

The Central West Dahlia Society of New South Wales

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Higgo Lacey



THE CENTRAL WEST DAHLIA SOCIETY INC.

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**Next meeting : 10.30am on Saturday 18th July 2009 at Bathurst Panthers,
Piper Street Bathurst.**

**Following meeting : 10.30am Saturday 17th October 2009 at Lithgow
Workmen's Club, including annual Tuber Auction.**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Bob Smith

May 09



What a great season for most growers. The drought made it difficult for some and the extremes of temperature were quite a challenge for all but some beautiful results were forthcoming and some new members made their mark on the show scene.

The season started with some very good tubers available at the auction in Lithgow and progressed from there.

Most shows in the area were well supported with quality blooms and enthusiastic exhibitors. The Blayney early staging on Saturday morning was great as the flowers were still fresh and the public got to see the flowers at their best.

The Central West Championships were held at the Orange Horticultural Autumn show and were very well supported with a large number of entries in the three championships at the show. Approximately 230 vases of dahlias were exhibited for one of the best shows I have seen in recent years. Exhibitors were welcomed from Canberra, Portland, Bumbaldry, Lyndhurst and other areas for a spectacular show of dahlias and other flowers.

I had the privilege of talking to the Oberon Garden club on dahlias and there was a very good response and a number wanted to know when and where they could purchase tubers. Maybe some extras will attend our tuber auction at Lithgow.

The next major project is to dig our tubers and over winter them for the next season.

Good luck and prepare for the coming season.

Bob Smith
President.

HELLO

As new editor **and** new to growing dahlias, please bear with me if this issue isn't quite to your usual expectations- I'm learning!

Having been well and truly bitten by the dahlia bug, I was fortunate to time a summer break with my husband to coincide with the Launceston flower show in February. There, I was introduced to Charles Smith of Devon Dahlias and later we visited his dahlia patch at St Helens. I hope his article on nematodes together with an anecdote from Len Usher will instigate further articles on pests and diseases of dahlias for the next issue. If you have some information or great remedies please send them in or bring them to the next meeting.

Also in this issue is an inspiring article from Mike Riordan about Ted and Margaret Kennedy of the Portland Dahlia Society, USA showing some wonderful new cultivars.

Special memories of the 2009 season for me were tantalising samples of Higgo Lacey -flower of the year for Canberra (mine didn't make it out of the ground!): Also the 'Other Types under 160mm Challenge' at the Orange and District Horticultural Society's Autumn show, which raised awareness and surely appreciation of the less common types. I'm sure we're all looking forward to the next dahlia auction –check out Len's humorous dahlia ditty!

Eagerly anticipating finding out more about dahlias at the National Dahlia Conference in Tasmania in June.

Cheers

Jan Johnstone, (Novice) Editor

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Rob Slarke



The 2008/2009 growing season is now finished, indicated as much by open centred decorative and cactus dahlia flowers as by the cold weather settling in.

What an extraordinary season we have just experienced. In Lithgow it started off in a most promising fashion with lovely weather in October for our Tuber Auction, and again in November. Sadly it was all downhill from there; cold and wet in December, very hot and dry in January, cold and wet for most of February and parts of March. The cold weather of course resulted in smaller flowers of poorer than usual form.

The upside to the season was the encouraging number of exhibitors at our Central West shows. Seven exhibitors at the Lithgow Workmen's Club, five at Bathurst, nine at Blayney, eight (four in Open + four in Novice) at Lithgow Show and seven at Orange Horticultural Society were very pleasing numbers. It is also apparent that over the past several years the quality of flowers on our show benches has been steadily improving. Our members are choosing to plant quality stock and are learning how to grow, transport and stage their flowers better. This year the competition was close, especially at Blayney, where there were 153 vases and the Orange & District Horticultural Society recorded 235 vases, which far exceeded the usual number of entries in recent years. I noted that this season the quality was also starting to spread to the lesser types. Ball, Pompon, Collerette and Orchid types are now regularly seen on our show benches.

The Central West Dahlia Championship (three vases, distinct, standard units) hosted this year by the Orange & District Horticultural Society, was won by Graeme & Sharon Davis from Canberra. The winning entry consisted of Wakefield DJ (yellow cactus), Higgo Lacy (cream fimbriated cactus) and Pam (pink pompon). Graeme and Sharon also won the inaugural Other Types under 160mm Challenge (three vases, standard units, distinct, to be selected from Ball, Waterlily, Pompon, Collerette, Orchid, Anemone, Stellar, or Single type dahlias) with vases of Pam, Araluen Oberon (purple single) and Ken's Gala (purple/white collerette). Champion Decorative and winner of the Cliff Taylor Award was Maggie Hannaford, also exhibited by Graeme & Sharon Davis. As mentioned earlier, this show attracted an unusually high number of entries and thanks go to judge Ron Wilkes for a marathon judging effort.

