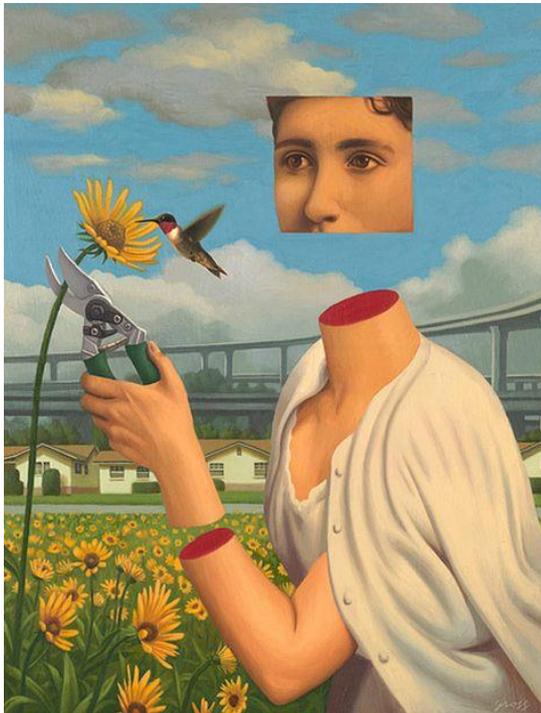


Western Australian Chrysanthemum Society Inc.



NEWSLETTER September – October 2021

President's Notes ¹

The new season is upon us. Hip hip hooray! Hip hip hoorah! Hip hip hurrah! Three cheers for that, whichever way you like it.²

Hopefully, once again, you are champing at the bit to get cracking. Your stools should be in good condition now for taking your cuttings. If not, do not worry as you can take cuttings for another couple of months and still get some decent blooms. In addition, we hope to have plenty of rooted cuttings at the Distribution Day. While 2022 will not be an Australian Championship year in Western Australia, 2023 will be. So, why not try out all those “new” cultivars and good ideas that you have had over the years to see if they really are any good. That way if they are good you will be on a winner for 2023 and if they are no good then you will not be on a loser.

The Garden Clubs & Societies Plant Fair is the first official activity for the Society this year.³ It is to be held at the South Perth Civic Centre Hall once again and the dates are Saturday 11th & Sunday 12th September, with set up on Friday 10th September. Michael Drake-Brockman is coordinating the event so he should be advised of all offers of assistance, and all offers will undoubtedly be greatly appreciated.

The Annual General Meeting follows straight after that on the 14th September. I know that the Show Secretary is keen to train up a deputy so that, if, for any reason, he is out of action come show time the show can still go on, as it must.⁴ Sometimes the AGM formalities are a bit turgid but the afternoon tea is always good. If you really enjoy a

¹ The small print bits are the Editor's notations.

² *The number three has long fascinated the mystics. Aristotle said that, “the triad is the number of the whole, insofar as they have a beginning, a middle and an end.” Christian tradition has the Trinity, three Wise Men, and Peter denying Jesus three times. Buddhism has the triratna, or three jewels, of Buddha, Dharma and Samgha. And, of course, five, er . . . three, was the number of the counting for the Holy Hand Grenade of Antioch. Julius Caesar remarked Veni, vidi, vici after conquering Gaul but Agricola was not so smug when it came to Scotland.*

³ It is actually the last activity for the 2020-1 year as it occurs before the AGM. Typically shoddy effort from the President.

⁴ Covid permitting.

cuppa and a snack then why not become a Committee Member. The only qualification that you need is when the boss-man says “All those in favour” you need the ability to say “Aye aye, El Presidente.”

“Aye aye” however, does have a special meaning beyond “aye” or “yes.” In ordinary life, “yes” can mean either, “yes, I understand,” or, “yes, I will do as you say.” In sailing and in the military, that is a crucial distinction. Hearing an order and not taking action, because you thought it was just a piece of information, could lead to disaster and death. So “aye aye” is a confirmation, “Yes, I heard you, and I will do as ordered.” If the captain says “Raise the mainsail” and you reply “Aye aye, Captain” the next thing you do should look like this:⁵



Forrest Gump once said - *Always be able to look back and say, at least I didn't lead no humdrum life.*

Act, Belong, Commit.

The Distribution Day follows in October. I hope to have cuttings of some new old cultivars available that have been resurrected from apparent extinction. Some of them are bound to be good but it is too early to tell which ones they are. *Life is like a box of chocolates: you never know what you're gonna get*, as Forrest Gump's mother once said.

We hope to have some further opportunities for members to enjoy each other's company, in addition to our meetings, but that will be decided by the new Committee.

May all your chrysanthemum growing efforts be amply rewarded with an abundance of spherical, untarnished, refulgent blooms of staggering immensity glorified by brilliant art shades. Alternatively, if you are growing Cascades, may your pots runneth over with branches of staggering immensity glorified by a multitude of untarnished, refulgent blooms of brilliant art shades. Basically, I hope that everything turns out OK at the very least.



Ivor Mace of Ynyswen, Treorci, Wales, UK



Yoshiteru Nomura of Kumagaya City, Saitama, Japan

⁵ There is an equivalent used in voice procedure for radio as used in the air force and army. “Roger” means “received,” the same as saying “aye” at sea. “Wilco” means “will comply,” which is the same as “aye aye.” One does not need to say “Roger wilco,” as wilco implies roger.

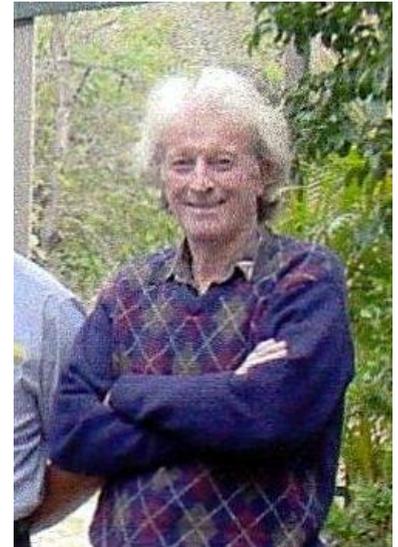
Vale: Colin Moyser

It is with regret that we advise members of the passing of Colin Moyser at the age of eighty-eight in early July this year. Unfortunately, declining health had restricted his involvement with the society in recent years.

Colin was a keen grower and well respected member of our society. Members enjoyed several social days at his home and Colin and his wife Jean were always perfect hosts and excellent company.

Colin was a regular exhibitor at our shows and a highlight was his 2001 Grand Champion Bloom with Stoakes Limelight. He regularly won the Patron's Award for the most points in the Specimen Classes, which is now named in honour of the late Clive Griffiths MLC. Colin was also a keen supporter of the Gosnells Horticultural Society's Autumn Show.

We extend our condolences to Jean and her family.



Cultural Notes

There is a link to a downloadable copy of the "Chrysanthemum Culture in Western Australia" booklet, written by Ted Elms, on the last page of this Newsletter. This is the third edition of the booklet written by the author, who won twenty-nine State Championships between 1976 and 1993. So, it is pretty safe to suggest that if you follow his advice you will not go too far wrong.

Additionally, copies of WACS newsletter dating back to 2015 are available on our website and any of them covering the August-September period will have advice about successful methods of striking cuttings. You may care to read over them and I am sure that you will be able to pick out the best methods that are most suited to your own resources and preferences.

However, if you are not sufficiently driven to be bothered with that then this advice is reproduced from the 2015 August Newsletter and was written by the late Roger Middleton. It covers the basics and is simple and effective. He advises that you should expect a 95% success rate with his method, if followed correctly.

Once the offsets have developed to a size and stockiness that can be handled, usually about 3 inches (7.5cm) above soil level, it is time to consider the preparation of cuttings. Although some growers only plant "offsets" or "suckers", it has been universally established that a plant growing from a properly prepared cutting produces superior results.

The cutting should be selected from only the strongest "offsets", usually those growing furthest from the old stem. Once the "offsets" have been removed from the parent plant, they should have all but three or four topmost leaves removed, and the stem should be cleanly severed above the existing roots.

