



# Chrysnews

November 2018

Western Australian  
Chrysanthemum  
Society Inc.



## President's Notes

Since the last Newsletter we have had our AGM and all necessary positions have been filled. As the President and Newsletter Editor are unchanged you will all be getting a double dose of me again.

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The Horticultural Council's September Garden Clubs' Fair was again a successful venture for the Society with good sales of plants and exposure to the horticulturally minded public.

We enjoyed a successful Distribution Day in October. There was a good turnout of members, both old and new, and a good supply of plants and refreshments. Plant sales were brisk, so thanks to all members who brought along their surplus plants. In a break with tradition a few geranium cuttings were also on offer. The President was in two minds about allowing that, but as they were his plants they got through. (It pays to have friends in high places, so I stood on a chair). It was good to see Dot Aitken again, one of our esteemed Life Members.

Another of our long term members, Roma Baxter, came all the way from Tambellup to be with us.

This was fortunate as it allowed me to present her with our new perpetual trophy. This is the Ken and Gladys May Trophy for Best Formal Decorative Vase or Bowl. Ken and Gladys are foundation members of the Society with Ken being the President of the Society for twenty nine years and a Life Member. A prize for the Best Formal Decorative Vase or Bowl has been awarded annually since 1969 and as Ken and Gladys have generously sponsored the prize for nearly all of that time it is appropriate that the trophy be named in their honour.



### Special points of interest:

- Ken and Gladys May Trophy
- Fascinating, perhaps
- Upcoming events & meeting dates in November - January
- Membership fees due

A number of members have had to deal with serious health issues recently. I am aware of three members being treated for cancer and another two who are recovering from major surgery. My thoughts and best wishes go to all members who are experiencing problems related to their health and happiness, and I am sure that other members are thinking of you as well.

November is the main month for chrysanthemums in the northern hemisphere so keep a lookout on the internet for photographs from the many displays and shows in the UK, USA, Japan and India amongst others. Many photographs are being shared to our Facebook page.

*Carl Glusarczyk*

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## Cultural Matters

I have been reading through old WACS newsletters looking for the easy option of cut and paste for this edition. It is interesting that a lot of the advice has changed over time and from one grower to the next. Experienced growers will all have their tried and proven methods which they frequently will not get around to putting into action or else shun in the pursuit of better or easier methods that commonly end in disappointment. This disappointment however is relative and mostly gauged in comparison to what they were hoping for. Fortunately they still produce a goodly number of blooms each year to put on the show benches. Why is this so? The answer is that regardless of playing around with tips and tricks, success is based on the adherence to a few basic principles. Growing chrysanthemums is not rocket science and the days of "muck and mystery" preceded my birth.

Hence, in the interests of keeping it simple, I offer the following advice.

Once the baby plants have established a good root system in their 50-75mm pots transfer them to 120-150mm pots (usually the end of October for cuttings taken at the beginning of September). If using a premium potting mix then that will have enough fertiliser incorporated to last until the next potting on. If not, or the plants look a little poorly, give some supplementary general purpose liquid fertiliser. A bit of Seasol is also helpful as it is most important to establish a good root system. Do not forget to tie the plant to a stake before they get tall as they can bend over or the wind may cause them to break off.

About four to six weeks later they should be ready for their final potting into 250-300mm pots. The choice of pot size is dependant on the vigour of each plant's root system. A big root system will dry a big pot at about the same rate as a smaller root system in a smaller pot and so by following this advice all plants can then be watered at about the same frequency.

The first stop is made in December. While subject to debate, many growers like to cut the plants back to no more than 300mm to avoid overly tall plants at flowering time as well as in the belief that hard pruning promotes more vigorous growth (as with roses). Timing is not critical but generally Section 1 and 2 cultivars are stopped early in December and the others in the middle of the month. Where a plant has gone to bud it needs to be cut back very hard and often sooner than the given dates.

The number of shoots that should be allowed to grow on from the first stop is determined by their strength. Have in mind the number of flowers you want each plant to produce but remember that in the early stages you wish to grow a strong plant with strong branches. The number of flowers can be determined after the second stop by allowing multiple shoots on each branch or by removing branches. If growing for exhibition blooms and in doubt allow three shoots to grow on from the first stop and you will not go far wrong.

Chrysanthemums are heavy feeders in our climate and even if using a premium potting mix they respond to additional fertiliser after a couple of weeks when their roots have moved into the new mix. The safest option is a balanced fertiliser. Depending on preference that can be 3-4 month slow release granules, a solid fertiliser with a slow release component such as Blood and Bone plus Potassium or regular liquid feeding. If using solid fertiliser on potted plants a little at a time is the best advice so as to avoid root burn.

Once the weather has warmed up there is not too much concern with fungal disease unless the plants are too closely spaced or too wet. Most fungicides will work well for leaf diseases if needed. Red Spider becomes a problem from the start of summer. There are lots of pesticides that can be used but few of them are available to the home gardener.

