

Two Australians visit the
Flower Show, Chelsea,

And now, from within this book, we would like you to join us
in re-visiting,

‘a flower show like no other, 2022...’

This magical place called earth needs the help of us humans to allow our insects and animals to survive in a healthy and healing environment; that cannot be done while we use artificial chemicals to manipulate natural growth. Natural growth in this context is a tautology of words because natural growth only comes about by allowing our insects to do the job they have developed to do, and that is to fertilise the flowers which allows our grains and vegetables and other products, such as honey and other byproducts from the natural world to be developed by this willing and unpaid workforce from our natural, biological world.



Our bees and insects need our help.

Our Bumble Bees

It was cloudy and thundery, the day we arrived...!
Members' Day, and all was excitement as we waited at the gate,
For the gates were opened, precisely on eight...!
Full of excitement, the day we had planned, for fourteen thousand kilometres
we had travelled to be just there...!
As I looked around there wasn't a moan, for all were here to see the wonders
of nature and the Bumble Bee roam...!
He was there, and from flower to flower his feast was derived...
The emphasis for 2022, was not about finely clipped lawns, but how our bees
and insects are suffering because of years of neglect and of such little
respect...!
Their homes are as important as ours...!
The wildflower meadows, the flowers in the gardens, and along ancient
hedgerows...
And so, it is, with respect, we all need to change...
Our insects, and planet are all that we have...!
For the future, our children, grandchildren, and all, the joy of the Bumble Bee
and the insects we know, for without these gentle creatures, our food will
decrease and life as we know...!
It's such an easy price to pay, with little thought and actions we take, for the
planet to survive and the Bumble Bees sake...!





THE BACK STORY

It takes time for a person to develop in life, and like so many people, the later years of living allow us to reflect, and so it is with the books I write.

It may only be as we go through the reflection of our life journey that we may start to put the events, both good and damaging, and the learning we gain from the experiences, that we start to see our life's passage. My love affair with the flower show at Chelsea, started when I was training to become a florist in London, in the 1960s', a time ago now!

For the five-year duration of the training, my last year was a privilege that encapsulated my love of flowers with a crescendo in spending just about one short hour on the stand at the Chelsea Flower Show for my employer. In this one instance, a love for what I learnt so many years ago, is bonded within the show. This is still so, with our latest visit in 2022.

From my training as a florist, to managing florist businesses in London. On reaching Australia and going into floristry businesses, I became an employer. It was at this point I realised, in Australia, it was almost impossible to hire trained florists, there was no recognised course of training for people, therefore, something needed to be done. For years I lobbied the Canberra Institute of Technical and Further Education, and eventually, consent was given for such a course to be developed. It was ludicrous to have an industry that is worth millions of dollars to the Australian economy without any training in place. Once established, I Chaired the Curriculum Advisory Committee. During these days, I also realised, there was a lot of interest from the lay person for flower arranging, I then started the Floral Art Guild of the ACT, which is still running today in 2022. With such interest in all forms of flower design, I became a judge when flower shows were held in the Capital.

Moving forward, I sold the businesses and was nominated the florist to the Prime Minister and his wife at the Prime Minister's Lodge, Canberra. I was at the Lodge and prepared the flowers for the Queen's visit of 1980, a long time ago! During this period, I wrote articles on flower arranging, wedding work construction, and design, for Flora International and Green World Magazines.

As I grew and changed, I knew to fulfil my goals I would need a university education. On applying to the University of Canberra, I was accepted as a student for a teaching degree. While at the university, my sub-majors included spending almost a year at the Canberra School of Art, studying 20th Century Art History and sculpting. When back at the University of Canberra, and in completing my teaching degree, I majored in psychology

(the study of human behaviour). After all, flower arranging, and design are all about the needs us humans have within our emotions...!

It is now, that I have developed my own companies: How 2 Books, and Full Potential Training. The books incorporate research that transcends into publishing, incorporating education. Developing these books allow for children and adults to develop life-skills. We cover many genres in book development. When looking for topics of research, it is in the stating of the unobvious that the story is hidden. The research for the book, Devils In Our Food, took four years of research which uncovered many facts about food production. Other books include cashflow, managing stress, and a series of books to help children understand the concept of money.

Ultimately, together with How 2 Books, and Full Potential Training, our companies provide skill-based learning for children and adults. When a book is written, not all books, but those applicable, are created into courses for online education. This allows people, regardless of their location, to access the information they need which allows them to move from one skill-base to a higher skill-base of knowledge.

Within this book, 'The Magic of Chelsea' – A Flower Show Like No Other, is intended for enjoyment. The words of the poems encourage relaxation, and a time to stop, and think. While other commentaries encourage you to look a little deeply into the beauty and design of the sculptures or flower exhibits.

