

AUSTRALIAN CHRYSANTHEMUM COUNCIL

PRESENTS

THE 2020 VIRTUAL CHRYSANTHEMUM SHOW



Dear exhibitors and friends,

Thank you for your interest and hopefully participation in this new venture.

The Covid 19 outbreak has been a very unfortunate experience for everybody and of course we here in Australia have probably had it easier than anywhere else in the world.

Naturally all of our chrysanthemum shows were cancelled and for those who like the camaraderie, visual spectacle and friendly competition that these shows provide will have been greatly disappointed. We here in Western Australia were very excited about hosting our five yearly Australian Championship and the cancellation so late into the season caused many to be particularly dismayed.

Thankfully, the Bendigo Goldfields Chrysanthemum Club, ably led in this enterprise by John and Sue Morvell, came up with the bright idea of running a photographic “virtual” show. They are to be commended for offering to open the show to members of other ACC affiliated groups. After consultation with the office bearers of these groups and receiving positive and helpful feedback, especially from Guy Rischmueller of the Victorian Society, all systems were go.

The Morvells unfortunately were left with most of the work but they took to the task with enthusiasm and stoic enterprise, like all Show Secretaries do, organising all the details and collating the entries.

Their efforts have been well rewarded by the receipt of entries from more exhibitors than for probably any show in recent memory. Every class was well supported and highly competitive. The quality of many blooms was of the highest order.

It seems that our restrictions will soon be eased and barring any second wave our lives can return to sufficient normality that real flower shows can resume. Whether or not we should have a virtual show in a normal year will be a topic for further conversation. Regardless of that discussion this show has proven the value of the Australian Chrysanthemum Council in enabling us to enhance the enjoyment of our pastime. With the declining number of active growers in Australia we need now, more than ever, to stay connected. Remember, we are all in this together.

This show has been a great success and I offer my sincere congratulations to everyone who has been involved.

Carl Slusarczyk (ACCPresident)



Large Exhibition
"Kings Pleasure"
Exhibitor: Ken Stent



Medium Exhibition
"Seiko Ukon"
Exhibitor: Graeme Cain



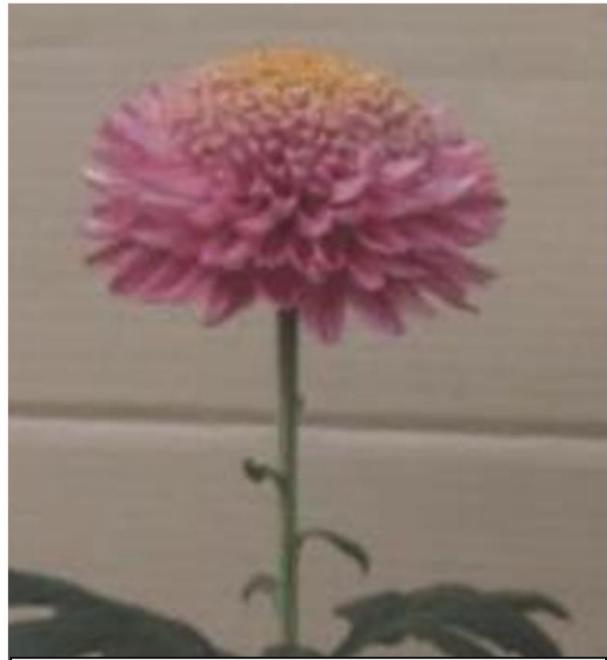
Incurved Decorative
"Alison McNamara"
Exhibitor: Jim Fletcher



