

Western Australian Chrysanthemum Society Inc.



NEWSLETTER July - August 2021

President's Notes

Have I mentioned that chrysanthemums are affected by nearly every pest and disease known to horticultural science? I thought that Chilli Thrips was about as bad as it gets but, of course, last year we discovered that zoonotic (or laboratory created?) coronaviruses are another pestilence that could destroy a year's growth of show blooms.

This year, in my other role as Show Secretary, I had become worried that we would be badly short of show entries due to a combination of all the usual suspects (early show, late season, lack of size, caterpillars, spider mites, aphids, thrips, botrytis, pythium, too much fertiliser, not enough fertiliser, pH out of range, too hot, too wet, too dry) but then, on the same day that I celebrated my wedding anniversary and the Eagles got flogged by Geelong to the tune of ninety seven points¹, we had community spread of coronavirus in W.A. "It's an ill wind that blows no one any good" they say and so I thought, well, now I need not worry about show entries any more and I get show week off again this year. This rather smug self-satisfaction was tempered by the fact that I had had spent the week before preparing all the prize cards and judges' slips for the 124 separate classes in the Show Schedule² and, needless to say³, you cannot go anywhere during a lockdown even if you are retired.⁴

Then the wind changed, we miraculously came out of lockdown and my face was stuck with a wry smile and a stiff upper lip. "The show must go on" and it did. Of course, Murphy's Law continued to be in force and all of the aforementioned "usual suspects" raised their ugly little heads and show blooms were down on numbers. Nevertheless, the show was a success on many fronts due to the efforts of exhibitors and those who volunteered

¹ It could have been worse – a 100 points loss to Collingwood or Fremantle.

² You cannot say that we are not inclusive.

³ It is needless to say "needless to say", not to mention all the other tripe that the President puts out each edition of the newsletter - Ed

⁴ This combination of lockdown and retired brings new meaning to the term "shiftless".

their time to man the information and sales table. In respect of the latter “many hands make light work” but we are especially indebted to Murray, Colleen and Clare Ryall who worked tirelessly and sold copious quantities of potted plants which were mostly grown for the purpose by our Secretary Michael Drake-Brockman. Those sales, together with brisk purchases of our show blooms on the Saturday, at premium pre-Mothers’ Day prices, allowed us to make a good return for the week, despite the outlay of expenses needed to put the show on. The introduction this year of plastic sleeves for the potted plants and bunches of flowers created a much more professional looking product which I am sure contributed to the improved sales and prices.

Ron Atyeo is to be congratulated on his success in the Australian Championship. Ron is now a two time Western Australian winner along with the late Roy Shilling. A photograph of Ron’s entry adorns the front page of this Newsletter. His set included the Grand Champion Bloom, Kokka Hare Butai, and the Champion Single, Stoakes Freesia. These were, in my opinion at least, the two stand out blooms of the show and I have not seen any better examples of either cultivar. A list of the major prize winners from the Australian and Western Australian shows will appear later in this newsletter.

Perhaps some of you were able to enter a few photos in the Bendigo Goldfields Chrysanthemum Club run and Australian Chrysanthemum Council endorsed “Virtual Show”. Thankfully, chrysanthemums are quite photogenic. Michael Drake-Brockman and I managed to win some Sections which is pleasing as it shows that our blooms are on a par with growers in other parts of the country. This show was not quite as well supported as last year due to a few “actual” shows going ahead and it has been decided that the virtual show will not be continued next year. That is, unless we end up with epsilon, zeta, eta and theta coronavirus variants and not one iota of a chance of having any “actual” shows once again.

The planned cessation of the virtual show will no doubt be a torment to our poor benighted Editor as he will be unable to cut loose in future newsletters by including a plethora of helpful tips on improving your photographic skills, in addition to assailing us all with riveting facts such as - *The world's first photograph—or at least the oldest surviving photo—was taken by Joseph Nicéphore Niépce in 1826 or 1827. Captured using a technique known as heliography, the shot was taken from an upstairs window at Niépce's estate in Burgundy.* Fascinating!⁵

We held the Presentation Luncheon at our South Perth meeting room in late May. Good food and good company made for an enjoyable day. A highlight was the presentation of the Leila Blackwell Memorial Trophy for Informal Floral Art to its inaugural winner and our youngest exhibitor, Jessica Drake-Brockman and accepted on her behalf by our esteemed Vice President Judy Drake-Brockman. We now have trophies for both Formal and Informal Floral Art after the introduction of the Ken and Gladys May Memorial Trophy for Formal Floral Art in 2018.

