

George Harding

(1921-2017)

George achieves a DSA Hall of Fame nomination for his outstanding contributions across breeding, exhibiting and judging dahlias.



Renowned as the breeder of all 'Formby' varieties, George would carefully plan his breeding program looking to replicate the best qualities of each parent variety. He would then take a meticulous approach to hand pollination, ensuring a completely controlled breeding process.

The evidence of his success is clear - in over 40+ years of breeding he named over 120 Formby varieties, many of which are still highly successful on show benches around Australia today and grown all over the world.

Perhaps the pinnacle for him was recognition in the USA where Formby Perfection was inducted into the American Dahlia Hall of Fame in 1990.

George was a first-rate exhibitor and refined his skills in ongoing battles with Charlie Smith across four decades. He won 22 Tasmanian Championships among countless other awards and still enjoyed staging blooms well into his eighties.

An eye for detail and a thorough understanding of the guidelines saw George become a highly respected judge and, importantly, he was always keen to provide constructive feedback, particularly with those who were just starting out on the exhibition pathway.

George enjoyed supporting new and aspiring growers with tubers and advice. He would always be on hand at shows to provide guidance with staging or information on how to get the most from dahlias in any garden.

George Harding has been one of the great contributors to dahlia culture in Australia and is a worthy addition to the DSA Hall of Fame.