



**MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT 7.50PM
ON WEDNESDAY 23 FEBRUARY 2022
Palms Community Centre Main Hall
Cnr Nicholson & Rokeby Roads, Subiaco**

Welcome Bob Hunter (chairman) welcomed delegates to the meeting.

Attendees & Apologies As per the Attendance Register (16/3)

Previous Minutes Moved Jillian Plester, seconded Neil Boyd that the minutes of the meeting held on 24 November 2021 be confirmed as a correct record.

Matters Arising & Committee Highlights

WAHC's 90th Anniversary: A detailed report attached. Ernie Laidlaw provided some very good photographs taken on the day to add to the archives.

South Perth Community Centre letter to South Perth Mayor, and response. A letter was sent to the Mayor drawing his attention to the deteriorating condition of the Centre and the value of an onsite staff member being available to assist hirers. His response was not unexpected. Staffing was outside his periphery but he appreciated and could take into consideration any discussion on the facility at future meetings.

PO BOX CLOSED. All mail to new incumbent Jillian Plester, 10 Rochele Court, Woodvale 6026 Tel 9309 3936. hortwa@iinet.net.au www.horticulturalcouncil.com.au

In light of the possibility of shows being cancelled due to COVID numbers and regulations, the WA Iris Society had put forward a suggestion that sashes ordered this year would not include the year in order for them to be available at another time. Delegates fully supported this suggestion and sashes would be ordered in 2022 without an identifying year. To be reviewed in 2023.

SPRING STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS – Minimum 85 points to award a championship.

Application from Cactus & Succulent Society of WA to conduct the State Championship for **Cactus & Succulent**, 11 November 2022 at South Perth Community Centre Hall. **Composition: 4 cacti plus 4 other succulents, all of different genera.** Judges: Gloria Karmelich and Rohan Smith.

Application from Epiphytic Cacti & Hoya Society of WA to conduct the State Championship for **Epiphytic Cactus**, 5 November 2022 at Bassendean Community Hall. **Composition: Must consist of 3 distinct genera: epicactus/epiphyllum x 1; other epiphytic cacti x 2 distinct genera and either 1 pot and 2 hanging containers or 2 pots and 1 hanging container not exceeding 36cm in diameter or not exceeding 36cm on the longest side.** Judges Fred Sharp

Application from the Kalamunda & Districts Agricultural Society to conduct the State Championship for **Carnation** at the Kalamunda Agricultural Hall on 22 October 2022. **Composition: 12 blooms, 9 distinct.** Judges TBA

Application from Canning Agricultural & Horticultural Society to conduct the State Championship for **Hanging Container** at the Cannington Exhibition Centre & Showgrounds, Cnr Station Street & Albany Highway, Cannington on 4 November 2022. **Composition: 1 container in bloom, 1 container in foliage not to exceed 35cm in diameter or not exceeding 35cm at the longest side.** Judges TBA.

Application from Epiphytic Cacti & Hoya Society of WA to conduct the State Championship for **Hoya**, 5 November 2022 at Bassendean Community Hall. **Composition: must consist of 3 distinct species of hoyas. Each set must consist of either 1 pot and 2 hanging containers or 2 pots and 1 hanging container, not exceeding 30cm in diameter or not exceeding 30cm on the longest side. Exhibits may be flowering specimens or foliage. One specimen plant per pot or hanging container.** Judge Fred Sharp.

Application from West Australian Iris Society to conduct the State Championship for **Iris**. **Composition: 6 stalks tall bearded and/or Louisiana iris, at least 4 distinct.** Venue, date and judges TBA.

Application from the South Eastern Orchid Society of WA for the State Championship for **Orchid** at Cannington Exhibition Centre. **Composition: 4 orchid plants of at least 3 distinct genera. No pot size restrictions.** Judges & Dates to be advised.

Application from Canning Agricultural & Horticultural Society to conduct the State Championship for **Pelargonium** at the Cannington Exhibition Centre & Showgrounds, Cnr Station Street & Albany Highway, Cannington on 4 November 2022. **Composition: 1 pot not exceeding 23cm, regal pelargonium in bloom, 1 pot not exceeding 23cm, zonal pelargonium in bloom, 1 pot not exceeding 23cm, ivy leaf pelargonium in bloom.** Judges TBA.

