

Queensland Dahlia Society wish to nominate
Neville Naumann for the DSA Hall of Fame Award.

Year of Nomination 2025

Outstanding contribution to dahlias in Australia as a hybridiser.

Neville hybridized over 60 different dahlia types in a period of approximately 20 years. The excellent quality of dahlias bred by Neville, provided many Champion and Grand Champion blooms in all classes of dahlias. All his dahlias were named for the suburb he lived in which was Bracken Ridge. I believe one of the best he bred was Bracken Joan, named after his wife Joan. It was a miniature decorative and won many champion awards at major shows. It is now part of our logo for the Queensland Dahlia Society and used on prize cards for our shows.

Neville was very particular in his breeding program and carefully chose the parents for the variety he was aiming for. All his stock was hand pollinated. Initially colour was not important but the number of petals and the shape of the petal was critical. He often commented that breeding for colour was not like mixing paint. He always bred to the particular standard to maintain the integrity of the type.

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

Neville was a very well-respected competitor at Dahlia shows and won many major awards at our various shows. He was particular in his staging, making sure his exhibit was correctly staged, suitably plugged to secure the exhibit and for the bloom to sit at a 45 degree angle to look at the judge.

As a dahlia judge he was meticulous about petal types in the different classes. Form was a critical criterium for his judging. He trained several new judges and would often, without being critical, critique their judging decisions in a friendly and constructive manner.

Outstanding contribution to dahlias in administration.

Neville was the President of the Queensland Dahlia Society for 28 years from 1967. In that period, he led our Society in many successful ways. He attended many conferences in other states and kept a close liaison with their members, paving the way for the success of our conferences.

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

During his time as President, Neville gave many talks at different clubs and Societies promoting the dahlia. During his talks he used colour transparencies to illustrate different petal types as well as types and form of dahlias and methods for cultivating them.

He was very approachable for new growers to glean advice on any aspect of dahlia growing.

Neville mostly grew his dahlias from green cuttings and frequently shared stock with members. He also believed that sharing his stock often enabled him to gain access again to ones that he may have lost.

Outstanding contribution in an active capacity in local societies.

Neville would regularly travel to different societies and clubs to give talks and demonstrations on growing dahlias. Usually showing club members the many different types and varieties of dahlias and how to grow them. It was not uncommon for Neville to pluck a petal from the bloom to show guests the particular requirement of the petal for the type.