



Nursery & Garden Industry Australia

Award of Merit - Citation

Dr Anthony Kachenko

February 2018

The Award of Merit recognises outstanding service to the Australian nursery industry and is awarded to individuals in areas of support to the industry such as the allied trades, education, research and development fields.

Having proven himself time and time again as an unwavering advocate for the industry, our recipient has worked tirelessly to improve outcomes for growers at both the on farm and broad industry levels.

In the early stage of his career our recipient undertook roles in both retail and production nurseries. At the same time, he completed an Honours Degree in Horticultural Science followed by a PhD through Sydney University.

He came to broader industry exposure however when he was appointed as NGIA's Environmental & Technical manager in October 2008.

In this role he took a lead in developing and implementing industry research, development and extension projects nationally. This included the management and continued development of the Nursery Production Farm Management System including NIASA, EcoHort and BioSecure HACCP.

Likewise, he kept abreast of broad trends likely to impact the industry and with consultation with industry established strategies and policy to ensure that the industry was well positioned to respond and adapt to current and future issues. This included managing relationships with a broad range of key stakeholders and advocating on behalf of the industry.

In 2012 our recipients work was recognised with an invitation to Ragu, Chile to present on Australian nursery industry research and best practice programs at the International Symposium on Plant Propagation.

2013 saw our recipient change roles and he became more focused on market development as the NGIA Research and Market Development Manager. In this role he became one of the early champions of the 2020 Vision. His passion in this area shone through and he established numerous relationships with government, researchers, the broader industry and other key sectors

promoting the benefits of plants. Our recipient was adept at bringing industry, researchers, government and users of green life together and acting as a conduit to share information and promote our worth.

From here our industry lost his direct day to day input, as our recipient progressed his career into Horticulture Australia Limited as the Research & Development Team Leader. In this role he has been integral in shaping the research and development which supports not only our own industry, but that of all Australian Horticulture.

Our recipient as you can well imagine has previously been awarded many other accolades including

- The Kendle Wilkinson award recognising an outstanding young scientist working in the horticultural sector who has demonstrated commitment to bridging the gap between science and farm best practice.
- The Standards Australia Young Leader Award for his work on developing an Australian Standard for Tree Stock for landscape use (AS2303:2015).

Our recipient continues to give back and he volunteers time to support various boards and committees such as Australasia-Pacific Extension Network (APEN) as a Board Director and the Australian Society of Horticultural Science (AusHS) as a Member of the Management Committee.

Some of you may even remember his past contributions as part of the NSW Next Gen group.

In all these settings our recipient continues to support our industry by advocating our importance to Horticulture and to the quality of life we have here in Australia today.

In recognition of his commitment and ongoing support to our industry can I please ask you to join me in congratulating tonight's NGIA Award of Merit recipient, Dr Anthony Kachenko.