For many people, they go to the Chelsea show because it is a great annual event and part of the social calendar, there are others that go to represent their businesses in flowers, gardening or in producing delightful products such as the beehives seen this year, or the lady I met, she makes porcelain flowers and comes from South Africa. Of course, the temptation to buy such delightful items was too tempting to resist! There are many interests and enterprising people attending this magical event. Whatever the reason or purpose people attend the show, the one thing all attendees have in common, is their love of flowers and the majesty they have within our world environment.

This year had a great emphasis on our insects, and importantly on our bees, and the wildflower meadows they need to keep them sustainable and healthy. Developing such insect sustainable environments will take time but that time needs to be as short as possible, and all effort needs to be put into our public places, gardens, and meadows.

With so many fertilisers, contaminated water run-offs into our streams, rivers and oceans, our worldwide natural habitats need to have immediate and positive priority action taken.

And so, it is my interest in our natural environment, education and life-long skill development for our children and adults, that I write my books, and this latest is not an exception to that rule.

The world as we know it in 2022, is under threat from, namely, the unnecessary war in Ukraine and the possible shortages of food that could affect millions of people. We have the ongoing scourges of Covid related and non-related viruses within our world populations, and many people are feeling the stress of the unknown! With the introduction of many poems and commentaries running through this book, it is time to rest the mind and a time to enjoy the journey the book offers.

It is a great privilege for me and to be given the opportunity, time and education received, that my business and colleagues bring to you this latest book: *'The Magic of Chelsea.'*

Christine Thompson-Wells

CEO, How 2 Books and

Full Potential Training



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And So, The Rose...

'Oh, what beauty you show, when you burst forward to the eyes that know.'

For thousands of years, the rose has captured the imagination of all who fall under the spell of her beauty. And still, it is today in the 21st century, we marvel at the formation of the petals, the colours that transfer from one tint to another, and from shade to shade, and then there is the perfume that sends our senses into a frenzy when the fragrance lingers, 'and so, the rose!'

This year was not an exception to the glory of this majestic flower and sat within the crowded, Great Pavilion.

Its lingering beauty was there for all who fell under her enchantment, and yet she stubbornly returned her gaze back just to let you know, she was not going anywhere but would sit proudly in her display as she had been made to do.



The history of the rose is not new, it dates back through the ages, 'The War of the Roses', and more. Rose fossils have been found and date as far back as thirty-five million years. Other areas of rose popularity are dated to the time of the pharaohs when the Damask was used in their tombs. The rose is also used significantly to express emotions, love, sorrow, and other human feelings.

Us humans have an intimacy with this flower that possibly outweighs any other flower and the attraction we have to its magnificence.

Emily Bronte



The magic of the Emily Bronte rose does not come through in a photograph as seeing it in its 'real petal' life.

The flowers were like finely sculptured porcelain with a soft rose fragrance.

Delicate and perfect would be the only description that could be ascribed to such a beautiful creation.

Looking deeply into the centre of the rose, one is drawn to the delicate and smaller petals that surround the inner space and its heart.



The petals in this space go from a soft, shell pink to those with a soft apricot hue.

This rose is so called to celebrate Emily's birth and bicentenary.



And So, The Rose...

You date back so far, and yet your mystery still holds us close...!

You are used to showing love and caring too –

For this rose we love is far from new...!

Through crimes of passion and wars you reign, and yet we wonder at the
beauty gain...!

For in our world, we go through uncertain times, as wars loom and villages
burn, your love is there for all who yearn...!

A rose is an expression of love, and thought we know, and yet, this flower of
beauty, can show much more...!

When we lose, and when we adore...

So, please take a moment to ponder and dream, for a rose can reflect our
emotions to soar...!

A rose has a life as we know, but soon that beauty shall fade and will go...!

And therefore, it's important to know, make the most of this beauty for its
memory stays,

while in its life it dies and becomes part of the haze...!



When People Like to Stroll and Chat...

The show offers more than splendid flower and garden settings. It offers a time to meet old friends, a time to enjoy a Pimm's, and do some idle chat that is only made possible at certain times in the year!



The show is an invitation to the worldwide community to catch up and to enjoy the moments spent together!



With ample cafes and meeting points offering a myriad of different foods and beverages, the time to take a break is evident.

Of course, Chelsea is not Chelsea, without taking some time out to enjoy a Pimm's or two! And so, it was with the spasmodic rain bursts, running for cover and sporadic bursts of sunshine, we enjoyed our day at the show.

With colourful displays and friendly people, the day was a joy within itself.

Have Fun, and This and That...!



Pink, and Orange, and Circles and Shapes...!

Using striking colours of orange and pink together, this featured garden was a delight to see.



