



## The Australian Rose Award, 1985

Mr. Eric Welsh is best known as an outstanding exhibitor. From 1960, he has exhibited regularly at Rose Society, Agricultural and other shows and during that time has won many major awards, not only in New South Wales where he continues to be the most successful exhibitor but in other States as well.

Over the past twelve years he has been interested in hybridising and has bred and registered three new cultivars. They are, 'Wee Beth' (1980), 'Megan Louise' (1984) and 'Tracey Wickham' (to be released in 1985). 'Megan Louise' was selected by the New South Wales Rose and Fruit Tree Growers' Association as the 1984 Rose of the Year. Eric has donated the royalties from 'Megan Louise' to the National Rose Society of Australia. 'Tracey Wickham' is also under trial in Europe, New Zealand and U.S.A.

Eric joined the Rose Society of New South Wales in 1956, became a financial life member in 1961 and was awarded honorary life membership in 1982. He is a qualified judge of the Society and has also judged at interstate shows. He has made himself available at numerous Rose Society, Garden Club and similar functions as guest speaker and continues to do so at the rate of six to eight each year.

In 1970 Eric organised a very successful Australian Rose Championship show at Terrigal, New South Wales, which became the model for many State and National championships held since then.

He was a keen supporter of moves to establish the National Rose Society of Australia and has been a New South Wales delegate since its formation. He was President in 1982. He represented Australia at the 6th World Federation of Rose Societies Convention in Baden Baden in 1983 and was invited to judge at the international trial grounds in Baden Baden.

Eric Welsh's enthusiasm for roses and rose oriented activities is undiminished and he is an active member of the New South Wales Steering Committee appointed to organise the supplementary programme of events to be held in conjunction with the 8th World Federation of Rose Societies Convention in Sydney in 1988.