Next, it is a good practice to completely dip the cutting in a solution of fungicide. This helps to ensure that any existing fungus diseases are eliminated right at the outset.

Once the fungicide solution has drained from the cuttings, they should be planted about 1 1/2 to 2 inches (4 to 5 cm) apart in a cutting bed, or in pots or boxes. Irrespective of what method is used, the striking medium should be well drained and contain little or no contaminating materials— washed, clean sand—or 1 part Peat Moss and 3 parts clean, washed sand are very suitable mediums in which to strike cuttings.

Before the cuttings are inserted into the striking medium, they may be treated with one of the hormone rooting preparations on the market, if one so desires. Remember, should one of these preparations be considered, it must be suitable for soft-wooded subjects.

Whether a hormone is used or not, well prepared cuttings, in a suitable medium, and receiving the correct conditions, should average 95 per cent strike rate. Occasionally the parent plant makes few or very weak cuttings, in this case it is quite permissible to leave 2 or 3 existing roots on the cutting when it is being prepared. After the cuttings have been put into the striking medium, they should be well watered and then covered with some form of shading or protective material. Shade cloth, hessian, shaded glass or fibreglass sheeting are all good types of material for this purpose.

Whatever form of protection is used, it should be about 2 or 3 feet (60 or 90 cm) above the cuttings, thus helping to create a stable, humid atmosphere. Apart from keeping the cuttings moist, light spraying of the leaves is done 2 or 3 times daily, no further troubles should be encountered, with the possible exception of slugs and snails. So keep a sharp eye out for these.

Once the cuttings have struck, usually 10 to 14 days later, the shading should be removed and the young plants left to develop into strong, stocky specimens.

This then is all that really worries us until the springtime arrives, when planting and potting of these young plants is to take place.

How to Root Cuttings the Professional Way

I am fairly sure that none of our members have ever tried propagating their cultivars with this level of sophistication. I include this advice mainly as it is an indication of the extensive knowledge base that has been accumulated by scientific study of chrysanthemums and the attention to detail that is needed to maximise the chance of a profitable outcome for large scale commercial growers. Hobby growers can extract components of this method that they can incorporate into their own propagation method should they feel that it is worthwhile. [I have added my own comments in brackets where I feel they may be helpful.](#)

Summary of key points from a 2012 Syngenta Flowers technical paper on "Garden Mum Propagation"

- The use of small pots causes cuttings to root more rapidly. [\(May not be suitable if you are unable to provide high humidity due to more rapid drying of the compost.\)](#)
- Insert cuttings into moist potting media and water in soon after.
- Use a rooting compound.
- Apply bottom heat at 21-23 degrees.
- Keep air temperature at 21-29 degrees.
- Provide light at 3500-4000 foot-candles. [\(This is about a third to a half of full unobstructed sunlight.\)](#)
- Start fertilising the cuttings from Day 4 at 165-200 ppm of Nitrogen and repeat every three days.
- Mist the cuttings regularly during the day time to avoid wilting. As a guide –
 - Days 1-3 10 seconds every 5 minutes and they may need a misting at night also.
 - Days 4-7 10 seconds every 20 minutes.
 - Days 8-15 10 seconds every 30 minutes. Hopefully the cuttings are rooted by day 12 and further misting is not needed.
- Use growth retardant to avoid excessive elongation of the cuttings. Use B Nine at 2500 ppm on Days 4 and 11.
- Transplant cuttings as soon as they are rooted.

Historical Highlight

This is from the National Library of Australia "Trove" website and was discovered and contributed by Murray Ryall.

GARDENS AT CUE AND DAY DAWN. THE INFLUENCE OF GARDENS.

Western Mail 8th June 1907, page 8, with illustrations on page 27.

There is a good deal more in the oft-quoted expression, about making the desert blossom as the rose, than many who use it think of. The writer would not for one moment suggest any relationship between Day Dawn and a desert, except that they both start with the letter D. It, like other mining centres, is, however, looked upon as a semi-wilderness, and many a reader who turns from this paragraph to the illustrated pages and takes a note of the pictures of Mr. F. (Ferdinand) Haberman's and Mr. Rickett's luxuriant gardens, will receive a mild surprise, as he thinks that Day Dawn is 259 miles (417 km) inland, and has the name for experiencing a trying summer climate, and an uncertain, deficient rainfall. It is, however, like many other things, not so bad as it is often painted. In the first place, it is about 1,400ft. (421m) above sea level, and if the summer is hot, the winter is bracing and delightful.

The rainfall averages 6 inches (150mm), so that any gardening work must depend chiefly on irrigation. In the illustration of Mr. Rickett's Oasis garden, the irrigation channels are shown in the picture, and the character of the orange trees, cabbages, and cauliflowers speak for themselves. In the case of Mr. Ferdinand Haberman's garden, the owner has succeeded in transforming his ugly corrugated iron residence into a beauty-spot with the charm of a permanent home by the growth of creepers, foliage plants, and a wealth of chrysanthemum blooms. Not only is there quantity, but the quality is good. It will only take a few years to have



the iron house covered with creepers, and then the character will be further changed. When one sees children among such surroundings, he does not require to ask about their education, for of all influences, that of a garden is, perhaps, the best in forming character. One may look for a year, but he will never find men and women who delight in gardening and make that their recreation, who are anything but good citizens. Such pictures fill one with emotion, and are a good tonic when one is inclined to feel that the progress of the race towards higher ideals is too slow.

Instead of curtailing the distribution of ornamental trees, the State might freely supply them to every honest man and woman who will give a guarantee that they will plant them. The man should be held up to public contempt who would abuse the good work by such mean, contemptible conduct as attempting to make use of public property for private trade. The nurserymen may well consider that if you get a man to grow common ornamental trees and shrubs, he will soon want to grow more rare and beautiful flowering plants. The free distribution by the State to bona-fide planters of trees and shrubs is the best public method of promoting the welfare of nurserymen. Uninterested men, contented to live in residences devoid of trees and such surroundings, are of no possible use to the nurserymen. A million of them would not support one. But create beautiful surroundings, shade and shelter, and get people interested in making their residences beautiful homes, and they at once become customers for seeds, bulbs, and plants. Those who create gardens in mining and other new settlements are public benefactors, although what they do is done for the pleasure of doing it, and they are amply repaid for all their efforts by the influence the work has on their own characters and those of their children.

BREAKING NEWS: Pest Alert

As if the arrival of Chilli thrips was not bad enough!

Entomologists have reported a hitherto unknown species of enormous moths from the deep Amazonian rainforest. The discovery was made due to the widespread clearing of the forest which has allowed exploration of many of its most isolated and formerly impenetrable parts.

Ornithologists visiting nearby areas had, for many years, occasionally reported sightings of what they believed was a new species of colourful bird. Additionally, there have been longstanding reports from Amazonian tribesmen suggestive of an elusive creature fitting the description but the tales have mostly been disregarded in keeping with prevailing attitudes to much of their other folklore. The only evidence in support of the natives' testimonies was an intriguing specimen which was seized by US Border Force Officers contained in an illegal shipment of King Vulture (*Sarcoramphus papa*) eggs that had evidently been collected by intrepid and seemingly foolhardy natives from the vultures' nests. Unfortunately, the specimen was so badly decomposed that, while suspicions were raised, no definitive analysis could be made, other than that the shipment did not contain narcotics as was at first suspected.

Stories of giant moths are not to be taken lightly. The most famous concerns Darwin's Madagascan Giant Hawkmoth (*Xanthopan morgani praedicta*) and its relationship to the Star-of-Bethlehem Orchid (*Angraecum sesquipedale*).

This giant hawkmoth, endemic to Madagascar, was discovered in 1882. Its existence, however, was predicted 20 years earlier—and nearly 5,700 miles away—by Charles Darwin, as he sat in his London office inspecting an unusual Star-of-Bethlehem orchid sent by a colleague. The specimen featured a foot-long nectar spur, with the nectar itself pooled only at the very bottom. “Good Heavens,” Darwin wrote in a letter to a friend, “what insect can suck it?” Darwin declared that scientists would one day discover the orchid’s co-evolutionary partner: an insect with a foot-long proboscis. Two decades later, they did just that, documenting a subspecies of African hawkmoth that handily demonstrates Darwin’s theory of coevolution, by which the development of two species is driven or modified by the other.