Designers, Darryl Moore, and Adolfo Harrison, have worked with the St Mungo Charity, designing as they describe, Pocket Parks. The programme,



'Putting Down Roots', is designed to develop sustainable public places. It's a gardening programme that assists people recovering from homelessness. By using horticulture as a therapeutic means, it allows people to improve their wellbeing, mental health, and in turn, this gives a person a 'purpose' which is often missing in the lives of people in the 21st Century.

When people grow in confidence, they can rebuild their lives, thus, bringing people and plants together offers many benefits for us all.

The garden has a tranquil feeling and at intermittent punctuation points, this feeling is excited by the colours of the containers.

The colours of the circles are combined by the shabby sheik fencing in its diagonal and opposite direction.

The mauve to lavender colours in the plantings against the differently shaped, green leaves, these also play a critical role in creating the visual balance seen in this design.



Enhancing a Garden Space...



As a floral designer, and in my days as an art student at the Canberra School of Art, while studying for my teaching degree, I have always loved the use of different shapes in all forms of art, and when we stumbled upon these shapes at the show, which incorporate just the colour of turquoise, it was thrilling to see.

The clever use of negative space to create interest of the whole and such use of space in this way, is both stimulating and rewarding to the eye. Negative space helps to create a balanced and unified composition in these enhancing garden designs.

A round shape is continuous and gives the feeling of smoothness – a curve without a break, is also found in nature, just think of a rain drop...!

Seen opposite, the round of space is used which allows your eye to roam around the outer, and inner circles within the design.

For any garden, this would create a wonderful and restful space to meditate, enjoy or just ponder the creation of such an object.

Again, the colour turquoise is used; this adaption of colour alone has a peaceful presence and allows us to take some time out to reflect, recall and marvel and see the beauty in the presence of space...!



Different Textures...



The above are inspiring creations adding great features to any garden. The waterfall created from arum or calla lily shapes to the outlines of agapanthus cut into the steel in the three background sculptures.

Falling Leaves

With such an appreciation of the environment, the work by this artist, allows us to enjoy this beauty in a different and dynamic form; this is seen in the creative use of the leaf sculpture below.



Some photographs, courtesy: Paul Richardson

Delightful Glass Art

I have grown up with my family members' being creative and scientific glass blowers, and the work produced on this stand, literally took my breath away...!



Glass is such a pure, natural product, and when it is worked into such beautiful shapes that incorporate colour, movement, strength, and vitality, it provides the viewer with a richness of visual presentation, not often seen.

The Great Pavilion

As the name suggests, the Great Pavilion held a Pavilion of visual treasure, far too much to mention here in this short sentence. My suggestion is to keep reading and enjoying the journey through this book.



Combining Vegetables and Flowers in Your Garden...



The combination of colours and textures within the above display in the Great Pavilion was a remarkable showing of what can be accomplished in an urban garden. With flowers combined, and vegetables growing, it can only be said, 'What a great achievement,' and gives such inspiration to us all.



A mass of green vegetables can be grown in small areas such as allotments. When harvested, much garden produce can be lightly washed, brought to boil point in a saucepan, run under cold water, drained, allowed to cool and then packed into small amounts and frozen in the freezer for use later in the year.

This type of conservation saves on air miles, reduces carbon and most of all, saves you money.

If we can, growing our own vegetables and fruit can reduce Carbon emissions also.

Playing with the past and inserting an old Morris car and rocking chair into this display was a clever adaption introducing the old and the new!

The use of short ferns in the front of the display, and the vibrancy of the greens allow your eye to roam over the exhibit with a short intermission of pinks and whites shown in the presence of the flowers.

At first glance, I missed the car in the background, and once seen, I couldn't help but laugh; it was a true play on colour magic...!

These were great displays and widely appreciated by its audience.



Floristry - Takes a New Twist...!

It's great to see the flower industry using different textures and materials in design work. The use of tropical and sub-tropical flowers allows the floral artist to be bold, and to state their signature in their work output.



Red anthurium flowers with their smooth, shining surface, work well against the masculine and harsh surface of the pineapple fruit. Incorporated in this traditional mass arrangement are green foliage palm fronds and tropical leaves. By using combinations of texture, shape and colour within any design, the interest of the viewer is maintained. Stunning and beautiful.

An Abundance of Colour and Texture...

From a different perspective, this creative design shows the skilled accomplishment of the designer. Weaving colour, texture, movement, and rhythm of the material creates a symbiosis of each flower and leaf element used in the design.



Inspiration and Aspiration with these Gems...



What a Show – Gladioli...!



Gladioli, and what a show we saw! These truly magnificent spikes of gladioli were in masses of flowers and masses of colour.

To regulate the blooms to come out at the same time, as needed to create such a perfect show, is indeed a feat.

Having owned and run florist businesses in the nineteen seventies, and through negative publicity, the gladioli went out of fashion.

If bought by a seller, the blooms did not sell and would be wasted.

