



BY LAWS

Dahlia Society of Australia

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Latest Revision is in Italic at the end of each section

1) Dahl Medal guidelines



Dahl medal is the highest award presented by Dahlia Society of Australia.

In 2017 it was voted to create an award to honour “Exceptional contributions to the development and or the promotion of the Dahlia in Australia”.

There can only be a maximum of 5 medals held by living recipients at any one time. It is presented to an individual from any DSA affiliated dahlia society after an extensive selection process, the selection criteria listed below.

- Has contributed greatly to dahlias in Australia
- Promotes the dahlia
- Contributes to the management of societies
- Supports dahlia shows
- Introduced dahlias of quality
- Encourages new society members
- Mentor to prospective new members/growers
- Does presentations for meetings/conferences/field days
- Writes publications and articles for newsletters
- Involved in judging
- Is an ambassador for the dahlia

Nominations to the DSA secretary 2 months prior to the DSA AGM using the attached pro forma. See appendix A at the bottom of this document.

Once the deadline is reached the Secretary then compiles the briefs sent by the nominating members and emails them to the DSA executive and the contact people in each affiliated group.

The idea is that this information is then sent to all members for perusal, and a decision made at their meeting as to who the respective delegate is to vote for at the Conference.

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2) Members code of conduct

DAHLIA SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA (DSA)

This CODE OF CONDUCT is one of the elements that brings us together. It states **how** we conduct ourselves in our volunteering for Dahlia Society of Australia.

Every Person every Day

1 DSA Principles

Understanding that dahlia societies provide opportunities for member advancement through learning, personal development and networking.

I demonstrate this by

- Being actively involved in the tasks asked of me and seek guidance when it's needed.
- Ensure my actions are guided by the constitution policies and procedures of my society.
- Ensure my actions are lawful and without malice.

2 Respect

We genuinely acknowledge and respect each other's values, beliefs, efforts and ideas.

I demonstrate this by

- Value the opinions and contributions of other members.
- Treat everyone fairly with consideration, respect and tact.
- Use language and tone which is respectful in all situations eg: during learning occasions, exhibiting at shows, public events and meetings.
- If you witness or are subject to disrespect take it up with the person or persons at that time. If it is repeated inform a member of the Executive for action.
- Abstain from all forms of discrimination, harassment, bullying and victimisation.

3 Integrity

We maintain high standards of integrity and are conscientious in our approach to volunteering.

I demonstrate this by

- Conduct myself honestly and reliably.
- Be transparent in decision making and ensure they are in the best interest of societies, it's members, clients, partners and supporters, Provide constructive feedback to others.
- Actively support the safety, health and wellbeing of all society members.
- Protect the privacy and confidentiality of society members, clients, partners and supporters.

4 Empowerment

We collaborate with each other to be the best we can be.

I demonstrate this by

- Work with others to achieve the best outcomes.
- Share information and act in good faith, Develop and maintain my skills.
- Provide support to my fellow members to achieve common goals.
- Recognising the importance of fun and enjoyment in volunteering.
- Being able to give back to my society and the community.

5 Accountability

We acknowledge and assume responsibility for our own actions and behaviour and are entitled to expect the same from others.

I demonstrate this by

- Only make commitments that I can fulfil and carry out.
- As my skills and knowledge increase, I recognise good performance and address performance shortfalls quickly, directly and fairly.
- Take responsibility for my volunteering performance.

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3) Hall of Fame guide lines

Dahlia Society of Australia Hall of Fame

The Dahlia Society of Australia (DSA) Hall of Fame aims to recognise and honour individuals (past and present) who have made outstanding contributions to dahlia culture within Australia by establishing and maintaining a Hall of Fame.

It is a celebration of achievements and aims to ensure stories of their contributions are remembered into the future.

The Hall of Fame also aims to serve as a source of inspiration for aspiring dahlia growers, breeders, exhibitors and/or judges and administrators and strengthen continuity and the sense of community within dahlia societies around Australia.

Eligibility criteria:

To be eligible for elevation to the DSA Hall of Fame, candidates will have made a strong contribution (over many years) across at least two of the following areas.

