

This newsletter together with our other publications will be placed on our website at www.chrysanthemumwa.com



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Please send to Treasurer

NEWSLETTER of The Western Australian Chrysanthemum Society Inc.



MAY 2015

President's Notes



I hope that you are as excited as I am for what promises to be a very busy time for us all. By the time you read this our Australian Championship

Show will be less than a fortnight away and I hope that your blooms will be at their peak. This will be the seventh Aussie show in Perth with the first one held in 1985. Please pay attention to the important dates. In particular, note that the entry date for the Australian Championship is Friday 1st May. The State Show entries are on Sunday as usual.

Don't forget the Gosnells show on Saturday 2nd to Sunday 3rd May at the Addie Mills Centre, 2 Astley St Gosnells. If you have some extra blooms and enthusiasm then I am sure that will be appreciated.

Please keep in mind that on Thursday of show week we are having an informal

dinner to help celebrate the show and spend a little extra time with our overseas and interstate visitors. On Friday morning we have a bus tour planned and I am certain that will be an enjoyable day.

Our thanks once again go to our Show Secretary, Leila Blackwell, for obtaining the best deal for the Society with the new management of Forreestfield Forum, as well as all the usual chores that go with the job. We are looking at the options already for next year and hoping that we will then be able to stay put for a few years at least.

May this year marks the Fiftieth Anniversary of the formation of the Society. Current members, Ken May and Ian Blackwell, were part of the first management committee, so that is quite an achievement.

I hope to see you all soon. Remember that you only need five blooms for the Australian Championship and only one for Champion Bloom. You have to be in it to win it.

Keith Robinson

50th Anniversary Booklet

Work is progressing on this project and it is hoped that it will be printed in the second half of the year. Some contributions have been received and more are welcome.

CULTURAL NOTES

This could be the shortest note ever written as the show is upon us. Remember however that "there is many a slip between cup and lip".

Walk around your chrysie patch with a notebook a few days before the show and make a record of your show quality blooms. Perhaps give each one a mark out of ten or an ABC rating. **Mark the best pots for next years cuttings.** Then study the Schedule and plan your exhibits according to what you have. Remember that many of the Specimen Classes only need one bloom.

When picking blooms for the show make sure that the plants are well watered the day before and try to pick in the morning before there is any chance of wilting. Many growers suggest picking blooms a couple of days before the show. It is certain that you do not want to be doing it in a hurry.

Please note that we are very keen this year to ensure uniform heights of blooms on the showbench. The convention has been for the height to the top of the blooms to be 22 inches for all except anemones and pompons. We have gone metric so for this year it will be -

- ◆ 55cm for Sections 1, 3, 4, 5, 7 and 10 - (large bottles)
- ◆ 42cm for Section 6 - Anemones - (small bottles)
- ◆ 35cm for Section 8 - Pompons - (small bottles)
- ◆ Cuts and Sprays - there is no standard laid down as the height should be whatever looks most attractive relative to the length and take off points of the pedicels.

Old 22" and 17" measuring sticks are fine as the differences are minimal.

Pick the stems a little longer than needed, strip the leaves from the lower portion and crush or make a short vertical slit in the base of the stem so that there will be no problem taking up water. Insert the stems into a container of water making sure that it is wide enough so that it cannot tip over and deep enough so that the blooms cannot fall out. Remember that they are very top heavy. Keep the containers of blooms in a cool spot. Carefully remove any damaged florets.

Ideally the blooms should be held vertically, especially when trans-

porting to the show as bouncing around in the car might otherwise cause some asymmetry in the petal lay. Lengths of capped 20 - 25 cm agricultural pipe filled with water and attached to some supporting structure is the usual method employed.

Some exhibitors like to cut the stems to the correct length prior to the show and some like to do it at the venue. If adopting the second approach perhaps cut the stems to

correct length plus 2 or 3 cm and then it is an easy matter to take that set amount off each stem before putting it into the bottle at the show.

Remember to drive sedately and not too close to the vehicle in front.

After the show cut the plants down to about 30cm, clean up all dead leaves and collect up the stakes. Put the pots in a bright spot and water occasionally if there is no rain. Keep the snails away with some baits. Enjoy the break.

ENTRIES FOR THE SHOW

Australian Championship: Friday 1st May before 7.00pm Ph: Leila Blackwell 9534 8238

WACS entries: Sunday 4th May between 3.00pm and 7.00pm Ph: Leila Blackwell 9534 8238

SHOW TIMETABLE

5.30pm Monday - Set up trestles and fill bottles. Set up displays

5.30pm Tuesday - Exhibitors set up blooms.

9.00am Wednesday - Judges, stewards, runners, admin recording results.

9.00am Thursday - ACC Meeting at Woodlupine Community Centre, Meeting Room 3.

11.00am " Official Opening of Show and Presentation of ACC Trophy and ANZAC Memorial Vase Trophy outside Woolworths store

7.00pm " Dinner at Grill Restaurant, Wattle Grove Motel. \$35.00pp. for Visitors and Members

Please advise Leila Blackwell of numbers attending as soon as possible. Ph: 9534 8238

9.30am Friday Bus Tour for visitors and members leaves Forrestfield Forum.

3.30pm Saturday Pack up. Bunch flowers

4.00pm " Sale of flowers.

50th ANNIVERSARY PRESENTATION LUNCH at RAAFA BULLCREEK

Tuesday 19th May 2015 at 11.30am for 12.00 noon. 3 Course meal \$25.00pp.

Please advise Leila Blackwell of numbers attending by end of show week.