



Mr. Bob Melville
President, National Rose Society of Australia.

The President's Message

The National Rose Society of Australia faces a new era of endeavours in this rapidly changing world. I am confident, however, in a bright future for the Society in all States, the key being unity and communication with our members and their changing needs.

Throughout the world today in all areas of commerce and life, 'Globalization' is the word on every one's lips. An exciting new era of the internet and travel has changed all our lives and my hope is that our Society will become a part of an ever-growing communication with a world-wide Rose Society.

While attending the World Conference of Roses held in France in 1999 and judging at the trial grounds in Glasgow in 2000, it became evident how many of our concerns are shared globally. All countries can benefit from insight into others' ideas and knowledge. Many overseas delegates have expressed their interest in attending this year's National Conference in Perth, witnessing first-hand how we grow roses in Australia. We look forward to welcoming these fellow rose growers.

I have had the great pleasure of visiting many beautiful and majestic gardens on my travels, which helped to remind me how blessed we are in Australia with our favourable climate which enables us to grow such magnificent roses.

I would like to take this opportunity to remember and give thanks to Jim Priestly who passed away this year. For 28 years, since the inception of the National Rose Society of Australia, he was our Secretary and Treasurer. His dedication in contributing to, and creating a sound foundation for the national body was monumental.

Congratulation is due to the Rose Society of South Australia on their Adelaide Rose Festival in 2000. An outstanding show was achieved and great initiative shown in obtaining support from their State Government. It will be a hard act to follow, however I hope to see many of our members at this year's Australian Championships in Perth, where we will be able to share ideas and strengthen our ties amongst the States.

Best wishes in the following year to all our members.

Bob Melville, President