



Tuber Talk

2013

Dahlia Society of Australia

www.dahliasaustralia.com.au

Pictures From the Articles

Trial Garden Canberra Pg. 17



The German Scene Pg. 6



"WOW" Dahlias Pg. 24



From the Ashes Pg. 21



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Cover

Portland Botanic Gardens – Located at Portland Victoria.

The public garden features approx. 2000 Dahlias from all eras.

Inside Covers are coloured versions of article pictures (Pgs.1-80)

Editorial Committee

Christine Dwyer, Les Lawson, Alan Carpenter



From the President's Pencil

The third year of the dahlia Society of Australia has been one of consolidation.

The Web-site appears to be flying the DSA flag with over 36,000 hits since it has been launched just over 12 months ago. Most of the enquiries

have been for tuber stock & these were directed to the persons nearest contact or Tuber Auction. Questions relating to Pest & Culture were also high indicating there are more gardeners growing Dahlias than first thought. My question is how do we encourage them to become members of any of the various groups around the country?

Tuber Talk continues to be a publication that is full of interesting articles & the Show Results from around Australia. These results are used by many as their shopping list to purchase new cultivars. This publication has been put together by a committee who have worked well together getting more interesting articles with an international balance. Thanks to Christine Dwyer, Les Lawson & Alan Carpenter. Since 1998 **the Standards** have not been reviewed and it is pleasing to see a group with representatives from each state be prepared to re-visit & make changes that are in keeping with the progress of the Dahlia.

The introduction of the first **National Trial Garden** was a success thanks to the efforts of John Woodfield & Graeme Davis who managed the Canberra garden. The cultivars were assessed many times during the growing season taking into account growth, Bloom Quality & Tuber Quality. I urge more of our raisers to consider submitting entries for next season. (Pg. 17)

The DSA Tuber Auction was a great success raising \$2,816.00. Thanks to the twelve members who donated the 86 Cultivars & especially the team of seven who put it all together.

The top scored cultivar from the Trial Grounds reached \$100.00, the audience & auctioneers were stunned/amazed/bewildered. It was a small white cactus "**Wakefield Isoquant**".

The Annual Conference hosted by the Dahlia Society of South Australia in the Barossa Valley was a tremendous forum where attendees were treated to great range of speakers over two days followed on the third day on a bus tour of the region showing the beautiful Barossa Valley.

Not forgetting renewing old acquaintances & making new ones.

At the business part of the conference we heard how the Constitution can be improved. A sub-committee of three led by Malcolm Balch will review the document and come up with any recommendations in time for the next Conference in Devonport, Tasmania.

The DSA Special Award has recognised those who have contributed greatly to their respective Club/Society. These are the members who are the unsung workers/contributors. Congratulations to all. (Pg. 28)



Committee of Management

Left-Right Lucy Smith (Tas), Malcolm Keller(SA),
Charlie Smith (Tas),Gavin Woods (SA), Betty Balch (Qld). Dwight
King (Vic),Robert Curll (NSW) Malcolm Balch (Qld),
Yvonne Tracey (NSW), John Menzel, (Vic)

REPORT OF THE D.S.A.CONFERENCE

**7th—10th JUNE 2013 – Barossa Valley
Neville Jaeschke - President:-
The Dahlia Society of South Australia**



FLOWERS FOOD AND FUN was the theme of the 37th Dahlia Society of Australia (D.S.A.) Conference held at the Vine Inn, Nuriootpa, on the long weekend in June.

The President of the Dahlia Society of SA, Mr Neville Jaeschke, welcomed delegates and dahlia growers from Qld, NSW, Vic, Tas and SA, to the General Meeting on Friday afternoon.

On Saturday morning Mayor Brian Hurn welcomed the 54 visitors to the Barossa and declared the Conference open.

The conference heard from 14 speakers including Sophie Thomson, ABC Gardening Australia presenter, on the changing trends in gardening and how they affect plant societies and Garden Clubs; Vince Davey, Business Development Manager of Neutrog; Dave Georg from Smith and Georg on the safe use of chemicals; Milton Vadoulis, TV presenter and proprietor of Vadoulis Garden Nursery, on interest and colour in the garden; and photographer Mr Tony Trevoert, Barossa Photo Company, on techniques to improve photography.

Dahlia Society Members' topics included "Jewels in the Landscape" - images of dahlias found in unexpected places in Europe and China; propagating dahlias from tissue culture; tuber storage; impact of Herbicides on dahlias; "Trials and errors of a Novice dahlia grower"; growing and breeding dahlias; and judging standards.

Workshops were presented by photographer Tony Trevoert; Floral Craft by Adele Ray and Elizabeth Jaeschke; Hospital posy by Joan Matulick.

Conferees enjoyed a "Taste Barossa" segment which included Linke Butcher's Mettwurst and Lachs Schinken; Barossa Cheese Company cheeses; Apex Bakery salt sticks; Zimmy's dill cucumbers,

pickled onions and spreads; dried fruit from Gully Gardens and Barossa wines.

The Tuber Auction, co-ordinated by the DSA President, John Menzel, raised over \$2,816.00 for the DSA.

The Saturday evening dinner was interspersed with table quizzes by Neville and Adele Ray. Background keyboard music of the 60s and 70s was provided by Glen Brittain.

The Dahlia Society of SA was formed in 1888. Mr Neville Jaeschke gave a brief account of the history of the SA Society. The 125th anniversary was celebrated with the cutting of a cake by Mr Gavin Woods, the longest serving member of the DSSA.

Gavin then presented Mrs Joan Matulick with a gift, an inscribed glass clock, in recognition of her 37 years of service to dahlias. In his speech, Gavin highlighted Joan's amazing dedication to the Dahlia, her achievements in breeding dahlias (the Christie stable), her tireless efforts in showing dahlias (with 17 interstate trips to shows), her documentation of all of her winners and all the cultivars she has ever grown—and all of this by herself.



Monday morning was bright and sunny and a perfect day to tour the Barossa.

Visitors were taken to Gully Gardens where Mr Rick Steicke explained the operation of the family owned dried fruit business. Folk purchased dried fruit and confectionery from their shop. Mengler's Hill lookout provided a clear panoramic view of the Valley. Next stop Faith Lutheran College. After morning tea prepared by Bianca Saegenschnitter, Mr Bob Mitchell explained the wine making and wine education at Mengler View Wines. Visitors viewed the student garden beds, composting bins and the animals being prepared for the Royal Adelaide Show. Mr Ron Lovell then gave visitors an insight into the history, mechanics and operation of The

Barossa Arts and Convention Centre.

The coach driver, Mr Richard Birrell, took the tour through the historic Bethany Village, explaining the pioneer settlement and the historic buildings. Conferees were impressed with the display of the history of Orlando Wines at Jacobs Creek Visitor Centre and the beauty of the surroundings.

Ladies from Langmeil Lutheran Church served a buffet luncheon in the hall. Mr Donald Ross and Mr Ev Leske spoke about the history of Langmeil and showed visitors through the History Centre. Many wandered through the adjacent cemetery with interest. From Tanunda the tour went through Seppeltsfield and Greenock to the Barossa Nursery. Back at the Vine Inn folk alighted from the coach happy and full of compliments about the trip and a well-organized and enjoyable conference.

Plans are underway for the 2014 DSA conference to be held in Devonport, Tasmania.

The German Dahlia Scene – Ralf Möller Berlin – Brandenburg



Beside the German Dahlias Society (DDG) founded in 1897, the Dahlia in Germany can look back on a more than 200 years old tradition. Today dahlias are getting more and more popular. After the rose, the queen of flowers, the Dahlia is often characterized as the Queen of Autumn. Due to its variety and diversity it ranks at the second place of ornamental plants.

Exhibitions that solely show Dahlias, as they still exist in the US, in New Zealand and other countries had not been arranged in Germany for several decades. However, Dahlias are still part of the German horticultural shows such as the Federal Horticultural Show that take place every two years in Germany, or the International Horticultural Exhibitions (IGA) and International Horticultural Shows

(IGS) that were run in rotation in different cities in Germany. Since 1970, there are also smaller exhibitions in the German provinces, the so called "Landesgartenschauen" (called IGS or LAGA), where you can find more and more beds of dahlias.

Furthermore, there are at least 15 larger Dahlia gardens with up to 15,000 dahlias situated in several German cities with 200,000 visitors a year. At the website www.dahlienbuch.de you can find a dahlia- map of all Dahlias institutions in Germany) Another highlight of the German Dahlia-community is the Dahlia center in Bad Köstritz in the German state Thuringia, that was opened in 2007. It houses a historical exhibition of Dahlias with old varieties of dahlias as well as the dahlia-archive. Many famous Dahlia-celebrities already visited the center. The city of Bad Köstritz organizes a large Dahlia Festival every year.

Almost 215 years of dahlia growing in Germany have left their traces in the development of dahlias. The first dahlia seeds came to Berlin and Dresden in 1799, and already in 1808 Carl Hartwig from Karlsruhe presented the first filled (blooming??) dahlia. John Sieckmann from Bad Köstritz was the first breeder who presented his little pompom dahlias, called "Lilliput Dahlias" in 1850. Sieckmann also introduced the green dahlia, the so-called dahlia "Gottes Wunder" (miracle of God) in 1879. This variety had been on the German market for over 64 years. Today we know that this breeding was the result of an infection with a bacterium called "tumefaciens" which he took in the multiplication.

More than 300 outstanding German breeders brought many famous varieties on the market. A lot of these varieties achieved worldwide fame. The division of Germany was also a division of the German Dahlia breeding. There were 170 registered varieties of dahlias in the former GDR. Since 1972, breeders in the GDR developed Mignon dahlias from seeds that were self-fertile and 100% able to breed the same plants by seeds. Beside the varieties **"Enzett Rosa Band"**, **"Enzett Silber Band"** 1979 **"Enzett Rotes Band"**, **"Enzett Purpurband"** there were also six other varieties of pompom dahlias, that never came into the market. Unfortunately, the entire breeding

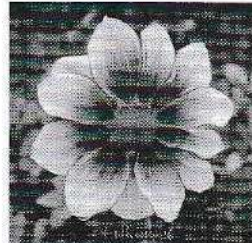
material was destroyed while the turbulent years of the reunification in 1989/1990.

One of the most prominent breeders of the GDR in the 70/80er years was Helmut Wolf. The quality of his work is evident in the varieties **"Schneckenstein"**, **"Sonnenblick"**, **"Eisrevue"**, **"Eisprinzessin"**, **"Killesberg"** and **"Adlerstein"**, which are still on sale on market today.

Some of the known varieties of dahlias of the recent decades include the **"Berliner Kleene"** by Severin 1967, **"Vulkan"** (award-



winning breeding)
Klaus Pfitzer,
1974, **"Maren"**,
Alfred Lorenzen
1985 (in the exam
with 98.66 points,
the highest ever



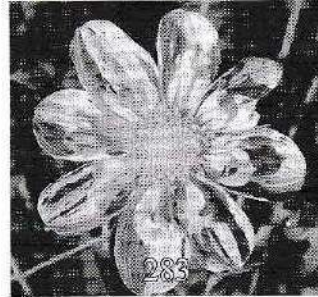
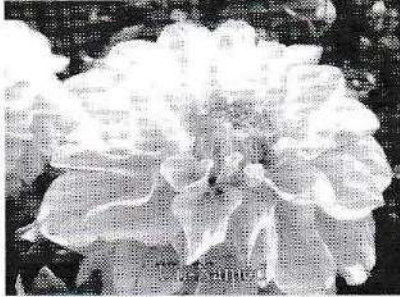
score achieved). Best varieties are also **"Goldorange"** (best group of species) Heinz Voit 1974, **"Kunterbunt"** (best lover places) Siegfried Engelhardt 1998, **"Karneol"** (best small-flowered breeding) Prof. Otto 2001, **"Erna Panzer"** (best group of species) Heinz Panzer 2005, **"Stadt Spremberg"** (awarded in the UK as the best places abroad) Steffen Koschker 2008, **"Sankt Brigida"** (best small-flowered breeding 2011) Schwieters 2010, to name just a few.

After 1970 it became apparent that there were not only fewer and fewer breeders but also less new dahlia varieties. Since 2000, there are only a few active breeders left and a new generation of dahlia breeders in Germany is missing. Currently, the dahlia scene is changing and therefore more and more dahlia lovers are going to register their breedings for testing. The hobby breeder Ernst Hilscher started with **"Corinnas Moonlight"** (best dahlia-lover variety 2006) and Klaus Hartl **"Gazpacho"** (best new German breed 2009). Since last year, there are among others, the dahlia supplier Möller and the DDFGG shipping (German dahlias, fuchsias - and gladioli

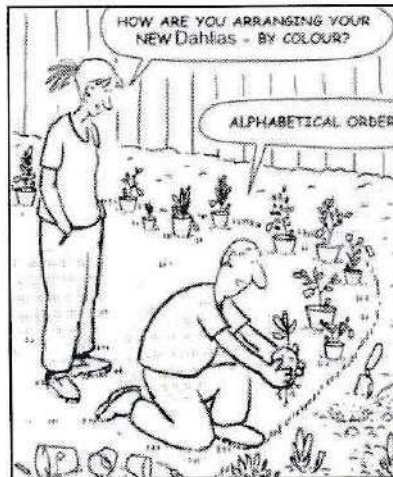
Society) projects that aim to support and mobilize hobby breeders to register their new varieties for testing.

