



Winter 2013



President: Bob Smith      Secretary: Rob Slarke

President. "Nindethana" Lewis Pond Rd Orange NSW 2800 02 6365 1084

[nindethana@harboursat.com.au](mailto:nindethana@harboursat.com.au)

Secretary: Rob Slarke [slarke.rn@bigpond.com](mailto:slarke.rn@bigpond.com)

Treasurer: Dorothy McKeon 02 6362 8875

Editor: Kerri Small "Kermua Stud" 763 Triangle Flat Rockley NSW 2795

[kermua@bordnet.com.au](mailto:kermua@bordnet.com.au)

### From The Editor's Desk.



Hi all,

The cold weather is certainly making itself noticed in our part of the world. A dry autumn has given way to a wetter start to winter. Sometimes it is all too easy to stay indoors, and put off those essential tasks in the garden, such as the lifting and storing of tubers and preparations for the next lot of planting.

In this issue Rob Slarke has given us the first part of his report on the 2013 Dahlia Society of Australia Conference held at Nuriootpa in the Barossa Valley in June.

"Happy Gardening."

### **President's Report** Bob Smith

#### North Orange Display

On 9 March 2013 a Dahlia display was held at North Orange shopping centre, it was well represented by several members of the Central West Dahlia Society (CWDS) and Orange & District Horticultural Society (ODHS) and growers.

Many cultivars were displayed with Winkie Colonel being one of many favorites among the numerous people who stopped to admire the blooms. The basket displays added bright color and interest, and being close to Easter gave the public a good idea for decoration and gifts. Many enquiries were fielded and much information was given on growing and showing, with many people wanting to know how to obtain tubers. The day ended all too

soon with the blooms sold for a nominal price to the public and the funds divided between the ODHS and CWDS. The only difficulty encountered with this display was that tables and cloths had to be brought to the site. The plastic containers once again proved their worth from a safety perspective and ease of use. The effort of cutting, preparing and transporting blooms for the purpose was most rewarding when the public received them so well, and all this without the stress of showing to standards. These social days, with many stories about how big 'dad or mum' used to grow them, are good medicine for all concerned and certainly promote dahlias.

*North Orange shopping centre display in March 2013*



## **Secretary's Report** Rob Slarke

Winter is now well and truly with us as the dahlias are in hibernation, earning a well-earned break.

The Dahlia Society of Australia offers an annual award to each affiliated group around the country, to be awarded to a member at the discretion of the President. This year at our April meeting, Bob Smith bestowed the award jointly to Joan & Peter Stonestreet from Blayney. Joan and Peter 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.

The 2013 Dahlia Society of Australia conference was this year held at Nuriootpa in the Barossa Valley over the June long weekend (7<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup>). Dahlia growers from Tasmania, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, Australian Capital Territory, and New South Wales, including four of our Central West members attended a most successful weekend. Part 1 of a summary of conference topics is included in this newsletter.

Members are reminded that we have our Tuber Auction at the October meeting in Lithgow. Just as we did at last year's tuber auction, all tubers of the same cultivar will be auctioned at the same time. For example, all stock of Hamari Accord available at the auction will be auctioned together and there will be only one price, rather than auctioning them separately for each grower's stock. Growers donating tubers are asked to provide their stock one per bag and to write their initials and the cultivar name on the bag. The tubers will then be auctioned at a price of one per bag and the successful bidder will have the choice of origin of stock and the number of tubers bought. We will continue the practice of displaying the cultivar images of the flowers that we have on record, on the screen. Members are requested to bring a box in which to carry their purchases home, to minimize damage to the tubers.

Just as we did last year, we will continue the practice of providing starter packs of tubers to be sold at the tuber auction meeting to beginner growers. Packs of three tubers of distinct and named cultivars will be offered together with general information at a cost of \$3.00.

**Next meeting : General Meeting 10.30am Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2013 at Bathurst Panthers Club, Piper Street, Bathurst.**

**Following meeting : General Meeting & Tuber Auction 10.30am on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2013 at Club Lithgow (Lithgow Bowling Club), Lithgow Street, Lithgow (opposite Coles shopping centre).**

# **ORANGE & DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY SHOW 16<sup>th</sup> March 2013**

Judge : Robert Curll & Yvonne Tracey

AWARD	CULTIVAR	EXHIBITOR
Grand Champion	Elma Elizabeth	R. & E. Smith
Reserve Champion	Susan French	R. & E. Smith
Decorative over 210mm	Elma Elizabeth	P. & J. Stonestreet
Medium Decorative	Elma Elizabeth	R. & E. Smith
Small decorative	Le Batt's Prime	A. Hayman
Miniature Decorative	Formby Crest	Y. Tracey
Cactus over 210mm	Maxmann	P. & J. Stonestreet
Medium Cactus	Susan French	R. & E. Smith
Small Cactus	Devon Elegance	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'anresse	R. & E. Smith
Pompon	Stoneleigh Joyce	R. & E. Smith

