

# Australian Rose Award 2018 (ARA)

## Vivienne Etter ARA - Western Australia



Vivienne Etter and her husband Ruedi have been active members of the Rose Society of WA (RSWA) since July 1981. Vivienne became an RSWA Council member within a couple of years of joining and has remained on the Council since that time in a full gamut of roles.

In 1980, Vivienne and Ruedi started growing roses on Fortuniana rootstock in the back yard of their suburban home. After study and mentoring by Mr George Melville, they worked on the weekends with 3 young children in tow. In 1984 they established the Swiss Rose Garden Nursery in Armadale WA and have continued to produce roses grown on Fortuniana rootstock for the West Australian market. Vivienne & Ruedi currently produce more than 700 varieties of roses, many of which are no longer grown commercially, or in some cases, nowhere else in the world. Their intention is to maintain many of these older Hybrid Teas and Floribunda

roses for future generations.

In 2010 Vivienne became President of the RSWA. Her excellent leadership and tireless volunteering has seen the RSWA prosper and grow. It is now a very successful Society that has benefitted greatly from her vast knowledge about roses, and willingness to share that information. She gives her time and expertise to advise, promote and include members and the public in various aspects of rose growing. Vivienne supports the two RSWA shows every year by donating many beautiful roses to display on the benches for public appreciation. She also provides rose bushes for sale at these biannual shows for RSWA fundraising, as well as donating a different rose bush each month as the door prize for the RSWA general meetings.

Vivienne is very active locally in the public eye, giving many talks about roses to garden clubs, not for profit groups, and on radio and television gardening programs. She also gives demonstrations on pruning as well as providing talks on rose care. Vivienne has assisted Araluen Botanic Park with the planning of some of their renowned rose beds, grown particular heritage roses for Araluen and for Heritage Roses in Australia for Perth and Albany projects. She is also assisting in Araluen's nomination as a garden of excellence, as well as establishing a Rose Memorial Garden in memory of her late Father who was a long-standing member of the RSWA, a Past President, and a Senior Judge.

Vivienne is a nationally accredited rose judge and on the National Panel of Judges, as well as acting as Chief Judge in WA when required. She judges roses at RSWA rose shows and monthly meetings. She has been instrumental in organising judging classes in WA so that interested RSWA members can increase their judging skills. This included

hosting Judges from the Eastern States at her home and nursery.

Vivienne is a Past President of the National Rose Society of Australia (NRSA). Under her guidance the RSWA Council staged a very successful NRSA AGM and Australian Championship in Guildford, Western Australia in 2011. It was also the RSWA's 80th Anniversary Celebrations. In 2016, she was again instrumental in organising another very successful NRSA AGM and Australian Championship in

Sorrento, Western Australia, despite very cold weather that restricted the number of blooms on benches. The many events were all well attended; a great time was had by all attendees.

Vivienne and Ruedi have also hosted in their home 2 World Federation Presidents: Sheenagh Harris from South Africa, and Steve and Susie Jones from America. She organised functions so that RSWA members could interact with the World Federation Presidents and provided the visitors with lasting memories of Western Australia to take home with them.

In 2014 the Rose Society of WA had the pleasure of awarding Vivienne Etter Life Membership in recognition of her many years of service to the Society, and her valuable contribution to the promotion of the rose. For this exemplary work, we would like to nominate Vivienne Etter for the Australian Rose Award as she has been, and remains, a stalwart of the RSWA and very generously supports the Society and the rose in so many ways.



## Become a 'Friend of the Federation' & Support the WFRS

Your donation will assist the WFRS to fund the Federation's work for educational advancement, research, friendship and enjoyment of the rose.

'Friends' initial donation - £30.00 (GBP)

Renewal - £25.00 (GBP)

'Friend for Life' - £200.00 (GBP)

Donations renewable at each tri-Annual World Rose Convention.

### As a 'Friend' you will receive:

A direct electronic copy of 'World Rose News'

Updated list of other WFRS 'Friends'

Exclusive invitations to 'Friends Only' activities

including an invitation to attend a 'Friends Only'

Supper' in conjunction with the National Rose Society of Australia's AGM Weekend

**For Further Information, Payment Details and Application Form** visit the WFRS website

[www.worldrose.org](http://www.worldrose.org)