I hope that you were able to finish cleaning up your chrysanthemum patch in May and have enjoyed a bit of chrysie free time in June. That can continue in July, which should then leave you well refreshed to start all over again in August. If you need any revving up then keep abreast of the National Chrysanthemum Society (UK) Facebook page which will have updates on the progress of their season. Of special interest at this time of the year will be photographs of their early flowering blooms which will be showing some good colour by the end of August.

⁵ *Joseph Nicéphore Niépce used a portable camera obscura to expose a pewter plate coated with bitumen to light. This is the first recorded image that did not fade quickly.*



Niépce's success led to a number of other experiments and photography progressed very rapidly. Daguerreotypes, emulsion plates, and wet plates were developed almost simultaneously in the mid- to late-1800s. - Ed.

2021 Prize Winners

Australian Championship

1st - Ron Atyeo

including Grand Champion and Champion Exhibition Bloom – Kokka Hare Butai
Champion Single – Stoakes Freesia

2nd - Carl Slusarczyk

3rd - Ron Seaton

4th - Richard Williams

including Champion Decorative Bloom – Champagne Beauty
Champion Fantasy Bloom – Yellow Knight

5th - Michael Drake-Brockman

including Champion Anemone Bloom – Edith Mechen

Western Australian Show – Major Prize Winners

State A Championship – Ron Seaton

State B Championship – Carl Slusarczyk

Forrestfield Forum Championship – Carl Slusarczyk

ANZAC Class – Ron Seaton

Wallace Brook Memorial Medal – Ralph Coombes

Pockett Championship – Ron Seaton

Jack Eastlake Championship – Ralph Coombes

Ken and Gladys May Trophy for Formal Floral Art – Carl Slusarczyk

Leila Blackwell Memorial Trophy for Informal Floral Art – Jessica Drake-Brockman

Clive Griffiths Award for Specimen Classes – Murray Ryall

Allan Aitken Award for Champion Novice – Stephen Lenghaus

NCS Bronze Medal for the Best Bloom, Cut or Spray of the Show – Carl Slusarczyk – Yellow Ryski

NCS Silver Medal for the Best Exhibit of the Show – Carl Slusarczyk – State B Championship

Cultural Notes

Now is an opportune time to think about how you intend to grow your plants for the coming season. If you think that everything went well last year then you are lying to yourself. If it didn't then now is the time to think about how you can avoid the problems that you ran into.

Although there is not much to be done in the chrysie patch in July it is still worthwhile putting a little fertiliser into the pots, scattering a few snail baits around (best avoided if you have pets) and checking for signs of insect or fungal

attack so that curative methods can be started. If the soil level has dropped due to decomposition of the organic matter in the soil and there are some stolons visible then apply a top dressing of fresh potting mix.

The stools should be cut back close to the ground at the beginning of August so that a start can be made to taking cuttings at the beginning of September. As the new shoots emerge spray them with a pesticide and fungicide and apply some snail pellets. If the shoots are a bit yellow they should respond to an application of iron chelate to green them up.

In early September there should be some shoots big enough to allow propagation to start. Remove 5-7cm from the tip of the new stem which should snap off easily if it is in the right condition. Some growers like to bathe their cuttings in a pesticide/fungicide solution before planting them and if you do then please wear gloves. Commercial seedling and cutting propagation mixes are available and are suitable. Pot cuttings singly into thumb pots or multiple cuttings into 100mm pots. I continue to take cuttings in batches until the end of September in case the early cuttings fail to root for some reason. Some growers coat the broken ends of their cuttings with rooting powder but other growers have not found that this has helped them.

Cuttings can also be taken from below the soil level with some roots attached. These are almost certain to survive and grow but commonly they do not produce the highest quality exhibition blooms.

