



The Australian Rose Award 1997

The National Rose Society of Australia has granted Mr Robert Melville the Australian Rose Award in recognition of his work for **The Rose**.

Robert Melville, President of the Rose Society of Western Australia, has been an active member of the Society for over 30 years. He was first elected to the Society's council in 1979 and in 1980 became a Vice-President, holding that position continuously until 1996 when he was elected President.

Robert is Managing Director of Melville Nurseries Pty Ltd, one of the major rose producing firms in Western Australia, and over the past decade has developed the nursery at Carmel, in the Perth hills, to its present status as a popular location for both local residents and tourists to visit and enjoy the vista of thousands of roses flourishing in the surrounds of the eucalypt forest of the Darling Range. An area of the gardens has been specially landscaped as a venue for weddings and similar functions.

Robert's experience and expertise in his chosen field has established his reputation as a producer of top quality roses, and he is often called upon as a guest speaker by horticultural and other groups throughout Western Australia. He willingly travels around the State to fulfil the many invitations he receives to speak on roses. His support of local horticultural societies is well known and he is always willing to provide trophies or other sponsorship whenever his assistance is sought.

He is concerned to assist people with disabilities, his involvement stemming from experiences involving family and friends, and disabled people are employed in the nursery whenever possible.

Robert is an experienced judge and was appointed to the Society's judging panel in 1981.

He has assisted with the writing and editing of the Society's handbook on growing roses in Western Australia. "The Rose Garden", is now in its 4th edition, and continues to be in demand by local rose growers.

Mr Robert Melville is an outstanding contributor to the promotion and cause of the Rose.