Outstanding contribution to dahlias in Australia as a hybridiser,

Outstanding contribution to dahlias in Australia as an exhibitor and/or judge,

Outstanding contribution to dahlias in administration,

Outstanding contribution in promoting the dahlia and supporting new growers and exhibitors,

Outstanding contribution in an active capacity in local societies.

Elevation process:

Recipients of the Dahl Medal are automatically inducted to the Hall of Fame in the year following their Dahl Medal award.

Proposals for new elevations to the DSA Hall of Fame must be made by affiliated societies. To ensure an orderly and respectful process, nomination numbers will be capped.

Nominations should include at least one-page testimonial outlining the nominees' achievements. (See appendix B). The supply of a photo is also encouraged if possible.

To properly honour those who have gone before, the DSA Hall of Fame will make posthumous inductions (specifically) for 2 years (starting 2026) before transitioning to an induction model enabling both living and posthumous inductions.

Hall of Fame establishment:

Initial members of the DSA Hall of Fame will be past and present Dahl Medallists. (The Dahl Medal will continue to be the ultimate individual award).

In the 25/26 financial year, each State will be asked to submit a maximum of 3 nominations (posthumous) to the DSA committee by December 31 2025 for ratification. Those nominees (up to 15 in total) will then be honoured as part of the DSA conference dinner held mid-year.

In the 26/27 financial year this process will be repeated leading to a Hall of Fame membership of up to 38 individuals honoured and recognised.

Hall of Fame presentation:

The DSA will announce Hall of Fame inductees at the annual conference dinner.

The DSA will present a framed Hall of Fame Certificate to inductees or their representatives at the local level by the nominating society.

Records maintenance:

A specific section of the DSA website will be created and maintained to record testimonials (and a photo if possible) of inductees.

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4) DSA Australian Judges training course

To Become a Dahlia Judge in Australia, Managed by the Dahlia Society of Australia

Applicant Prerequisite Skills Required

Experienced exhibitor, wanting to expand their knowledge and take the next step by becoming a dahlia judge. Requires teamwork, ability to adapt and the passion to learn new things, must be organised and have basic computer skills.

As a trainee you will need to:

1. Thoroughly read all reference material and undertake your own research.
2. Complete assignments (online/written) as required.
3. Pass a written multiple choice exam.
4. Participate in practical training with your mentor and other accredited judges.
5. Undergo a practical assessment demonstrating capability to the satisfaction of accredited Judge(s).

Application form held on the DSA web site under Judging

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5) DSA conference suggested format

Host Society identifies location and date of the conference

Friday

Delegates meeting 11.30 to 12.30

To include vote on Dahl Award recipient (if applicable) and Hall of Fame inductees

Lunch at own cost

1.30 to 2pm Registrations

2pm DSA AGM

Welcome by President

Secretary to read last AGM minutes

Presidents report

Election of Office Bearers

Judges training report. Welcome new Dahlia Judges since last AGM

Treasurer's report List affiliated societies, financial report

General business

Societies reports (Five minutes each)

5.30pm close Friday Dinner at own cost

Saturday

8.30 to 9.30am Registrations

9.30am Activities and speakers as advised by hosting society

Morning tea, Lunch and Afternoon tea provided

5pm close

Saturday Dinner 7pm to include speeches, any awards and inductees to Hall of Fame

Sunday

9 am Arrival

9.30am Activities and speakers as advised by hosting society.

Morning tea, Lunch and Afternoon tea provided

12.30 pm Close Conference and introduce next year's Conference

1.30 pm Last event is the DSA Tuber Auction

5pm (or Before) Close

Monday social day with Bus trip

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6) Tuber sales guidelines at DSA conference

Preamble

Dahlia tubers and packets of dahlia seed will be auctioned on the last day of the Dahlia Society of Australia annual conference. Members of all clubs are encouraged to donate spare quality tubers of quality varieties.

In order for the auction to proceed as quickly as possible, arrangements for the auction are required to be in place beforehand. Advice as to what stock will be donated needs to be sent to the auction organiser by a pre-determined deadline of at least one week prior to the conference, so that a Power point presentation of those varieties and a catalogue may be prepared in advance of the conference.

