

Dahlia Society of NSW & ACT Inc.



Vol. 5 No. 2
July 2010

THE DAHLIA SOCIETY OF NSW & ACT Inc.

Patron : Neil Brooker (Life Member)

President : Elwin Notley

Vice President : Robert Curll

Secretary : Helen Curll

Treasurer : Bobbie Brooker

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Meetings are held at the Mittagong RSL Club, Old Hume Highway, MITTAGONG
New South Wales

NEXT MEETING : 11.00am Saturday 3rd July 2010

After Meeting Activity : 'Taking Greens with a house brick' - Elwin Notley.

FOLLOWING MEETING : 11.00am Saturday 4th September 2010

AGM + Tuber Auction

FOLLOWING MEETING : 11.00am Saturday 6th November 2010

General Meeting + Tuber Auction

Editorial deadline for next magazine : October 16th 2010

Opinions expressed by authors are not specifically endorsed by the
Dahlia Society of NSW & ACT Inc.

Front Cover : Entry in 'Blaze of Colour Dahlia Challenge' at 2010 Horticultural Society of Canberra Show. Exhibitor – Doreen Wilson. Dahlias (clockwise from bottom) – Kim's Valentine, Razmattazz, Devon Caress, Devon Safari, Kenora Sunset, Moray Linda – flowers supplied by Ron Wilkes and Rob Slarke

SECRETARY'S REPORT

CONGRATULATIONS to John Woodfield OAM who was amongst the Australia Day Awards



On the last day of the Royal Easter Show about a 100 people were invited to a luncheon to witness the major awards being presented. Elwin Notley was awarded for 25 years of service to the Horticultural Section of the Royal Agricultural Show. June and John Woodfield broke all previous records by receiving the awards listed below. Unfortunately they were unable to be present but Elwin Notley received the awards on their behalf.

Most Successful Exhibitor of Show

The Banksian Medal for gaining the highest aggregate of points.

The John Thomas Baptist Memorial Medal for winning the greatest number of 1st awards.

Elwin also received on behalf of Graeme Davis, the Bronze Medal for gaining the next highest aggregate points.

Congratulations to Elwin, June, John and Graeme.



Elwin Notley being presented with an award for 25 years of service to the Horticultural Section of the Royal Agricultural Show

May 2010 Meeting

2011 State Championship will be held in conjunction with Kiama Show. Robert Curll has been in contact with the Secretary re the schedule which will soon go to print. Please support this show as this is your Championship. Medallions from NSW & ACT, Central West (NSW), Victoria, South Australia, Washington & Seattle will be awarded.

Do not forget the Flower of the Year for 2011 is Bracken Sarah.

Many of our members will brave the cold and travel to Shepparton for the Australian Dahlia Conference on the long week-end in June. This will also be the 50th Anniversary of the National Dahlia Society of Victoria. The Inaugural Meeting of The Dahlia Society Australia will also take place.

Central West Dahlia Society has a beautiful rug for raffle. Tickets \$2.00 from Robert Slarke - to be drawn March 2011.

This year's Royal Easter Show provided the best ever DAHLIA DISPLAY and was the main attraction in the Horticultural Pavilion – 764 vases over 3 days.

Next year's Royal Agricultural Show will be held later in 2011 – 19th April to 2nd May. Some growers are debating about planting a little later.

Reports from the Delegates were positive: Shows – weather in Canberra improved in February and at the Royal Canberra Show there was good display. 245 vases. Hort. Soc. of Canberra had 269 vases. Yass had a very good show, so did the Central West even though flowers didn't start performing until March after a poor start. Orange had an excellent show with 292 vases and eleven entries in the Championship. There were good displays at Kiama, Kangaroo Valley, Berry & Nowra shows.

Robert Slarke gave an interesting talk on Ball, Semi-Decorative Dahlias at the latter part of our meeting. Robert gave a very professional presentation on the florets which he had plucked and photographed to display the difference.

WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE YOU AT OUR NEXT MEETING. WE VALUE YOUR INPUT AND WE ENJOY SHARING OUR KNOWLEDGE WITH YOU.