Our 2009 Tuber Auction will be held in conjunction with the October meeting at Lithgow. For those members wishing to contribute tubers, please let me know the cultivars in advance of the meeting so that I can arrange to have the images ready to be presented by the projector on the screen.



Bracken Sarah Peach Delight Devon Citation Como Polly

(Dahlias brought to the January meeting by Bob Smith)

Auction

At auction day I try not to cry
 I'm always confused in what to buy
 These dahlias have got me hooked
 I love them all; I don't care how they look
 I know there's many of you that think the same
 I know mate, you're just as insane
 When you only have a small backyard
 And I don't know how to grow them in jars
 Wife said, 'What are these dahlias in my kitchen?'
 'No darling you can't stuff them in the chicken!
 These tubers are a special lot'
 'Well you'd better move them out or find another plot
 You told me you wouldn't get any extra
 Well get rid of them or you will finish up on a stretcher'
 'This is the last lot I will ever get!'
 'Is that before or after I take you to the vet
 I told the family about your behaviour'
 'But these dahlias are my saviour'
 'You're turning this house into a hovel'
 'I'm sorry, don't let us quarrel
 When you see these flowers in the sun
 Just wait and see how they look'
 'They'd better be good or you'll see my left hook!'

by LEN USHER.



Aitara
Satsuma



Jomanda



Pinkie'O'



Formby Crest

Nematodes

Have you got nematodes? Sounds serious, but not really.

Nematodes, or eel worms as they are commonly called, have thousands of known species, but only a few do any damage in the garden. They are found in most soils.

They attack the live roots of plants causing the plant to lose vigour.

Most are too small to see with the naked eye; also they spend most of their life under ground. Some bore into the plant roots, others eat the tips of the roots, causing little knobs to form on the end of the roots. This is really the only way that an average gardener will know that they are there.

Nematodes multiply slowly and are difficult to control with chemicals, as saturation of the soil is difficult with chemicals. A couple of old home remedies:-

- Plant a green crop of lupins or tick beans and dig it in, in early spring; this not only gives your soil nitrogen, but fumigates the soil as well.
- Another old one [I don't know if it works] is to mix a hand full of sugar in a bucket of warm water and tip it on the suspect plants, I am told that they love the sugar and eat themselves to death; either way there is nothing to lose.

There are a lot of **other reasons** that will give you variations from the normal plant growth:

- Is it virus, lack of moisture, or rot? This will cut off the supply of water to the leaves.
- Is the soil compacted, too hard or too dry?
- Is the drainage poor?

Now is the time to start thinking about lifting those dahlias that are starting to go yellow-so when you do, have a close look at the roots !

All the best with your digging.

Chas Smith

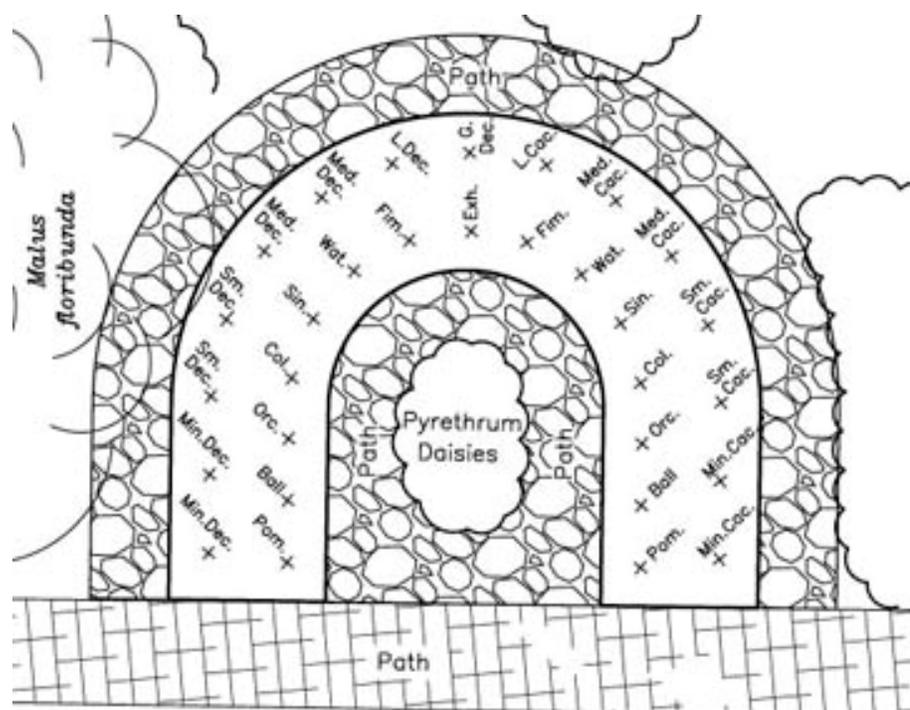
(Charles won Grand Champion Dahlia at Launceston Show in February with DEVON MAREE)

