

Australian Rose Award 2019 (ARA)

Steve Beck ARA - Victoria



It is with great pleasure that The Rose Society of Victoria Inc wish to nominate Mr Steve Beck for the Australian Rose Award for 2019.

Steve grew up in Dorset, England and developed a passion and love of roses from an early age both from his mother and grandmother to whom he was very close.

Since arriving in Australia, he has become a leading authority on roses, especially species and heritage roses.

Steve joined The Rose Society of Victoria Inc in 1994. He became a member of Council in 1997, Vice-President in 2002 and served a term as President from 2003-2005. He was awarded Life Membership in 2005.

In 2005 he moved to the Southern Highlands, NSW, to expand his business, Roses and Friends, with Sue Kingsford. This business has introduced many new and rare varieties of roses from overseas breeders including Chris Warner and Horner Roses. These roses have had great success and have received many awards at the National Rose Trial Gardens.

Steve is a very active member of Heritage Roses in Australia Inc and became Co-Ordinator of the Illawarra/Southern Highlands Group in 2008 and currently holds this position. He was the HRIA Inc President from 2015-2016.

He was also the Co-Convenor of the very successful 13th Biennial Conference of Heritage Roses held in Mittagong in 2016.

Steve is also a sought after speaker and has given talks to many garden clubs and other organisations to promote the rose. He has published many well-written articles, both nationally and internationally, a testament to his background in English literature. He has mentored many people and is always happy to share his great knowledge and to give advice to others.

Steve has been attending the Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show for many years representing and promoting roses to a wide audience.

Steve is very involved in the protection and conservation of the David Ruston Heritage Rose Collection from Renmark. He is currently managing the database for this collection which lists the names, details and locations of these roses which is a very important resource for now and for the future.

Steve was one of the contributing authors of "500 Popular Roses for Australian Gardens" published in 2001. In addition, Steve has given demonstrations on pruning roses at Burnley College, University of Melbourne.

The Rose Society of Victoria believes that Mr Steve Beck has made an outstanding contribution to the rose and would be a most worthy recipient of this award.