

NRSA President's Message

Colin Hollis ARA - New South Wales

Photo: Susan Wade



When I joined my local Rose Regional in 2002, little did I dream that I would eventually lead my State and now The National Rose Society a great privilege and challenge.

As I have moved from exhibiting to a more administrative role within the organisation I have become increasingly aware of the many challenges facing organisations such as ours.

It seems to me, given the age of most of us, adapting to new technology can be a challenge, but change has always been part of life, and once mastered enough to suit our needs, we wonder why we were so fearful of it.

Climate change is also a reality, hopefully most of the sceptics have finally been silenced and instead of denying the obvious will start to look at possible ways of adapting our horticultural endeavours to this new reality. That is why part of the Speakers Programme at the 2020 Conference will be devoted to growing roses with an awareness of the changing climate and environmentally friendly care.

I thank my predecessor Gavin Woods for the outstanding Leadership he has given our organisation over the past year. South Australia as promised did deliver a fantastic weekend of roses during the 2019 AGM, made even more enjoyable by the presence of World Federation of Rose Societies President, Henrienne de Brier

For New South Wales members it was especially exciting to learn that Mrs Linda Hurley had accepted the invitation to be our National Patron. During the time General Hurley was Governor of NSW some of us worked closely with Mrs Hurley on her initiative to have a rose to commemorate the wives of former Governors of NSW. It was an exciting day when Mrs Hurley planted the rose 'The Governor's Wife' in the Garden at Government House Sydney.

I was humbled to be honoured with the NRSA's Australian Rose Award. It is daunting to think I am joining the ranks of NSW friends I have long admired for their contribution to the rose world such as Graham Wright, Sue Kingsford and Judith Oyston.

I look forward to welcoming rosarians to "Roses by the Sea" Australian Rose Championships at Kiama in October 2020. With our main focus over the next two years on the 2021 World Rose Convention hosted by the NRSA in Adelaide we see Kiama as a Curtain-Raiser to the Adelaide gathering. There is so much to see and do in the Kiama area we hope many visitors will extend their stay a few extra days.

Cover

Front - **The Governor's Wife** - Australian bred rose by Richard and Ruth Walsh

Back - Victoria State Rose Garden - photo by Christine Menegazzo