Reflex Decorative
:Primrose West Bromwich:
Exhibitor: Graeme Cain



Intermediate Decorative
"Harold Lawson"
Exhibitor: Jim Fletcher



Anemone
"Edith Mechen"
Exhibitor: Michael Drake Brockman



Single
"Dorothy"
Exhibitor: Jim Fletcher



Spider or Quill
"Dusky Queen"
Exhibitor: John Morvell



Unclassified Bloom (Year 1)
"Drouin Red Wheel"
Exhibitor: Guy Rischmeuller



Unclassified Bloom (Year 2)
Drouin Cartwheel
Exhibitor: Guy Rischmeuller



Vase of 3 Blooms
"Pink Fairy"
Exhibitor: Graeme Cain



Vase of 3 Sprays
"Yellow Ryski"
Exhibitor: Michael Drake-Brockman

Intermediate



Large Exhibition
"Jane Sharp"
Exhibitor: Jerry Platt



Medium Exhibition
"Mt Shasta"
Exhibitor: Jerry Platt



Incurved Decorative
"Luna"
Exhibitor: Sue Morvell



Reflex Decorative
"Primrose West Bromwich"
Exhibitor: Sue Morvell

Intermediate



Intermediate Decorative
"Red Mary Elizabeth"
Exhibitor Soo Tan:



Anemone
"Cloverlea Glow"
Exhibitor: Soo Tan



Single
"Gladeye"
Exhibitor: Jerry Platt



Spider or Quill
"Stoakes Cinnamon"
Exhibitor: Sue Morvell

Intermediate



Vase of 3 Blooms
"Pearl Mundial"
Exhibitor: Sue Morvell



Vase of 3 stems of Spray
"Pink Picardy"
Exhibitor: Sue Morvell

Novice

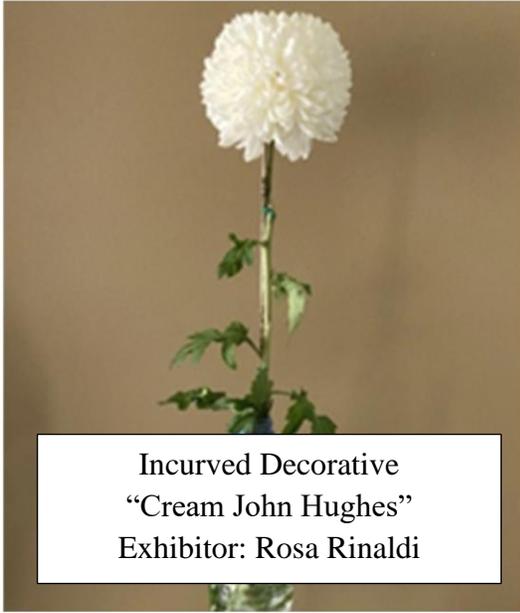


Large Exhibition
"Pink Turner"
Exhibitor: Rex Hall



Medium Exhibition
"Mt Shasta"
Exhibitor: Rosa Rinaldi

Novice



Incurved Decorative
"Cream John Hughes"
Exhibitor: Rosa Rinaldi



Intermediate Decorative
"Resiliant"
Rex Hall



Anemome
"Stoakes Big Boy"
Exhibitor: Rex Hall



Single
"Dorothy"
Exhibitor: Rex Hall

Novice



Spider or Quill
"Seatons Lace"
Exhibitor: Maxine Cole



Vase of 3 Blooms
"Purple Mundial"
Exhibitor: Rosa Rinaldi

Judges Feedback

Having offered my services to judge the show, in a spirit of cooperation and sharing the load, I had not anticipated that it would prove to be as difficult an exercise as it turned out to be. I judged the Open Sections. The quality of the exhibits overall was very good and some exceptional blooms were seen. Each competitive class had multiple entries and in many cases more entries than would have been seen in similar classes at any Australian show of recent times. The exhibitors are to be commended for their efforts.

Judging a real show is quite a bit easier as the blooms can be turned to every angle and every aspect can be clearly seen. That is not the case with a photographic show where, for practical purposes, a limited number of images can be submitted. In addition, the quality of each exhibitor's photographic equipment and skills, the lighting and the digital resolution of the photograph adds to the problems. The large file size of a multi-entry class also dictates that the resolution of the images is reduced such that in this case they could not be sufficiently enlarged to see the finer details.

