

The Dahlia Society of South Australia wish to nominate **Gayner W Parker** (1919-1997) for the DSA Hall of Fame Award.

Year of Nomination – 2025

Gayner Parker is credited with the formation of the Australian Dahlia Council, authored the Constitution & the Standards, developed the original Guide to Dahlias, supporting publications and served two terms as inaugural distributor. He was the author of two books, the first “Growing Dahlias”, published in 1986.

Gayner held the positions of President, Secretary and Treasurer of the Dahlia Society of South Australia at various times from 1970 to 1983. He was senior judge for many years and educated all the aspiring judges of his time.

Gayner grew dahlias for well over 60 years. A supporter of lesser-known types, imported large numbers of Semi Cactus, Orchid, Stellar and Anemone cultivars. He also imported Fimbriated seeds from Cyril Higgo (South Africa). He was a compulsive hybridist, cultivars carrying the Gay, Derna, Acacia and Joy’s prefix. “Silver Gay”, chosen for the DSSA Logo & “Gay Twinkle” being two of them.

Gayner, known as the “Gentle Giant”, was awarded Honorary Life Membership of the Dahlia Society of South Australia. He was an outstanding exhibitor and senior judge. Gayner was awarded the Silver Medal of the United Kingdom for service to the dahlia, the Silver Medal of the National Dahlia Society of Victoria, the Gold Medal of the Royal Agricultural & Horticultural Society of South Australia for service to Horticulture, and the Order of Australia Medal for public service in accounting procedures and community service through the Horticultural Societies.

(Extract from an article in Tuber Talk, written by Gavin Woods)