

# Western Australian Chrysanthemum Society Incorporated



## Newsletter

November – December 2021

### President's Notes

Welcome to the first edition of the Newsletter entirely devoted to the 2021 -2 growing season. My friend Paul keeps reminding me that life is not a rehearsal, so be sure to make the most of the season ahead. What better way to spend it than growing chrysies, especially when you can't go travelling.

"As I sit at my desk", channelling Ita Buttrose and Nene King and preparing my impromptu remarks à la Winston Churchill, the Distribution Day activities have concluded. Overall, the day went well despite a much reduced number of cuttings being available compared to most previous years. "It must be the weather", as a number of growers seem to have had problems with their propagating program. Maybe they didn't pay enough attention to the Cultural Notes in the last edition. On the other hand, I had a lot of problems and I normally write the Notes! Perhaps that is the reason why other growers are having problems? You know the story: Expert (noun) - a "spurt" is a drip under pressure, so, an "expert" is a has-been drip under pressure.

I have been re-elected President, unopposed, for another year. So, don't blame me, I would have voted for the other guy. In respect of the other management positions, the incumbents were all re-elected unopposed as well. So thanks for the votes of confidence.

Ron Seaton has released some of his new cultivars via Facebook. I saw a few of them in flower and they showed some promise and I hope to see blooms from some of them at the show.

The next General Meeting is in November, followed by meetings in February and April. The Committee will be meeting again in November as well to finalise the plans for the season ahead, but after more than fifty years of successful operation you can pretty much expect more of the same, unless someone has a "eureka moment" accompanied by rapturous screams of delight and acclamation from the assembled multitudes. In the absence of that improbability you can look forward to a couple of home opens in autumn and the annual floral extravaganza in the week leading up to Mothers' Day. What more could you want?

## Cultural Notes

In view of President's remarks about cultural advice I have fossicked out some notes written by a far more experienced grower than me. I have decided not to name him here as he is the shy retiring type (OK, well, he is retired) and has, like most of the rest of us, probably changed his growing methods a dozen times since he wrote these notes without any discernible improvement in results. Moral of the story: do not overlook mature advice, and please also consult our WACS cultural booklet available on our website at [chrysanthemumwa.com](http://chrysanthemumwa.com)

So, without further ado -

From mid October it is time to pot on into 130mm pots. That is about 6 weeks from taking cuttings under the time frame for preparing cuttings for Distribution Day. I think most growers now days pot on into Baileys Premium Potting Mix saving them the hassle of preparing their own. As with the John Innes system in U.K. you may care to put a little more fertiliser in the mix for 130mm pots but I can assure you that I have successfully potted on without doing this. This success is predicated on the fact that you do not let them run out of food either by giving say a half strength liquid feed if you think this is necessary or by ensuring they are potted on into final pots within a further 6 week period. This brings you to the end of November or beginning of December. Again when potting on to 250mm pots you will need to provide additional fertiliser in the mix. This is usually blood and bone + K and slow release fertiliser and make absolutely sure the pH is in the right range to start with, say 6.8 to 7. Remember, on a pH scale of 1 to 14, 7 is neutral and the fertilisers we use will certainly bring it down. You do not need to put in more fertiliser than is required to keep them going until you start your regular feeding program. This should be in place by the time the plants have been in their final pots for 3 to 4 weeks. Ideally I try to have them in their final pots by the time I take the first break. Exhibition cultivars I do the first stop around the beginning of December and Decoratives and fancy cultivars by mid December. To give yourself a fair chance all of this should be done and dusted well before Christmas.

From this stage on you need to be vigilant when it comes to pests. The first break you may get away with a bit of slippage but the second break is more crucial. So make sure you keep up with your spraying to ensure you don't lose any of the growing tips before you take the second break in accordance with your stopping dates for each cultivar.

Once the plants are in their final pots staking becomes an ongoing job. During the first few weeks in their final pots they will settle down and establish a good root system. To do this they will exhaust most of the fertiliser in the pot and if not fed will begin to reflect this in the colour of the leaves and growth. Hence I have recommended a feeding regime begin approximately 3 to 4 weeks after final potting. Most reputable fertiliser products can be used successfully both solids and liquids. There is no hard and fast rule to the types of fertiliser you use either solid or liquid or alternate use of each. It is a given that you keep your pots in balance both with regard to fertiliser, salt build up and the pH of the mix.

Chrysanthemums like routine and don't like to be messed around or neglected. They like to be progressing forward all the time, waxing and waning won't help your cause. The number one rule is to grow only as many as you can give proper attention to, and no more.

A high success rate is what we should be aiming at and all the stages during the year should be approached with this in mind. You want the best results from all the hard work during the year.



You're going to need a bigger shovel.

## Taxonomy

There has been a fair bit of commentary on taxonomists in earlier editions of the Newsletter so, to validate their suffering, I am sure that you will be keen to know the full taxonomical identity of our favourite flower.

