

In Memoriam: Grace Rushton

(Received from Keith Hammett, via Alan Fisher.)

Grace died early May 2, 2014 and a funeral service will be held in Thames on Sunday to celebrate her life and the many contributions she made in diverse fields during a long lifetime.

Cliff and Grace became seriously involved in Dahlias when they retired from farming and they became formidable exhibitors.

However, people were always more important than prizes. Cliff and his first lady visited many Dahlia shows in both islands during Cliff's term as President of the National Dahlia Society of New Zealand.

Both were very supportive of newcomers to our addiction and supplied top quality stock most generously.

Whilst living in Auckland, Cliff and Grace managed to combine the production of top quality exhibition blooms, whilst making them part of a stunning garden display, overlooking views of the Manukau Harbour.

But then, Grace was an artist, working in a number of disparate media.

I remember the pride and pleasure they took when hosting various bus loads of overseas and local visitors.

Perhaps you were one of them.