGIA, despite giving an undertaking at the 2021 AGM to instigate a tender process for the contract to audit GIA's accounts in line with best practice for not-for-profit organisations. Following the completion of the liquidation, GIA board proposed to commence the tender process. Five practices including BDH Leader have indicated their interest in tendering for the contract.

The Chair invited questions from the floor.

- Karen Brock asked for reassurance that BDH Leader as the existing auditor would not be unfairly advantaged in the process. The Chief Executive assured her of the integrity of the criteria and selection process.
- Colin Groom asked for clarification of potential issues given that the liquidation was not completed in line with the end of the financial year at 30 June 2022. The CEO advised that all financial adjustments have been made by the liquidator.

GIA resolves that at least three auditing firms be invited to tender for the contract to audit GIA's annual accounts for the year ended 30 June 2023.

The resolution was moved by Brian Acworth and seconded by Malcolm Lewis. The following votes were cast:

IN FAVOUR: 16 AGAINST: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 1

The Chair declared the motion **carried**.

Item 9: Resolution 4) vote to re-appoint three directors due to retire by rotation.

The Chair advised that a separate vote will be taken for each director.

Karen Brock requested clarification on the terms to be served by the three directors being put forward for re-appointment. The Chief Executive advised that Ben Grange and Davina Boyd are seeking re-appointment for their second and final term of three years, whilst Simon Smith is seeking reappointment for one year only.

(4a) GIA resolves that Ben Grange be re-appointed to serve a second and final term of three years.

The resolution was moved by Nick Hutchinson and seconded by Davina Boyd. The following votes were cast:

IN FAVOUR: 12 AGAINST: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 5

The Chair declared the motion **carried**.

(4b) GIA resolves that Davina Boyd be re-appointed to serve a second and final term of three years.

The resolution was moved by Ben Grange and seconded by Sonya Cameron. The following votes were cast:

IN FAVOUR: 13 AGAINST: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 4

The Chair declared the motion **carried**.

(4c) GIA resolves that Simon Smith be re-appointed to serve a term of one year.

The resolution was moved by Brian Acworth and seconded by Ben Grange. The following votes were cast:

IN FAVOUR: 12 AGAINST: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 5

The Chair declared the motion **carried**.

Item 10: Resolution 5) approval of approve the proposed fees for GIA directors.

(4d) GIA resolves that director's fees not exceeding zero dollars be approved for the year ending 30 June 2023.

The resolution was moved by Davina Boyd and seconded by Brian Acworth. The following votes were cast:

IN FAVOUR: 16 AGAINST: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 1

The Chair declared the motion **carried**.

Item 11: Announcement of Chair, Deputy Chair & Company Secretary

The GIA board has appointed Glenn Fenton as Chair, Ben Grange as Deputy Chair and Davina Boyd as Company Secretary for the next 12 months only. These positions will be vacated after 12 months to allow for renewal in board leadership next year.

Item 12: close of meeting

Colin Groom requested that all abstentions be recorded.

The Chair thanked all present for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 3.52pm.

Resolution:

Members are invited to vote to ratify the minutes of the 2022 AGM.



Item 6.3 Resolution 2)

Vote to approve the audited accounts & associated reports for the year ended 30 June 2023

Please refer to the audited accounts, as prepared by BDH Leader, plus the Letter of Representation signed by GIA, both at **Attachment B**.

Resolution:

Members are invited to vote to approve the Audited Accounts and associated reports for the year ended 30 June 2023.



Item 6.4 Resolution 3)

Vote to approve amendments to GIA's Constitution

GIA is asking members to vote in support of some modifications to the Constitution. It is important to note that we are not proposing any changes to membership definitions or rights. These sections of the existing Constitution remain unaltered.

Included in the proposed changes is the addition of some wording that will enable GIA to apply to be a registered charity. Our main motive for doing this is financial: unlike many peak industry bodies, GIA does not receive any government funding. For GIA to be successful now and viable in the future, we need to save money wherever we can and generate more income. These goals are made easier with charitable status. We are not alone in taking this step: many organisations we know and work with, such as Hort Innovation and AgForce, are registered charities.

Applying for charitable status does not require GIA to change our purpose or alter our activities in any way and none of the proposed amendments place any new impositions or obligations on our members.