The catalogue will be emailed to conference registrants a couple of days before the conference, and a photo of each variety to be auctioned will be shown on the screen in the venue at the time of bidding. Entries received for the auction after the pre-determined deadline, will not be accepted and will not be auctioned.

Tubers / seed to be delivered in bags labelled with details indicated below, to the venue by donors early on the day of the auction.

Payment for purchases must be arranged on the day, soon after the end of the auction.

Advisement of promised donation varieties prior to pre-determined deadline

The following details to be emailed to the auction organiser.

TUBERS

Donor's name

Cultivar name

Dahlia Type (eg. Cactus, Decorative etc.)

Flower Size where appropriate (eg. miniature, giant etc.)

Flower Colour

Good quality picture, especially of cultivars not commonly available

SEED

Donor's name

Seed parent if known

Pollen parent if known

Delivery of Tubers / Seed early on the morning of the auction

The following arrangements will help both donors and purchasers have an enjoyable auction experience.

Tubers to be clean and dry - no soil

Tubers to be in good, firm condition

Tubers to be provided as singles, multiples or clumps - at donor's discretion

Tubers to be packed in bags with donor's name, cultivar name, and type, flower colour and size written clearly on each bag.

Seed to be clean and dry.

Packets of Seed to be packed in bags with donor's name, Seed parent if known and Pollen parent if known, clearly written on each bag.

At previous Tuber Auctions, most donors have used clip-lock plastic bags or paper bags. Organza bags may be suitable for seed. It is recommended that tubers / seed be packed as close to auction day as possible, to minimise potential losses.

Auction organisers will inspect the stock on auction day and reserve the right to exclude any stock that does not appear to be suitable for sale.

General Notes

1. Quality cultivars used for both show and floral purposes are welcome.
2. It is intended to have pictures of each cultivar to be auctioned, shown on a screen at the time of being auctioned. There may however be the occasional cultivar where a picture is unavailable.
3. Tubers / seed are to be provided by donors in good faith, but no responsibility is taken by the donor, the Conference host society, or DSA.
4. Those intending to bid for tubers / seed must be conference registrants, and register for a bidder number on the day, before the auction.
5. Payment for tubers / seed must be finalised on the day at the end of the auction. Payment arrangements to be determined by the host society, but will always include cash and sometimes credit card.
6. It is the purchaser's responsibility to check the quality of tuber / seed purchases before the end of the conference, and if there is an issue, to raise that issue with the donor and Auction organisers at that time.
7. It is recommended that after the auction, that bags be opened to air out and for tubers / seed to be stored in an appropriate manner before planting out.
8. No further action or correspondence will be entered into after the conclusion of the Conference.

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Appendices to the above documents

Appendix A)

Dahlia Society of Australia 'DAHL' Award pro-forma

'Dahl' Award recipients are chosen according to votes from clubs/societies delivered by their DSA Delegates. It is based on the set criteria below.
Please provide a quality photo of the nominee (head and shoulders)

I, _____ nominate _____ for the 'Dahl' Award.

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

Has contributed greatly to dahlias in Australia.

Promotes the dahlia.

Contributes to the management of society/societies.

Supports shows.

Introduced dahlias of quality.

Encourages new members.

Mentor to prospective members and new growers.

Judging.

Publications.

Presentations for meetings, conferences and field days.

Contributions to newsletters etc.

An ambassador for the dahlia.

Return to the DSA secretary 2 months prior to the DSA AGM

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Dahlia Society of Australia 'Hall of Fame' Award pro-forma

Hall of Fame nominations to be sent to the DSA secretary from clubs/societies. It is based on the set criteria below set out in section 3 of the DSA By Laws. Please provide a quality photo of the nominee (head and shoulders)

From Society/Club _____ wish to Nominate

_____ for the DSA

Hall of Fame Award.

Year of Nomination _____

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

Outstanding contribution to dahlias in Australia as a hybridiser.

Outstanding contribution to dahlias in Australia as an exhibitor and/or judge.

Outstanding contribution to dahlias in administration.

Outstanding contribution in promoting the dahlia and supporting new growers and exhibitors.

Outstanding contribution in an active capacity in local societies.

Return to the DSA secretary by December of the nomination year for inclusion at the following DSA AGM

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