The moths that have been collected are a colossal 30-35cm in length with a staggering 40-45cm wingspan. The body is predominantly blue with some fine white and green markings while the wings are mostly green with bold yellow patches. This colouration is amongst the brightest of any moth. While you might expect that this would draw the attention of predators, if it has any, field tests show that the patterns and colours actually provide very effective camouflage in the jungle environment.

No caterpillar of the moth has so far been found despite its similarly enormous predicted size. It is thought that while camouflage cannot be ruled out it is more likely that the caterpillar phase of the lifecycle is completed entirely underground. Multiple large burrows have been found in the region which were originally postulated to have been made by an undiscovered species of burrowing rodent, possibly similar to a miniature Capybara, but are now thought to be the sites of pupation and the exit holes of the imago.

Taxonomists (a frustratingly diverse group of highly contemplative but equally argumentative scientists, and the “missing link” between phylogeneticists and etymologists) who have had the opportunity to examine specimens of the new moth have reported that –

Moths are a paraphyletic group of insects that includes all members of the order Lepidoptera that are not butterflies.

They go on to state that the common English language word for the group of insects to which the new species belongs, “moth”, gets its origin from the Old English word “moððe”.

They further advise that moððe features a double ð (upper case Ð) which is an early English letter written in the Latin script. Professor H. Higgins writes in his seminal 1913 Speech Pathology treatise “Pygmalion: The King’s English as it is spoken.” –

ð is a voiced “dental fricative”, which is a sound produced by air flowing through a constriction in the oral cavity and typically producing a sibilant, hissing, or buzzing quality.

The treatise is in its fourth edition, now under the editorship of the eminent German linguist Herr. Prof. Dr. R. G. Strauss, after the death of Higgins. Strauss is best known for his extensive research into Zoroastrian language and culture from the period 1500-1000 BC. His highly acclaimed manuscript, "Also Sprach Zarathustra", is the most detailed and authoritative account of the distinctive speech patterns of the founder of Zoroastrianism yet published.

They further advise that *moððe* is found in the English tenth century AD "Exeter Book", which is a series of riddles. Here is the original riddle number 47 with its modern English translation.

<i>Moððe word fræt. Mē þæt þuhte wrætlicu wyrd, þā ic þæt wundor gefrægn, þæt se wyrm forswalg wera gied sumes, þeof in þýstro, þrymfæstne cwide ond þæs strangan stapol. Stælgieſt ne wæs wihte þý glēawra, þe hē þām wordum swealg.</i>	<i>A moth ate words. I thought that was a marvelous fate, that the worm, a thief in the dark, should eat a man's words - a brilliant statement and its foundation is strong. Not a whit the wiser was he for having fattened himself on those words.</i>
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The solution to the riddle is "book-worm" or "book-moth", a term often applied somewhat disparagingly to taxonomists themselves. In consequence, I am not sure why they would risk drawing attention to it.

The Exeter Book riddle is thought to reprise an earlier Roman riddle –

Littera me pauit, nec quid sit littera noui. In libris uixi, nec sum studiosior inde. Exedi Musas, nec adhuc tamen ipsa profeci.

This is generally translated, for non-taxonomists and latinophobes, as –

Letters fed me, but I do not know what letters are. I lived in books, but am no more studious for that. I devoured the Muses, but still have not myself progressed.

Funny guys those Romans! At least when they weren't ransacking and killing Caledonians and other unfortunates.

It transpires that in quieter and more reflective moments the Romans were philosophically minded, like the Greeks, and had observed that –

the lower form of nature paradoxically, humbly exposes the fragility of human endeavour.

Returning to the story of the newly discovered giant moth, Linnaean taxonomists and phylogeneticists have had brisk discussions regarding the apparent close anatomical similarities to some other, admittedly much smaller, Amazonian moths and migratory species from South America more generally, especially Brazilian Hawkmoths. Most have posited that the moths likely belong in the genus *Dilophonotini*, although others have suggested that *Macroglossini* might be a better fit. Still others have favoured creating an entirely new genus, possibly *Bonummisereatur* or the less favoured *Pedicabomihi*, especially those who prophesize that further discoveries of similar new species are likely to be made, given the size of the areas of forest that are still unexplored. Detailed DNA analysis, which is still awaiting funding from the Brazilian government, may hold the key or, more likely, just complicate the matter further. Nevertheless, general agreement has been reached that, whatever the correct genus may turn out to be, the species epithet of the binomial should be *avemoides*, meaning "bird like" in Latin. Some taxonomists have wished to honour the Amazonian tribesmen and their long ignored testimonies as to the existence of the moth by adding an extra trinomial term, *praedicta* (that is: *avemoides praedicta*), but clearly you cannot have a subspecies without first having a species, so, that suggestion, however politically correct and virtue signalling, has been quashed and the proponents dismissed due to incompetence and then re-employed in public relations.

The Brazilian President (Portuguese: O Presidente do Brasil), Brilhando Messias Covinsensatez, commonly referred to as "O Messias" (English: The Messiah) by his supporters or "O Grande B" (English: The Big B) by his supporters and detractors alike, has been keen to publicise the new discovery, especially due to the uniqueness of the moth (Portuguese: mariposa) and the similarity of its colouring to the Brazilian national flag. He has said that the discovery of the moth was expected to bring many benefits for the country, including the potential for enhanced eco-tourism, especially high net worth travellers from North America, and an appreciation by the rest of the world of the major ecological and scientific benefits that are to be gained from further clear felling of the Amazonian rain forest.

Unsurprisingly, some of Covinsensatez's detractors have suggested that the major benefit, so far, has been that it has proven to be a useful distraction from his catastrophic mishandling of the Coronavirus pandemic.

Following a Comissão Parlamentar de Inquérito (English: Parliamentary Commission of Enquiry) report on the Covid-19 response, Brazilian social media has been trending with –

*Anelar um anel de compinchas,
um bolso cheio de poseurs,
uma tosse, outra tosse,
alguns de nós caem.*

*(English: Ring a ring of cronies,
A pocket full of poseurs,
A cough, another cough,
Some of us fall down.)*

In response to the report "O Grande Besteira" stated: *Eu cago no CPI. Não vou responder a nada.* (English: I crap on the PCE. I will answer nothing.)

Covinsensatez had initially been planning a major unveiling of specimens of the new moth in September this year at the National Museum of Brazil (Portuguese: Museu Nacional do Brasil) in Rio de Janeiro but after consulting his advisors it has been agreed that the unveiling will take place in February 2022, in anticipation that, by that time, herd immunity to Covid-19 will be reached in Brazil due to all residents having already been infected and, regardless of that, the majority of Northern Hemisphere dignitaries would much prefer a February date as a convenient excuse for a tropical holiday to escape the depths of their winter. Invitations for an all expenses trip for what is expected to be "the event of the year" for South America have been sent out to VIPs from around the world. Festivities are to include a lavish opening banquet with a wide selection of regional delicacies normally available only to the highest echelons of Brazilian society, with dishes such as the acclaimed 'Focinho em um Cocho', accompanied by Brazil's finest wines, such as Miolo Seival 'Sesmarías', and, for the top tables, imported 1808 J. S. Terrantez Portuguese Madeira. Needless to say the event has attracted an avalanche of interest and invitations are keenly sought after.

Among the confirmed attendees are the Director of the British Natural History Museum in South Kensington. The Mayor of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea is another confirmed and enthusiastic attendee. He had suggested that, as an expression of the close and enduring relationship between the people of his Royal Borough and the beauticians of Brazil, most notably "Sloane Rangers" and Insta-famous quasi-celebrities, a "sister city" arrangement might be made with Santo Antônio do Içá, the town closest to the site of the discovery. This idea was scotched however following an internet search which revealed that none of the hotels there were five star and the area more generally was beyond the pale such that annual rate-payer funded junkets were out of the question. Unfortunately the residents of nearby Kensington Palace have had to decline the invitation due to their recently increased workload. They did, however, suggest that another former resident might care to attend in their stead.