AT OUR NEXT MEETING WE WILL HAVE DAHLIA RINGS AND DAHLIA MARKING PENCILS FOR SALE.

NEXT MEETING SATURDAY 3rd July 2010

All the best in promoting Dahlias.

Helen Curll

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**GREETINGS FROM NEW ZEALAND
TO THE DAHLIA GROWERS OF AUSTRALIA
By Jim Hammond**

I was asked to put a few words on paper regarding The Dahlia Scene in NZ so here goes with some of my thoughts.

My wife, Josephine (Josie) and I have been growing and showing dahlias for over 30 years, and have had some rewards in that time.



The NDS NZ Inc. has two trial grounds, one in each island (i.e.: North and South). Cultivars may be sent to either or both trials. Cultivars are judged on 3 different occasions during the flowering season (January — March/April) and need to collect a minimum of 80 points for either exhibition or garden for automatic inclusion in the NDS Classification booklet.

The majority of NZ growers plant what is known as a "Fruit Salad" collection — growing from Giants down through the classes to Miniature and Poms. Six years ago we moved north of Christchurch to Kaiapoi and a smaller section of land. We have had to reduce the number of cultivars we are able to fit in, but still manage

100 plus plants from Giants to Miniatures of both Cactus/Semi Cactus, and Decorative with a good selection of waterlilies. We try to grow 4 plants of miniatures and smalls, 3 cultivars each of mediums and 3 of each of large and Giants.

Living as we do in North Canterbury between the sea coast and the mountain range, we get a good snow cover in winter and some heavy frosts. We cannot leave our cultivars in the soil over winter and all must be dug, washed and cut into individual tubers.

These tubers are dusted with Flowers of Sulphur and stored away in polystyrene boxes and covered in untreated sawdust. They are checked during the winter for moisture of the sawdust and any sign of rot.

We generally check twice during the winter and come planting time in late October to early November, plant out the tubers that have begun to move. Sometimes more than one tuber is planted to each 1.5metre x 25mm x 25mm treated pinus stake, depending on the cultivar and how well it produces blooms.

Josie and I have been growing seedlings for most of our 30 plus years and to date have five of our raisings included in this list, but unfortunately a couple have failed and no longer are available.

Our top cultivars have been:

Tujays Lemondrop — a miniature decorative which was included in Halls of Heddon UK Catalogue

Tujays Nicola — classified here as a miniature Waterlily and in the American List as a Peony. This was also sent to the UK Trials where it was awarded an Order of Merit.

There are now many more NZ Seedlings available due I think because of the border control getting much tougher on imported plant materials and also the costs of permits to import.

There are a few dahlia growers raising seedlings in Christchurch using their own prefix.

Julius Pendley uses 'J.P' as in **J.P Classic** — Medium Decorative

Elaine Fenton uses 'Otara' as in **Otara Jubilee** — medium Fimbriated Cactus

Brian Buckley uses 'Tui' as in **Tui Orange** — Small Semi Cactus

and **Tui Margaret** — Large Cactus

We use "Tujays" as in Two J's (Jim and Josie) — as in **Tujays Lemondrop** —

Miniature Decorative **Tujays Nicola** — Miniature Waterlily.

Josie and I have been lucky by meeting a fellow grower in the North Island and we now exchange cultivars. He has a larger group of raisers to get new cultivars, and we send him any new cultivars we feel good enough to persevere with.

Jim & Josie Hammond
at their 2008 local
show



In a controversial move, the NZ National Dahlia Society has recently included classes for Topmix and Micro cultivars. I feel these dahlias should be restricted to Garden Clubs and Church fair shows.

Yours in dahlia friendship

Jim Hammond
President Christchurch Dahlia Club
New Zealand

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CANBERRA REPORT FROM JOHN WOODFIELD

Report from the former Xeriscape Garden at Weston, now known as the HSC Weston Garden with the move of the CIT Horticultural School and withdrawal of ACTEWAGL in November. The site including our dahlia area has been sold for an Islamic School and at this stage our future is still not clear but may become part of the playground area. We have continued there with the dahlias and at the time of this report in late April, the display is outstanding. Unfortunately due to lack of man-power some plants have not had as much attention as they required but we have kept most tied and some disbudding has been carried out. Other than the trial cultivars the garden has been planted with some to the better cultivars to hopefully increase the stock of these for the coming tuber auctions and sales.

