

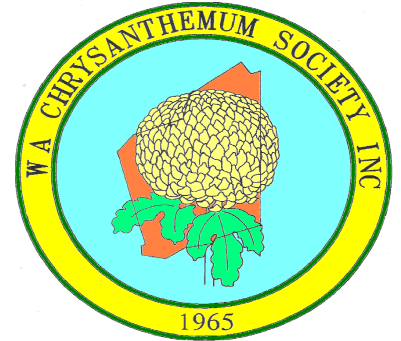


Chrysnews

July 2018

**Western Australian
Chrysanthemum
Society Inc.**

President's Notes



As if we haven't had enough excitement already, it all starts again soon. Groundhog Day? Is the glass half full or half empty? Your choice. Hopefully by May 2019 your cup will runneth over causing the point to be moot.

Now if you need some revving up then how about this.

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Purple Princess

Special points of interest:

- Preparing cuttings for this growing year
- Upcoming events & meeting dates in September and October



Green Goddess

As I sit at my desk, channelling Nietzsche and Ita Buttrose, I am reminded that in the normal course of events I should now be promenading on the Champs-Élysées in “Gay Paris” where the weather is sunny with a forecast maximum of 28 degrees. Unfortunately, many a slip of disc between vertebrae, as well as between cup and lip (a somewhat oblique, I admit, reference to my earlier remarks regarding various drinking vessels). Put simply, Lina stuffed her back so we had to cancel the trip. Fortunately she is, like a fine wine, improving with time, and at about the same rate.

Oh well, now I can take cuttings for the Horticultural Council’s Garden Clubs’ Fair in September. This is the first of many opportunities to get involved. The AGM follows soon after that and then the Distribution Day.

I am hoping that you are all of a mind to grow your plants with renewed enthusiasm and vigour and for our newer members, with an improving knowledge base that our mentors can provide.

Not into hot rods? Well what about this -

I have, myself, full confidence that if all do their duty, if nothing is neglected, and if the best arrangements are made, as they are being made, we shall prove ourselves once again able to put on a grand show of chrysanthemums, to ride out the storms of autumn, and to outlive the menace of summer heat, if necessary for months, if necessary alone. At any rate, that is what we are going to try to do. That is the resolve of the WACS Committee, every man of them. That is the will of the membership and the Western Australian Horticultural Council. The Western Australian Chrysanthemum Society and the Australian Chrysanthemum Council, linked together in their cause and in their need, will defend to the death their love of chrysanthemums, aiding each other like good comrades to the utmost of their strength. Even though large tracts of Australia and many old and famous States have fallen or may fall into the grip of apathy and all the odious apparatus of alternative leisure time pursuits, we shall not flag or fail. We shall go on to the end, we shall fight in Forrestfield, we shall fight in South Perth, we shall fight with growing confidence and growing strength, we shall defend our favourite flower, whatever the cost may be, we shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds, we shall fight in the fields and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills; we shall never surrender, and even if, which I do not for a moment believe, this Society or a large part of it were subjugated and starving, then our brethren beyond the seas, armed and guarded by the fellowship of mums, would carry on the struggle, until, in God’s good time, the Old World, with all its power and might, steps forth to the rescue and the liberation of the new.

Carl Glusarczyk

Cultural Matters

If you are making cuttings for the **September Horticultural Council Fair** then go outside now and cut back your old stools, if you have not done that already. It takes at least six weeks from striking a cutting to a saleable size. So you will need to **take cuttings at the end of July** at the latest. If growing for the show or **Distribution Day** then cuttings are normally propagated late **August or early September**.

I quote here the accepted methods from our WACS cultural booklet written by Ted Elms.

It is important that an effort be made to propagate by stool or tip cutting, even when growing for cut flowers, to obtain the best result and although a rooted sucker may be easier to strike the same well developed root system will not result and consequently there must be a fall off in bloom quality. Exhibition growers should certainly strive to propagate by tip cuttings. Although stool cuttings will give a very good result the extra effort can be the difference between winning prizes and exhibiting very good blooms.

Cuttings can be successfully struck from July to late October but the exhibitor should commence striking at a convenient time as close to 1st September as possible and the propagation notes which follow are based on this premise.

Around 7th August the suckers should be cut back leaving only those which are showing through the soil or just starting to develop. The stool should then be covered with good garden soil and lightly dressed with a complete fertiliser to encourage the development of new and healthy suckers for propagation. About 21st August spray with a systemic fungicide to eliminate any fungus disease such as rust which can quickly take hold of your cutting nursery if allowed to develop.

