

# Dahlia Society of NSW & ACT Inc.



Miniature Decorative 'Glucose Delight'

Vol. 5 No. 1

March 2010

## THE DAHLIA SOCIETY OF NSW & ACT Inc.

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President : Elwin Notley

Vice President : Robert Curll

Secretary : Helen Curll

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Sister Dahlia Society – Portland Dahlia Society (USA)

Contact : Max Ollieu [mollieu@q.com](mailto:mollieu@q.com)

Internet Website <http://portlanddahlia.com/>

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

**NEXT MEETING : 11.00am Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2010**

**FOLLOWING MEETING : 11.00am Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2010**

**AGM : 11.00am Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2010**

Editorial deadline for next magazine : June 16<sup>th</sup> 2010

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

## SECRETARY'S REPORT

CONGRATULATIONS to John Woodfield OAM who was amongst the Australia Day Awards. He has contributed greatly to the Dahlia Society and is a Life Member.

### January 2010 Meeting

A minute's silence was held in memory of Stan Tuckwell.

Attendance was 17.

Discussion on the The Royal Easter Show re the fee to be paid by each exhibitor Cost is \$30.00, whether you put one entry or twenty, plus \$8.00 if you do not enter on-line.

It was noted that not everyone is on-line, which can penalise the small exhibitor. The Society is concerned that the RAS have gone against their previous agreement with the Horticulture Section to forgo second prize in order to waive the entry fee.

We should support the proposed constitution of Dahlia Society of Australia. There is more in this magazine from Graeme Carroll.

Support the local shows. Unfortunately some shows do clash. Judges please send the results to me so they can be recorded before they are published.

Reports from the area delegates noted some areas had rain and most are having good growth some a little slow. Wildlife rabbits and grasshoppers are being a problem.

The Australian Dahlia Conference this year is being held in Shepparton, Victoria on 12th, 13th, 14th JUNE, 2010 and you are assured of an enjoyable, interesting and fun packed weekend. Les Lawson has informed me that there will be some interesting speakers and on the Saturday evening there will be a fun packed evening as they are celebrating 50 yrs. Application forms are available with this magazine.

2010 SHOWS: The shows that have taken place so far have produced an excellent display to the public. Thankyou to our Dahlia growers for their efforts. At the Kiama Show Robert Curll gave a very interesting and entertaining talk on Dahlias which was very well received by the public.



In February we received a letter from the Ambassador of Mexico Martha Ortiz de Rosas advising that her duty in Australia was to conclude. The President of Mexico has given her a new appointment as Ambassador to the Republic of Korea. Martha Ortiz de Rosas was in Australia for 5 years. She expressed her appreciation in being Patron and wished the Society every success in the future.

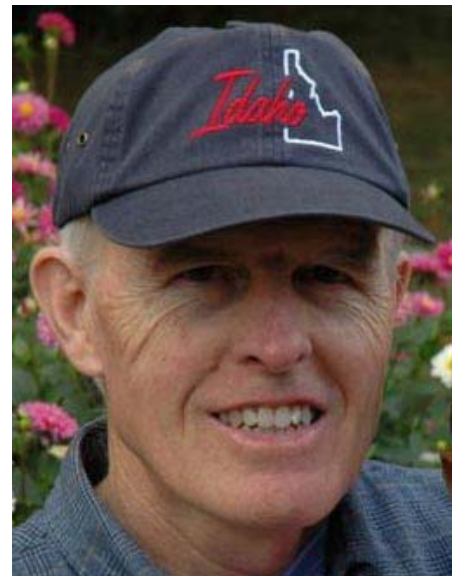
PLEASE NOTE THERE IS NO MEETING IN MARCH  
NEXT MEETING SATURDAY 1ST MAY 2010

Helen Curll

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## **MY SHOW SCHEDULE AND YEAR By Max Ollieu – U.S.A. Correspondent**

This will be my eighth year to show dahlias. For ten years prior to that, I was trying to learn how to grow them. What a journey and transformation, from essentially complete ignorance regarding dahlias and anyone connected to them, to a whole new world of flowers and friendships.



Generally, I am able to attend three dahlia shows in Oregon and two in Washington. However, last year, the American Dahlia Society (ADS) participated with the Snohomish County Dahlia Society (SCDS) to jointly host a combined show. It was the 100th anniversary of the SCDS and the 43rd ADS National Dahlia Show. The event was held in the beautiful, rustic Floral Hall of tree-lined Forest Park in Everett, Washington just north of Seattle. Participation in this combined show allowed me to compete in six purely dahlia shows for 2009. In addition, I annually take entries to our local Clark County Fair where dahlias are just one of many plant varieties entered.