The potting mix should be kept well hydrated but not continuously sopping wet. High humidity around the leaves is important. This can be produced by frequent misting of the leaves on any warmer sunny day. Some growers like to construct a terrarium like structure but it is important to keep it out of direct sunlight and useful to remove the lid overnight occasionally to allow a little air movement which reduces the risk of fungal rot.

After about three weeks the cuttings will hopefully have rooted and then they should be potted up singly into 100mm pots with your preferred potting mix. Allow the cuttings a week or so to grow roots into the new mix and then give them as much sun as is available to stop them growing leggy. If any cutting runs straight to bud then replace it with another one or cut it down low and hope for a new shoot to emerge.

The better quality commercial mixes are suitable. Some growers like to make their own mixes using the John Innes formulas which are freely available on the internet and very good if you can obtain the ingredients.

Why do chrysanthemums flower?

We could equally ask, why don't they flower when they don't?

I have mentioned before that chrysanthemums are especially interesting plants due to the large amount of research that has been conducted into them.

Before I go any further, it is important to state that you do not need to know any of this and, if you read it, quite likely you will not want to know any of it either. Apart, that is, from the bits that you know already. However, I present here, especially for the masochists amongst you, the following.

What we know is that autumn flowering chrysanthemums flower in autumn. OK so far?

There are also summer flowering chrysanthemums that flower in summer. In Western Australia, our show is in May, which is the last month of autumn. So, our W.A. chrysanthemums are called "Late Flowering" types. There are also chrysanthemums that flower between summer and late autumn. The UK show growers call these early autumn chrysanthemums "Early Flowering" types, even though the summer flowering types are earlier. That is because the UK show growers do not grow the summer flowering types. The Japanese do grow the summer flowering types but as their shows are in autumn they don't show them either. There are also some very "Late Flowering" types that flower at the beginning of Winter.

Still OK? If not, then don't worry because I am going to concentrate on the late autumn flowering types, the ones that flower in May in Western Australia.

With that in mind, then let us begin to answer the question.

We know that flowers start out as buds. If we leave our plants alone then they will normally form a small cluster of buds at the ends of the stems in March. These buds get steadily bigger and then produce petals which reach their full development in May. These buds are called "Terminal Buds" because they terminate any further growth of the stems.

But wait, there's more. During spring and summer, when this same chrysanthemum has grown a stem with enough leaves it will form a bud that will not flower. This is called a "break bud". The plant will form several shoots from just below the bud which then grow on past it while the bud withers away. Late flowering chrysanthemums might produce more than one round of break buds during the growing season.

When a chrysanthemum forms a break bud it will produce a certain number of leaves on each new stem before it makes the next break bud. However if we remove the top part of the stem which carries several leaves below the bud the number of leaves produced on each of the new stems before another break bud forms will be increased.

If a plant forms break buds close to the time that it would normally make terminal buds and the shoots below these buds are removed then they will continue to swell up and will flower **after a period of delay**. These are called "Crown Buds" by chrysanthemum growers.⁶

OK, enough of the palaver and let's start to answer the question.

It has been known for a long time that, when the time is right, plants form a "substance" that causes them to flower. This substance was called "florigen", even though nobody at the time knew exactly what it was. Florigen was known to be formed below the tips of the stems and then carried in the sap up to the tips of the stems where they caused a change from producing leaves to producing flowers instead.

Not long after the discovery of florigen it was shown that there was another unknown "substance" that was carried in the sap that inhibited flowering and that was called "anti-florigen".

After much research, current thinking is that florigen is not a single substance but several substances that mediate a chain reaction of steps that causes the tip of the stem to stop producing leaves and to start producing petals. Similarly, anti-florigen is more than one substance that interferes with the action of florigen.

Chrysanthemums are called short day plants. In reality they are long night plants. This means that when the nights lengthen in late summer or early autumn the stems are induced to stop producing leaves and to produce flowers instead. The day/night length is "detected" by the leaves.

Putting this complex chain reaction in a simplified form -

It is thought that the initial chemical signal for bud formation and flowering in plants is the production of a substance called "Constans", which is produced in the leaves. In chrysanthemums, Constans protein is mainly produced once a certain number of hours of darkness have passed and so when the nights are long more of it is produced. This high level of production is ended by the onset of daylight.