The power of the media can have many roles and indeed, such was that with the gladioli. Ironically, during Roman times the word, 'gladioli' means death or gladiator. As a gladiator, if you won a battle, the crowd would throw and adorn you with the flower and if you died, obviously, you did not have the same recognition!

During these ancient times the flower represented, strength, victory, and pride. Gladioli had then and still do



A Transparent Representation

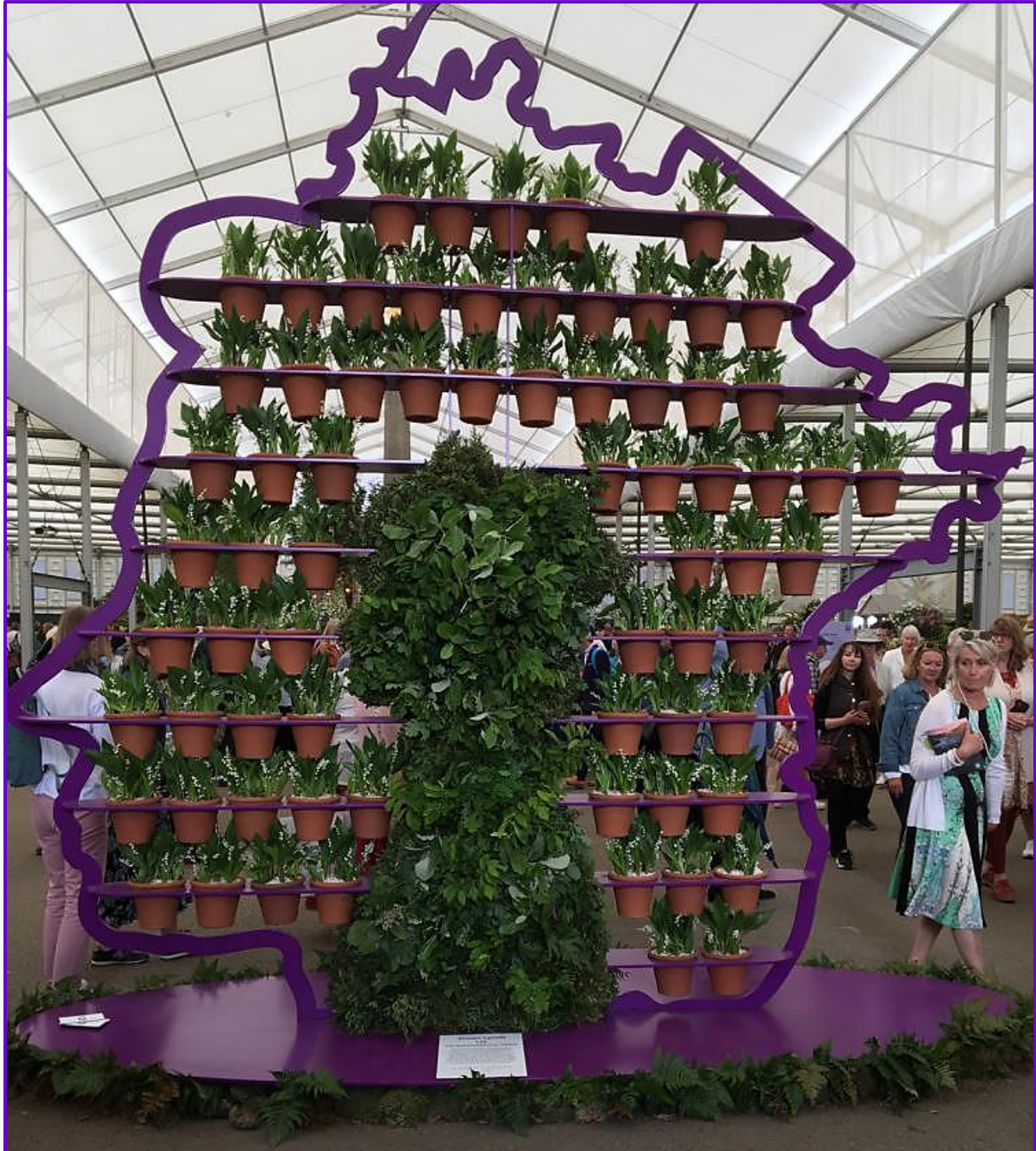
An amazing exhibit of Her Majesty. On different layers of Perspex, flowers were based forming the silhouette you see in front of you. Through the process of lamination, though, seemingly completely unattached, the layers were held together, thus, showing you this amazing image. So clever, brilliant, and inventive to see.



Designer, Ming Veevers Carter

The Platinum Jubilee, 2022

In commemoration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, this delightful profile of Her Majesty shows small pots of lily-of-the-valley held within the profile space; it is a clever silhouette that captures the character of the design.



When taking a second look, the silhouette is repeated in the green plants in the lower section of the exhibit.

Designer, Simon Lycett