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Newsletter Circulation:

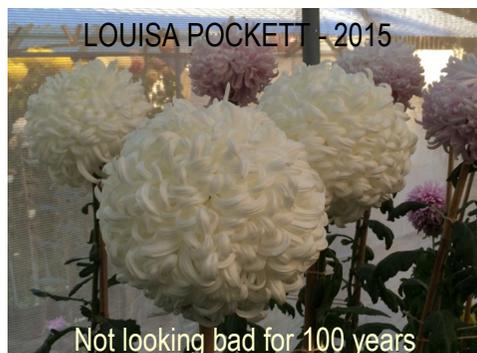
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Upcoming Events

October 2015

Distribution Day

2pm Saturday 24th October

Rotary Hall, Sandgate St South Perth

November 2015

General Meeting

12 noon Tuesday 10th November

Committee Meeting

12 noon Tuesday 17th November

Rotary Hall, Sandgate St South Perth

Please remember a good supply of plants is needed to make the Distribution Day a success.

WAES Subscriptions

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

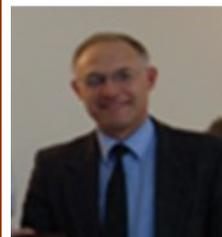
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4

NEWSLETTER of The Western Australian Chrysanthemum Society Inc.

October 2015

President's Notes



Greetings to you all in what is my first President's Notes.

There have been several changes in the management team this year and special thanks to Richard Williams and Michael Drake-Brockman for taking on the roles of Vice President and Secretary respectively. In addition, Ron Atyeo will be taking over from me as the Newsletter Editor. While it is always nice to have new faces around I would like to thank Keith Robinson and Frank and Leila Blackwell who have retired from their major roles. They, in association with our continuing Office Bearers have provided the strong leadership and efficient service that has helped to keep the Society prospering.

In respect of my Presidency, I have a

few ideas, but basically the Society is in pretty good shape so you can all relax as there will not be too many newfangled ideas despite the "generational change".

Forrestfield Forum was very happy with our show this year but due to refurbishments cannot commit at this stage to holding the show this year, despite being keen to do so should they be able. The situation will be clear around February, but that might be too late to find an alternative venue if needed. A number of suggestions have been investigated, nearly all without success, so the choices are quickly narrowing down.

Work on the Fiftieth Anniversary Booklet is progressing with some further material sent to me this week. A few suggested dates for the launch have come and gone but rest assured, it will definitely be available sometime prior to the Centenary.

I am hoping that your cuttings are well

rooted and growing into sturdy little plants. Any spares are appreciated for the Distribution Day. I have noted that some varieties are not as widely grown as you would expect from their floral quality and the reason why is generally apparent at this time of the year when I am throwing away cuttings that have failed to root. "Such is Life." I hope to see you all at the Distribution Day and remember to "bring a plate", so even if you don't get the cuttings you were after you will be sure to have something to eat that you like, and at no charge!

May beauty surround you, and what finer May beauty is there than our beloved chrysanthemums.

Carl Stasarchyk

Cultural Notes

Interesting to see in the 'Presidents Notes' a comment about the degree of difficulty with some cultivars in getting them to strike readily. I can vouch for the fact that some cultivars, even in 2015, resist every attempt I make to get them to strike first time up along with all the rest that by now are well away. If I had the answer to this problem I would be far less frustrated with the outcome of my cuttings and would avoid the need to follow-up with more batches of the difficult ones.

I have always had some difficult ones,

that's nothing new. In addition I always had a problem with what appeared to be a calcification residue up the stem to the leaf stem and down the spine of the leaf. Eventually a number of them would strike and the centre shoot would come away normally but too many failed. When I was up at Ron Atyeo's last week we were looking at a similar problem with some of his. Unfortunately I could not recommend a remedy (fungicides, insecticides, mixes etc.) as all my attempts to identify the cause in the past failed.

For those of you who were around in 2012 you could cast your mind back to the Nov/Dec Newsletter and recall that I was trialling a different system based on the mix that Steve Thomas used. This was essentially 70% buffered coco coir and 30% perlite. So what was the outcome?

In 2013/14 season I used this mix for all my cuttings with a fantastic result except for one cultivar 'Lady Knox'. This cultivar failed totally without any apparent reason. I do not have this calcification type problem any more since I changed to the hydroponic mix and my stock plants are now under cover and kept dry other than normal watering.

I mention this as some years ago I was talking to Ray Nelson and he found that there was a significant difference in success or failure depending on whether the cuttings were from plants in the shade house (or shed as he called

it) or outside in the garden and when you took the cuttings from stock in these different locations. He found there was no problem taking cuttings early from the shade house but he had to leave those outside in the garden till later.

Does the season make a difference? That's probably a no brainer as we only have to look around in nature to answer in the affirmative. This year I used exactly the same system as 2013/14 season with quite different results and yes 'Lady Knox' failed again. I could handle that but a number of others were also problematic. Coronation Pink, Louisa Pockett, Barcelona, Beryl Haycocks, Green Goddess, Snowball, Cover Girl, Thomas Paterson to name the worst. Do some cultivars react to the hormone powder we use, I used a different one this year, or the type of mix?

Well, I am conducting some more trials with different mixes, different size pots and taking different batches of the same cultivar at different times etc. Maybe I will get lucky and discover the sensitivities of these difficult cultivars.



Mix 1 is Bailey's Premium Mix, Mix 3 is the Hydroponic mix (Coco coir & Perlite) and Mix 2 is 70% Mix 1 and 30% Mix 3.

Some different size pots including the small tubes, 2 inch tubes & 3 inch round and square pots.



Note that both the small tube and the 2" square tubes fit into the 2" x 2" grid.

Now if you want to get a little bit more progressive have a look at the following picture from Ron Atyeo. Cuttings rooted in water in 10 days?



Just thought I would give you some food for thought!!

Don't forget to prepare those pots for 'Distribution Day' something from each classification if you can spare them, I know Carl is keen to have a good range of cultivars available particularly for our newer growers.

Ian Blackwell