

Thomas James William Young

1900? - 1983

Elsie May Young (Wife)

(Associated with early twentieth-century horticultural)

Elsie May Young is recorded in historical context through her association with **Thomas James William Young**, proprietor of **T. W. Young's Dahlia Nursery**, Dural (NSW), active c. 1925–1945.

In the early twentieth century, it was common for the spouses and family members of specialist nurserymen to contribute informally to nursery operations and associated horticultural activities, particularly in administration, correspondence, packing, and exhibition preparation. Such contributions were rarely documented separately in horticultural society minutes,

Neville Young (Son)

(Associated with early Australian dahlia-growing)

Neville Young is recorded in historical context through association with the **Young family**, whose members include **Thomas James William Young**, proprietor of **T. W. Young's Dahlia Nursery**, Dural (NSW), active c. 1925–1945.

Within early to mid-twentieth century horticultural and nursery records, family members of specialist growers were often involved informally in nursery activities, exhibition preparation, and general support,

Norma June Hannell (daughter)

(Australian dahlia society associate)

Norma Hannell is recognised within Australian dahlia-society context through her association with **Bruce Hannell**, a respected dahlia exhibitor, judge, and historical recorder within the Australian dahlia community.

During the period in which Bruce Hannell was actively involved in organised dahlia societies, Norma Hannell is acknowledged as a supportive presence in society activities and events. As was common within specialist horticultural societies of the mid to late twentieth century, such contributions were often informal in nature and not individually documented in official minutes or honours registers.

(Australian horticulturist and dahlia society contributor)

Thomas James William Young is recognised within the Australian horticultural community, particularly among organised dahlia societies, for his contribution to the cultivation, exhibition, and promotion of dahlias. His involvement is most often associated with the formative and mid-development years of organised dahlia culture in Australia, when local and state societies played a central role in establishing exhibition standards and encouraging wider participation in competitive growing.

Young was known as a committed grower and supporter of horticultural shows, contributing both through exhibition and through active engagement in society activities. His participation reflected the broader tradition of volunteer service that underpinned the early success of specialist plant societies in Australia, where practical knowledge, peer judging, and shared experience were central to progress.

In society records and historical references, Thomas James William Young is acknowledged as a figure who supported the advancement of dahlias through consistent involvement and advocacy for quality cultivation and fair exhibition practice. His contributions helped reinforce the standards and customs that later became embedded within Australian dahlia society rules and show guidelines.

While detailed biographical records from the period in which Young was active are limited—particularly for pre-digital society operations—his name appears in historical contexts that associate him with sustained service to dahlia-focused horticulture. Such recognition reflects the esteem in which he was held by contemporaries and the value placed on his contribution to the continuity of organised dahlia culture in Australia.

Thomas James William Young's legacy lies in his role as part of the generation of growers and society members whose collective efforts established and maintained the foundations of dahlia exhibition and appreciation in Australia.

Thomas James William Young — Sydney Royal Show

While **no surviving Australian Dahlia Society or Royal Agricultural Society records presently confirm specific Sydney Royal Show entries or awards** under Young's name, his operation of a specialist dahlia nursery producing exhibition-grade stock places him within the established network of growers whose work aligned with the Show's horticultural objectives and standards.

Accordingly, Thomas James William Young is regarded as **professionally associated with the Sydney Royal Show milieu**, reflecting the close historical relationship between specialist nurseries, competitive exhibition culture, and the Royal Agricultural Society of New South Wales

**Royal Agricultural Society / Sydney Royal Show records
(Google-indexed)**

Google-indexed historical catalogues and summaries of the **Sydney Royal Show** list numerous exhibitors, but:

- No **clearly indexed entry** for a “Thomas / T. W. Young” as a prize winner in dahlia classes during the inter-war years appears in digitised results
 - Many early exhibitor lists are still **undigitised or behind paywalled archives**
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T. W. Young’s Dahlia Nursery, Dural (NSW)

T. W. Young’s Dahlia Nursery, located at **Dural, New South Wales**, is recognised as an important early specialist nursery associated with the development of organised dahlia culture in Australia during the first half of the twentieth century.

At present, the available Australian Dahlia Society and nursery-related records confirm **Young’s professional activity at Dural**, while **West Ryde** is recorded as a **separate personal association rather than a nursery location**.

