

No bullshittingly, the unrivalled amongst all amateur horticultural organisations in the entirety of the Southern Hemisphere

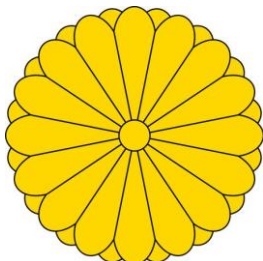
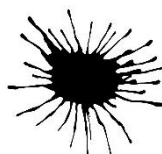


WESTERN AUSTRALIAN

CHRYSANTHEMUM

"the golden flower and undisputed queen of the autumn"

SOCIETY



May - June 2024



President's Notes

Dearly beloved members of the finest horticultural society in the entirety of the southern hemisphere (even if there are a heap of better ones in the northern hemisphere), propitious greetings for the forthcoming seasonal crescendo of multitudinous floral delights manifesting a kaleidoscope of untarnished (chilli thrips; grrrr), refulgent, extraordinary blooms of staggering immensity (not Section 12), glorified by brilliant art shades (not sure about the whites).

The Editor's Notes have been cancelled for this edition of the newsletter due to the constraints of time and a general disinterest amongst the handful of members who actually bother to read them and a total disinterest amongst those who do not. In compensation, I reluctantly allowed the Editor to write the introduction to my President's Notes. That is a mistake that I hope not to make again.

As luck would have it, the hottest and driest summer on record has evolved into what is likely to be one of, if not, the hottest and driest autumns on record. This has created some cultural problems for growers but we are, at least, a half-hardy lot, like out plants, and so most of them have survived.

Since my last Notes we have had two official home visits that were well attended. As best as I can tell a good time was had by all. The effects of a long hot summer was very evident in the condition of my plants at the first visit, to my

home in March. Despite the same weather and a dire shortage of water in his tanks, when we toured Michael Drake-Brockman's country estate in April his plants looked pretty good and certainly a whole lot better than mine. Members then retired to his homestead among the gum trees, with lots of fruit trees, a chook or two and a dog-aroo, a clothesline out the back, verandah out the front and an old rocking chair to enjoy a sumptuous afternoon tea glorified by a resplendent spread of a staggering immensity of culinary treats in glorious art shades; and I got to eat humble pie. (Note to self: Must put more effort into growing my chryxies next season.)

At the end of April a number of members and friends were privileged to attend Ron Seaton's home for an unofficial visit to look at his plants. They were in excellent condition. There were many new seedlings and a number from recent years which are still in the process of proving their worth prior to release. This, coupled with the preponderance of established cultivars of his own raising amongst his show plants, is testament to the debt that we owe him for producing a multitude of cultivars especially suited to the cultural conditions that exist in Perth. Refreshments followed and I got to eat another slice of pie.

With respect to the future, the first item of importance which I need to mention is that earlier in the season the society cooperated with Araluen Botanic Park to provide plants for some display beds of chrysanthemums in their grounds. We have arranged a society visit to Araluen on Thursday 2nd of May at 10am to have a tour of the display and to see if we can help them to make it a better one next year. If you choose to attend then on arrival at the gate please advise the "doorman" that you are with the Chrysanthemum Society and you have come to meet with Remo leraci, who is a head gardener there. There is a café on site which opens at 10:30am, so you can purchase some refreshments if you wish to make it a proper day out with the bonus of enough time to get home for your nanna nap in the afternoon.

The second item of importance is our annual show. Full details follow later. As usual, there are a hundred and one disaster stories doing the rounds despite the fact that we only have about seventy members. You know the drum; the blooms are too late, too early, too small, too unlike the untarnished, refulgent, extraordinary blooms of staggering immensity glorified by brilliant art shades that I am renowned for producing, etcetera, etcetera, etcetera ad infinitum; "To infinity and beyond!" Speaking for myself and also on behalf of the Show Secretary "Tell it to someone who cares." We are looking to deck the hall with boughs of chrysanthemums and even if your blooms are not good enough for a Mothers' Day gift for your allegorical mother-in-law they are probably still good enough at least to make a few bunches to throttle in vases for a bit of extra colour at the show. If the blooms are half decent then you can put a bunch into the Formal Decorative Bowl and Vase classes and if they are only a quarter decent you can enter the Informal Floral Art class "As I like it." From a philosophical point of view, "every child wins a prize" because each of us is the best judge of what we like.