We have been able to continue to trial a number of cultivars from mainly local growers with, as expected, mixed results. The number of trial plants has increased with some planted as green plants in February. The following is quick look at some results, remembering that in the main we are looking for exhibition or good cut flowers.

Orchid from Tom Hillard – still producing too many florets and will be discontinued.

Bright red small decorative from Neil Brooker 1/08 – good bright cut flower.

Dusky pink semi decorative from Neil Brooker 6/28 – florets oversize for size of bloom, good stem, try one more year.

Brooks Louise single from Neil Brooker – already named and winner on the bench, mixture of reds and white overlaid on a yellow halo, very flat eight florets consistently on good stems. This is good.

Marina dark red to purple ball from Neil Davidson – late flower but looks good hold centre late, good stems.

Clear bright pink decorative from Daryn Brown – stary flower hard to determine type, exceptionally good cut flower only.

White collerette from Daryn Brown – not good enough, prolific cut flower.

Orange over yellow large semi cactus from Daryn Brown – this could be good, almost giant without pruning, florets maybe a little lose and wavy, must be grown again.

Scarlet red collerette with lighter collar from the Weston Garden – seedling from Darbro Marianne but flatter, shy to flower until late, worth continuing, named **Weston Wally**.

Yellow single from Weston Garden – genuine single, tall grower, may need second stop to get the best from stems and present flowers better, named **Weston Sunshine**.

Purple fimbriated small cactus from Graeme Davis, genuine small with cone centre, fimbriation not so pronounced late in the season but well worth another season with double stop to see if stems improve in length.

Bright brownish red small semi decorative from Graeme Davis – outstanding in the garden but centre a little suspect, stems great with plenty of flower, well worth another year, outstanding cut flower a worst.

White small cactus from Graeme Davis – appears a little shallow at first look, but improves greatly after cut, very good late but florets maybe too narrow for genuine small.

Pink small cactus from Graeme Davis – maybe the best of this years trials and will be seen again next year on the show bench if it has a problem it is too may florets particularly early, genuine small on very good stems and prolific in number of flowers without losing size. My hand is up to grow this again.

John Woodfield

2010 AUSTRALIA DAHLIA CONFERENCE SHEPPARTON VICTORIA

PART 1

The annual Australian conference was this year held June 11-14 at Shepparton, a fruit growing region in rural Victoria. After the Australian Dahlia Council (ADC) was wound up last year, the Dahlia Society of Australia (DSA) was formed with the election of office bearers from the State delegates.



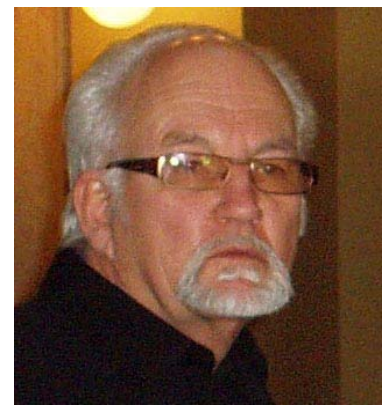
Inaugural Dahlia Society of Australia Committee L-R
Malcolm Keller- Graham Carroll - Yvonne Tracey -
Betty Balch-John Menzel - Charles Smith -
Dwight King - Christine Keller - Malcolm Balch
Absent - Kaye Neale - Greg Fooks

Inaugural committee

President – John Menzel (Victoria regional)
Vice President – Dwight King (Victoria NDSV)
Secretary – Betty Balch (Queensland)
Treasurer – Malcolm Balch (Queensland)
Editor – Malcolm Keller (South Australia)
Membership Secretary – Kaye Neale (South Australia)
Judges Co-ordinator – Charles Smith (Tasmania North)
Committee Members – Graham Carroll (NSW & ACT),
Greg Fooks (Tasmania South), Yvonne Tracey (NSW Central West)

Les Lawson from Victoria gave the opening address which detailed the history of the Australian Dahlia Conference going back to Colac in Victoria in the late 1970's. The failure of the ADC occurred because of a system failure as a result of improved communication and changes to organisational structures in the modern world. As the ADC had only one elected official position, the Distributor, Les congratulated all who held that position.