Finally, for the avoidance of doubt: none of the proposed amendments place any impositions or obligations on our state association members in any way whatsoever. If GIA is registered as a charity, it does not follow that state associations are required to do likewise, though they are of course free to explore this option if it suits them to do so.

The GIA board has carefully considered these proposals and sees only benefits and no downside for members. Below are more details explaining why we are recommending the changes:

1. Ensure GIA is legally constituted

All Australian companies, including not-for-profit organisations such as GIA, are subject to regulation under the *Corporations Act 2001* (Cth) (the Corps Act). GIA's existing Constitution contradicts the Corps Act in several places which puts it at risk of being non-compliant.

For example, the Corps Act requires all companies to securely retain their financial records for a minimum of 7 years. This requirement, which is absent from the existing Constitution, is one the key responsibilities of directors, such that ASIC takes any breach of this obligation extremely seriously. New Article 22.3 remedies this.

Other contradictions have been tidied up with better drafting and for certainty, a standard catch-all provision has also been added: new Article 10 states that where a provision in the Constitution is inconsistent with the Corps Act, the Corps Act overrides the Constitution.

2. Increase GIA's accountability to its members

It is usual for Constitutions to enshrine the right of the company's independent auditor to attend general meetings to report any concerns they may have in regard to the company's finances. GIA's current Constitution does not provide for this. New Article 15.6 now gives GIA's appointed auditor the right to attend and be heard at any general meeting, for the benefit of members.

3. Improve how GIA is governed

The existing Constitution permits GIA's Chief Executive to also act as its Company Secretary (though this is not GIA's current practice). Since part of the role of the Company Secretary is to ensure the organisation operates in accordance with its Constitution, and to reduce the risk of the Company Secretary being prevented from fulfilling this duty, it is considered best practice to separate this function from that of the CEO, and also of that of the chairperson. New Article 19.23(b) provides this

change. Other changes to improve standards include the timely production of meeting minutes and proper maintenance of financial records.

4. Make the Constitution practical to apply

There are several places where the existing Constitution is impractical to apply. The most problematic of these is the requirement that GIA maintains seven out of seven elected directors on the board at all times. In practice this means that whenever a casual vacancy arises, a director must be immediately appointed by the board to occupy the seat until the AGM when the position is spilled and an election called.

As well as denying members their right to choose their preferred directors, it can be challenging to find people willing to serve as directors in such circumstances. It is more usual for boards to carry casual vacancies arising mid-term until the next AGM, provided sufficient directors remain to form a quorum. Three directors are the standard minimum provided by the Corps Act and new Article 19.1 provides this change.

5. Improve clarity

To ensure that GIA's Constitution is easy to comprehend, the language has been clarified and simplified throughout, to aid understanding of the rules that govern GIA.

6. Enable GIA to apply to be registered as a charity

GIA is both a not-for-profit organisation and a company limited by guarantee. We would like to also register as a charity. There are several benefits in taking this step:

a. We will save money

As a charity, GIA would benefit from discounts and exemptions in several areas. For example, staff training and development is often discounted for charitable organisations. Typically, computer software is available at a discount for charities. Charities are also more likely to enjoy exemptions from certain taxes, such as stamp duty and payroll tax.

b. Access to funding

GIA's future viability relies on our ability to generate more revenue and diversify our income. As a charity, GIA will be able to access government grants, philanthropic funding and corporate partnerships that are restricted to registered charities only. Whilst such funding is by no means guaranteed, achieving charitable status gives GIA a chance of competing for it.

c. Higher standards of transparency

Australian charities are regulated by the Australian Charities & Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC). As a charity, information about GIA's activities, finances, and governance practices would be freely available through the ACNC's website, lending credibility to GIA's operations. Increasing access to information and raising standards of accountability is good for GIA's stakeholders and in line with our desire to raise the overall standard of our governance practices.

d. Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status

DGR status would enable GIA to provide tax-deductions for donors, which can encourage donations and support for particular causes.

e. Legal recognition

Charitable status recognised by the ACNC signifies that an entity's primary purpose is to provide public benefit through its activities. This recognition can enhance GIA's legal standing and facilitate its engagement with regulatory bodies and other organisations.

f. We do not have to change anything we do

Applying for charitable status does not require GIA to change our purpose or alter our activities in any way. GIA's principal objects, as they are defined in the existing Constitution, are permissible for charities under the ACNC defined categories of Advocacy and Education. Our prospects of succeeding in our application will be increased if we group our activities under these two headings. New Article 5.1.(a) and (b) provide these additions.

g. There is no downside

GIA's board has carefully considered the risks and rewards of securing charitable status and has concluded that GIA – and our members - will only benefit from achieving it.

