

Portland Dahlia Society Newsletter

Shepparton Show Highlights

The Shepparton and District Dahlia Club held their annual Show on 26th March at Katamatite Hall which was well attended by our members travelling to Katamatite to display their blooms.

Congratulations go to Barry Maskell taking out the Novice Championship, Ian Hamley for taking out Intermediate Championship, Bruce Millard for taking out the Ken Judd Memorial.

Helen Martin took out the Open Championship with Warren Vigor taking out best bloom and best vase of the show and Deb Collette taking out the John Menzel Trophy.



Helen Martin Open Championship



Rodney Clarke presenting Bruce Millard with the Ken Judd Memorial Trophy



Rodney Clarke presenting Deb Collett with the John Menzel Trophy.



Ian Hamley Intermediate Championship.



Warren Vigor Best Bloom & Best Vase of the Show

Scoop of the day Jobs for May

As we approach mid-Autumn, before we know it, we will be seeing the end of the dahlia season for another year. Until then, continue to enjoy your blooms and if you are finding yourself with more flowers than you know what to do with, why not give excess flowers to others to bring a little colour into their lives.

To extend the flowering season pick your blooms and keep deadheading any spent blooms. The coming cooler weather and less daylight will cause the dahlias to blow their centres more quickly as they begin to shut down.

Now is the time to make sure your dahlias are correctly labelled before the last of the blooms disappear. A job you will be thankful for that you took the time to do, later on in the year when you dig and divide and share your tubers with family and friends.

Remove some of the lower foliage to let air circulate among the plants. If you do get an attack of mildew, remove any affected leaves, and destroy them. Spraying with fungicide can help prevent mildew.

Now is the time to also think about collecting seed if you wish to grow from seed next year. Choose seed heads that are tight and full, cut them off and let them dry out before extracting the seed. The seed needs to dry out well, before being stored over winter in envelopes or pill bottles along with the silica gel packets to keep seed dry. If the seed is not dry, it will rot.

Remember dahlias don't come true from seed because they hybridise so easily. However, it is fun to grow your own seed and see what eventuates. Who knows, it may just be the dahlia that everyone loves!

As tubers are still developing, keep the soil moist but not wet and give your plants a last feed these coming weeks with a dose of potash. This helps with getting your tubers in peak form prior to them going to sleep.

Dahl Medal Nominees 2022

Steven Wedd

Steven Wedd is passionate about breeding new dahlia cultivars. You can see his face light up when the Coorabell prefix is mentioned. He and his family breed dahlias under the prefix 'Coorabell' named after their locality.

Steven's skills include breeding complex colours in all different forms that are popular with floral designers, flower farmers and exhibition growers.

Steven and his family are famous in the Byron Bay area for their dahlias. Steven is involved in a number of garden societies and promotes the dahlia through his volunteer work, as well as hosting garden clubs from across NSW and QLD at his home.

Steve is currently the secretary of Queensland Dahlia Society and the Australian Dahlia Society. Steven's role of secretary means all new members connect with him first. He then links new members up with a mentor close to them to aid with climate questions. All members new and old know they just have to call or email Steven with a question and he will help them.

Steven is always keen to share his knowledge openly and freely with both flower farmers and exhibition growers. A true Dahlia ambassador.

Robert (Bob) Yeomans

A skilled presenter. Bob has conveyed his knowledge and enthusiasm about dahlias to many audiences both within the dahlia community and the wider gardening public.

For most of his life Bob has been giving talks to gardening clubs and horticultural societies. The combination of knowledge, presentation skills and showmanship is a great advertisement for the dahlia.

As a breeder of new dahlia types, Bob can lay claim to the biggest innovation in a century: his range of Tiny Tots dahlias which leave the public in awe.

Bob over the years has been one of the leaders of the Dahlia Society of Victoria serving as President (1986-1989, 1990-1993), Treasurer, Assistant Secretary, Promotion Officer, Public Officer, and a Reviewer of AGM Financial Reports.

As a breeder of seedlings, Bob has had many successes. Most have the prefix 'Aussie', some being Aussie Sunrise, Aussie Snowball, and Aussie Inspiration. Other varieties that became well known on the show bench are Lois Bishop, Shirelle, and Shirley Yeomans, named after his wife.

Bob has devoted many years to amateur horticulturist as a home gardener, dahlia enthusiast, clubman, administrator and a leader. Each role has been performed with great energy and personal flair.

Bob has been able to share and present his knowledge in many ways: the written word, video and digital presentations always with an added ingredient of showmanship that engages the audience and makes him a great ambassador for the dahlia.

John Woodfield

John Woodfield has grown, bred, exhibited, judged, and promoted dahlias at the highest level in the ACT and NSW for nearly 6 decades.

He began growing dahlias in September 1963 when he and his wife June moved to the new Wodden Valley area of Hughes in the ACT.

In 2007 John was awarded the President of the Garden Clubs of Australia award for service by an individual for outstanding contributions to all gardeners.

In 2010 he was also awarded the Order of Australia Medal (OAM) for Service to the Community through the Horticultural Society of Canberra.

John has promoted dahlias through public exhibitions of his flowers at shows by visiting and talking to members of various Garden Clubs, and by opening his garden up to Garden Clubs and group visits over many years, including opening for the Australian Open Garden Scheme in March 2011.

John is a foundation member of the Dahlia Grower's Association of NSW & ACT formed in 1976.

John received his Judges badge in the early 1980's. He is a respected judge renowned for his fairness common sense and excellence at shows ranging from local shows to the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW (Sydney Royal Easter Show) and Horticultural Society of Canberra. His first judging appointment at the Sydney Royal was in 1983.

Having grown, bred, exhibited, judged, and promoted dahlias at the highest level for the best part of 60 years, John Woodfield is the ultimate dahlia ambassador.

We will be voting on the three nominees for the Dahl award at our May meeting which will be passed on to DSA. Winners will be announced at the DSA conference in Queensland in June.



Upcoming Events

AGM Meeting will be held on Sunday 15th May at Portland Football Club Function room commencing at 1:30 PM. This will be our last meeting until September.

Agenda

- Guest Speaker Helen Lovell from Neutrog
- Election of Office Bearers for 2022/2023

Reminder member fees will be due at this meeting.

All members are encouraged to attend the AGM on 15th May. Members of the public are invited to come along to hear our guest speaker.

Neutrog

Neutrog is pleased to announce a very exciting, unique and innovative range of shareholder benefits to an exclusive, select group of Garden Clubs and their members around Australia. This offer is being made to these Garden Clubs and their members prior to it being offered to the wider market.

The Equity CSF offer will provide these Clubs and their members with the rare opportunity of becoming a shareholder in Neutrog Australia Ltd and in doing so, the Club and its members will gain access to a range of benefits which have a proven track record of aiding both the attraction of new members and retention of existing members.

Guest speaker Helen Lovell from Neutrog will attend our AGM in May to discuss further and answer any questions we may have.



Our Sponsors

Thank You



The three Formby granddaughters with their namesake blooms. Formby Stacey, Formby Kaitlin & Formby Louisa



Please contact Secretary Ian Hamley if there is an article you would like to see in these newsletters. Newsletters will be compiled on a monthly basis from September to May to help us keep in touch and update members on activities and events.