My dahlia year gets active in mid-April with tubers coming out of storage. They were divided and placed in vermiculite five months earlier to rest through the dormant winter season. Instead of planting tubers directly into the garden, I start them in one-gallon plastic containers filled with a 3 in 1 mix of sand, loam and bark dust. Generally there are two tubers per container. Temporary tables outside are used to keep the new sprouts elevated and away from voracious slugs and snails. The best are transplanted into the garden from mid-May into June. Last year, I had over 400 containers. Good friend, Bob Merrell, also a member of the Portland Dahlia Society (PDS), provided me with cuttings as well. The garden holds over 700 dahlia plants, and last year included over 80 varieties. Those varieties and plants provided sufficient blooms for me to compete in all horticultural sections of our dahlia shows.



Max Ollieu's entries of Rhonda at the Douglas County Dahlia Show, August 2009



After unloading his flowers, Max takes time out before staging his dahlia entries inside at the Douglas County Dahlia Society Show in Rosenberg Oregon August 2009

The shows I normally attend require from one to 3 ½ hours of driving time to reach. Mostly, I stay home until the early morning of the show and then make the drive in the dark of a too early morning. The blooms are picked in the AM of the morning the day before the show, then staged, entry tags completed and placed, and the entries prepared for transport. Daughter, Janelle, helps with the tags and packing of entries in plastic crates for transport. Our entries must have at least one set of leaves. Consequently, packing and transport can be challenging. I've

learned that short pieces of plastic pipe varying in diameter from ½ to three inches work really well as spacers between the vases. Once packed with entries, the crates are then stored outside overnight where it is cooler and more humid than indoors. Very early in the morning, I transfer the packed crates into our van, using rolls of paper towels and tissue boxes for spacers between the crates to keep blooms and leaves from touching. After that, I can leave for the weekend's scheduled dahlia show.

The first show in either Oregon or Washington is generally the last week of July. A bit too early for me so I usually participate in the Grays Harbor Dahlia Society

(GHDS) Show, in Elma, Washington, the second show of the season and held the second week of August. At least by then, a portion of my dahlia varieties is blooming and competitive. The GHDS Show is the only one I participate in which gets underway as part of a county fair, in this case, the Grays Harbor County Fair. Two others, the Douglas County Dahlia Society Show in Roseburg, Oregon and our own PDS Show in Canby, Oregon are held at fairgrounds, but not concurrently with those county fairs. The other three in which I had entries in 2009 were held at a city park floral hall, a university conference center, and a yard and garden retail outlet. The dahlia varieties that do best for me often are of Australian origination. The pom, Rhonda, is my most consistent winner, followed by semi-cactus, Peach Delight, and the two waterlilies, Pam Howden, and Moray Susan. Little Willo also made the head table later in the year for me. Prizes awarded include trophies and plaques (revolving), ribbons, cash, vases, gift certificates, and at least at the national show, hand blown glass.

Varieties new to my garden in 2009 that impressed me the most were the giant informal decorative, Nick Sr. and two orchids, Midnight Star and Natalie's Star. The first two were released in 2009 and the latter in 2006.

Giant Informal Decorative Nick Sr.



I wish to acknowledge Ron Wilkes' assistance to me as a dahlia grower and friend. Ron was instrumental in encouraging me to show my blooms and provided valuable insight and assistance during his visits with us. He sent stock of Peach Delight as well as a number of other varieties of Australian origination. His efforts, consequently, have profoundly influenced our dahlia shows particularly in Oregon. We are deeply indebted to him for his outstanding assistance and friendship.

Max Ollieu  
Battle Ground, Washington, USA

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## DAHLIA CRAFT

Dahlia growers understand that growing the plants and showing the flowers takes a great deal of preparation to finish up with the award-winning bloom on the show bench. Months of work in sourcing the stock in the first place, planting, pruning, fertilising, watering, shading, and dressing the flower on show day culminate in the flowers being presented in peak condition.

