



## National Rose Society Service Award

James Lyall Priestly O.A.M., A.R.A.

At the inaugural meeting held in Melbourne, on 4th November, 1972, to consider the formation of the Australian Rose Society, Mr Priestly was elected as Secretary/Treasurer, of the organisation to be known as The National Rose Society of Australia. He has served in this position until 8th September, 2000 when due to ill health he was forced to resign.

During those 28 years, according to the Annual General Meetings' minutes, Mr Priestly has regularly received tributes for the able and efficient manner in which he handled the affairs of the Society.

In 1981 he received congratulations at the A.G.M., for his involvement in the initiation of the Victoria State Rose Garden at Werribee Park Estate.

He was actively involved with the eventual passing of the Bill for Plant Varieties Rights Legislation.

Amongst the many tasks he has undertaken :

- \* In 1985, he was appointed Registrar of Rose Names for Australia, a position he continues to hold.
- \* He has worked closely with the Editor of the Australian Rose Annual.
- \* As Secretary of this Society, he has been a member - ex-officio - responsible to oversee the awarding of the National's highest honour "The Australian Rose Award" which he received in 1979. In that citation it is recorded Mr Priestly "... has contributed substantially to the promotion of knowledge, appreciation and enjoyment of the rose by the Australian public." "Mr Priestly has worked untiringly to advance the objects and ideals of the Society throughout Australia."

It was unanimously agreed at the 28th A.G.M. of the National body held in Adelaide, that Jim Priestly receive the first "National Rose Society Service Award" for his outstanding and meritorious service to the National Rose Society of Australia.

**Malcolm Watson**