Finally, the sexy two-piece
face-mask has arrived.



Due to the high publicity value of English nobility, Brazilian officials have wasted no time contacting the said former resident offering a "Golden Ticket" VVIP invitation to the unveiling for him and his wife and family. Unfortunately, there are some issues that will need to be resolved before they can accept the invitation with the most pressing matter being a possible clash with the expected launch date for their highly anticipated cable-TV reality show.

Details of the show, such as its name, have not so far been officially revealed. There has, however, been a copyright application for "The Black and White Minstrel Show 2" raising suspicions and, off the record, "household" members confirmed that his grand-mother has no objection to the show's name. News of this quickly appeared on social media and "The Palace" was then forced to state, once again off the record, that Granny was never formally asked for her opinion. Furthermore, they advised that if any proof should emerge to the contrary, then it would clearly be a case of a courtier gone rogue and acting without authority. They also were at great pains to confirm that the family most certainly are not racist, especially Henry.

Shortly thereafter, a suspiciously timed leak emerged of a pilot for the show where Aunty was seen to express her amazement and disbelief when shown the accompanying photo. Also in the pilot “the man of the house” complained of a difficult upbringing and his plan to create a new British philanthropic organisation, the NWRSPCR, the Non-Working Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Redheads and an Australian sister organisation with the same acronym, the Non-Working Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Rangas. Plans for a similar organisation in the USA were felt to be unnecessary due to the widespread elimination of discrimination towards the “red-skinned” indigenous population which has also contributed to a greater empathy for, and understanding of, the plight of those born with red hair. In recent times in the US, “gingers” have, in fact, frequently been invited to be the guests of honour at Halloween parties held throughout the country.



Meanwhile, the launch of their new online betting agency “Lilibet” is eagerly anticipated with its catchphrase “For those punters man enough to admit that they like flowers.” It is known that the agency will be specialising in novelty bets and it is expected to be offering, as a promo, two to one on that Lizzie will be sending herself a hand written letter of congratulation to celebrate her birthday in 2026. Competitor agency and public benefactor, Loser365, is rumoured to be contemplating a major advertising campaign to coincide with the launch of Lilibet offering two to one on that their new rival will not last a year, given the miniscule size of their target audience. Thankfully 2022 is not a leap year, as otherwise all of their loyal punters might be asking for their money if it lasted exactly 366 days.

There are also plans for an online dating site along the lines of “Elite Singles”, “Bumble” and “Zoosk”, except that in order to stand out in the marketplace and in keeping with responsible social attitudes, posts will be limited to profiles without pictures. A copyright application has been submitted for the name “Tinder Surprise” but that has run into vigorous objections from existing copyright holders.

The internet has been abuzz with rumours that purveyors of on-line adult entertainment have been keen to establish a promotional relationship with the now officially unemployed couple especially as their name includes “sex” and they have never been too shy in front of the cameras. Social media consultants, who have been interviewed for this story, have said that, despite the anticipated super-massive financial windfall that would be created, this is almost certainly a bad idea. The couple have been strongly advised not to proceed with any of the proposals as most, if not all, are likely to be a bit “sus”.

Apart from the timing of the event, another complicating factor in their attendance at the great unveiling is a longstanding promotional arrangement with British firm “Rekkit and Old King Cole-Person Pty Ltd”⁶, the owner of the “More-Teen” brand and copyright holder of “Louis the Diptera”⁷. Terms of the contractual agreement are believed to prevent the promotion of other similar insects. Lawyers had made that particular clause deliberately uncertain, by not specifying a precise meaning for the term “similar”, in anticipation of a much bigger pay day sometime in the future. Entomologists, etymologists and lawyers acting for both parties are currently in negotiations with the major sticking points being, the degree to which Lepidopterans and Dipterans are similar, whether “similar” derives from Medieval Latin “similis” (like, resembling, of the same kind) or from Old Latin “semol” (together, one; as one, together with) and the quantum of fees that the protagonists are likely to accept without complaint to the Legal Practitioners Registration Boards of the UK and USA. If no resolution can be reached in compulsory arbitration an application will be made for an expedited trial at the Old Bailey prior to February. At this stage, Rekkit and OK Co. has the upper hand as one of the parties is no longer extant in the UK and unwilling to return, especially after the “Famous Phil’s Frosty Funeral Fiasco” first reported on page three of “The Heavenly Body” pictorial tabloid newspaper. However, supporters of the now So-Cal family are hoping that the “Wrecked-it” moniker they are

⁶ The Dutch firm with a double K. Readers may be aware of similar sounding entities but these are completely different. They are targeted to a much younger, better educated and more connected and socially aware customer base.

⁷ The Australian bush fly (*Musca vetustissima*) is a member of the taxonomic Order Diptera (meaning two wings).

promoting, as well as scurrilous rumours of the company's limited propriety, will soon go viral and this may turn the tables.

Speaking of legal technicalities, "Princess Pushy", as she is now known following the purchase of a luxury tandem pram upon the birth of her second child, has been a bit miffed regarding the news that she will never become a "proper princess". That is, other than when her behaviour towards her staffers becomes too extreme. While it is true that she can be referred to as Princess Henry of Wails, that is only because "Hazza" is a Prince who happens to have an interest in the protection of marine mega-fauna. Princess Meg-Ann is a no-go and Duchess is the best that she can hope for. This is a shame because Princess Margaret is available and Princess Ann may become available if further racism and other scandals should gain traction and Chuckie throws a hissy and busts her and "Handy Andy", back to the ranks.



Despite the Wikipedia claim that *China is one of the most restricted countries in the world in terms of the internet*, news of the moth and the social media storm that it has created outside of China and North Korea is now starting to trend on Chinese social media platform "Curds and Weibo". Well known influencer extraordinaire 椅子人平, a.k.a. "The Pinger" in the West (Western nations that is, not Xinjiang or Tibet) has posted to his 1.4 billion loyal followers –

西方霸权主义和帝国主义走狗的日子已经过去。Twitter, Instagram 和 Facebook 上的帖子证明, 卡尔-马克思一直是对的, 一个普遍的共产主义黄金时代正在到来, 尽管有中国特色。

What a guy. They don't call him "Mr Smiley" for nothing!

Keen Lepidopterists who are still hopeful of an invitation to the February unveiling have been keen to seek assistance from a number of online vendors of British aristocratic titles, especially as the Earl of "Dumb"arton has recently become available, due to the family having made elimination of on-line bullying a "cause célèbre" and also, while you can have an Archduke you cannot have an Arch Earl. Additionally, the Duke of Norfolk is expected to become available in the near future due to the incumbent's terminal decline and him being without an heir.⁸

Many influencers have been brushing up on their skills after an educational Facebook post from "The Influencers' Influencer", Maura R. Rodriguez, in the hope that they may catch the eye of "The Big B" and get an invitation to the bunga bunga after party at least.

https://www.preview.ph/fashion/swimsuit-poses-for-instagram-a1988-20210604-lfrm?utm_source=Facebook

Regardless of the number and identity of the attendees the star of the event will most certainly be "Mega-Moth" and the impressive solid gold-plated four inch nail that will attach it to its specially manufactured Amazonian rainforest timber board. It is anticipated that in years to come the board will become extremely valuable as the timber will be as rare as the moth. Instagram photos from the event are eagerly awaited by all those who "would be, if they could be" there.

