

The Dahlia Society of South Australia wish to nominate **Bill Tapley** for the DSA Hall of Fame Award.

Year of Nomination 2025

Contribution as a Hybridiser

Bill began raising seedlings in the early 1960's, through randomly crossed seed. The best cultivars produced to 1975 were "Red Baron", "Gilda" & "Pretty Girl." A large collection of Waterlily type were planted in a separate bed away from the main dahlia beds and from there came Fern Irene, Zelma, Hiawatha, Brunell. Ladies Choice, Irene Mary, Lotus Lass, Muriel Fern, Loving Cup, Honey, Wine & Roses & Cameo.

In 1982 "Figurine" (Waterlily) and in 1984 "Wee Willy" (Miniature Cactus) began their award-winning run. Through hand pollination with selected cultivar crosses came "Pristine" (white small cactus) and "Aitara Robin" (dark red miniature cactus). Some of the Cultivars produced in the 2000's – Aitara Ace off White & Aitara Bronwyn (Fimbriated), Aitara Conference (Collerette), Aitara Diadem (Small decorative), Aitara Majesty (Large Cactus), Aitara Ruby & Aitara Rufus (Medium Cactus) & Aitara Success (Small cactus).

Contribution as an Exhibitor

Bill & Muriel, while living near Penola, exhibited dahlias for 20 years in the Lower South East of South Australia and in Terang, Warrnambool and Melbourne, Victoria. They won a Country Championship at an RHS show at Flemington. After moving to St Agnes, a suburb of Adelaide, Bill & Muriel exhibited dahlias in the Central District Circuit – Uraidla, Angaston, Tanunda, Mt Pleasant & Mt Barker AH&F Shows as well as the DSSA State Show & Championships. Bill won 5 Grand Champion Blooms between 1982 & 2000.

Contribution to Administration

After moving to Adelaide, Bill & Muriel became involved in the management of the Dahlia Society & held several positions on the Committee.
Bill received Honorary Life Membership of the DSSA.