We growers however are not alone when it comes to this commitment and attention to detail in our chosen field. Niki van Leeuwen, an experienced cake decorator, last year exhibited a 'dahlia' in the Single Flower Class of the Cake Section at the Sydney Royal Easter Show, constructing the dahlia essentially of just sugar. With ingredients of modelling paste, gelatine, liquid glucose, icing sugar and water, Niki painstakingly built the flower floret by floret. She started by making the centre, then crafted the inner row of small florets, gradually working out to the larger florets in rows, letting the model dry completely between each operation. Imagine her frustration when on one of her attempts, a completed perfect flower was left to dry and upon her return found that part of the flower had slumped and was slightly out of shape. The completed exhibit also includes leaves and stems, also made of sugar. Niki says that it is not uncommon to have seven attempts at creating the perfect exhibit and can take up to a month to finish.



Niki van Leeuwen has been entering the Sydney Easter Show for 23 years and teaches Cake Decorating.

Niki is also a member of the Cake Decorators' Association of NSW Inc.

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## DAHLIA CULTIVAR NAME ORIGIN AND CORRECTIONS

Keith Whittington from Christchurch in New Zealand has offered the following corrections and background information on entries in our Dahlia Cultivar Listing.

*"Argyle Ray", a mauve large decorative has been attributed to Ted Griffin from Western Australia as the raiser. This is not correct. I personally know the raiser of this dahlia & it is William D Davis, who currently lives in Manning, Perth, Western Australia.*



*I also have raised some seedlings of note, the best being "Pacific Argyle", a miniature red Decorative. The name Argyle was chosen by William, always called Bill, when he visited me here in New Zealand in 1994 when the first blooms of my raising were seen & it was decided to combine my usual Prefix with his Suffix, & hence the name "Pacific Argyle".*

*Bill tells me that "Argyle Ray" is named after the last name of another well known West Australian dahlia raiser Merv Ray. Merv raised the very good mauve Medium Decorative Dahlia "Como Polly" ; Como after the suburb in which Merv used to live in Perth.*

*Gala Parade, attributed to raiser R. F. Howes in the Cultivar Listing, was actually raised by Terry Morgan from Timaru, New Zealand.*

*The cultivars Andrew Magson & Jackie Magson were raised by W.Mark, Bill as he is usually called, whom I met a few times at the Shows in the UK. Grenidor Pastelle raised by John Carrington is spelt with double 'r' in his surname. Les Jones is the originator of the Wootton prefixes, the spelling needs changing to three o's.*

*That's about all I could see that needed correcting. I must say that while I was reading through the 'List' I enjoyed going back in time remembering all of the cultivars that I grew over the nearly fifty years that I was involved in Growing, Showing & raising new seedlings and the Raisers that I enjoyed meeting at the many Shows here in NZ & England & Scotland.*

*One in particular who taught me the finer points of hybridising & seed collecting was the late Gordon LeRoux of Seattle USA when he visited my garden in 1988, at the time of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the New Zealand Dahlia Society. He raised the famous Kenora Dahlias. His best would be Kenora Challenger that was the standout Dahlia at the Shows in England on our first visit in 1994.*

*My favourite Dahlia & one I class the best of all time is Hamari Accord raised by Pi Ensum. I would have loved to have met Pi but he had passed away before we visited the UK.*

*Second best Dahlia of all time must be our own NZ raised Kidds Climax, still going strong after 60 years. That is the one Dahlia that I never saw or heard of having virus or any other health problems.*

*Trust that this will set the record straight.*

*Keith Whittington - Christchurch, New Zealand.*

These corrections will be included when the updated version is next printed.

I am sure that members have found the historical origin and cultivar names very interesting and I encourage you all to submit similar brief histories of dahlia cultivars about which you have particular first-hand knowledge. If the cultivar is no longer commonly grown, a photo would also be useful.

Editor.



Keith Whittington in his New Zealand dahlia seedling patch in 2001

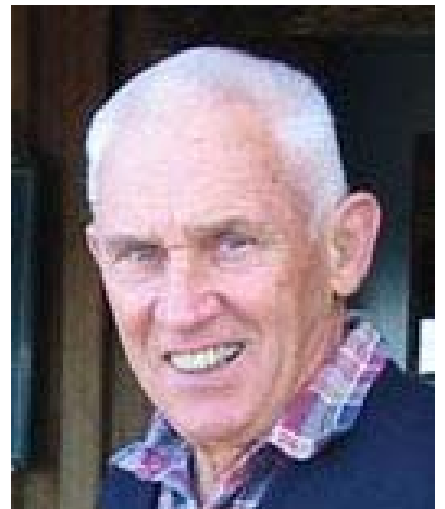


Keith Whittington & Jim Mills judging Kenora Challenger at Chessington Chrysanthemum and Dahlia Show, South London, UK, in 1999