Central West Dahlia Championship (three vases, standard units, distinct types):

1<sup>st</sup> R. & E. Smith: Elma Elizabeth, Susan French, Jomanda

2<sup>nd</sup> R. & N. Slarke, 3<sup>rd</sup> A. Hayman

Other Types under 60mm Challenge:

1<sup>st</sup> R. & E. Smith: Pinkie 'O' (Collerette), L'anresse (Ball), Stoneleigh Joyce (Pompon)

2<sup>nd</sup> P. & J. Stonestreet

There were 4 exhibitors and 109 vases of dahlias in Open Section.

There were 2 exhibitors and 5 vases of dahlias in Novice Section.



Bob Smith with Grand Champion  
Elma Elizabeth at Orange



Collerette Entries at Orange

**Royal Bathurst Show 2013; Judge Stephen Astill: 2 exhibitors 20 vases**

Winner of the Novice and Champion Dahlia Exhibit: Steve Albon, Eglinton

**DAHLIA SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA CONFERENCE**  
**NURIOOTPA, BAROSSA VALLEY, SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

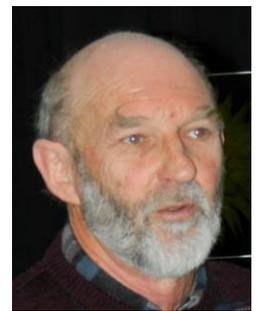
**PART 1**

by Rob Slarke

This year the annual Dahlia Society of Australia (DSA) conference was held in Nuriootpa, Barossa Valley, South Australia, over the June long weekend (7<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup>). Representatives from Tasmania, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, Australian Capital Territory, and New South Wales attended, including four of our members from the Central West area.



Christine and Malcolm Keller from South Australia opened with their observations of dahlias overseas. Having visited a Dahlia and Chrysanthemum Show at Surrey in Essex, Christine and Malcolm noted that exhibitors were setting up outside the modern exhibition centre and although the standards were different to ours, that the exhibition hall was full of



plenty of good flowers.

In Kunming, China, small red, and red and white dahlias were for sale, and in Shangri-La they noticed some very nice dahlias growing in terracotta pots at 3000m altitude. In St Petersburg, collerette bedding dahlias were seen in a massed planting with annuals and in Moscow, flower stalls had many multi-coloured dahlias for sale. Public gardens in Paris included dahlia plants, and a flower display in Koblenz had labeled dahlia cultivars including “Marlene Joy”, a small pink and white fimbriated cactus which was commonly grown in Australia about 12 years ago.

It was pleasing to see that dahlias are just as popular overseas as they are in Australia.



Andrew McKay from Colac in Victoria gave a review of his progress in attempting to produce dahlia plants by tissue culture in his home as a hobby. Andrew advised that there were no other compatible systems available in Australia and that he has had to learn protocols and develop his own techniques by trial and error. His aim is to clean up virus and fungal problems by cloning plants from very small pieces of plant tissue

and growing them in sterile conditions.

In order to keep the cost as low as possible Andrew uses equipment found in the home as a substitute for expensive equipment used in tissue culture laboratories. He uses a pressure cooker (instead of an autoclave) for sterilizing equipment, a glass aquarium as a laminar flow cabinet, portable pH meter, scalpel, bunsen burner, tweezers, petri dish, distilled water, multi vitamins, sugar, plant hormones, activated charcoal and agar. Using sterilized equipment, Andrew cuts very small pieces of plant and inserts these into the agar medium and keeps them in a sterile environment under artificial light for 16 hours a day. When he has perfected the process, Andrew's aim is to progressively harden these explants off as they grow and to finally plant out in his garden for flower production.



Joan Matulick and Gavin Woods from South Australia reviewed the 1998 Australian Dahlia Standards, commented on the successes and offered suggestions for future consideration. The introduction of the semi-decorative type in 1998 has been a success as prior to 1998 many growers had



discarded varieties such as the British Barberry cultivars. The Exhibition Cactus name doesn't reflect the flower shape and there are very few new cultivars. The Fimbriated Cactus type has benefited by the addition of the 'splaying' of the tips of the florets, rather than just splits. The Ball type has very few small cultivars and this type could benefit by the reintroduction of the 90mm ring. The Orchid type could benefit by removing the reference to contrasting colour between front and back of the florets.

Part 2 continued in next newsletter.

.....

.....



Visit our club page at [www.dahliaaustralia.org.au](http://www.dahliaaustralia.org.au)

Under Dahlia Societies.