However, the specific form of growing by hand pollination is lost because many dahlia enthusiasts leave a new breed to chance by taking the seeds of dahlias and sowing them. Nonetheless, that this method of growing dahlias can also be successful can be observed on the following pictures:

In addition to the fertilization the most important factor to achieve a good phenotype of dahlias, is the quality of the soil. In the previously published literature, this aspect is treated rather carelessly and sparse. Basically, however, the tenor is almost the same



everywhere, that dahlias have no special requirements regarding the ground and are quite satisfied with "normal" soil. This is also reflected in the soil used by German dahlia growers. Dahlias are usually cultivated in loamy, sandy or in normal soil. Anyway, the best results can be achieved when the pH value is slightly acidic. Dahlias can also be planted in monoculture without any problems. This can be observed for example in the dahlia garden in the city of Hamburg, in which for more than 30 years, only dahlias were grown on the same place.





The Standards Some History and Thoughts Joan Matulick and Gavin Woods



The following is a revised version of the presentation given at the 2013 ADS conference. We have included our own views as well as some recently published points regarding this topic.

Definition of STANDARD OF PERFECTION

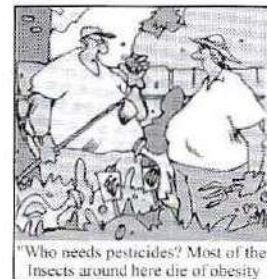
a compilation of the desired qualities and characteristics of a breed of livestock usually with indication of the faults to be especially avoided (Merriam-Webster.com)

"Dahlias, dahlia exhibitors and dahlia judges as well as Dahlia Shows have changed much over the years since the earlier years. Most would agree that the dahlia has improved and more recognition and encouragement is now given to the numerous types. This constant evolvement has meant that those who have assumed, or even had the mantle of devotee and promoter thrust upon them, need to keep an open mind and continually revise and uphold the Standards of Perfection that are put forward for the dahlia flower."

"A Manual Judging Dahlias in Australia" Alan Strachan

Some History

The Australian Dahlia Council published the "Australian Guide to Dahlias" in 1980 bringing all state standards into line. A 10 year revision rule which disallowed any changes within that time frame made good sense. We were both involved in 1998 review. New types included the Peony and Single or rather old types brought back to the fold. Fimbriated, Any Other Type and Semi-Decorative type were controversially included. Queensland did not accept this standard due to the admission of the latter type.



The Last Review (1998)

- ▶ State representatives (2 each state) were elected, reviewed the Standards and then had a face to face meeting to reach consensus.
- ▶ Some have argued that the published Standard was not entirely as agreed by that group.
- ▶ We will present some collective thoughts about where we might go from here

Some Thoughts

- ▶ Should new types be permitted in future Standard?
- ▶ Should rigorous criteria for inclusion (of new types) be developed? There are limitless possibilities for new types to be presented. DSA could develop criteria for acceptance of new types (or disbar any new types).
- ▶ There is no doubt that our current types will continue to evolve. Some of us remember Miniature Cactus with 3 rows of petals as the norm. Weak stems meant that originally dahlias were shown on wire racks. We have progressed!
- ▶ At what point should the Standard be altered? The "10 year rule" in relation to Standard review makes a lot of sense.
- ▶ We will deal with some suggested changes based on current types.
- ▶

Formal Decorative

- ▶ A very non- controversial type it would seem!
- ▶ The Standard talks of "preferably rounded tips"

The term preferably does not help to describe a perfect flower. Should we be describing a 100 point bloom? When terms such as this are used there is too much room for judge's discretion. It does not mean that a cultivar with pointed florets would be disqualified. It would be assessed as having a fault just like every other bloom on the bench.

Informal Decorative

- ▶ Currently our Standard states : "Florets to be twisty or wavy....not being flat. The tips may revolute...."

- ▶ Formerly (prior to 1998): "twisty, wavy or revolute"
- ▶ Prior to 1998 review florets could be twisty, wavy etc OR revolute. Now they must twist and MAY revolute. A subtle but definite difference.
- ▶ We deliberately refer to the iconic cultivar "Winkie Colonel" because it



does not meet our standard requirements!

▶ We really have two distinct types within the Informal class ie the "Formal Informals" like **Winkie Colonel** ; and the wavy, twisted type as seen in the Giant class Such as **Hamari Gold**.

Semi-Decorative

- ▶ Pointed florets helps to distinguish this from Ball type
- ▶ A very successful addition to the 1998 Standards
- ▶ It is a great pity that so many good cultivars were disposed of, particularly the highly awarded "Barbarry" dahlias from the UK which were imported by Frank Turton of Victoria

Waterlily

- ▶ Not too much argument here
- ▶ Change to depth seems to have been well accepted

Semi Cactus



- ▶ Another descriptor might be: Petals broad at the base, terminating in a point. Very little daylight visible through the body of the bloom
- ▶ The centre of the bloom is "Decorative" in formation
- ▶ This is a type that we often see exhibitors and judges pulling florets in an attempt to rationalise the type
- ▶ Pulling florets achieves very little because it removes the individual floret from others which support it and therefore affect its formation

- ▶ Turning the bloom around to gauge a degree of revolution is equally problematic.
- ▶ We do not judge flowers based on an individual floret
- ▶ However perhaps we should describe what we see rather an arbitrary figure of revolution which encourages the above actions

Cactus

- ▶ Again a revised descriptor might be: petals narrow at the base and with daylight visible throughout most of the bloom.



Exhibition Cactus

- ▶ The only type that has not evolved over the last 50 years.
- ▶ How many meet the depth requirements of at least half but not more than 2 thirds the diameter in depth?
- ▶ Most of our cultivars are very old, with very few new ones.
- ▶ Suggested name change crops up from time to time.
- ▶ "Pincer" rejected in the 1980's. "Spider" has been suggested, now "Quill".
- ▶ How many other types do not meet the public's expectation as a descriptor (if that is our measure)? Decorative dahlias look nothing like decorative Chrysanthemums, Camellias or Gladiolus. Do Cactus dahlias look like Cactus plants?
- ▶ Or Orchids?

Fimbriated Cactus

- ▶ Perhaps our most evolved type in recent years
- ▶ 1998 Changes involved the requirement of "splaying"
- ▶ Genetics from Cyril Higgo of South Africa has revolutionised this type and demonstrates the possibilities of specialisation within a type.

Fimbriated - other Types

- ▶ Any type of petallage allowed.
- ▶ The standard written in the absence of any cultivars (very old "Angora" listed by Weiss as Carnation type)

- ▶ No serious contenders for this section have been developed here or overseas.
- ▶ A failed experiment?

Ball

- ▶ Some discussion to change the accepted angle of the stem (45 to 90 degrees). When formerly the Standard required a 90 degree angle, many cultivars did not meet the Standard. When we began growing **Show** types, most wore neck stretchers to correct a 45 degree sitting cultivar to 90 degrees.
- ▶ Whatever angle is set, some cultivars will not meet that requirement without assistance.
- ▶ The Gayner Parker quote comes to mind here. "Breed to the Standard, not change the Standard to suit your breeding."
- ▶ Size changes have been detrimental to the type. Former sizes were over and under 90mm (Large and Small), changed to 120mm (Small and Miniature). Very few cultivars to meet the Small size. Is it time to combine sizes?
- ▶ Should see the reverse of the petal when viewing the face of bloom.

Pompon

- ▶ Perhaps the most uncontroversial type ever, except of course for the change to spelling of the name!
- ▶ Pom pon, Pompone, different genera use different spelling. Different dahlia growing countries use different spelling. Australia opted for the French derivation of the woollen ball worn on caps in that country

Collerette

- ▶ 1990 saw elimination of the words "almost flat", current requirements are that the bloom should be flat.
- ▶ "Preferably contrast" was also changed to "preferably greatly contrast"

- ▶ There may be a contrast between the collar and ray florets; does it greatly contrast?
- ▶ As judges this presents a universal dilemma.....we have no direction as to how much one would penalise a bloom which does not contrast because of the word "preferably".

Single

- ▶ New to the Standards in 1998 and we assumed that they should be Collerettes without the collar
- ▶ It would be assumed that any changes to a Collerette Standard would be reflected here.

Anemone

- ▶ This bloom is required to be dome shaped. This requirement often prevents maturity of the dome which is arguably the prominent feature
- ▶ If the side view should be dome shaped, that equates to a flat row of ray florets. Many Anemone shown are artificially prepared with plucking of outer dome florets or cardboard backs to hold the ray florets flat. This leads to domes which are immature in exhibits
- ▶ Ray florets which project downwards away from the dome do not detract from bloom symmetry

Orchid

- ▶ Many attractive colour combinations other than "a different colour...on the involute reverse" exist. These should not be penalised
- ▶ Many cultivars which "fill in at the base" are not involute for their whole length.

Stellar

- ▶ In its infancy as a type in 1998
- ▶ Are we looking for a double Orchid?
- ▶ Flat backed as a quality is a misnomer and is not required
- ▶ Again the requirement for a contrasting reverse colour is restrictive.
- ▶

Peony

- ▶ We had no live specimens when the Standard was developed and informality of petallage was accepted
- ▶ *Central smaller, twisty or Curled florets* add informality and may prevent serious consideration. This will not advance this type as a show flower
- ▶ The wording could be amended to preference decorative type petallage. Currently any form is acceptable. What would a Peony with Orchid petals look like?
- ▶ SA may be the only state to foster the type and are seen at most shows since 1989

Miscellaneous

- ▶ Difficult to explain how this standard can be interpreted. As there is a classification, are these blooms in for higher awards?
- ▶ Is there room for the inclusion of Mignon Dwarf or Tiny Tots.
- ▶ Where do we put a stop to new types? Many other forms exist overseas.

Other areas

- ▶ Much fine tuning of the Standards is possible
- ▶ Should Championships carry a weighting for arrangement? Currently the points allocated to arrangement in a Championship are only used if a tie exists between entries. Theoretically therefore vases in a Championship could be staged at different heights and all benched on the one level without penalty. Should the exhibitor who takes the time to match a multi-vase Championship be rewarded?
- ▶ All recognition of foliage has been removed from our current Standard. Only perfect foliage is acceptable currently. No breakdown within the 5 points for staging is allocated to foliage as it was prior to 1998. Should we be tolerant of imperfect foliage and focus on the bloom OR just ban foliage altogether? We are the ONLY country in the world that does not require foliage. Are our viral problems related to this fact?

- ▶ Length of stem needs clarification ie where do we measure from?
- ▶ The word "preferably" exists in several type Standards but does not describe an ideal

The Future?

We will leave you to ponder the future.

DSA has rightly established a Judges committee consisting of one judge/exhibitor from each state.

One of our principal recommendations is that a review process only occur every 10 years. This will allow any previous changes to be implemented and fully trialled. It will also prevent knee jerk changes based on the whims of a few.

Editor:- DSA Trial Gardens Overview

Trial Gardens were negotiated for Portland (Vic) & Canberra. The Portland Botanic Gardens venture was not successful because the dedicated bed was devastated by rabbits and the plants did eventually flower but it was not fair for any assessment. The stock will be saved and grown on next year.

The Canberra Garden was a success with several nominations from three states. The seedlings were assessed based on Form, Growth, Health, Repeat Flowering & Tuber Quality. These were assessed by several experienced growers four times during the season. More entries are now being encouraged for next season. It has now been suggested that a perpetual trophy/award be established. Thanks must go to Alf Hardingham (Portland), Graeme Davis, John Woodfield (Canberra) and those who assisted with the assessments.

The Canberra Trial Garden. – John Woodfield

At the 2012 DSA Dahlia Conference in Nowra it was decided to try and promote dahlia trial gardens in some different areas to trial new cultivars from raisers around the country. Canberra was put forward as one possibility. Graeme Davis agreed to act as the coordinator if the project went ahead.

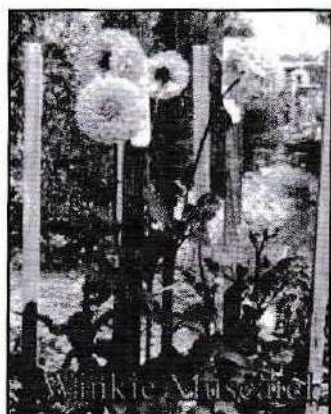
To suddenly have an official trial garden required by planting time for the 2012 – 13 dahlia season meant using the same area used the year before and little time was left for better soil preparation. The response from growers was better than expected for this first year with 12 cultivars promised, with 11 actually planted. Three tubers of each were supplied with two to be planted into the garden and the third to be potted for replacement if required. The rest of the area was later planted with some proven cultivars to ensure the space was utilised. As we were not in a position to pot the third tuber on and look after them it was decided to plant them on the opposite end of the area. The dahlias under trial were to be evaluated several times throughout the season and results recorded each time on the official assessment form by at least two people, not necessarily the same people each time.

After some hurried and not so perfect preparation the trial tubers were planted well into November. Some tubers looked a little suspect from the start and a few grew accordingly (i.e. not so well). Our next obstacle was a visit from a friendly rabbit who took a liking to a couple of juicy new dahlia shoots. Fortunately we blocked the entrance near the dahlias and by the time they found a new way in the plants were well advanced and little extra damage occurred from

this source. Some of the dahlias under trial made rapid growth from the start while others would not respond throughout the season.