Turning our attention, momentarily, to matters of serious global economic concern, agricultural scientists have expressed some unease that with further habitat destruction the moth might flee its natural range and become an invasive pest. Bangladeshi and Xinjiang textile and clothing factory owners, aware of the situation in Australia with the South American cane toad (*Rhinella marina*; formerly *Bufo marinus*), have expressed alarm that their industries

⁸ Lordships of Banyards, Rushmere and Ufford Hall, all of Suffolk, are currently on the market for £7,500, £8,000 and £7,500 respectively from Manorial Services Ltd. Interestingly, "Squire" is a title of respect accorded to a man of high social rank, such as an office bearer of WACS. Squire is above gentleman in the pecking order but requires the ownership of an estate in a rural area. This would certainly apply to our esteemed Secretary and quite possibly our "tech guy" Murray as well. Unfortunately, there is no female equivalent of squire, so that rules out the Vice-President and Treasurer. In respect of the President the situation is less clear. He has an equivalent social status to the Secretary but his estate is urban. However, at the time of construction of his manor house the surrounding area was virgin bush and his was the first house constructed in the street. Hence, on appeal, reluctantly, he is given a conceded pass. Regardless, a squireship comes with no honorific title and so it is of little practical value for obtaining invitations to gala events, other than regional fetes and fairs.

could be wiped out should the moths become naturalised in their localities. Urban dwellers may also be at risk. Should the moths be attracted to the bright lights of towns and cities incidents reminiscent of the attic scene in Alfred Hitchcock's "The Birds" may become commonplace. It is also feared that should the moth become established in built up areas damage to building foundations might occur due to the underground activities of juveniles.

Meanwhile, closer to home, "Son of Consolation" and Companion of the Dis-Order of Australia and Saint Paul on his missionary journeys, our newly re-elected Deputy Prime Minister, suggested a simple old fashioned country cure for any invasion of the new moth. His comments as seen on the ABC's flagship program, Q and A (qanda⁹), *I don't want to see someone else's turd in my toilet and if you come to our country ... flush it*, caused his popularity amongst yobbos and yokels to surge and ultimately lead to a return to his former role amid much rejoicing. However, feeling pressure from the small coterie of more informed constituents of "The Party Formerly Known as Country", who had overwhelmingly supported his predecessor, he has prevailed upon Sco-Mo to extend and further strengthen the "Fortress Australia" quarantine border restrictions by requiring all imports of agricultural and horticultural produce to go into mandatory quarantine for two weeks or one lifecycle of the insect, whichever turns out to be the longer. All shipments will be required to be tested on day 13, unless it is a Friday, as the lab assistants knock off at midday, or on Saturday or Sunday as they refuse to work on weekends, preferring instead to smash a few avos with Pistol and Boo and wash them down with Chardy while complaining about lockdowns and other assaults on personal freedoms and the high price of organic tofu, biodynamic rain fed brown rice and paleo mayonnaise.

While largely a matter of irrelevance to the estimated 115 million people facing starvation in the world, Sco-Mo, is now trending on Facebook as "Slow-Mo" due to the "Botched" vaccine rollout over which he has made a right tit out of himself. Many memes have gone more viral than Covid with the current favourite, judging by the number of "Likes", being - *The clot couldn't organise a vaccine roll-out at a CSL factory*. Media advisors, fearful that the Slow-Mo moniker might stick, are keen to rebuild the Prime Minister's image and have recommended that he should start growing some facial hair now so that by the time "Movember" rolls around he will be sporting an impressive tash.

Meanwhile, chrysanthemum growers, a small but dedicated group of social misfits, are fearful that an infestation of "Mega-Moth" could be the final nail in the coffin for the pastime after the white rust and chilli thrips disasters. Some growers however are less concerned as they still have access to supplies of DDT and dieldrin passed down to them by their grower parents. Despite the stored chemicals now being at least fifty years old they are still highly effective and supplies are likely to outlast any of the current growers as one spray every 10-20 years is enough to keep the plot neat and tidy with all pests at bay.

Regardless of the availability or otherwise of effective pesticides UK growers are, by and large, unconcerned by the conspiracy theorists' sensationalist claims of a new pandemic of giant man-eating moths the size of an albatross, as while their climate is well suited to the production of spherical, untarnished refulgent blooms of staggering immensity glorified by brilliant art shades, they believe, with seemingly good reason, that it is incapable of allowing the establishment of a tropical moth species. This denialist attitude is not shared by all entomologists however, with some pointing out that should the moths leave the confines of their current jungle habitat, in consequence of their powerful wings, they may very well become a migratory species similar to the North American Monarch Butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*), which has an annual migration between Florida and Hudson Bay in Canada. If their concerns should prove to be correct this behaviour would then put even Scotland in the firing line, right up to the Shetlands, without the need to invoke that old chestnut "climate change".

At this stage all of this is pure conjecture and as my Granny would have said "He who lives the longest will see the most." Updates on this story will be provided in future editions of the Newsletter, assuming that there are no major changes to personnel at the upcoming AGM.

⁹ Not to be confused with Quenda (*Isoodon obesulus fusciventer*), which is a sub-species of the Southern Brown Bandicoot. They have a long, pointed nose and short, rounded ears, unlike a Boston Terrier (*Canis lupus familiaris* forma 'Boston Terrier') which is the reverse. Their fur is short and coarse and is a dark grey or yellow brown with a creamy-white belly. Their tails have dark brown fur. Each quenda turns over 4 tonnes of earth per year, and a quenda only weighs 800 grams! If they were not so small and dirty they could very easily have been cuddly and cute. They are known to inhabit Lesmurdie and Pickering Brook and as they are "near-threatened" they should be treated with care and respect. Additionally, qanda should also not be confused with Qenda, which manufactures a range of herb blends including Ultimate Fibre along with single herbs including turmeric, psyllium and ashwagandha, or with Quenda quilts, which are designed to be versatile, ultralight and highly compressible.

Editor's Notes *My name's Forrest Gump. People call me Forrest Gump. My name's Carl. People call me*

It is good to see a contribution from Murray Ryall. He stumbled upon the featured article on Cue and Day Dawn while trawling the internet. I note the remark - *One may look for a year, but he will never find men and women who delight in gardening and make that their recreation, who are anything but good citizens.* Hear, hear!¹⁰

I am also grateful to the Show Secretary who has been kind enough to contribute the article on the scarcely believable giant moth, together with helpful translations obtained by cutting and pasting into Google Translate. Hopefully we will not be seeing the moth here in Western Australia, except perhaps at the W.A. Museum Boola Bardip (Noongar: many stories). Being retired he obviously has a bit too much time on his hands, as the pertinent parts of his research could have been summarised in less than one page. For anyone interested in taking over his role at the AGM it basically requires you to be *running around like a blue-arsed fly*¹¹ for two weeks in May and pretty much do naff all (Portuguese: naff todos) for the rest of the year.

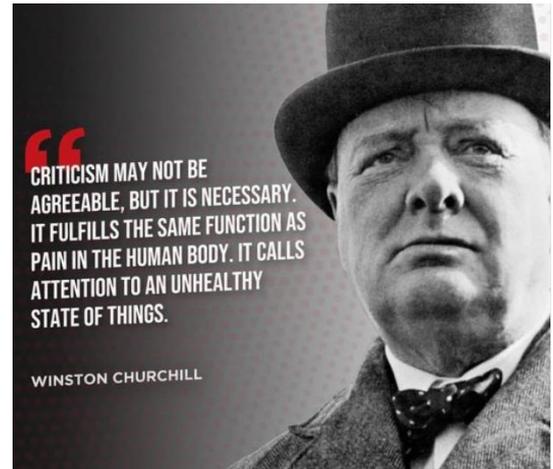
In respect of my own contribution to this Newsletter, I had considered the possibility of deleting the whole Notes section altogether after receiving some feedback from a non-grower of chrysanthemums. *Something for everyone* was the remark. I proudly advised the President of this, which I had considered to be a compliment, but he advised me that it was more likely to be a condensation of the longer form *something for everyone, mostly for none*. After an extremely gratifying period of Narcissistic reflection I then decided to carry on regardless.

I have previously mentioned that I like to have some continuity between the Notes from one edition of the Newsletter to the next. As a result these Notes will once again, especially if you are reading them through the modern miracle of the internet, be “virtually” chrysanthemum free.

I mentioned my tennis playing musician mate “Rob” last time. I turned up at the courts ready to play tennis one evening to find that I was the only one there. It had been raining during the day but the sky had mostly cleared and other than a bit of “Scotch mist” the rain had subsided. I rang Rob, who is our “Rostermeister”, to confirm the apparent cancellation of play and he apologised that I hadn't got the message but also advised me that a WhatsApp notification had been sent out an hour before to all players. I then had to contritely apologise for disturbing what would otherwise have been a quiet night off for him. Among other pleasant niceties I promised to send him another YouTube musical link as punishment for any part of the blame that he may have felt belonged to him.

