

T. A. Stewart Memorial Award 2011

Mrs Norma Manuel, New Zealand

The New Zealand Rose Society has great pleasure in nominating Mrs. Norma Manuel for the T.A. Stewart Memorial Award. Norma is a highly regarded and much respected Rosarian both in the Auckland region and throughout New Zealand.



Norma at Ellerslie 2007 – photo Dawn Eagle

Forty-five years ago Norma joined the Tamaki Rose Society as a foundation member. Two years later in 1968 she joined the Auckland Rose Society and settled into the society life in a very short period of time. In 1969 she was voted onto the committee as Secretary, a position she held for the next 10 years. Norma has continued to be on the Auckland Society committee ever since (except for one year she spent away overseas). This is quite an impressive record of service.

She successfully mixed her secretarial duties with exhibiting and tending her modest rose garden, which contained approximately 200 Hybrid Tea and Floribunda roses. Currently, her garden is dedicated to about 150 miniatures and a few old favourite large roses thrown in for good measure. Norma's interest in roses saw her become a keen exhibitor and it followed from there when she decided to become a judge. She passed

her final National Judges exam in 1971. Norma has continued that enjoyment in judging by coaching and encouraging many interested Rosarians. Over the past 13 years she has been the Chairperson of the Auckland Region Judges' Panel and more recently she has served as Secretary of this group.

During the winter period Norma remains active by pruning roses for the public. This service by Norma earns valuable funds for the Society. In her capacity as Consulting Rosarian she is always willing to share her advice with others on the culture of roses. At the Society's annual Spring Rose Show Norma is always on hand to assist with any and every duty. She can be found doing anything from carrying trestles, laying drapes, sweeping floors or making tea for the workers and buttering the muffins she has made.

The Auckland Rose Society made her a life member in 1979 in recognition of her tireless work and contribution to the Society and to the rose. In continuing her work for the Society Norma accepted the task of Convention Organiser/Secretary for the New Zealand National Rose Society Golden Jubilee Convention held in Auckland in 1981. She also served on the New Zealand Rose Society National Council in 1982/83.

As President of the Auckland Rose Society between 2000 to 2003, Norma steered the Society out of its financial difficulties ensuring spending was carefully monitored. She has now served the Society in every other office bearing position including committee member, Treasurer, Show Manager and Newsletter Editor. She is currently Treasurer and Newsletter Editor.

As Convener and Convention Organiser of the 2004 World Federation of Rose Societies Regional Convention in Auckland, Norma ensured the event's success by her commitment and meticulous planning. Over a two year period she dedicated a large proportion of her time to this event. The World Federation of Rose Societies presented Norma with the World Rose Award for her outstanding contribution to this Convention.

Norma Manuel has given many years of dedicated service and over a long period of time has made an outstanding contribution to the rose. Norma received the Frank Penn Memorial Award from the New Zealand Rose Society in 2007 and the New Zealand Rose Award in 2008. If you ask Norma, she says she does it just for her love of the rose and for the lovely friendships she has made over the years.

Experience is the thing you have left when everything else is gone