Dr. Keith Hammett, an eminent New Zealand scientist updated the conference on virus issues. Keith advised that the essential difference between nutrient deficiency and virus is that nutrient deficient leaves had green veins with yellow patches between veins, and virus affected leaves had yellow veins with green patches between veins, in addition to twisted leaves. In good growing conditions, a virus infected plant may look healthy enough as the plant outgrows the virus but as the virus continues to multiply and if conditions are less than ideal, virus symptoms will show up. The only way of propagating clean material from virus affected plants is by meristem division with heat treatment, requiring specialized equipment. All growers should take reasonable precautions and rogue out clearly affected plants.



Malcolm Keller reported that the 2010 South Australian State Show was held in rural Tanunda, the venue also to be used in 2011. Sadly there is now no quality dahlia show in the Adelaide city area.

Rodney Clarke and Rob Slarke gave updates on their respective dahlia societies, the Shepparton & District Dahlia Club (Victoria) and Central West Dahlia Society (NSW). The Shepparton club has been operating since 2007 and has monthly meetings with BBQ lunch held at various members' homes. Activities include bus trips to the Victorian State Dahlia Show in Melbourne and other horticultural shows. The Central West Dahlia Society, in operation since 2003, has the City of Orange at its geographical centre and extends to the Blue Mountains in the east, Mudgee to the north, Dubbo to the west and Cowra to the south. Meetings are held quarterly – January in Orange, March and July in Bathurst and October in Lithgow in conjunction with the annual Tuber Auction. Recent activities include the establishment of a dahlia bed at the Orange Botanic Gardens with predominantly Australian raised cultivars, and a dahlia display at the Bathurst City Centre shopping centre.

Charlie Smith, from St. Helens in Tasmania, advised that four new exhibitors in Hobart are going well and Formby Crest (miniature gold semi-decorative) won the Grand Champion at Hobart Town Hall. In northern Tasmania, Kiara Julia (large gold Cactus) won Grand Champion at all three major shows. George Harding is no longer exhibiting dahlias but will continue breeding his 'Formby' cultivars. One new exhibitor has migrated to the area from Western Australia.

Betty Balch, from Stanthorpe in Queensland, gave an entertaining talk entitled 'Living With a Learning Dahlia Grower', in reference to her husband Malcolm. Initially introduced to dahlias by Stanthorpe grower Barry Murphy, Betty and Malcolm were helped by a very long phone call to George Harding in Tasmania and later by Charlie Smith. Malcolm has recently started breeding dahlias with his first, 'Granite Dusty Pink', looking promising.

PART 2 CONTINUED IN NEXT MAGAZINE

KANGAROO VALLEY SHOW 19th February 2010

Judge – Alan Strachan

<u>AWARD</u>	<u>CULTIVAR</u>	<u>EXHIBITOR</u>
Grand Champion	Cornel	K. Beattie
Decorative	Cornel	K. Beattie
Cactus	Valetta	K. Beattie
Pompon	Glenbank Honeycomb	K. Beattie

Championship : 1st Kevin Beattie : Cameo, Valetta, Cornel

2nd R. & H. Curll : Kenora Challenger, Bracken Sarah, Formby Crest

There were 5 exhibitors and 81 vases. The heavy showers and winds of the past fortnight proved a challenge to the exhibitors. That aside, there were several very good vases.

BLACKTOWN SHOW 20th February 2010

Judge : Robert Curll

<u>AWARD</u>	<u>CULTIVAR</u>	<u>EXHIBITOR</u>
Grand Champion	Aitara Majesty	I. Townsend
Decorative over 160mm	Winkie Colonel	I. Townsend
Decorative under 160mm	Formby Alpine	R. Mercer & L. Pasfield
Cactus over 160mm	Aitara Majesty	I. Townsend
Cactus under 160mm	Devon Elegance	R. Mercer & L. Pasfield

Exhibition Cactus	Darbro Gift	I. Townsend
Fimbriated Cactus	Judith Taylor	I. Townsend
Waterlily	Cameo	R. Mercer & L. Pasfield
Ball	.....	.....
Pompon	.....	.....
Any Other Type	B.J.'s Rival	I. Townsend

