



Tuber Talk
2012

Dahlia Society of Australia Inc

Brides' Choice



Formby Alpine



Moray Linda



Formby Pearl



Brians Dream



Glenmarc Skye



Formby Monarch



Hillier Tanunda



Formby Crest



Nationwide



Kiara Patti
front cover: Aitara Success,
another Bride's favourite



Cornel



Ivanetti

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Editorial

*Malcolm & Christine Keller,
Crafers, South Australia*

A few short years ago many areas of South Eastern Australia were suffering from a prolonged drought. Last year the drought was broken with flooding rains in many areas and as if that was not enough, many growers received a repeat of that treatment again this year.

With drought, growers anticipate problems and make adjustments planting smaller areas and rationing water to maintain their stock. Unfortunately floods can be more devastating. This year's inundation came just as plantings reached maturity. The resultant water logging wiped out entire gardens and some homes were also flooded. Offers of replacement stock have been made to many of the affected growers and no doubt they will welcome tuber auctions as they arise. We commend them for their courage and persistence and wish them well for the next season.

Steve Cox's article in this year's edition highlights the persistent effort of the NDVS in recruiting new members in order to maintain their Society and cultivation of the dahlia. We are also fortunate to have an article from Bill Johnson outlining the results of many years of breeding with 'Pincushion' dahlias. Recognition has been a long time coming and we commend him for his endeavour and effort to bring another form of the dahlia to prominence. It is the effort of enthusiasts like Bill and the many other breeders that we have featured in previous editions that continue to improve the dahlia and produce new cultivars for exhibitors and those who



simply like to grow the plants and enjoy their spectacular colour in the garden and vase.

For Christine and I, this is the ninth and final edition of Tuber Talk that we will edit. Seven of those editions were for the South Australian Dahlia Society and we are pleased that Tuber Talk has now become the annual publication of the Australian Dahlia Society.

Any publication is only as good as the articles and photos provided and we pass on our sincere thanks to all who have contributed over these years. In particular we have been very appreciative of the contribution of breeders and the openness with which they have described their techniques and in doing so, the encouragement they have given to others. We hope you enjoy this edition and that you continue to provide your support for the incoming editor(s). Should any of our readers have an interest in taking on this role please make this known to your Society secretary or DSA delegate.

President's Report

*John Menzel,
Winkie, South Australia*

This year has seen the DSA move forward by being able to provide a number of services for affiliated Societies. Success is due to members having opportunity for input and numerous good ideas have been received.

At the recent Conference in Nowra it was highlighted that the DSA has not operated totally in accordance with the requirements of the Constitution. I have accepted total responsibility and these issues will be addressed.

The DSA achievements would not have been possible without the annual Tuber Auctions that have raised about \$13,000. Support of enthusiasts across Australia supplying tubers, enthusiastic bidding and assistance in running the auction has been fantastic. Thank you to all.

At the formation of the DSA at St. Helens I thought States would pay about \$400 pa to run the DSA. Due to success of the Tuber Auction it is in fact \$20 pa.

The website has been well received and resulted in several new members. The site was also awarded 'Website of the Month' by Gardening Australia Magazine. Currently two extra pages are being added. One being dedicated to all Show results. The other a members' page, accessible with a member password, where questions, suggestions and comments are welcome.

Tuber Talk the National Magazine has now been published and thanks must be given to the efforts of Christine and Malcolm Keller



for producing a magnificent publication. The Keller's announced that they will not be continuing with editing and the DSA is now in the process of establishing an editorial committee consisting of State representatives, who will be able to collect articles and photographs for the 2013 edition. Distribution problems are being addressed.

A review of the Standards did not eventuate last year. A review committee is being established and they are to conduct the review as they see fit. We will hear their recommendations at the SA Conference.

To reduce financial strain on the State hosting the Annual Conference, the committee has decided to provide some financial support for this event.

The DSA is compiling a booklet 'Growing Dahlias in Australia, a Monthly Guide'. It will be available to all groups to assist in supplying basic cultural information for potential members. The aim is to have it available by the Show Season.

My message is "Let's be part of the solution, not part of the problem."

Promotion of the NDSV Inc

*Steve Cox,
Victoria*

The last few years have seen our membership numbers slowly declining. Nothing unusual about that, as a lot of garden clubs are having the same problem. We also faced the problem of keeping the new members when they did sign up.

The problem was tackled on two fronts, firstly getting new members to sign up, and secondly getting them to stay on after the first year.

As our first step, the committee produced a tri fold leaflet. It is full of colourful pictures of dahlias, contact details and an enrolment form. These were distributed to libraries, community centres and nurseries. The State Dahlia Show is our big event for the year, a perfect opportunity to get people interested in dahlias to come to the Show and hopefully become members. To this end we distributed complimentary tickets to local garden clubs and some senior citizens clubs as well as nurseries. We also put posters in shop windows of the nearby shopping centre and gave the shopkeepers some free tickets too. On the weekend before the Show, we decided to 'take our dahlias to the public' and had a stand at the local Bunnings store. A massed display of dahlias, cultural notes and complimentary tickets to the Show attracted a lot of attention from the public. Members were on hand to answer any questions that were asked.

On the morning of the Show, President Dwight King was on talk radio with Jane Edmondson, talking dahlias and advertising our Show.

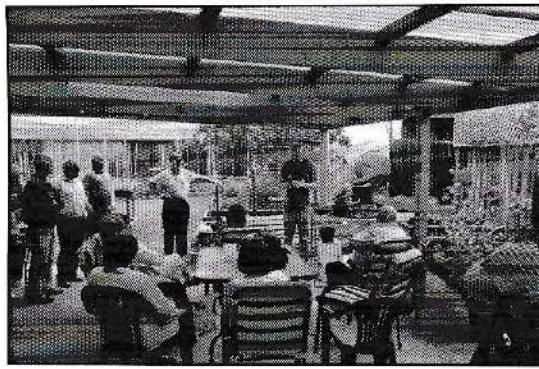


At our monthly meetings we try and keep the topics relevant to what is happening in the dahlia patch at that time of year. The meetings have been aimed more at the newer members too, rather than the members 'that have heard it all before', not that they are being ignored, but we are



trying to keep the newer members interested. There is usually an electronic display run by Dwight, with lots of pictures dealing with the meeting topic. As the old saying goes 'a picture is worth a thousand words'.

The society has also had 3 Open Days during the lead up to our Show. The first was held at Dwight's place, picture on p 6, and dealt with soil preparation and planting of tubers. We followed this at Steve Cox's place with the topic, 'How to take cuttings and planting of green plants', picture on the right. A third Open Day at Paul Gallon's place concentrated on preparation of plants to produce Show blooms. All three Open Days were very well attended and all those members present had a good time and came away feeling they had learnt something.



Last year the Society had the pleasure of being asked to "fill the house with dahlias" for an Open day at a stately home in Caulfield. The house was "Labassa" run by the National Trust. Dwight and Alice did some amazing displays and the place looked great. Dwight was also asked to speak for 30 minutes and along with Steve, did a presentation about dahlias. This proved successful, with the public asking 'Are they ALL dahlias?'.

The committee has also started a monthly 'Dahlia News' email. Anyone in the society that has an email address will receive this. We advertise the coming general meeting and the topic and speaker and any special events that are coming up. This has proven very successful in keeping our 'calendar of events' in our members' minds.

In summary, during this past year we have had 27 new members join. Our Open Days averaged 22 people at each with most of those being the new members. We even have three new committee members this year. One has been a member for a few years, one has been a member for just a

couple of years and the other one is a new member, who feels he has something to offer the society. All three are people, who are not afraid to roll up their sleeves and get the job done. Keeping the society's events fresh in members' minds through our email news has received positive feedback and the field days and outings are proving to be fun, social events. They get everyone chatting in a relaxed atmosphere and this seems to be helping to build the Society into something more than just a Show Society.

The points below are taken from the President's Report.

- 27 new members
- The best Show at the lowest cost in many years
- Good financial performance with an actual loss for the year of \$133 compared to the planned loss of \$2000
- An enthusiastic group of new members
- Significant improvement at Show attendance
- Improved attendance at general meetings
- An effective electronic communications program
- A fun group of members

My First Season

*John Eccles,
Howlong, New South Wales*

While I was in hospital recovering from open heart surgery, the sister in-law of the patient next to me, brought him some flowers. They were cactus dahlias in red yellow and white. I could see them from my bed and fell in love with them.

Thinking what I could do when I emerged from hospital, growing dahlias as a hobby came to mind. So, when I arrived home I started looking on the internet for Dahlia Clubs.

At the same time the Australian Dahlia Society had just started its website, making it easy to find the information that I wanted. I phoned the President, John Menzel, and had a very long talk with him. He pointed me in the direction of the Shepparton Club. There were two contact names that I knew, one being Rodney Clarke, who used to be a breeder of Ayrshire cattle as I was, and the second being Alan Cowan. Alan was a breeder of



Jersey cattle and his wife Ann, looked after our girls when they were small and my wife Jan was teaching at Katandra School.

I contacted both Rodney and Alan. There was an auction coming up at Shepparton, so I attended and bought a few tubers. I then bought some more from John Menzel, the Portland Dahlia Club, Bunnings, Joe Daniels and Jenny Parish. I was hooked.

Having purchased tubers the next step was to set about preparing my plot. I worked the area with the rotary hoe then added sheep manure, composted pig manure, poultry manure and blood and bone. This organic material was rotary hoed in and then a month later I planted the tubers so that each was adjacent to a stake for support.

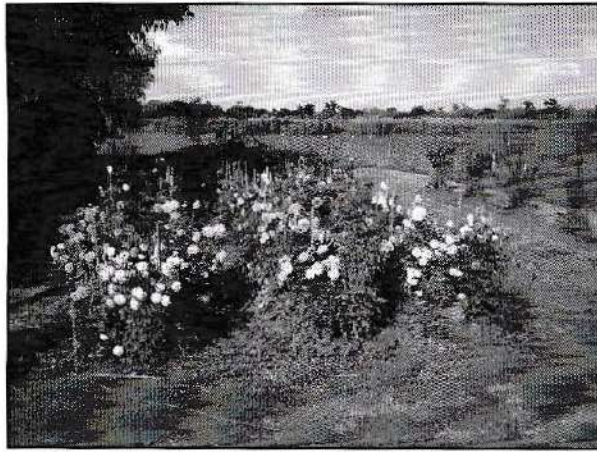
Planting was conducted on the weekend before the Melbourne Cup (early November) and we had flowers before Christmas. I



have over 150 plants that will be extended to 200 come next season. I looked, listened and thought about the process of growing dahlias. In this regard the dahlia website was a valuable tool and I also consulted as many growers as possible.

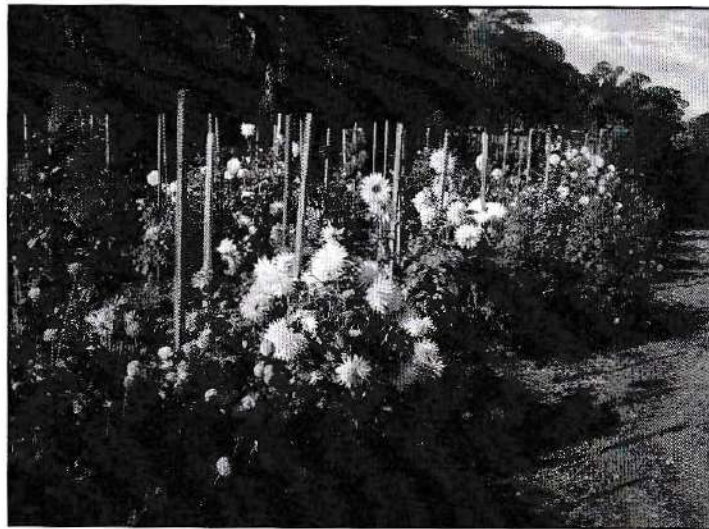
Up they came. The first to flower was Cornel. It has been the best in the patch. Watering was done by a hand held hose, as I found I then looked at the individual plants rather than the lot. Unfortunately, what is good for dahlias also seems to be good for weeds. Up they came as thick as the hairs on a cat's back. It took four days to weed! Not wanting to endure that again, I put a small layer of composted pig manure on with a 20 cm layer of sugar cane mulch. It has not been necessary to weed again, although I still have some weeds in the pathways, but none amongst the flowers.

I called in on Jenny and Arthur Parish after seeing them in Melbourne and ordered more tubers. If you get the chance to visit them you will not be sorry as it is a great garden. Arthur will show you his toys that make the job much easier to look after such a big patch. I also called in and saw Hedley Williams at Lima East. He had a great display. I have ordered more tubers from him. Finally



there was Steve Cox, who has been only too happy to help me out.

It has been an exciting start to a new hobby and I have met some great people. If you want to find out about dahlias go to the website, as it has been a great help to me. Once you get the bug to grow dahlias you will always be hooked. As I read the other day, a person said, *'I have been clean for three years, and now I have bought some more.'*



At Ninety Two and a Half

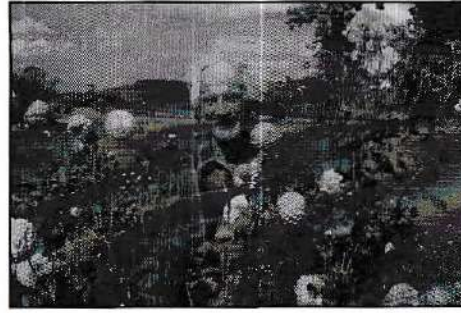
*Hedley Williams,
Lima East, Victoria*

At age ninety two I am sure most of us would be happy to sit back, relax and enjoy a rest from the rigours of farm life and a large garden. It might suit some, but it is not for Hedley Williams.

Hedley started growing dahlias on his Lima East property near Benalla, Victoria in 1966 after he swapped some gladiolus corms for four dahlia tubers. Come late summer they produced blooms that impressed sufficiently for Hedley to add to his small collection. In the following years the dahlia patch increased to about 1300 plants consisting of approximately 400 cultivars. This was cut back when work on the farm became too much. Today, he still grows about a 1000 plants, which are irrigated through a low level spray system with ground water from a nearby spring.

Hedley and his wife Marjorie have been members of the nearby Mansfield Garden Club, where he has also been an exhibitor. Over a 35 year period Hedley has won numerous awards including sixteen medallions and seedling awards. He did not use a lot of tricks to produce quality blooms; simple 'time & effort' is his motto.

Recently Hedley has supported the Benalla Hospital Auxiliary by opening his garden to the public. These days are well attended and the visitors just enjoy the great garden full of blooms and delicious afternoon teas put on by the ladies of the local auxiliary. Many bunches of blooms are sold on the day adding funds to the auxiliaries fund raising causes.



In his ninetieth year Hedley was presented with a Special Award from the NDSV recognising his achievements.

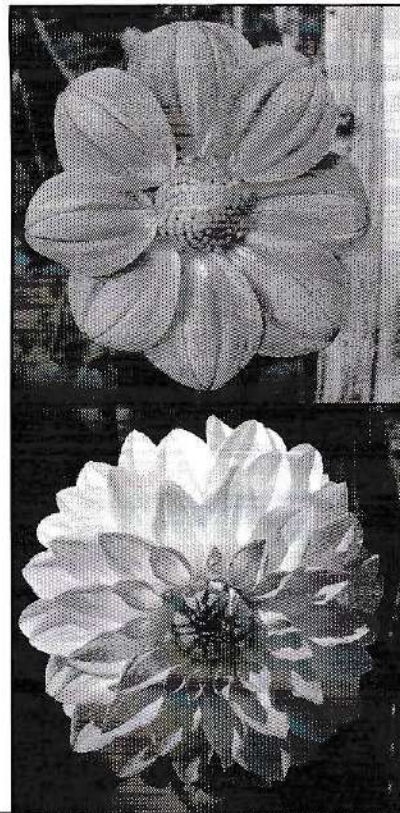
Hedley still does all of the work himself and even manages to grow a few seedlings every year. It is the new cultivars that give him a great deal of satisfaction and especially one that was named Mountain Joy. This seedling won the best bloom under 160 mm (six inches) at the Yarrawonga Show in the mid 70s. One his latest seedlings is Lilacime, top right picture p 11. Favourite seedlings that he still grows include: 207 Lavender Mist (Medium Decorative) pictured middle right p11; 557 Revelation (Collerette); 356 Mountain Aurora (Small Cactus); 256 Cynthia (Medium Cactus); 412 Mountain Beauty (Miniature Decorative).

