

The President's Message 2012

It is indeed both an honour and a privilege to serve as President of the National Rose Society of Australia in its fortieth year. My involvement in the administration of Rose Societies is almost identical with the longevity of the National Rose Society of Australia, and my personal observations will appear in a separate article within the Annual.

It has been an enormously productive year culminating in a wonderful programme of events at the 39th NRSA Meeting in Guildford, Perth, Western Australia. Our very sincere thanks go to Vivienne Etter and all members of her team. The hospitality and comradeship was magnificent. Where would we be without such wonderful events and the lovely friendships we have made?



In front of "Victoria Gold" at Kevin and Sarah Molloy's – photo the editor

Special mention must also be made of Dean Stringer and Peter Burton for the combined work they have put into the revision of the National Handbook for Judging Roses. I think we sometimes forget the enormous contribution both the National Editor and the National Secretary make to our Society. Where would we be without such wonderful people.

The drought has certainly broken and the growth on the rose plants has been the best it has been for many years. I visited and observed some wonderful private gardens during our visit to Perth and the South West. Much tougher conditions are experienced there compared to most areas of the East Coast. The Rose is such a wonderful flower and so versatile. It seems to adapt to all forms of climatic conditions.

Congratulations to Delma Matthews and Peter Burton, who have both been presented with the Australian Rose Award for 2011. Congratulations also to Norma Manuel from New Zealand, who has been the recipient of the TA Stewart Memorial Award for 2011.

I would like to take this opportunity to mention the volunteers, whether it be with the three magnificent public rose gardens we have in Victoria, or volunteers for the work and promotion of the rose generally. They, I feel, are what it is all about - giving their time and energy freely for the love of the rose.

The 16th WFRS World Rose Convention in South Africa (11th—18th October, 2012) is almost upon us. I would urge everyone that can attend to do so. It will be a once in a lifetime experience to meet up with many friends from abroad and experience many of the cultural activities South Africa has to offer. Please visit the website www.worldrose.org for details.

Finally, the Rose Society of Victoria Inc. would like to invite everyone to attend the 40th birthday celebrations of the National Rose Society of Australia in Melbourne from 9th - 12th November, 2012. A wonderful programme of events has been arranged including visits to the Victoria State Rose Garden and the Mornington Botanical Rose Garden. The 40th Annual General Meeting will be held at the main venue for functions, the Buckingham International Hotel in Highett, commencing at 9am on the 11th November, 2012.

Looking forward to seeing you all in Johannesburg and Melbourne.

Lets celebrate together **Forty Years of the National Rose Society of Australia.**

Rosey regards,

Ian Spriggs