



MR. G. F. MELVILLE, M.Sc.,  
President, The National Rose Society of Australia.

## *President's Message*

The rose has influenced the progress of mankind through past and present civilisations, through its beauty and its appeal to the human emotion.

The birth of The National Rose Society of Australia in 1972 saw the beginnings of a co-operative effort by the State Societies to spread the gospel of the great satisfaction and pleasures to be derived from the growing of roses. Man's destiny and purpose surely lies in creation; the rose has proved a wonderful medium to satisfy his creative urge.

This is the message I would ask all rose lovers throughout Australia to pass on to those who have not as yet experienced the great pleasure in the creation of beauty that is the rose.

In a world where many find difficulty in satisfying their creative instincts, the societies of rose lovers have a continuing commitment to influence others to share their satisfaction and pleasure. Perhaps in the past we have not as societies or as individuals spread our wings of influence into those fields where help is most needed. I would suggest we give thought to the younger generation, particularly at school age; also to delinquents of all ages in penal institutions; for surely delinquency in many cases results from lack of creative occupation in work and leisure; to the mentally and physically disabled who derive great hope for the future from nature's beauty; and perhaps we could consider the retired personnel in their use of extended leisure time.

During the past five years the National body has been led by rosarians of outstanding dedication. They have laid a solid foundation for future progress in fulfilling the objects for which the National Society was formed. The success of the recent Annual General Meeting held in Hobart, in achieving unanimity on matters that could have been quite contentious, proves the effectiveness of effort over these five years in creating a spirit of co-operation among the delegates representing the State bodies.

With your help I will do my utmost to maintain the high standard set by my predecessors and will strive to promote still further the aims and objects of the National Society.

May I take this opportunity of wishing you all a happy and satisfying New Year of 1978. And may your roses continue to delight you and reveal to others the wonder of nature.

GEORGE F. MELVILLE, M.Sc., President