Further problems arise when the images are not directly comparable due to varying interpretations of what the meanings of frontal, top and basal views really are. The use of an A4 sheet under the container was a splendid idea to allow estimation of bloom size but unless the bloom and paper are at the same distance from the camera the size comparison is by very rough estimate only and when only part of the sheet is included in photographs it is impossible to estimate.

Apart from the problems with a photographic show there are also general problems with an Australia wide show related to bloom size and colour, and to a lesser extent form, given that the potential of each cultivar is often in different when grown in dissimilar areas. I am sure that this issue has been wrestled with by judges since the first Australian Championship. I have only judged one Australian Championship which is no great recommendation, although I have discussed these issues on many occasions with other Western Australian judges with good experience. I have formed a strategy to deal with the issues so that the decisions I have made are not as arbitrary as some observers may conclude.

In a real show the judge can always say that the bloom looked better yesterday when it was judged but that is not the case with a photographic show when anybody can look at the images and form their own opinion. In this case I have compounded my vulnerability by publishing the reasons for my decisions. The adage "it is better to keep your mouth shut and be thought a fool than to open it and remove all doubt" should perhaps have been my guidepost. However, I recognise that exhibitors have gone to a lot of trouble submitting their entries and I wish to pay them the respect that they deserve by giving feedback that they ordinarily may have received from a gentle enquiry after the completion of judging.

We, in WA, are currently in the process of training new judges and as the trainees have missed the opportunity to develop their skills by observing the judges in action at a real show this year they can make use of these photos as a substitute. My comments may assist them and other judges are welcome to lead discussions and provide their own opinions.

If there is to be a repeat of this show then some tweaking is in order.



1. There should be standardisation of bloom heights and containers. I recommend the use of a flat bottomed wine bottle for specimen blooms as it is a good height and easily obtained. If a variety of containers is preferred then there should be a uniform distance between the top of the container and the top of the bloom. The stipulated distance can vary depending on the Section of the class. In WA we do use wine bottles for our show blooms and stipulate 55cm to the top of the bloom for all Sections except Anemones which is 42cm and Pompones which is 35cm. The Tasmanians may prefer those heights to be 10-15cm greater, which is fine by me!
2. There needs to be a reliable method of determining bloom size. I have one suggestion and that is that a light weight object of known size be placed on top of the bloom in one photograph. In the photos that follow I have used the top of a plastic milk container which is also easily obtained and I believe is of standard size around Australia. If an exhibitor was concerned that that may damage their bloom they can always take that photograph last.
3. There should be one shot of the bloom taken from a normal viewing angle. That is, looking down at about 30 degrees.
4. The front, top and basal photographs should be just that. The frontal shot should be taken from a horizontal position aimed at the centre of the bloom. The top view should have the centre of the bloom in the middle with the rest of the top symmetrically surrounding it, regardless of whether the bloom is straight or not. This can be achieved by placing the vase on the floor and looking downwards which is an angle a judge will often use. The basal view is the least valuable but necessary to see if the basal florets are tired or damaged.
5. A ruling needs to be made regarding staking of blooms. It is unfair to have some staked and others not. If staking is allowed then a decision can also be made as to whether a straight stemmed un-staked bloom should be given preference.
6. The bloom name card need only be placed in one photograph and for preference the one showing the general view and the size indicator.
7. It would be helpful to devise a method to send images to the judge(s) at a higher resolution so that a closer inspection could be made if necessary.
8. If there were any kudos for the winners or prizes then it would be preferable to have more than one judge from more than one state examining the entries.

I have provided some sample images on the next page.

General views with and without the card and measuring device.



front view



basal view



top view

I hope that all exhibitors will have found this to be a worthwhile exercise and will not be too dissatisfied with the results. I think that it has been a really valuable experience on many levels. Whether or not organisers and exhibitors will have the time and enthusiasm to be bothered with this in a normal year when they have a lot of work preparing for their own club show is a topic for discussion.

Enjoy your time in the offseason and hopefully we can get back to some semblance of normality very soon.

Best wishes to you all

Carl Slusarczyk