The first plant to really take off was a very tall formal medium decorative (now **Winkie Muscatel**) from John Menzel that took the eye right from the start. This flowered on very long stems in an attractive unusual dusky pink yellow colour well before any others in the trial.

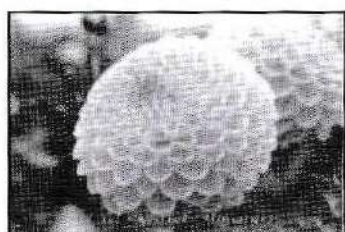
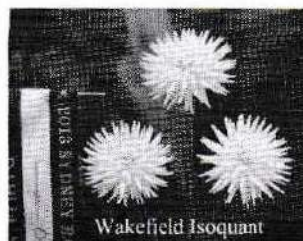
If this cultivar was to have problems it



was obvious that it was very tall and early with exceptionally long stems. These factors were consistent through all three plants.

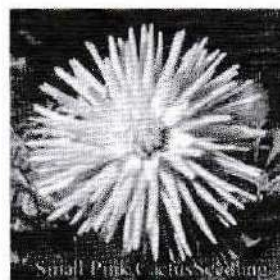
There were three plants in the trial that were not scored in the final tally as they either did not grow or flowered too late to be assessed fairly.

As the season progressed others plants within the trial began to increase their growth and began to flower. It was at this stage it was obvious that most of these new flowers would be well worth growing again if they were reliable and were a credit to the raisers. Early assessments were carried out by local growers, and on the first weekend in March our interstate visitors assessed all plants within the trial. Later assessments including tuber reproduction results were carried out by local growers. Results were all tallied and results released by this years Conference in Nuriootpa.



Other outstanding flowers within the garden were a white small cactus (now **Wakefield Isoquant**) from Graeme Davis that ended up being rated top flower by half a point from John Menzel's medium decorative. A most attractive and talked about cultivar was

an orange toned miniature semi decorative (now **Winkie. Kestrel**) from John Menzel. If a prize was given for the flower most sort after in this trial by visitors to the gardens it would have been this flower. This is a plant of medium height easy to control and excellent in reproduction of tubers. A red waterlily and pink small cactus from Graeme Davis appear to have a future. Robert Curll's yellow pompon drew a lot of comment late in the season together with a large decorative from Joan Matulick.



Many small matters arose throughout the season and many of these have already been attended to in the hope that this trial garden will

be even better in coming years. Mildew was a problem from early in the season both here and other local gardens, and followed a very wet 2011 with a very long hot dry spell in January with little overhead rain or watering. Also present were a number of yellow ladybird renowned for transmitting mildew. Watering of the site was too varied, and at times too little, as the area was on the same line as a number of native plants that had become too wet and watering had been reduced. In the initial stages other people were reluctant to take action in the trial site without advice from Graeme or Woody. This was unfortunate as both had health problems throughout the season and at times not enough attention was given to developments within the trial. This has now been overcome with a number of others now convinced that we can all share in this trial area. It was also obvious when lifting tubers that there was not enough depth of soil, as it had compacted and was very shallow on a very hard unrelenting clay base making it difficult to safely remove tubers.

As a result some of these problems have been overcome with the move of the trial bed now to the open area formerly held by some of the native plants. This bed has been formed and widened with more soil, humus and a green crop and will be ready for the new 2013-14 season. Watering system is to be upgraded with a separate line and control to the dahlia area. More people involved will help keep a better eye on things.

We may have to make some alterations to the assessment sheet as some people had problems comparing different features within the form. Maybe this could be achieved by splitting form, stem and colour. Also perhaps a little more detail on tuber comparison between plants both before planting and after lifting at season's end. Thank you to those growers who supported this first year of the trial garden and hope you and other growers will support the venture in coming seasons. Contact Graeme Davis with your entries for 2014 - ph. 02 61612304 and e-mail gcd@netspeed.com.au.



From the Ashes –

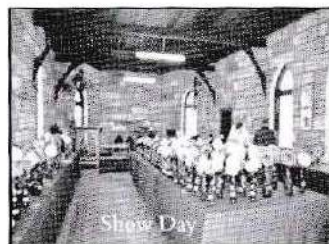
Christine Dwyer



On Friday 4th of January 2013 a bushfire tore through the town of

Dunalley in southern Tasmania. Over 100 properties were destroyed including the historic local hall. The hall has been the site for local flower shows going back many years.

The Hobart Dahlia Section has been involved in the Autumn Flower Show since 2001. Members look forward to travelling to the town on the first Saturday in March to show their dahlias and to catch up with locals who display produce and flowers from their gardens. It was assumed by members that, because of the devastation suffered by the town, there would be no flower show in 2013.



Two of the Dahlia Section members, John Bennett and Rita Richards, have close ties to the Dunalley community. They reported that the flower show committee were keen for the show to go ahead but on a smaller scale. There would be little material available for locals to display but it was felt that a bright display of dahlias would do something to raise the spirits of the town. St Martin's Church, just across the road from the hall site, was offered as an alternative venue. As all the tables usually used to set up the show were lost in the fire, the section offered to provide all the equipment required. Ann Millar, president of the show committee, stated that they wanted the day to be a time for people to come together and enjoy. They didn't want it as a fundraiser, but as a time for celebration.

The day of Saturday 2nd March saw many members of the Hobart Dahlia Section leave for an early morning start to travel to Dunalley. For some it was the first time to see firsthand the destruction

wrought by the bushfires. There were many volunteers to help with the setting up of the church and the outdoor marquee and refreshment area.

The doors were opened at 1.00 p.m. and there were people already queuing to get in. One garden club had arranged a bus to transport members to the event and there were many locals also present. Afternoon tea was available and visitors bought cakes or produce to sell. Even though the show had not been organised as a fundraiser, many individuals and clubs made donations and the show committee were delighted to have a sizeable tally at the end of the day to start the process of replacing lost equipment. Promises of plants were also made to help rebuild the town's gardens.



Everyone seemed to appreciate the display of colourful dahlias. For the record, the champion bloom for the show was a "**Formby Perfection**" exhibited by David Budd.

The Hobart Dahlia Section was very proud to be involved in what was described as a wonderful day for the gardeners of Dunally.



MAVIS RIDLEY A Remarkable Person



Betty Balch - Stanthorpe

Each year for more than 20 years, the small town of Guyra in the Northern Tablelands of New South Wales, has held a Lamb and Potato Festival, to celebrate the products for which this region is justly famous. The Ridley family has been part of this proud community for many years, and since 1948 have been significant producers

of prime lambs and potatoes on their scenic and fertile properties situated on the New England highway near Guyra.

Some 13 years ago, Mavis who is well past the "three score years and ten" milestone, decided to combine her community interest with her love of dahlias. Her mother always had dahlias in the family garden, and Mavis faithfully carries on the tradition, though now she says she can only manage to grow about 100 plants. So with typical energy and enthusiasm Mavis set about organising, running, and totally funding a Dahlia Show to coincide with the Lamb and Potato Festival. The local Show Society Secretary prints the prize cards, the Adult Learning Association attends to the printing of the schedule, and with the help of several friends and relations who supply the tasty refreshments and other assistance as required, the show gets underway in the church hall close to the other Festival attractions.

This year four exhibitors, some travelling two and a half hours from Queensland, made the trip to Guyra and supplied around 300 entries.

This remarkable lady who has never been a member of any official dahlia organisation, must surely be the unheralded and original quiet achiever of the New England region dahlia growers. Her motivation is quite simply a love of dahlias, and a strong desire to bring the beauty of these magnificent flowers to the attention of the many tourists who visit her town each year.

WOW Dahlias

Anne Menzel - Winkie

I have noticed the behaviour of non-dahlia growing friends when they visit my dahlia garden.



They walk straight past my prize winning quality **Kenora Jubilee**, **Jan Lennon**, **Ivanetti** and **Bracken Nikolaus**. They go straight to the pompon patch with the comment of "they're so cute" or to the orchids with the question "Is that really a dahlia?" The Fimbriated Type will always raise the comment of "Look at that – it's so fluffy". The size of the giant blooms is also a talking point. They hone in on anything that is bright, happy & a bit different. Bloom quality is not noticed.

I have observed at the shows that the public gravitate to the multi-coloured blooms & different shaped blooms such as the collerettes & orchids. The novelty sections such as "most colourful bloom" always attract a lot of attention. The public do not spend a lot of time at the individual specimens of show quality & single coloured blooms such as Hamari Accord & Bracken Nikolaus.



I have experimented with different methods of displaying dahlias to create interesting, eye-catching exhibits which include the bright multi-coloured & different shaped dahlias. The resulting displays do not conform to show standards but do attract attention.

I used our "flower tree" to display 40 vases of dahlias, including blooms, buds & leaves, in a shopping centre.

Although the blooms were definitely not show quality, the display created interest amongst the shoppers. The most commented upon dahlias were the multi-coloureds such as Tartan & Kenora Sunset.

I see a trend here.

People like to see something that is a bit different. Something that stimulates their senses. Something that is big, bold, multi-coloured, cute or different shaped.

That is - Dahlias with a WOW factor. Such as ***Tartan***.



Over the years the desire for the perfect show bloom has seen many of the old, bold & multi-coloureds disappear from the show bench & from the gardens of most exhibitors. Multi-coloured blooms do not often win major awards at dahlia shows so exhibitors now tend to leave them at home.

With this trend in mind, I dedicated a patch of 130 plants to a WOW concept. I obtained several of the bold & multi-coloured varieties. I sourced several unseen but "these are really different & really pretty" varieties. I kept several of last years "interesting" seedlings that are pretty but do not conform to the show standards. I had a really fun patch.

My conclusions are that:-

- WOW dahlias attract attention and possibly new growers.
- Some of the fun aspect of dahlias is lost when we concentrate only on show quality blooms & forget the intrigue of the bold & beautiful multi-coloureds.
- Dahlias must be FUN

I hope that when you plan your plantings for next season, that along with your regular dahlias, you will also consider planting a few WOW dahlias in your front yard where they can be fully appreciated.

Let's Remember

Editor:- This last season has seen HUGE loss of Dahlia personalities along with the loss of a huge amount of Dahlia Knowledge. These members will always be remembered for their roles as Mentors, Judges, Ambassadors and great supporters of their respective Societies.

Bereavements

MARGARET HILLEN.



Margaret Hillen, Margaret was a strong supporter and long serving member of our society. A member of the Committee for many years and one of our judges. Margaret would travel long distances from Taralga to support our society.

LEN USHER



Len was a great supporter of our society and had a great gift as a poet, one of his poems is illustrated on a placard that we display at shows promoting the Dahlia. Not only did he write poems for the Dahlia Society but he also wrote poems for the Seeing Eye Dogs and other

Societies.

GEORGE BULLMAN



George was a great supporter of the Dahlia. In his earlier days he was a keen exhibitor with Neil Brooker hence the name Brooker & Bullman. I can remember he was one of the very few who could grow the ball Dahlia "BLOOD Hound" which used to grow at the side of his garage with hessian protecting same.

TOM HILLARD



Tom was our area rep. up in the extreme north of NSW. Promoting the Dahlia to those who couldn't travel the long distance to our meetings. Also he would venture across the border into Queensland sharing his friendship. Tom enjoyed going to Dahlia Conferences.

DON KELLY

Don was a great supporter of the Dahlia whilst living in Bowral before moving up north. Don produced many varieties of Dahlias, The Kelgia Stable and was a successful exhibitor.

LES WILLIAMS



Life member & past president of the South Australian Dahlia Society.

Over the year Les earned the reputation as a Respected Judge Judging in SA, Victoria, New Zealand & England. His general knowledge of Dahlia

Culture was un-equalled.

BILL SULLIVAN



Bill was one of Victoria's valued member's always ready to assist with many aspect of staging the show over many years. His love of the Dahlia and helping others was always respected.

JOHN ALLPORT



John was a past president of the Hobart group and supporter of many conferences. John had almost completed a book on Growing Dahlias which the Hobart Society are going to publish in his memory. John was a very successful exhibitor & Judge.

COLIN ANDREWS



Life member of the QDS, Colin Andrews, sadly lost his battle with numerous serious illnesses and passed away on Saturday the 10th of March. He was 80 years of age. He is survived by wife Iris and daughter Debbie and family.

BILL TAPLEY



Bill started growing Dahlias on his property just out of Penola back in the early 70's.

Bill's achievement's in raising Dahlias was well rewarded with introductions such as Figurine, Pristine, Wee Willie & many others.

Bill was Life member and great Supporter of the South Australian Dahlia Society.

Dahlia Society of Australia Special Award



The Dahlia Society of Australia Special Award recognises those in our societies/groups who work tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure the success of our various events/shows & day to day operations.

We do not necessarily notice everything that these people do, but we certainly notice what is not done

if these people are not present.

The awardees are selected annually by the President of each specialist dahlia group.

Portland Dahlia Society – Alf Hardingham, President

Bruce & Isobel Millard, Hamilton (Vic) have been on the committee for years & are contributing in many ways with transporting of staging, assisting with the schedule, stewarding, and contributing with a huge numbers of Dahlia entries.