After the tubers are dug in the winter Hedley chooses to store his tubers in slightly damp hardwood sawdust. Hardwood is preferred over pine because it seems to provide better control of the moisture content in the foam boxes, where the tubers are stored. This system suits Hedley because he does not grow from cuttings. *"I tried them once and the results did not justify the time taken, and I usually have plenty of tubers."*

Hedley has no particular favourite type, he just likes them all. When asked if you were only to grow ten cultivars what would they be? His response was; "That is a hard one. *Alden Imperial* (Large Cactus); *Maureen Quigley* (Semi Cactus); *Formby Blaze* (Semi Cactus); *Christie Cresse* (Ball); *Margaret* (Miniature Cactus); *Formby Crest* (Miniature Decorative) *Winkie Luna*, *Winkie Pat* (Miniature Decorative); *Mathew Lee* (Semi Decorative)".

With a good number of tubers in hand Hedley makes the trip to the NDVS dahlia auction in Melbourne each year. Apart from contributing tubers, Hedley is always armed with a wish list and then due to a hearing impediment, delegates the bidding to his daughter. When the price has gone too high he gives her a healthy elbow that means, "No more".

Gardening and dahlias in particular, have given Hedley and Marjorie a great deal of pleasure over many years. We wish them many more years of enjoyment and maybe another very special seedling.



Looking Back Over 40 Years

*Les Williams,
Stoneyfell, SA*

Back in 1969 I had just shifted to Adelaide and was in the process of establishing my life in the suburbs. Not having had the opportunity to establish a garden until then, I cast around for ideas. I wanted something that gave an interest and a challenge. I stumbled upon a small entry in the gardening section of *The Advertiser*, which mentioned a Dahlia Show in the Hindmarsh Town Hall on the weekend. My memories turned to the big yellow flowers that my parents used to grow in the front garden of our home, many years earlier and I decided to take a look at the display that was to be on offer. Thus began an association and interest in all aspects of the dahlia, which still continues today.

The visit to the Show was enlightening. I quickly discovered that dahlias came in a plethora of sizes, petal formations and colours, although there were no blue flowers to be seen. In most cases each bloom carried its own name, some fanciful, some quite apt for the bloom, for example, a very large (or so it seemed) bronze coloured flower held proudly on a thick stem was called 'The Master'. A rather diminutive "spiky" light coloured bloom with coloured tips was named 'Twinkletoes'. Some blooms were named after people and others after places. Listening into some of the discussions being conducted around the displays, it became apparent that this dahlia exhibition thing could well be the recreational activity I was looking for. It was and forty years on, I am still involved. I no longer exhibit,



that stopped years ago because of my work, but the challenge of judging, discussing and examining standards to help improve and accommodate the continuing evolution of the bloom have remained. So, in the forty two years I have been associated with the dahlia, what has changed. The short answer is just about everything.

My early association with the Dahlia Society in South Australia caused me, rather naively, to believe that we in South Australia were unique, in that we had a Society specifically for dahlia enthusiasts. There was never any mention of Shows held interstate, no results were ever published or talked about and the only indication that there may be dahlia growers out there, beyond the state borders, came initially from a distant cousin who had a nursery at Bordertown. He talked about the Shows at places like Colac, Terang and Geelong in Victoria and the several tuber suppliers around Ballarat, Geelong and

Camperdown. Following up on this information I discovered that there were a number of noted growers in Victoria and they also had a Dahlia Society. By this time I had become the Secretary of the Society in South Australia and took it upon myself to establish contact with the Victorian Secretary (at that stage Les Lawson), which led to much more information being available to us about the activities of dahlia growers within Australia and ultimately with societies in England, New Zealand, South Africa and America. Suddenly the world of dahlia enthusiast did encompass 'the world', and information on cultivars, types, standards, growing and showing techniques etc were regularly exchanged. Meanwhile back in South Australia, we were faced with the problem of poor Show attendances and decline in membership base and financial income. To overcome this, and after much discussion, the Society adopted the approach of setting the Show Schedule so that as a society we presented the dahlia to the public, in all of its types and sizes and in a way which helped the public to appreciate the different types of dahlias that existed. Some changes to type names and standards were also made to try to make the difference between the types more obvious. As an example, the schedule used to call for 'charm dahlias', which were under 4½ inches in diameter and could be either cactus or decorative type. However, when the size range was 4½ to 6 inches they were divided quite distinctly into Cactus or Decorative. Similarly, the Decoratives were Miniature Decorative if in the size range 4½ to 6 inches, Medium Decorative if they were within the size range 6 to 8 inches. On the other hand, if they were in the size range over 8 inches, they were classified as either 'Formal' or 'Informal'. The public were therefore

presented with a bloom of say the 'Master' presented as a Giant Informal Decorative in one Section of the Show, but presented as a Medium Decorative only a short distance further along the show bench. No wonder they could not see the point of the Show, except perhaps to massage the ego of some of the exhibitors.

It was during the time that we were rearranging our Standards and Show Schedules in the early 70s that Andrew and Janet McKay proposed that the Victorian Society hold a Dahlia Conference in Colac. By now there had been a discovery of the extent of the 'Dahlia family' in Australia, with regular communications between dahlia enthusiasts in every state in Australia and social visits to other State Shows becoming the norm. At the well attended Conference, it was initially proposed that 'The National Dahlia Society of Australia' be formed, with the aim to promote the dahlia in all of its forms and to set common Standards within Australia. There was a lively debate on this issue. In the end there was consensus that, we were not ready for a uniform Society, but should form a body to develop and promote a uniform set of Standards for all State Societies. This was adopted and Gayner Parker was appointed as the first "Distributor" of the newly formed "Australian Dahlia Council". His role was to gather ideas and suggestions from the States, present the submitted ideas to each State for comment and ultimate development of an agreed Standard for each type of dahlia.

In 1978, Gayner Parker, Ray Sellick and I visited New Zealand for the 30th Anniversary celebrations of the New Zealand Society. Apart from the friendly

social atmosphere, we were able to discuss Standards, Shows, Cultivars and many other aspects of dahlias with the growers from England, New Zealand, America and of course the Kiwis and other Aussies. In particular we were able to see at first hand the much vaunted Semi Cactus types of dahlia, particularly the Keene's, (Reginald, Candy and Salmon) and the Symbols, which formed the mainstay of the UK show scene. These blooms then formed the basis of the push we started in South Australia to introduce the true Semi Cactus into the Schedule. It was a hard slog to get across the idea that the Semi Cactus was a dahlia whose petallage is midway between that of a Cactus and a Decorative Dahlia. Eventually a set of standards was developed and accepted as the standard by the Australian Dahlia Council. Within South Australia the rest is

history. The Semi Cactus is as much a part of the Schedule as is the Pompon or Colletterte. Personally I think that this was probably the best change that occurred at the time.

With the changes that had been occurring to the Schedule and the adoption of the idea of taking the dahlia to the people, that is, move the locality for the Show every couple of years, to expose the Show to a 'new' viewer base, Show attendances began to improve. As exhibitor numbers increased, the number of blooms staged by

exhibitors increased and the popularity of the flower increased.

Running parallel to the introduction of new Standards was the development of a set of requirements, setting up the Standards expected from the judges and how the examination would be administered. The examination was set up as a practical assessment, point scoring a number of blooms, and was administered by several accredited judges. This method worked

well in South Australia and produced a core of accredited judges for the Society. Subsequent local fiddling with the requirements, has, I believe watered down the initial high standard set. In 1981 I was able to be present at the Centenary



Show of the National Dahlia Society of England, held in London and the Northern Show held in the Midlands several weeks later. Gayner and Joyce Parker were also present and we were able to participate in the judging teams used at these magnificent events. We observed, we discussed and we brought back with us a lot of ideas. Ideas of what to do and ideas of what to steer well clear of. This information was used as the basis of many subsequent discussion points by the Australian Dahlia Council during Gayner's tenure.

During 1988 we again visited New Zealand and attended the 40th Anniversary Show. We noted with interest that the Kiwis were heading in a somewhat similar direction to ourselves. Dr Keith Hammet had persisted with the breeding program he had shown us 10 years earlier and had produced a very neat, attractive and eye catching miniature bloom which, in 78 we considered as a good 'cut flower'. With the subsequent work done on the standards, our thinking had changed and these new seedlings produced by Keith, were seen to fall into a category that was midway between a formal decorative and a ball dahlia. They had a slightly pointed petal which, if the geometry of the petal is studied will be seen to introduce a slight cupping, which defines the overall form of the bloom far better than the traditional rounded and flat petal of the Formal Decorative. Today the Semi Decorative is incorporated into our Standards and is an attractive and welcome addition to the bench display, thanks to the work, perseverance and forethought of a number of dedicated people, who care more for the dahlia than the kudos of winning.

When I enter a show hall I get a good idea of whether the exhibiting group has a real interest in the blooms or whether they are simply going through the motions by rote. Fortunately, most are progressive and will do well into the future. Unfortunately, there are some who are still influenced by 'stick-in-the-muds' and present their Schedule and display as they did forty years ago. They are struggling and are not doing the dahlia any favours.

To paraphrase the famous Christmas saying, "Yes Virginia", there really have been changes in the past forty years, and

I believe that nearly all of them have been good, not only for the dahlia, but also for the exhibitor/member and for the viewing public. The changes to the Standards have seen the acceptance of the lesser known types such as the Orchid, Stellar, Anemone and Semi Decorative, to name a few. This has stimulated an interest in these types, and has resulted in more growers trying their hand at breeding these cultivars. There are now more different Anemone, Stellar and Orchid cultivars in existence than ever before. Bill Tapley shook things up back in the late 70s with some of his Waterlily seedlings. They have stood the test of time and just as the pink Pompon "Hallmark" became the hallmark for pompons in the UK, Figurine, pictured on p14, became the hallmark for the Waterlily in Australia.

Each year we see new Cultivars on the bench. Some are one year wonders, some stand the test of time and some like Susan French, Jan Lennon and Daleko Venus are still around and I will lay odds that in another 20 years we will still see them on the bench.

As I have finished writing this article in Paris I will say "Vive Le Change".



Les Williams & Ken Judd

Australian Experience

Wayne Holland,
Canada

Starting on February 10th, 2012 we had a month of wonderful adventures in Australia. The good part began after the blood flowed back into my white knuckles, as I re-learned to drive on the left AND navigate North through Sydney at the same time. We spent a lovely week in Port Macquarie and then made our way south, tasting the offerings of the vine in many lovely vineyards and arriving in Melbourne a few days before the Dahlia Show.

While in Victoria we stayed with Steve Cox and his wife Vanda and enjoyed an excellent barbie or two. Guided by 'Pincushion' expert Bill Johnson, Gloria and I spent one day on a trip to Jenny Parish's place near Geelong. Among her 20,000 dahlia plants Jenny has many of Bill's Anemone dahlias on display and for sale.

From gardens we moved on to the State Show and my first experience at judging by Australian Standards. Very interesting. I learned a lot from Les Williams and especially the importance of staging in multiple bloom exhibits. The NDSV Championships are different from our (American) emphasis on mostly single blooms. We do have multiple bloom sections, but that simply means an entry of a vase of 3, or perhaps 3 vases of one bloom each, for the larger sizes. Matching and staging do indeed matter in those cases. Our Seedling Class is always single bloom until the grower seeks official ADS scoring prior to release. For that the entry will be 3 matching and well staged blooms. I must also mention that COLOUR is much more evident on our benches as each size will have



separate Single Bloom Sections, for each Colour and for Bicolour and for Variegated.

Off along the Great Ocean Road via the Sorrento Ferry. As we neared Adelaide it began to rain and we carried it with us all the way to Winkie, near Berri, and hosts John and Anne Menzel. They were actually pretty happy to get the rain.

John has an astonishing number of good seedlings coming on and has been able to make winning show entries consisting entirely of his own dahlias. This has given him great satisfaction.

A highlight of our stay was a day on the Murray River with John and Anne and their dog Ernie. A picnic down a small side channel was particularly relaxing and enjoyable. Another memorable day was spent in the Barossa, renowned for its fine wines.

Then the drive east across 'The Big Flat', navigating around the floods between us and Sydney for our flight back to Canada on 9th March. Our dahlia season begins as yours ends!

The North American Scene

Ron Miner,

Changrin Falls, Ohio, USA

Greetings from Changrin Falls Ohio North America! We are just beginning the process of starting tubers, taking cuttings, and planting seeds. We've been inspired all winter long by emails from "down under" and by wonderful pictures of your dahlia gardens there. We are very excited to get started on the dahlia season for 2012! It is also my pleasure to provide some comments about our season last year and some wonderful new seedlings that will be introduced this year!

Perhaps North Americans are unique in their complaints about the weather: too wet, too dry, too warm, too cold, etc. (Or, do you hear that on occasion in Australia, too?) In any case, each of the six or seven Shows I attended last year had lots of wonderful blooms and very impressive head tables. That is also just how I remember the shows we attended in Australia a few years ago. The common factors in our Shows and yours are wonderful friends, new and old.

Two of the three top winners in North America last year are well known to you. Embrace (BB SC BR) gathered more first place awards and more "higher awards" than any other cultivar shown here. Pam Howden (WL LB) captured third place in that list. Both, of course, are cultivars originated in Australia! Elvira, a dark pink peony, was in second place and, in so doing, won the Stanley Johnson Medal for originator Lou Eckhoff. Midnight Star (O DR), Valley Porcupine (NX LB), Marys Jomanda (BA DP), Inland Dynasty (AA SC Y), Zorro (AA ID DR), Vassio Meggos (A ID I), and Weston Spanish Dancer (M C FL)

rounded out the top 10 winning cultivars in North American competition in 2011.



One reason for the growth in the popularity of the open centered cultivars here is their popularity with home gardeners. They tend to bloom prolifically and they are relatively easy to grow. If we get them hooked on those, can a garden full of Inland Dynasty be far behind?

Another example of the effect of public popularity on the dahlia scene here is the increasing number of "multi coloured" dahlias. Which attracts more attention in your garden, a plant with four perfect blooms of Embrace or a plant covered with spent blooms of Weston Spanish Dancer? In my garden and in the Shows I attend, the gardeners uninitiated in the ways of dahlia growers, inevitably pick the riot of colour, even if the blooms are so bad they can't be taken to a Show.

The ADS continues to do its best to encourage growing and exhibiting those eye-catching, colourful blooms. For example, this year the ADS Classification Committee under the chairmanship of Lou Paradise, came up with a way to classify cultivars that show colours both from the face and the reverse of the ray florets. While the details are beyond the scope of this note, River's Novelty, pictured, is likely to be a beneficiary of the new system.



Dahlia Stake-Out

*Malcolm Keller,
Crafers, South Australia*

They provide 'Lift and Support' and are essential for most Australian dahlias. I am referring of course to the dahlia stake.

There was a time when durable jarrah eucalyptus stakes could be purchased quite readily. I have some that are 10 years old and in almost as good a condition as the day they were purchased. Apart from no signs of rotting they have remained straight and have not split or snapped. If only I had purchased more at the time.

Since then I have acquired 'hardwood' stakes many of which twist and bend and, when driven into the soil bend further and snap. To add insult to injury, instead of remaining 6 feet in length, the portion in the ground deteriorates and breaks leaving a stake suited only for low growing varieties. Over the years I have also gathered some steel star droppers and although they seemed expensive at the time, they have remained in quite good condition with only mild signs of corrosion.

Early this season I ventured into the hardware store to find replacement

stakes. The 'hardwood' stakes were about \$5.50 each, star droppers about \$9.00 each and recycled plastic about \$7.50 each. Given past experience with the hardwood stakes they were ruled out and the star droppers seemed expensive and have the added disadvantage of being heavy to move about the garden.

Recycled plastic would be a 'green' thing to do. They would not rot, they are relatively light to handle, produce no splinters and would be less abrasive on the dahlia bushes than the alternatives. There was just one thing that made me feel uneasy. Some of the stakes in the rack appeared bent.

I selected 20 of the straightest stakes and hoped they would stay that way. Alas it was not to be. Large plants and hot conditions have seen many of these stakes bend through an angle of almost 45 degrees. Not

surprisingly the stems of blooms start at 45 degrees and then try to finish vertical. Hardly the way to produce quality blooms.

