



MR. E. WELSH,
President, The National Rose Society of Australia.

President's Message

The year 1982 heralds the first decade of the National Rose Society of Australia. Well I remember attending the inaugural meeting of the Society in Melbourne ten years ago. At that memorable meeting the desire of all delegates to get the Society "off the ground" was evident, but one could also feel a sense of anxiety or suspicion among the delegates that somehow one State would gain to the disadvantage of others. Thankfully, history has allayed all these fears.

Progress during the decade has been slow, for some of us too slow but the need to move ahead with caution and unity was foremost.

To me the Hobart meeting made the greatest single step forward when the first draft rules for judging were passed for circulation among the States for final acceptance.

Progress with Werribee Park is to be speeded up to have it ready for the sesqui-centenary celebrations in 1983. Initially several thousand rose bushes will be planted, later Trial Grounds for new varieties and root understocks will be conducted, a much needed amenity to assess varieties under Australian conditions.

It is hoped that eventually there will be trial grounds in all States as we have such vast climatic differences.

Looking ahead in 1982 we must go out and promote the Rose. Encourage your neighbours, friends and others to grow roses in their gardens. Get them started with a few hardy varieties which will reward them for their efforts and so create a desire to plant more. Help them with their rose troubles wherever possible. Get them to come along to the Rose Society and Garden Club meetings. If you live in a small area without these Clubs, form a Rose Club or Society among yourselves, even if there are only three or four interested people. Have a dinner meeting at each others home and talk about your roses, new sprays, new varieties etc.

Finally I wish you all the best of success with your rose growing for 1982 and the future years.

ERIC WELSH, President