NSW/ACT – Robert Curll, President



Graeme Davis was a surprised recipient of the award commenting ***“Why me?”***

Graeme has been involved for a lifetime with the Canberra Horticultural Society.

Graeme is just one of those who assist in a number of roles with the promoting of the dahlia & attracting exhibitors.

Dahlia Society of Victoria – Dwight King

Paul Humphrey and his wife Glenys have been members for twenty years and I'm told from the very beginning they were volunteering to help and that is the way they have continued to this day. At show time he's not in the hall swamping the benches with blooms and having his name out there on prize cards. Paul will help with the preparations at the hall and is the backup person if anything needs to be fetched; he knows the hall layout and what equipment may be available and is on the go over the two days supporting the catering team. What an integral part of that weekend he is. Paul is always first to arrive to open up and last to leave when clean-up is done.



Central West Dahlia Society – Robert Smith, President



Joan and Peter Stonestreet have been hard-working members attending most meetings, contributing to the operation of our Central West group, helping at the Bathurst City Centre dahlia displays, and organizing the dahlia section at the Blayney

Show. Congratulations Joan and Peter.

Shepparton and District Dahlia – Rodney Clarke, President



The Shepparton and District Dahlia Club D.S.A Award was presented to **John and Anne Menzel**. John and Anne have been wonderful supporters of our club since its inception. After helping to set up the club, they have continued their support by conducting the tuber auction, collating the

pictorial presentation screened on the big screen and auctioneering. In later years Anne has kept the auction books. They are very worthy winners.

Tasmanian Dahlia Society Greg Fooks President
Charles Smith has been involved with dahlias for yonks'.

Along with being a respected judge & a successful exhibitor,

Charlie was a great ambassador for the dahlia on his trip to the USA, where he was invited to be part of judging teams.

His introductions of the dahlia raised under the Devon name have been successful world-wide.



Queensland Dahlia Society –

Mike Colby, President

Col McLaughlin, during the past year, and in numerous years past you have given untiring service to the Queensland Dahlia Society. You have been on the Executive and held various official positions. You have carried out those

duties in an efficient and timely manner whether it was as President, Newsletter Editor, Show Chief Steward and really you have shouldered the lion's share of duties for the organization of Society functions etc.

Your dedication to this Society and the promotion of your favourite flower through your ever willingness to assist with advice and sharing dahlia tubers is a credit to you. I believe that through the Commonwealth in the dahlia family you are known as 'Mr. Pam'.

I'm sure that you would agree that without the support of your devoted wife Cathy you would not be able to do what you do.

South Australian Dahlia Society – Neville Jaeschke, President



Malcolm Keller (and Christine) have become high achievers in exhibiting dahlias at our state championships. He has promoted the dahlia through the local florists.

Malcolm (and Christine) were editors of the Tuber Talk publication sourcing articles and photographs of interest to growers and enthusiasts, building the publication to a high standard with a distribution to various countries. Malcolm is our liaison person with the management at the Botanic Gardens to establish and maintain a brilliant display of dahlias. In conjunction with the Botanic Gardens Malcolm was instrumental in arranging for locally raised tubers to be sent to the Botanic Gardens in Paris.

Malcolm is the outgoing President of the Dahlia Society of SA.

**National Dahlia Society U.K. Exhibition
Trial Ground for 2012**

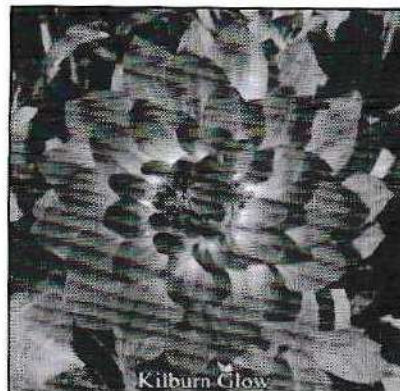
Dave Bates, Trials Recorder

Once again, the trials were held in Golden Acre Park at Bramhope, near Leeds in the north of England. The poor conditions of the previous few years resulted in fewer varieties being submitted than usual with only 38 being submitted. All varieties in the trial have to be named, and not yet in commerce in the UK. Planting out was done on June 4th, and the team of Northern Committee members and helpers carried out the regular maintenance activity each Monday. The season was very wet, combined with lack of sunshine and warmth caused flowering to be much later than normal. Judging took place at the end of August until late September.



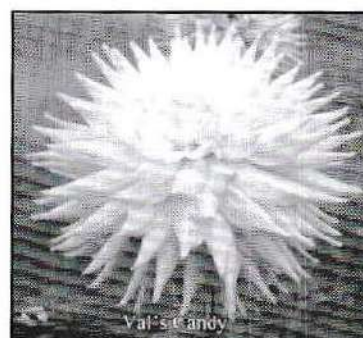
The trials were greatly appreciated by the many visitors to the park, and the favourite variety was one that also impressed all the judges to the extent that it received a Gold Award and the Harry Howarth Memorial Medal as the best variety in the trial.

This variety was **Kilburn Glow**, a waterlily raised by Graham Hill in a fluorescent pinky red with yellow bases to the petals. The form was ideal for its type, it was very free flowering and it was a clear winner. Unfortunately the fluorescence did not show in the photographs, and the flowers have to be seen to obtain the full effect.

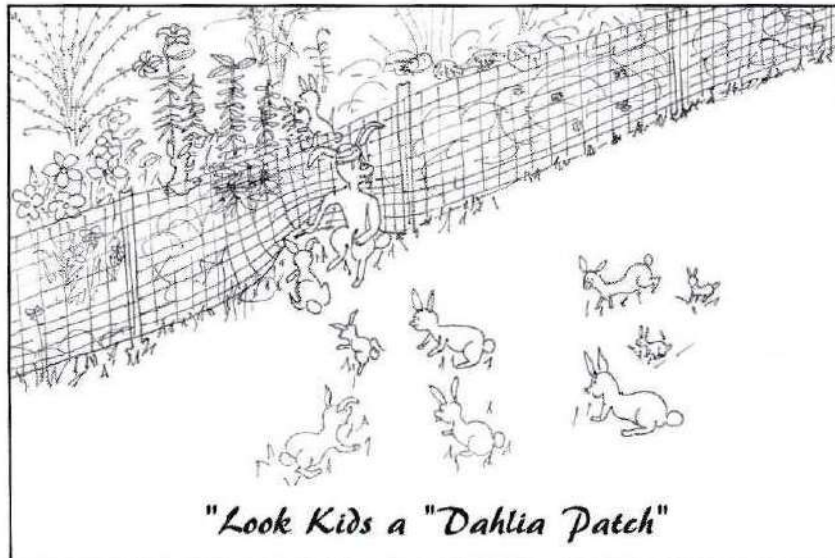


Two varieties received a Silver Award. **Westerton Lilian** from Gordon Hodgson is a large decorative that seemed to improve each week, and is set to be a powerful contender in this group. The colour is primrose with a pink tinge. The plants were tall (approx 5 feet) and very strong.

The second award went to **Val's Candy**, a pale lavender sport from the medium semi-cactus Hillcrest Candy from Phil Oram. It has the same good characteristics as its parent and will be an excellent performer on the show bench. One variety received a Bronze Award. **Askwith Roger**, a large decorative in lavender from Ernie Cawwell, who regularly produces excellent varieties. The blooms were positioned well on tall strong plants and had excellent form.



Awards of Merit were made to five varieties. **Irish Glow** is a red pompon from Steve Boley in Seattle. This has excellent pom formation and good round blooms that reflex back to the stems and is a different colour to existing varieties in the group. **Rossendale Stephanie**, a small decorative in pink from Don Kershaw of Rossendale in Lancashire produced good quality blooms throughout the season. The plants were a good height and suitable for most locations. **Judie Wilkinson** is a large pompon in yellow and buff, raised by Les Jones. The plentiful blooms are fully formed, with proper pompon petals and good centres. The blooms stand proud of the foliage, giving this variety a good chance in this fairly new classification. **Ruth Anne**, a miniature decorative in bronze and orange blends from John Woods produced full flowers, but may need a double stop to keep the blooms to size. The plants were very strong, and the blooms were held well above the foliage on strong stems. **Sefton Scarlet** also from John Woods is a miniature ball in a bright scarlet. It has good centres and a sturdy growth habit. Its colour is distinct from others in the section, and the blooms survived the late season storms.



Promotion of the Dahlia Society of Victoria Continued from 2012 with Steve Cox



Last year I reported on what the committee was doing to Promote the NDSV and build the membership.

This is a follow up on our progress and some changes we have made

Our tri fold leaflet has proven to be a big success for us. We now have an insert that we put in that contains the dates for our tuber sales and show dates and some growing tips. By having the insert we don't have to change the whole leaflet every year.



Our "Hands On" days have proven to be popular, when the weather is good. Due to Melbourne's weather being a bit iffy during October we have decided to cut back our hands on days from 3 to 2, canceling the planting day that we scheduled first. Now we have a "Taking Cuttings and Planting" day scheduled

for 3rd November 2014 followed by a "disbudding, de-branching, tying and show preparation" day on Australia Day, 26th January. We are calling it Celebrate Australia Day with Dahlias.

Our general meetings have continued to have good attendances and we have tried to have more activities that those in attendance can take part in. The "Round Robin" meeting was a great success with those in attendance divided into 3 groups. Each group spent 15 minutes at each activity *Transporting blooms, *Selecting a good bloom, *Staging. Each group had a leader that was experienced in that particular field.

At our February meeting we had a Mid Week Champions Mini Show. The judge explained the good points and bad points of the blooms as he judged them. At our March meeting and Mini Show the members were divided into teams and then judge the blooms. After they finished judging their results were compared to an official judge to see how they went.

The Annual General Meeting has also been given a facelift. Our aim is to make this a special day on our dahlia calendar.

We now have a catered lunch and a guest speaker. Last year we had Dr. Keith Hammett from New Zealand give a talk on "The Magic of a Society"

The actual business side of the meeting is kept to a minimum so the members can enjoy the last day of our season.

Without a doubt the biggest weekend for our society is our State Dahlia Show traditionally held the last weekend of February each year.

It is our chance to showcase this wonderful flower in all its colour and form to the general public.

First we need to let the public know the show is on and we have worked on a number of ways that have been really successful.



One of our sponsors is the local Barry Plant Real Estate branch and each year they make up a sign for us that they put up on the corner of High Street Rd and Stephenson's Rd which has a huge traffic flow. This sign is up for the two weeks leading up to the show.

Dwight, our president, is on the Saturday Morning Garden Show on radio 3AW with Jane Edmonson and Darren James just before the show opens to the public. Jane has been a big supporter of the dahlia society here in Victoria

We have posters printed each year and these are put up in the windows of shops in the local area. We have had a sign made up that is 6' x 4', yellow bold writing on a black background that says DAHLIA SHOW SAT and SUN. This is put up on the main street in

front of the centre where the show is held so passing motorists will see it

A "Lunch Special" has also been offered to bus loads who have to travel a distance to come to our show, entry and a light lunch are provided at a small charge

Our show schedule has also been revised and it is great to see people entering our show for the first time and enjoying the experience. The challenge to us was how to get someone who only grows a few plants to come and participate in the show. Our schedule has always consisted of multi vase, multi type classes and the person that only grows a few plants cannot enter these classes. We have put in 3 new classes to make it easier for these members.

Lucky Dip Display-1 vase of dahlias 3 or more blooms, mixed types and varieties permitted

Each entry is given a raffle ticket and the raffle drawn during the awards presentation, no judging so no pressure on the exhibitor

Single Bloom Challenge- This covers Decorative, Cactus, Fimbriated, Ball and Waterlily type blooms. The Ball and waterlily type just calls for one bloom but in the others we have called for specific sizes. Using the decorative blooms as an example Item 17. calls for 1 Giant or Large bloom, Item 18. calls for 1 Medium bloom, Item 19. calls for 1 Small bloom and Item 20. calls for 1 Miniature bloom. The judge will judge item 17 to get the best Giant/Large bloom. The judge will then judge item 18. to get the best Medium bloom, item 19. to get the best Small bloom and then item 20 to get the best Miniature bloom. These 4 blooms will then compete against each other to get the best Decorative bloom. The same procedure will then be done to the Cactus blooms and the Fimbriated blooms. The best ball bloom and best waterlily type will also be selected.

These 5 blooms will then compete for the Single Bloom Challenge

Triple Bloom Challenge- This class runs along the same lines as the Single Bloom Challenge but is for a vase of 3 blooms, one variety. We also include Pompon's, Collerettes and Any Other Type in this section so there will be up to 8 vases competing for the Triple Bloom Challenge

These new classes in our schedule have been a big success in making it easier for our members to show their dahlias as proved by the number of entries received.

