



Australian Rose Award Award 2008

Barry William Johnson

Barry William Johnson joined the Rose Society of Victoria in 1984. His energy, knowledge and enthusiasm saw him elected to Council in 1986. When the president, Trevor Grant, transferred to Sydney in 1989, Barry captured Trevor's drive and vision, and was elected as president, an office he held for 11 years.

Barry appreciated the whole spectrum of roses, and his vigour and strong people skills and connections, raised the profile of the Victorian Society. An outstanding photographer, Barry was a most skilled and highly sought-after speaker and demonstrator, traveling far and wide to promote the rose. With his keen wit, Barry was most entertaining in his presentations at society and industry functions.

The week-long rose display at David Jones city emporium (which went for two years), originally negotiated and arranged by Trevor Grant, became Barry's responsibility, for maintenance of the display. The resultant significant profit saw the Society purchase new cloths for the show tables, display tubes and other capital items.

Barry was president of the RSV during Roseweek'99, celebrating the centenary of the Rose Society of Victoria Inc.

The Bicentenary Rose Garden, Ivanhoe (opposite Barry and Lesleigh's home) established in 1988 was Barry's concept, and planting and maintenance have been his responsibility. The Morwell Centenary Rose Garden largely owes its existence to Barry's vision, material contribution, on-going advice and negotiations to maintain the gardens by persons serving out their judicial sentences through the Community Based Order system. Barry was also responsible for the design of the newly established Mornington Botanical Rose Garden and for the selection of the roses planted.

An excellent judge, radio personality, host, speaker and having a good appreciation of commercial possibilities, marked Barry's 11 years as President in an exciting period for the Victorian Society's history.

President of the National Rose Society on two occasions, Life Membership of the Victorian Society and the very prestigious award of the John Pascoe Fawcner Gold Medal for distinguished service to horticulture were among other highlights recognizing his contribution.