Constans protein stimulates the production of "Flowering Locus T" proteins, which are also produced in the leaves. These travel via the sap (phloem) to the growing tip of the stem (apical meristem) and enter the cells.

If there is sufficient Flowering Locus T protein and insufficient anti-florigen then the apical meristem cells will stop producing leaves and will form a bud and proceed to flower instead.

I have said that there are multiple florigen and anti-florigen substances. The table below shows three florigens (Flowering Locus T components CsFTL 1, 2 & 3) that were identified in a species of chrysanthemum⁷ which code for slightly different proteins and two anti-florigens (CsTFL1 and CsAFT)

⁶ There is a lot of confusion with terminology when it comes to buds because different people use the same terms to mean different things. For example, sometimes "crown bud" is used to refer to the central bud of the terminal bud cluster. In addition, if a cutting is taken late and grown straight up it can be flowered on the first bud that is formed. This is often referred to as "flowering on the break bud".

⁷ *Chrysanthemum seticuspe* This is a diploid species which is easier to study than hexaploid modern hybrid cultivars.

	Gene name	Effect on flowering	Other function	Regulatory input	Site of expression
Chrysanthemum	CsFTL1	Induction		LD, NB	Leaf
	CsFTL2	Induction		LD, Sucrose	Leaf
	CsFTL3	Induction		SD, Heat	Leaf
	CsTFL1	Repression			Shoot apex Root
	CsAFT	Repression		LD, NB	Leaf

Abbreviations under the heading "Regulatory input". LD is long day, SD is short day and NB is night break lighting.

What you can see is that two of the florigens are promoted by long days and one is promoted by heat. This is the exact opposite of what we would expect for "Late Flowering" chrysanthemums. It is easier to understand however when we are told that the short day induced florigen (CsFTL3) is far more active than the other two and one of the anti-florigens is also stimulated by long days. In addition there are almost certainly more substances involved than those listed that are yet to be discovered.

If we return to the part of this that I designated as "palaver" we can devise a theory to explain some of it. The explanations that I am about to give are mostly my own ideas and not necessarily based on any research that I have read. Even if these explanations prove to be wrong they give me a way of thinking about what is going on.

As the number of leaves on a stem increases the production of florigen will increase until a bud is formed.

If the amount of florigen is sufficient but the ratio of florigen to anti-florigen is low the bud will abort due to the action of anti-florigen and further vegetative growth from below the bud will occur. (Break Bud)

If the amount of florigen is sufficient and the ratio of florigen to anti-florigen is high the bud will proceed to flower and no further vegetative growth will occur. (Terminal Bud)

If the amount of florigen is sufficient and the ratio of florigen to antiflorigen is intermediate then the bud will not abort if the new vegetative growth from below it is removed. The bud will stay in semi-dormancy until the ratio increases and flowering can occur. (Crown Bud)

If the new vegetative growth forming below a Crown Bud is not removed then the bud will abort due to increasing amounts of anti-florigen being produced by the new leaves that are formed. This reduces the ratio of florigen to anti-florigen from intermediate to low and prevents flowering.

In warm climates bud development and flowering is delayed due to increased amounts of anti-florigen being produced in comparison to colder climates.

A significant amount of florigen production occurs in the leaves closest to the break bud. If these leaves are removed then the new stems will grow more leaves before forming another break bud than if these "old" leaves were retained.

The difference between summer and autumn flowering chrysanthemums is due mainly to their differing responses to heat and day length. This is mediated via differences in the genes that code for day length and temperature recognition and florigen and anti-florigen production.

Got all that? If not, then just know that if you give your plants some light and water they will flower and if not, then they will die. However, if you want better flowers it helps to know and do a bit more than that. Unfortunately, most of this will be not be of much help.

Editor's Notes

Now that YouTube music videos have become self-serve for WACS members and I have covered all the chrysanthemum related topics that I can think of I am in a bit of bother coming up with things to write about. I can hear the President saying "Why bother?", but I am not prepared to take defeat so willingly.