A recipe from Len Usher for nematode treatment

Molasses- 1 tablespoon, 1 litre warm water.

**You can use this in 3 litres of water over 10sq metres,
will control nematodes**

Proposed Planting Plan for Dahlia bed at Orange Botanic Gardens



Min.Dec. denotes Miniature Decorative Dahlia
 Sm.Dec. denotes Small Decorative Dahlia
 Med.Dec. denotes Medium Decorative Dahlia
 L.Dec. denotes Large Decorative Dahlia
 G.Dec. denotes Giant Decorative Dahlia
 Pom. denotes Pompon Dahlia
 Ball denotes Ball Dahlia
 Orc. denotes Orchid Dahlia
 Col. denotes Colerette Dahlia
 Sin. denotes Single Dahlia
 Wat. denotes Waterlily Dahlia
 Fim. denotes Fimbriated Cactus Dahlia

Min.Coc. denotes Miniature Cactus Dahlia
 Sm.Coc. denotes Small Cactus Dahlia
 Med.Coc. denotes Medium Cactus Dahlia
 L.Coc. denotes Large Cactus Dahlia
 Pom. denotes Pompon Dahlia
 Ball denotes Ball Dahlia
 Orc. denotes Orchid Dahlia
 Col. denotes Colerette Dahlia
 Sin. denotes Single Dahlia
 Wat. denotes Waterlily Dahlia
 Fim. denotes Fimbriated Cactus Dahlia
 Exh. denotes Exhibition Cactus Dahlia

Plans are underway for the society's dahlia bed at Orange Botanic Gardens. Council and garden management have given initial approval, the site has been mapped and initial weed removal has taken place.

This is a plan for the first stage, the planting of 30 dahlias to demonstrate the different types of dahlias –exact named cultivars yet to be decided. The gardens manager has offered the use of metal engraved labels for the named cultivars as used to identify plants elsewhere in the gardens.

A crop of lupins, to be dug in later in the year as green manure, was planted in May. In the next couple of weeks plans are underway to establish pathways of grape marc as indicated in the plan. The gardens supervisor is keen to trial this as a path making material

The planting should take place in late October/early November on a date to be decided at the July meeting.

One Couple's Dahlia Hobby

Ted and Margaret Kennedy have been active members of our Portland Society (USA) for the last fifteen years. Ted is our current Vice-President and has served an earlier term as President. The couple's first gardening interest evolved into a cut flower business. This inevitably progressed to a permanent fascination with the dahlia. Selling flowers lead to association with our society which has progressed into a retail dahlia commercial enterprise (Hollyhill Dahlias). Ted also finds time to act as our Society's webmaster as well as serving as webmaster for the Pacific Northwest Dahlia Conference, a regional association of local dahlia clubs. Ted is also one of the Chairs for our ADS National Show (2012) and current Vice-President of the PNDC.



Margaret is the "pollinator-in-chief" , personally hand crossing to her pre-selected objectives and seed parents. Every hand cross is tagged and hooded so accurate , reliable records are kept and evaluated. Margaret is also interested in Basket displays of dahlias and very much enjoys creating artistic arrangements. Many of the Kennedy's introductions lend themselves well to arrangements, as well as being formidable competitors on the exhibition bench. One

such example is **Hollyhill Spiderwoman** As you can see the flower is a novel combination of incurved cactus with lighter coloured petaloids.

A new introduction for next season (2010) will be **Hollyhill Cotton Candy**, a medium sized incurved cactus pink. In the photo you see it displayed massively in a competition basket.



