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President's Message

At a time when all six member State Societies have been vested with the leadership of The National Rose Society of Australia, a time when the national organisation is now a soundly established and progressively active body, it is perhaps an appropriate occasion to pause and reflect back at what has been achieved since its history-making formation in 1972.

It really all began in 1970 when I undertook the visits and protracted negotiations with the six State Societies. The concept of a national organisation seemed remote in those two years preceding the foundation; there were times when the "vision splendid" was a little tamed and subdued. Nevertheless, at a meeting held at North Balwyn on November 4, 1972, The National Rose Society of Australia proudly and quietly came into being.

Since those days, many things have been achieved, some of which came relatively easily, others much more slowly. We now have complete unity throughout Australia, national judging rules, national rose championships, a national emblem, a national award and membership of the world organisation. But, above all these and other achievements, perhaps the greatest of them all has been the development of a common and strong fraternity among the rose societies of our great island continent, a situation hitherto non-existent.

The enthusiasm and the warmth of the welcomes engendered and extended by each member Society at the annual general meetings is, of itself, sufficiently indicative of the success and sincere fellowship that has developed in The National Rose Society of Australia. As the founder of this truly effective organisation, the immense satisfaction derived from its progress from doubtful beginnings to a mature organisation taking its stand among the rose-growing nations of the world, has been an unparalleled and fulfilling experience. The achievements of the Society during its first six years constitute a firm foundation for its lasting life and success.

My message for 1979 is that we continue to spread the gospel of the immense satisfaction and pleasures to be derived from the growing of roses. And, in developing and sharing among one another one of the most beautiful works of the Creator, it is surely not so remarkable that, among the many legacies that flow from this dedicated and rewarding pursuit, are included the great and rare attributes of untold happiness and peace of mind. My wish is that each one of us may long be spared to share in these glorious attributes.

B. J. T. STONE, President