

T. A. Stewart Memorial Award 2010

Mr. Peter Burton, Nominated by the
Rose Society of Victoria Inc.

Peter Burton joined the Rose Society of South Australia in 1983 but has been attending meetings and exhibiting at shows from 1977 as an affiliated member with the North East Hills Floral Society, now known as Tea Tree Gully District Garden Club Inc.



He was elected to Council in 1988 and served as a Council member until 1995. He was appointed Secretary of the Rose Society of South Australia in 1998 and served in that position until July 2002. Peter was elected President of the Society in July 2002-2005. He was granted Life Membership in 2006. Peter was elected as National President in 2007 for 2008. He did not seek re-election for Council in 2009.

He has served the Society as a delegate to the NRSA AGM's on five occasions and has represented Australia at

Four World Rose Conventions, Sydney 1988, Christchurch 1994, Benelux 1997 and Vancouver 2009.

Peter has been an active advocate for the Rose Society in many ways. He was actively engaged in the formation of both "Roses on Eyre" and "Top End Roses" branches. He also took an active part in the trial of Sudden Impact and was involved in the initial contract and agreement on its royalties. Along with other members he is responsible for the sound financial position of this Society. During his Presidency, he gave active support to the branches with visits and as a guest speaker at their gatherings. Peter was in the first group of members to become Accredited Judges under the scheme set up by Dr. A Campbell and Mr. R. Lucas.

Over the years he has been involved in many other activities. He organised the display at Elizabeth Civic Centre 1997, has been a Trial Garden Assessor for ten years, was involved in organising children's activities and competitions including Golden Grove Lutheran School and has been a demonstrator at Rose Pruning gatherings. He was S.A. representative for the Rose Breeders Association for a number of the early years. Along with the other eight committee members he made a significant contribution to the successful WFRS Regional Convention in 2008.

He is actively involved with Mr. Dean Stringer in the draft proposal for a revised NRSA *Judging Roses, A Handbook for Judges*. Peter is a RSSA Senior Judge and on the NRSA Panel involved in the accreditation of NRSA Judges. He was on the committee of the David Ruston Sculpture appeal, which has successfully raised over \$100,000.

Currently Peter is a member of the RSSA show committee, a much sort after guest speaker at Metropolitan and Country Garden Clubs and continues to be an outstanding exhibitor.

Above all, it is Peter's friendliness, quick wit and humour which makes members relax and enjoy both meetings and functions.

Peter is a worthy recipient of the T.A. Stewart Memorial Award.

Damask Roses

The Damask Rose is a spontaneous crossbreed of a Gallica Rose and the species *R. phoenicea*. Damask Roses are assumed to have been brought to Europe from the East by the Crusaders. Damasks are handsome shrubs with light pink, highly fragrant flowers. Autumn Damasks are less decorative, but hold the distinction of being the first repeat flowering roses to be grown in Europe, long before the introduction of China Roses in the 18th century. Damasks may already have existed in the West by the first century BC, as Virgil makes mention of a twice-flowering rose in the *Georgics*.
