

The Australian Rose Award, 1985

Mrs. Heather Rumsey has been involved in the promotion of the rose for the enjoyment of the public since the mid 1950's and has continued to do so ever since. She has been actively involved in staging displays at Rose Shows in many areas of New South Wales, and has been instrumental in encouraging better staging of many trade displays.

She has helped to develop interest in miniature roses. She encouraged the production of miniatures by striking cuttings as a commercial proposition and so maintained the more miniature size of the bushes and was instrumental in encouraging the Rose Society of New South Wales to establish classes for these roses in shows.

She has organised interest by other nurserymen in improving root stocks and propagating methods and has been a leader in methods of reduction of the transmission of disease in the propagating process and has organised meetings, field days and latterly a seminar at Massey University in New Zealand for this purpose.

She took an active part in the formation of the National Rose Society of Australia and has been a delegate of the Rose Society of New South Wales since 1977, attending meetings of the National body in all capital cities of Australia.

She is a frequent lecturer on roses and has given many demonstrations to Garden Clubs, promoting interest in the Rose by the public.

She worked very hard in the promotion of Mr. Eric Welsh's rose 'Megan Louise' — the royalties from which are to go to the National Rose Society of Australia.

For many years, she has published with her husband Roy, an article on new roses for the coming year in the Australian Rose Annual which is carefully studied by all keen rosarians.

She has built up a large collection of old roses from many parts of the world, thus helping to maintain a pool of this very important group.

She was a member of a small but active band of Australians who travelled to Baden Baden last year to attend the 6th World Convention and has attended similar meetings in New Zealand.

Heather helped promote the planned holding of a World Rose Convention in Sydney in 1988 as part of the Bicentenary celebrations and is now deeply involved in the on-going planning for this event.