

Keira Bulbs

Miniature exhibition daffodils in Pialligo

By Graham & Helen Fleming

Keira Bulbs is the trading name for a business partnership between Graham and Helen Fleming. One of the business activities of Keira Bulbs consists of the growing and selling of, amongst other things, daffodil bulbs and in particular top quality miniature exhibition bulbs. Keira Bulbs produces exhibition bulbs primarily for export to the US and UK but it does sell locally as well.

It is particularly well known as a hybridizer of miniature cyclamineus (one of our best miniatures is Good Friend, a 6W-W, named in honour of Maureen Purtel) and triandrus hybrids. More recent hybrids include miniature doubles, split cups, jonquilla hybrids, tazetta hybrids and poeticus hybrids. We are also known for our giant bulbocodium hybrids, some of which have been registered.

The bulbs are grown at our farm of about 6 acres which is located at Pialligo. Pialligo has something that is rare in Canberra – arable land. It is possible to plough the soil using tilling equipment. Keira Bulbs was established in the mid-1980s, and has been growing daffodils commercially since then and hybridizing on a commercial scale since 1991.

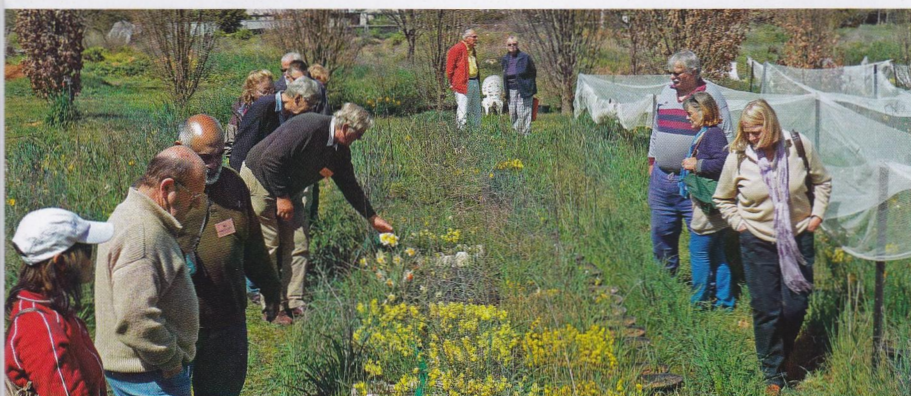
The grower who has influenced Keira Bulbs the most is Rod Barwick of Glenbrook Bulb Farm.

There is also a little of Jackson's Daffodils parentage through our intermediates and miniatures as well. Keira Bulbs has also been influenced by some members of the ADS, and in particular, Olivia Welbourn, Suzy Wert, John Reed, Larry Force, Kirby Fong and Clay Higgins.

Keira Bulbs has a fairly good species collection that assists its hybridizing programs. While Graham does most of the hybridizing, Helen's influence through her interest in miniatures, reverse bicolours, pinks and whites, has been considerable.

If you attended the Centenary of Canberra Spring Bulb & Camellia Show you would have seen a lot of Keira Bulbs' miniature and intermediate seedlings. See page 5 for examples of **winning exhibits**.

If you want to order bulbs from Keira Bulbs and would like a list of what is available you should send an email to keirabulbs@optusnet.com.au. There is a minimum purchase order of \$55 (GST inclusive).



Daffodil enthusiasts at the Keira Bulbs plots during the Centenary daffodil event. Photos: Peter Hill