Noble as it may sound to use recycled plastic stakes, I suggest you leave them on the shelf until such time as they are more robust and less plastic in the heat. For me it looks like a choice between hardwood of questionable quality and the more expensive steel star droppers.



*Recycled plastic stakes at
season's end*

Tubers to France

*Malcolm Keller,
Crafers, South Australia*

It has been a long process, but finally tubers of some Australian raised cultivars are on their way to France. The export of these tubers began at the instigation of Steven Forbes, Director of the Adelaide Botanic Gardens when he attended a conference in Paris with members of Botanic Gardens from other parts of the world in 2010.

At the end of our growing season in 2010 we prepared tubers so they were free of soil and ready for inspection, only to discover that the



plants needed to be inspected a number of times during growth to obtain the necessary quarantine certification. Disappointed, we decided to try again in 2011. However, with budget cut backs it appeared the process would not happen. Finally, in late November it was given the go ahead.

Matt Coulter from the Mt Lofty Botanic Gardens came to our garden and took leaf cuttings from plants which by now were



Matt Coulter & John Sandham, Adelaide Botanic Gardens

400 mm or more tall. Joan Matulick and I supplemented these with a small number of greens that we had taken earlier in the season. Matt had reasonable success with the cuttings, but ran into trouble with a severe infestation of spider mite. Despite this setback and the loss of several plants when inspected for virus we were able to assemble pot tubers of the following cultivars: Formby Embers, Nite Life, Devon Calypso, Susan French, Araulen Fire, Devon Spirit, Christie Knight, Christie Galah, Kewe, Christie Red, Aitara Picardy, Pam Howden and Christie Merlot for export.

It is intended to enter them in the Parc Floral de Paris International Dahlia Competition.



Dahlias Drown at Shepparton

*Rodney Clarke
Shepparton, Victoria*

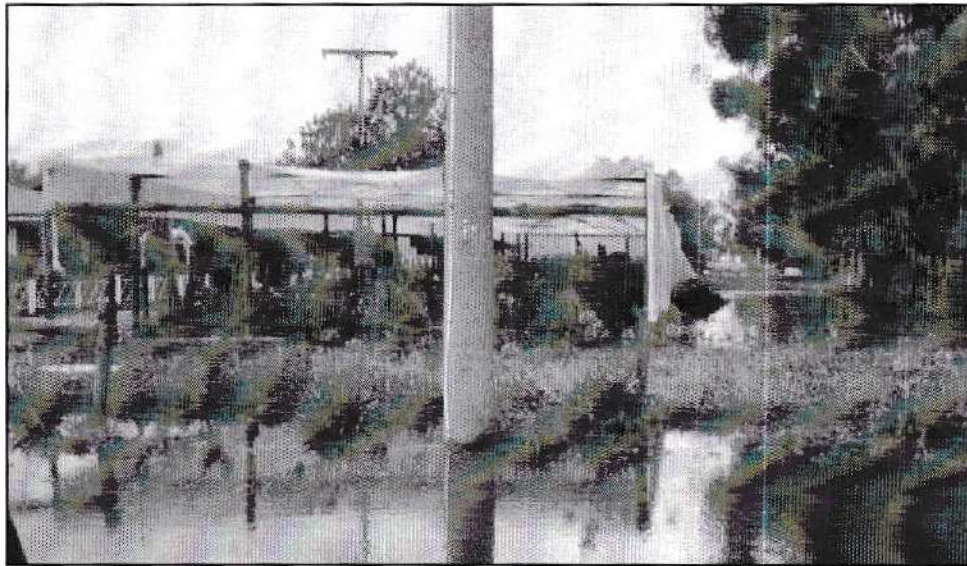
The season got away to its best start for many years. There were very few losses, healthy plants and plenty of weeds and a lot of work keeping them at bay. Similar sentiments were shared by most of our members in the Goulburn Valley.

Alas, just as the upcoming show season was looking good, it all changed on 29th February with 100 mm of rain in 20 hours, something this flood plain cannot handle. Water everywhere, paddocks flooded, front yard under water, dahlia patch under water, but fortunately the house was not inundated.

Pumps, which had not been started for years were pulled out and set to work. In my employment we had more pressing problems. There were 14,000 peach trees



under water and trying to get the ripe fruit off was the priority. Then to add insult to injury another 100 mm of rain followed 48 hours later and 72 hours later again another 61 mm.



By this time there was water flooding everywhere. In the Goulburn Valley where it is so flat water doesn't travel very quickly. Unlike some areas where flash flooding is far more dangerous and terrifying, ours moves slowly and lingers for quite a while.

The amount of water flowing through the drains and paddocks around our place was always going to spell big problems, firstly around Numurkah and then Nathalia before moving to the River Murray. The hardest hit was 'Chief' and Joy Hutchins, pictured on the right, who live near Broken Creek at Nathalia.

Despite sandbagging, all their dahlias and house were inundated with the water, the highest seen for over 50 years. As for the dahlias it is disappointing but only a hobby. When your house goes under, that would be very hard to take.

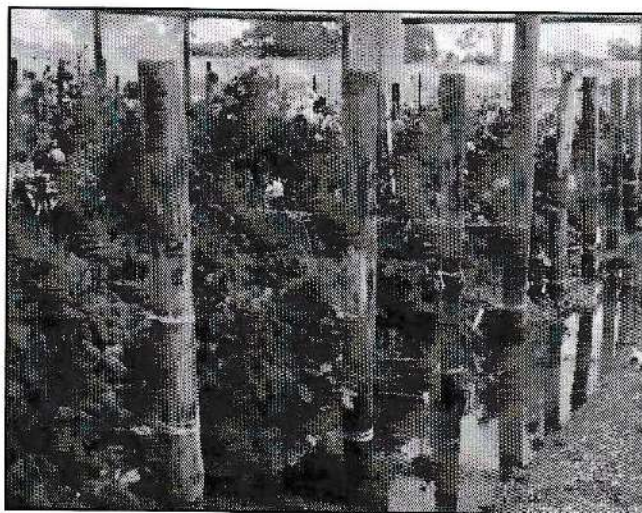
With many dahlias in the area either dead or badly affected the upcoming Show Season was going to be a challenge. Our local Show was programmed for the 31st March, a month after the floods.

Despite the adversity experienced by many of our growers the Show was well supported. We were particularly appreciative of the blooms supplied by Dwight King (Melbourne) and Geoff & Ros Errington (Barmera SA, 8 hours away), who both arrived with a good number of blooms. In addition, John Menzel who judged the show, arrived with some 300 blooms for a display.



Thanks to everyone for their generous support, which made the Show most successful. With many dahlia plants dying as a result of the floods, tubers for next season will be in very short supply.

Fortunately generous offers of replacement tubers have already been received and we all look forward to new season, hopefully, with not quite so much water.

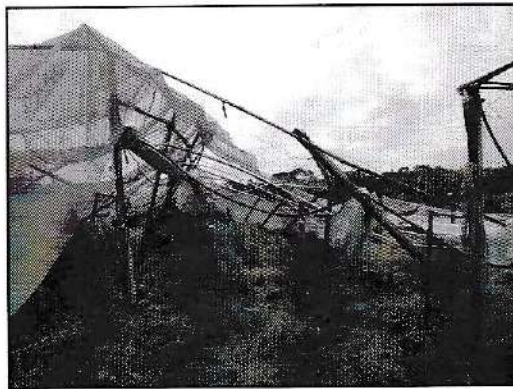


The Storm

John Menzel,
Winkie, South Australia

It was Friday October 28th 2011. Everything was on track for a normal dahlia season in the Winkie Dahlia Garden. Rotary hosing the cover crop was planned for the next morning in preparation for planting over the following two weeks. With a large number of seedling tubers and greens available from the previous year, expectations were very high. This all changed at 4.45 pm that afternoon. I had just returned home and was parked in the yard, wondering what was causing the unusual ball of colour on the horizon. Slowly the colour became more intense. At first it appeared to be smoke, but as it came closer it could clearly be identified as dust. The column seemed barely 10 metres wide and as it came closer and closer the noise level increased dramatically. In the column of dust I could see all sorts of debris rotating at a great rate.

The course of this "Finger of Fate" appeared to be heading due north and looked like it would pass any of the structures on the property. Then it changed direction to the north east, taking it directly towards the dahlia patch. As it passed the front of the car, the noise was deafening and debris was flying everywhere. My comment to myself was, "This will



challenge the patch". No sooner had I said this, than I saw shadecloth rise about a metre and then drop to the ground. At this stage I am sure I invented some new adjectives.

After the wind abated, I tried to stay calm and walked over to the dahlia patch hoping the damage would not be too severe. Alas, the shade structure was totally smashed.

All but one of the upright posts had been broken off at ground level. These posts had been one metre in the ground and extended three metres above. A rail of 25 mm heavy galvanized pipe around the top of the patch was bent and twisted. The overhead PVC watering system was somewhat contorted and looked like spaghetti in an abstract art show, while shadecloth was strewn everywhere. Stitching which had held the sections together had been torn apart and the

corner eyelets pulled out. Scattered over the ground were some 180 trellis wires, 42 dripper lines all trapped under the uprights, shade cloth, rails, 18 intermediate support wires that supported the shadecloth and the seven "C" sections tangled together.



What a mess! Where do we start?

As I caught my breath, my attention was drawn to the second big patch. The shadecloth had been blown away, but the uprights were still okay except for the last four rows. We found the shadecloth in a tangled mess about 200 metres away near the front gate. Luckily this cloth was not damaged.

The grape vine covered patio that is only five metres from the patch still had plastic chairs upright as if nothing happened. Anne's patch was not affected. The stack of approximately 150 sheets of corrugated iron behind the main patch was left intact. That night we remained numbed by the experience. We consoled ourselves with thoughts that it could have been worse had the house taken a direct hit. Other than that we did nothing other than take a few pictures.

Saturday morning we started the clean up. With a group of friends it was a case of, "Where do we start?" After three days everything was finally cleared from the site and then the salvage started.

Broken upright posts were extended using salvaged straight pieces from the old top rail. A new top rail was going to be necessary any way. The 180 plus trellis wires were finally extracted from the patch and rolled up. On the Monday three rolls of shadecloth were ordered from Adelaide and promptly delivered on Wednesday. The upholsterer was able to start work on the shadecloth on the Friday. All that week we worked on extending the uprights, 45 in all. This was in preference to paying \$48/post on top of the already climbing costs of the rebuild.

In the meantime local media covered the story and put out an appeal for trampoline springs used to tension trellis wires. Many were damaged in the storm. It was not uncommon to find 0.20 m springs extended to two metres, reminding us of the force of that "Finger of Fate". This appeal was heard far and wide and about 500 springs were acquired over the following days.



By the end of the week, with the assistance of great friends, the broken off posts had been removed and a new structure was taking shape. The shadecloth went up and following this the tractor was started and rotary hoeing commenced. Side curtains and the back wall were finally completed after planting and a remodelled watering system with dripper hoses run out. Planting started three weeks later than scheduled and was completed in record time, with only three days required to put 1500 green plants/tubers in the ground.

After planting was completed in the first patch work then started on the second patch. This was mainly a case of recovering the shade cloth near the gate and refitting it. Planting of this patch was also completed in three days equalling the previous record.

After planting it was then time for putting up side curtains, installing electronic misting systems and fifteen side-stays. Since the rebuild the new structure has with stood gusts of wind up to 125 kph without incident. Furthermore, it seems to have fulfilled the purpose for which it was built,



as we finished up having a good season complemented with some good results. Of special satisfaction was the way the second year seedlings performed.

Tuber Conservation

*Neu Naumann,
Bracken Ridge, Queensland*

As the Queensland dry season begins in April growers are able to follow Nature's Way since dahlias have a growing period followed by a flowering period and then a time of going into dormancy. As the bushes are becoming dry the sap is being drawn into the tubers. It is when the bushes are completely dry that we can be sure that the tubers have reached maturity and can be placed into storage.

I understand that southern growers are faced with a wet season prompting them to begin digging when the dahlias are in full bloom and I recall a time when growers were experimenting by waxing or wrapping them in plastic cling wrap to avoid tuber loss. In 1975 I was faced with the predicament when our two acres was resumed by the Government to become a part of Brisbane Airport.

I dug the dahlias in full bloom with the bushes attached to the clump and loaded them onto a truck and at our new property placed the tuber clumps closely together on to grass. I continued to treat them in the same way as if they were still in the ground by watering them, they continued to flower and after the bushes were completely dry the clumps were placed into storage with no loss and with well formed tubers.

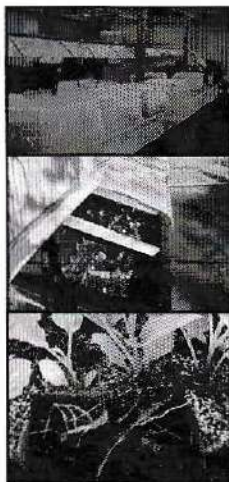
I believe that this method may be useful in other climates if it is possible to place the dug clumps on a well drained or a raised bed. This may prevent the loss of tubers when the soil becomes drenched by winter rain.

Propagation of Greens is Easy

Alf Hardingham,
Victoria

For inexperienced dahlia growers the thought of taking greens can be a little daunting. While a degree of apprehension is understandable, once you have a few basic items of equipment the process is easy and requires little extra effort.

In August, tubers are selected from last year's best performed plants and the clumps are planted in trays of potting mix and soil. The tubers complete with tails are fully buried, as this will produce more greens and a lot more quickly than would otherwise be the case.



The trays of tubers are laid on about 220 mm soil mix in a clear plastic covered cold box. Placing soil beneath the trays helps to maintain moisture levels and moderate temperature into the night.

Once the tubers start to shoot in

September, they are allowed to get to the third leaf stage before any greens are taken. Each green cutting is taken so that it has three sets of leaves.

After removing the bottom two sets the cutting is left with just the top pair of leaves. It is dipped in a "soft hardwood" hormone that hastens callusing and the development of roots. Fibre pots (peat pots/jiffy pots) are

used to hold the striking mix and a single cutting per pot.



Cuttings are then placed on a 150 mm bed of damp sand in a hothouse covered with white shade cloth that creates a nice diffused light. Upturned 40 litre plastic storage bins are used to cover the greens. These storage bins are readily available from any of the \$2.00 shops.

This spacious cover provides more air space and tends to reduce 'damping-off.' The greens do not wilt under the upturned storage bins because moisture from the damp sand is retained. This reduces the need to apply any additional water until they form roots which become clearly visible through the sides of the jiffy pots.

As roots appear out of the side of the pots (usually about 21 days) the greens are removed to polystyrene boxes with a layer of soil in the bottom. They are left in these boxes to harden off prior to planting out in the garden or potting on for pot tubers. One benefit of the jiffy pot is that the roots are not disturbed when planting out, giving the plant that good start.

While the above description may seem complex the only work apart from preparing the infrastructure is in taking the cuttings, labelling them and then transferring them to polystyrene boxes to harden. What could be easier than that?

Dig or Let Lie

Malcolm Keller,
Crafers, South Australia

About 10 years ago, when inducted into the world of dahlia growing, one of the unquestioned rules of dahlia culture was that dahlias needed to be dug and stored each year. For the next nine years, I did just that, but on the tenth year I had to compromise. Surprisingly, I am still here and so are the dahlias.

Over the years I had noticed that sometimes a dahlia unexpectedly emerged from a missed tuber at the site where it was grown in the previous year. Perhaps it was only one of many left in the ground and it was just lucky to survive. Apart from a diminished chance of survival, there was also the suggestion that if a clump of dahlias did survive the winter, many shoots would emerge and if they all grew into stems the quality of blooms produced would be average at best.

Anyway in 2011 there was insufficient time to dig dahlias before we left for holidays and if they all rotted, so be it.

After returning in mid August, tubers were required for Society fund raising. A selection of plants needed to be dug and divided. Despite a wet winter practically all plants had tubers in good condition, but there were a few where only one or two tubers remained. Surprisingly, they were shooting about 6 weeks earlier than they would have, had they been stored as in previous years. The only serious problem with this approach was that once shoots were well developed, tubers of some

cultivars became soft and broke away from the shoot when disturbed. A big advantage however, was that the weather was warmer than that experienced in July and the small shoots and swollen eyes on tubers were clearly visible in late August. This made division of tuber clumps much easier.