Queensland Shows



Fimbriated Section - State Show



Grand Champion
Higgo Lacey



Bracken Joan - Miniature



Ailara Bronwyn



Devon Rubi



Limit



Single Seedling - Morayfield Show



Mrs J. Robertson



Come Polly



Seedling (Small) - Morayfield Show



Stanthorpe Staging Demonstration
Presenter - Barry Murphy



Stanthorpe Horticultural Show
Grand Champion - Bracken Glenda

Tasmanian Shows



Grand Champion Damsel's Eye
Formby Perfection - David Hodd



Kingston Show



Formby Elite



Tasmanian Championships Hobart Town Hall



Sherley Vachon (L) - Best Novice - Milton Moody
Jan Lutton (R) - Grand Champion - Christine Dwyer



Grand Champion - Kiara Julia
Brian Smith Judge - Greg Fooks Exhibitor



Grand Champion Kingston Tasmania
Humari Accord - Greg Fooks



Formby Halo
Champion Medium



Lindholm - Tasmania
Grand Champion - Jan Lutton - Christine Dwyer



Reserve Champion - Kingston Tasmania
Quashy Swinton - Exhibitor Christine Dwyer

New South Wales/ACT Shows



1st Championship
Canberra Centenary Show



Wakefield Isoquant
Sydney Royal



2nd Championship
Canberra Centenary Show



Championship
Day Three Sydney Royal



Championship
Day One Sydney Royal



Basket Section
Canberra Centenary Show



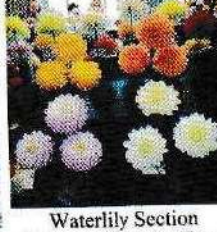
Wakefield Impersonator
Sydney Royal



Grand Champion "Como Polly"
Sydney Royal



Maximum Grand Champion
Canberra Centenary Show



Waterlily Section
Lithgow Workies Show



Championship
Lithgow Workies Club



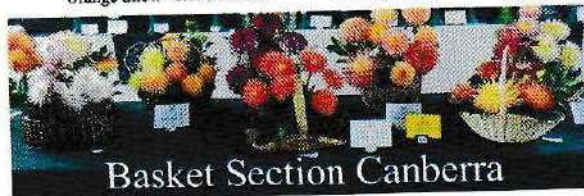
Grand Champion "Elma Elizabeth"
Orange Show - Robert Smith



Guyra Show
Henry Riley



Collerettes
Orange Horticultural Show



Basket Section Canberra

Victorian Shows



**1st Open Championship
State Show**



**2nd Open Championship
State Show**



**NZ Gold Medal
Best Overseas Cultivar**



**Bracken Nikolaus
Vase of Show**



**Best under 16mm
Rycroft Brenda T**



**Best Bloom Over 160mm
Elma Elisabeth**



**1st Reserve Championship
State Show**



**Winkie Colonel
Grand Champion Portland**



**Display of Dahlias
State Show**



**1st Novice Championship
State Show**



**1st DSV Country Championship
Potland**



**Colicrette Championship
State Show**

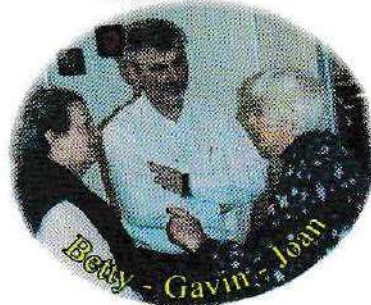
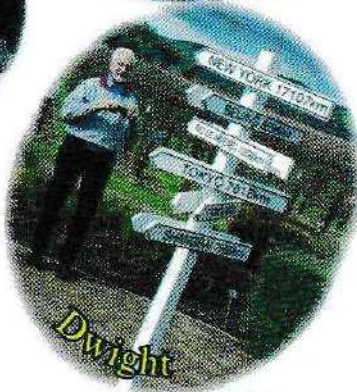
Conference Pic's



Conference Pic's



Conference Pic's



A Sneak Peek of Australian Seedlings



Winkie - Waterlily



Glenmarc - Fimbriated



Darbro - Giant



Wakefield - Small



Devon - Large



Moray - Miniature



Granite - Medium



Corrabell - Medium



Woden - Collerette



Bracken Miniature



Stannum - Fimbriated



Rokewood - Small

My Introduction to Dahlias - 2005

Bruce Raines

Editor:- As you read this everything Bruce has done will bring back memories of when you started out with Dahlias. *Remember the Disasters?*

"That's Called Experience."



A good friend Graham Wright introduced me to the world of dahlias in 2005.

I had been showing poultry for about 25 years so a new challenge sounded good. Graham gave me all his tubers and from there it just grew.

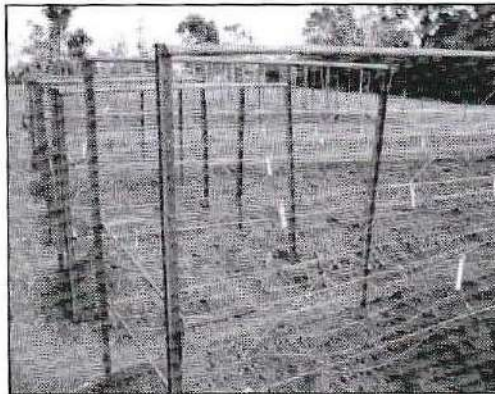


chooks have taken a backward step.

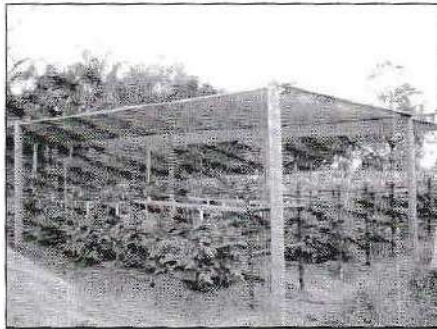
Becoming a club member was the next step, NSW & ACT Dahlia Society. was the club we chose and still attend the meetings. What a culture shock to hear the terms.

Stopping, Disbudding, Lateral Pruning, and then the Bugs and Diseases! But the best was to come, the word "Auction" and all those new varieties! Got to have some of those! The dahlia bug had bitten! From then, to now, I change varieties on a regular basis, some stay, but a lot have to go. From stakes to wires. I think if I did not change over, the new hobby would have been short lived. Whilst stacks of work for some people

We live on 5 acres so room is not a worry. but I have limited the patch to 13 beds. With approx. 26 plants per bed it soon adds up to around 400 plants, plus part of Lonny's vegie patch for seedlings, plus the green house for pots, plus the glasshouse for greens so you get the picture. Dahlias have taken over and the



it didn't for me. Nothing worse than seeing smashed dahlias after some strong wind. Our first conference was at Jamberoo. One of the topics was growing dahlias through wire, presented by Gerard Oldfield, erected by Daniel Oldfield. As soon as I saw it "it was must have". A couple of days to erect saves so much time during the season to do all other things like disbudding etc. "Bulk man Bruce" - first disaster - approx. 20 metres of duck manure "mistake" Rations in duck food includes salt, heaps of it! Plants at first grew real good to flowering stage, and after a couple of early shows, thinking how easy this is. Then the leaves started turning black, plants dying back, first lesson, moderation, no more duck manure. Salt level now under control, nitrogen level still high. The only good thing to come out of the first disaster, the soil is very friable. Last season I used horse manure as mulch. Liquid fertilisers are regularly used as is potash. Going to shade cloth was another trial but being a novice grower it ending in error.



Five beds were covered in the off season with 70% Green shade cloth. Plants grew & grew, but very few flowers, outside beds performed well. so back to basics. Take it all off and replace with white 50% shade. This has proved a lot better not perfect but heaps better. Our problem is very hot summers 40C, high humidity &

strong winds. Maybe a system of winding the shade cloth on & off would be the perfect solution. Learning to grow dahlias to show standard for me has been both frustrating & rewarding. Starting at planting right through to digging. All tubers are dipped in Lorsban (Insecticide) before planting I start planting the long weekend in Oct., selecting a double tuber with at least one strong shoot. Name tags are put on bottom wire & transferred to top wire as they grow. This process is then recorded on paper.

Several seasons back we had a severe outbreak of broad mite. Did it take some research to find out what it was! Dimethoate (Systemic Insecticide) fixed the problem; it is also listed for spider mite. Out of all the problems I have had, that was the worst. Watering is by mini spray jets. Learning to show dahlias is another challenge. It all starts

with selection of cultivars and how many of each to plant. I try to plant four of each variety, keeping miniatures, smalls etc. in different beds. With no previous experience in staging, it was trial & error again. One flower in a vase not too bad, three, well that was another challenge, but I'm getting there. I use paper, but oasis is in the pipeline for pompons, even learning how to stage in multi vase classes is an art. Now for the Pests & diseases. Like all growers I think there is a big sign in the sky saying - "LAND HERE"

Only ever saw a couple of earwigs, BUT caterpillars pick the best flowers red spider a never ending battle. A multitude of sprays, Eco Oil, Dimethoate, Sorcerer, 18 stealth slows them down but never alleviates the problem. Mirador is used for powdery mildew, phospot 600 is used as a stem rot preventative.

Last but not least the Conference. We look forward to the Conferences, meeting up with friends we have made in the short time that we have been involved in dahlias.

Norman Williams originator of Willo Dahlias.

Editor: - This is a copy of an article that appeared in 1967 from "The Dahlia" of the Central States Dahlia Society (USA).



Norm Williams

"When I first saw poms, I asked the chap who had them "What the Hell are they?" So then and there I decided I would grow them. That was the best day's work I ever did".

So wrote Norman Williams of Wallsend, New South Wales, in a recent letter to Angus Livingstone, a Senior Judge, Bedfordview, South Africa. Wherever dahlias are grown, Norm Williams is not only recognized as the leading pom grower of the world but as the developer of the famous "Willo" strain of pompons, the name coming from the

nickname for his son.

Back in the early thirties such good varieties as **Clara Carder**, **Jan Cowl** and other dahlias of that vintage which contributed so much to

the dahlia interest and development. Now, in poor health due to the dust in mines in which he worked. Norm still keeps that deep interest in that chosen type which so much impressed him when he first saw it, the pom.

Last month, he again planted out some 800 pom seedling plants. Due to his health he has all his new varieties released by a grower friend, J. Baggs of Wallsend. These were all introduced in England before being made available to Australian growers. He produces his own seed and the past germination was unusually good, in fact too good, has he not has the assistance of a good friend at planting time.

Mr Williams first creation was **Little Conn**, still rather widely grown and shown. **Margaret Williams**, named after his wife, **Little Willo**, after his son, and **Willo's Violet** followed. These are still widely grown and admired. They have been followed the last ten years by a long succession of top notch pompon dahlias.

Among them are **Wallsend Jubilee**, **Red Jubilee**, **Wallsend Willo**, **Janey Williams**, (Named in honour of his mother's memory), **Gayle Lane**, **Mark's Willo**, **Ginger Willo**, **Jean**, **Golden Willo**, **Willo's Apricot**, and **Willo Surprise**. Most of these have already been released in England by J. Baggs and it is hoped that Mr Baggs will soon make them available to American growers.

Norm has frequently been asked to name one of his poms after himself that he may do so, among his seedlings is one that intrigues him. His innumerable and admirers will look forward keenly to seeing what his choice may be.

In the more than forty years Mr Williams has been breeding, selecting and working with poms, he has seen more of the older varieties discarded and vast improvements have taken place, of which he has been largely responsible.

When asked by a friend to develop a red and a yellow pom of top quality, his efforts resulted in three yellows and a red. One yellow, **Gay Willo**, has received two Championship awards. Another yellow, best for late shows, has been awarded three Championships A

white mutation of **Linda Harris**, not yet released, has also won a Championship.

Norm still finds time to report the results of the New South Wales shows and contributes to "Green Shoots" the publication of the National Dahlia Society of South Africa, the "Birmingham Dahlia News" of England and the quarterly of the "The National Dahlia Society of Victoria", whose readers look forward to his reports and comments. A man who values and appreciates his wide friendships and who sincerely believes that "Dahlias extend the hand of Friendship all over the World," he is quick and generous in his recognition of the achievements of other growers in the pom field. A grand individual, a valued friend, and dedicated grower is Norm Williams. Long may he continue to produce and improve the Pompon Dahlia, and the "Willo" poms be the heritage from him to the dahlia world.

Known Listings of Norm Williams Raisings

(Listing Supplied by Frank Turton)

Blotch Willo	Little Craven	Walsend Willo
Blue Eyes	Little Willo	White Willo
Blush Willo	Margaret Willo	Willo Apricot
Bronze Willo	Mark Willo	Willo Boralis
Buttercup	Norm Willo	Willo Cooee
Canary Willo	Pink Willo	Willo Delight
Denise Willo	Pop Willo	Willo Echo
Gay Willo	Red Jubilee	Willo Flame
Gayle Lane	Red Willo	Willo Fleck
Ginger Willo	Rose Willo	Willo Gleam
Golden Willo	Royal Willo	Willo Glo
Grand Willo	Silver Glow	Willo Goodo
Janey Mulloland	Silver Light	Willo Ideal
Janey Williams	Silver Tips	Willo Jubilee
Jubilee Rose	Simone Willo	Willo Purple
Kim Willo	Spot Willo	Willo Surprise
Lemon Willo	Susan Willo	Willo Violet
Little Conn	Walsend Jubilee	Yellow Jubilee

RESURGENCE IN INTEREST IN DAHLIAS IN SA



Alan Carpenter - Adelaide

On the 9th November the Dahlia Society of S.A. Inc. held its annual tuber sale. It was at this meeting in 2011 that my wife and I re-activated an old interest in dahlia growing (in our early married years, some 45 years ago, BC - Before Children), and inspired by the friendliness of the people there, decided to be serious about it and joined the Society.