Application from Kelmscott Agricultural Society to conduct the State Championship for **Pot Plant** at Rushton Park, River Road, Kelmscott on 21 October 2022. **Composition: 4 plants, distinct genera. Containers not to exceed 25cm in diameter.** Judges John and Sue Pearson, Anita Emery, Barbara King.

Application from the Rose Society of Western Australia to conduct the State **Rose** Championship at the South Perth Community Centre on 8 October 2022. **Composition: 9 blooms, distinct.** Judges: Ken Turner, Bob Melville, Vivienne Etter, Jean Waghorn, Lee Van Boheemen, Pam Kidd, Stewart Coles, Judy Chappel plus floral art accredited judge.

Application from the Kalamunda & Districts Agricultural Society to conduct the State Championship for **Vase of Flowers** at the Kalamunda Agricultural Hall on 22 October 2022. **Composition: Must include at least 3 types of flowers, other foliage allowed.** Judges TBA

Moved Barbara Johnson, seconded Stuart Tindale that these applications be granted.

Still available: *begonia, bowl of flowers, bromeliad, daffodil, fern, fuchsia, gladiolus, hippeastrum, informal floral art & sweet pea.*

SOUTH WEST DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIPS – minimum of 85 points for a championship.

Application from the Brunswick Agricultural Society to conduct the South West Championship for **Bowl of Flowers** to be held on 22 October 2022 at Pemson Pavilion, Brunswick Showgrounds. **Composition: must include at least 3 types of flowers, other foliage allowed.** Judges TBA.

Application from the Brunswick Agricultural Society to conduct the South West District Championship for **Informal Floral Art** to be held on 22 October 2022 at Pemson Pavilion, Brunswick Showgrounds. **Composition: No restrictions.** Judges TBA.

Application from the Brunswick Agricultural Society to conduct the South West District Championship for **Pot Plant** to be held on 22 October 2022 at Pemson Pavilion, Brunswick Showgrounds. **Composition: 4 plants, distinct genera, containers not to exceed 25cm in diameter.** Judges TBA.

Application from the South West Rose Society to conduct the South West District Championship for **Rose** at the Eaton Boomers Football Club, Glen Huon Reserve, 3 Council Drive, Eaton on 29 October 2022. Judges; Jean Waghorn, Anita Emery, Judy Chappel, Alan Short & Bunbury Flower Designers Club representative. **Composition – 6 blooms, 4 distinct.**

Application from the Brunswick Agricultural Society to conduct the South West District Championship for **Vase of Flowers** to be held on 22 October 2022 at Pemson Pavilion, Brunswick Showgrounds. **Composition: must include at least 3 types of flowers, other foliage allowed.** Judges TBA.

Moved Es Pashley, seconded Neil Boyd that these applications be granted.

West Australian Gardener Award

Application from the Kalamunda & Districts Agricultural Society for the West Australian Gardener Award for **Iris** to be held at Kalamunda Agricultural Hall, Canning Road, Kalamunda on 22 October 2022. **Composition: 6 stalks tall bearded and/or Louisiana Iris, at least 3 distinct.** Judges TBA.

Moved John Pearson, seconded Stuart Tindale that this application be granted.

Secretaries please note after the show:

advise Council of winners and judges names, as soon as possible
advise Council of number of entries for these championships

Exhibitor cards were available for collection by delegates at the meetings and would be mailed to country secretaries, on request.

Sashes would be ordered following allocation of spring championship applications in February and would be available to delegates at May Council's meeting, or posted if shows were scheduled earlier.

Please regularly update specialist Judges List for the web site.

Show/Garden Reports

The WA Gerbera Society had cancelled their April show due to COVID concerns.

The African Violet Society were considering withdrawing their May show from the Kardinya Shopping Centre. They had also cancelled their March and April meetings.

The WA Chrysanthemum Society were seeking alternatives to holding their traditional Mother's Day show at Forrestfield Shopping Centre despite the shopping centre's desire to go ahead. One alternative would be a verandah or hall for a one day event although the shopping centre would be happy with an unmanned display with a trophy only schedule included. It was noted that the current Omicron virus was a substantially less severe variant than Delta.