I am not sure if anyone reads the President's Notes but if you did then you may be wondering why a chrysanthemum society with seventy members, of which about fifty have never exhibited in our show, has a show schedule with 124 different classes. Especially given that I am also the Show Secretary I have wondered the same thing myself but I suppose it is a bit like asking why the Romans wanted to conquer Scotland⁸. One reason is that, like the Romans, the WACS was, in its glory days, a big deal with aspirations to become even bigger. Another reason is that many of our members like to grow one of everything and it is nice to have somewhere to show them.



I have more than two hundred different cultivars and have my eye on getting hold of another fifty. This is pretty stupid really but then there is "no fool like an old fool", or putting it another way, "at my age I should know better". Perhaps I should not be so hard on myself and blame chrysanthemums for having so many different types and colours. As if that is not bad enough, this does not even include all the different styles of potted chrysanthemums such as Cascades, Charms, thousand bloom, multi-grafted, bonsai, fukusuke, daruma and sanbon jitate. In respect of colour, when you grow chrysanthemums you "Act, Belong and Commit" and so you chase the blues away. That is, unless a blue one escapes from the lab.⁹



As previously noted, the connection of these notes to chrysanthemums is often tenuous at best. Nevertheless, as the editions are sequential I do like to have a bit of continuity so at least the Notes might be marginally relevant to each other. In the last Notes I included a big plug for vaccination and Coronavirus vaccination in particular. You may recall the tale of the unfortunate child who succumbed to whooping cough, her mother and the good old days. I carelessly omitted to mention one of my sets of great-great grandparents who had ten children. Their first child

died in infancy, two sons were killed in WW1, but the interesting part was that two of their children died from tuberculosis, which is now vaccine preventable as well.¹⁰

When Covid first hit our shores in early 2020, recently retired medical professionals like me were re-registered for practice, in case the fan started showering it around. Fortunately, an Australian health disaster was averted and very few retirees were needed. However, I bumped into one of my old associates a while back when walking the dog and he asked me to help with the vaccine roll out at my old practice. So, I will now be back in the trenches¹¹ working part time giving injections, or, expressing it another way, putting the government's money where my mouth is. I had my own first Astra-Zeneca Covid vaccination last month and felt pretty crook the next day. As you will all know "It is better to give than receive". It reminded me of the side effects of the smallpox vaccine that I had when I was ten

⁸ The Romans called it Caledonia. This is not intended to be a slight of Scotland or Scottish people but rather to suggest that they already had enough conquests. In respect of the Roman involvement with Scotland, Wikipedia informs us that - *Although little more than a series of relatively brief interludes of military occupation, Imperial Rome was ruthless and brutal in pursuit of its ends. Genocide was a familiar part of its foreign policy and it is clear that the invasions and occupations cost thousands of lives.* Alistair Moffat writes: *The reality is that the Romans came to what is now Scotland, they saw, they burned, killed, stole and occasionally conquered, and then they left a tremendous mess behind them, clearing away native settlements and covering good farmland with the remains of ditches, banks, roads, and other sorts of ancient military debris. Like most imperialists they arrived to make money, to gain political advantage and to exploit the resources of their colonies at virtually any price to the conquered.*

⁹ Yes, they do have blue chrysanthemums in the lab.

¹⁰ The vaccine is not completely effective.

¹¹ England expects that every man will do his duty. (this also applies to Australia and women)

years old. Due to vaccination smallpox is now extinct, except for some samples that are held securely in a few viral research laboratories. This makes me very glad that I have been vaccinated for it.

As you would expect I have been continuing to access YouTube music videos, now for purely personal interest, but I have come across some more that are work sharing. I know that I promised not to accost you with any more music recommendations but these are not recommendations, quite the contrary. The interest with these is more related to the general state of the world that we live in. I sent a few video links to my tennis playing musician friend for a laugh¹². To protect his anonymity I will call him “Rob” (like the Oral B dentist). This was his response –

Hi Carl, Thank you for the video links. It saddens me to say that collectively they are representative of the sad state of the music world today where everything is focussed on appearance, glamour and the “big sell” ... the music has only a supportive role. Very sad, “Rob”

Here are a few of the tracks that may be of interest.

HAUSER – Sway

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I3Gg-sr9ZIA>



Hauser is a classically trained cellist of some renown. You can tell because here he is playing a duet with a classically trained pianist, Lola Astanova. She is also known as LoLa. She and Hauser have 325,000 subscribers of their YouTube channel and this video has had more than four million views.