This sort of WhatsApp virtual messaging is very useful except that you have to remember to check frequently for new messages. There are now so many different apps for messaging that if you had all of them you would never have time to do anything else and, worst of all, you generally have no idea whether anyone has actually seen a message that you have sent. My wife, Lina, got last minute free tickets to the Hopman Cup one time. The session was timed to begin before I finished work so the idea was that I would message the family when I got to the stadium so that one of them would come to the entrance with the ticket to let me in. After rushing to get there as early as I could I messaged them and waited..... and waited, talking to the security guards for over an hour until I got ^#!-off and went back to the car to go home. I had no sooner exited the car park when I got a phone call wanting to know where I was. I had to repark the car and walk back to the stadium and then got told off for making them miss some of the match while they were waiting for me in the lobby. Apparently you have to turn your mobile phone off during play and they had not received any of my messages.

Being old-fashioned I like to phone people. More often than not they don't answer. Before I had my own mobile phone I was amazed that people knew it was me that had phoned them before I had a chance to say anything. Obviously now I know that your name comes up if you are in their “Contacts”. This probably explains why, more often than not, people don't answer my calls. Sometimes when a call does get through I thank the responder



¹⁰ Alternatively, Aye or Roger, but not Aye aye or Wilco as you do not need to act on it; but “you just love growing chrysies.”

¹¹ Originally attributed to Prince Philip, The Duke of Edinburgh in 1970.

(phonee?) for paying me the unintended compliment whereby they knew it was me that was calling them and they still answered.

Anyway, getting back to Rob, this is the video link that I sent him, along with the accompanying text.

Il corvo <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wuMneB0UrE>

Dear Rob, By way of restitution, I promised you another music video, so, after careful consideration, and knowing how much you liked Walter Losi's contribution to the Carlo Venturi memorial concert, I thought you might like this number from the great man himself.

Rob's response was as follows.

Carl, if you're into harmonically simple saccharine ethnic 1950's accordion music it's absolutely perfect! But I will say his dexterity is impressive. Cheers, Rob

In respect of impressive dexterity you may recall the recommendation from the May – June 2021 Notes of Walter Losi's piano-accordion version of Carlo Venturi's "Anna" polka that I sent to Rob.

Walter Losi – Anna <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tsD0bwIVgLQ>

If you did not listen to it then you missed a real treat and should do so forthwith.

I cannot remember if I previously recommended this video but it is also a treat. The music was composed for the accordion but here it is played on a saxophone. That is no mean feat. Stupendous!

Pierluigi (Gigi) Bondioli - Franca (mazurca per virtuosi, 1973) - Memorial Carlo Venturi, 13.12.2011

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

When my son was quite young Lina often used to play a Kenny G tape on the car cassette player. Kenny was a very popular saxophone player at the time but he played nothing like Pierluigi. You may have some Kenny G recordings but if not then there are plenty on YouTube. Some Kenny G facts are as follows.

His sixth studio album, Breathless, was released in 1992, and went on to become the best-selling instrumental album ever, with over 15 million copies sold worldwide.

Kenny G earned a place in the Guinness Book of World Records in 1997 for playing the longest note ever recorded on a saxophone. Using circular breathing, Kenny G held an E-flat for 45 minutes and 47 seconds at J&R Music World in New York City.

The circular breathing technique was first developed by Australian aboriginal didgeridoo players and, according to my other tennis and saxophone playing musician friend "Bob", was also used by Pierluigi Bondioli in "Franca".

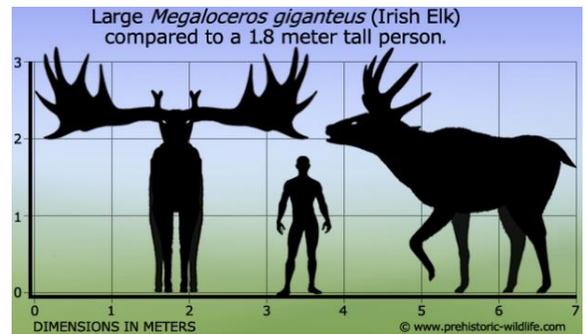
Did I say last time that not all musicians are good allies?

Kenny G has attracted significant criticism from mainstream jazz musicians and enthusiasts. Pat Metheny stated he was a "pop" saxophonist "but was not really an advanced player, even in that style", adding that he had "major rhythmic problems" and his "harmonic and melodic vocabulary was extremely limited, mostly to pentatonic based and blues-lick derived patterns". Metheny believes the main reason Kenny G has become unpopular is "he sells an enormous amount of records while not being anywhere near a really great player in relation to the standards that have been set on his instrument over the past sixty or seventy years".

OK, they are not all "real bastards".

Branford Marsalis once stated in an interview with Jazziz magazine: "When all these jazz guys get in a tizzy over Kenny G, they need to leave Kenny alone. He's not stealing jazz. The audience he has wouldn't be caught dead at a real jazz concert or club. It's not like some guy says, 'You know, I used to listen to Miles, Trane and Ornette. And then I heard Kenny G, and I never put on another Miles record.' It's a completely different audience".

I had not intended to provide these Kenny G details but they are interesting and also have a thematic relationship to the last Notes, so why not? I mentioned in those Notes that many older people, like most chrysanthemum growers, like a good love story and, somewhat strangely, they also seem to like children, especially grandchildren. “Once bitten, twice shy” seems not to apply. Returning to my young son and Kenny G, we were watching a documentary on television about extinct animals and one that came up was the Irish Elk. The narrator was remarking that due to the over two metre length of the antlers the Irish Elk needed to have a massive chest and shoulders to support the weight of them, at which point my son remarked that the Elk would have been an excellent saxophone player. “Out of the mouth of babes”



Thinking about babes, last time we were examining the Greek word “hysterikos” meaning “belonging to the womb”. As then observed the Greeks were probably misogynistic so-and-sos like us but they were also philosophers. They will have noted that babies, the miraculous products of wombs, were prone to crying, childbirth caused women significant distress, post-natal depression was common and that women were generally more prone to visible displays of emotion than men¹². Hence, the conclusion that hysterical reactions arose predominantly from disorders of the womb was not an entirely unreasonable conclusion to reach, if you were a man, which the Greek philosophers mostly were.¹³

As might be expected, there were also female Greek philosophers and this article describes seven of the best known and regarded.

<https://lightwarriorslegion.com/7-female-greek-philosophers-you-need-to-know/>

Interestingly, in the fourth century BC, Aristotle considered that mental activity occurred in the heart and that the brain was a secondary organ that served as a cooling agent for the heart. It was not until the arrival of the Roman physician Galen, in the second century AD, that people understood that the brain was the source of thoughts.¹⁴

You will recall that *Chrysanthemum coronarium*, now known as *Glebionis coronaria*, is a native plant of Greece. It flowers there between April and July and so it is spring and summer flowering. In consequence the Greek philosophers are unlikely to have associated it with long life as did the East Asian philosophers with the true Chrysanthemums. This is a shame because, as previously advised, you can eat *Glebionis coronarium* as a healthy and nutritious vegetable whereas you can only make infusions from true chrysanthemums. That is, in hot water to make tea from the flowers and in alcoholic solution to make wine from the stems and leaves.

So, why can't humans eat chrysanthemums? One internet source gives the following information.

All parts of the chrysanthemum plant are potentially harmful if ingested by mammals, especially the flower heads. Symptoms of toxicity include nausea, vomiting, rashes, increased salivation, diarrhoea and lack of coordination. The reaction depends on a number of factors, including the size of the animal, the amount of plant consumed, and the type of plant.

The plants contain a natural insecticide called pyrethrin, which, if consumed, can be toxic to dogs, cats, horses and even children. Pyrethrin has been registered for use in pesticides since the 1950s. More than 3,500 pesticides currently use pyrethrins or pyrethroids, which are man-made derivatives. These chemicals work by altering nerve function, and they can cause paralysis in insects.

