

Queensland Rose Society Inc.

Nomination of : Mrs Shirley Dance for the award of the Gold Medal of the National Ros Society of Australia Inc. (known as the Australian Rose Award A.R.A.).

The members and Committee of the Queensland Rose Society Inc. believe Shirley Dance is a perfect candidate for the ARA Award given the number of years she has dedicated herself to sharing her knowledge and appreciation of the rose to the general public. Her love of the rose and her passion has helped many others to care for and stage their roses with her valuable advice and encouragement.

In 2002 Shirley attended the Autumn Rose Show at the Mt Coot-tha Botanical Gardens. She met with Joyce and Fred Halfpapp who were long standing members of the Queensland Rose Society. In that year Shirley and her husband Bevan commenced exhibiting roses, together with the advice of Tony Stallwood who was President at that time.

Today, Shirley has exhibited at every Monthly Show; the Autumn and Spring Rose Shows, together with exhibits at the Darling Downs Shows and the Gold Coast Rose Shows.

Shirley gives freely of her time as a true Team player. At all shows she is there early, assisting with setting-up and the last to leave packing up. She assists with the preparation of refreshments for members, exhibitors and visitors.

Shirley contributes articles for the Quarterly Newsletter of the Queensland Rose Society regarding local activities and interesting insights following her overseas visits. She has contributed articles to the Australian Rose Annual on many occasions.

Shirley has assisted her husband Bevan in his role as Queensland Rose Society Secretary from 2009 to 2019. She continues in the role of Assistant Secretary. Given her experience as a rose grower, she has extensive knowledge of products, fertilizers and a trusted relationship with Suppliers. Her knowledge is invaluable as she sources Sponsors and product for our Autumn and Spring Rose Shows. Her contribution therefore ensures a successful outcome for Exhibitors; with guaranteed continuity.

In 2013 Shirley gained the confidence to give presentations not only to our QRS Autumn and Spring Shows, but also to local Garden Clubs on the growing and caring for roses. She provides talks on bare-rooted planting, through to workshops on pruning. Shirley together with Bevan's support presents to an average of twelve (12) garden clubs per year. Her presentations have taken place at Garden Expo Events (Toowoomba, Marburg) local Church Groups; Aged Care and Retirement Village residents as well. She has presented to the Garden Club at our local Bunnings Stores, who again are very appreciative with their donations.

Promoting the rose : Shirley has set up and maintained the QRS Display at the two day event by the Queensland Council of Garden Clubs for many years. This involves meeting with the public and answering question; initiating contact and promoting membership of QRS. She is also an integral part of the team at the QRS display at the annual Brisbane Royal National Show (EKKA) which runs for 8 days also meeting the public and imparting her knowledge, love and care of roses.

Shirley needed to take her passion further and is now a fully trained Rose Judge. She has judged the QRS' Autumn and Spring Shows; the Darling Downs and Gold Coast Annual Shows. Shirley most recently assisted with the judging of the new rose cultivars in the National Rose Trial Gardens, at the Botanical Gardens in Adelaide in November 2022.

Shirley is QRS Club judge at show bench meetings. She is always ready to assist new exhibitors; with techniques and support for setting up. She is knowledgeable, as a champion rose exhibitor, with the categories and appropriate section for entries by new exhibitors. She provides a great role model and mentor for new members. In 2018 Shirley was awarded Life Membership with the Queensland Rose Society for her contribution and promotion of the Rose Society.

Over the last 20 years, Shirley, together with her husband Bevan, have attended many International, National and State Rose Society Conferences. Shirley and Bevan have attended World Federation Rose Society Conferences in France, China, Denmark. Shirley and Bevan were present at the official opening of the International Rose Museum in Daxing, Beijing, China in 2016. In 2017 Shirley prepared an article for the Qld Quarterly Magazine on their experiences at the WFRS Convention in Beijing. In 2018 Shirley and Bevan were present at the 18th World Rose Convention in Copenhagen when the Queensland State Rose garden in Toowoomba won the WFRS Award of Garden Excellence.

Shirley has prepared articles for publication, including the 2015 NRSA Conference at the Gold Coast, Queensland; and the 2022 WFRS Convention held in Adelaide. Shirley has written many articles for the Australian Rose Annual sharing her experiences; following her travels through rose gardens from Rome (Italy) through to Lyon (France) in 2015.

Shirley Dance is considered a worthy recipient of the Australian Rose Award.