



Mr. G. F. Melville

T. A. Stewart Memorial Award and The Australian Rose Award, 1985

Mr. G. F. Melville of the Rose Society of Western Australia was awarded both these high honours for 1985.

George Melville has been interested in roses all his life. He has dedicated himself to the promotion, knowledge, appreciation and enjoyment of the rose by the general public. This service, commenced many years ago, has been even more active since the inauguration of the National Rose Society of Australia in 1972.

He has assisted in the establishment of public rose gardens at Kalamunda Hospital, Perth Modern School, Nulsen Haven and the Anglican Church. He was responsible for the replanting of rose beds at the Peace Memorial Rose Garden at Nedlands and upgrading the area, helping to make it a place where the public could see and enjoy roses. Even more importantly he was active in intervening to prevent the site of the Peace Memorial Gardens being sold by the local council for housing sub-division.

He was President of the Rose Society of Western Australia 1975-79, during which time he has been a frequent and willing speaker assisting in the dissemination of knowledge of the rose. His advice and leadership has instilled a vigour into the Rose Society of Western Australia resulting in it becoming an expanding and active organisation in rose promotion and enjoyment.

He has been the Western Australian delegate to the Annual General Meeting of the National Rose Society of Australia since 1976 and has attended all meetings of the National body since then, involving journeys to all capital cities in Australia. He was President of the National Society of Australia in 1978 and again in 1984 and has been the guiding influence behind very successful meetings in Perth in both these years. He was instrumental in establishing the concept of a seminar to be held in conjunction with the Annual General Meeting of the National Rose Society of Australia as a means of further dissemination of knowledge and enjoyment of the rose. It is largely due to his influence that there has been a firm bond of friendship, knowledge and understanding established between the far extremes of this country in the rose world.

Closer to his home town of Perth, he has been very active in the promotion of *R. x fortuneana* as the only suitable understock for the sandy soils of metropolitan Perth and so assisting to dispel the previous commonly held belief that roses could not be grown in Perth, thus opening up enjoyment of roses for a large proportion of the Western Australian population.