Cactus & Succulent Society agreed meetings were an important part of sharing information and socialising and they had agreed to "keep on keeping on" in the safest way possible unless things changed.

Open Gardens WA had reduced the number of gardens open in 2022 due to owners withdrawing their interest thanks to COVID restrictions.

Garden Clubs & Societies Plant Fair 19 & 20 February 2022

The Wildflower Society of WA would no longer participate as they had no replacement for Sybil who could no longer drive. The Begonia Society of WA intended to hold their own plant sale. The African Violet Society and WA Iris Society were late withdrawals and SERCUL advised they were overcommitted for the February Fair but would attend the September Fair. The Department of Primary Industry & Regional Development asked and was granted space (FOC) to promote the detection of the Polyphagous shot-hole borer (PSHB). The WA Floral Art Society offered a display. The WA government introduced mandatory face mask requirements in all public indoor settings for those aged 12 years and older, subject to exemptions. Added to that was the requirement to seek COVID certificates and ID along with QR code registration. A decision was made by to hire a security officer to check certificates and IDs for all entrants to the event from Friday through to Sunday. The cost of around \$1,000 would have had a big impact on the bottom line but it was considered necessary to distance a volunteer from any potential disputes with other members. On 13 February the decision was made to cancel the event due to increasing COVID numbers and low uptake of the third booster, three days of heat wave conditions, and sadly the Chairman not being available due to a death in the family. Additionally, two big succulent growers cancelled. The public's current insecurity was reflected in some members' cancelling meetings for a few months and one group reported they had trouble sourcing help with the front desk. The numbers did not add up for a successful event and although City of South Perth agreed to a refund, a loss of \$500 was incurred. West and Curtin ads were pulled after one advertisement. Phone calls were received by Helen asking for confirmation that the Fair had been cancelled, one with a group waiting outside the venue at 10.30am. The other was from a lady who had booked her 800km trip to Perth specifically to attend the Fair and asked for alternative suggestions for her time in Perth. Best offer was local nurseries. Bob confirmed the circumstances surrounding the decision and thanked Council for the sympathy card his family had received following the passing of his daughter Belinda.

Stuart Tindale reported on the wind damage to the vinyl sign promoting the Fair on George Street, a month prior to the events. The rope had frayed and Council agreed to him repairing the damage with eyelets. Stuart and Bob erected the signs using a post hole digger and it took about an hour. They would welcome an additional volunteer as a backup should either one not be available. Any takers?

A delegate was concerned that the **WAHC “events” web site** was not active. Helen could see no reason for this as she was constantly updating and saving amendments. Some in attendance checked the site through their smart phone and agreed it was working well although they did agree it was definitely easier to read on a PC rather than a phone.

The State Government had announced a proposal to **align Perth and Mandurah garden bore users'** sprinkler roster with the scheme sprinkler roster (two watering days per week). This is in response to the impacts of climate change and increasing groundwater use. To learn more and have your say, [visit the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation's website](#). Early notice was sent to secretaries on 11 January as deadline for submissions closed end February.

Congratulations to the **Begonia Society of WA** as they celebrated their 40th Anniversary in December 2021. Chairman Bob attended an excellent lunch on 11 December.

Canning River Gardeners Paid Opportunity. If you have a passion for gardening and keen to share it the Canning Agricultural, Horticultural & Recreational Society (CAHRS) is seeking a growing guru to help facilitate their Canning River Gardener's group. This is a casual position, looking after the group planned for the first Monday of the month (though flexible) including arranging tours, talks etc. A stipend payment of approximately \$200 per month is available. More information on www.cahrs.com.au or contact Laura on 9451 1820, email: laura@cahrs.com.au

Member Update

Crosby (Bill) Chase, WA Fern Society, passed away in his sleep in December 2021. Crosby was a member and Life Member for 30 years. He was a dedicated, enthusiastic collector, grower and fern spore collector and propagator. He was well known as “the fern man”. (John Banasiewicz).

Mary Gillett, wife of Life Member Gerald Gillett, passed away 12 November 2021, funeral held on 1 December. (Mary Cutler)

Rex Hardey, Epiphyllum & Cactus Society, passed away 15 January 2022, funeral 25 January 2022.