In addition to your blooms, we need you! There is setting up to be done on Thursday afternoon and most of Friday. Then, on Saturday, it is meet and greet, tea, coffee, biscuit and plant sales throughout the day and bloom sales and clean up in the afternoon.

Remember, sitting on your hands achieves nothing, unless you have an itchy bum and the most common cause of that is sitting down for too long with nothing to do but scratch. Many hands make light work and, since most of us have two, if there are enough helpers, we should get the work done with half the effort and be finished in time to pick up some take-away on the way home and enjoy a relaxing Mothers' Day Eve, recalling that she was the cause of all this mothers' business way back when Adam was a boy.

The third item is that we are changing the venue for our presentation Luncheon to the Lesmurdie Club in Walliston. "Don't ask!" except for directions if forlornly searching for the venue in Lesmurdie. There is a significant cost saving with the catering at this venue and anecdotal evidence is that the food is of excellent quality. Given the similar excellent personal qualities of the anticipated attendees, stout yeo-persons all, a good time is most assuredly to be had by all.

Editor's Side Note: Maybe we can go to a Mexican restaurant for the Presentation Luncheon next year.

"Stout Yeoman Of The Bean" https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qsHCmKc1iBw&ab_channel=2000goes

In respect to the President's remarks regarding my Editor's Notes I append the following quotation from the online page "That Stout Yeoman of the Bar Nonsense"

We've come across a few examples of what struck us as the same mock-pompous language so ridiculed by Viz in their 'Real Ale Twats' comic strip ("A flagon of your finest ale, stout yeoman of the bar, if you would be so very good", and so on). We were delighted, therefore, to come across this passage in Martin Green and Tony White's Guide to London Pubs (the 1968 edition of the book mentioned here), which acknowledges and discusses the phenomenon:

Foreign visitors may be puzzled by a form of pub 'dialect' spoken mainly by regulars in Chelsea, West End and City pubs but also in the Saloon Bars of pubs in outlying areas. This dialect is an odd blend of pomposity and facetiousness which passes for wit and, as far as can be worked out, makes the speaker feel like some sort of posed, 18th-century Dr Johnson figure...

A speaker of this dialect will always use more and longer words than are necessary. For instance, instead of saying: 'Shall we go to the pub?' he'll say: 'Shall we repair to a hostelry?' Instead of 'Shall we have a drink?' he'll say: 'Shall we partake of liquid refreshment?'... He will also go in for heavy gallantry; he won't ask you how your wife is but 'How's your charming lady wife?'

Is this resort to overblown cliché an inevitable response to the antiquity (or mock antiquity) of many English pubs (or chrysanthemum societies)? And is the kind of froth blower (chrysanthemum grower) who prefers to 'quaff traditional draught' (grow heritage chrysanthemums) perhaps more likely also to enjoy speaking traditional nonsense?

I rest my case your honours (a.k.a. WACS members), until the next instalment of my Editor's Notes proper. Until then, felicitations and I wish you clear skies and bon voyage for the continuance of your journey of life, wherever that voyage of self-discovery may take you. If you should find yourself in Oak Park, Chicago then may I recommend

Guitarra Azul's "Tres Lagrimas" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-XTAK0avUEw>

Cultural Notes

Before you pick all your flowers make sure that you check the blooms with the labels in case you have some mismatches. Every year I end up with one or two mislabelled plants. You may be very careful but maybe a friend or a child has rearranged some labels or else you obtained a plant from a friend which was incorrectly named. If you have multiple plants of the same cultivar it is wise to label the ones that gave the best blooms so that you can propagate from those for next season. Any poor performing plants should be disposed of. Make a list of any cultivars that gave consistently sub-standard blooms so that you can either obtain better stock from another grower or decide not to grow it again.

