



## The Australian Rose Award, 1987

Mr. E. B. (Ern.) Pietsch joined the Rose Society of Victoria in 1960 and rapidly became a rose enthusiast. In 1970 he was elected to Council and was made Publicity Officer in 1971, serving in this capacity until 1974.

In 1974 he became Editor of the Australian Rose Annual and he has retained this position, having served fourteen years to date. He has been an excellent Editor maintaining a high standard and avoiding the rapid escalation in costs which is commonly encountered in such publications.

In 1978 he became, in addition, Editor of our quarterly "Rose News" and this has remained a continuing commitment occupying many hours of his time.

In 1979 he was made an Honorary Life Member of our Society. From 1980 onwards Ern has been one of the Victorian delegates at annual NRSA meetings. In 1982 he was honoured by the conferring of the prestigious Stewart Memorial Award.

As a rose exhibitor of specimen blooms and bunches Ern is in the top class. He is a bunch specialist and is rarely beaten at Victorian Spring and Autumn Shows. He has won the best bunch many times and sometimes stages the best rose in the show. He has exhibited successfully at interstate shows winning the Australian Bunch Championship and the Best Bunch at the 1986 Adelaide Show.

He is highly regarded as a rose judge and many believe him to be the best judge in Victoria. He is much in demand as a judge at metropolitan and country shows and he has judged at interstate shows. He is frequently asked to lecture and demonstrate at Garden Clubs throughout Victoria.

Ern's wide knowledge of roses, his prowess as an exhibitor and lecturer and his widespread popularity have brought him into touch with a high proportion of the rose community. He is a fine ambassador for the rose and is a worthy recipient of an Australian Rose Award.

— A. A. FERRIS