



## The Australian Rose Award, 1991

Following the approval of the development of the Victoria State Rose Garden at Werribee Park, by the Premier of Victoria, 14th April 1981, the State Treasury insisted that this community project be supported by the National Rose Society of Australia, providing expertise in design, planning, rose culture and the supplying of plants for the initial plantings.

Towards the end of 1981 planting season, plants were made available, providing labour was found to dig, label, tie and pack them ready for transport to Werribee Park. This project called for enthusiasm, a great physical effort, a long drive to Portland from Melbourne, hours of work and an overnight stay at one's own expense. The first man to volunteer was Ted Phillips.

This was not a 'once off' project but was repeated over the next four planting seasons, and resulted in the delivery to Werribee Park of over 6000 plants. During the years 1981-84, owing to delays in the Rose Garden development, these 6000 plants were installed in 'keeper' beds, and as permanent beds became available, plants were transferred to them, making use of unskilled labour provided by the Commonwealth Employment Plan. Each group of these young unemployed had to be taught the basics of rose culture.

Neglect due to lack of finance made 1985 a crisis year. Werribee Park, together with the Rose Garden was transferred to the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works.

It was decided with Ted's support to remake the whole garden. All plants were removed, the beds remade, and the plants replaced during June and July 1985.

The years 1981-85 were difficult both emotionally and physically. Extraordinary character and dedication to the rose were required and a grim determination to produce a worthwhile and lasting enterprise — a magnificent Rose Garden to promote knowledge, appreciation and enjoyment of the rose by the public, adding to the general quality of life. Since the 1985 're-planting' the chores of regular deadheading, summer trimming, winter pruning, tying of the  $\frac{3}{4}$  standards and weeping standards has fallen to three reliable and regular workers.

Ted has been a member of the Rose Society of Victoria for over 30 years. An outstanding exhibitor, both at home and interstate, he has specialised in bunches and mass rose displays, the type of exhibit most popular with the public. Always ready to assist new members and a good show judge. He has served on the Rose Society of Victoria Council 1960-72 and was Hon Treasurer 1972-75.