



MR S.R. HEATHCOTE, S.M.A.

T.A. Stewart Memorial Award, 1995

Mr. S.R. (Ross) Heathcote of Victoria has been awarded this high honour for 1995.

Ross Heathcote planted his first seven roses in 1954 and joined the then National Rose Society of Victoria three years later. In 1959 he started to exhibit roses from his small inner suburban garden.

Ross joined the Council of the Victorian Society in 1970 and soon became in frequent demand as a lecturer, a demonstrator and a judge at horticultural societies, garden clubs and flower shows, both in suburban Melbourne and the length and breadth of country Victoria.

For the past 15 years, Ross has been the Area Representative to the Henty Rose Group in south western Victoria.

His ability to communicate at a 'down to earth' level prompted him to write the book "Roses - Practical Pruning and Planting". This book was published by the Rose Society of Victoria in 1988 and has been a runaway success selling many thousands of copies.

In July 1988, Ross assumed the Editorship of the quarterly magazine "The Victorian Rose News". In the intervening period he has more than doubled the size and improved the quality and content of the magazine.

Ross has been a regular contributor to The Australian Rose Annual. In 1992, Ross was elected a Vice President of the Society.

On the personal side, Ross is an all-round exhibitor at the Society shows, regularly staging miniatures, floribundas, and H.T.'s, both as exhibition blooms and as bunches.

The Rose Society of Victoria Inc. is gratified that Mr. Heathcote is the recipient of this, the highest honour that can be conferred upon a rosarian in Australasia.

