

these if you loop the main 13mm poly pipe. With small setups like ours this works quite well. If you still have a problem with even flow throughout all trickle spikes you may have to use adjustable flow spikes to manually set some of them.

I'm sure there will be questions this brief précis does not cover but it will I hope stimulate your thought on automated reticulation systems.



SECTION 6 - 2012

The Editor after talking to Ron Atyeo

Meetings and Activities 2012

Gen. Mtg. Tues. 13th Nov, at 1.00pm (Rotary Hall)

Cttee Mtg. Tues. 20th Nov, at 1.00pm (Rotary Hall)



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8

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NEWSLETTER of The Western Australian Chrysanthemum Society Inc.



Nov/Dec 2012



SECTION 1 BACK VIEW



SECTION 1 FRONT VIEW



SECTION 3a



POCKETT CHAMPIONSHIP

*Distribution Day - Rotary Hall
Sunday 28th October 2012, 2.00pm*

Presidents Note's ² Bendigo Show 2012 Who's Who?



By now you will have made your plans for the coming season and taken the cuttings of the cultivars you have decided to grow. Don't forget the show will be at the late end again, 8th to 11th May 2013, so you will need to take this into account and remember the 'Golden Rule' - only grow as many as you have time for, **and no more.**

Our Annual General Meeting was held on Tuesday 11th September 2012 and I am happy to say that all positions were filled. **Thank you to all who served the Society in 2011/12 and have volunteered to continue for the ensuing year.**

This was followed by a Committee Meeting on 18 September, 2012 at which dates for activities, show and distribution day were determined. These will be advised in the next newsletter. Social/Cultural activities were deferred to the **next general meeting set down for Tuesday 13th November, 2012 at 1pm.**

Our next activity is Distribution Day and this will be held Sunday 28th October, 2012 at 2.00pm, Rotary Hall, South Perth. I look forward to seeing you then.

Keith Robinson

You will recall that the ACC Australian Championship in 2012 was held in conjunction with the Victorian Branch of the Boer Goat Breeders Assn. of Australia. Marie Mitcheson took some footage of the goats and the first little cutie is called Ruby.



There were lots of others but the next two caught my eye. Sadly they didn't have a



name so I thought Ralph 1 & Ralph 2 would be lovely. But alas I never know which way round they go so I'll leave that to you.

Don't worry I'm leaving the country very shortly.

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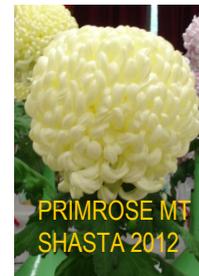
Send to Treasurer, see back page.

nation with Bailey's potting mix. However because it is a high pH he has to keep an eye on any calcification within the system that may cause blockages in the drippers and trickle lines.



The tank for the watering system is approx. 200 litres and equipped with a 12 volt pump to circulate the solution.

Ron's system runs at about 35 psi. You will note that the main line is 13mm polythene pipe. Plugged into this are



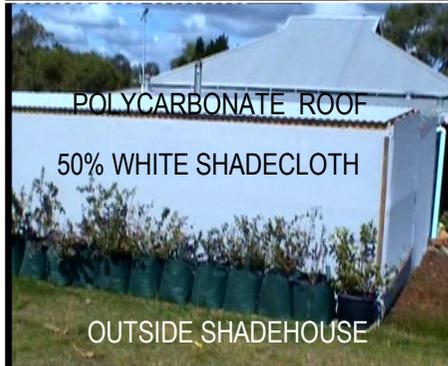
drippers (2.2 l/h) and the trickle line is attached to these with a trickle spike (held in hand above) plugged into the end that goes into the pot. To give you some idea of the cost of this; 13mm poly pipe is about \$1.00 per metre and the dripper, length of trickle line to-

gether with the trickle spike will cost between \$1.00 and \$1.50 depending on how long the piece of trickle line is.



The drippers are used to regulate an even amount of solution to each pot. Alternatively you may get away without

method than doing it all by hand when you think it needs doing.



Before we talk about the methods used the shade house is a simple construction made from treated pine logs, rafters and cross bearers. The roof is polycarbonate sheeting and the sides are covered with 50% white shade cloth.



15L NURSERY BAG



You will note from the first illustration that Ron is growing in nursery bags and not plastic pots. This is not new as many of us used these bags with success a good number of years ago. The size is the same, 15 Litres, but the ones he uses are squatter and larger in diameter.

The old ones were black plastic whereas the ones Ron uses are white with handles. I suspect there may be some advantage using white pots that reflect sunlight although it would only be minimal as most of us grow under cover these days. Another observation is that bags are a little more difficult to work with than pots particularly when it comes to emptying and cleaning them for reuse.



When it comes to final potting Ron adds a little Osmocote to the potting mix to help see them through the vegetative stage together with some solid hydra complex NPK every 2 to 3 weeks fed from the top and watered in by hand. Watering is carried out twice a day with a very weak solution of soluble fertilizer, half a litre each time. In addition, starting approx. mid January, the plants are fed with a full strength solution of Poly-feed High K, 1 litre per plant, once per week until colour shows. The pots are flushed with water every 3 weeks or so.

