



The Australian Rose Award 1992 George Matthew

George Matthew has made an outstanding contribution to fostering the love of the rose. As a rose grower, exhibitor, administrator and teacher, his achievements are difficult to surpass. His dedication, enthusiasm, energy, skill and encouragement of others has resulted in a great leap forward for the Queensland Rose Society, and made it one of the strongest Rose Societies in Australia.

Not only has he given yeoman service to the Queensland Rose Society, but by being generous with his time and his knowledge he has encouraged the love of the rose and the practice of growing and exhibiting in North Eastern New South Wales, South East Queensland and the Darling Downs.

George has a long history of involvement with roses. As a youth back home in the twenties he was a member of the Horticultural Society of Swan Hill, his home town in Victoria, where he was an accomplished exhibitor, more than holding his own with senior members of the society.

In 1971 he moved his family to Brisbane and soon established a garden of some 300 rose bushes embracing large flowered roses, cluster flowered roses and miniatures experimenting with many new cultivars as the years went by.

After joining the Queensland Rose Society he was quick to make his mark and became an "A" grade exhibitor at the end of his first season. He brought to the notice of other rose growers any new cultivars that he found to be successful in our climate, so that better roses would be grown by all with whom he came in contact.

In recognition of his love of roses and his tireless work to promote the Queen of Flowers, George was honoured with Life Membership of the Queensland Rose Society in 1988.

Propagation is another of his interests, and he is constantly experimenting with different methods, and then passing his knowledge on to other rose growers.

He has fixed a number of sports, one of which Margaret Anne, he has registered. A bed of this cultivar was donated to the National Rose Garden at Werribee Park. He provided over a hundred bushes to establish a rose garden at the Toowoomba District Hospital.

George also serves the wider community. He was a leader in the action taken by our society to have Brisbane's famous rose gardens at New Farm Park completely replanted, and took an active part in the project.