Where plants were dug, a tuber was put back into the soil together with a handful of pelletised chicken fertiliser. In addition a light dressing of 'Blood and Bone' and 'Complete Mineral Mix' was applied to the whole dahlia patch.

Since that time the plants have been closely observed to determine whether digging or not digging had made any discernible difference to performance. Quite clearly the plants left in the soil flowered about 5 to six weeks earlier than usual. This needs to be qualified however, as orchardists and in particular commercial apple growers said the season was about three weeks earlier this year.

Shoots were not removed from clumps, and apart from one or two plants there do not appear to have been an excessive number of stems on the bushes.

Fearing small and inferior quality blooms several applications of foliar fertiliser were applied to the soil surrounding all dahlias. Whether this was the cause or whether it was due to not having been dug and consequently having a longer growing period, some cultivars seemed to grow taller and bulkier than usual. In particular the Pompons grew taller and stronger and this could also be said of *Bracken Sarah*, *Linda May*, *Formby Crest*, *Araluen Fire* and a few other cultivars. Over plants left in the soil seem to have performed as well if not a little better than usual.

Part of the explanation could be attributed to undisturbed plants growing earlier and having a longer period to establish a strong root system before the hot weather arrived. With a superior root system the plants were able to grow larger and support a good crop of blooms.

Since I have started digging in the last few days one disadvantage has become very apparent. Tubers can be difficult to divide at any time, but I have noticed that where the plants were not dug the tubers are more intertwined and quite difficult to separate.

Despite this setback, I hope to dig all plants, but if that is not possible I will not be worried as the 2011 experience demonstrated digging is not essential for dahlia survival or production of quality blooms.



Bride's Choice

Malcolm Keller,
Crafers, South Australia

Many brides are unaware of the existence of dahlias when they begin their wedding planning. A portfolio of photographs in the florists shop, a website or facebook page may be the first introduction. For others, it is a trip to the shop a few weeks before the wedding.

A display of dahlias usually has at least one cultivar, which has the 'perfect colour'. Another benefit of dahlias is that they are relatively cheap compared with many other flowers and stunning arrangements can be produced quite economically. Since many people are unaware of these flowers, they also offer the opportunity for a wedding, which is a little different and has that something special.

Being able to anticipate demand is a major problem for the dahlia grower and cultivar selection is not necessarily the same as for exhibiting in shows. Most brides have a distinct preference for Decorative and Ball shaped dahlias. Semi Cactus can also qualify if the colour is right and they are not too 'spiky'. All cultivars mentioned in the next few paragraphs are miniature Decoratives or Balls unless otherwise indicated.

Colour is inevitably the most crucial factor in a bride's choice of floral arrangements. Almost all brides want some white blooms and we have found *Linda May* to be very good. It has a creamy white colour, is very round and holds its centre during hot conditions in late summer. *Formby Alpine* and *L'anresse* are fine, but need to be

picked while immature, as *L'anresse* in particular, is inclined to 'blow its centre' quite quickly in warm conditions. *Matthew Lee* (Semi Decorative) is satisfactory in larger floral arrangements, but we have found that it flowers plenty late in the season. *Kenora Jubilee* (Medium Cactus) with its strong stems has been useful in larger arrangements.

Peachy salmon pink has been very popular with brides. *Hillier Tanunda* and *Aistara Success* (Semi Cactus) both have beautiful rich colour, particularly when cloudy conditions prevail. They also have good stems which *Formby Monarch* (Large Decorative) can only envy. This latter cultivar had been on the 'cull list,' as the mature flowers require a wire support if they are to make it to the show bench. Fortunately, the brides fell in love with this one, before the cull was complete. While not ideal for posies, a single bloom can make a stunning centre piece in a floral arrangement.

Coral/water melon blooms have also been in demand. *Downs Hazel* and *Cornel* were used to supplement arrangements with true coral colour such as that of *Kiara Patti*. Unfortunately, *Kiara Patti* is not prolific with its blooms and numerous plants are required to produce a reliable supply. Although only used once during the season, *Pensford Marian* (Pompon) produced the ideal coral coloured blooms for posies in one wedding.

Softest pink also featured for some brides. *Formby Pearl*, *Brians Dream* and *Glenmar Skye* may struggle to take out big awards on

the bench, but in this context they were standout winners. All plants are tall growers and produce long strong stems. Late in the season the strong growth of *Glenmarc Skye* actually proved problematic, as its blooms pressed against the shade cloth 3 metres above the ground. For larger floral arrangements *Elma Elizabeth* (Large Decorative) was well suited.

Some brides were happy to have a wider range of pinks in larger arrangements.



Bracken Sequel, Marys Jomanda and Veras Elma (Large Decorative) all had an opportunity to make an impact in these situations.

In 2011, plum/burgundy colours were in demand and *Ivanetti* was first choice for a number of brides and *Willow Night* (Pompon) with its deep violet/black blooms was used in posies. As fashion colours change, so too does cultivar choice, and in 2012 plum coloured dahlias were not in such demand.

Easter, is the date chosen by some couples for their wedding and at that time autumn leaves are beginning to fall. Several brides

opted for floral arrangements with autumn tones. This provided some latitude as there are a good number of cultivars with bronze, yellow and crimson tones. *Formby Crest, Jomanda, Bracken Glenda and Bracken Sarah* (Semi Decorative) all have ideal bronze - yellow colours, which combine well with peach, coral and other reddish colours that abound in autumn.

The easiest bride to please was Jess, who simply loved dahlias and all their colours.

She wanted multi coloured flower arrangements and even took photos of dahlias, emailed them to New York, and had a wedding dress made with a fabric in those colours. The dress, is featured on the back cover and her floral arrangement and table on the left are stunning.

Some one asked a few days ago whether dahlias were making a 'comeback'. If they are, they will be assisted by brides like Jess and florists like Sally, who publicise the magnificent colours of these flowers through their weddings and on their facebook pages and websites.

With a new season around the corner, what will the bride's choice be in 2013?

With the recent success of Champion sprinter Black Caviar, it is almost certain that peach, apricot and salmon colours will be in demand. New cultivars in these tones will be welcomed by florists and brides for whom colour is the number one criteria.

The Tasmanian Scene

Charlie Smith,
St Helens, Tasmania

What a year we have had in the dahlia patch. Lovely rains throughout the spring, warm days, cool nights, and a lot of cloud cover over the summer. This has made the blooms open slowly, producing a lot more petal and depth. Colours were also deeper with very little fading.

At the Shows exhibitor numbers have been on a par with the last couple of seasons, with two new ones exhibiting for the first time. It has also been a good year for seedlings in both the Formby and Devon gardens.

George has produced three of the best new Medium Cactus I have seen for a long time. The best is a deep yellow Semi Cactus, which will easily go to a large. It has plenty of petal and depth, a good high centre, and is yet to be named. Another is a light orange Semi with excellent form. Both of these are a cross of *Kiara Julia* and *Hamari Accord*.

Formby Elite, is a mid orange Medium fine petalled Cactus. It has good plant habit, long stems, and a nice cone centre with a form similar to Jan Lennon. One new Decorative of note is *Formby Gold Nugget*. It is a medium that will make its mark in this class and could have a limited release this year.

Devon gardens has produced a purple Medium Decorative, *Devon Ultimate*, a strong grower with plenty of full sized blooms that reflex right back to the stem. A lilac Miniature Decorative that I had high hopes for gave me some good flowers early in the season, but the petal count lessened as the season progressed. The best for the season is a red Miniature Decorative with a bronze reverse. This has the neatest petallage I have



ever seen on a dahlia. It has a ton of small flat petals that are in perfect rows and is as round as a tennis ball, with a high centre. When shown to George Harding, it brought tears to his eyes, and he named it *Devon Magic*.

Among new ones I have tried from other gardens are three from Glenmarc. A yellow Miniature Cactus that will make its mark in this class. An orange Small Semi Cactus that I like very much, a lilac Medium Cactus that comes into a 'hard class'. Ryecroft Laura is a yellow ball, but in my garden its petallage is not that of a true ball. Ryecroft Peace a white Semi Decorative with a ton of petals, has a nice round flower, is easy to match, but smallish in size. Tyalla Christie, a white miniature cactus with a faint pink flush, is good. It has an unusual growth habit in that it seems to struggle early, then comes away later in the season, but is worth growing. Winkie Pat a deep mauve miniature decorative has given me enough to grow again.

Pincushions and Anemones

Bill Johnson,
Victoria

As a young child an aunt and a neighbour grew dahlias and I liked them. As a teenager I grew a number such as Willie Den Ouden (ball) — also there was a large incurved lavender Cactus that finished up on the dinner plate along with knife and fork, salt and pepper. My parents said, “*you like it so much you may as well eat it.*”. But it was a small pink flower that I saw in a deserted house that fascinated me, an ‘anemone’.

However it was to be about 40 years before I managed to have any — my enquiries, worldwide by snail mail had produced very little — ‘*no such thing*’ ‘*they’re extinct*’ and so on. Then in 1992 *Bill Tapley* said that a grower in Canberra had one — I got a piece of *Honey* but couldn’t do much with it, no seeds. Later I had contact with *Evie Gullikson* of Olympia (near Seattle) and she sent me seeds. Unfortunately these weren’t much good. However, the following year *Ron Wilkes* of Goulburn, sent me more. He had also acquired some from *Evie* and these became the foundation of my flock.

Books and journals of the time said that you couldn’t breed Anemones, that they reverted to Singles. Well that’s clearly not so, as I’ve bred many hundreds. But if you don’t have some to begin



with then the chances are virtually nil. Assuming that you do possess more than one, then providing you keep them isolated from all other dahlias (or practise hand pollination) they are easy to raise. Seedlings are usually about 80% true to type.

Dahlia genetics is extremely complex as the plant (like wheat) is an octoploid and instead of getting one gene or group of genes for each trait from each parent it gets four from each. Permutations are thus vast and instead of dominance and recessiveness applying it’s more like an accumulation or agglomeration of factors. It’s too big a subject for this article



and besides, nobody knows much about it anyway.

I cannot say a lot about growing techniques for I don't do much except dig holes and



deadhead. All my plants are in pots sunk into the ground. This makes it easier when lifting and storing. None of them are staked even though many grow to 1.6 m, none are 'stopped' and rarely have auxiliary buds removed. I'm not an exhibitor and don't need to strive for show bench excellence, though one of mine grown by Joan Matulik, did merit Reserve Champion at an Adelaide Show a few years back.

I don't seem to have mites or aphids or thrips or anything other than snails, so have never used chemicals. Nor fertiliser other than Powerfeed and Seasol via watering can at flowering time. No shadecloth or umbrellas – yes, that 47°C day did massacre them (burned to ground level), but that was exceptional. I have 11 compost bins which are filled with weeds, lawn clippings, kitchen refuse and dahlia stalks. They are not turned or treated in

any way but seem to work alright, one bin can give 50 pots of soil. Any virused material goes to the garbage bin.

Seeds are first sown in September, pricked out into cups at about 12 days, then into 8" standard plastic pots a fortnight later. There's a later sowing in November - December to provide for a March - April flowering; like two seasons in one, providing the young survive the summer heat.

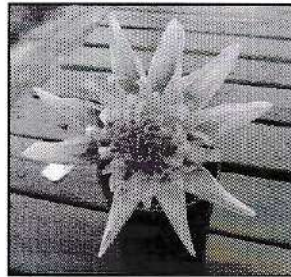
Whenever a variety flowers I enter various observations in my inventory. The most important is the form of the flower. If it is well balanced

so that both ray and dome can be readily seen I grade it A and if there are but 8 rays then AA. Most flowers start off like that, but after a while the dome can force the rays to reflex to the stem. These are the B cases, or even moreso with the C when the dome is virtually a whole flower with the rays scarcely visible at all. These C graded blooms can nonetheless be quite attractive

despite not looking like an anemone. If the dome is poor then D/DD is shown though these are usually short-lived.

Where the ray florets are involuted as in orchid dahlias, that's certainly noted. I term these Anemionids and like them,

pictured above, like eight pointed crested stars. If Singles and Orchids are separate types why shouldn't Anemones and Anemionids be likewise distinct?



Nystar

If the dome florets are flatish rather than tubular (carnations) that's noted too. I often use the term 'pincushions' to collectively describe the various forms. It's more meaningful than *Anemone*.

Foliage is classified into x/y/z according to number of leaflets, width of leaflet, and the degree of indentation. Colour reversal and stem quality are also a factors that are noted.

All my plants, other than *Comet*, possess colour coded names. W stands for white, so *Wesley* is all white, a white self. *Penella* is all purple, *Rebecca* all red, *Giselle* all golden and so on. J stands for orange, N for pink, Dr for dark red. Selves make up about 50% of the flock and if the first vowel is "u" then the shade is paler or lighter – thus *Rufus* is paler than *Roger*.

The other mostly 50% have the rays a different colour to the dome or crest and this is indicated by 'a' being the first vowel (but able to be preceded by 'u'). Thus *Wayland* is white and yellow, *Crayon* is crimson and yellow. *Mavag* is mauve and white. *Nuayle* is pale pink and yellow. A strange common pairing is pink rays with an orange dome such as *Najess*.

Until recently this simple system was sufficient but now there are varieties where the ray florets themselves are bicolour and this

introduces a hyphen. One with red and white rays around a yellow dome is RW-Yass.

At present there are 300 varieties (many more have come and gone) and an aim is to reduce to about 100 but it is always difficult to do. Losses in storage are low at about 2%, but recent years have seen up to 8% without eyes. Thus more are kept than necessary in order to protect against losses.

A decade ago a commercial firm showed interest in the pincushions and took a few to breed from but nothing tangible came of it. As I said above I'm not an exhibitor and probably should have made the effort but I did give tubers, seeds and seedlings to NDSV members and others this year. The result has been quite good – I took 100 blooms along as a display item and there were 8 on the 2012 Show bench. Seeds sent to North America, UK and New Zealand have produced some good flowers too. So all in all the somewhat neglected dahlia type is attracting interest.



Bill Johnson's Raisings



Waymere



Narine



Yuringa



Nayrene



Manfield



Maya



Mawaz



CW-West



Raymead



Mawag



J-Ray



Wilbur

Bill Johnson's Raisings



Nuseem



Cranford



Penelope



Madingle



Joyce



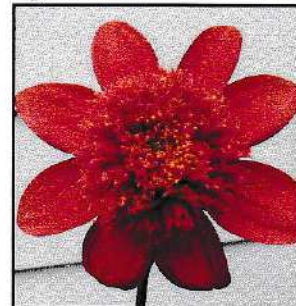
Revel



Penella



Payment

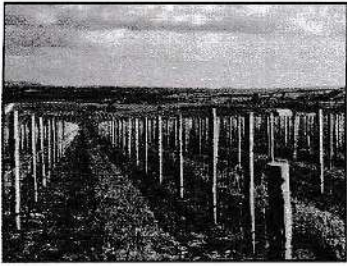


Roma

2013 National Conference

Barossa Valley – South Australia

Friday 7, 8, 9 & 10 June 2013



Join the SA Dahlia Society for what promises to be fun filled three days in the Barossa Valley, one of Australia's premier tourist destinations. The venue will be the Vine Inn, in historic Nurioopta, a short drive from Tanunda, and close to beautiful vineyards and historic wineries, the Maggie Beer Pheasant Farm Restaurant and Farm Kitchen, numerous small eateries, and only 40 minutes drive from Adelaide. Prices start at \$90 for a single and \$115 for double. More information by contacting Kaye Neale 08 8380 5286, email: klm@westnet.com.au



2012 Nowra Conferees



Nowra Conference

NSW/ACT Dahlia Society hosted the recent National Dahlia Conference in the scenic town of Nowra some 160 km south of Sydney on the weekend 8 - 11 June 2012.

The Parkhaven Motel proved an ideal venue, with good quality accommodation, meals and meeting facilities. Apart from Western Australia all States were represented with 30 of the 48 registrants from NSW/ACT.

