

# **JOHN MENZEL DAHL MEDAL CITATION 2018**

## **Service to Dahlias and Dahlia Achievements**

### **Judging in Australia**

- Accredited judge since 1991 in South Australia and 2002 in Victoria.
- Judged at major shows in Adelaide, Melbourne, Shepparton, Portland, Canberra, Lithgow, Hobart, Launceston, Brisbane and Stanthorpe.

### **Showing History**

- Began showing in Adelaide in 1980 and supported all South Australian shows.
- Now regularly shows in Melbourne, Portland, Canberra, Shepparton and South Australia (Mt Barker, Mt Pleasant, Angaston, Enfield).
- Has won the Major Championship at shows at Canberra, Melbourne, Adelaide, Portland and Shepparton.

### **Club Involvement**

- Joined SA Dahlia Society in 1980 when he first grew and exhibited dahlias and has retained membership at various Dahlia groups in Australia ever since.
- Initiated the set-up of Shepparton Dahlia Club by holding a community interest meeting at Invergordon and then provided hundreds of tubers for auction so that the fledgling club had initial operating funds.

### **Dahlia Society of Australia**

- Initiated the preliminary discussion (two year duration) and negotiated the set-up of the DSA and negotiated development of the Constitution for the new DSA through email discussion group.
- Inaugural and only president of DSA
- Set up and maintained the website for DSA since inauguration
- Edited the DSA publication "Tubertalk" since 2013
- In 2010 initiated & has continued to run the annual DSA Tuber Auction
- Initiated the set up of the DSA Trial Garden in Canberra.

### **Promotions of Dahlias**

- Has been guest speaker about dahlias on numerous occasions. He has travelled hundreds of kilometres to provide information to interested groups and to promote the Dahlia.
- For many years has been a regular presenter of talks providing information to the public at the Melbourne show.
- Has presented Dahlia growing information at most annual Conferences since the Queensland Conference in Brisbane.

- Has written many articles for various dahlia publications including the annual dahlia magazines in Australia, New Zealand, USA and England.
- Provided hundreds of tubers free of charge for new growers, Adelaide Botanic Gardens and tuber auctions

### **TriState Challenge**

- Initiated and organised the Tri-State challenge between SA, NSW/ACT and Victoria held at Hay in 1995 with the aim of bringing greater knowledge and understanding of dahlia showing, staging and interpretation of judging standards between states.

### **Breeding of Dahlias**

- Bred numerous new cultivars starting with Winkie Colonel in 1988
- Has bred and introduced Winkie cultivars in all types. Cultivars include Winkie Paddlewheel, Winkie Crystobelle, Winkie Wonderland, Winkie Director, Winkie Whopper and many more – too many to list.
- Won major Championship at the 2015 Melbourne show with seventeen blooms of all Winkie raisings.
- Pioneered dahlia cultivation methods that have been widely adopted including growing under shade cloth, using pulse watering and neck stretchers and supporting blooms during transit to shows.
- Has won several awards in the Canberra Trial Gardens

### **Overseas Representation**

- Represented the Australian Dahlia scene with powerpoint presentations, guest speaker engagements and inclusion on the judging teams at shows in the following seasons and locations
- USA and Canada 2004, 2013, 2016
- New Zealand 1988, 2018
- England, Scotland, France, Netherlands 2017.
- Key speaker at three USA National Shows/Conferences at Seattle (2004), Grand Rapids (2013) and Asheville (2016)
- Transported and Displayed 96 Australian Dahlia blooms at Christchurch, New Zealand in 1988.
- Provided a powerpoint presentation to the Mexican Dahlia Conference (written in Spanish) in 2017.

### **Overseas Awards**

- In 2004 Winkie Colonel was Bloom of the Show at the American Dahlia Society show in Seattle.
- Was awarded the American Dahlia Society Silver Medal in 2014 recognising Services to the Dahlia Internationally.

- At the Harrogate Show (England) in 2015 was awarded the Noel Bracewell Medal for Best Overseas Raised Seedling and the M. Bowtock Medal for the Best Overall Seedling of the Show for Winkie Lambrusco.

“

**Dahlias in Australia – the Winkie Way”**

- **Wrote and published the book “Dahlias in Australia -The Winkie Way” which has been credited as the best, most informative dahlia book in circulation.**

- **Has had book launches in Victoria, South Australia, New South Wales, Philadelphia, North Carolina, Singapore, France, England and New Zealand.**

- **Set up the “Winkie Dahlias” web site which has huge content on dahlia cultivation accessible to everyone.**