LoLa & Hauser - We Are The Champions

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1gJadngAhfk>

LoLa is one of many musical “It Girls” on social media. Another one is Benedetta Caretta. Here she is singing a trio with herself.

HOW DEEP IS YOUR LOVE?

Bee Gees (Cover Benedetta Caretta)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i4yYbaD0ScY>



Hauser gets around a bit and has had multiple collaborations with other “influencers”. So it will come as no surprise that he has recorded many videos with Benedetta. They did a “virtual” duet to spread a little joy during one of the European Covid lockdowns.

HAUSER and Señorita - I Will Always Love You (Quarantine version)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9T8ywBXkVWk>

¹² It is not only WACS members that have to put up with this sort of thing.

It will come as no surprise that they have also got together for some proper duets. As he is Croatian, from Pula, and she is Italian, from near Venice, perhaps this might have included a tryst in Trieste.

Somehin' Stupid by Hauser and Benedetta Caretta without cello

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=heHCQxajR1I>



Possibly because she wishes to be known for her talent rather than her good looks Bendetta has recorded a large number of videos on her own and with Hauser that only show a part of her face.



This sort of thing is not entirely new. You may remember when Sinead O'Connor cut off her hair before releasing "Nothing Compares to You" in 1989.

I found an article on the internet that explains Sinead O'Connor's reasons for shaving her head.

"I got put into the record business at a time when record executives were a little frisky. Put it that way," O'Connor says. "Not in a manner that they would cross the line if you said no, but they would certainly try their very best."

As a talented young singer during the '80s, O'Connor quickly realized how much a woman's appearance impacted how she was received. "In some ways, you had to protect yourself straight off," she says. "You'd be better to have a bag on your head, really."

O'Connor says record executives also had a very specific idea of how they wanted her to look to her fans and the public — an unappealing idea that she says motivated her to adopt her now-iconic shaved head.

"They wanted me to grow my hair really long and wear miniskirts and all that kind of stuff because they reckoned I'd look much prettier," she says. "So I went straight around to the barber and shaved the rest of my hair off."

O'Connor knows she wasn't alone in feeling the need to protect herself.

"I had grown up in a manner which... I'm sure a lot of women will relate to, where it was dangerous to be a female," O'Connor says. "So, I always had that sense that it was quite important to protect myself — make myself as unattractive as I possibly could."

In regards to Benedetta Caretta's motivations for partial decapitation I found another article.

A: "Why in most of the music videos with Hauser on Instagram your face is not in the screen? Is it just to focus on your wonderful voice?"

B: "I started recording like this before meeting him. I wanted people to focus just on my voice and on my music without getting distracted by other things."

A: "How do you feel the Internet has impacted the music business?"

B: "I think that Internet impacted very much the music business. Nowadays, everyone is free to express themselves. You don't need a label or a contract with a manager to be heard; people can discover you on Instagram or on YouTube and you can build your career with these platforms. However, I think that even if now is easier to post everything, we should always remember that all these numbers don't mean much, if there is not a substance behind our contents."

My mate Rob seemed to have a bit of a problem identifying this "substance behind the contents" that she refers to, but maybe that could be as much his problem as it is hers. You can decide the matter for yourself if you listen to some of her numbers, such as this cover of one of Adele's best known songs.

Someone Like You - Adele (Cover Benedetta Caretta)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kZGmCseOSyw>

The good news for Benedetta is that her recent life has not panned out like the lyrics of that song and she and Hauser are now engaged to be married. It is a bit early to say that "all's well that ends well" but "so far so good".

Dean Martin - That's Amore (HD)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aFSv-tq5GAY&t=114s>

OK, so, once again, I know that I promised in the last newsletter that there would be no more YouTube video recommendations, but as I said earlier –

- these are not recommendations
- the interest is mostly related to the general state of the music industry and of the world that we live in

Additionally –

- a lot of older people, like most chrysie growers, appreciate a good love story
- the first of July is the start of the new financial year



Why is it that when there are memes showing a shrill and hysterical response they always feature a woman? Hysterical is derived from the Greek word "hysterikos" meaning "belonging to the womb" and a lot of women are sopranos, so I suppose it is fair enough. Maybe not. Quite probably ancient Greece had an equally misogynistic culture as we do today. So, to all of you who identify as female I offer an apology, at least in so far as I was unable to find any suitable gender neutral meme that was pertinent to the point and having been unable to find one I included this one anyway.