A copy of the Constitution, as amended, along with an explanatory table is provided at **Attachment C**. Below is a link to the GIA's existing Constitution July 2019, for comparison.

<https://www.greenlifeindustry.com.au/static/uploads/files/gia-constitution-july19-wferwfakstux.pdf>

Resolution:

Members are invited to vote to approve the proposed amendments to GIA's Constitution.



Item 7: Announcement of the appointment of GIA's new auditor

It is good practice generally (particularly, in not-for-profit organisations), to test the market for audit services periodically. At the 2022 AGM, members supported GIA's proposal to run a competitive tender process for our audit services.

Accordingly, eight firms were invited to submit a proposal in response to our brief for audit services for the next three years, commencing in 2023/24. These firms were either recommended by peak industry bodies or are otherwise well-known for their experience in carrying out audit services for associations and not-for-profit organisations.

Of these, four submitted three-year proposals, including GIA's existing auditor BDH Leader:

	\$ 2024	\$ 2025	\$ 2026
BDH Leader	19,000	20,000	21,000
Nexia Canberra	16,000	16,000 +cpi	16,000 + cpi
ChartNet Rothsay	17,000	18,000	19,000
Crowe Australasia	25,000	25,000 + cpi	25,000 + cpi

Based on careful assessment of the proposals, the board of directors selected Nexia Canberra as the preferred service provider. This is because their fees were the most competitive and they also currently provide audit services to many similar industry bodies including the NFF, the Australian Industry Greenhouse Network, and the Red Meat Advisory Council. They are also based in Canberra, which is convenient as that is where GIA is now headquartered.

Whilst BDH Leader has served GIA well for the past 5 years (and prior to that, as auditors of NGIA), we believe that GIA will benefit from fresh eyes and a more contemporary approach to the annual audit.

Note: the relevant partner at Nexia Canberra, Garry Murphy, will be attending the meeting at this point to introduce Nexia Canberra and to answer any questions you may have regarding their audit proposal (see **Attachment D**).



Item 8: Announcement of the result of 2023 directions elections

GIA is governed by nine directors, seven of whom are elected by the members with the remaining two appointed at the board's discretion. Directors can serve for a maximum of two consecutive terms of three years each (six years in total). When directors retire or reach the end of their first term, nominations are invited for the vacant seats.

Article 17 of GIA's Constitution provides that a Nominations Committee must be appointed each year to oversee the process and that most of its members must be independent of GIA. The Nominations Committee appointed in 2023 comprises the following individuals:

1. Gary Eyles, Eyles Citrus (Committee Chair)
2. Anthony Kachenko, Hort Innovation
3. Davina Boyd, GIA

This year, four elected positions and two appointed positions were advertised. 31 expressions of interest were received, resulting in a total of 14 completed applications: eight for the elected positions and six for the appointed positions.

The Nominations Committee assessed the applications for elected positions and recommended a shortlist of the strongest candidates for election by the members. The returning officer will announce those directors receiving the most votes as elected to the board at the AGM on 30 November. Applications for the appointed positions will be considered by the GIA board at its first meeting following the AGM.

Statement to the members from the 2023 Nominations Committee

The Nominations Committee noted the strong interest in joining the GIA board and was pleased to receive eight applications for the four elected positions. In considering these, we assessed the ability of each candidate to:

- Meet the requirements of the position description
- Add skills & experience to GIA that are underrepresented or absent from the existing board
- Contribute to GIA's strategic plans, noting the aim of the organisation to move forward with ambition and optimism
- Extend the existing gene pool of talent to include diverse thinkers and different voices

Article 17.2(a) of GIA's Constitution makes it clear that nominees should be chosen on the basis of their skills, experience and knowledge. There is no requirement that certain industries should be represented nor that the board should include people from a variety of states. Nonetheless, the Committee agreed it was important to consider these factors, on the basis that GIA is a national peak body representing the whole supply chain. Therefore, in addition to the criteria set out above, our shortlist also reflects the consideration we gave to which industry each applicant works in and where in the country they live.

The standard of applications was very high which made our task particularly challenging. Our recommended shortlist includes five excellent candidates who will be included in a ballot for your consideration in the forthcoming election, the results of which will be announced on 30 November. We are confident that whichever four candidates are elected will serve you with distinction.

