

NRSA President's Message

Gavin Woods - South Australia



What a thrill and honour it is to be President of our organisation in this our 50th Year. Many former giants of the rose world have gone before me, most of whom I did not know but who's legacy has been well documented both within the pages of "The Australian Rose Annual" and through other sources.

It has taken 50 years of hard and dedicated work by those leaders to bring us this point. We are fortunate to have well established organisations and structures to guide our officers and members. I would like to commend our Past President Colin Hollis for maintaining the momentum during challenging times. Our National Show and annual meeting have been cancelled twice; however we all hope to finally meet in Kiama in April to finally celebrate Colin's presidency.

The last two years has been like no other in our 50 year history, thanks to a new virus that has devastated many parts of the world. Australia has been fortunate, due in my view to good governance and lucky geography; to escape relatively lightly when compared to other countries. Still our state and regional societies have done it tough with many unable to meet face-to-face for protracted periods of time. This has given opportunities for creative thinking, with on-line meetings the norm. The resumption of some sort of normality such as group gatherings and shows has been celebrated with great delight. Rosarians are in general social individuals; no doubt there was much to catch up on!

The overarching obligation of all our groups is to present the rose in all its forms to the public and that is precisely what we hope to do in October 2022 by offering a convention of world class for the World Federation of Rose Society's. We in Australia are not strangers to showcasing the rose to the world, with former conventions held in Melbourne, Sydney, and Adelaide. Australian Rosarians are prominent on the world stage, representing the NRSA with distinction for our entire 50 years.

It will be my pleasure to welcome international and Australian Rosarians to Adelaide for our Spring flush of roses, showcasing the best Adelaide, "The City of Roses" has to offer. Much dedicated work has been undertaken by a small band of volunteers to make the vision a reality. Whilst the threat of COVID-19 is omnipresent, we cannot allow that to spoil our party! There will be a mighty celebration in Adelaide beginning October 27th; I can promise you that you will be sorry of you miss it!