Gail McCormick, wife of Hugh, ex Gladalan, passed away after fighting cancer for 10 years.

Tess Passmore, Life Member, Hibiscus Society of WA has moved into care in Gosnells. Hearing, eyesight and mobility let her down but thankfully still “sharp as a tack.” Current report is that she is loving it and never been busier.

Outstanding affiliation fees (\$33) Deadline 1 March: (Feb EFTPOS unknown)

Araluen Botanic Park, Bindoon Ag Society, Blackwood Country Gardens, Brunswick Ag Society, Busselton Ag Society, Camellia Society of WA, Carnarvon Garden Club, Cymbidium Orchid Society, Dalwallinu Ag Society, Ellenbrook Community Garden Club, Harvey Ag Society, Kalamunda & Districts Ag Society, Mandurah Garden Club, Midland Friendly Garden Club, Northern Districts Orchid Society, Osborne Park Ag Society, South West Rose Society, Southern Districts Ag Society, Toodyay Garden Club, WA Iris Society, WA Floral Art Society Wildflower Society of WA.

Would secretaries please follow up with their Treasurer's to clear these outstanding fees asap.

Neil Boyd (Hibiscus Society of WA) won the \$20 door prize.

Next meeting: Wednesday 25 May at 7.30 pm at the Palm's Community Centre Main Hall, cnr Nicholson & Rokeby Roads, Subiaco.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm for supper.

Sunday 16 January 2022

The Western Australian Horticultural Council celebrated its 90th birthday with a seminar/lunch in the Palms Community Centre, Subiaco. Seventy-five members and guests joined in the celebrations with a good representation from most metropolitan clubs and the South West general judges came up on the Australind train to share in the day. WAHC Life Members, Keith Robinson and Mary Cutler, attended. Five previous Presidents, Mary Cutler, Keith Robinson, Ross Reading, Gary Pike and current incumbent, Bob Hunter attended. It was a members' only event due to restricted space. Committee members staged the event the day before. "A Walk Through Time" series of slides from historical albums were shown as members arrived and during lunch.

Chairman Bob Hunter opened proceedings at 10am with a special welcome to our patron, Hon Richard Court, AC, speaker John Viska from the Australian Garden Society, life members, invited guests and members. Acknowledgement to Country was recognised. Mr Court declared the 90th Anniversary Seminar/Lunch open.

John Viska spoke on the *Lost Grottoes of Queens Gardens*. The slide presentation showed the extensive research required to illustrate the changes the gardens have undergone since the 1800s from a clay pit used to produce the red bricks still evident in St George's Cathedral, the Barracks Arch and other historical buildings in Perth. The modified garden featured one of several reproductions of the original Peter Pan statue in London, sponsored by Perth Rotary Club. It was originally brought to WA for Kings Park but when they couldn't decide on a location, the statue remained in Queens Gardens.

Richard Court's love of gardening was evident in his presentation on the differences he found when gardening at his two properties in Dalkeith and the Swan Valley. He proudly brought in two tomatoes he had grown, which he left for Ross Reading and Bob Hunter to use for propagation purposes. Mr Court continued his talk on the four years he spent in Japan as Australia's Ambassador when he took every opportunity to visit beautiful Japanese gardens and horticultural shows. He lived in the Embassy with over a hundred adults and fifty children and the gardens within the compound were traditionally Japanese and very beautiful. The families made good use of them and the large lawn during their time in Japan. Australia Day was re-designated to Japan's spring to take advantage of Cherry Blossom time not always an easy task as invitations went out two months ahead. Mr Court was invited to many horticultural events and the one that he particularly remembered was a display of ikebana where the audience sat in a theatre and a "master" stood at the front of the stage and "conducted" others to create large displays of ikebana. Huge branches were included and the end result was amazing but it was then demolished and another took its place. Mr Court brought back a container of Japanese gardening tools that included a wide based, tall ladder that he particularly loves and he believes it is safer to use than traditional ladders. It was a very interesting insight into Mr Court's semi-retirement from public life. He is enjoying the peace and satisfaction we all experience in the garden.