Yates Rose Shield Insect & Disease Spray (tau-fluvalinate + myclobutanil) is a multipurpose spray and is active against red spider (available at garden stores and hardwares). Bifenthrin, Malathion and chlorpyrifos are suitable and are also active against a wide range of pests but more difficult to obtain. Try eBay if you have trouble finding some. Spraying water under the leaves on a regular basis is helpful as is spraying with wettable sulphur. Aphids become a problem later and all of the pesticides mentioned above will kill them as will many others, such as Confidor (imidacloprid).

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## Fascinating

I was writing my President's notes late at night and briefly contemplated the correct placement of apostrophes related to the Horticultural Councils Garden Clubs Fair. The very next morning at breakfast I saw an article on my iPad ABC News app entitled "Lets get rid of the apostrophe".

[www.abc.net.au/news/2018-10-30/lets-get-rid-of-the-apostrophe/10433990](http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-10-30/lets-get-rid-of-the-apostrophe/10433990)

Very interesting reading for those who are interested. If that is you then you can amuse yourself with the related article "Should you be using 'less' or 'fewer'?"

Observant members will have noted that there are no apostrophes used in the Chrysanthemum Register related to Seaton's, Stoakes', Woolman's etcetera, so it seems that we are trend setters from way back.

Apostrophe is a French word. The French language has no use for possessive apostrophes (George's book = the book of George) and so apostrophes are only used in French to take the place of missing letters. Apostrophe arises from the Ancient Greek ἀποστροφή, so this debate has probably been going on for a few thousand years already. (Thanks to Google for these riveting facts which are sure to be useful at your next quiz night.)

Regardless of whether you are or aren't/arent interested in this subject have a look at "Victor Borge - Phonetic Punctuation" on YouTube. [www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qf\\_TDuhk3No](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qf_TDuhk3No)

While there you might as well have another look at "Norman Gunston interviews Sally Struthers" [www.youtube.com/watch?v=cW2kSkurQFs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cW2kSkurQFs) and then go from the ridiculous to the sublime with fifteen year old singer "Hayley Westenra - Pie Jesu (live)" [www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vr6ajtA5Otg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vr6ajtA5Otg) Hayley later joined the group Celtic Woman and if you like Celtic women then check out "Katherine Jenkins - Quello che faro (Everything I Do)" [www.youtube.com/watch?v=yBcj0gqWcZE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yBcj0gqWcZE) or "Time To Say Goodbye - Katherine Jenkins" [www.youtube.com/watch?v=BR7EaHbPe54](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BR7EaHbPe54)

If you are not into this type of music then I recommend "baccara - yes sir I can boogie remix" [www.youtube.com/watch?v=NKvDh6mcl0o](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NKvDh6mcl0o) or the original "Baccara - Yes Sir, I Can Boogie" [www.youtube.com/watch?v=VSQjx79dR8s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VSQjx79dR8s) If that is a bit racy then this should suit all tastes - "Dana Winner - One Moment In Time (live)" [www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tb6AW00DgTI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tb6AW00DgTI)

Given that André Rieu is coming to Perth in November and Christmas is in December play "André Rieu - O Holy Night" [www.youtube.com/watch?v=8VfYKmJkxI0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8VfYKmJkxI0) and if you like that then follow with "Andre Rieu - Hallelujah - Leonard Cohen" [www.youtube.com/watch?v=lyhjMNs1pT4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lyhjMNs1pT4)

If you are complaining that these are all female singers then check out this gwr ifanc from Carl's (not me!) Old Record Club. "Tom Jones ~ Help Yourself (HQ)" [www.youtube.com/watch?v=EuwrDCng1Dc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EuwrDCng1Dc)

We prefer to send out electronic copies of the newsletter and if you get it this way then just cut and paste the URLs into your browser. If you receive a hard copy then you probably do not own a computer and so cannot watch YouTube. Sorry. (URL = Uniform Resource Locator, colloquially termed a web address. Another quiz night essential courtesy of Google!)

I will admit that all this has nothing to do with chrysanthemums. However some editors incorporate recipes for a bit of interest, so why not?

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## Haggis

Soak the bung overnight in cold salted water. Boil the pluck on medium heat for two hours. Mince together the pluck, suet, onions and oats. Season with kosher salt, ground black pepper, dried coriander, mace and nutmeg. Stuff the bung with the seasoned mince, tie off the ends and pierce in a few places. Simmer on low heat until the haggis floats to the surface.

Serve with neeps and tatties. Wash down with a few wee drams of highland single malt while reciting Robbie Burns' "Address to a Haggis" when sufficiently inebriated to get the intonations just right. Irn Bru for the bairns.

Watch "Some Mothers Do 'Ave 'Em Season 3 Episode 3 Scottish Dancing" to get you in the mood. [www.youtube.com/watch?v=kj-2XqRxxJM](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kj-2XqRxxJM)

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## Contacts

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## Mentors

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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

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## Upcoming Events

### WACS General Meeting

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2018 at 12 noon  
Social Room, John McGrath Pavilion  
97 Hensman Street South Perth.



### WACS Committee Meeting

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2018  
The Combes residence

### Burns Night

25<sup>th</sup> January  
Anywhere that a good whisky and haggis is enjoyed

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Reminder - Some WACS **Membership fees** are now overdue for 2018 – 2019.  
Our treasurer will gladly accept cash payments or via EFT for outstanding fees.



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