

Australian Horticulture Judges Association

Training Information

Hello. We welcome your interest in becoming an AHJA Judge and hope that you will seriously consider participating in our Training Program towards becoming a fully Accredited Judge.

Here are some FAQ to help you further understand more about our AHJA Training Program.

What is the AHJA?

We are a volunteer group proud of our accredited service to Horticultural Shows in Australia.

We are an Associated group with branches across Victoria, North Coast and Southern New South Wales and Southeast Queensland. All members are accredited Judges who provide a Judging service to the Horticulture community. This way Show Exhibitors can expect a consistently high standard of assessment in competitive ranking.

How I Can Become an AHJA Judge?

We would assist you to complete the following steps:

1. Complete an Application Form
This completed form tells us about your genuine current interest in Horticulture; motivation and willingness to become Judge; and where you are located so we can set up the learning support that you will need.
2. Enrol In the Training Program
Your enrolment triggers actions from the AHJA Central body and your local Region for you to commence training. Enrolment will enable you to receive your Learning Package, an AHJA Manual, pay for the program and AFJA Associated Membership.
Your Regional Training Sponsor will make contact to match you with your own Training Mentor and invite you to the local Judge's network meetings.
3. Commence Your Mentor Based Learning
These are Assignments are intended to increase your knowledge and understanding of the Principles of Judging; apply these to Judging scenarios; and increase your horticultural knowledge of typical exhibits.
4. Successfully Complete Your Learning Assignments
Your Regional Training Sponsor and Training Mentor will work to ensure that you understand and complete your practical and knowledge assignments. Your mentor will devote their time to providing written comments to guide and encourage your Learning. You will have exposure to a range of Horticultural Shows experiences where you will shadow an accredited Judge. These experiences will be the basis for your practical assignments. You will keep a signed log of Shadowing at Shows.
Your Regional Group will invite you to participate as an Associate Judge. All Judges need to attend a minimum of two group meetings annually. Meetings include practice in Judging plant categories. It is a great opportunity learn to from experienced Judges. You will have voting rights when you become a full member.

5. Pass Your Final Assignments and Exam

Your Final Assignment will be two practical exercises to apply your Judging expertise to a range of Categories in a real-life Show situation. These will be assessed by an Accredited Judge other than your Mentor. The Final Exam gives you the opportunity to confirm your knowledge, understanding and application of the AHJA Manual at the required 70% pass required.

6. Receive your Accreditation

Upon successful completion of your assessment, you will receive your Certificate, your Judges' Badge, and opportunity to participate in the Regional Judging assignments. You will be an AHJA member who may be elected to serve on AHJA committees and participate in the operational processes of the Association.

What is the Duration of the Training Program?

The Program extends across four Judging seasons, so we anticipate a total of two years. This may extend to three years from your application date but is not recommended as it slows the momentum of your Learning. Also, in consideration to your Mentor, this is already a significant devotion in time and effort.

Accredited Judges are expected to participate in on-going accreditation requirements.

What Does the Program Cost?

The AHJA Program is \$120. This includes your initial AHJA Associated membership, an AHJA Manual, and the Training Program.

We hope that our AHJA Training Program sounds attractive and achievable to you. If this is something you would like to commit to then email us to request a Training Application Form.

We look forward to hearing from you.

AHJA Training Coordinator

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