Other chemicals that chrysanthemums contain are sesquiterpene, lactones such as arteglinin A and alantolactone. Extended exposure causes contact dermatitis, redness, scaling and blisters, stiffness and

¹² We now question whether or not that is due to genetic factors or different social conditioning. Stereotypically, women are more prone to emotion and men are more prone to aggression. If you add emotion and aggression together for each of the sexes then the sum will likely be the same. This is also seen with depression and alcoholism.

¹³ For a detailed description of the history of “hysteria” and misogyny in general see *Women and Hysteria in the History of Mental Health*. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3480686/> **WARNING:** MA15+ Adult themes.

¹⁴ *A History of the Brain* <https://web.stanford.edu/class/history13/earlysciencelab/body/brainpages/brain.html>

mouth sores. Wear gloves when you're handling this plant. The allergens are carried on the surface of the leaves and flowers. They're often found in the trichomes¹⁵, which means it's easy for them to become airborne.

Contact dermatitis starts at the fingertips, and it can move up the arms and to the face. It can worsen in severity. An itchy rash can occur within minutes of having direct contact with the plant, and it subsides in about an hour.

So, now you know.

But wait, didn't I say that we make infusions from chrysanthemum flowers, stems and leaves? Many "chemicals", whether "natural" or man-made have effects on the human body. We like to think that these effects are good or bad. In practice most things have both good and bad effects and it is mostly the amount consumed and the balance between good and bad effects that matters. There is a saying in medicine: "no effects without side effects". Needless to say that applies to the coronavirus vaccines.

But wait, there's more. According to Wikipedia –

*The pyrethrins occur in the seed cases of the perennial plant pyrethrum (*Chrysanthemum cinerariaefolium*), which has long been grown commercially to supply the insecticide. Pyrethrins have been used as an insecticide for thousands of years. It is believed that the Chinese crushed chrysanthemum plants and used the powder as an insecticide as early as 1000 BC. It was widely known that the Chou Dynasty in China widely used pyrethrin for its insecticide properties. For centuries, crushed *Chrysanthemum* flowers have been used in Iran to produce Persian Powder, an insecticide for household use. Pyrethrins were identified as the potent chemical in the *Chrysanthemum* plants responsible for the insecticidal properties in the crushed flowers around 1800 in Asia.*



You will also recall that chrysanthemums are, unfortunately, eaten by nearly every pest known to horticultural science. If chrysanthemums contain pyrethrins, which are natural insecticides, how can insects eat them and get away with it? Do you remember those pesky taxonomists? Sometimes they can be helpful.

Chrysanthemum cinerariifolium (a.k.a. *cinerariaefolium*¹⁶) is synonymous with *Pyrethrum cinerariifolium* which is now properly known as *Tanacetum cinerariifolium*. Its common names are Dalmatian Chrysanthemum and Pyrethrum Daisy. It is native to Croatia and other parts of Eastern Europe. It is not native to China so presumably they did not make powder from it in 1000BC.¹⁷ The Persians used extracts of *Tanacetum coccineum* (a.k.a. *Chrysanthemum coccineum* and *Chrysanthemum roseum*¹⁸) to make their powder.

So, as we see, the leading natural pyrethrin insecticide producers are, according to taxonomists, neither Chrysanthemums nor are they Pyrethrums, they are Tanacetums^{19,20}

A research paper focussing on pyrethrins and Western Flower Thrips, which are only slightly less "Grrrr" inducing than Chilli Thrips, reported that the thrips' mortality could be as high as 80% within 3 days of feeding on *Tanacetum cinerariifolium* leaves whereas all thrips feeding on chrysanthemum leaves remained alive during the 3-day-experiment.

¹⁵ leaf surface hairs

¹⁶ I think it depends on whether the ancient Romans thought that Cinerarias were male or female.

¹⁷ You cannot believe everything that you read.

¹⁸ Those pesky taxonomists are at it again.

¹⁹ Tansy, sometimes used as a girl's name, is *Tanacetum vulgare*.

²⁰ According to the internet, Australia is currently the world's major producer of natural pyrethrum. Kenya once held a 95 per cent share of the world market and the decline in production has been attributed to non-payment to growers for delivered flowers. There have been allegations of massive corruption at the crop's management board, The Pyrethrum Board of Kenya.

So, while proper Chrysanthemums do produce pyrethrins they do so in significantly lower amounts than Tanacetums and that is why insects can eat them. Maybe insects find Chrysanthemums as refreshing and health giving as some people do with their Chrysanthemum tea and wine and that is why insects enjoy eating the leaves and flowers so much, especially yellow flowers as yellow is such a cheery colour.

But wait, is there no end to it? Pyrethrins are said to be highly toxic to bees, the highest concentration of pyrethrins in Tanacetums is found in the flowers and bees collect their pollen and their flowers are pollinated by bees.

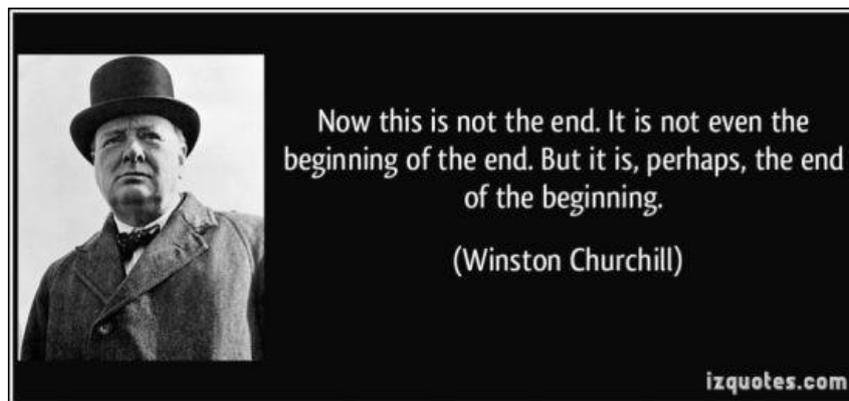
Bees exposed to these compounds (pyrethrins) spent more time upside down and fanning their wings. They also had longer bouts of standing still ... (and in some cases) also spent less time grooming their antennae.

However, it comes back to effects vs side effects and clearly there are not enough pyrethrins in the pollen to cause serious adverse effects in bees, especially if they are also foraging on a number of unrelated species at the same time.



honey bee foraging on Tansy (*Tanacetum vulgare*) flowers

Righty-ho.



So far, these notes have only occupied a little more than four pages. This year's May-June Notes were ten pages and even the rather paltry contribution in the July-August Notes occupied six. In consequence, and also in the interests of continuity, I feel obliged to return to the topic of music having slyly slipped in some musical numbers already.

You will have noted Rob's remarks, quoted earlier, regarding *harmonically simple saccharine ethnic 1950's accordion music*. In the May-June Notes I highly recommended –

Davide Borghi – Menestrello <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mg5zlqgXV2w>

Possibly, you did not find time to listen to it. From 2:42 in particular it is sublime. If you can imagine that you have awoken to find yourself in heaven as a small child on a merry-go-round in the middle of the most wondrous fun park then this is the music that would be playing; lusciously sweet, harmonically simple major key music full of joy and the wonder of living. For a child of the 1950s, like me, *it's absolutely perfect!*

How many of you had a bicycle? I had my mother's "girl's bike" which I rode to school from Years 4 to 12; character building. (OK boomer)

Max-Silvia-Stefano - La bicicletta (polca,1973) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ROGLE6shxxc&ab>

Clearly Rob and I have slightly different tastes. "Beauty is in the Eye of the Beholder." Chrysanthemum growers regard our flower as "The Queen of the Autumn", but not everyone agrees. As Miss Brodie says of chrysanthemums in *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie* "Ah chrysanthemums. Such serviceable flowers."

Many of the *ethnic tunes of the 1950s* that are featured in the 2011 Carlo Venturi Memorial Concert are based on “peasant” dances from North and Central Eastern Europe. Winters there are long, cold and melancholy. SAD, seasonal affective disorder²¹, is all too common. In the warm and long days of summer “people from the countryside” get together mostly to be happy and dance, or at least, in the good old days when adequate screen time was not quite so imperative, they did.