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## **PROGRESS REPORT ON PROPOSED DAHLIA SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA**

By Graham Carroll



At the 2009 Australian Dahlia Council (ADC) conference held in St Helens Tasmania, it was decided to wind up the ADC and form the new Dahlia Society of Australia (DSA). Each State and Territory society agreed to send a registered letter to the ADC Distributor Vin Charlton, stating that the ADC should be wound up forthwith. This has now been done.

Queensland is now on board and participating positively with a new committee comprising of President Col McLaughlin, Vice President Mike Colby, Secretary Ann

Barry, Treasurer Barry Murphy, and Committee Ron Barry, Malcolm Balch and Theo Beenders.

The Dahlia Society of South Australia has tidied up the proposed DSA constitution developed in St Helens for consideration by all interested parties.

The discussion group has put together a suggested accreditation scheme for Judges that would be implemented by the Judges Secretary/Registrar when the DSA is formed at the Shepparton (Vic) conference in June.

An interim Committee of Management is now in place for discussion and finalization of the arrangements prior to the conference at Shepparton.

Should the DSA be formed at the Shepparton conference, a number of currently informal activities may be brought under the DSA umbrella. These include the following :

1. There has been a list of preferred cultivars compiled so that new growers have access to the most popular dahlias grown and in what areas they grow best.

2. Details of contacts such as quarantine administration for the correct procedures to persons wishing to send tubers interstate or overseas; for example tubers to Tasmania.

3. There has been a contact list containing all the names and contact details of now serving committee members of all states and territories.

4. Electronic discussion email list is available to any dahlia enthusiast wishing to participate in the discussions taking place,

contact is John Menzel < menzelj@baonline.com.au

5. An Australian contact for overseas inquiries. Ron Hedge, the Hon. Assistant Registrar at R.H.S. Garden Wisley UK, recently contacted Malcolm Keller of S.A. requesting information about the collerette 'April Heather', which originated in Australia, as the Collerette has been selected for trials in England. After an interstate internet discussion encompassing S.A., QLD. and VIC. it was discovered that 'April Heather' was grown by J. Shaw who owned 'Piedmont' Dahlia Nursery, Mirboo North, Victoria. As it turns out, J. Shaw is the son in-law of Orm Goolds, another good Dahlia grower.

The achievement and success of the proposed DSA is owed to all the participating dahlia growers who are willing to sit down and have their say as to how they want their new club to function, but the most credit should go to the coordinator John Menzel. Well done John.

Graham Carroll.  
NSW/ACT representative

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## **2010 DAHLIA CONFERENCE**

The 2010 Australian Dahlia Conference will this year be at Shepparton in Victoria, hosted by the National Dahlia Society of Victoria and the Shepparton Dahlia Club. The conference, to be held over the June long weekend (11<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> June), will cover a wide range of topics including a Virus and Disease update, Growing the Club and Tiny Tot dahlias.

Friday afternoon has been reserved for a Dahlia Society of Australia meeting, Saturday evening dedicated to the Conference dinner and a coach trip on Monday to see the sights around Shepparton.

At the time of printing, forty four registrations had been received and the first motel was booked out.

Inquiries may be directed to Joy Lawson at [joyles@tpg.com.au](mailto:joyles@tpg.com.au)

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**KIAMA SHOW** Judge – John Woodfield 29<sup>th</sup> January 2010

<u>AWARD</u>	<u>CULTIVAR</u>	<u>EXHIBITOR</u>
Best in Show	Kenora Jubilee	Ian Townsend
Decorative	Helen 'C'	H. & R. Curll
Cactus	Kenora Jubilee	Ian Townsend
Best Exhibit outside championship	Araluen Fire	R. Morgan

Championship : 1<sup>st</sup> H. & R. Curll : Helen 'C' , Formby Crest, Formby Challenger  
2<sup>nd</sup> I. Townsend 3<sup>rd</sup> R. Morgan 4<sup>th</sup> H. & R. Curll

There were 4 exhibitors and approximately 60 vases.



