



NEWSLETTER January – February 2019

President's Notes

I hope that you all had a relaxing Christmas and are looking forward to the new year with enthusiasm.

All seems to be in order for our forthcoming show at Hawaiian Forrestfield. The Show Schedule will shortly be finalised and available for download from our website. It is basically unchanged from the 2018 show.

Once again I remind exhibitors of the State A requirements which are now -

6 Exhibition Blooms, 4 distinct - Sections 1 & 2, staged singly.

6 Decorative Blooms, 4 distinct - Sections 3, 4, 5, staged singly.

Another thing to remember is that in addition to the reclassification of many former Section 1 cultivars to Section 2, some of the Decorative cultivars have also been reclassified. The most relevant are Connie Mayhew, which is now Section 2, and Stoakes Mystic, which is now Section 5 but can also be shown in classes for Section 3 if grown to true incurved form.

As first announced at the Distribution Day we have a new perpetual trophy for the Best Formal Decorative Vase or Bowl named in honour of Ken and Gladys May. The Society's perpetual trophies are now -

State Chrysanthemum Championship Division A

State Chrysanthemum Championship Division B

Reverend Blackwell Trophy (WACS Section 1 Championship)

Wallace Brook Memorial Medal (vase of five blooms of one cultivar)

ANZAC Memorial Vase (Vase of five blooms of New Zealand origin)

Ken and Gladys May Trophy

and they will all look better with your names on them.

As in 2018 we will have a catered Presentation Luncheon following the show. It will be held at the John McGrath Pavillion in South Perth (our current meeting room) on 28th May 2019 at 12 noon.

The Society has decided to re-introduced prize money for show entries. A return to positive cash flow after several years of red ink has allowed us to now give a bit more encouragement to exhibitors. The improvement in finances is the direct result of our sale of plants at the two Horticultural Council's Garden Clubs' Fairs. Michael Drake-Brockman has been the major driver of our involvement in these ventures and deserves our appreciation. Of course it could not happen without many members providing sale plants and personpower for the set ups on the Fridays and personing the stall over the weekends.

On another note, mature reflection upon the philosophical underpinnings of the popular groundswell clamouring for the greater usage of gender neutral language has obliged me to give the Editor a stern talking-to in respect of his besmirchment of the exemplary and hard earned reputation of this venerable Society by his inclusion of a stereotypical and otherwise culturally insensitive gastronomic offering in the last edition of this formerly esteemed periodical. I have his assurance that an obsequious and grovelling but nonetheless sincere apology commensurate with the degree of his remorse shall be shortly forthcoming. (*ew-Ed.*)

Additionally, member feedback indicates that there is little interest in English lessons.



Cultural Matters

*The best-laid schemes o' mice an' men,
Gang aft a-gley,
An' lea'e us nought but grief an' pain,
For promis'd joy.*

Hopefully by now all of your plants are in their final pots and growing strongly. When growing by the two stop “second crown” method the first stop should have been done in the first half of December. The most important task in January is stopping the plants a second time in order to get blooms to be at their peak for the Show in May. Generally speaking the larger and heavier blooms require earlier stopping and the earlier the stop the earlier the bloom.

The second stop for Exhibitions is normally in the first week of January. Decoratives and anemones are generally stopped in mid-January. Most Fantasy (Section 10) and Singles are stopped 15th – 25th of January. There are exceptions of course and as an example our cultural guide recommends a stopping date of 31st January for the Reflexed Decorative Princess Anne cultivars. The features peculiar to each grower’s chrysis patch means that the best stopping date for any particular cultivar will vary from grower to grower and so it is useful to record your stopping dates so that adjustments can be made for the following year. It seems that some cultivars are naturally early or late and are fairly resistant to change.

Once the new shoots are under way it is important to limit the number allowed to grow on so as to ensure good size of the blooms. In the case of Exhibitions grow two or three; Decoratives and Fantasies four or five; Anemones and Singles six to ten. Make sure that each shoot is secured to a stake or some other support to keep them straight and well separated and to avoid them breaking off on a windy day.

In the case of Section 9 Sprays it has been found that they generally perform well and flower at the required time when flowered on a sucker (a shoot arising from an underground stolon) grown straight up from the ground without stopping. One or more suckers which appear in January are left to grow with the main stem of the plant being cut off at its base. Suckers selected in early January will normally provide the longest stem and potential for most flowers. Growing from suckers can be used with any cultivar and has come to the rescue of many growers who have suffered misfortune with their main stemmed plant. It is not dissimilar to growing a late rooted cutting except that the new growth has the benefit of arising from an already well developed root system. If the sucker is selected before the New Year it can be grown with one stop and if after the New Year it should be grown straight up. Conversely if the main plant is growing well then suckers should be trimmed off at ground level to prevent them robbing the main stem of its strength.

