

The Australian Rose Award, 1988

We offer our congratulations to the following well known rosarians as worthy recipients of the Australian Rose Award.

Pat Dickson, Northern Ireland

Pat took over the breeding side of the old established Dickson nursery in 1977. It was not long before a long list of successful roses resulted. 'Memento', 'Beautiful Britain', 'Ard's Beauty', 'Ainsley Dickson', 'Gentle Touch', 'Brass Ring', 'Pot of Gold', 'Grandpa Dickson', 'Sea Pearl', 'Red Devil' and 'Precious Platinum' — the last mentioned proving a good source of breeding material for other leading hybridists.

Pat has had outstanding success in Great Britain Trials winning numerous awards.

He has given a great deal of his time to giving talks on and promotion of the rose. Pat was instrumental in the formations of B.A.R.B. to administer plant breeders' rights.

Sam McGredy IV, New Zealand

Sam's father died while he was young and the firm was kept going until he could take over by "Uncle Walter". Sam virtually had to start his breeding programme from scratch. It did not take long for him to gain success, winning hundreds of awards in Europe and America. Some of his most successful roses 'Orangeade' (Gold Medal in 1959), 'Mischief', 'Piccadilly', 'Elizabeth of Glamis', 'Paddy McGredy', 'Handel', 'Casino', 'Swan Lake', 'Shannon' and 'Evelyn Fison' were followed in later years by AARS winners 'Electron', 'Olympiad' and 'New Year'.

His most creative contribution to the rose world has been his "hand painted" roses which commenced with 'Picasso' followed by 'Old Master', 'Matangi', 'Eyepaint', 'Regensburg', 'Macspice', 'Priscilla Burton' etc.

Sam has also moved into the striped roses with 'Pluto', 'Minnie Mouse' etc. His book "Look to the Rose" has proved as popular as his roses.

All these achievements are more meritorious when it is realised Sam moved his rose breeding business from Northern Ireland to New Zealand in 1972.

He has served several terms on the Councils of the Royal National Rose Society and the New Zealand Rose Society.

Sam has always made himself available to lecture on and to promote the rose wherever it is grown.

Alain Meilland, France.

To follow in his famous father's footsteps Alain has had to reach a very high standard with his new seedlings.

Roses such as 'Papa Meilland', 'Sonia', 'Anne Marie Trelhslin', 'Gold Bunny', 'Chorus', 'Rusticana', 'Imperator', 'Maria Callas', and many more make a great contribution to the pleasure of rose lovers the world over.

He also produced some great miniatures commencing with 'Starina' and 'White Gem', and more recently a family of miniatures all with the "Meillandina" prefix. He too has written a book "Meilland — a Life in Roses".

Alain has always shown great business expertise with his outstanding leadership of the U.R.S. and his promotion of plant protection legislation. He established trial nurseries in France and Holland for assessing cut flower varieties, whilst he himself has approximately 100 acres of glass houses.

Jack Harkness, O.B.E., England.

A great contributor to the Rose World, both in giving it some great new varieties and in the literary field.

His creations led by 'Margaret Merrill', 'Compassion', 'Alexander', 'Mountbatten', 'Elizabeth Harkness', 'Anne Harkness' etc. have enabled Jack to win a total of 310 International Rose Awards since 1966.

Probably his greatest breeding triumph was to successfully raise seedlings from a related species "Hulthemia Persica". 'Tigris', 'International Herald Tribune' and 'Cardinal Hume' are just three of his seedlings originating from the breakthrough.

He was Editor of the Royal National Rose Society's Annuals from 1979 to 1983 and has written several books including "The Makers of Heavenly Roses", "The Rose", and "How to Grow Roses".

He was awarded an O.B.E. in 1986 for "Rose Breeding and Growing".

Jack was as much in demand as a Guest Speaker and Judge around the world as well as at home. He visited Australia in 1975.

Reimer Kordes, West Germany.

Following on in his father's footsteps Reimer commenced hybridising seriously around 1955 and like his father continued to produce high quality seedlings.

One of these seedlings 'Mercedes' was to become one of the greatest cut flower roses of all time. 'Iceberg', his first success, won many awards including W.F.R.S. Hall of Fame.

'Colour Wonder' a new colour break gave Reimer several new breeding lines.

Some of the best Kordes roses — ‘Peer Gynt’, ‘Friesia’, ‘Sylvia’, ‘Esmeralda’ (‘Keepsake’), ‘Shocking Blue’, ‘Marlene’, ‘Marina’, ‘Burgund 82’, ‘Loving Memory’, ‘Red Cedar’ grace gardens the world over.

Reimer also produced ground cover roses such as ‘Immence’ and ‘Heidesummer’ etc.

He became Managing Director of the family Company in 1964, a position he still holds.

Sean McCann, Ireland.

Sean through his literary talents, and love of the rose has done much to promote “the Rose”.

He has been a regular contributor to the Royal National Rose Society of Great Britain, The American Rose Society and the New Zealand Rose Society, as well he has written feature articles for Rose Societies etc. large and small, throughout the world.

With the increasing popularity of Miniature Roses he again produced an outstanding book “Miniature Roses for Home and Garden” which was published in 1985.

Sean in his quest to promote the Rose has given talks to Garden Clubs and Horticultural Organizations and Rose Societies around the World. Wherever he has been he has been much appreciated for his informative lectures, at times delivered with hilarious Irish wit.

Ralph Moore, U.S.A.

Ralph first became interested in roses when he saw ‘Cecile Brunner’ and ‘Rouletti’ in 1935.

After a brief affair with Hybrid Teas he went into business to breed miniatures in 1937. He introduced some specie roses into his breeding programme. Three of these — ‘Sierra Snowstorm’ (a seedling of ‘Dorothy Perkins’) ‘Rouletti’ and ‘Oakington Ruby’ were used for their miniature nature, and using large flowered roses in some crosses to increase seed production.

From his inspiration came such miniatures as ‘New Penny’, ‘Rise ‘n Shine’, ‘Easter Morning’, ‘Orange Honey’, ‘Baby Darling’, ‘Mr. Bluebird’, ‘Sheri Ann’ and many more.

Ralph also introduced Moss Roses into the breeding programme resulting in such beauties as ‘Fairy Moss’, ‘Dresden Doll’ and ‘Lemon Delight’. One of his greatest achievements was to make the giant breakthrough of producing the first genuine striped rose ‘Stars and Stripes’. This rose has in turn produced numerous striped roses for Ralph such as ‘Strawberry Swirl’ and ‘Earthquake’.

It has been used in breeding programmes by other leading hybridists to produce striped floribunds, shrub and large flowered roses.

Ralph Moore is truly man of great vision.