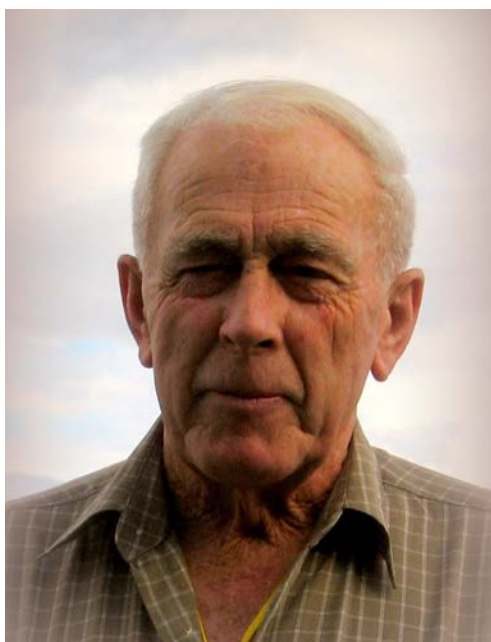


VALE “RON” WILKES



In a year of too many such notices, it is with regret that we announce the passing of former Queensland Dahlia Society (QDS) member Ron Wilkes of Goulburn, at the age of 84.

He served as Distributor of the Australian Dahlia Council, the forerunner to the current Dahlia Society of Australia, for a number of years. As such, he was a staunch supporter of national conferences and was a regular attendee, though maintaining a low profile.

The current 1998 dahlia standards were produced under his patient leadership. He was an avid grower, exhibitor, judge, and breeder of dahlias. His raisings were released, or shall we say “freely given,” under the prefix of Araluen.

He was a trail blazer as far as travelling long distances to exhibit was concerned. He frequently exhibited in Melbourne and Adelaide and on one occasion, Queensland at Caboolture. His trusty Falcon would be packed with quality competitive blooms grown under shade cloth in Goulburn. He grew all types but took it upon himself to promote the lesser types.

Ron had a fascination with the USA and made multiple trips over - in dahlia season, of course. He was the conduit through which many Aussie-bred varieties reached the states. By occupation he was a train driver, firstly on the New South Wales north coast, then later, based in Goulburn.

His wife Elizabeth predeceased him a number of years ago. He was community-minded and until ill health forced him to retire, voluntarily transported local residents to Canberra and back for medical treatment. RIP, Ron Wilkes.