Spray with either a residual spray, such as Malathion, or a systemic spray, such as Confidor, to eradicate aphids and other pests about a week before setting out, as they can damage and hinder the development of your cuttings.

A good watering of the stool the day before selection will ensure that cuttings are nice and fresh when taken.

The best means of setting out cuttings is in a seed tray or round the edge of pots. Use a base of good garden soil lightly dressed with bone meal and superphosphate then if available, place a layer of clean sand on top of trays or pots, pressing holes with a stick and firming in. A good watering down after planting is essential. Some growers use a soft wood cutting powder as it helps sustain the cutting while roots form and will ensure the development of a good root system and seal out any virus or disease from the open wound. Roots should form in about ten days. It is common practice to remove bottom leaves from the cutting preparatory to setting out.

When the cutting stands erect, greens up and the growing tip starts to open and extend it is time to pot out your cuttings. It is advisable to protect them from the hot sun for several days when first set out and then harden up in full sunshine for about a week before potting on is commenced.

If your facilities dictate propagation of cuttings in the open ground, mix them up by setting out two rows of each cultivar, one of tip cuttings and one of stool cuttings, thus ensuring you do not lose a variety. The stool cutting properly rooted and grown on will still provide a good quality bloom. As you gain experience and confidence you will know which cultivars require that little extra protection and attention.

The ideal is considered to be 3 cuttings to a 100mm pot and 5 to a 150mm pot or in a seed box 60 to 73mm between cuttings.

If you do strike stool cuttings leave the very minimum of roots and trim those remaining right back to prevent your cutting becoming lazy and living on the existing root system.

Remember that potential cuttings, healthy, clean and in active growth will strike much easier than those still dormant.

It is a good policy to take more cuttings than you need so that only the best can be grown on. In addition it seems that sometimes a whole batch of cuttings will not be up to standard so taking another batch a week or two later is also a good insurance. (Why not take some early ones for yourself and the Fair and then another lot for yourself and the Distribution Day later.) Many members have found that coconut peat, with or without perlite, is a suitable growing medium for cuttings and commercially prepared seed and cutting potting mediums are available from garden supply outlets. Try not to have the cuttings continually soaked, but on no account allow them to become dry. Once the cuttings are well rooted they can be potted into 75 or 100 mm pots. Do not forget to label every pot and put them somewhere the dog cannot find an alternative use as a chew toy.

Fun Fact

Growing chrysanthemums is fun. If it isn't then you are doing something wrong.

If things go badly then seek assistance from a mentor and our cultural booklet and apply the knowledge in a timely manner. Better still seek assistance before things go wrong.

If growing becomes a chore then rethink your plans and concentrate on the Sections or cultivars that give you the most satisfaction.

If time is a problem then reduce your expectations and allow the plants to show their natural beauty with whatever attention you are able to give. Try planting some in the garden and let them grow amongst the petunias.

Mentors

| Name | Location | Phone Number |
|------------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Ian Blackwell | Kelmscott | 9390 2608 |
| Ralph Coombes | Maida Vale | 9454 3373 |
| Michael Drake-Brockman | Pickering Brook | 9293 7650 |
| Ralph Foster | Armadale | 9497 2420 |
| Carl Slusarczyk | Mount Lawley | 9272 1356 |
| Richard Williams | Inglewood | 9272 6120 |

Contacts

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Secretary – Michael Drake-Brockman 9293 7650 (H) michaeldb@iinet.net.au

Newsletter Editor – Carl Slusarczyk 9272 1356 (H) carl.lina.slu@gmail.com

Upcoming Events

Garden Clubs and Societies Fair

Sat, Sun 8 & 9th September 2018
South Perth Civic Centre



WACS Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 11th September 2018 at 12 Noon
The Social Room, John McGrath Pavilion
97 Hensman Street South Perth.

Distribution Day

Sunday 28th October 2018 at 1:30
The Social Room, John McGrath Pavilion
97 Hensman Street South Perth

Breaking News

No, the President has not lost the plot, just temporarily misplaced it. Normal transmission will resume in the next edition, albeit via the old deteriorated copper wiring. The newer optical fibre has unfortunately been kicked to the curb.

Perfection is, broadly, a state of completeness and flawlessness.

The term is used to designate a range of diverse, if often kindred, concepts.

These concepts have historically been addressed in a number of discrete disciplines, notably mathematics, physics, chemistry, ethics, aesthetics, ontology, and theology. (Wikipedia)

Note that there is no reference to chrysanthemums.



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