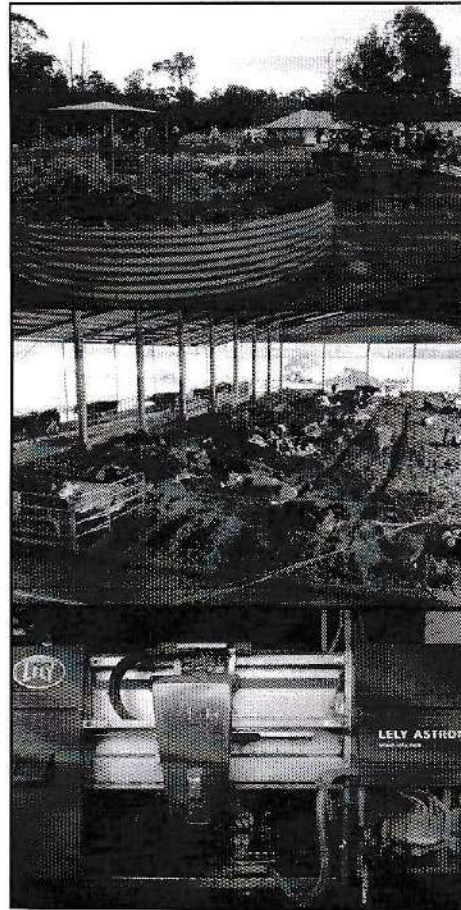
Helen and Robert Curll did a superb job keeping a busy program of interesting presentations on time, while Rob Slarke capably attended to electronic aspects. Local Member of Parliament, Joanne Bash, managed to fit in the 'Official Opening' among a busy schedule of other engagements on Saturday morning.

Once again the Tuber Auction proved very popular with both old standards and newly released cultivars in demand. Sales realised almost \$4000 and will be used to meet costs of the DSA.

On Monday most of us participated in a bus tour encompassing places of interest in the local area. The highlight was a dairy which had adopted robotic milking for their herd



of 135 dairy cows. This innovation not only saves on labour, but also makes lives easier for the owners, enables the cows to be milked as they feel the need and more



importantly, provides a huge amount of information about individual cow's productivity and health. Also of interest was a sustainable garden in a retirement village.

The following pages provide summaries of papers presented at the Conference, where the presenter has provided a summary. Also of note was the presentation of Life Membership to Bobbie Brooker for many years of service to the NSW/ACT Dahlia Society. Congratulations Bobbie.

Community Gardens

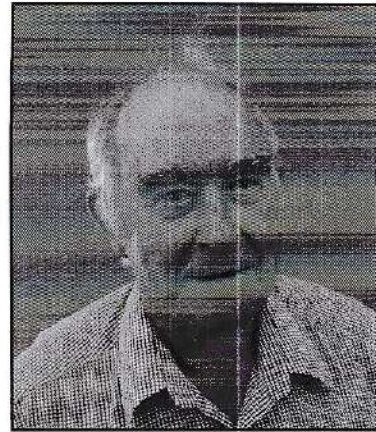
*John Woodfield,
Hughes, Canberra*

There are 11 Community Gardens with several more in the planning stage in Canberra. They are controlled and managed by Cogs (Canberra Organic Growers Society Inc) in a memorandum of understanding with the ACT Government.

Community gardens have a number of plots, where each gardener can only hold one area of 45 square metres or a double area of 90 square metres. Gardeners must be financial members of Cogs and also pay fees each year depending on the size of the plot. Cogs arrange insurance, pay for all water, approve upgrades or repairs to all gardens and set plot fees each year. Gardeners must abide by Cogs ethics, rules and decisions at all times.

Cogs Code of Ethics: -
Community Gardens will provide a display of the practical application of organic principles and a splendid example of cooperative endeavour.

In carrying out organic principles at all times the list of permissible materials for plant protection and soil improvement is taken from the national standard for Organic and Biodynamic Produce. This must be complied with at all times.

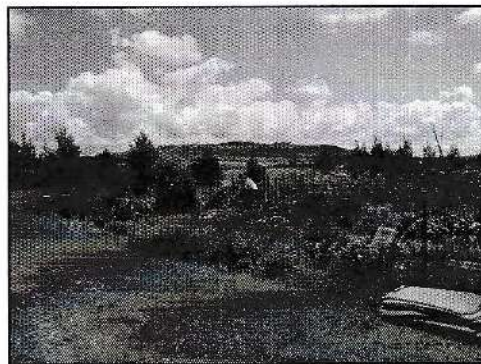


Each garden has a local committee to control proceedings and ensure Cogs Ethics and Rules as well as any local issues are carried out. Garden Committees are to administer the gardens in a manner that promotes a spirit of harmony, fair

mindedness and goodwill amongst garden members. Likewise individual plot holders are to conduct themselves in a manner that promotes this same spirit.

Cogs Anti Vandalism Policy requires each garden to have a person

responsible to report any incident to the police and have any recommendations carried out. Vandalism can occur at any time as some gardens are rather isolated and dark at night.



Most damage is to fences, structures and sometimes the removal of lawn mowers and spare tools. Graeme Davis for example has been known to lose some dahlias at the Cook garden on Show eve.

Watering must be carried out according to Cogs rules and any government restrictions at the time. Timers and sprinklers are not permitted and plots cannot be watered while unattended. No watering is permitted beyond runoff or pooling.

Each garden has communal areas where members share both work and produce. Working bees are held to keep these areas and access areas under control. Some gardens have beehives, herb areas, fruit trees, shadehouses, compost heaps and seed saving areas together with a garden shed.

June and myself obtained a 45 square metre plot at the Holder Garden almost two years ago. This plot had been vacant for some



time during the drought and since couch grass had taken over, took a while to return to working condition. We planted around 80 dahlias this last season together with corn, potatoes, zucchinis and other

vegetables that took up too much room at home.

The Holder garden is very exposed with no protection from wind or sun.



Consequently our plot experiences extreme conditions compared with our home garden. Some cultivars such as *Brulon Vermillion*, *Tioga Autumn*, *Winkie Admiral*, *Snow White*, *Everton Esquire* and *Wakefield Valencia* have preformed much better in the more open environment.

As a result of introducing dahlias to this garden a number of other gardeners and friends will be growing dahlias next year. Graeme Davis too has been growing dahlias in the Cook Community Garden for some years. His beach umbrellas and colour from his dahlias 'up in the scrub' has resulted in his plot becoming a landmark for traffic on the nearby major road.

Due to the success of the Community Gardens the Horticultural Society of Canberra has introduced a Section for them at the Autumn Show. The accompanying photos show the Community Gardens. Major prizes for this competition are sponsored by Bunnings.

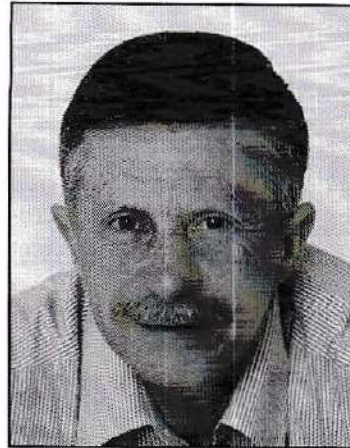
Dahlias Around the World

Rob Clarke,
Lithgow, New South Wales

We are all interested in growing dahlias and most of us show our flowers and are members of Dahlia Societies. The purpose of this presentation is to demonstrate where general dahlia information is available on the internet and how international Dahlia Societies promote their own groups.

My presentation is divided into:

1. General dahlia information,
2. International Dahlia Societies,
3. Tuber suppliers.



General Dahlia Information

DAHLIAS UK - www.dahlias.co.uk

Best site for the general public, detailing:
Dahlia Types

History - Spanish explorer (Francisco Hernandez de Torres), national flower of Mexico

Care - Disbudding, Diseases, Insects

Growing - Propagation, Garden

Pesticide Information Profiles

<http://extoxnet.orst.edu/pips/ghindex.html>

Descriptions of formulation, trade name(s), toxicological effects, and exposure guidelines eg *Bacillus thuringiensis* – soil dwelling bacterium used as a biological pesticide.

Dahlia Care & Culture from The Colorado Dahlia Society

<http://dahlias.net/dahwebpg/CultureIndex/Culture.htm>

Most Dahlia Societies have suggestions for growing dahlias but this site has exceptional detail.

Societies

National Dahlia Society (UK)

www.dahlia-nds.co.uk

Show details, membership, news updates, shows and trials, show calendar



German Dahlia, Fuschia & Gladiolus Society

[www.ddfgg.de/Dahlien/
start_dahlien.php5](http://www.ddfgg.de/Dahlien/start_dahlien.php5)

History, botany, culture, varieties in German language (requires translation to English)

National Dahlia Society of New Zealand

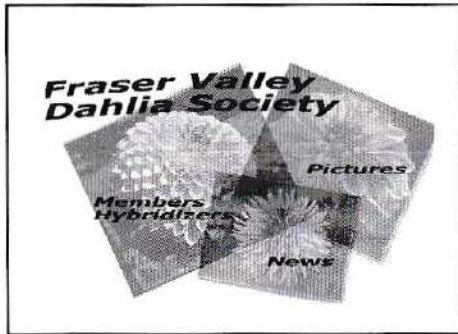
www.nzdahliasociety.50meps.com

South Africa

Six Dahlia Societies in South Africa but only a small number of pensioner members who are unable to organise a website.

Fraser Valley Dahlia Society (Canada)

<http://fraservalleydahliasociety.com>



Growing information, meetings, show schedule, show pictures, show results & contact details.

American Dahlia Society

www.dahlia.org

Trial Gardens, growing dahlias, dahlia articles and a members-only section which includes Trial Garden results.



Portland Dahlia Society

<http://portlanddahlia.com>

Sister society to Dahlia Society of NSW & ACT

Advert video for 2012 American Dahlia Society National Show.

Meetings, bulletins, dahlia cultivation, tuber sales, membership, trial garden photos.

Dahlia Society of Australia

www.dahliasaustralia.org.au

Suppliers

Alpen Gardens

Gaston Oregon USA, operated by the Stables family - www.alpengardens.com

Online catalogue with pictures

Swan Island Dahlias

Canby Oregon USA, operated by the Gitts family

www.dahlias.com

Online catalogue with pictures

Aztec Dahlias

California USA, operated by the O'Brien family - www.aztecdahlias.com

Ferncliff Gardens

British Columbia, Canada

www.ferncliffgardens.com

Storage, Greening & Pot Tubers

*Col McLaughlin,
Queensland*

Since returning to Queensland over 35 years ago from Inverell in NSW my dahlia growing routine needed to change. In SE Queensland they are planted in December using green plants for blooming in March for the Autumn Shows. What follows is an explanation of what I do in my climate and conditions.

The clumps are lifted after the plants have died back and reached maturity usually in July. All soil is washed off and hair roots removed ensuring at least 5 cm of "rat's tail" remains as this is where next season's roots grow from. When completely dry the clumps are heeled into the storage medium leaving the crown exposed. I use premium quality potting mix in polystyrene boxes. DO NOT WATER. These boxes are stored out of the weather.

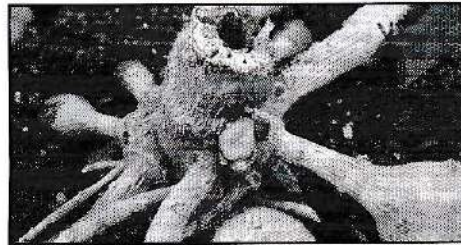
In October moisten the potting mix to encourage the clumps to shoot. The greens are ready to take when 10 cm tall. I use a scalpel and remove the shoot below the lowest visible leaf node. Four more shoots will develop at the base of where the first was taken and are removed as per the first. This means I take five greens from each eye on the clump. The lower leaves are carefully removed from the cuttings and dipped in a hormone powder prior to planting into 25 mm diameter tubes filled with well washed river sand. Ensure the blade is sterilized with methylated spirits between clumps to prevent transmission of virus. 54 of these fit neatly into a stone fruit styrene box.



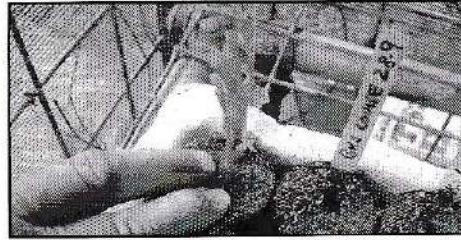
These boxes are benched in a shadehouse and watered each morning. After about 21 days roots will be appearing at the drainage holes and are ready to be potted on into 100 mm plastic pots filled with premium potting mix enhanced by the addition of some coir peat and vermiculite. These plants will now need to be sun hardened before planting into the garden.

Excess greens not required for planting become next season's pot tubers. Space limitations prevent me from potting the rooted greens into larger pots, but experience has shown that the mini-potties resulting in the 100 mm size perform as well as their cousins grown in more generous containers. Keep the pots well watered as one drawback of the smaller pot is that they dry out rapidly. I place them on a paved area to prevent their roots reaching and entering soil. If they do most of the tubers will develop outside the pot.

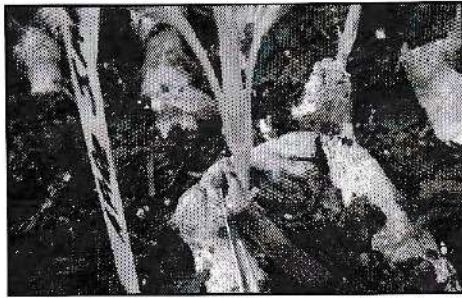
Keep an eye out for pests and disease and treat accordingly. In wet weather I dose them up with one of the anti root rot formulations to prevent losses. I cut back to one third as they begin to bud, this is done a second time. When mature the potties can remain in the pots but I suggest they be laid on their side to prevent winter rains entering the pot. I prefer to empty them out, wash, label and store in broccoli boxes with the lid slightly ajar to prevent sweating. Pot tubers are the equal of any planting material with a failure rate second to none. Another advantage is the simplicity of packing and postage when forwarding to fellow enthusiasts interstate. Give it a try.



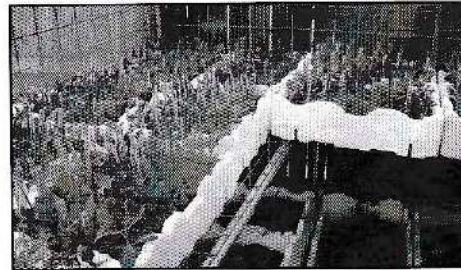
Four buds emerging after removal of first shoot



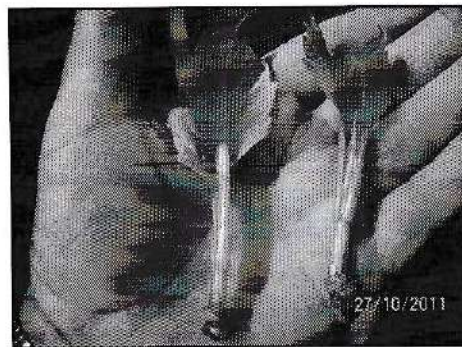
Greens planted in medium



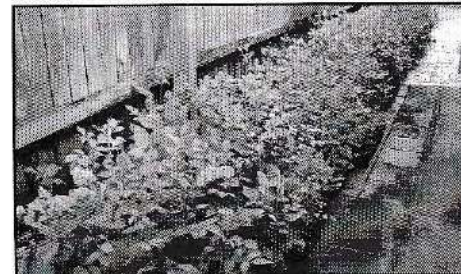
Removal of first shoot with scalpel



Greens in the hothouse



Shoots ready for dipping and planting



Pot tubers reaching maturity



Harvested pot tuber

Branch Pruning

*Graeme Davis,
Canberra*

Branch pruning is something that we do not talk about much and is often a mystery to new growers. There are often cryptic references, such as 'with judicious pruning he maintains size throughout the season' or perhaps a paragraph in a 150 page book. Yet it seems this 'secret knowledge' is one of the keys to growing good flowers. So, what is branch pruning?

Essentially branch pruning is removing branches from the plant to maintain the 'correct' number of flowers being developed by the plant (to achieve the desired size) and to get those flowers when they are wanted. It has the added advantage of balancing the plant meaning less effort in support is required.

One of the fun things about growing dahlias is that they are all different and hence require different treatments. Some require regular surgery. For example, I am regularly asked how to grow Cricket and how to keep it growing through the season. My simple reply is 'grow it as a large' but this just generates quizzical looks followed by 'What do you mean?' What I mean is:

- Grow to four branches
- Disbud down at least two sets of shoots
- Only allow 1 side shoot from each branch to develop, removing all the others
- Keep doing this through the season

Cricket is a variety that wants to grow so if you are not careful it will send out 10 or 20 branches very quickly – just keep taking them off. The second flush of flowers will come through very quickly if you follow



this approach. You may well be disbudding the next flower from the branch as you pick the first one. If it does get away on you (which is very likely) just strip out the unwanted branches and start again.