John Woodfield  
OAM  
Dahlia Judge



Champion Decorative Helen 'C'  
exhibited by R. & H. Curll

Images by courtesy of Robert Morgan

**BERRY SHOW** Judge – Stephen Astill 5<sup>th</sup> February 2010

<u>AWARD</u>	<u>CULTIVAR</u>	<u>EXHIBITOR</u>
Grand Champion	Araluen Fire	R. Morgan
Decorative	Como Polly	I. Townsend
Cactus	Araluen Fire	R. Morgan
Exhibition Cactus	Cricket	R. Morgan
Waterlily	Cameo	I. Townsend
Other Type Dahlia	Alloway Candy (Stellar)	I. Townsend

Championship : 1<sup>st</sup> I. Townsend : Como Polly, Le Batts Prime, Devon Elegance  
2<sup>nd</sup> R. Morgan

There were 2 exhibitors and approximately 63 vases.



Alloway Candy – Stellar Dahlia

Devon Elegance – Small Cactus Dahlia

Images courtesy of Robert Morgan

**NOWRA SHOW** Judge – Fred Stralow 12<sup>th</sup> February 2010

<u>AWARD</u>	<u>CULTIVAR</u>	<u>EXHIBITOR</u>
Best in Show	Devon Citation	R. Morgan
Decorative over 160mm	Como Polly	I. Townsend
Decorative under 160mm	Le Batts Prime	I. Townsend
Cactus	Devon Citation	R. Morgan
Waterlily	Kens Gold	R. Curll
Ball	Formby Crest	R. Curll
Any Other Type	Alloway Candy	I. Townsend

Championship : 1<sup>st</sup> Ian Townsend : Como Polly, Devon Citation, Le Batts Prime

2<sup>nd</sup> Robert Morgan 3<sup>rd</sup> Robert Curll



Orchid Dahlia Christie Starlet

Miniature Cactus Araluen Fire

Images by courtesy of Robert Morgan

**DAPTO Judge – Stephen Astill 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2010**

<b>AWARD</b>	<b>CULTIVAR</b>	<b>EXHIBITOR</b>
Best in Show	Cricket	R. & H. Curll
Decorative	Formby Crest	R. & H. Curll
Cactus	Kenora Challenger	R. & H. Curll
Exhibition Cactus	Cricket	R. & H. Curll

Championship : 1<sup>st</sup> R. & H. Curll : Cricket, Kenora Challenger, Formby Crest.

### 2010 NSW / ACT SHOW DATES AND CONTACT DETAILS

<b>DATE</b>	<b>SHOW</b>	<b>CONTACT NAME</b>	<b>CONTACT PH.</b>
Mar. 6 - 7	Wollongong Hort. Society NSW & ACT State Championship	Kaye Thomas	02 4284 9375
Mar. 5 - 6	Robertson	Leesa Stratford	0411 537 600
Mar. 5 - 7	Bathurst Royal Show	Terry Bishop	02 6331 3175
Mar. 6 - 7	Horticultural Soc.of Canberra	Linn Doyle	02 6231 7755
Mar. 6	Wallamba Dist A & H. Assn	Beverly Harris	02 6554 1646
Mar.12-14	Castle Hill Show	Lyne Fuller	0407 075 259
Mar.13-14	Taralga A.P. & H. Show	Lou Alaimo	02 4849 4222
Mar.19-20	Camden Show	Lindy Cornwell	02 4655 8338
Mar.19-20	Gloucester A. H. & P. Show	Ann Plumridge	02 6558 2468
Mar.20-21	Goulburn A.P.& H. Show	Debra McNeil	02 4821 1064
Mar. 20	Engadine Home Gardeners	Mrs. E. Heffernan	02 9520 7578
Mar. 20	Orange Horticultural Society	Yvonne Tracey	02 6362 3249
Mar.26-28	Lithgow Show Society	Vanetta Renshaw	02 6353 1775
Mar.27-28	Yass Show Society	Lesley Cox	02 6226 1615
Mar.27-28	Concord Garden Club	Marjorie Hogan	02 9744 8302
Apr. 1 - 14	Sydney Easter Show	Elwin Notley	02 9622 8098
Apr.16-18	Campbelltown City Show	Mary Whitfield	0408 489 631
Apr.24-25	Orange Ag. Show	Helen Wood	02 6362 3932
Apr.23-25	Hawkesbury	Mary Aveyard	02 4577 3591

Note : These details are provisional at time of printing and should be verified.