

TA Stewart Memorial Award for 2013

Kelvin Trimper ARA (SA)

Mr Kelvin Trimper has been a member of the RSSA for more than 25 years. During this period he has maintained an active role in the Society, being elected to council in 2006/2007 and as President in 2007. His leadership qualities were evident during the 3 years of his presidency when the Society held the very successful Regional Convention in Adelaide, which was acclaimed by International and Australian attendees as being the most successful convention held to date. Kelvin is currently serving his term as immediate past president.

In the 1990's Kelvin Trimper played a major role in establishing a relationship with Neutrog Fertilisers, who with a small group of members were instrumental in the development of "Sudden Impact For Roses". This subsequently resulted in a very generous sponsorship programme, which now provides funding for all State Societies and the NRSA.

In 2000 the Adelaide Botanic Gardens together with the State Government requested the RSSA to be involved in the establishment of the International Rose Garden within the Adelaide Botanic Gardens, where Kelvin Trimper was elected as chairman of the Adelaide International Rose Garden Advisory Committee. He took a leading role in the planning and development of this garden of over 7,000 roses. He was also involved with the Adelaide City Council in 1996 and 2010 for the refurbishment of the Rymill Park Rose Garden in the city's Parklands.

Kelvin Trimper has been a Board Member of the National Rose Trial Garden of Australia Inc. since its inception in 1995, and has been chairman for the past 12 years. This is some 17 years of service. During this period Kelvin has promoted the trial garden and the rose, resulting in increased applications for Australian Bred Roses, which now represent 25-30% of the average 55 cultivars planted each year. Kelvin was instrumental in the introduction of the yearly Public Judging of Roses event within the Trial Garden, which has been greatly welcomed by the public, resulting in 500 entries being received this current year.

Kelvin held discussions with the Adelaide Lord Mayor, which resulted in the yearly Trial Garden Awards Evening being held in the Adelaide

Town Hall, where the awards are presented by the Lord Mayor. This lifted the profile of the National Rose Trial Garden within Australia and internationally.



Veronica O'Brien presents Kelvin Trimper with his award.
Photo - Susie Jones

A significant milestone was reached in 2002, when Kelvin together with Dr. Tommy Cairns and Sam McGredy instigated the formation of the "Pacific Accords of Rose Friendship" for Regional Rose Trial Gardens. This agreement was signed in Gifu Japan in 2005, with Kelvin being Australia's signatory. This Accord is to exchange ideas between the following Rose Trial Gardens: National Rose Trial Garden of Australia Inc.- Rose Hills- USA, Gifu- Japan and Hamilton Rose Gardens- New Zealand. Each Trial Garden is promoting the rose by assigning special awards to the other participants.

Kelvin has been involved with the World Federation of Rose Societies, where he has been a speaker at the Regional Convention in Melbourne, Australia in 1999 - the Regional Convention in Auckland, New Zealand in 2004 - the World Rose Convention in Osaka, Japan in 2006, where he was appointed as a Member of the WFRS Classification/Registration Committee - the Regional Convention in Adelaide, South Australia in 2008 - attended World Rose Convention in Vancouver, Canada in 2009, where he was a NRSA voting delegate to Council and Standing Committee meetings. He was appointed WFRS Vice President (Australasia) - attended Regional Convention in Changzhou, China in 2010 - attended Regional International Heritage Rose Conference in Sakura, Japan in 2012.

With Kelvin's knowledge, personality and experience, he has arranged tours for Australian Rose Society Members and friends to attend World Rose Events in Changzhou, China in 2010, - and the World Rose Convention in Sandton, South Africa in 2012. This resulted in Australia being the country with the largest attendance at these conventions.

For many years Kelvin has been in high demand as a guest speaker, due to his vast knowledge of the rose and his outgoing personality. He has lectured frequently at RSSA Branches and at State Societies. His private garden at Salisbury Heights is recognized as one of the best in Australia, with in excess of 1700 roses. Kelvin also attends many pruning demonstrations.

When the David Ruston Sculpture was proposed, 2 members of the RSSA were requested to form part of the committee to raise funds and Kelvin was one of these. He was later elected as chairman and contributed greatly in successfully raising in excess of the \$100,000 required to complete this sculpture, which was unveiled in 2010.

As an excellent communicator, Kelvin is comfortable with a multitude of communication methods, including print, radio and television. Having formed relationships with media identities in SA over the years, he is often requested to fulfill media and speaking engagements relating to the rose and rose culture. One such example is his 3 years involvement with Radio Station 5aa and the top-rating radio gardening show "Michael Keelan's Weekend Programme." Kelvin introduced the "Rose of the Month" promotion which was so successful, he helped to produce the accompanying 2011 rose calendar published by SA Life, with acknowledgement and part proceeds going to the RSSA and Radio 5aa.

Kelvin has also written many articles for the RSSA Bulletin, the Australian Rose Annual, World Rose News and gardening magazines SA Life and SA Gardens. He has been honoured with the following awards:-

- 2005 - Award of Honour, Nursery and Garden Industry Association of SA.
- 2005 - Service Award, National Rose Trial Garden of SA.
- 2007 - Salisbury Living Legend, City of Salisbury
- 2012 Citizen of the Year, City of Salisbury
- 2008 - Fellow, University of SA.
- 2012 - Australian Rose Award.
- Life Membership of the Rose Society of South Australia was awarded to Kelvin in July 2012.

In view of the above mentioned facts it is believed that Mr Kelvin Trimper is fully deserving of this honourable award, and the Rose Society of South Australia Inc. is extremely proud that Kelvin Trimper has been awarded this high honour for 2013.