Flower of Year : Kelgai Serenity (Anemone) : 1st B. Raines

Championship : 1st R. Mercer & L. Pasfield : Formby Alpine, Reg Kappler, Cameo
 2nd I. Townsend
 3rd B. Raines

3 exhibitors & 93 vases

LITHGOW WORKMEN'S CLUB SHOW 21st February 2010

Judge – Fred Stralow

<u>AWARD</u>	<u>CULTIVAR</u>	<u>EXHIBITOR</u>
Grand Champion	Jan Lennon	J. Fillingham
Decorative over 210mm	.....	.....
Decorative Medium	Glenmarc Sahara	R. & E. Smith
Decorative Small	.....	.....
Decorative Miniature	Formby Crest	R. & E. Smith
Cactus over 210mm	Reg Kappler	R. & E. Smith
Cactus Medium	Jan Lennon	J. Fillingham
Cactus Small	Devon Elegance	R. & E. Smith
Cactus Miniature	Night Life	K. Small
Exhibition Cactus	Christie Dancer	R. & E. Smith
Fimbriated Cactus	Aitara Picardy	J. Fillingham
Waterlily	Cameo	R. & E. Smith
Collerette	Pinkie 'O'	J. Fillingham
Ball	.....	.....
Pompon	Rays Gold	P. Richey
Orchid	Northfield Sparkler	J. Fillingham
Other Type Dahlia	Kelgai Serenity (Anemone)	J. Fillingham

Lithgow Workmen's Club Dahlia Championship (6 vases) :

1st R. & E. Smith : Glenmarc Sahara, Reg Kappler, Reg Kappler, Devon Elegance, Cameo, Formby Crest
 2nd J. Fillingham

6 Exhibitors and 89 vases.

CANBERRA ROYAL SHOW 27th February 2010

Judge : M. Hillen / A. Strachan

<u>AWARD</u>	<u>CULTIVAR</u>	<u>EXHIBITOR</u>
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Grand Champion	Maxmann	G. & S. Davis
Decorative over 210mm	Winkie Colonel	J. Lawlis
Decorative Medium	Brian R	G. & S. Davis
Decorative Small	Kiara Formador	H.S.O.C. Weston
Decorative Miniature	Brooks Sharna	J. Lawlis
Cactus over 210mm	Maxmann	G. & S. Davis
Cactus Medium	Devon Citation	J. & J.A. Woodfield
Cactus Small	Valetta	K. Beattie
Cactus Miniature	Araluen Fire	J. Lawlis
Exhibition Cactus	Mauve Cricket	J. & J.A. Woodfield
Waterlily	Red Velvet	J. & J.A. Woodfield
Ball	Cornel	K. Beattie
Pompon	Pam	N. & R. Brooker
Any Other Type	Ken's Gala (Collerette)	J. Lawlis

Flower of Year : Kelgai Serenity (Anemone) : 1st J. & J.A. Woodfield
2nd G. & S. Davis

Championship : 1st G. & S. Davis : Kenora Sunset, Figurine, Wakefield D.J.,
Cornel, Brian R, Maxmann
2nd J. & J.A. Woodfield : Figurine, Kenora Jubilee, Karen Joy, Mauve Cricket,
Devon Citation, Oreti Stacey
3rd K. Beattie : Valetta, Cornel, Cameo, Susan French, Hamari Accord, Brian R
8 exhibitors & 245 vases

INGLEBURN SHOW 27th February 2010

Judge : Elwin Notley

<u>AWARD</u>	<u>CULTIVAR</u>	<u>EXHIBITOR</u>
Grand Champion	Devon Citation	R. Mercer & L. Pasfield
Decorative over 210mm	Winkie Colonel	I. Townsend
Decorative Medium	Glenmarc Sahara	R. Mercer & L. Pasfield
Decorative Small	Le Batts Prime	B. Raines
Decorative Miniature	Brooks Sharna	B. Raines
Cactus over 210mm	Aitara Majesty	B. Raines
Cactus Medium	Devon Citation	R. Mercer & L. Pasfield
Cactus Small	Karen Joy	R. Mercer & L. Pasfield
Cactus Miniature	Kiara Forgwen	B. Raines
Exhibition Cactus	Darbro Gift	I. Townsend
Fimbriated Cactus	Judith Taylor	I. Townsend
Waterlily	Brulon Vermilion	B. Raines
Collerette	Darbro Marianne	S. & L. Astill
Ball	Ivanetti	I. Townsend
Pompon	.....	.....
Any Other Type	Lillian 'O' 15 (Orchid)	R. Mercer & L. Pasfield

