

The President's Message

At a time when most capital cities of Australia are operating under drought conditions it is critical that all States promote at every opportunity the virtue of the Rose being a drought tolerant and water wise plant.

It has been a wonderful flowering and disease free year in South Australia and particularly in Adelaide as the water restrictions have re-conditioned the Rose growing public to deep water every two weeks rather than frequent light watering. Interestingly, in my previous garden of one acre under landscape with 350 Roses and a multitude of many other plants, the two plants that died were both natives?

My congratulations to the Rose Society of Victoria for hosting a very friendly and successful 35th AGM of the National Society in Melbourne. The food and wine was outstanding, great Rose Show and tours, with the icing on the cake being the visit to the Morwell Centenary Rose Garden. All Rosarians attending enjoyed the camaraderie and the opportunity to catch up with old friends.

It was a highlight to have Dr. Yuki Mikanagi from Japan, who gave a special presentation on "Rose Colours – When East Meets West," an intriguing talk, from a lady with a very bright and cheerful personality.

The strength of the National Society was evident at the AGM with all delegates contributing during discussion of the numerous agenda items. The financial position of the National Society is in much better shape with the acceptance of the proposal of sponsorship from Neutrog and a percentage of royalties from the sale of "Sudden Impact for Roses" fertiliser from each State being assigned to the National Body.

Congratulations to Mr. Ian Spriggs for being awarded the NRSA Service Award, and Mrs. Margaret Macgregor and Mr. Walter Duncan for being awarded the Australian Rose Award (ARA) also to Dr Bruce Chapman for being awarded the TA Stewart Memorial Award. They are all very worthy recipients.

During my time in office, it is my intention to encourage and help all States to include and/or increase the participation of the younger generation in our Rose Shows. We have to find ways of enticing our kids, even for a short time, away from the ever increasing time they are spending in front of computers!

I am looking forward to seeing you all in Adelaide for the 2008 AGM/World Federation of Rose Societies Regional Convention to be held from 23rd October to 1st November. The Rose Society of South Australia will be celebrating its Centenary so we are even more determined for you to be spoilt, pampered and given a great time.

Remember:

"A garden without a Rose is a garden without a soul."

Peter Burton
President



Mr Peter Burton

President of the National Rose Society
of Australia Inc

Photograph: Brenda Burton

Picking Roses

Whether you pick your roses from the garden or buy them from a florist, it is worth carrying out a few simple preparations to help make them last as long as possible. When picking from the garden, choose strong-stemmed buds that are just beginning to open. If you buy roses from a shop, make sure they have long stems and unblemished buds. Remove thorns and leaves that will be below water to prevent rotting. Cut the stem base at an angle and scrape away 5 cm of the stem for fast water uptake.