The Nominations Committee met three times during September and October. We can advise members that the process was conducted professionally and in accordance with GIA's Constitution.

Gary Eyles Chair, GIA Nominations Committee

Profiles of nominees for the board elections

Sonja Cameron is a grower in New South Wales seeking election for the first time



My desire to serve on the GIA board stems from a profound wish to give back to the industry. My business, Cameron's Nursery, leads by example with a strong commitment to industry best practices, holding all three levels of the accreditation programs: NIASA, EcoHort, and Biosecure HACCP. My comprehensive understanding of the nursery levy has been acquired through my active participation in the Strategic Investment Advisory Committee for Hort Innovation Australia since 2016. Ultimately, becoming a GIA Director represents a unique chance to amalgamate my expertise, passion and steadfast commitment to horticulture and sustainability while making a meaningful and lasting impact on the industry and the broader community.

Matt Mansfield is a grower in Victoria seeking election for the first time



contribute to the strategic direction and success of our industry.

I am the General Manager of Australia's leading propagation nursery, Mansfield's Propagation Nursery, with nearly two decades of experience in the greenlife industry. I have a deep-rooted passion for the future growth of the industry and have the necessary skills to assist with the success of GIA. Our industry has immense opportunities ahead, and businesses will need a strong support network to rely on. Technology, biosecurity, advocacy, and industry-leading programs for best practices are all aspects that excite me. I believe that together, we can navigate industry challenges, seize growth opportunities, and strengthen our collective impact. By serving on the GIA Board, I could significantly

Elaine Duncan is a grower in Queensland seeking election for the first time



strategically and work with your colleagues to make courageous decisions at times. I relish the opportunity to build on the GIA's five strategic pillars.

As a Greenlife Industry business owner of over 30 years, I bring my experience, knowledge, and skills of what it takes for my business, Flourish Plants, to survive and flourish in the Australian marketplace. Being the Chair of NGIQ has also afforded me the opportunity to understand the importance of effective governance, especially for a not-for-profit, membership organisation. I enjoy opportunities to network and learn and will make myself available to be an effective conduit between GIA and its stakeholders. I am abreast of current issues such as additional levies for biosecurity and the impact on business, should they be introduced. An important board function is the ability to think

Lauren Chandler is a retailer in Tasmania seeking election for the first time



I would like to represent a voice for the retail sector. I have been in the nursery industry for 10 years, and my skills as a company director within my family business, Chandlers Nursery (established in 1888), could be of great benefit to GIA. I have a genuine interest in biosecurity, as it vital for our industry to survive. I have been on the NGIT board since 2016 and I was heavily involved with organising the NGIA conference in 2018 in Hobart and would like to help organise the next GIA conference and make a great contribution. I am very driven, and I am passionate about our industry and our future and I'm able to think outside the box.

Simon Smith is a grower in the Northern Territory seeking re-election for a second term



industry and genuine commitment to the future success of GIA.

I have been involved in the greenlife industry since 1989. I began in the retail sector operating Inland Nursery in Alice Springs (1989-2004) and now run The Plantsmith, an APPS accredited production nursery Darwin supplying predominantly the retail sector. I have significant governance experience to offer the GIA board, having served 16 years on the executive of the NGINT, including 7 as President. I chaired the industries showcase event, The Tropical Garden Spectacular, for 13 years and I have been president of the NT Farmers' Association since 2016. I completed 6 years on the NGIA board (2011-17) and have chaired GIA's National Governance Committee for the APPS program since 2017.

Profiles of GIA's continuing directors



Ben Grange

Ben manages sales and marketing for growing media manufacturer Grange Growing Solutions based in New South Wales. Ben is a member of the GIA APPS National Governance Committee and is currently the Deputy Chair of the GIA board. He was elected in 2019.



Dr Davina Boyd

Davina is a research fellow currently focussing on international agricultural development at Murdoch University in Western Australia. Davina also serves as a member of the National Farmers Federation Sustainable Development & Climate Change Committee. Davina was elected to the board in 2019.



Nick Hutchinson

Nick is general manager of nursery and landscape supplier Fernland in Queensland. He has extensive previous experience in international horticulture. Nick was elected to the board in 2021.

Comprehensive professional biographies of GIA's directors are included in the Financial Statements 2022/23.

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