Domain: *Eukaryota*

Kingdom: *Plantae*

Phylum: *Spermatophyta*

Subphylum: *Angiospermae*

Class: *Dicotyledonae*

Order: *Asterales*

Family: *Asteraceae*

Genus: *Chrysanthemum*

Species: *x morifolium*

## Pestilence

Did I mention that chrysanthemums are seemingly subject to every pest and disease known to horticultural science?

Well, according to CABI (Centre for Agriculture and Bioscience International), these rotters and buggers are known to afflict chrysanthemums.

*Major host of:*

*Autographa gamma* (silver-Y moth); *Frankliniella intonsa* (thrips, flower); *Homona magnanima* (oriental tea tortrix); *Omiodes indicata* (soyabean webworm); *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *syringae* (bacterial canker or blast (stone and pome fruits)); *Rhodococcus fascians* (fasciation: leafy gall); *Spodoptera littoralis* (cotton leafworm); *Thrips nigropilosus* (chrysanthemum thrips)

*Minor host of:*

*Bemisia tabaci* (tobacco whitefly); *Biston suppressaria* (tea looper); *Ceroplastes floridensis* (soft scale); *Chrysodeixis chalcites* (golden twin-spot moth); *Frankliniella occidentalis* (western flower thrips); *Glomerella cingulata* (anthracnose); *Gonipterus gibberus* (snout beetle, eucalyptus); *Homona coffearia* (tea tortrix); *Liriomyza trifolii* (American serpentine leafminer); *Myzus persicae* (green peach aphid); *Pratylenchus penetrans* (nematode, northern root lesion); *Pseudomonas viridiflava* (bacterial leaf blight of tomato); *Spodoptera albula* (Costa Rican armyworm); *Spodoptera exigua* (beet armyworm); *Tetranychus cinnabarinus* (carmine spider mite); *Tetranychus neocaledonicus* (spider mite); *Tetranychus urticae* (two-spotted spider mite); *Verticillium dahliae* (verticillium wilt)

*Host of (source - data mining):*

*Aleurodicus dispersus* (whitefly); *Brevipalpus obovatus* (scarlet tea mite); *Puccinia horiana* (white rust of chrysanthemum); *Tomato aspermy virus*

You have been warned!

## Gastronomic Highlight

Recalling the President's remarks about experts, I found this on an internet news service. It is the result of in-depth research into –

*"How to Make the Perfect Egg and Fingers".*

- *Boil the egg for exactly 4 minutes and 15 seconds*
- *Plunge the egg in cold water for 57 seconds*
- *Toast white bread for exactly 2 minutes and 55 seconds, before buttering*
- *Cut the toast into 0.8 inch (2.1cm) wide soldiers*
- *Cut the egg from the small end and lightly salt before serving.*

## A Message from the Show Secretary

Mea culpa; peccavi; Domine miserere mei (accompanied by breast beating)

### Editor's Notes

The Show Secretary's apology above is noted. Readers of his contribution in the last edition of the Newsletter will be aware that he has quite possibly offended at least half the world's population in his rather pathetic attempt at humour. Thankfully, informal discussions have revealed that almost nobody bothered to read it, so no harm done. Nevertheless, I present here, for your interest and edification the more complete version of his plagiarised apology, together with a translation for the benefit of non-latinophiles.

Confiteor Deo omnipotenti  
et vobis, fratres,  
quia peccavi nimis  
cogitatione, verbo,  
opere et omissione:  
mea culpa, mea culpa,  
mea maxima culpa.  
Ideo precor beatam Mariam semper virginem,  
omnes angelos et sanctos,  
et vos, fratres,  
orare pro me ad Dominum Deum nostrum.

I confess to almighty God  
and to you, my brothers [and sisters],  
that I have greatly sinned,  
in my thoughts and in my words,  
in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,  
through my fault, through my fault,  
through my most grievous fault;  
therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,  
all the Angels and Saints,  
and you, my brothers [and sisters],  
to pray for me to the Lord our God.

The President has kindly informed me that this unsatisfactory state of affairs is actually all my fault, as the editor has full control of and responsibility for what is published in the Newsletter. In consequence I may choose to omit the President's Notes from the next edition and I offer my apologies to the following –

- Office bearers and members of the Western Australian Chrysanthemum Society Inc. (excluding the Show Secretary)
- Readers of Western Australian Chrysanthemum Society Inc. newsletters
- Entomologists
- Indigenous peoples of South America, especially Amazonian tribesmen and women (tribespeople/persons).
- US Border Force Officers
- Taxonomists
- Etymologists
- George Bernard Shaw and Richard Georg Strauss, their descendants and all those who hold their works in high esteem