Flower of Year : Kelgai Serenity (Anemone) : 1st B. Raines
2nd

Championship : 1st I. Townsend : Zorro, Scarborough 2000, Como Polly, Karen Joy,
 Joan Foster, Judith Taylor
 2nd R. Mercer & L. Pasfield : Devon Citation, Devon Citation, Glenmarc Sahara,
 Formby Crest, Cameo, Devon Elegance
 3rd B. Raines : Brian R, Aitara Majesty, Aitara Picardy, Maxmann, Brooks Sharna,
 Christie Shayla

4 exhibitors & 100 exhibits

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY OF CANBERRA SHOW 6th March 2010

Judge – Geoff Delaney

<u>AWARD</u>	<u>CULTIVAR</u>	<u>EXHIBITOR</u>
Grand Champion	Everton Esquire	R. & N. Slarke
Reserve Champion	Devon Citation	R. & N. Slarke
Decorative over 210mm	Winkie Colonel	G. & S. Davis
Medium Decorative	Everton Esquire	R. & N. Slarke
Small Decorative	Le Batts Prime	R. & N. Slarke
Miniature Decorative	Brooks Sharna	N. & R. Brooker
Cactus over 210mm	Devon Citation	R. & N. Slarke
Medium Cactus	Jan Lennon	G. & S. Davis
Small Cactus	Devon Caress	G. & S. Davis
Miniature Cactus	Araluen Fire	D. Brown
Exhibition Cactus	Darbro Gift	J. & J.A. Woodfield
Fimbriated Cactus	Aitara Picardy	G. & S. Davis
Waterlily	Cameo	G. & S. Davis
Collerette	Darbro Marianne	N. & R. Brooker
Ball	Ivanetti	R. & N. Slarke
Pompon	Pam	J. & J.A. Woodfield
Other Type Dahlia	Lillian 'O' 15	G. & S. Davis
Largest Dahlia	Winkie Colonel	G. & S. Davis
Novice	Winkie Carnival	K. Small

6 vase Championship :

1st R. & N. Slarke : Everton Esquire, Devon Citation, Hamari Accord, Ivanetti,
 Le Batts Prime, Pensford Marion

2nd G. & S. Davis, 3rd J. & J.A. Woodfield, 4th R. Wilkes, 5th N. & R. Brooker,

6th Hort. Soc. Weston Garden

12 Exhibitors

18 vases in Novice

42 vases in Progressive

205 vases in Open

WOLLONGONG SHOW 6th March 2010

Judge – Fred Stralow

<u>AWARD</u>	<u>CULTIVAR</u>	<u>EXHIBITOR</u>
Grand Champion	Zorro	I. Townsend
Decorative over 160mm	Zorro	I. Townsend
Decorative under 160mm	Le Batts Prime	R. Mercer & L. Pasfield
Exhibition Cactus	Darbro Gift	I. Townsend
Waterlily	Cameo	I. Townsend
Ball	Ivanetti	K. Beattie
Pompon	Mi Wong	R. & H. Curll
Flower of the Year : Kelgai Serenity (Anemone) 1 st B. Raines		
Wollongong Championship (6 vases) :		
1 st I. Townsend : Zorro, Kenora Sunset, Tioga Autumn, Le Batts Prime, Cameo, Formby Alpine		
2 nd R. Mercer & L. Pasfield, 3 rd K. Beattie, 4 th B. Raines		