We really are fortunate to have his patronage and he follows a long list of high profile governor generals and premiers who we have been privileged to call our patron.

Chairman Bob read out the citation for Gary Pike, former Chairman WAHC, to receive the prestigious Anne Williams Clark award sponsored by Garden Clubs of Australia and nominated by The Western Australian Horticultural Council. It "acknowledged the outstanding service by a member of an affiliated club." Gary took the record as chairman of Council for 9 years and continues to support Council's activities. Mr Court presented Gary with an inscribed pin and desk medallion. Gary thanked Council and was delighted to receive the award.

Helen Martin-Beck was also honoured with Life Membership following 38+ years with Council. She will be stepping down as Executive Officer on 1 March 2022 with EO elect, Jillian Plester taking on the role although Helen will continue to organise the Garden Clubs & Societies Plant Fairs until a replacement can be identified.

Garden Clubs of Australia sent a Certificate of Achievement with their congratulations on celebrating our 90th anniversary. A report and thanks was sent to them.

Reconciliation: Income \$1,120, expenses \$4,842.85 shortfall \$3,722.85.



Contacts:

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Mega Vision, 25 Gordon Road West, Osborne Park WA 6017. Ben Axon. Tel: 0419 905 240 or 9444 6556 ben@megavision.com.au
www.megavision.com.au

Mr Pot Plants, Glen Jarvis, 131 Hawtin Road, Maida Vale WA 6057.
Mobile: 0421 698 890. Email: glen@mrpotplants.com.au. (\$35 per plant plus delivery)

Life Membership – WAHC (Extract from August 2005 Constitution)

To qualify for this prestigious award it is considered that individuals should have been heavily involved for some fifteen to twenty years at a senior executive level in the progressive enhancement of The Western Australian Horticultural Council Inc in its many projects/involvements and in so doing has made a significant outstanding contribution – such awards should be made sparingly.

Life Membership – Helen Martin-Beck – Awarded 16 January 2022

Helen became involved with Council when she sought help in establishing The Western Australian Fuchsia Society. The society was quickly formed and Helen became their secretary and attended her first monthly meeting in the RAS conference room as their delegate on 27 April 1983.

In 1995 Helen was added to the panel of specialist judges for fuchsias following a Council training programme with Harold Shaw. She provided a fuchsia article for every *West Australian Gardener* magazine published during her 38+ year involvement with Council.

The Gardener's Handbook underwent a revision in 1992 and Helen typed the book for its relaunch in March 1966. For many years, Helen was a member of the Constitution Committee & Standards and Classifications Committee reviewing amendments prior to implementation.

In February 1997 Helen joined the Executive Committee, Keith Robinson the President. Helen acted as Minute secretary whilst Ron Bartlett went overseas for three months early 1998 and on his return he retired as a staff member of the Royal Agricultural Society and he no longer had access to the RAS showgrounds conference room. Monthly Council meetings moved to the Gardener office in the showgrounds with Ron remaining Council's minute secretary on a small honorarium. Ralph Hall was part time administrator of The West Australian Gardener magazine at the time. Due to the publisher going bankrupt, the magazine closed with the spring 1998 issue and Ralph resigned immediately due to ill health and Helen was appointed Administrator/Treasurer in November 1998 and added the responsibility of closing down the magazine and returning subscriptions.

She was a member and undertook secretarial duties for a *Think Tank* under the leadership of Frank Blackwell in January 1999. This project became a SWOT exercise and then a Development Review and a survey to members was used for an Interim report to Council. Many of the ideas generated from these projects, have been implemented. A web page was developed and it needs constant updates but is well utilised by the public and journalists looking for copy.

As a result of the magazine closing, Helen produced the first issue of an internal newsletter *Garden Cuttings* in February 1999 as affiliated members needed an outlet to promote their shows and share information.

In March 2000 Ron Bartlett retired and Helen took on the complete administration of Council. In May 2000 a title change to Executive Officer was accompanied by an annual honorarium, up to then the role had been voluntary. Helen was already running her own association management company and settled into the new role quickly. The Council owned building in the showgrounds was closed as it was no longer required for the magazine and Council meetings continued to take place in the Subiaco area. She introduced a software accounting system to make life easier for the auditor.

