



NEWSLETTER September – October 2017

President's Notes

Welcome to the new season. We have had our AGM and all necessary official positions have been filled which will enable the Society to run smoothly. Thanks to those members who have committed to these important roles. Other members who have no official position are also thanked for their lower key contributions to the Society.

At the AGM we reached agreement for the introduction of a new Section 2 (Medium Exhibition), to bring us in to line with eastern states, and for the elimination of the a and b subdivisions for the Decorative Sections (3, 4 and 5). Changes to the State A Championship requirements are now necessary and once we have approval from the Horticultural Council I will make an official notification in the Newsletter and change the Show Schedule.

Assuming the WAHC approval the new requirement for the State A Championship will be:

6 Exhibition blooms (4 distinct) from Sections 1 and 2 only and 6 Decorative blooms (4 distinct) from Section 3, 4 and 5 only.

An audit of entries at recent shows demonstrates that 3a blooms are very seldom included in the Exhibition component of the State A Championship and many of the Decorative Bloom Specimen Classes had no entries and others had mostly one or two entries only, so the amalgamation of a and b sub-sections should not create too much angst.

A highlight of the meeting was the presentation of an Australian Chrysanthemum Council Distinguished and Meritorious Service Award to Leila Blackwell. It was well deserved and an honour for me to be able to present it.

The Committee will soon be meeting to map out the agenda for the coming year. The Distribution Day is already set for Sunday 22 October. Two home visits are planned for March and April. The Show will as usual be held in the week before Mother's Day. This year that will be from Thursday 10th to Saturday 12th May 2018 at Forrestfield.

Following the success of Ron Atyeo's trials some other members will be experimenting with the use of Paclobutrazol, a dwarfing agent, which should be helpful in reducing the height of some tall cultivars as well as allowing the production of Fukusuke plants for the show. We also hope to use it to produce more compact plants for our plant sales at the February WAHC Fair and Annual Show. More on this will be discussed at the Distribution Day. Bear in mind, if you are intending to use it, that like anything new it is advisable to conduct a limited trial in the first year to ensure that there are no surprises under your own particular conditions.

Once again I remind newer members of our mentorship scheme. Why spend a whole season learning from your mistakes when you can learn from someone else's and have a good chance of a satisfying result straight away. Don't be shy, I for one do not bite and neither does my dog. Louis the dog has already taken advantage of my mentorship and is now adept at first and second stops, digging planting holes, the application of solid and liquid fertilisers and the introduction of a fun new quiz – "Guess the cultivar" by removing labels from pots. (man's best friend)

Don't forget our Facebook page and website. They are already very worthwhile resources and will continue to evolve to be even better. Comments can be added to the Facebook page by any of our members. Please post anything

that may be of interest to others. Don't forget to like our Facebook page and the various postings as that increases the likelihood of web-surfers finding us. Our website has a number of useful resources including our Chrysanthemum cultural guide and Register of Cultivars.

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Cultural Matters – Please also refer to the Cultural Guide on our website

There are two main ways of propagating chrysanthemums. Tip cuttings are without roots and are taken from the end of the newly emerging shoots. Stool cuttings are the new shoots with a small amount of the underground stem with some roots attached. Tip cuttings will generally give better blooms but may fail to root. The failure rate for stool cuttings is very low. Cuttings can be taken at any time prior to the New Year and still produce reasonable results. Cuttings rooted in August and September are mostly grown “second crown”, meaning that the growing tip is pinched off twice, usually in early December and again in January. Those rooted in November or December should be grown “first crown” meaning that they are only pinched once. For those wanting the largest blooms an early rooting date is advised in order to grow a large plant. Smaller bloom types can succeed on a later rooted small plant as long as the number of blooms is reduced. If you are intending growing some potted plants for sale at the Show or for Mother's Day gifts then plants can be rooted even after New Year and grown “straight up” without stopping. Whichever way you grow them watch out for fungal and pest attack. This can mostly be prevented by dipping your cuttings in a pesticide/fungicide mixture prior to planting. Please remember to wear gloves.

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Mentors

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Forthcoming Events

Distribution Day - Sunday 22 October at 2 pm in the South Perth Rotary Hall - set up from 1.30 pm
 General Meeting – Tuesday 7th November at 12 noon in the South Perth Rotary Hall
 Committee Meeting – Tuesday 14th November at 12 noon in the South Perth Rotary Hall

Website

www.chrysanthemumwa.com

Facebook Page

Western Australian Chrysanthemum Society www.facebook.com/groups/chrysanthemumwa