



Mr Allan Read  
President, National Rose Society of Australia

## The President's Message

It seems so long ago since I joined what was then the National Rose Society of N.S.W. Who could have imagined the fantastic years that followed, growing and showing roses with the best exhibitors in NSW, when a hobby became a habit, and that in 1997 I would have the honour and privilege of representing the rosarians of Australia as National President. In this capacity I will continue to promote both the Rose Society and the Rose in particular.

Vast changes have taken place since exhibitions and bunch classes dominated the show benches, courtesy of the worlds greatest rose hybridizers and as a result the current range of roses is enormous and continuing to grow. Basically to-day we have a rose for every purpose and even with smaller building blocks roses can still be a garden feature.

The Australian Rose Breeders Assoc. has proved its viability in aiding the amateur as is evidenced by the number of Australian raised roses in the market place. Coupled with the opening of the National Rose Trial Garden of Australia in Adelaide during 1996 we can look forward to the introduction of more Australian bred roses. Our thanks to the N.R.S.A. and all State Rose Societies, in particular South Australia for their participation in the formation of this wonderful Emblem to the "Rose". A number of our current roses already represent many "Aussie" items such as, - Historic Events, Cities and Towns, Schools and Colleges, Medical organisations and/or procedures, Charities, and our many Celebrities.

Our explicit National Rose Standards and the scope of available varieties has seen rose shows emerge from the local hall into the commercial arena where magnificent displays by members, growers and nurserymen all working in harmony, supplements the exhibitors. This theme will be put into practice on October 25th and 26th 1997, when the Rose Society of N.S.W. Inc. hosts the A.G.M. and the Australian Rose Championships. The venue is Novotel North Beach Hotel at Wollongong 80km south of Sydney and home to the Illawarra Regional Rose Society. I extend a most cordial invitation to all rosarians to attend this annual event.

To all rosarians, have a successful growing year, be it for garden display or show bench. Don't forget growing roses is meant to be fun, so enjoy yourselves.

Allan Read, President