The sale was organised as in the previous year, with Around advertising as before in the local paper and on local radio (ABC's Saturday morning gardening program) some two weeks prior to the meeting. The actual sale meeting was also set up as in the previous year, with the tubers on offer laid out for inspection by the interested gathering before formalities began. An immediate difference from the previous year's meeting was apparent – the attendance was up significantly. The prior year I had found a relatively quiet meeting, with some 10-15 Society members, and perhaps the same number of visitors. This year it was standing room only (and our venue accommodates 60 seated comfortably); we again had 10-15 Society members there, but probably in excess of 50 visitors. Our chairman, Malcolm Keller, opened proceedings with an informative and entertaining presentation on how those new to growing dahlias might get the best results from their purchases. This included preparation of the soil (ideally weeks before planting), planting procedure (staking before planting, how deep to plant, orientation of the tuber, distance apart), and nurturing the plant as it developed (tying up, shading from extreme sun, watering and fertilising). Then a representative of our major sponsor, Neutrog, gave a presentation of the company's products, with emphasis on relevance to dahlia growing.

The tuber sale then began. While I (as a new grower) was interested in purchasing some new tubers, along with the other Society members I elected to hold back until the visitors had made their selections. It was like a department store post-Xmas sale.

Within 10 minutes the tables had been cleared (and over 300 tubers had been offered for sale), and people were asking for contacts from whom they could make further purchases. All Society members present agreed that they had never seen anything like it. It seems that dahlia growing is alive and well in SA.

Visitors then enjoyed a relaxed supper with the Society members, where prior friendships were re-established and new friendships made. Overall, it was a very successful meeting, and very encouraging to see such a resurgence in interest in the growing of the flowers we all love.

The Road to Success

Phil Bothamley

Wellington New Zealand



As a keen and very competitive exhibitor one must always have a plan on what lies ahead in the coming year. My principal aim is to do well in what



we refer to as the Number 1 multi vase Class at the National shows and have success elsewhere wherever possible. Only having 48 stakes in my patch one can see that there has to be a combination of numbers, varieties and a good degree of luck to get flowers to the bench in peak condition for the various classes on show day. I have had a good deal of enjoyment and fun over the years and the following is my story.

The road to success or failure usually starts on the last day of the previous year's National. There I look around the show and see whether any variety catches my eye and may do better than one I already have. I make a mental note. With only four dozen bushes every plant must perform and it takes a real winner to have a chance

of replacing one I already have. All my current varieties have won in their own right at shows over the years. To try a seedling that some nutter offers you as the surest winner would be the first sign you have lost the plot.

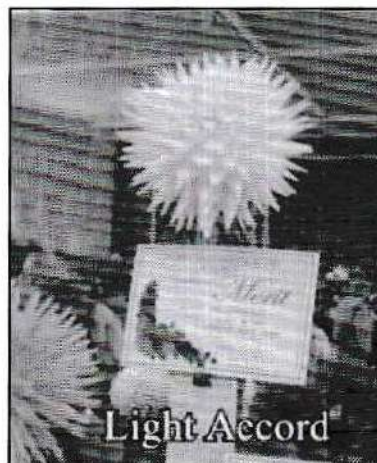
The first real challenge is in April or May when one sits down and reviews what happened during the past season. This is when the decision is made on what to grow and how many of each for the coming year. The number of stakes is the upper limit as regards numbers. I consider two giants grown to crown buds around one stake as one plant. No different to one plant grown two or three up. Going by results and the habits of the various varieties you have to get a balance of numbers and classifications to have a good chance of even getting an entry to the No 1 classes at the shows. I settled on twenty varieties covering 10 classifications for my patch. A mixture of up to four plants per variety spread over mainly cactus/semi-cactus and Dec's with an odd miniature ball. This exercise is where the "rubber hits the road" as you have to have seven vases covering five classifications ,all perfect at 11am on the second Saturday in February for the North Island and another group of perfect flowers at 11am on the following Saturday for the South. No late seasons, fog, cold, heat, wind and Australian dust for not getting it right.

What's next? Well for the last three years I have been trying some products from Environmental Fertilizers in Paeroa (www.ef.net.nz). Mainly five foliar products and one solid called " Natures Garden". These are based on looking after the soil and the plants will look after themselves. Mainly based on carbon and humus and other minerals etc. that helps the soil and the plants. I am no organic nutter but the Firms motto "Beyond organics" tends to sum it up. My plants are greener and healthier looking, the flowers tend to be up to full size more often and the stems are strong. After three years my flowers have been the best I have grown for a decade and I don't think you can put it down to the season and the weather entirely. Look up the website just for fun and you will see what I am talking about. All part of the effort to do better. They do not like

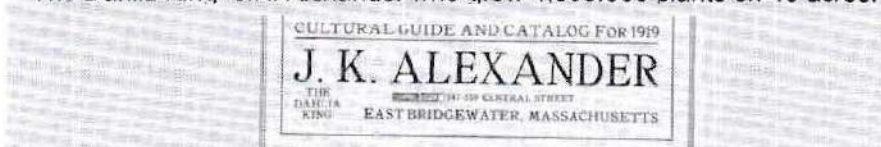
manufactured fertilizers like urea and also super and potash. So in August /September we spray the carbon and humus stuff onto the patch, heave in some blood and bone and sheep pellets and some compost and that creates the "feel good" factor that you are actually doing something. We plant late October or early November. A side dressing of a few handfuls of the secret "Natures garden" and wait to see what happens. I plant sprouted tubers as against cuttings and that is based on laziness more than anything.

Through the growing season it is just the usual feeding spraying and tying etc. but a week or so before the first show I put up plastic covers over the plants to protect the flowers from rain and to a degree wind and damp. No shade cloth. All flowers for show are caned for straight stems and prevent off centre flowers. Each season check your canes if you use them, as you will find many have become twisted or bent over the year and therefore useless. Then onto cutting for the shows. I put flowers where possible with canes still on into bottles and put a few inches of masking tape around the top of the bottle and cane and squeeze tight and it will travel as far as you like, quite rigid. No burnt stems, preservatives, cutting under water or the like. Seems to be OK for me. Then it's off to the shows. Just remember that if you had exceptional flowers when you left home they will still be that when you arrive at the venue everything being equal. One telling factor of an exhibition grower is the ability to actually know a good flower from a dud. For those who have some interest in what I do at shows then here are a few things. On staging for the multi vase classes one has to give great attention to detail. Check all the flowers for bad petals, bugs etc. Make sure the entry is balanced and colour co-ordinated if possible. Don't put your weak red Dec next to some huge great red in the next exhibit. It's a self-destruction move. Where the light comes from plays a large part in some halls. Bright sun on a pale flower just about eliminates that flower in the class. Make sure the vases of three are balanced. Look at them from the front, the back and the side especially. The side view gives the depth and shows up the younger or older flower and often size not noticed previously.

We are just about there. Stand back and make sure your exhibit stands out from the rest. All judges whether they admit it or not take an overall look and start unwittingly at the most impressive and judge everything against that benchmark. There is no more one can do. One may have success or there will be multitudes of reasons as to why not. I personally strive for success but on occasions I feel the judge has a pointing system that Google hasn't even heard of. Well the season has ended very quickly with some great successes. Just look after the plants until they start to die off and cut back accordingly. Hopefully good tubers have resulted. I leave in ground till July/August as they seem to keep as well as any other way.



Editor:- This is advice from 1919 on how to keep Dahlia blooms longer from "The Dahlia King" J.K. Alexander who grew 4,500,000 plants on 40 acres.



Freshly cut flowers will keep considerably longer, and wilted flowers if not in too serious condition, will be entirely restored in appearance if the following suggestions are followed:

Cut blossoms in early part of the day, whenever possible. Fill receptacle with water, as hot as can be borne by one's hand. Plunge the stems, but not the foliage, almost their entire length into the water; let them remain in the water until it cools, then transfer into cold water as in usual manner, with the addition of a quarter- teaspoonful of salt to a quart of water.

If the stems are particularly hardy and wiry, water near boiling point may be used to good advantage. My suggestion would be, try it and be convinced, regulating depth of water to length of stems.

First Thoughts

Keith Hammett

New Zealand



Editor: It is good to see Australian breeders setting a high standard with their raisings.

When looking for the best overseas raised cultivars Keith was challenged at the same time praising the Aussie breeders.

This year, through the initiative and generosity of John and Anne Menzel, I was able to visit Dahlia shows in Melbourne, Canberra and Portland. On learning of my forthcoming visit I was tasked by the National Dahlia Society of New Zealand to take three gold medals with me to award one at each of the shows. After consultation with the organisers of each show, it was decided that the medals should be awarded to the best exhibit of an overseas raised cultivar.

This proved to be more difficult than was anticipated as very few overseas raised Dahlias were being shown. As in New Zealand, strict and costly biosecurity restrictions have significantly reduced the importation of overseas raised cultivars into Australia. At the same time, Australian enthusiasts have been raising some very good exhibition type cultivars and these dominate the show benches. Notwithstanding, with the assistance of local judges at each show, the following cultivars were selected:

Cultivar

Ruskin Andrea (UK)

Hamari Accord (UK)

Trooper Dan (USA)

Recipient

Steve Cox

Robert Mercer

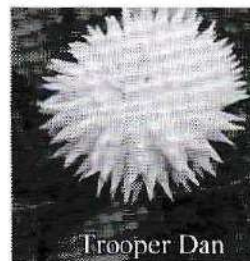
John Menzel

Show

Melbourne

Canberra

Portland



Now I have indicated the "official" New Zealand, American and British classifications for form and size for each cultivar. This raises some interesting observations. Unlike the countries indicated above, Australia does not have or use a classified list for use when exhibiting. Cultivars are shown according to the size and formation of blooms that they exhibit on the day of a show. As a consequence there is no concept in Australia of a cultivar having an inherent potentiality and thus no way of assessing whether a grower has developed the stock that he or she has to the full potential of that cultivar. I am told that it has been known for a cultivar to be shown in upto three size classes on the same day. I guess this is not too far removed from the British concept of "Dual Classification" (see above). The no "official" or designated classification approach does of course remove any need for a judge to have any prior or accumulated knowledge of a cultivar.

On several occasions I found myself saying that a cultivar in a Small class looked, to me, like an undergrown Medium, and as a consequence looked coarse, until it was pointed out to me that Australian sizes are larger than those used in NZ, UK and USA. I had not realised the extent to which my learned perception of diameter and appropriate ray floret size had bedded down in my subconscious. Therein lies the value of visiting other countries to observe how they do things.

I am not advocating that a classification list be used for judging. Australia does real well without one. However, it would be nice if there was a comprehensive list of cultivars available in Australia, which detailed the raiser, country of origin and year of introduction. It might also be helpful to have a clue regarding approximate formation. If for no other reason, it is important to record the excellent cultivars being bred in Australia, and thus let the rest of the world know.

I was impressed with the shows that I saw and feel that the quality of blooms that I saw was comparable to those at New Zealand and American shows. I am quite sure that if some of the newer Australian raisings were to reach New Zealand they would be very successful.

Canberra Horticultural Society Centenary Show

Malcolm Balch - Stanthorpe

If you want to know how to organise and run a state of the art dahlia show, you need to consult with and employ the techniques of John Woodfield and Graeme Davis. These two accomplished dahlia growers are not only masters of dahlia growing, but also have the running of a show down to a fine art. Along with a small army of helpful, friendly and very efficient helpers, they put on a show that was a truly enjoyable experience, and an object lesson in how it should be done.



At the very successful National Conference at Nowra last year, hosted by the NSW/ACT Dahlia Society, there was much discussion regarding the possibility and feasibility of staging a national dahlia show. With this in mind Betty and I decided that the Canberra Horticultural Society Centenary Show would be a good trial as to whether we could be competitive in any proposed show to be held at a venue within a 1000 kms, or thereabouts, distance from home. We also felt that as there would be other interstate exhibitors at this show, it would be nice to "fly the Queensland flag", so to speak.

On Friday morning, March 1, with the car jam packed full of the best blooms we could find in our weather affected patch, we set off for the nation's capital at 3am Qld time. The rain began at Glen Innes and kept us company, sometimes very heavily, until we were on the southern outskirts of Sydney. Conditions improved considerably on the easy drive down the impressive Hume highway, and we eventually arrived in Canberra at shortly after 6pm their time. "Our lady of the dashboard", as we have nicknamed the car's GPS system, guided us to Rydges Hotel and we quickly found the show venue, just across the road. In the immaculately prepared hall we found preparation tables for the exhibitors all neatly arranged and each with names attached and all the paraphernalia we would need for benching our blooms. Robert Mercer was already starting to prepare some of his dahlias, and kindly gave us a hand to unload

ours and take them into the hall. This kind and cooperative gesture set the scene for the entire weekend, and it was nice to see Robert take out the prestigious award for the best bloom not bred in Australia, with a fine example of Hamari Accord. The New Zealand Dahlia Society donated the medallion and it was presented to Robert Mercer by Dr Keith Hammett at the official opening of the Show.



On arrival at the hall early on Saturday morning we found a hive of activity, with growers busily preparing and benching their blooms. Unlike our Queensland shows where most of the blooms are usually benched in green bottles which can be prepared at home and transported that way,

we were now confronted with the unfamiliar task of arranging our blooms in vases. In spite of some previous practice at home, it is still an art that takes some mastering, we found. However, finally, after much tooting and froing and arranging and rearranging, (along with everyone else doing the same thing) the benching was completed, and judging got underway.