Another that requires extensive treatment to maintain quality through the year is *Figurine*. Again, many people complain about not being able to maintain size and quality through the year. In this case I grow it on 6 to 8 branches and keep it that way. Each flower is disbudded down at least 2 sets of side shoots and then only one of the next shoots is allowed to develop. Any excess branches are removed. I find plants maintain size through the whole season. It also keeps the plants much more manageable and less likely to fall over.

But this treatment does not suit all varieties. In particular, there may be varieties that are very good early in the year but lose form very quickly as the year goes on.

Alternatively, some are only good later in the year. And still others are at their best only on the first flush of flowers no matter what you do. These I call 'one shot wonders' and I grow them with very specific timing with the aim of flowering for the show of interest.

Show Results - 2012

NEW SOUTH WALES & ACT

INGLEBURN SHOW

Grand Champion**Reserve Champion**

Decorative, over 210 mm

Medium Decorative

Small Decorative

Miniature Decorative

Cactus, over 210 mm

Medium Cactus

Small Cactus

Miniature Cactus

Fimbriated Cactus

Flower of the Year (Ball)

2 Exhibitors

Christie Houston**Devon Elegance**

Christie Houston

Maggie Hannaford

Everton Esquire

Ailsa Bailey

Kenora Jubilee

Hamari Accord

Devon Elegance

Devon Elegance

Jenny

Downham Royal

Judge: E Notley

January**I Townsend****I Townsend**

I Townsend

B & L Raines

I Townsend

B & L Raines

B & L Raines

I Townsend

I Townsend

I Townsend

I Townsend

B & L Raines

KIAMA SHOW**Grand Champion****Championship 1st G & S Davis**

Winning Blooms: Hamari Accord, Darbro Gift, Reg Kappler

Decorative

Cactus

Ball

Pompon

Any Other Type

8 Exhibitors

Hamari Accord2nd B & L Raines

Elma Elizabeth

Hamari Accord

Cornel

Linda Harris

Brookhouse

Judge: J Woodfield

27 January**R Morgan**3rd R & H Curl

B & L Raines

R Morgan

B & L Raines

B & L Raines

G & S Davis

LITHGOW WORKMENS CLUB**Grand Champion****Lithgow Workmens Club Championship: 6 Vases****1st Mercer & Pasfield**

Winning Blooms: Kenora Jubilee, Kiara Julia, Kims Valentine, L'ancrese, Formby Alpine, Brian R

Decorative, over 210 mm

Medium Decorative

Small Decorative

Miniature Decorative

Cactus, over 210 mm

Cactus Medium

Elma Elizabeth2nd R & E Smith

Veras Elma

Elma Elizabeth

Brian R

Formby Alpine

Kenora Jubilee

Jan Lennon

26 February**R & E Smith**3rd A Hayman

J Johnstone

R & E Smith

Mercer & Pasfield

Mercer & Pasfield

Mercer & Pasfield

A Hayman

Cactus Small	Wakefield Conclusion	K Small
Cactus Miniature	Glenbank Twinkle	R & E Smith
Exhibition Cactus	Mauve Cricket	Mercer & Pasfield
Fimbriated Cactus	Higgo Lacy	R & E Smith
Waterlily	Cameo	Mercer & Pasfield
Collerette	Pinkie 'O'	R & E Smith
Ball	L'ancresse	Mercer & Pasfield
Pompon	Mi Wong	Mercer & Pasfield
Orchid	Lillian 'O' 15	Mercer & Pasfield
Other Type	Kelgai Serenity	J Fillingham
9 Exhibitors	Judge: E Notley	

CANBERRA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY SHOW

3 March

Grand Champion

Maxmann

P & J Hill

Reserve Champion

Narrows Tricia

G & S Davis

Championship: 6 Vases

1st P & J Hill

2nd G & S Davis

3rd R & N Clarke

Maxmann, Kiara Julia, Veras Elma, Darbro Gift, Downham Royal, Winkie Whopper

Championship: 9 Vases, distinct types

1st J & J Woodfield

2nd G & S Davis

3rd G Sheldrick

Winning Blooms: Darbro Marianne, Linda Harris, Orchid, Cornel, Tioga Autumn,

Formby Kaitlin, Kenora Jubilee, Hamari Accord, Ryecroft Brenda

Decorative, over 210 mm

Hamari Gold

G & S Davis

Medium Decorative

Everton Esquire

J & J Woodfield

Small Decorative

Everton Esquire

J & J Woodfield

Miniature Decorative

Le Batts Prime

R & N Clarke

Cactus, over 210 mm

Maxmann

P & J Hill

Medium Cactus

Narrows Tricia

G & S Davis

Small Cactus

Araluen Fire

J & J Woodfield

Miniature Cactus

Araluen Fire

J Lawlis

Exhibition Cactus

Darbro Gift

J & J Woodfield

Fimbriated Cactus

Tioga Autumn

J & J Woodfield

Waterlily

Figurine

J Lawlis

Ball

Downham Royal

P & J Hill

Pompon

Linda Harris

G & S Davis

Collerette

Kens Gala

J & J Woodfield

Flower of Year (Ball)

Downham Royal

P & J Hill

7 Exhibitors

Judge: A Strachan

BLACKTOWN SHOW

12 March

Grand Champion

Brian R

Mercer & Pasfield

Championship

1st I Townsend

2nd Mercer & Pasfield

Winning Blooms: Jan Lennon, Alesia, Christie Huston

Decorative, over 210 mm
 Small Decorative
 Medium Cactus
 Small Cactus
 Exhibition Cactus
 Fimbriated Cactus
 Waterlily
 Ball
 Pompon
 Any Other Type
 2 Exhibitors

Christie Houston
 Brian R
 Jan Lennon
 Devon Elegance
 Cricket
 Judith Taylor
 Cameo
 L'ancresse
 Stoneleigh Joyce
 Lillian 'O'
 Judge: R Curll

I Townsend
 Mercer & Pasfield
 I Townsend
 I Townsend
 I Townsend
 Mercer & Pasfield
 I Townsend
 Mercer & Pasfield
 Mercer & Pasfield
 Mercer & Pasfield

DUBBO SHOW

Grand Champion

Central West Dahlia Championship: 3 Vases, distinct types

1st G & S Davis

Pretty Girl

2nd R & N Slarke

Winning Blooms: Pretty Girl, Narrows Tricia, Figurine

Decorative, over 160 mm
 Decorative, under 160 mm
 Cactus, over 160 mm
 Cactus, under 160 mm
 Fimbriated Cactus
 Waterlily
 Ball
 Pompon
 4 Exhibitors

Everton Esquire
 Le Batts Prime
 Pretty Girl
 Karras 150
 Aitara Ace of White
 Figurine
 Downham Royal
 Linda Harris
 Judge: S Astill

24 March

G & S Davis

3rd J & C Scobie

R & N Slarke
 G & S Davis
 G & S Davis
 G & S Davis
 J & C Scobie
 G & S Davis
 G & S Davis
 G & S Davis

BLAYNEY SHOW

Grand Champion

Championship

1st A Hayman

Winning Blooms: Jan Lennon, Elma Elizabeth, Painted Lady

Decorative, over 210 mm
 Cactus
 Waterlily
 Ball
 Pompon
 Any Other Type
 7 Exhibitors

Jan Lennon

2nd R & E Smith

Elma Elizabeth
 Jan Lennon
 Pam Howden
 Downham Royal
 Linda Harris
 Brooks Louise
 Judge: F Stralow

10 March

A Hayman

3rd R & N Slarke

R & E Smith
 A Hayman
 P & J Stonestreet
 R & E Smith
 R & N Slarke
 P & J Stonestreet

NOWRA SHOW

Grand Champion

Decorative, over 210 mm
 Medium Cactus
 Exhibition Cactus

Wakefield DJ

Formby Marvel
 Wakefield DJ
 Mauve Cricket

10 February

G & S Davis

B & L Raines
 G & S Davis
 B & L Raines

Fimbriated Cactus	Alicia	B & L Raines
Waterlily	Narooma Princess	G & S Davis
Ball	Downham Royal	B & L Raines
Pompon	Linda Harris	G & S Davis
Collerette	Brooks Pale Dawn	B & L Raines
Flower of the Year (Ball)	Downham Royal	B & L Raines
4 Exhibitors	Judge: F Stralow	

ORANGE & DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY SHOW

Grand Champion	Elma Elizabeth	R & E Smith
Reserve Champion	Scarborough 2000	R & E Smith
Orange Dahlia Championship: 3 Vases, distinct types		
1st R & E Smith	2nd R & N Slarke	3rd G & S Davis
Winning Blooms: Elma Elizabeth, Scarborough 2000, Higgo Lacy		
Decorative, over 210 mm	Veras Elma	J Scoble
Medium Decorative	Elma Elizabeth	R & E Smith
Small Decorative	Bracken Sarah	J Johnstone
Miniature Decorative	Brooks Josh	G & S Davis
Cactus, over 210 mm	Kiara Julia	G & S Davis
Medium Cactus	Scarborough 2000	R & E Smith
Small Cactus	Karras 15 th	J Scoble
Miniature Cactus	Araluen Fire	G & S Davis
Fimbriated Cactus	Higgo Lacy	R & E Smith
Waterlily	Cameo	A Hayman
Ball	Unknown	J Scoble
Pompon	Pam	G & S Davis
8 Exhibitors	Judge: S Astill	

LITHGOW SHOW

Grand Champion	Maggie Hannaford	16 March
Championship: 6 Vases		R & N Slarke
1st R & N Slarke		
Winning Blooms: Maggie Hannaford, Wakefield Anniversary, Devon Citation, Bracken Sarah, Glenbank Honeycomb x 2		
Decorative	Maggie Hannaford	R & N Slarke
Cactus	Wakefield Anniversary	R & N Slarke
Fimbriated Cactus	Higgo Lacy	A Hayman
Ball	Kenora Fireball	A Hayman
Pompon	Glenbank Honeycomb	R & N Slarke
4 Exhibitors	Judge: E Notley	

SYDNEY ROYAL EASTER SHOW No 1**5 April****Grand Champion****Devon Radiance****J & J Woodfield****Championship:** 6 Vases**1st G & S Davis**2nd J & J Woodfield3rd B & L Raines

Winning Blooms: Moray Bronte, Linda Harris, Brooks Josh, Pretty Girl, Hamari Gold, Wakefield Anniversary

Decorative, over 210 mm

Hamari Gold

G & S Davis

Medium Decorative

Devon Radiance

J & J Woodfield

Small Decorative

Bracken Sarah

B & L Raines

Cactus, over 210 mm

Formby Karen

J & J Woodfield

Medium Cactus

Kenora Jubilee

J & J Woodfield

Small Cactus

Moray Bronte

G & S Davis

Miniature Cactus

Formby Forgiven

G & S Davis

Exhibition Cactus

Mauve Cricket

B & L Raines

Fimbriated Cactus

Alicia

B & L Raines

Waterlily

Kelgai Anne

J & J Woodfield

Ball

Downham Royal

G & S Davis

Pompon

Mi Wong

G & S Davis

Collerette

Barbary Maryanne

G & S Davis

Any Other Type

Brooks Louise

J Johnstone

5 Exhibitors

Judges: M Hillen & A Strachen

SYDNEY ROYAL EASTER SHOW No 2**9 April****Grand Champion****Alicia****J & J Woodfield****Championship:** 6 Vases**1st G & S Davis**2nd J & J Woodfield3rd B & L Raines

Winning Blooms: Brooks Josh, Narrows Tricia, Moray Bronte, Kiara Forgwen, Wakefield Anniversary, Devon Radiance

Decorative, over 210 mm

Winkie Colonel

J & J Woodfield

Medium Decorative

Formby Kaitlin

J & J Woodfield

Small Decorative

Bracken Sarah

J & J Woodfield

Miniature Decorative

Brooks Josh

G & S Davis

Cactus, over 210 mm

Formby Karen

J & J Woodfield

Medium Cactus

Hamari Accord

G & S Davis

Small Cactus

Narrows Tricia

J & J Woodfield

Miniature Cactus

Moray Bronte

G & S Davis

Fimbriated Cactus

Alicia

J & J Woodfield

Exhibition Cactus

Mauve Cricket

J & J Woodfield

Waterlily

Cameo

B & L Raines

Ball

La Can Dorf

B & L Raines

Pompon

Mi Wong

B & L Raines

Collerette

Pinky "O"

J & J Woodfield

Other Type

Lillian "O"

B & L Raines

5 Exhibitors

Judges: M Hillen & A Strachen

SYDNEY ROYAL EASTER SHOW No 3**Grand Champion****Scarborough 2000****13 April****B & L Raines****Championship:** 6 Vases**1st B & L Raines**2nd G & S Davis3rd J & J Woodfield

Winning Blooms: Pam, Mi Wong, Alicia, Scarborough 2000, Miss Joan,

Wakefield Anniversary

Decorative, over 210 mm

Hamari Gold

G & S Davis

Medium Decorative

Devon Radiance

G & S Davis

Small Decorative

Bracken Sarah

B & L Raines

Miniature Decorative

Winkie 41

J & J Woodfield

Medium Cactus

Scarborough 2000

B & L Raines

Small Cactus

Wakefield Anniversary

B & L Raines

Miniature Cactus

Kiara Forgwen

G & S Davis

Fimbriated Cactus

Alicia

B & L Raines

Waterlily

Wakefield Centenary

G & S Davis

Ball

La Can Dorf

B & L Raines

Pompon

Pam

B & L Raines

Collerette

Miss Joan

B & L Raines

Other Type

Lillian 15

B & L Raines

4 Exhibitors

Judges: J Hillen & A Strachen

QUEENSLAND**STANTHORPE AGRICULTURAL****Grand Champion****Seedling (Min Cactus)****3 February****B & J Murphy****Reserve Champion****Kiara Julia****M & B Balch**

Decorative, over 210 mm

Granite Apollo

M & B Balch

Large Decorative

Formby Duke

R & C Hurtz

Medium Decorative

Bracken Sarah

W & J McCosker

Small Decorative

Sylvia Craig Hunter

B & M Burnell

Miniature Decorative

Bracken Glenda

B & J Murphy

Cactus, over 210 mm

Kiara Julia

B & J Murphy

Medium Cactus

Kiara Julia

M & B Balch

Small Cactus

Aitara April

W & J McCosker

Miniature Cactus

Seedling

B & J Murphy

Pompon

Pam

M & B Balch

Waterlily

Seedling

M & B Balch

Exhibition Cactus

Seedling

B & J Murphy

Fimbriated

Seedling

B & J Murphy

Collerette Dahlia

Seedling

M & B Balch

Single Dahlia

Seedling

B & J Murphy

Any Other Type

Bracken Astra

M & B Balch

Novice Dahlia

Moray Bronte

K Stratford

WAVELL HEIGHTS

Grand Champion
Reserve Champion
Decorative, over 210 mm
Medium Decorative
Small Decorative
Miniature Decorative
Cactus, over 210 mm
Medium Cactus
Small Cactus
Miniature Cactus
Fimbriated Cactus
Waterlily
Pompon
Any Other Type
5 Queensland Raised

GRANITE BELT GROWERS

Grand Champion
Reserve Champion
Large Decorative
Medium Decorative
Small Decorative
Miniature Decorative
Giant Cactus
Large Cactus
Medium Cactus
Small Cactus
Miniature Cactus
Fimbriated Cactus
Waterlily
Collerette
Exhibition Cactus
Any Other Type
Seedling
Intermediate
Novice
6 Bloom Challenge
3 Vase Championship
5 Queensland Raised

Reg Kappler
Bracken Glenda
Regina
Bracken Sarah
Bracken Sarah
Bracken Glenda
Reg Kappler
Reg Kappler
Everton Milky White
Nerrawfest
Judith Taylor
Seedling
Pam
Exhibition Cactus Seedling

3, 4 March

Wedd family
Wedd family
Wedd Family
M & B Balch
M & B Balch
Wedd family
Wedd family
Wedd family
C Mclaughlin
M & B Balch
Wedd Family
M & B Balch
M & B Balch
Wedd family
Wedd Family

