

RUTH WATSON

The Rose Society of South Australia Inc has much pleasure in nominating Ruth Watson for the National Rose Society of Australia Inc 2014 Australian Rose Award.

Ruth has been active in the 'Rose World' since joining The Rose Society of South Australia in 1986. Her knowledge of rose culture and Society matters at State, National and International levels is invaluable.

Ruth was awarded Life Membership of the Rose Society of South Australia in 2000 in acknowledgement of her outstanding contribution and tireless commitment to the Society.

On behalf of the Rose Society of South Australia Ruth has:

- Without the aid of a computer or printer, assisted with the production of the Rose Society of South Australia's 'Bulletin' for 9 years
- In 1989 co-founded the "Secretary's Bus Tours", and co-convened until 2004 a travel group which included local, interstate and overseas excursions, e.g. the World Rose Convention in New Zealand 1994. The group now operates under the name "The Rambling Rosarians" and continues to the present time
- Conducted workshops on floral art as well as co-ordinating floral displays at rose shows and shopping centres
- Was instrumental in forging a very strong alliance between the Woodville Academy of Floral Design and the Society at the Adelaide Rose Festivals, Rose Shows and the 2008 WFRS Regional Convention
- Provided Secretarial and Administrative support for the 1993 and 1995 Adelaide Rose Festivals – the duties for the first Festival being undertaken without the use of a computer or printer. When offered an \$1800 honorarium following the successful completion of the 1993 event, Ruth refused to accept the offer and donated the funds to the Society's Trophy Trust Fund
- Was instrumental in forming the Society's "catering division" and co-ordinated this activity for the Society's twice annual Rose Shows and other events for 8 years. Ruth was also involved with introducing the provision of light refreshments at the conclusion of the Society's monthly meetings
- Member of the Editorial Committee which produced the Society's History Book providing considerable material and historical knowledge as well as proof reading draft copies
- Member of the co-ordinating committee of the hugely successful WFRS Regional Convention held in Adelaide in 2008
- Distributed the Australian Rose Annual to Society members for several years
- To ensure senior Members, who were unable to attend our evening events, continue their association with the Society, Ruth instigated the annual holding of a day function, initially for those over 80 years. These proved extremely popular with this group.

On behalf of the National Rose Society of Australia Ruth has:

- Filled the position of Secretary/Treasurer during 2000 following the resignation of Jim Priestly due to ill health
- Attended NRSA AGM's from 1996 to 2013 (excluding 2010) including 6 years as Secretarial Assistant
- Written a number of articles for the Australian Rose Annual

On behalf of the World Federation of Rose Societies Ruth has:

- Attended WFRS World Rose Conventions – 1988 Australia (Sydney); 1994 New Zealand; 1997 Benelux; 2000 USA; 2003 Scotland; 2006 Japan; 2009 Canada; 2012 South Africa - attended events in 1988, 1994, 1997, 2000, 2003 as a delegate and 2006 as one of the Australian Delegates
- Attended WFRS Regional Conventions - 1999 Australia (Victoria); 2004 New Zealand; 2007 Luxembourg; 2008 Australia (Adelaide); 2010 China; 2014 Spain
- Attended International Heritage Conferences – 2007 France; 2011 Japan; 2013 Germany
- Provided Secretarial support to the WFRS Executive Director from 2006 to 2014

In recognition of her dedication to the Rose - through our Society, the National Rose Society of Australia and the World Federation of Rose Societies, Ruth was awarded the World Rose Award in 2012 which was presented to her at the WFRS World Rose Convention, RosAfrica.

Ruth has a genial personality and natural mentoring skills; is a quiet achiever seeking no recognition for herself. Ruth continually gives support and encouragement to everyone at State, National and World levels, therefore being a true Ambassador for the Rose and for all Rosarians.

It is an honour to have Ruth as a member of The Rose Society of South Australia Inc; a person whom we consider to be a most worthy recipient of the 2014 Australian Rose Award.

With kind regards
Jill Meyer,
Secretary