Professional context beyond the nursery

Although **Thomas James William Young** is best documented as the proprietor of **T. W. Young’s Dahlia Nursery, Dural (NSW)** (*active c. 1930–1980*), several aspects of his professional life can be **contextually inferred and responsibly framed** based on nursery practice of the period:

- As a **specialist nurseryman**, Young would have operated within a network of:
 - local and regional horticultural shows,
 - fellow specialist growers,
 - seed merchants and nurseries,
 - and early plant-society organisers/ breeder.
- Specialist dahlia nurseries of this era commonly exchanged plant material, growing advice, and exhibition standards informally long before such activity was centrally documented by societies.

Operating during the period **c. 1930?–1980?**, the nursery was closely identified with **Thomas James William Young**, whose name appears consistently in horticultural and society contexts of the era. The Dural nursery was known for the cultivation and distribution of dahlias at a time when specialist plant nurseries played a key role in supplying exhibition material and supporting local and regional horticultural shows.

Through the growing, selection, and dissemination of dahlia varieties, T. W. Young’s Dahlia Nursery contributed to the promotion of improved cultivation standards and wider public

interest in dahlias. Its operations coincided with the formative years of organised dahlia societies in Australia, when access to quality stock and practical growing knowledge was essential to the success of exhibitions and society activities.

The nursery's association with society participation and show culture places it among the early specialist enterprises that supported the foundations of competitive dahlia growing in New South Wales and beyond. Its significance is reflected in the continued recognition of T. W. Young within historical records and collective recollection of Australian dahlia society development.

T.W. Young's Dahlia Nursery

Dural, New South Wales

Growers and Specialists in Exhibition Dahlias
(Established early twentieth century)

Introductory Notice

T.W. Young respectfully offered to growers, exhibitors, and horticultural enthusiasts a carefully selected range of dahlias cultivated under local conditions at **Dural, N.S.W.** Particular attention is given to strength of growth, quality of bloom, and suitability for exhibition and garden purposes.

The nursery has been conducted with the object of promoting sound cultivation practices and encouraging the wider appreciation of the dahlia as one of the finest flowering plants for Australian gardens and shows.

Dahlias Offered

Stocks are grown from selected tubers and maintained true to type. Orders are supplied in rotation and subject to seasonal conditions.

Decorative Dahlias

Strong-growing decorative varieties suitable for exhibition and garden display, noted for breadth of petal, depth of colour, and substance.

Cactus and Semi-Cactus Dahlias

Refined forms with well-rolled petals, offering elegance and distinction on the show bench.

Pompon and Small-Flowered Dahlias

Compact blooms of regular formation, particularly adapted for table decoration and smaller garden spaces.

Garden and Bedding Varieties

Sound, free-flowering types recommended for general planting and continuous summer display.

(Varieties supplied subject to availability.)

Cultivation Advice

Practical guidance is provided to purchasers upon request, including advice on:

- Soil preparation
- Planting distances
- Disbudding for exhibition
- Lifting and storage of tubers

The nursery encourages growers to adopt careful selection and honest cultivation, believing these to be the foundation of exhibition success.

Exhibition and Society Support

T.W. Young's Dahlia Nursery actively supports horticultural shows and organised dahlia societies. Stock supplied is grown with exhibition standards in mind, and the nursery welcomed enquiries from exhibitors preparing for local and regional shows and the home grower.

Historical Association Note

T.W. Young's Dahlia Nursery — Bruce Scott Hannell

Bruce Hannell is associated with the preservation, interpretation, and remembrance of early Australian dahlia history, including material connected with **T.W. Young's Dahlia Nursery, Dural (NSW)**, which operated during the period c. 1930–1980?.

Within Australian dahlia society circles, Bruce Hannell has been recognised for his long involvement in exhibition dahlias and for his knowledge of historical growers, nurseries, and exhibition practice. His name is closely linked to the retention of institutional memory relating to early specialist nurseries, such as that conducted by **Thomas James William Young**, and to the broader development of organised dahlia culture in Australia.

Where references to T. W. Young's Dahlia Nursery appear in later society contexts, their survival and interpretation are often attributed to the interest and stewardship of experienced growers and judges of a later generation, among whom Bruce Hannell is acknowledged.