At the risk of offending anybody else, I was recently looking up the development of the LGBTQI+ acronym. As far as acronyms go it is a shocker. It needs a few more vowels, like UNESCO, NASA, radar and scuba. Early on the acronym was LGBT and then QI was added on. Q ambiguous as it can be "queer" or "questioning" but maybe ambiguity is an important part of the whole concept. If so, then we should also recall that the early Daoist philosophers regarded qi¹³ as a person's energy or life force. In respect of the + portion, a recent article gives the full acronym, as it then was, as LGBTQQIP2SAA. The ambiguity of Q is eliminated by including both options and the other extra part stands for pansexual, two-spirit, androgynous and asexual. The two-spirit (2S) part appears to relate solely to North American Indians and as I am not one of them this is obviously the reason that I cannot understand or explain why it was added in. Interestingly despite having AA at the end it omits a third A which sometimes appears following QI. That A is for ally. An ally is *someone who is heterosexual and/or cisgender, but who tries to make the world a better place for people who identify as LGBTQI+*. Presumably, with the addition of that A, it is hoped that LGBTQIA+ will eventually include everyone in the world and there will no longer be any use for it other than the historical record.

This sort of idea has been around for a while. Liberté, égalité, fraternité, which is French for "liberty, equality, fraternity", is the national motto of France and the Republic of Haiti. I suspect that this was probably along the idea of "goodwill to all men", so it was never intended to be "inclusive", as we understand now, but why spoil a good(?) story. The motto was adopted in its current form by supporters of the French Revolution. The Haitian Revolution occurred a few years later and was fought against the post-French Revolutionary forces. Wikipedia gives the details.

In the midst of the French Revolution (1789–99), slaves and free people of color launched the Haitian Revolution (1791–1804), led by a former slave and the first black general of the French Army, Toussaint Louverture. After 12 years of conflict, Napoleon Bonaparte's forces were defeated by Louverture's successor, Jean-Jacques Dessalines (later Haitian Emperor Jacques I), who declared Haiti's sovereignty on 1 January 1804—the first independent nation of Latin America and the Caribbean, the second republic in the Americas, the first country to abolish slavery, and the only state in history established by a successful slave revolt.

Haitian history suggests that the Haitians have seldom adhered to the motto and I do not think that the French have either, even after the Haitians reminded them of its true meaning. Hence, it was more of a slogan than a motto.

If we wish to be an LGBTQI+ ally then how can we be a good ally? Returning to music videos, Taylor Swift put out an ally tune in 2019 which has more than 250 million YouTube views.

Taylor Swift - You Need To Calm Down

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dkk9gvTmCXY&ab_channel=TaylorSwiftVEVO

Needless to say, not everyone was happy.

When Taylor Swift dropped her music video for "You Need to Calm Down" earlier this week, she set the LGBTQ community ablaze. While some saw the rainbow-colored, cake-fighting, gay tea party as bringing queer visibility to the masses, others saw another pop star playing around with queer imagery without talking much about LGBTQ people's actual lives.

As Vox's Rebecca Jennings points out, while Swift's song looks like a "powerful example of allyship" on the surface — and does include a call to sign a petition in support of the Equality Act — her queer-signaling outfit, slew of LGBTQ celebrity cameos, and outdated parodies of homophobes are all examples of safe

¹³ You will recall that Daoist monks nurtured and revered the chrysanthemum and it was from them that the chrysanthemum came to Japan. In keeping with the priorities of the modern world a Google search of Qi mostly retrieves references to the British game show QI for "Quite Interesting". QI is a bit like these notes except that they have guests who try to make it entertaining. Does anyone want to be Vice Newsletter Editor?

messaging during Pride Month. In a world where corporations like Budweiser proudly “fly the flag for bi pride” and Converse sells the trans flag on a pair of \$80 Chucks, Swift is just another figure donning rainbow garb to sell queer people something unnecessary so she can turn a profit.