Charlie Smith and Alan Strachan were the challenge and point scoring judges, and various exhibitors were grouped into panels of three to judge the other classes. These panels were required to present any blooms from their classes that they deemed worthy of being point judged, to Messrs Smith and Strachan. The type Champions and the eventual Grand and Reserve Grand Champions were then decided from the results of the entire point judging process. It is a system completely new to Betty and me, but I have to say I found it extremely efficient, and based entirely on "objective measurements", and therefore probably the fairest method that I have seen. We were delighted to each be invited to join a panel. The system has many advantages, not the least of which is that it involves exhibitors in the judging process, something that can only

be beneficial to all concerned, particularly if it is arranged so that there is at least one experienced grower in each panel of three. Another important feature is that with several judging panels operating simultaneously, the assessment process is much quicker, particularly in a show with a large number of blooms. If a class contained an exhibit owned by a panel member, then that member was obliged to excuse themselves, and if necessary the chief steward was called upon to adjudicate in the event that the two remaining members could not agree. What I liked most about the system is the fact that there are several opinions involved in the final decision, which avoids the possibility of, as happens in some single judge situations, bias towards a particular type, colour, size or cultivar.

With judging completed, and generally smiles all round, (particularly from the Queensland connection which had a gobsmackingly successful day!!), it was off to another room in the impressive church complex, for a discussion on type standards, chaired by John Woodfield. It was generally agreed that some relatively minor changes are needed, in some type standards, and refreshing to hear other grower's opinions.

The official opening of the show was then carried out by Dr Keith Hammett from New Zealand, the noted plant scientist and breeder. Keith also presented Robert Mercer with his previously mentioned award, and Graeme Davis received his Grand Champion of the Show medallion which he won with a spectacular giant bloom of **Maxmann**.



Then it was into our host's cars and off to visit John and June Woodfield's garden. It is amazing how many disgustingly healthy and vigorous dahlia plants can be fitted into a suburban garden, we discovered. I could tell from John's blooms that he benched and won numerous cards with, that he is a master grower, but I had no idea that his magnificent blooms were grown in such a confined area. There are many other beautiful plants of all descriptions including



prize winning roses, thriving in his spectacular garden and it was a delight to visit, and a great credit to John and June. Observing and discussing dahlias and the superb garden is thirsty work and John kindly supplied suitable

refreshment from his contingency supply in the garden shed!!

That evening the Kingston Hotel, a reasonably short walk from the show hall, was the very pleasant venue for a delicious meal and enjoyable fellowship with a large group of exhibitors and other dahlia growers, who had come to see the display at the show. After several celebratory glasses of red wine these two geriatrics found the cool walk home quite refreshing!!!

Next morning at 9am we were all taken by convoy to the community garden plot where Graeme grows many of his dahlias, including his large and giant varieties. Being a bit of a fan of the large and giants I found this particularly interesting and positively



In the Davis Garden

salivated over some of the blooms that had been left out of Graeme's show selection process.

The trial gardens at Bruce were the next stop, and here we were invited to inspect and assess the 6 dahlia seedling cultivars that have been submitted by various growers. I believe this is an important and very positive concept, as not only do new seedlings

need to be proven in other growing areas, but also assessment by a wide range of different growers must provide an objective opinion of the cultivar. John Woodfield explained that as coordinator and manager of the dahlia section of the trial gardens he intends to get the submitted seedlings appraised at several stages of their growth by as many different growers as possible.

As if by magic, some more capable ladies produced morning tea and cakes, continuing an ongoing theme throughout the entire weekend, of a constant supply of delicious food and liquid refreshment. Back at the show venue it was time to have lunch, relax, discuss dahlias, savour success, and generally enjoy the fellowship of other dahlia addicts. At 4pm it was time to close the show, say our thanks and goodbyes to our generous hosts and start the 1000klm plus trip home!!

We have many lasting impressions of this event, such as:-

- The brilliant and efficient way it was organised and run.
- The exhibitor involving judging process.
- The welcoming and friendly atmosphere that pervaded the entire weekend.
- The opportunity to interact with some of our most accomplished growers, and have our blooms assessed by them.

Perhaps the most significant is that a National Show is feasible provided that there are enough growers out there who would be prepared to make the effort. If it was held in conjunction with an organisation such as the Canberra Horticultural Society where the expertise and person power is available, it would be a rewarding and very enjoyable experience for all concerned.



AROUND THE STATES –

Harry A. Risetto – New York

Most dahlia growers in the United States wish they lived someplace else—usually several hundred miles to the north. This is particularly the case when the American Dahlia Society's National Show takes place in the Pacific Northwest (Washington Oregon or Vancouver, or even San Francisco). The blooms have more depth and color, and the plants are shorter and more floriferous. Some new cultivars shine in one region and are so-so in another. The most successful new introduction based on a combination trial garden and show scores in 2012 was **Clearview Sundance** (A C Y), originated by Richard Parshall (Northwest). It scored well across the country, and it is in a class with little competition. There is a growing interest in open-centered dahlias. For years they were relegated to garden



flower status, but in the past decade growers, arrangers and flower designers have moved them toward the spotlight, particularly in the West. This year Colin Walker (Northwest)



won the Evie Gullickson award for trial gardens with an orange collarette named **Kelsey Annie Joy**. Another collarette, **Baron Aunt Dorothy** (Col Y)(Miner Midwest) won the medal for show scores. In the East one of our own growers who recently took up hybridizing, Nick Weber, has introduced **Orangeade**, a high scoring (B IC Or).

Steve Meggos, a long time Chicago area grower, has introduced a succession of cultivars from **Spartacus—Vassio Meggos** being one—has presented his namesake, **Steve Meggos** (AIDBr). Like many of his introductions it has round bouffant form of its seed parent. In the USA the distinctions



between Bronze and Orange are subtle and cultivars are frequently reclassified as they grow and are shown in different geographic. The effect of "terroir" on color and even form is becoming more prominent. Steve encourages his new cultivars by chemically stressing the tubers. How he accomplishes this remains a deep secret. Steve's knack for hybridizing from a single parent has caught the attention of the press and has made him a dahlia personality.

In 2015 the ADS will be celebrating its Centennial with a special show and dahlia program being hosted by the Mid-Island Dahlia Society and the ADS. The New York area was the birthplace of the ADS and the site of its meetings and shows. Even its geography has expanded to include the United States and Canada, New York has recently hosted the National Show on several occasions, most memorably in 2001, shortly after the tragedy of 9/11. The Mid-Island Society operates a popular public dahlia garden at the Planting Fields Arboretum and a nearby ADS trial garden.

One of the principal tests of a new dahlia cultivar is its success on the show tables after it becomes commercially available. The ADS awards the Stanley Johnson Medal to the dahlia with the highest number of higher-than-blue ribbon awards (prior winners are excluded). This year **Lakeview Glow** (BBICY) won the medal with 106 higher awards. Notably, this cultivar was introduced by Bernie Wilson (Northwest) in 2010. With its excellent form **Lakeview Glow** has quickly become a show favorite.



EARWIG BAIT

5kg. Chicken Pellets

100ml LORSBAN (Chlorpyrifos)

250ml Sunflower Oil or similar

Mix and stand for 2 hours. Re-mix and apply to soil surface.

Use gloves and safety clothing as per LORSBAN label

Australian Show Results

New South Wales

Dapto

18th Jan.

Exhibitors 2 Judge F. Stralow

Championship

1st B & L Raines

2nd R & H Curll

Winning Blooms –

Aitara Majesty, Kim's Valentine, Linda Harris

Champions

Grand Champion

Figurine

R & H Curll

Medium Decorative

Kims Valentine

B & L Raines

Small Cactus

Devon Elegance

R & H Curll

Cactus Over 160mm

Aitara Majesty

B & L Raines

Exhibition Cactus

Cricket

B & L Raines

Waterlily

Figurine

R & H Curll

Pompon

Linda Harris

B & L Raines

Kiama

25th Jan.

Exhibitors 4

Judge E. Notley

Championship 1st B & L Raines

2nd R & H Curll

Winning Blooms –

Aitara Majesty, Christie Huston, Linda Harris

Champions

Grand Champion

Linda Harris

B & L Raines

Decorative

Christie Huston

B & L Raines

Cactus

Aitara Majesty

B & L Raines

Ball

Ryecroft Peace

B & L Raines

Guyra

26th Jan

Exhibitors 5 Judge Notley & Ross

Six Bloom Championship 1st R & C Hurtz

Winning Blooms – Stage Singly

Kiara Julia, Kens Gold, Single Seedling, Warkdon Willo, Lucia Clara,
Shirley Yeomans

Champions

Grand Champion	Valetta	H. Riley
Champion Vase	Min Seedling	M & B Balch
Giant Decorative	Como Polly	D & J Burton
Large Decorative	Formby Supreme	H. Riley
Medium Decorative	Bracken Sarah	H. Riley
Small Decorative	Riley's Seedling	R & C Hurtz
Min Decorative	Granite Seedling	M & B Balch
Large Cactus	Kiara Julia	H. Riley
Medium Cactus	Reg Kappler	H. Riley
Small Cactus	Jan Lennon	H. Riley
Min Cactus	Valetta	H. Riley
Exhibition Cactus	Mauve Cricket	D & J Burton
Pompon	Nero	H. Riley
Collerette	Miss Joan	H. Riley
Ball	Devon Guyra	H. Riley
Waterlily	Kelgia Ann	H. Riley

Nowra

8th Feb Exhibitors 1 Judge A. Strachan
 Championship – 1st B & L Raines
 Winning Blooms
 Aitara Majesty, Formby Perfection, Pam

Champions

Grand Champion	Kim's Christie	B & L Raines
Decorative	Kim's Christie	B & L Raines
Cactus	Aitara Majesty	B & L Raines
Waterlily	Cameo	B & L Raines
Pompon	Pam	B & L Raines
Ball	Lemon Zing	B & L Raines
Stellar	Alloway Candy	B & L Raines

Kangaroo Valley

15th Feb Exhibitors 2 Judge C. Hollis
 Championship 1st G. Davis 2nd R & H Curll
 Winning Blooms – Winkie Colonel, Pretty Girl, Maxmann

Champions

Grand Champion	Winkie Colonel	G. Davis
Decorative	Winkie Colonel	G. Davis
Cactus	Pretty Girl	G. Davis
Pompon	Pam	R & H Curl

Lithgow Workies Club

24th Feb Exhibitors 9 Judge F. Stralow
 Championship 1st I. Townsend 2nd R & E Smith
 Winning Blooms – Christie Huston, Devon Citation, Pam

Champions

Grand Champion	Christie Huston	I. Townsend
Decorative Over 160mm	Christie Huston	I. Townsend
Medium Decorative	Elma Elizabeth	R & E Smith
Small Decorative	Trengrove Millennium	I. Townsend
Miniature Decorative	Jomanda	R & E Smith
Cactus over 160mm	Scarborough 2000	R & E Smith
Medium Cactus	Devon Citation	I. Townsend
Small Cactus	Devon Citation	I. Townsend
Miniature Cactus	Grace Candy	R & E Smith
Fimbriated Cactus	Higgo Lacey	A. Hayman
Waterlily	Figurine	I. Townsend
Collerette	Pinkie 'O'	R & E Smith
Ball	Downham Royal	R & E Smith
Pompon	Pam	R & E Smith
Anemone	B.J. Rival	I. Townsend

Horticultural Society of Canberra – Centenary

2nd March - Exhibitors 15 - Judge C. Smith A. Strachan

Championship 1st G & S Davis 2nd J. Menzel/K. Hammett

First – Maxmann, Formby Supreme, Kiara Julia, Darbro Tom,
 Narrows Tricia, Wakefield DJ, Alessia, Kenora Wildlife

Second - Winkie Colonel, Glenmarc Endeavour, Winkie Anne,
 Winkie Ophelia, Miwong, Bracken Nikolaus, Seedling Fim, Winkie
 Nugget

Champions

Grand Champion	Maxmann	G & S Davis
Reserve Champion	Granite Sally Jane	M & B Balch
N.Z. Gold Medal	Hamari Accord	R. Mercer
Cactus over 160mm	Maxmann	G & S Davis
Medium Cactus	Granite Sally Jane	M & B Balch
Small Cactus	Winkie Ophelia - Menzel/Hammett	
Miniature Cactus	Araluen Fire	J. Lawlis
Fimbriated Cactus	Alessia	G & S Davis
Exhibition Cactus	Darbro Gift	J & P Hill
Decorative Over 160mm	Formby Supreme	G, Davis
Medium Decorative	Sylvia Craig Hunter	M & B Balch
Small Decorative	Winkie Anne	Menzel/Hammett
Miniature Decorative	Le Batts Prime	A. Carrington
Ball	Ivanetti	J & P Hill
Pompon	Miwong	R. Mercer
Waterlily	Cameo	J & P Hill
Miscellaneous	Woden Wonder Velvet	G & S Davis