After flowering has finished cut back the stems to about 20cm from the soil. If they are cut back lower they may bleed sap and if longer they may continue to send flowering lateral shoots. I like to remove the cover from my shadehouse to allow the plants to be exposed to as much cool weather as possible and to save me the effort of watering them. Scatter some snail pellets about but make sure to use the low toxicity types (eg. Multiguard -iron EDTA) if you have pets that may be tempted to eat them. It is probably worthwhile giving them a spray with some general purpose fungicide and pesticide although that is not necessary if you are prepared to keep a close eye on them. I like to take some time off to refresh so the preventative approach suits me better.

That is about all you need to do for the next two months except to think about what went well and what did not.

The definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting a different result.

(This quote is often attributed to Albert Einstein but is thought to have been first recorded from a meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous in the USA in 1981.)

Annual Flower Show

Saturday 11th May 2024
Kalamunda Performing Arts Centre
48 Canning Rd, Kalamunda

Programme of Events for Show Week

Wednesday 8th

- 3pm - 7pm Entries to be received by the Show Secretary, Carl Slusarczyk
Phone: 0480 188 875 or email: carl.lina.slu@gmail.com

Thursday 9th May

- Throughout the morning, bottles, vases and central display items loaded for transport to Kalamunda Agricultural Hall
- Load Sale plants
- Exhibitors with many blooms may bring them into the hall for overnight storage. Other exhibitors are expected to bring their blooms in on Friday morning
- 3:30 pm - Open hall
- 3:30 pm to 5 pm - All members to help unload bottles and vases from the trailer and fill them in the hall kitchen sink.
- Set out tables and fit table covers.
- Unload central exhibition plants and props.
- Set up Sale area and bring in sale plants.
- Show Secretary and Chief Steward to prepare show benches
- 5 pm - Hall closed

Friday 10th May

- 8 am - Hall open
- 8 am - Exhibitors commence arriving at the hall in sufficient time to complete staging their blooms by 12.30 pm. Exhibitors will have a work area to stage entries. Exhibitors to collect bottles from the kitchen and place blooms and name tags on the bench
- 12:30 pm Exhibitors finish setting up entries
- 1 pm – 5 pm Erect central display
- 1 pm – 5 pm Judges/Stewards report to Show Secretary for judging.
- 5 pm Hall closed

Saturday 11th May

- 8 am - 9 am Place prize cards on the benches.
- Prepare the entry table to receive the public.
- 9 am to 3 pm Show open and members on roster duty to take entry fees and assist the public with information and plant sales
- 10 am - Official opening of the show and presentation of State Championships
- 2 pm - Commence free entry for the public. Collect prize cards and bunch and wrap flowers for sale
- 3 pm - Pack up equipment and clear the show area.
- 5pm - Hall closed.

Contacts

President - Carl Slusarczyk	9272 1356 (H) 0480 188 875 (M)	carl.lina.slu@gmail.com
Treasurer - Colleen Ryall	0400 089 223 (M)	colleenryall@westnet.com.au
Secretary - Michael Drake-Brockman	0421 778 717(M)	michaeldb@inet.net.au
Newsletter Editor - Carl Slusarczyk	9272 1356 (H)	carl.lina.slu@gmail.com

Forthcoming Meetings & Events - It's all happening!

Social Day	10am Thursday 2 nd May 2024	Araluen Botanic Park (<i>New Even</i>) 362 Croyden Road, Roleystone
Annual Flower Show	Saturday 11th May 2024	Agricultural Hall, Kalamunda Performing Arts Centre, 48 Canning Rd, Kalamunda
Awards Luncheon	11:30 - 3:00 pm Tuesday 23 rd May 2024	Lesmurdie Club (<i>New Location</i>) corner Boronia and Lawnbrook Rds, Walliston
Annual General Meeting	12 noon Tuesday 10th September 2024	John McGrath Pavilion, Hensman Rd South Perth

Facebook Page

www.facebook.com/groups/chrysanthemumwa

Website

www.chrysanthemumwa.com

Mentors

Ian Blackwell:	Kelmscott	0424 432 608
Ralph Coombes:	Maida Vale	9454 3373
Michael Drake-Brockman:	Pickering Brook	0421 778 717
Carl Slusarczyk:	Mount Lawley	0480 188 875



Seaton's Flirt