

## **Dahlia Society of Australia 'DAHL' Award**

'Dahl' Award recipients are chosen according to votes from clubs/societies delivered by their DSA Delegates. It is based on the set criteria below.

I, Anne Menzel nominate **Neville Jaeschke** for the 'Dahl' Award.

(Please provide documentation for as many of the following as possible.)

### **Has contributed greatly to dahlias in Australia.**

A few years ago the DSSA was on the brink of closure due to reduced membership. Thanks to Neville's leadership, enthusiasm and club management the DSSA is now a thriving club with over 180 members. With the increased membership the DSSA Annual Show now has a new lease of life with a cohort of new novice growers enthusiastically showing for the first time under the guidance, tuition and encouragement of Neville.

### **Promotes the dahlia.**

Neville regularly gives talks on dahlias at Garden Clubs – the most recent was to the Modbury Garden Group in March 2025.

My talk at the McLaren Vale Conference showed a photo of Neville presenting a talk to a garden club.

Neville is an expert dahlia guest on South Australia's ABC Talk Back Radio Garden Show. Neville even took time out from staging at the DSSA March 2025 Show to promote the Show on this programme. The previous presenter of this programme, Jon Lamb, regularly invited Neville to be his dahlia expert on the talk back gardening show.

Neville has managed the DSSA dahlia patch in the Adelaide Botanic Gardens for many years. He is in regular contact with the Botanic Garden management to ensure the patch is presented well to attract interest from the public.

Neville regularly takes time to work in the Botanic Garden dahlia patch to ensure it is neat and tidy and presented very well to show the dahlias at their best.

Neville has given away hundreds of tubers to the annual DSSA tuber sale and to new growers. He also sells tubers to the public.

Neville gives dahlia flowers to friends, his church and to people who walk past his garden

### **Contributes to the management of society/societies.**

Neville has been President of the DSSA for many, many years – continuously from 2013 at least.

Neville was Vice President of the DSA when the previous president died so Neville stepped up to take on the role of President until the next election of officers.

Neville was the South Australian delegate for the DSA for many years.

## **Supports shows.**

Every year Neville stages dahlias at five or six South Australian shows ie every weekend of the dahlia season he is tied up with staging dahlias at a show.

Shows include Angaston, Tanunda, Mt Pleasant, Mt Barker and of course the DSSA show.

Neville also stages dahlia displays at his local Barossa Garden Centre.

Neville is very involved with the management of the shows including transporting staging materials and equipment and setting up the show area as well as general liaison with the management of each show.

Neville manages the DSSA show from setting the show schedule, transporting equipment, media publicity, packing up and of course showing many, many excellent dahlia blooms.

## **Introduced dahlias of quality.**

Neville has introduced several new dahlias which include Barossa Beauty, Barossa Frills, Barossa Dawning and Barossa Mystique. Barossa Mystique featured in one of his Championship exhibits at the 2025 DSSA Show.

## **Encourages new members.**

Neville gives informative presentations at all DSSA meetings. Usually the presentation is about what is required in the dahlia patch for the next few weeks. His presentations are tailored to the influx of new growers who have become members of the DSSA.

Most years, Neville hosts at least one Open Day in his dahlia patch where new growers are encouraged to look, ask questions, take in information and even try disbudding, staging or dividing.

At meetings and Field Days Neville regularly gives demonstrations of staging, carrying blooms, taking greens and dividing clumps which is all basic information for new growers.

## **Mentor to prospective members and new growers.**

Neville takes the time to answer questions posed on the DSSA whatsapp dahlia chat group.

Questions range from what to do next in the patch, to identifying cultivars and providing remedies for pests and diseases. Most members of the whatsapp dahlia chat group are fairly new to growing dahlias.

Neville is always ready to talk to new growers and advise them on what to do. He will always help wherever possible.

At the DSSA show in March 2025 a new grower arrived with a plastic bag containing a few dahlia leaves. Neville took time out from his show responsibilities to talk to the grower and provide information on what the problem was and to advise a remedy.

As stated previously Neville provides information and mentoring through the DSSA meetings, talks at Garden Clubs and as expert guest on ABC talkback radio gardening programmes.