Ron uses his own bore water and this has been tested at 7.5pH. This is a little high but he has not had any problem in combi-

Cultural Notes: November / December 2012

Jan Blackwell

It wasn't intended that I do the notes for this newsletter, however; events in the family have overtaken Jan & I with a trip to UK imminent. In that this is the case it was simply more convenient for me to write some notes up front so I could get the newsletter out prior to going.

By now you should have finished taking cuttings so they will be well rooted for repotting by the end of October. This will also keep them on track for distribution day scheduled for Sunday 28th October 2012.



There are many options for a suitable mix for striking cuttings including a proprietary seed & cutting or premium grade potting mix; peat, sand & perlite; peat & perlite etc. In years past we simply planted the cuttings in rows in the garden generally along the side fence. This worked well and we didn't use hormone powder either.

In recent years I have tried all of the above with success and this year I have made up my own buffered coco coir as

the substrate and mixed this with perlite in the ratio 70% coco coir & 30% perlite. You will note I used the word buffered and this may need explaining. It has always been necessary when using peat to make sure the pH is correct as it is usually on the acid side. Cuttings strike better with a pH of 6 so a little lime was used to adjust this.

Buffering is a term usually associated with hydroponic systems and I am intending to conduct my own trials with this method this season hence my cuttings have been struck in coco coir and perlite 70/30.

The coco coir I use comes in a compressed block (plain - no fertilizer added).

Firstly the block is placed in water (in the wheelbarrow will do) and allowed to expand to its full volume - in my case the blocks make up 60 litres. To prepare this for buffering you need to flush the impurities (salt in particular) out first. This is done using a home made system of two rubbish bins sitting one inside the other.



The larger of the two is 75 litres and the smaller 60 Litres. If you look at the illustrations you will note there is an outlet flange with a cap at the base of the larger bin and holes in the base of the smaller bin.



Place two bricks in the base of the large bin and the small bin on the bricks. You are now set up to flush the coco coir. To flush the coir simply fill the inside bin with the hydrated coir and run water through this until the bins are full of water. Stir the coco coir with your hand to make sure it is fully immersed and washed then drain the water off by undoing the cap on the outlet flange at the base of the larger bin. Do this twice to make sure the impurities are thoroughly flushed from the coco coir. This is now ready to buffer.

The coco substrate buffer used for preparing non-buffered coco substrates such as compressed coco coir blocks I will not detail in this article but may be found on the web at: www.manicbotanix.com

When buffered simply mix with perlite at the ratio you decide, in my case 70/30, 4

and your potting mix is ready to use.

This same mix will be used throughout the whole season and the plants will be fed and watered by means of an automated reticulation system. In my case this will be a run to waste system otherwise diseases etc would transfer throughout all pots. Have a look at the DVD I produced with Steve Thomas last April (2012) so you can see the system already established and successfully operating.

I suspect there may be a benefit in buffering the coco coir even if you don't go hydroponic, it certainly makes sense to put it in the right condition for growing.

As a rule of thumb I like to get my cuttings into 130/140mm pots by end of October and into the final 250mm pots by end of November.

In addition to the trial of the hydroponic system I will also be automating the watering and feeding system on my soil based run to waste potting system. For this I will be using a professional grade potting mix either Richgro or Bailey's. If you want to know more about the soil based system read the next article prepared in discussion with Ron Atyeo.

CHRYSIE CUTTINGS

Ron Seaton's catalogue was available to members at the last meeting.

Ron may be contacted on 9291 0017.

Address: 279 Canning Road,
LESMURDIE WA 6076

5
*Off Season Country run
to Ron & Rona Atyeo's
at Woodridge*

*Soil Based
'Run to Waste'
Potting System*

On 8th August shortly after Ralph returned from U.K. we took the opportunity of a beautiful day to go for a country drive to Ron & Rona Atyeo's at Woodridge.

Ron greeted us on arrival and invited us in for a cuppa. Rona had gone to Fremantle to attend to some business but had made a lovely lasagne and salad for lunch (Thanks Rona - I must obtain the recipe from you some time it was delicious).

After we had solved the problems of the world it was time to get down to the serious stuff - Chrysanthemum growing. We talked about the new season ahead of us and observed that none of us had done anything much other than keep an eye on the stock plants to make sure there would be plenty of cuttings. I think as a result of previous experience all of us were looking to place the emphasis on quality and not quantity when selecting stock for the coming season. Hence we would be looking to downsize in terms of varieties while leaving scope to try something new.

With that, Ron invited us to see what he was doing in his patch.

The first thought that came to mind when we walked into Ron's shade house was that he didn't have as many plants as we expected. Given the large number of exhibits he had at the last show it meant only one thing, his success rate was high. So what was he doing to achieve such a high yield of quality blooms?



Ron has set up what may loosely be called a Soil Based 'Run to Waste' Potting System. This simply means that he uses a soil based potting mix and in his case it is Bailey's Premium Grade potting mix readily available from most nursery and hardware outlets. The watering and fertilizing is done using an automated reticulation system i.e. a more controlled