

NGINA Life Member Citation

Gary Eyles

The recipient of this prestigious industry award has been involved in horticulture for over 45 years. Throughout this time, he has served the nursery and garden industry via broad participation in governance, lobbying and grass roots issues for both its members and industry participants.

He has been active in industry affairs since entering the industry and dedicated endless time to the Department of Agriculture in improving the quality of fruit trees supplied to industry.

He has served on the board of the NSW Propagators Cooperative Society from the late 1970's to 2000. He was vice chairman for all of the 1980s and chairman for 10 years through the 90s and was a strong supporter of the Horticultural Stock and Nurseries Act and a believer in nursery registration to encourage better practices. He is a longstanding member of the International Plant Propagators Society, and proudly a founding member of the International Society of Citrus Nurserymen, of which he has served as President until recently.

He has served as an NGINA Board member from 2006 -2012, served on the NGIA Board from March 2008 until 2011, is the nursery industry nominated representative to AusCitrus serving as a delegate for over 28 years and Chairman for 10. He has been an NGINA NIASA Committee member since 2000, is currently State Chair and has served as NGIA National NIASA Chair fervently supporting the future and adoption of accreditation amongst the nursery industry throughout NSW and Australia to the present day.

He willingly offers his knowledge and experience when approached to represent industry and is passionate about guarding against new exotic pests. He was instrumental in allocating an investment fund to further the NGIA Heather Rumsey award to support

the young leader program from the Rose and Fruit Tree Grower funds at the 2009 NGIA Conference.

Gary is committed to industry best practice and continuous improvement. All propagation material for AT Eyles which he and his wife Jan have run since 1981 after taking over from his Father Bob is obtained under the AusCitrus scheme which ensures continued high quality stock. Accreditation under NIASA guidelines was granted to the business in December, 1999.

In early 2001, AT Eyles received a production nursery of excellence award and in 2008 Gary was the recipient of the Tubestock Growers Group Outstanding Contribution to Horticulture Award. This was followed by an NGINA Award of Merit in 2011.

Together with his wife Jan, they have built an outstanding and innovative nursery business demonstrating best practice and the ability to adapt to market forces. He is an avid cyclist, husband, father, grandfather and mentor to many of the people who he and Jan have employed and dealt with in the industry.

He is a visionary and dedicated nurseryman who gives back to the industry that he has benefited from through his involvement in committees to grow and protect the industry. He instils a level of professionalism to the nursery and garden industry both here and internationally whilst being a truly humble gentleman.

Those involved in the nursery and garden industry today benefit from his dedication to serving the industry. The NGINA have pleasure in proudly announcing Gary Eyles as the recipient of the **NGINA Life Member** for his outstanding contribution to industry.



Presented by Doug Shelton, 20th November 2015

