

The President's Message

Why has the rose enjoyed such worldwide popularity for so long? Will this popularity wane as we enter a new century? These questions have been asked before and I do not profess to have all the answers, but for a plant to have such wide appeal throughout the world, there must be factors enhancing its reputation. Its versatility, its wide range of colour, its extended flowering period, its perfume, its thorns, its forgiveness for bad pruning - some or all of these attributes must have some personal attraction to the grower. We are very fortunate in this country to have climatic conditions that suit growing roses to perfection.

Last November, we had the pleasure of being part of the centenary celebrations of the Rose Society of Victoria, the third oldest surviving rose society in the world. The week long activities, centred around the magnificent Royal Exhibition Building in Carlton Gardens in Melbourne, enabled members from our country and representatives of 15 other nationalities to come and celebrate 100 years of rose growing in Australia. On behalf of the National Rose Society of Australia, I extend our congratulations to the Rose Society of Victoria on this important occasion and, to everyone involved in the Convention, goes our sincere thanks.

On a very personal note, it was overwhelming to be presented with my Australian Rose Award medallion, in the presence of the President of the World Federation of Rose Societies and representatives of each member state at the closing banquet.

During my term of office, it is my intention to visit each member state and I look forward to meeting with fellow rosarians during those visits.

The National Rose Society of Australia will convene its next meeting in Adelaide during the holding of the International Rose Festival in October, 2000. The Rose Society of South Australia as the host, would be very pleased to welcome fellow rosarians from around the country and overseas.

May the enjoyment you receive from growing roses continue throughout 2000 and into the next century.

Malcolm Watson, President