Kiara Julia
Small Decorative Seedling
Winkie Colonel
Sylvia Craig Hunter
Perla C
Bracken Sequel
Yellow Seedling
Kiara Julia
Kiara Julia
Stannum Juliette
Moray Bronte
Higgo Lacy
Pink Seedling
Moray Apache
Freelancer
Seedling Single
Salmon Small Decorative
Kiara Julia
Sylvia Craig Hunter

10 March

B & J Murphy
M & B Balch
B & M Burnell
M & B Balch
B & J Murphy
M & B Balch
Wedd Family
B & J Murphy
M & B Balch
B & J Murphy
M & B Balch
W & J McCosker
Wedd Family
B & M Burnell
B & M Burnell
B & J Murphy
M & B Balch
K Condrick
R Hall
Wedd family
B & M Burnell
B & J Murphy

MT COOT-THA**Grand Champion****Reserve Champion**

Giant Decorative
 Large Decorative
 Medium Decorative
 Small Decorative
 Miniature Decorative
 Giant Cactus
 Large Cactus
 Medium Cactus
 Small Cactus
 Miniature Cactus
 Fimbriated Cactus
 Waterlily
 Pompon
 Any Other Type
 Seedling
 Intermediate
 Novice
 Centro 9 Bloom
 Vase Championship
 5 Queensland Raised
 Challenge Bloom
 Aggregate Points (Open)
 Aggregate Points (Intermediate)

MORAYFIELD**Grand Champion****Reserve Champion**

Decorative, over 210 mm
 Medium Decorative
 Small Decorative
 Miniature Decorative
 Cactus, over 210 mm
 Medium Cactus
 Small Cactus
 Miniature Cactus
 Fimbriated Cactus
 Waterlily
 Pompon
 Any Other Type
 Intermediate
 5 Queensland Raised

Kiara Julia**Bracken Glenda**

Regina
 Regina
 Bracken Sarah
 Granite Lily
 Bracken Glenda
 Inland Dynasty
 Kiara Julia
 Bronze Seedling
 Yellow Seedling
 Aitara April
 Yellow seedling
 Pam Howden
 Pam
 Seedling Collette
 Medium Cactus
 Bracken Sequel
 Bracken Sequel

Pam

17, 18 March**W & J McCosker****B & J Murphy**

Wedd Family
 Wedd Family
 B & M Burnell
 M & B Balch
 B & J Murphy
 B & M Burnell
 W & J McCosker
 Wedd Family
 M & B Balch
 B & J Murphy
 B & J Murphy
 M & B Balch
 C & C McLaughlin
 M & B Balch
 Wedd Family
 J & M Pullman
 L Hancock
 M & B Balch
 B & M Burnell
 B & J Murphy
 C & C McLaughlin
 Wedd Family
 J & M Pullman

24 March**Wedd Family****Wedd Family**

Wedd family
 Wedd Family
 Wedd family
 Wedd family
 Wedd family
 Wedd family
 Wedd family
 Wedd family
 C & C McLaughlin
 Wedd family
 M Brown
 C & C McLaughlin
 Wedd family
 D & S Brown
 Wedd family

TOOWOOMBA ROYAL

Grand Champion
Reserve Champion
 Decorative, over 210 mm
 Medium Decorative
 Small Decorative
 Miniature Decorative
 Cactus, over 210 mm
 Medium Cactus
 Small Cactus
 Miniature Cactus
 Fimbriated Cactus
 Waterlily
 Pompon
 Miscellaneous

LUTWYCHE CENTRO

Grand Champion
Reserve Champion
 Decorative, over 210 mm
 Medium Decorative
 Small Decorative
 Miniature Decorative
 Cactus, over 210 mm
 Medium Cactus
 Small Cactus
 Miniature Cactus
 Fimbriated Cactus
 Waterlily
 Pompon
 Any Other Type
 Intermediate
 5 Queensland Raised

WARWICK HORTICULTURAL

Grand Champion
Reserve Champion

WARWICK AGRICULTURAL

Grand Champion
Reserve Champion

IPSWICH HORTICULTURAL

Grand Champion
 Champion Decorative
 Champion Cactus

28 March

Red Med Cactus Seedling Wedd family
Moray Bronte M & B Balch
 Winkie Colonel Wedd Family
 Granite Rebecca M & B Balch
 Bracken Sarah Wedd family
 Bracken Glenda Wedd family
 Inland Dynasty Wedd family
 Red Seedling Wedd family
 Yellow Seedling M & B Balch
 Moray Bronte M & B Balch
 Alesia Wedd family
 Pam Howden Wedd family
 Rays Gold Wedd family
 Red Med Cactus Seedling Wedd family

31 March

Moray Bronte Wedd family
Bracken Joan Wedd family
 Winkie Colonel Wedd Family
 Como Polly Wedd Family
 Bracken Sarah M Brown
 Bracken Joan Wedd Family
 Aitara Majesty Wedd Family
 Kenora Jubilee C & C McLaughlin
 Everton Milky White C & C McLaughlin
 Moray Bronte Wedd family
 Aitara Bronwyn C & C McLaughlin
 Bracken Hydra Wedd Family
 Pam C & C McLaughlin
 Exhibition Cactus Seedling Wedd Family
 Bracken Sarah R Colburn
 Wedd family

7, 8 March

Granite China Doll M & B Balch
Granite Sasha M & B Balch

23 - 25 March

Sylvia Craig Hunter R & C Hurtz
Karras 150 R & C Hurtz

4, 5 April

Bracken Sequel Wedd Family
 Bracken Sequel Wedd Family
 Kiara Julia Wedd Family

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

STATE SHOW

12 March

GRAND CHAMPION	Karras 150	M & C Keller
Dahlia Society of SA Gold Medallion & Trophy donated by J Argent		
RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION	Winkie Colonel	N & E Jaeschke
Dahlia Society of SA Silver Medallion		
BEST EXHIBIT IN SHOW	S A Championship	J Matulick
PREMIER EXHIBITION VASE	Marys Jomanda	M & C Keller
Elkhart DS Medallion		
PREMIER B GRADE BLOOM	Winkie Colonel	N & E Jaeschke
Minnesota Dahlia Society Medallion		
PREMIER VASE GARDEN BLOOMS	Aitara Diadem	N & E Jaeschke
National Dahlia Society of Victoria		

SA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

Three blooms over 160 mm - staged singly, three vases under 160 mm, three blooms, one cultivar per vase. All vases to be distinct cultivars and at least four different types.

RHS SS McKay Memorial Medallion - 3 entries

1st J Matulick: Kenora Jubilee, Clara Jean, Kims Christie

Vases: Kiara Forgwen, Formby Crest, Christie Blue Berry

2nd M & C Keller: Hamari Accord, Kenora Jubilee, Tioga Autumn

Vases: Ivanetti, Noreen, Le Batts Prime

GAYNER PARKER MEMORIAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Four vases of three blooms NND with at least three different types selected from:

Collerette, Anemone, Orchid, Stellar, Single, Peony

Greater Kansas City Medallion - 3 entries

1st J Matulick: Vases: Hillara Ice, Christie Ken, Christie Rebel,

Orchid Vase: Christie Josie x 2, Christie Abby

2nd M & C Keller, Vases: Moray Apache, Christie Galah, Christie Shayla, Tyalla Blush

RAY SELICK MEMORIAL CHAMPIONSHIP

All cultivars to be of Australian origin

Six Vases - blooms over 160 mm staged singly, under 160 mm staged three to a vase

Greater St Louis Dahlia Society Medallion - 3 entries

1st J Matulick: Christie Goldie, Christie Sergeant x 2, Christie Knight, Seedling M692, Seedling M725

2nd M & C Keller: Christie Leader, Kiara Jubilee x 2

Vases: Embrace x 3, Hillier Tanunda x 3, Formby Crest x 3.

3rd N & E Jaeschke: Aitara Majesty, Christie Leader x 2, Como Polly

Vases: Formby Crest, Formby Alpine

BILL TAPLEY WATERLILY CHAMPIONSHIP

One vase containing three blooms. Three blooms staged singly. All NND

National Dahlia Society of New Zealand Bronze Medallion

1st **M & C Keller:** Pam Howden x 3, Vase: Bracken Lorelei

2nd **D & K Neale:** Figurine, Bracken Lorelei, Kens Gold, Vase: Kens Gold

REG KAPPLER MEMORIAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Nine blooms stages singly, each bloom a different type

Michigan Dahlia Association Medallion - 2 entries

1st **J Matulick:** Christie Jewel, Ivanetti, Christie Abby, Hillara Ice, Devon Spirit, Cameo, Christie Red, Hamari Accord, Seedling M726 (Anemone)

2nd **M & C Keller:** Noreen, Downham Royal, Jomanda, Christie Shayla, Aitara Success, Le Batts Prime, Bracken Lorelei, Karass 150, Tioga Autumn

NOEL BRINKLEY MEMORIAL ENCOURAGEMENT CHAMPIONSHIP

Novice and B Grade only

One vase three blooms one cultivar, three blooms staged singly NND

Inland Empire Dahlia Society Medallion - 3 entries

1st **D & K Neale:** Marys Jomanda, Gladys Johns, Kiara Julia, Vase: Devon Glory

2nd **N & E Jaeschke:** Como Polly, Kenora Jubilee, Sylvia Craig Hunter, Vase: Marys Jomanda

3rd **A & N Ray:** Devon Mystique x3, Vase Bracken Catherine

PREMIER EXHIBIT AWARDS - Vase of three blooms

Puget Sound Dahlia Association Medallion

Premier Exhibit Cactus Embrace M & C Keller

Portland Dahlia Society Medallion

Premier Exhibit Semi Cactus Narrows Tricia N & E Jaeschke

Minnesota Dahlia Society Medallion

Premier Exhibit Formal Decorative Hillier Tanunda M & C Keller

Greater St Louis Dahlia Society Medallion

Premier Exhibit Informal Decorative Christie Red J Matulick

Dahlia Society of Tennessee Medallion

Premier Exhibit Semi Decorative Marys Jomanda M & C Keller

Michigan Dahlia Association Medallion

Premier Exhibit Ball Ivanetti/Devon Holly J Matulick

Greater Kansas City Medallion

Premier Exhibit Pompon Noreen M & C Keller

Dahlia Society of NSW & ACT Medallion

Premier Exhibit Fimbriated Cactus Christie Glitter/Higgo Lacy/Seedling
J Matulick

Western Districts Dahlia Society Medallion

Premier Exhibit Exhibition Cactus Gwens Choice N & E Jaeschke

Seattle Dahlia Society Medallion

Premier Exhibit Waterlily Bracken Lorelei M & C Keller

Southeastern Michigan Dahlia Society Medallion

Premier Exhibit Collerette Hillara Ice J Matulick

National Dahlia Society of Victoria Medallion

Premier Exhibit Orchid Christie Shayla M & C Keller

National Dahlia Society of New Zealand Bronze Medallion

Premier Exhibit Stellar Christie Galah M & C Keller

National Dahlia Society of New Zealand Silver Medallion

Premier Exhibit Anemone B J Rival N & E Jaeschke

Central West Dahlia Society Medallion

Premier Exhibit Single Tyalla Blush M & C Keller

Canadian Chrysanthemum & Dahlia Society Medallion

Premier Exhibit Peony Christie Rebel J Matulick

Southeastern Michigan Dahlia Society Medallion

Premier Exhibit Mignon Dwarf Bonne Esperance N & E Jaeschke

CHAMPION BLOOMS

Grand Champion	Karras 150	M & C Keller
Reserve Grand Champion	Winkie Colonel	N & E Jaeschke
Cactus, Miniature	Devon Spirit	J Matulick
Cactus, Small	Karras 150	M & C Keller
Cactus, Medium	Kenora Jubilee	N & E Jaeschke
Cactus, Large/Giant	Kenora Jubilee	J Matulick
Semi Cactus, Miniature/Small	Aitara Success	M & C Keller
Semi Cactus, Medium	Narrows Tricia	N & E Jaeschke
Formal Decorative, Miniature	Linda May	N & E Jaeschke
Formal Decorative, Small	Unknown	D & K Neale
Formal Decorative, Medium	Como Polly	N & E Jaeschke
Informal Decorative, Miniature/Small	Christie Red	J Matulick
Informal Decorative, Medium	Christie Sergeant	J Matulick
Informal Decorative, Large	Winkie Colonel	N & E Jaeschke
Informal Decorative, Giant	Winkie Colonel	N & E Jaeschke
Semi Decorative, under 160 mm	Marys Jomanda	D & K Neale
Ball - Miniature/Small	Cornel	D & K Neale
Pompon	Noreen	M & C Keller

Fimbriated Cactus, over 160 mm
 Fimbriated Cactus, under 160 mm
 Exhibition Cactus
 Waterlily
 Collerette
 Orchid
 Stellar
 Anemone
 Single
 Peony
 Mignon Dwarf

URAILDA SHOW

Grand Champion

Giant Decorative
 Medium Decorative
 Small Decorative
 Miniature Decorative
 Large Cactus
 Medium Cactus
 Small Cactus
 Miniature Cactus
 Exhibition Cactus
 Fimbriated Cactus
 Ball
 Pompon
 Waterlily
 Anemone
 Peony
 Single
 Collerette
 Orchid
 Stellar

ANGASTON SHOW

Grand Champion

Giant Decorative
 Medium Decorative
 Small Decorative
 Miniature Decorative
 Large Semi Cactus
 Medium Cactus
 Small Cactus

Clara Jean
 Aitara Picardy
 Fleurieu Sandstorm
 Kens Gold
 Hillara Ice
 Christie Shayla
 Christie Galah
 BJ Rival
 Christie Jewel
 Christie Rebel
 Bonne Esperance

Karras 150

Winkie Colonel
 Christie Sergeant
 Unknown
 Jomanda
 Christie Goldie
 Kiara Julia
 Karras 150
 Kiara Forgwen
 Fleurieu Sandstorm
 Christie Glitter
 Ivanetti
 Pride of Place
 Cameo
 Goldie Gull
 Christie Rebel
 Christie Glow
 Hillara Ice
 Christie Abby
 Christie Dove

Tyalla Christie

Winkie Colonel
 Christie Prince
 Christie Red
 Bracken Nikolaus
 Kiara Julia
 Formby Twilight
 Devon Spirit

J Matulick
 D & K Neale
 J Matulick
 D & K Neale
 J Matulick
 N & E Jaeschke
 N & E Jaeschke
 N & E Jaeschke
 J Matulick
 J Matulick
 N & E Jaeschke

18 February

M & C Keller

G Heinrich
 J Matulick
 M & C Keller
 M & C Keller
 J Matulick
 G Heinrich
 M & C Keller
 J Matulick
 J Matulick
 M & C Keller
 J Matulick
 J Matulick
 M & C Keller
 J Matulick
 J Matulick
 J Matulick
 J Matulick
 J Matulick
 J Matulick

25 February

J Matulick

N & E Jaeschke
 J Matulick
 J Matulick
 N & E Jaeschke
 G Heinrich
 G Heinrich
 J Matulick

Miniature Cactus	Tyalla Christie	J Matulick
Fimbriated Cactus	Seedling	N & E Jaeschke
Ball	Ivanetti	J Matulick
Pompon	Pensford Marion	J Matulick
Waterlily	Figurine	J Matulick
Anemone	BJ Rival	J Matulick
Peony	Christie Rebel	J Matulick
Single	Christie Dainty	J Matulick
Collerette	Aitara Conference	J Matulick
Orchid	Christie Josie	J Matulick
Stellar	Christie Galah	N & E Jaeschke
Championship, Nine Blooms	1 st J Matulick	
Devon Spirit x 2, Hamari Accord, Kenora Jubilee, Christie Prince x 2, Silver City, Seedling M660, Christie Como		

MT PLEASANT SHOW

Grand Champion

Miniature Decorative
Miniature Cactus
Fimbriated Cactus
Ball
Pompon
Waterlily
Collerette

Bracken Nikolaus

Bracken Nikolaus
Tyalla Christie
Clara Jean
Christie Blue Berry
Pensford Marion
Cameo
Aitara Conference

17 March

N & E Jaeschke

N & E Jaeschke
J Matulick
J Matulick
J Matulick
J Matulick
N & E Jaeschke
J Matulick

MT BARKER SHOW

Grand Champion

Large Decorative
Medium Cactus
Fimbriated Cactus
Ball
Pompon
Waterlily
Collerette