Because Neville is so approachable and willing to give information, new growers feel comfortable in asking him for help.

## **Judging.**

Neville does not often judge as he is usually the main exhibitor at most shows.

Neville is part of the newly formed panel of experts working to establish a directory of cultivars.

## **Publications.**

Neville writes a regular DSSA newsletter which he distributes to all members via email. In this newsletter he gives growing information relevant to the season and club information.

In 2018 Neville researched and wrote the book “Dahlia Society of South Australia Inc – 130 Years On”. This involved Neville rereading all available DSSA Bulletins, compiling relevant data and putting the information into writing and getting the book published.

Neville has given many reports at the DSA Conference.

Neville has contributed to the DSA Tubertalk magazine with DSSA reports.

## **Presentations for meetings, conferences and field days.**

Neville presents information at every DSSA Field Day. Information ranges from showing to digging and dividing and everything in between.

Neville has given many reports at the DSA Conference.

Neville ran the DSA Conferences in Nuriootpa in 2013, and McLarenvale in 2023.

## **Contribution to newsletters etc.**

Neville writes a regular DSSA newsletter which he distributes to all members via email. In this newsletter he gives growing information and club information

Neville has contributed to the DSA Tubertalk magazine with DSSA reports

## **An ambassador for the dahlia.**

As an Ambassador for the Dahlia, Neville takes every opportunity to promote dahlias.

He gives flowers to his friends, neighbours, public and church.

He provides tubers to anyone who is interested in growing.

He gives talks, presentations and information wherever possible including Garden Clubs, ABC listeners and DSSA members.

He invites people into his garden so they can see the flowers and learn his growing methods.

He mentors new growers by giving information and help in many formats.

He shows and demonstrates dahlias wherever possible.

**Neville is a very dedicated ambassador for the dahlia.**

I, Graeme Alchin, wish to nominate Neville Jaeschke for the Dahl Award.

I have known Neville since becoming a member of the Dahlia Society of South Australia from about 2016. It is my firm belief that he has indeed contributed greatly to dahlias in Australia. During the past nine years I have been privileged to witness Neville's approach, as a true dahlia enthusiast, for his unwavering dedication for the dahlia in Australia. This is evident in his appointment to the positions of past Vice President of the Dahlia Society of Australia and filling the roll of President after the passing of John Menzel. At the same time fulfilling the role of President of the Dahlia Society of South Australia. He has been a D.S.A. delegate since its inception, attending most conferences and has been awarded life membership of the D.S.S.A.

During Neville's presidency we have witnessed an amazing turn around in support for the D.S.S.A. From the point of discussing the societies closure, to a thriving membership of well over 180+ and although a team effort, it has been with Neville at the helm and an indication of his enduring dedication to the wellbeing of the D.S.S.A. And its members.

Neville is always eager to discuss with enthusiasm the cultural ways of growing and showing dahlias with anyone. Members or potential members! This can be seen by the numerous field days he and his wife Elizabeth have hosted, with regard to multiple demonstrations, both at these field days, and D.S.S.A. Meetings. Any opportunity to promote the dahlia is taken, whether being a guest speaker on the A.B.C. Radio gardening show with Jon Lamb, donations of blooms to the local church, farmers markets and guest speaking at several rural gardening groups from around the state.

Needless to say Neville, assisted by Elizabeth, has been a major part and probably the backbone of exhibiting in South Australia for many years. Setting up and managing the staging for all shows. His presence on the show bench is backed up with his recent cultivar releases under his, Stable, name of "Barossa" with B. Mystique, B. Beauty, B. Frills and B. Dawning to name a few. A constant on the show scene in S.A. who endeavours to be present at every show.

Every month the membership of the D.S.S.A. can look forward to receiving Neville's newsletter. An encouraging look over the successful events of the season and of those to come. He was also responsible for researching and writing the D.S.S.A. history book "Dahlia Society of South Australia Inc - 130 years on".

In closing, I would like to say that I have no hesitation in putting Neville Jaeschke's name forward as a deserving potential recipient of the Dahl Award.

Yours faithfully,

Graeme Alchin. Vice President D.S.S.A.