Blaney Show

2nd March Exhibitors 6 Judge M. Ford

Championship 1st R & E Smith 2nd A. Hayman

Winning Blooms

Winkie Carnival, L' Ancresse, Scarborough 2000

Champions

Grand Champion	Winkie Carnival	R & E Smith
Decorative	Como Polly	R & E Smith
Cactus	Winkie Carnival	R & E Smith
Waterlily	Peggy	J. Fillingham
Pompon	Glenbank Honeycomb	P. Stonestreet
Orchid	Lillian 'O' 15	A. Hayman

Blacktown

2nd March Exhibitors 3 Judge F. Stralow

Championship 1st I. Townsend 2nd Mercer & Pasfield

Winning Blooms – Figurine, Zorro, Aitara Conference

Champions

Grand Champion	Figurine	I. Townsend
Decorative	Zorro	I. Townsend
Min Decorative	Formby Alpine	Mercer & Pasfield
Medium Cactus	Hamari Accord	Mercer & Pasfield
Small Cactus	Devon Elegance	Mercer & Pasfield
Waterlily	Figurine	I. Townsend
Collerette	Aitara Conference	I. Townsend
Ball	Ivanetti	I. Townsend
Pompon	Pam	Mercer & Pasfield

Castle Hill

9th March Exhibitors 3 Judges Notley/Ross

Championship 1st I. Townsend 2nd B & L Raines

Winning Blooms – Devon Citation, Ivanetti, Christie Knight, Hamari Accord, Le Batts Prime

Champions

Grand Champion	Formby Alpine	Mercer & Pasfield
Large Decorative	Christie Huston	Mercer & Pasfield
Medium Decorative	Elma Elizabeth	B & L Raines
Small Decorative	Brian R	Mercer & Pasfield
Min Decorative	Formby Alpine	Mercer & Pasfield
Large Cactus	Aitara Majesty	B & L Raines
Medium Cactus	Devon Citation	I. Townsend
Small Cactus	Devon Elegance	Mercer & Pasfield
Min Cactus	Kiara Forgwen	I. Townsend
Exhibition Cactus	Cricket	I. Townsend
Fimbriated Cactus	Alessia	B & L Raines
Waterlily	Figurine	I. Townsend
Collerette	Ken's Gala	I. Townsend
Ball	Ivanetti	I. Townsend
Pompon	Pam	B & L Raines

Lithgow

15th March Exhibitors 2 Judge J. Johnstone

Championship 1st J. Fillingham

Winning Blooms – Ken's Gold, Derna Dainty, Brian R, Hamari

Accord, Higgs Lacey, Kenora Sunset

Champions

Grand Champion	Higgs Lacey	A. Hayman
Decorative	Le Batts Prime	J. Fillingham
Cactus	Hamari Accord	J. Fillingham
Fimbriated Cactus	Higgs lacey	A. Hayman
Waterlily	Ken's Gold	J. Fillingham
Collerette	Pinkie 'O'	J. Fillingham
Orchid	Lillian 'O' 15	J. Fillingham

Orange & District Horticultural

16th March Exhibitors 6 Judges R. Curll/Y. Tracey

Championship 1st R & E Smith – 2nd R & N Slarke

Winning Blooms – Elma Elizabeth, Susan French, Jomanda

Champions

Grand Champion	Elma Elizabeth	R & E Smith
Reserve Champion	L' Ancresse	R & E Smith
Large Decorative	Elma Elizabeth	P&J Stonestreet
Medium Decorative	Elma Elizabeth	R & E Smith
Small Decorative	Le Batts Prime	A. Hayman
Miniature Decorative	Formby Crest	Y. Tracey
Large Cactus	Maxmann	P&J Stonestreet
Medium Cactus	Susan French	R & E Smith
Miniature Cactus	Araluen Fire	P&J Stonestreet
Fimbriated Cactus	Tioga Autumn	A. Hayman
Waterlily	Figurine	P&J Stonestreet
Collerette	Pinkie 'O'	A. Hayman
Ball	L' Ancresse	R & E Smith
Pompon	Stoneleigh Joyce	R & E Smith

Queensland Show Results

Stanthorpe Agricultural

1st Feb

Exhibitors 9

Judge D. Litster

Champions

Grand Champion	Bracken Glenda	W&J McKoster
Reserve Champion	Kiara Julia	W&J McKoster
Novice Champion	Ivanetti	R. Hall
Medium Decorative	Edna C	B & J Murphy
Small Decorative	Granite Sasha	M & B Balch
Miniature Decorative	Bracken Glenda	W & J McKoster
Large Cactus	Kiara Julia	W & J McKoster
Medium Cactus	Kiara Julia	R & C Hurtz
Small Cactus	Stannum Seedling	B & J Murphy
Miniature Cactus	Moray Bronte	M & B Balch
Exhibition Cactus	Granite Paula	M & B Balch
Waterlily	Stannum Seedling	B & J Murphy
Collerette	Granite Lisa	M & B Balch
Pompon	Woden Surprise	M & Balch

Wavell Heights

2nd-3rd March

Exhibitors 6

Judge N. Naumann

Champions

Grand Champion	Pam	C&C McLaughlin
Reserve Champion	Everton Pristine	M. Brown
Intermediate	Bracken Sarah	R & D Colburn
Medium Decorative	Regina	Wedd Family
Small Decorative	Seedling	Wedd Family
Miniature Decorative	Bracken Joan	C&C McLaughlin
Large Cactus	Kiara Julia	M. Colby
Medium Cactus	Reg Kappler	Wedd Family
Small Cactus	Everton Pristine	M. Brown
Miniature Cactus	Moray Seedling	Wedd Family
Fimbriated	Aitara Bronwyn	C&C McLaughlin

Waterlily	Bracken Aquarius	C&C McLaughlin
Collerette	Moray Apache	C&C McLaughlin
Pompon	Pam	C&C McLaughlin

Mt. Coot tha

16th March

Exhibitors 9

Judge B. Swenson

Champions

Grand Champion	Higgo Lacey	W&J McKoster
Reserve Champion	Kiara Julia	Wedd Family
Intermediate	Kiara Julia	L. Hancock
Giant Decorative	Regina	Wedd Family
Large Decorative	Winkie Colonel	Wedd Family
Medium Decorative	Sylvia Craig Hunter	M & B Balch
Small Decorative	Bracken Sequel	W & J McKoster
Miniature Decorative	Mellem Nina	W & J McKoster
Giant Cactus	Inland Dynasty	Wedd Family
Large Cactus	Aitara Majesty	Wedd Family
Medium Cactus	Kiara Julia	Wedd Family
Small Cactus	Stannum Amanda -	W & J McKoster
Miniature Cactus	Moray Bronte	C&C McLaughlin
Fimbriated	Higgo Lacey	W & J McKoster
Waterlily	Bracken Hydra	Wedd Family
Collerette	Granite Lisa	M & B Balch
Pompon	Rays Gold	Wedd Family
Seedling	Pink Min Dec	Wedd Family

Morayfield

23rd March

Exhibitors 9

Judge V. Charlton

Champions

Grand Champion	Limit	Wedd Family
Reserve Champion	Moray Jewel	C&C McLaughlin
Intermediate	Bracken Sarah	R. Colburn
Giant Decorative	Regina	Wedd Family
Medium Decorative	Devon Radiance	Wedd Family
Small Decorative	Seedling	Wedd Family

Miniature Decorative	Bracken Joan	Wedd Family
Large Cactus	Kenora Jubilee	Wedd Family
Medium Cactus	Kenora Challenger	Wedd Family
Small Cactus	Wakefield Anniversary	Wedd Family
Miniature Cactus	Seedling	Wedd Family
Fimbriated	Aitara Brownyn	C&C McLaughlin
Waterlily	Moray Jewel	Wedd Family
Collerette	Limit	Wedd Family
Pompon	Pam	Wedd Family

South Australia

Uraidla

16th Feb

Exhibitors 2

Judge J. Argent

Champions

Grand Champion

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

Christie Huston

Christie Como
Christie Huston
Le Batts Prime
Hillier Tanunda
Christie Lu Lu
Kenora Jubilee
Devon Spirit
Freelancer
Tioga Autumn
Ivanetti
Noreen
Figurine
Christie Galah
Christie Shayla
Christie James
B.J. Rival
Christie Jewel
Christie Rebel

J. Matulick

J. Matulick
J. Matulick
G. Heinrich
G. Heinrich
J. Matulick
J. Matulick
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Angaston

23rd Feb

Exhibitors 3

Judge A. Ray

Championship 1st J. Matulick 2nd N & E Jaeschke

Blooms of:- Devon Radiance, Christie Sergeant, Christie M742,
Christie Knight, Tioga Autumn, Christie M710

Champions

Grand Champion	Devon Spirit	J. Matulick
Large Decorative	Christie M742	J. Matulick
Medium Decorative	Formby Duke	G. Heinrich
Small Decorative	Devon Amberlight	G. Heinrich
Miniature Decorative	Hillier Tanunda	G. Heinrich
Medium Semi Cactus	Hamari Accord	J. Matulick
Small Semi Cactus	Hamari Accord	J. Matulick
Miniature Cactus	Devon Spirit	J. Matulick
Exhibition Cactus	Freelancer	J. Matulick
Fimbriated	Tioga Autumn	J. Matulick
Ball	Ivanetti	J. Matulick
Pompon	Pensford Marion	J. Matulick
Waterlily	Figurine	J. Matulick
Stellar	Christie Galah	J. Matulick
Orchid	Christie Shayla	J. Matulick
Collerette	Christie James	J. Matulick
Anemone	B.J. Rival	J. Matulick
Single	Christie Seedling	J. Matulick
Peony	Christie Rebel	J. Matulick

Tanunda - South Australian Championships

March 2nd

Exhibitors 6

Judges G. Woods, A. Ray, J. Argent, J. Matulick

S.A. Championship 1st M & C Keller

Veras Elma, Kenora Jubilee, Elma Elizabeth, Jomanda x 3, Karras
150 x 3, Aitara Success x 3

G.W. Parker Championship 1st J. Matulick

Christie Seedling, B.J. Rival, Ken Gala Aitara Conference, Christie
Reg, Christie Seedling X 2, Christie Sunny.

R. D. Sellick Championship 1st M & C Keller

Christie Leader, Embrace X 3, Formby Monarch, Bracken Nikolaus X3, Christie Leader.

W. Tapley Waterlily Championship 1st M & C Keller

Figurine X 3 – Pam Howden X 3

Reg Kappler Championship 1st M & C Keller

Higgo Lacey, Karras 150, Aitara Success, Figurine, Cornel, Hillier Tanunda, Christie Galah, Jomanda, Noreen

N. Brinkley Championship 1st D & K Neale

Formby Art X 2, Devon Caress, Mary's Jomanda X 3

Champions

Grand Champion	Aitara Success	M&C Keller
Reserve Champion	Christie Leader	M&C Keller
Champion Vase	Jomanda	M&C Keller
B Grade Champion	Kiara Pompadour	D&K Neale

Premier Exhibits

Cactus	Karras 150	M&C Keller
Semi Cactus	Aitara Success	M&C Keller
Formal Decorative	Bracken Nikolaus	M&C Keller
Informal Decorative	Jomanda	M&C Keller
Ball	Ivanetti	M&C Keller
Pompon	Noreen	M&C Keller
Fimbriated	Christie Seedling	J. Matulick
Waterlily	Pam Howden	M&C Keller

Enfield

20th April

Exhibitors 2

Judge K. Neale

Champions

Grand Champion	Christie Shayla	J. Matulick
Pompon	Minley Carol	B&S Brand
Small Cactus	Kenora Jubilee	J. Matulick
Waterlily	Figurine	J. Matulick
Collerette	Christie Nev	J. Matulick
Orchid	Christie Shayla	J. Matulick

Tasmania

Launceston

2nd – 3rd February

Exhibitors 6

Judge G. Fooks

Championship C & L Smith

Formby Elite, Devon Radiance, Devon Elegance, Formby Rocket, Devon Rubi

Tasmanian Raised Championship C & L Smith

Formby Elite, Kiara Julia, Formby Monarch, Devon Mystique, Devon Seedling,

Grand Champion Formby Elite C & L Smith

Intermediate Champion Hamari Accord J & P Galvin

Westbury

9th February

Exhibitors 6

Judge G. Harding

Championship C & L Smith

Devon Radiance, Formby Rocket, Devon Rubi, Formby Elite, Devon Elegance, Moray Bronte,

Grand Champion Devon Radiance C & L Smith

Intermediate Champion Winkie Pat J & P Galvin

Latrobe

16th February

Exhibitors 6

Judge G. Harding

Championship C & L Smith

Vera's Elma, Kiara Julia, Bracken Sarah, Granite China Doll, Devon Min. Cactus, Jomanda, Stoneleigh Joyce.

Grand Champion Kiara Julia B. Cruze

Reserve Champion Granite China Doll C & L Smith

Vase of Show Bracken Sarah B & K Smith

Intermediate Champion Kiara Julia J & P Galvin

Kingston

17th February

Exhibitors 6

Judge Panel

Grand Champion

Hamari Accord G. Fooks

Reserve Champion

Quamby Swinton C. Dwyer

Aggregate Points

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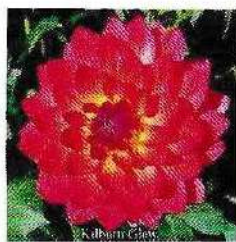
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