In March 2000 the President, Ross Reading, introduced a shorter agenda for monthly Council meetings allowing for a guest speaker segment and offered supper to delegates to allow them some social interaction following the meeting. Helen continues to provide supper for the quarterly meetings. In July 2001 Matthew Lunn approached Council to resurrect *The West Australian Gardener* magazine and Helen took on the responsibility for administration and the first magazine was published in autumn 2002. Additional roles included publisher, editor, photographer and sales rep as people came and went. During this time GST was introduced. Sadly the magazine closed in summer 2006/07 despite every effort to obtain sufficient advertising to offset publication costs. Again, subscriptions were returned and the magazine officially closed.

At Council's 75th Anniversary lunch in 2007, Helen was presented with the West Australian Gardener Medal from Mary Cutler, who herself was only one of four recipients to receive the same award since Council was formed in 1932. It recognises an outstanding contribution to horticulture in WA and is restricted to ensure a high esteem value to the award.

During her 38 years involvement with Council Helen has organised seminars, anniversary events, coach tours, judge's courses and reunions. She has promoted membership, sought speakers, produced and amended Rules, maintained written and photographic records, arranged open garden visits, attended member shows and their meetings, provided talks on various trips she has taken, one of her interests that always includes horticulture. She has a strong relationship with other like-minded gardening bodies in WA and the Eastern States. Helen has been the "go to" for public and member enquiries.

Helen was the principle mover in the decision for the Council to take over the running of the Garden Clubs & Societies Plant Fair when it found itself without a sponsor in 2010, with the February 2011 Fair being the first of a very successful run of biannual events ever since (COVID-10 permitting). Helen continues to be one of three organisers of the Fair, taking responsibility for this event for the last ten years. Publicity is generated through radio interviews and press articles, all freely provided. It is with great pleasure that I ask Mr Court to kindly present Helen with this much deserved Life Membership with grateful thanks from The Western Australian Horticultural Council Inc.

**Ann Williams Clark Medallion – Awarded 16 January 2022
Outstanding Service by a Member of an Affiliated Club**

Gary Pike was nominated by The Palms & Cycad Society of WA to act as their delegate to The Western Australian Horticultural Council Inc around 2005 and became a regular attendee at Council meetings. He was an active participant in two subcommittees helping to future proof Council and it was a short time later than Gary nominated and was elected to the executive committee. He progressed through deputy chairman to become chairman from 2007 to 2016, nine years. This was the longest period any chairman had served since Council's inception in 1932 and despite his offer to stand down after the usual three year term, the Rules were changed to allow longer terms of office if the applicant and members agreed. His career in the Premier's office as a public servant was of great benefit to Council thanks to his administrative experience and calm persona in running meetings. After leaving office, Gary remained on the committee for a further three years before the travel bug got the better of him.

Gary continues to support Council's bi-annual Garden Clubs & Societies Fairs, manning the entry gate on both days from early morning for a couple of hours before moving to his own society's trading table.

Gary was deputy chair for Open Gardens Australia prior to their demise and immediately joined the committee of Open Gardens WA in 2016 when it was formed. He has generously opened his large, metropolitan garden featuring palms and cycads on many occasions.

His own club awarded him a Certificate of Appreciation in November 2017 to acknowledge his many years of service in a variety of roles that included President in 2009 and his ongoing efforts in promoting the culture of palms and cycads in WA.

Following his retirement from full time work, Gary made his own way to Kununurra to spend a month as a toad buster volunteer for the cane toad muster at various cattle stations on the border of WA and NT helping to eradicate cane toads and he followed these annual visits with an excellent slide presentation offered freely to other groups.

He is an accomplished speaker and photographer and his talks not only cover his first love of growing palms and cycads but included his travels in WA and Australia always included horticulture. Sadly Gary's efforts on behalf of WAHC did not meet the strict criteria required for Life Membership and it has been a long time concern that we should be able to acknowledge his contribution to Council and amateur horticulture generally in some meaningful way and this prestigious GCA award would more than meet the criteria for Gary Pike to receive the Ann Williams Clark Medallion for "outstanding service by a member of an affiliated club."

cc Secretaries, Delegates, General Judges