Kenora Jubilee

Christie Venture
Kenora Jubilee
Christie Glitter
Christie Blue Berry
Pensford Marion
Cameo
Kens Gala

24 March

J Matulick

J Matulick
J Matulick
J Matulick
J Matulick
J Matulick
J Matulick
J Matulick

ENFIELD HORTICULTURAL SHOW

Grand Champion

Medium Decorative
Miniature Cactus
Single
Champion Vase

Kims Christie

Kims Christie
Devon Caress
Araluen Oberon
Bracken Lorelei

21, 22 April

N & A Ray

N & A Ray
N & A Ray
N & A Ray
N & A Ray

TASMANIA

HOBART HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY DAHLIA SHOW 8, 9 March

Grand Champion	Hamari Accord	G Fookes
Reserve Champion	Oreti Stacey	I Joseph
Large Cactus	Purbeck Lydia	G Fookes
Medium Cactus	Hamari Accord	G Fookes
Medium Semi Cactus	Hamari Accord	G Fookes
Small Cactus	Embrace	G Fookes
Miniature Cactus	Embrace	G Fookes
Large Decorative	Elma Elizabeth	I Joseph
Medium Decorative	Elma Elizabeth	I Joseph
Small Decorative	Le Batts Prime	C Dwyer
Miniature Decorative	Devon Delta	I Joseph
Fimbriated	Oreti Stacey	I Joseph
Ball	Cornel	K Anderson
Waterlily	Figurine	C Dwyer
Exhibition Cactus	Jeannie	I Joseph
Seedling	Unnamed	C Dwyer
Champion Intermediate	Devon Hymark	J Bennett
Runner Up Intermediate	Formby Crest	J Bennett
Champion Novice	Cornel	H Brock
Runner Up Novice	Andrew Mitchell	I Seaman
Aggregate Points Open	Ian Joseph	
Aggregate Points Intermediate	Graham Verrier	
Aggregate Points Novice	Helen Brock	

LAUNCESTON

Grand Champion	Devon Seduction	C & L Smith
Reserve Champion	Perbeck Lydia	C & L Smith
Launceston Championship - 9 blooms		
1st C & L Smith	2nd B & K Smith	
Winning Blooms: Maggie Hannaford, Jan Lennon, Devon Glory, Devon Caress, Devon Calypso, Devon Seduction, Devon Gyra, Stoneleigh Joyce, Figurine		
Large/Giant Decorative	Formby Monarch	C & L Smith
Medium Decorative	Maggie Hannaford	C & L Smith
Small Decorative	Bracken Sarah	B & K Smith
Miniature Decorative	Bracken Nikolaus	C & L Smith
Large/Giant Cactus	Kiara Julia	J Young
Medium Cactus	Perbeck Lydia	C & L Smith
Small Cactus	Devon Caress	C & L Smith
Miniature Cactus	Devon Seduction	C & L Smith
Fimbriated Cactus	Tioga Autumn	C & L Smith
Exhibition Cactus	White Cricket	C & L Smith

Ball	Ivanetti	B Cruse
Collerette	Moray Apache	D Pyke
Best Intermediate		T Bynon
Best in Novice		Y Hoiburge
12 Exhibitors		

WESTBURY

Grand Champion	Formby Monarch	C & L Smith
Reserve Champion	Devon Elegance	C & L Smith
Championship - 6 blooms	1st C & L Smith	

Winning Blooms: Devon Radiance, Formby Elite, Bracken Sarah, Devon Elegance, Bracken Nikolaus, Mersey Charm

Champion Vase	Devon Elegance	C & L Smith
Intermediate Champion		T Byron
Novice Champion		K & R Jaffray
7 Exhibitors		

LATROBE

Grand Champion	Kiara Julia	C & L Smith
Reserve Champion	Formby Monarch	C & L Smith

Latrobe Dahlia Championship - 8 blooms

1st C & L Smith	2nd D Pyke
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Winning Blooms: Kiara Julia, Devon Radiance, Devon Elegance, Brian R, Mersey Charm, Devon Cherub, Bobs Gold, Devon Calypso

Vase Championship	Devon Elegance	C & L Smith
Sedling		J Young
Exhibitors 10		

VICTORIA

STATE SHOW

February

VICTORIAN DAHLIA CHAMPIONSHIP - Bob & Emily Trotter Memorial

1st D Zietsman	2nd J Menzel	3rd J Menzel
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Winning Blooms: Eunice T, Narrows Tricia x 2, Jan Lennon, Aitara Picardy

Vases: Faye Lynette x 2, Ryecroft Jan, Pam Howden

2nd Blooms: Formal Decorative No 27 x 2, Winkie Bombardier, Judith Taylor, Informal Decorative No 45

Vases: White Cactus No 204, Formal Decorative No 86, Cactus No 89, Formal Decorative No115

VICTORIAN RESERVE CHAMPIONSHIP

1st D Zietsman	2nd J Menzel
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Winning Blooms: Elma Elizabeth, Susan French, Hamari Accord

Vases: Cornel, Taratahi Lilac, Glenbank Twinkle

SMALL GROWERS CHAMPIONSHIP - Eric Paynter Memorial

1st D King

2nd S Cox

Winning Blooms: Winkie Colonel, Hillview Iceberg, AitaraPicardy, Vase: Formby Crest

NINE DAHLIA BLOOM CHAMPIONSHIP - Gladys Johns Memorial

1st D Zietsman

2nd J Menzel

Winning Blooms: Narrows Tricia x 2, Barbarry Summit x 2, Ryecroft Jan, Anemone seedling, Tioga Autumn, Cornel, Trengrove Millenium.

MEDIUM DAHLIA CHAMPIONSHIP - Bill Foster Memorial

1st D Zietsman

2nd J Menzel

Winning Blooms: Kenora Jubilee, Susan French x 2, Hamari Accord, Trengrove Millenium, Kenora Wildfire

UNDER 160 mm CHAMPIONSHIP - Frank Rossack Memorial

1st D Zietsman

2nd L Lawson

Winning Blooms: Formby Pearl, Karras 150, Taratahi Lilac, Le Batts Prime

POMPON DAHLIA CHAMPIONSHIP - Eunice Turton Memorial

1st J Menzel

2nd J Menzel

Vases: Mi Wong x 2, Woden Surprise, Pam

ARTHUR HINDRY CHAMPIONSHIP

1st D Zietsman

2nd P Gallon

Winning Blooms: Narrows Tricia, Kenora Jubilee, Jan Lennon

Vases: Marys Jomanda, Embrace, Moray Bronte

UNDER 160 mm CHALLENGE

1st D Zietsman

2nd P Gallon

Winning Blooms: Formby Art, Formby Twinkle, Formby Crest

Vases: Moray Linda, Devon Blaze

BI COLOUR/BLEND CHALLENGE

1st D Zietsman

2nd J Menzel

Winning Bloom: Kenora Sunset

Vase: Faye Lynette

VICTORIAN INTERMEDIATE CHAMPIONSHIP

1st P Hunt

Winning Blooms: Formby Monarch x 2, Ivanetti x 3 Vase: Shirley Yeomans

INTERMEDIATE UNDER 160 mm CHALLENGE

1st P Hunt

2nd P Hunt

Winning Blooms: Marys Jomanda x 2, Devon Spirit x 2, Ivanetti x 2

VICTORIAN NOVICE CHAMPIONSHIP

1st J Dineen

2nd D Collett

Winning Blooms: Winkie Whopper, Kenora Wildfire, Sylvia Craig Hunter, Red Emperor, Nite Life

SEEDLING: Amber Miniature Decorative - 82 pts J Daniel

NEW CULTIVAR INVITATION CHALLENGE

Red Small Decorative - 82 points Stevans Teddy S Cox

MAJOR AWARDS

Best Exhibit in Show - Victorian Dahlia Championship D Zietsman

President's Trophy

Best Dahlia over 160 mm Jan Lennon D Zietsman

Best Dahlia Under 160 mm Embrace D Zietsman

Best Vase Under 160 mm Bracken Nikolaus J Menzel

Best Bloom Intermediate Devon Spirit P Hunt

President's Trophy Large Display D Collett

Aggregate Award D Zietsman

Peoples' Choice: Arranged basket of Aussie Sunrise R Yeomans

Best Photographic Exhibit P Gallon

Encouragement Award Novice D Collett

AWARD OF MERIT CERTIFICATES - Best of Type

Giant Decorative Regina J Menzel

Large Decorative Como Polly J Menzel

Medium Decorative D Zietsman

Small Decorative Bracken Nikolaus J Menzel

Miniature Decorative Ryecroft Jan D Zietsman

Medium Cactus Jan Lennon D Zietsman

Small Cactus Gladys Johns J Menzel

Miniature Cactus Embrace D Zietsman

Fimbriated Cactus Jennie D Zietsman

Ball Cornel J Menzel

Pompon Mi Wong J Menzel

Orchid Winkie Vulcan J Menzel

Anemone Seedling D Zietsman

Waterlily Pam Howden D Zietsman

Collerette Aegean Sky J Menzel

KERANG GARDEN CLUB

Kerang Garden Club Championship: 1st J Pay

Winning Blooms: Hamari Accord, Bracken Sarah, Kiara Julia, Devon Mojave, Devon Elegance, Unnamed

NDSV Bronze Medallion: Championship J Pay

CROYDON HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY & GARDEN CLUB

NDVS Metropolitan Championship: 1st D Zietsman, 2nd D King

Winning Blooms: Susan French x 4, Kiara Julia, Elma Elizabeth, Hamari Accord,
Jan Lennon, Barbarry Summit

Croydon Championship: 1st D Zietsman

Winning Blooms: Jan Lennon, Veras Elma x 2,

Vases: Faye Lynette, Embrace, Marys Jomanda

NDSV Bronze Medallion: D Zietsman

Best over 160 mm	Susan French	D Zietsman
Best Vase under 160 mm	Faye Lynette	D Zietsman

Award of Merit Certificates:

Miniature Decorative	Hillier Tanunda	R Yeomans
Miniature Ball	Ivanetti	D King

WELSHPOOL & DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Championship: 1st D. Zietsman 2nd D. Zietsman

Winning Blooms: Susan French, Kiara Julia x 2 with vases of Faye Lynette, Pam Howden,
Pink Suffusion

NDSV Bronze Medallion	Championship	D Zietsman
Best over 160 mm	Kiara Julia	D Zietsman
Best Vase under 160 mm	Pam Howden	D Zietsman

Award of Merit Certificates:

Miniature Decorative	Pink Suffusion	D Zietsman
Small Cactus	Faye Lynette	D Zietsman
Collerette	Hillara Jean	D Zietsman
Orchid	Christie Shayla	F Grylls

EAGLEHAWK DAHLIA & ARTS FESTIVAL

Championship: 1st D. Richards

Winning Blooms: Winkie Colonel, Kiara Julia, Eunice T, Cornel, Glenmarc Viva, Collerette

NDSV Bronze Medal Dave Richards

Grand Champion **Kiara Julia** **J Hamilton**

Ribbons awarded for

Best over 160 mm	Kiara Julia	J Hamilton
Best under 160 mm	Small Decorative (unnamed)	J Hamilton
Best Vase under 160mm	Gladys Johns	D Richards

Award of Merit Certificates

Miniature Decorative	Formby Crest	D Richards
Fimbriated Cactus	Unnamed	J Hamilton

Intermediate Encouragement Award J Hamilton

ST. JAMES GLEN IRIS

City of Stonnington Dahlia Championship

1st D Zietsman, 2nd D Zietsman

Winning Blooms: Jan Lennon x 2, Como Polly, Kiara Julia x 2, Pink Suffusion, Marys Jomanda, Bracken Hydra, Kenora Jubilee

NDSV Bronze Medallion	Championship	D Zietsman
Best over 160 mm	Reg Kappler	D Zietsman
Best Multi bloom Exhibit	Display of Tiny Tot dahlias	R Yeomans
Award of Merit Certificate		
Miniature Decorative	Hillier Tanunda	R Yeomans
Miniature Semi Decorative	Formby Crest	D King
Small Decorative Vase	Corn Jnr	S Cox

WINCHELSEA GARDEN CLUB

Winchelsea Championship: 1st B Millard 2nd A Hardingham

Winning Blooms: Narrows Tricia, Kiara Julia, Kenora Jubilee, Judith Taylor, Elma Elizabeth, Karras 150, Gladys Johns,

Vase: Formby Crest, Mixed Vase: Hillier Tanunda, Formby Crest, Seedling.

Intermediate Championship:

Best Vase Intermediate	1 st C Donahue	L Robertson
NDSV Bronze Medallion	Championship	B Millard
Best over 160 mm	Susan French	A Hardingham
Best Vase under 160 mm	Mixed Vase in Championship	B Millard

Award of Merit Certificates

Orchid	Bracken Astra	A Hardingham
Single	Unnamed	B Millard

SHEPPARTON AND DISTRICT DAHLIA CLUB

NDSV Rural Championship 1st D King, 2nd G Errington

Winning blooms: Over 160mm Hillview Iceberg, Aitara Majesty, Elma Elizabeth

Under 160mm Judith Taylor, Ryecroft Jan, Devon Elegance

Goulburn Valley Championship: 1st C Stacey 2nd R Clarke

Winning blooms: Bracken Sarah, Hamari Accord, Jan Lennon, Judith Taylor, Formby Crest, Devon Delta

Intermediate Championship: 1st G Errington

Winning blooms: Argyle Ray, Bracken Sarah, Devon Safari, Winkie Pat, Judith Taylor, Clara Jean

Novice Championship: 1st G Errington

Winning blooms: Susan French, Miss Joan, Winkie Pat

Awards

Best Bloom in Show	Winkie Pat	G Errington
Best Vase in Show	Formby Crest	D King
Best Cactus	Jan Lennon	C Stacey
Best Decorative	Winkie Pat	G Errington
Best Other Type	Devon Safari	G Errington

BENDIGO GARDEN CLUB

Championship:

1st D. Richards

Winning Blooms: Winkie Colonel, Kiara Julia, Eunice T, Gladys Johns, Devon Cherub, Cornel

NDSV Bronze Medallion

Best over 160mm

Best under 160mm

Best intermediate

Championship

Eunice T

Cornel

Kenora Jubilee

D Richards

D Richards

D Richards

J Hamilton

MOOROOPNA GARDEN CLUB

Mooroopna Dahlia Championship: 1st R. Clarke

Winning Blooms: Kenora Challenger x 2, Kiara Kate, Embrace, Kenora Jubilee, Hamari Accord

NDSV Bronze Medallion

Ribbon Best Bloom:

Special Awards

Championship

Kenora Challenger

Best Exhibit Intermediate

Best Exhibit Novice

R Clarke

R Clarke

N Mitchelmore

N Mitchelmore

PORTLAND SHOW

Portland Championship

Three dahlias over 160mm, three Vases of 3 dahlias under 160 mm

1st B Millard: Hamari Accord, Narrows Triscia, Kenora Jubilee

Vases: Hillier Tanunda, Karras 150, Seedling

Grand Champion

Champion Vase of Show

Noel Edge Championship - 9 different blooms

1st J Menzel: Judith Taylor, Winkie Colonel, Winkie Pat, Winkie Seedlings x 6

Wannon Water Championship

1st Alf Hardingham: Narrows Tricia x 2, Jan Lennon, Barbara Kappler, Glenmarc Seedlings x 5

Glenelg Shire Championship

1st J Menzel: Vases Pinkie O, Devon Surprise, Pam Howden

Pompon Championship

1st J Menzel: Vases: Woden Surprise, Mi Wong

Intermediate Championship

1st S Brown: Glenmarc Sophie x 2, Andrew Mitchell x 2, Elma Elizabeth, Eunice T

Dennis Napthine Collection

Collection of 4 Dahlias

Intermediate Champion Bloom

4 x Glenmarc Sophie

Pam Howden

Colin Donehue

S Brown

March

DAHLIA SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA SPECIAL AWARDS

The recipients of the DSA Special Awards Ribbon for the past season were:

Bruce Raines, NSW; The Wedd Family, Qld; Joan Matulick, SA; Shirley Clarke, Shepparton;

Rob Slarke, Central West; Steven Cox, Victoria; John Bennett, Tasmania; Colin Donehue,

Portland; Joe Daniels, Western Districts.

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Brides' Choice



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