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Consolidation

The National Rose Society of Australia is now in its third year of existence. The progress of the infant has been steady, if not spectacular. This is highly desirable as too rapid growth is likely to fail to lay down the durable foundations necessary for a healthy permanent life. The past year has been one of consolidation of the progress made since inauguration.

The second annual meeting of The National Rose Society of Australia was held in Brisbane and enabled delegates to get together both formally and informally. On the formal side, the first steps were taken towards the goal of uniformity of standards and judging. It was felt that this should be referred back to the State Societies to ascertain clearly their wishes on the matter before proceeding further as the National body has no desire to interfere with the autonomy of the individual State Societies. On the informal side the meeting afforded an excellent opportunity for fellowship amongst delegates and the chance to exchange views and ideas on many aspects of rose culture. The hospitality extended by The Queensland Rose Society was overwhelming and The National Rose Society of Australia thanks the host Society for this.

1975 is an important year in the Rose Calendar as the Second Australian Rose Convention is being staged by The Rose Society of Victoria. We are indeed fortunate that a number of famous rose personalities from overseas will be attending to contribute their knowledge and experience to the convention. Rosarians who are able to attend will have a unique opportunity of meeting their overseas and interstate counterparts and to take part in what promises to be an even more successful convention than the first one held in 1967. Progress in all aspects of human endeavour is frequently made when it is possible to have ready exchange of ideas and knowledge.

The spectre of increasing inflation, unemployment and associated miseries haunts us all. Let us hope that as 1975 progresses that these problems will gradually be mastered. In the meantime let us take comfort and distraction in our wonderful flower. I wish you all good rose growing.

ALLAN CAMPBELL, President.