“Under the Burden of Misery”
by Teodor Axentowicz
1859 - 1938



“Peasant Dance” painted circa 1567
by Pieter Bruegel the Elder

In typical Bruegel style, the lively peasant scene provides the viewer with a glimpse of social history. Each figure in Peasant Dance is caught in action, feasting, drinking, dancing, chatting and possibly about to fight... However, like so many of Bruegel's images, Peasant Dance may provide much more than a local scene. Some historians have discussed the possibility that Bruegel was also commenting on moral issues and have identified issues which seem to point towards some of the seven deadly sins. The man sitting next to the bagpipe player wears a peacock feather in his hat an outward sign of vanity. Despite the setting being a Saint's Day, the peasants show no interest in the religious symbols, turning their backs to the church. The prominence of the tavern makes it clear that they are preoccupied with material rather than spiritual matters. Gluttony, lust and anger can all be identified in the picture. One couple is clearly kissing, some of the men appear to be arguing.

The polonaise originated in the 15th century and the mazurka likely in the 16th century in Poland, and the polka originated in the middle of the nineteenth century in Bohemia, now part of the Czech Republic. The origin of the waltz is less clear but it probably arose in Germany in the eighteenth century.

Apart from those mentioned there were many other dances originating from the region.

*A Polka, a Hopke, a stately Quadrille
Let every person dance what they will...
For me, the Sher that my father danced
In childhood will do...
Or, in step with both generations
Even a Freylekhs or two!*

The Hopke is a Jewish version of the Ukranian Hopak dance. Budding etymologists will be interested to know that the name is based on the verb “hopaty” meaning “to hop”.

²¹ A wintertime depression which is more common in women because they have a womb(?) and because men drink more alcohol “to keep warm” which causes women to become even more sad.

The Hopak was originally a male dance but over time women were allowed to join in. I can imagine if David Attenborough made a documentary on it the presentation would be something along the lines of it being a primitive mating ritual where men attempted to impress the eligible women with their athletic prowess and so confirm their ability to work hard in the fields to provide for them and their children as well as warding off dangers, most notably the threats posed by other men. If you wish to get the general idea watch –

"Słowianki" – Hopak <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rui3lBdBsJU>

Virsky - Hopak solos - Вірського Гопак Солісти <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q-Y7oKPdV70>

Some WACS members have an interest in family history. While looking all of this up I came across another “Ukrainian” dance, the Kolomyika. The dance is named after Kolomyia, my father’s Polish birthplace. Kolomyia was founded around 1200. Before WW2 the population was a little over forty thousand people. About fifty percent were Jewish with the rest Poles, Ukrainians, Hutsuls, Germans, Armenians, and Hungarians. The dance was devised by the Hutsuls, who were the original inhabitants of the nearby Carpathian Mountain region.



Kolomyika
By Teodor Axentowicz

I include the following commentary on the Kolomyika on the basis that these Notes have “something for everyone” and that just might be you. If that is not you then just check out the sort of material that serious musicians come up with that could lead to a tenured Professorial appointment. The general feel of it is pretty much the same as a lot of the content you read in these Notes, except that the professor of these Notes is not a Professor, and you can tell. I have edited the text to get rid of some of the less interesting parts.

The kolomyika is a Hutsul music genre that combines a fast-paced folk dance and comedic rhymed verses.

The kolomyika can be a combination of tune, song, and dance with some recordings having a line of singing alternating with a line of instrumental melody, whilst others are purely instrumental. The text tends to be in rhyming couplets and is a humorous commentary on everyday life. Its simple 2/4 rhythm and structures make the kolomyika very adaptable, and the text and melodies of thousands of different versions have been annotated.

The National Anthem of Ukraine was also written in kolomyika verse.

The size of the kolomyika (only two lines in which the words should be placed so that each line had fourteen syllables) contributed to the development of conciseness, stable poetic formulas, economic and accurate use of tropes - features inherent in well-honed artistic miniatures. Due to the richness of internal rhyme and announcements, kolomyikas never give the impression of being monotonous.

Kolomyikas have a two-dimensional structure: the image of nature of the first line by analogy or contrast enhances the semantic and emotional meaning of the thought expressed in the second line. Complaints about forced labor, bitter soldiering, poor breadlessness, forced emigration, protest against peasant lawlessness, and rebellious prayers are heard in the kolomyika about the people's past. The largest array of songs, which are about personal life, their experiences, moods - these are works on the so-called "eternal themes", equally relevant for different eras, but they are easy to catch the signs of the times, because human relationships develop on against the background of a certain family and social life.

It is very difficult to characterize the thematic branches of the kolomyika genre, because "kolomyikas migrate and twinkle like pearls of a scattered necklace", and only brought together in a system that unites them according to content, they form a broad image of our modern people's life; colors, where we see tears, and joys, and rests, worries and entertainments, serious thoughts and genres of our people in its various developments, its neighbors, its social condition, its public and individual life from a cradle to a grave, its traditions and beliefs, its social and ethnic ideals. The world of sonorous beauty, pure, sublime feelings, jokes, irony, jokes - friendly or even touching - accurate observations of a domestic nature, deep social generalizations is revealed in kolomyikas.

Who would have known? See if you can find all of that in this.

Kolomeyka <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7DpELuukYkk>

It's good to know that some young people still know how to have a good time. (OK Boomer)

My mate Rob is advised that the Kolomyika was one of the inspirations for Bela Bartok, *a Hungarian composer, pianist, and ethnomusicologist who is considered to be one of the most important composers of the 20th century.*

You may recall a Polish chrysanthemum tango that I mentioned in an earlier Notes. It has a poignancy similar to some of the kolomyikas described above. After considerable effort I managed to track down a chrysanthemum mazurka. If you are proficient on an instrument then you can find the sheet music for it here.

<https://digicoll.lib.berkeley.edu/record/101046#?c=0&m=0&s=0&cv=1&r=0&xywh=-90%2C188%2C1544%2C1165>



Unfortunately I could not find a chrysanthemum polonaise, waltz, polka or even a kolomyika or hopak. While it does not have an Eastern European origin I did find a 1904 Scott Joplin Ragtime number entitled "The Chrysanthemum".

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7IEPOknjYg>

Eight pages this time. Pretty average? Something for everyone? If there is nothing for you then feel free to write in with suggestions or put your hand up at the AGM.

Cheery bye for now.



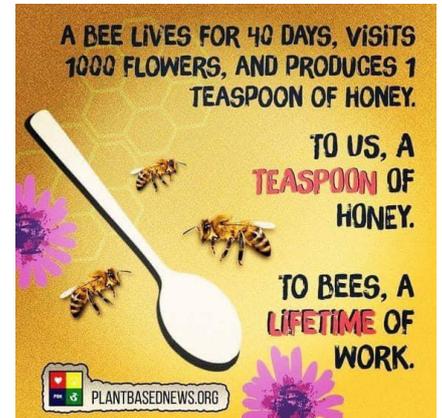
Mentors

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>



Contacts

President – Carl Slusarczyk 9272 1356 (H) carl.lina.slu@gmail.com
Treasurer – Colleen Ryall 9291 9257 (H) 0400 089 223 (M) colleenryall@westnet.com.au
Secretary – Michael Drake-Brockman 9293 7650 (H) michaeldb@inet.net.au
Newsletter Editor – Carl Slusarczyk 9272 1356 (H) carl.lina.slu@gmail.com

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

Sunday 24th October 2021 - **Distribution Day**

1.30 pm John McGrath Pavillion, Hensman Rd, South Perth (set-up from 12.30pm)

Website

www.chrysanthemumwa.com

Remember, the 14th of September is the start of the New Year for Western Australian Chrysanthemum Society Inc. members.

Chrysanthemum growing is fun and rewarding.

Chrysanthemums are fascinating and learning about them is stimulating for the mind.

Well grown chrysanthemums produce spherical, untarnished refugent blooms of staggering immensity glorified by brilliant art shades.

Flower shows afford a pleasant opportunity for citizens to meet each other.

Mothers love a nice bunch of chrysies for Mothers' Day.

Facebook Page

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

