

This newsletter together with our other publications will be placed on our website at -

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silver frosted appearance. Chemical control is not so easy. I have discovered that Dawson's Nursery can supply predatory mites through the mail within a few days of ordering. Once established they can give lasting control but are susceptible to some sprays used for other pests and diseases. Why not give it a try.

Forthcoming Events

December

Thursday 25th Christmas Day—Please enjoy

January

Monday 26th Australia Day— Have a cracker

February

- 1. General Meeting** Tuesday 10th at 1pm
Rotary Hall, Sandgate Street, South Perth
- 2. Committee Meeting** Tuesday 17th at 1pm
Rotary Hall, Sandgate Street, South Perth
- 3. Social Visit** Sunday 22nd at 1pm
Ralph and Liz Coombes
13 Bandin Place Maida Vale

March

Social Visit Sunday 22nd at 1pm
Roy and Anne Shilling

WAES Subscriptions

\$10 p.a. single, \$15 p.a. double

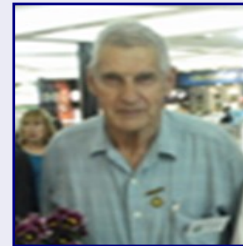
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NEWSLETTER of The Western Australian Chrysanthemum Society Inc.



DECEMBER 2014

President's Notes



Now that we are well into the season I hope that all your plants are growing strongly and you are getting excited for the year ahead. Unfortunately I was unable to attend the Distribution Day but I understand that there were some new faces there that we hope to see more of.

Planning is well underway for the show at Forrestfield Forum and Marketplace and we are hoping that it will be bigger and better than before, especially with the Australian Championship included this time. We are hoping to see as many of our members as possible taking part and also hoping that we can entice some visitors from interstate and overseas. Current indications are that we may be successful on both fronts.

The addition of the ANZAC Vase to the

schedule is a welcome development recognising the bonds we have with our New Zealand friends and complements the associations we already have with the UK in the form of the Wallace Brook Memorial Medal and the National Chrysanthemum Society medals currently presented to the pre-eminent exhibits. Our friends in Victoria are not to be forgotten either as we also have the Pockett Championship. When you consider that many of our exhibition, decorative and Spider blooms originated in Japan then it shows just how diverse and interesting our hobby really is.

Thank you to Roy and Anne Shilling and Ralph and Liz Coombes for agreeing to have us over for a social visit to their homes next year. All members are welcome and that includes new members. If you don't know many of us then these visits are the best way do change that and pick up a few ideas on growing as well. Don't forget to add the details to your diaries.

Keith Robinson

Australian Championship

OOPS This is not an acronym, rather an apology. The agreed schedule for the Australian Chrysanthemum Championship specifies an Exhibition Bloom as coming from Sections 1 or 2. Hence **my earlier advice that 3a blooms may be used as the exhibition bloom in WA is wrong.** The good news however is that they can be used as the decorative bloom! Interstate growers who are thinking of exhibiting in the Championship are advised to follow the Sections as they apply in their own state. For instance, Kokka Syozen is registered as section 5a in Victoria and so would be entered as the Decorative bloom. Growers from other states would exhibit it as the Exhibition bloom as it is section 1 in WA and Tasmania and section 2 in NSW and SA. If that seems confusing then bear in mind that if a Victorian grower brought over Kokka Syozen as a back-up Decorative bloom and then decided to enter it in the specimen classes of our WACS show it would have to be entered as a section 1 Exhibition bloom. In order to try and sort out some of these anomalies a sub-committee has been formed who will look into issues such as this and report back to the membership. Regardless of the above the Australian Championship only requires five blooms and all members are encouraged to enter.

ANZAC Memorial Vase

Under a reciprocal agreement with the Christchurch Chrysanthemum Circle (not the NZCS as formerly stated—oops again—darn) there will be a class at the WACS Show for five New Zealand bred blooms, not necessarily distinct and shown in one container. This is to commemorate the centenary of the 1915 Gallipoli landing and honour the strong bond that exists between our countries. The only varieties grown in WA that are known to originate in New Zealand are the Mechen and Cloverlea anemones. Anyone aware of other NZ varieties that are available or could be sourced are asked to let us know.

Potted Plants

The manager of the Forrestfield Forum and Marketplace has indicated that there is no prohibition with potted plants whether on the benches or on the ground at our show. This is a welcome change from the last few years at Belmont Forum. As such, members are encouraged to grow extra plants, of some of the shorter growing varieties especially, for general decorative purposes around the shopping centre displays. If these plants were available for sale to the public it would provide some much needed funds to offset the cost of the show now that we no longer receive the same level of sponsorship. In addition,

purchasers of these plants might be interested in growing them again the next season and so some new members might be forthcoming.

Cultural Notes

Hopefully your plants are off to a good start. Many growers aim to have their plants in the final pots during December. If yours are still on the small side consider planting two or three of the same cultivar into each bigger pot as they will be better able to withstand our hot and dry summers than if they are kept in smaller pots and overpotting is generally to be avoided.

If growing with the two stop method the first stop for most exhibition varieties should be made in the first half of December. For the rest this is mostly done in the second half of December. There is a bit of latitude available with the first stop as it is the second stop that is most important for the correct timing of the blooms. The second stop for exhibition blooms is generally made in the first week of January, around the 14th January for decoratives and the 21st January for the rest. Every cultivar, every season, every location and the date of every show is different however and so to hedge your bets you can stop each lateral at slightly different times to increase your chance of having a bloom at the optimum stage of development

for the show. This is not a good idea if you want to challenge for the Wallace Brook Memorial Medal as this requires five well matched blooms.

New growers often wonder how many shoots should be kept after each stop. If in doubt after the first stop the plant will give an indication of its capability by the number of strong shoots that it produces. The highest shoots will generally be the strongest to start with and due to apical dominance will also grow more strongly and so there is no point leaving any lower shoots of less vigour. The number of shoots retained after the second stop depends on how many blooms you want on the plant. That depends on the anticipated size of the blooms and the vigour of the plant. Once again any weak shoots should be removed.

If you are unlucky and some plants have gone to bud before the first stop then you will need to remove all growth below the level of any side shoot showing a bud and then hope for a vegetative shoot to emerge lower down. Sometimes even the lower shoots will run to bud but do not despair as a shoot may appear from below the soil line which can still give a good bloom. It is to be noted that Frank Blackwell's magnificent sprays at last year's show were grown from ground shoots with the original growth cut right out.

Watch out for pests. Red spider is a problem in hot dry conditions. They live under the leaves and gives them a