The varied angles of view allow appreciation of the cultivar's form and depth. This one promises to be a sure winner. Speaking of winning, the Kennedy's have twenty seven cultivars listed in the 2009 American Dahlia Society Classification and Handbook of Dahlias. All of these introductions are from 2001 forward.

One of my personal favorites is a 2001 introduction called **Hollyhill Electra**, a large incurved cactus orange.



Electra has been so successful as to garner higher awards in all three ADS growing regions for the 2008 season. It has crisp precise form and also has proven to be a successful seed parent.

Below is a basket using **Hollyhill Red Spider**. Hope you enjoyed the eye-candy.



Besides their valuable contributions to the Portland Society, the Kennedys enjoy visiting and showing at several shows in our region throughout the exhibit season. Ted also tends and judges at our ADS sanctioned Canby Trial Garden almost every week during the growing season.

Thank you, Ted and Margaret, for your contributions to the world of dahlias

From Mike Riordan ,Portland Dahlia Society,USA

SHOW RESULTS

LITHGOW WORKMEN'S CLUB SHOW 22nd February 2009

Judge – Fred Stralow

AWARD	CULTIVAR	EXHIBITOR
Grand Champion	Taratahi Lilac (85pts)	R. & N. Slarke
Decorative Medium	Sylvia Craig Hunter	R. & E. Smith
Decorative Small	Le Batts Prime	Anne Hayman
Decorative Miniature	Formby Alpine	Joy Fillingham
Cactus over 210mm	Kiara Julia	R. & N. Slarke
Cactus Medium	Scarborough 2000	R. & E. Smith
Cactus Small	Taratahi Lilac	R. & N. Slarke
Cactus Miniature	Mrs J Robertson	R. & E. Smith
Exhibition Cactus	Powers Supreme	R. & E. Smith
Fimbriated Cactus	Higgo Lacey	R. & N. Slarke
Waterlily	Pam Howden	R. & N. Slarke
Collerette	Brooks Pale Dawn	R. & E. Smith
Ball	Formby Crest	R. & E. Smith
Pompon	Pensford Marian	R. & N. Slarke
Other Type Dahlia	Kelgai Serenity (Anemone)	Joy Fillingham

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

1st R & N Slarke : Higgo Lacey, Higgo Lacey, Kiara Julia, Taratahi Lilac, Le Batts Prime,
Pam Howden
2nd R & E Smith

7 Exhibitors and 65 exhibits.

SOFALA SHOW 1st March 2009

Judge – Peter Stonestreet

AWARD	CULTIVAR	EXHIBITOR
Champion	Kiara Julia	R. & N. Slarke

2 Exhibitors and 12 exhibits.

BATHURST ROYAL SHOW 6th March 2009

Judge : Stephen Astill

AWARD	CULTIVAR	EXHIBITOR
Grand Champion	Scarborough 2000	R. & E. Smith
Decorative	Le Batts Prime	A. Hayman
Cactus	Scarborough 2000	R. & E. Smith
Exhibition Cactus		R. & E. Smith
Fimbriated Cactus	Higgo Lacey	J. Fillingham
Ball / Pompon		R. & E. Smith
Any Other Type		R. & E. Smith

9 vases of Dahlias, distinct types, 1 flower per vase
1st R. & E. Smith, 2nd Fillingham & Hayman, 3rd J. Johnstone

Most Successful Dahlia Exhibitor – R. & E. Smith
Champion Horticulture Exhibit _ R. & E. Smith
Champion Novice Exhibitor – Kerri Small
Most Successful Exhibitor Novice – Kerri Small
Most Successful Horticulture Exhibitor – Kerri Small

4 exhibitors in Open + 4 exhibitors in Novice - 110 exhibits

BLAYNEY SHOW 14th March 2009

Judge – Alan Strachan

AWARD	CULTIVAR	EXHIBITOR
Grand Champion	Jan Lennon (87 points)	Anne Hayman
Decorative	Formby Crest	Joy Fillingham
Cactus	Jan Lennon	Anne Hayman
Waterlily	Figurine	P. & J. Stonestreet
Collerette	Pinkie 'O'	Joy Fillingham
Ball	Cornel	Maxwell & Sercombe
Pompon	Glenbank Honeycomb	P. & J. Stonestreet
Other Type Dahlia	Northfield Sparkler (Orchid)	Joy Fillingham

Blayney Dahlia Championship (3 vases) : 1st Anne Hayman : Jan Lennon, Bracken Sarah, Higgo Lacey, 2nd R & N Slarke, 3rd R & E Smith, 4th Maxwell & Sercombe, 5th P & J Stonestreet
9 Exhibitors, 139 vases (Open Section) + 14 vases (Novice Section).