Hydroponics

For anyone thinking of trying hydroponic methods the “run to waste” technique is the simplest. This method is also referred to as fertigation which simply means watering and fertilising simultaneously by the application of dilute liquid fertiliser. For chrysanthemums an EC of 1.2 - 1.6 and pH 6.0 - 6.5 of the fertigation solution is about right. An occasional flush with plain water is usually recommended to avoid salt build up. Cheap methods of fertigating are by watering can, or gravity fed from a mixing tank via a hand held hose or drippers into each pot. For those with more money to spend a large mixing tank, an electric pump and a network of drippers can do the work quickly and easily, especially if connected to an automatic timer. Society members have successfully employed fertigation with soil based potting mediums and I have also seen excellent blooms produced using coco husk/fibre as the potting medium.

Tap Water Quality

Ever wonder what your tap water has in it? This is a link to the water Corporation data for selected Perth suburbs. There is quite a lot of variation between suburbs.

www.watercorporation.com.au/-/media/files/residential/about-us/our-performance/drinking-water-quality/dwq-annual-report-perth-aesthetic-tables.pdf

Editor's Notes*

I have been talking to the President and he has reminded me that the popularity of quiz nights has declined and so obscure facts, no matter how fascinating they may be to some, are of little interest to the general membership. In addition, suggestions for vocally challenging karaoke numbers, grammatical discussions and, in particular, recipes for regional culinary delicacies, are also to be avoided. I have now adopted “shan't, sha'n't, ne doit pas, δεν πρέπει” as my new mantra. (from the first of January; New Year's resolution, unlikely to be kept!)



English grammar lesson

“Talking-to” is an old-fashioned verb form and an example of an event nominalization of a transitive verb where “-to” is a necessary component because talk is intransitive and requires a transitive preposition. (*riveting stuff and thanks to Google for this essential and truly fascinating information*)

Recipe idea: the no cook, no eat egg.

Pysanky are uncooked eggs decorated by wax and dye techniques, similar to batik cloth, and are popular amongst the Slavs of Eastern Europe. They are not eaten but are used for cultural purposes at Easter time. My father was born in Kolomyia, then part of Poland but now Ukraine, which is noted for its pysanky museum. The museum is in the shape of an egg and has a collection of around 10,000 eggs.

The source of the pysanka's magic is not just in the design, but also in the egg itself. A pysanka is, traditionally, a raw egg left full and allowed to dry up over time. If you plan to use your pysanka to protect yourself from demons and evil, you shouldn't empty it. However if you wish to varnish your pysanka, or keep it for longer than a year or so, you should consider emptying it. In times gone by grandmothers needed no instruction on how to perform this task.



Scrabble still remains popular and I am sure that members will want to keep up to date with additions to the list of approved two letter words which now total 107 following the inclusion of ew (used to express disgust or distaste).

In case any reader needs a refresher here is the full list.



aa, ab, ad, ae, ag, ah, ai, al, am, an, ar, as, at, aw, ax, ay, ba, be, bi, bo, by, da, de, do, ed, ef, eh, el, em, en, er, es, et, ew, ex, fa, fe, gi, go, ha, he, hi, hm, ho, id, if, in, is, it, jo, ka, ki, la, li, lo, ma, me, mi, mm, mo, mu, my, na, ne, no, nu, od, oe, of, oh, oi, ok, om, on, op, or, os, ow, ox, oy, pa, pe, pi, po, qi, re, sh, si, so, ta, te, ti, to, uh, um, un, up, us, ut, we, wo, xi, xu, ya, ye, yo, and za.

Interestingly (*to some-Ed.*), while fe is allowed, fi, fo and fum are not.

Quiz night essentials: giant root vegetable records.

Heaviest parsnip – 7.85 kilograms

Longest parsnip – 5.93 metres

Heaviest carrot - 10.17 kilograms

Longest carrot – 6.245 metres

Heaviest beetroot – 23.4 kilograms

Longest beetroot – 7.956 metres (*shan't, ... -Ed.*)

Vocally challenging karaoke number

www.youtube.com/watch?v=20oqyMVbss0

*The President and Newsletter Editor are one and the same and apart from some internal dialogue are otherwise at peace with each other.

Mentors

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Forthcoming Events

General Meeting - Tuesday 12th February 2018 at 12 noon
Social Room, John McGrath Pavillion,
97 Hensman Street, South Perth.

Committee Meeting - Tuesday 19th February 2018 at 10am
At the Ryall's, Lesmurdie

WAHC Garden Club's Fair - Saturday 23rd & Sunday 24th February
South Perth Community Hall, Sandgate St, South Perth.
Set-up Friday 22nd February.



Website

www.chrysanthemumwa.com

Facebook Page

www.facebook.com/groups/chrysanthemumwa