- Zoroastrians
- Latin scholars
- Ancient Romans and their descendants
- Caledonians
- Phylogeneticists
- Brazilian public servants
- O Presidente do Brasil
- Eco-tourists, especially high net worth travellers from North America
- Amazonian rain forest timber companies and their employees
- Comissários Parlamentares Brasileiros (English: Brazilian Parliamentary Commissioners)
- The Director and staff of the Museu Nacional do Brasil
- Northern Hemisphere dignitaries
- VIPs from around the world
- Porcos
- The highest echelons of Brazilian society
- Parentes e amigos de vítimas da epidemia brasileira de coronavirus
- The Director and staff of the British Natural History Museum
- The Mayor of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea
- The people of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, especially “Sloane Rangers” and Instagrammers
- The beauticians of Brazil
- The residents of Santo Antônio do Içá and surrounding regions
- Current and former residents and staff of Kensington Palace
- English noblemen and women, whether hereditary, by grant, purchased through the internet or otherwise
- VVIPs
- The British Broadcasting Corporation, creator and copyright owner of the Black and White Minstrel Show
- Americans of black African heritage
- Her Gracious Majesty
- Courtiers and “household staff”
- Non-working royals
- Phenotypically pheomelanin dominant people; being those with hair colour ranging from deep burgundy or bright copper, or auburn, to burnt orange or red-orange to strawberry blond
- Indigenous peoples of North America
- Royal Societies and their past and present members
- Hosts of Halloween parties in the United States
- Patrons of online gambling sites, especially those punters man enough to admit that they like flowers
- All those named or referred to as Lilibet or Lizzie
- Users of online dating sites, especially those users who are socially responsible
- All those with “sex” in their name
- Proprietary Limited companies
- Dutch firms and people with a double K in their name
- Members of the legal profession
- Proprietors, editors, staff and readers of tabloid newspapers
- Funeral directors
- Residents of Southern California
- Owners and manufacturers of tandem prams
- Friends of Ocean Action and other marine protection organisations and their supporters
- All those named or referred to as Henry, Hazza, Meg, Arch, Andy, Ann or Meg-Ann
- Bangladeshi and Xinjiang textile and clothing factory owners
- Those who would be if they could be
- Users of social media site Weibo
- 椅子人平

- All those named or referred to as “The Pinger”
- Residents of Dumbarton
- The Duke of Norfolk
- Social media influencers
- Agricultural scientists, other than those associated with the introduction of the South American Cane Toad, *Rhinella marina*, into Australia (however well intentioned)
- Juveniles
- All those named or referred to as “Son of Consolation”
- Deputy Prime-Ministers both past and present
- Members and supporters of the party formerly known as Country
- Yobbos and yokels
- Sco-Mo
- Lab assistants
- Consumers of organic, biodynamic and/or paleo foodstuffs
- Civil rights activists
- Drs Dubrow and Nassif
- Prime-Ministerial media advisors
- Chrysanthemum growers
- 1948 Nobel Prize winning Swiss chemist Paul Hermann Müller, the discoverer of DDT’s insecticidal properties and his descendants
- Conspiracy theorists
- Residents of the United Kingdom, especially Shetland Islanders

and, in respect of my own Notes -

- Musicians
- Ancient Greeks
- “Rob”
- David Attenborough
- Women
- Men
- Tenured professors
- Young people, regardless of whether or not they still know how to have a good time

I have given many musical recommendations in past editions of the Newsletter. I am aware that not all readers have found the recommendations to be to their satisfaction and, in addition, almost everything is capable of causing offence. I have found the following musical numbers played on a theramin. The theramin is a musical instrument invented by Russian physicist Leon Theramin and it is played entirely without the need to touch it. So, apart from the possible complaint of invasion of the instrument’s personal space and a small chance of causing offence to sign language cognoscenti these numbers should be acceptable to all.

KATICA ILLÉNYI theremin - Only You <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AuV4XiCTgn8>

KATICA ILLÉNYI - Once Upon a Time in the West <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IY7sXKGZl2w>

Katica Illenyi is also an accomplished violinist, singer and dancer. Here she is playing the violin.

KATICA ILLÉNYI - Thais Meditation [KATICA ILLÉNYI - Thais Meditation - YouTube](#)

No animals were harmed during the making of these video clips.

Thank you and good-bye.



## Mentors

**Ian Blackwell** – Kelmscott 0424 432 608  
**Ralph Coombes** – Maida Vale 9454 3373  
**Michael Drake-Brockman** – Pickering Brook 9293 7650  
**Carl Slusarczyk** – Mount Lawley 9272 1356  
**Richard Williams** – Inglewood 0439 103 500

## Chrysanthemum Culture in Western Australia

... a booklet written by Ted Elms. (do not overlook mature advice)

<https://www.chrysanthemumwa.com/chrysanthemum-culture-wa.html>

## Contacts

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## Forthcoming Events

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2021 - **General Meeting**  
12 noon John McGrath Pavilion, Hensman Rd South Perth

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2022 - **General Meeting**  
12 noon John McGrath Pavilion, Hensman Rd South Perth

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2022 - **Social Day**  
1.30 pm Carl and Lina Slusarczyk's home  
6 Regent St, West Mount Lawley

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2022 - **Social Day**  
1.30 pm Michael and Judy Drake-Brockman's home  
136 Merrivale Rd, Pickering Brook

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2022 - **General Meeting**  
12 noon John McGrath Pavilion, Hensman Rd South Perth

## Website

[www.chrysanthemumwa.com](http://www.chrysanthemumwa.com)

## Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/chrysanthem>