ORANGE & DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY SHOW 21st March 2009

Judge : Ron Wilkes

AWARD	CULTIVAR	EXHIBITOR
Grand Champion	Pam	G. & S. Davis
Decorative over 210mm	Winkie Colonel	G. & S. Davis
Medium Decorative	Maggie Hannaford	G. & S. Davis
Small decorative	Le Batts Prime	A. Hayman
Miniature Decorative	Brooks Josh	G. & S. Davis
Cactus over 210mm	Maxmann	G. & S. Davis
Medium Cactus	Susan French	P. & J. Stonestreet
Small Cactus	Karen Joy	G. & S. Davis
Miniature Cactus	Kiara Forgwen	G. & S. Davis
Fimbriated Cactus	Higgo Lacey	A. Hayman
Waterlily	Peggy	J. Fillingham
Collerette	Pinkie 'O'	Maxwell & Sercombe
Ball	Jomanda	R & E Smith
Pompon	Pam	G. & S. Davis
Any Other Type	Yelda	P. & J. Stonestreet

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

1st G. & S. Davis : Wakefield DJ, Higgo Lacey, Pam
2nd A. Hayman, 3rd R. & E. Smith, 4th P. & J. Stonestreet, 5th Maxwell & Sercombe,
6th J. Johnstone

Other Types under 160mm Challenge (three vases, standard units, distinct, to be selected from Ball, Waterlily, Pompon, Collerette, Orchid, Anemone, Stellar, or Single type dahlias) :

1st G. & S. Davis : Pam, Araluen Oberon, Ken's Gala
2nd Maxwell & Sercombe, 3rd P. & J. Stonestreet, 4th J. Fillingham, 5th J. Johnstone

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

1st G. & S. Davis : Winkie Colonel, Maggie Hannaford, Maxmann
2nd A. Hayman

7 exhibitors and 235 vases of dahlias.

LITHGOW SHOW 3rd April 2009

Judge : Yvonne Tracey

AWARD	CULTIVAR	EXHIBITOR
Grand Champion	Jan Lennon	A. Hayman
Decorative	Bracken Sarah	A. Hayman
Cactus	Jan Lennon	A. Hayman
Fimbriated Cactus	Tioga Lovesong	R. & N. Slarke
Waterlily	Peggy	J. Fillingham
Collerette	Pinkie 'O'	R. & N. Slarke
Ball	Ivanetti	R. & N. Slarke
Pompon	Pensford Marion	R. & N. Slarke
Orchid	Northfield Sparkler	A. Hayman
Any Other Type	Kelgai Serenity (anemone)	J. Fillingham

Championship Class (six vases, standard units, exhibitors choice):

1st A. Hayman : Jan Lennon, Jan Lennon, Bracken Sarah, Elma Elizabeth, Higgo Lacey, Le Batt's Prime

2nd R. & N. Slarke : Tioga Lovesong, Taratahi Lilac, Kenora Sunset, Kenora Sunset, Glenbank Honeycomb, Glenbank Honeycomb

Open Section : 4 exhibitors & 77 exhibits

Novice Section : 4 exhibitors & 21 exhibits

ORANGE SHOW 2nd May 2009

Judge : John Woodfield

AWARD	CULTIVAR	EXHIBITOR
Grand Champion	Scarborough 2000	J. Johnstone

4 exhibitors 21 exhibits

DAHLIA WOMEN

Tongue in cheek-I think the Dahlia men had better be on their guard!
Of course we all know they're the experts and it seems that in the past they've had the dahlia scene pretty much to themselves, but this year around the shows there were an increasing number of the female competitors and even a few championships went their way. Keep it up ladies!



Kerri Small's Champion Novice exhibit at Lithgow Show



Anne Hayman with her championship exhibit at Lithgow Show

SHOWTIME



Staging



Judging

ODHS Show, Orange



Canberra -Mexican Ambassador,
and her husband with
John Woodfield



Graham Davis, Ron Wilkes and
the Ambassador



Lithgow Workies



Lithgow Ag. Show



Taratahi Lilac, Devon Caress, Karras 150
exhibited by R & N Slarke at Lithgow Ag. Show



Champion Medium Cactus-Susan French-exhibited by P & J Stonestreet at Orange