9 Vase Distinct types 1 flower per vase

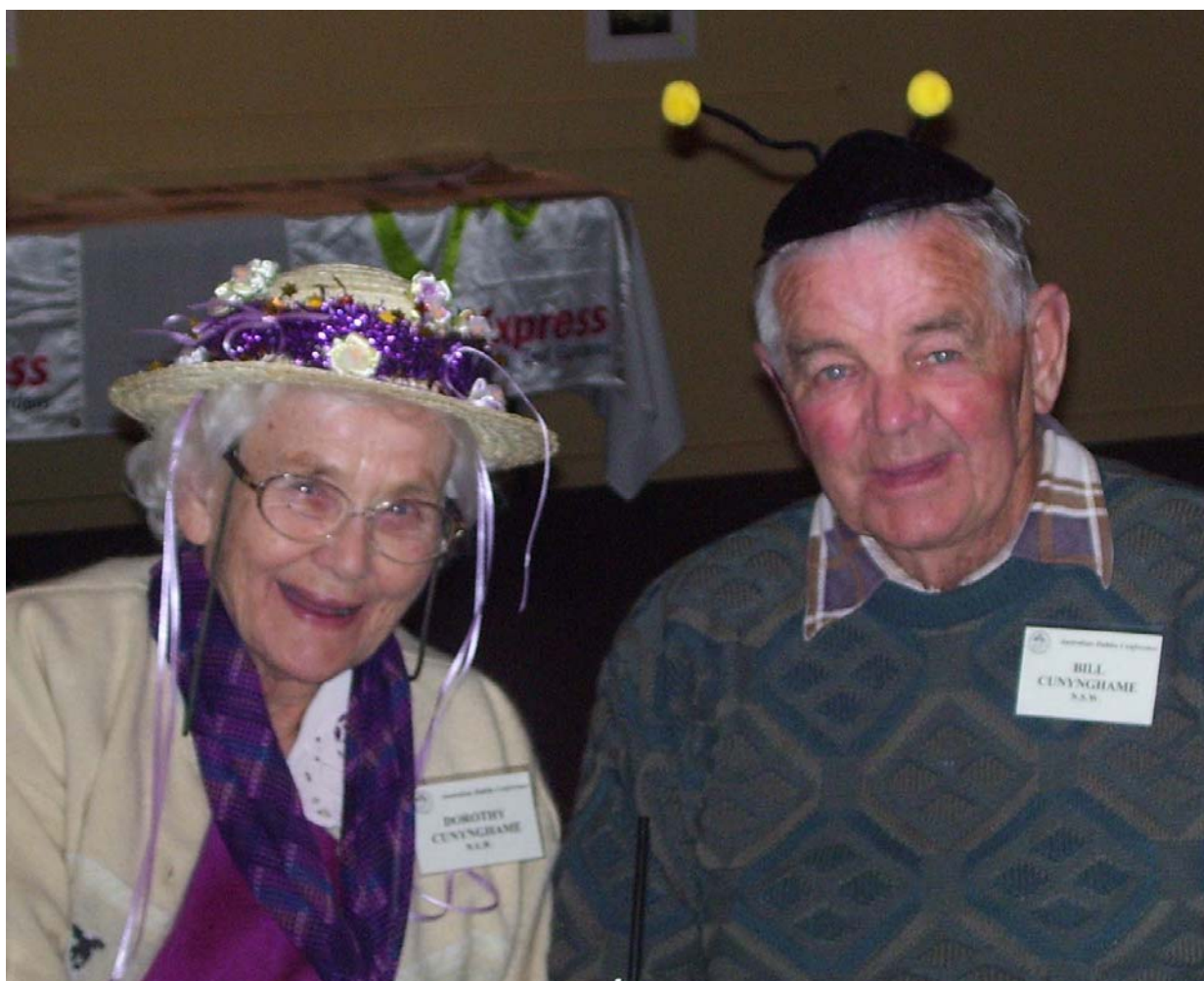
1st R. Mercer & L. Pasfield, 2nd I. Townsend, 3rd R. & H. Curll, 4th K. Beattie

Small Vase Championship

1st I. Townsend, 2nd R. & H. Curll, 3rd K. Beattie

6 Exhibitors and 166 vases + 10 vases in Novice section.

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Dorothy & Bill Cunynghame at 2010 Australian Dahlia Conference