As a queer trans woman who has covered LGBTQ politics for five years, I would argue that such behavior isn't empowering to the LGBTQ community; it's objectifying. Teen Vogue's politics news editor Lucy Diavolo — also the co-founder of the Trans-Feminine Alliance of Chicago, a discussion group for transgender women and gender-nonconforming people who identify as transfeminine — stresses to Vox that advertisers are obsessed with “rainbows, glitter, and unicorns as marketing props,” which feel like disingenuous depictions of a community that still lives on society's fringes.

The difference between Swift and Hauser, LoLa and Benedetta is that Tay Tay has a UMG recording contract, professional video producers, the finest back up artists and 76 million followers on Facebook and 165 million on Instagram. Another difference is that Tay records her own original material whereas the other three do covers. The designation “cover band” is one of the most insulting terms that a “serious” musician can apply to another musician. Not all musicians are good allies. The major justification for cover bands is that they give the audience what they want to hear which is obviously bad as it reinforces established cultural norms and forces “serious original artists” from diverse genres into the shadows.

In a 2020 BBC Music compiled list of the world's ten best orchestras the 140 year old Berlin Philharmonic is described as *attracting the very best players and performing with a perfection of which most orchestras can only dream*. As you will appreciate, orchestras are no more than cover bands for the big end of town. Apart from that the Berlin Philharmonic has hardly been inclusive as it *hired its first female musician, violinist Madeleine Carruzzo, in 1982 even if, in 1887, the pianist and composer Mary Wurm became the first woman to conduct the orchestra*.

My mate Rob is classically trained, has a UWA degree in musical composition, has his own cover band, owns a nine foot Steinway grand piano and is respectful of other people, so he has all the bases covered. I must ask him if he likes the Berlin Philharmonic. Rob has another musician friend who now also plays tennis with us. Let's call him “Bob”. Bob is a professional musician who now manages “original” musicians' royalty payments. Composers get payments from APRA. When other musicians cover their music they get extra payments, so Bob's clients like cover bands.

APRA stands for the Australasian Performing Right Association. This acronym is pronounceable so it OK on that front and would be A-OK except that APRA is too close to AHPRA, which is the Australian Health Practitioner Registration Authority. Doctors joke that people become lawyers because they cannot do math. People become doctors because they cannot write properly and so AHPRA wasn't called the Australian Health Practitioner's Registration Authority because they didn't know where to put the apostrophe and who bothers to write things out long hand anyway.

If you want to listen to some really serious music then check this out.

Billie Eilish - Therefore I Am (Official Music Video)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RUQI6YcMalg&ab_channel=BillieEilishVEVO

You can tell that Billie is a serious musician because her real name is Billie (androgynous) Eilish (female) Pirate (androgynous) Baird (male) O'Connell (Irish, like Sinead O'Connor), as a nineteen year old she apologised for mouthing a racist slur when she was thirteen years old and her lyrics “*I think, therefore I am*”, best known in its Latin formulation “*Cogito, ergo sum*” pay homage to French mathematician, scientist and philosopher, René Descartes, and his famous saying “*Je pense, donc je suis*”.

OK, that is about it for now. The AGM is coming up in September and if you already have enough junk in your Inbox and want to install a new newsletter editor then “Go ahead, make my day”. All I can say in my defence “your honour” is that, in keeping with my honour, I did it “My Way”. Here is Hauser playing that very same song. He plays it very beautifully. Clearly he has taken major inspiration from another of Sinatra's songs, “New York, New York”, as he feels that his rendition is so good that he had to play it twice.

HAUSER My Way

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EmshXY_C_6s

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

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Forthcoming Events

Saturday 11th & Sunday 12th September 2021 **Garden Clubs & Societies Plant Fair**
South Perth Civic Centre Hall Cnr South Terrace and Sandgate St South Perth

Tuesday 14th September 2021 **Annual General Meeting**
12 noon John McGrath Pavilion, Hensman Rd South Perth

Website

www.chrysanthemumwa.com

Facebook Page

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



Billie Eilish



“Rob”



Chrysanthemum

Happy YouTube music video (cover band with two accordion musical allies)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zaPAuvUr7v8>