



Mr. I.J. Le Fevre
President, The National Rose Society of Australia.

President's Message

The Eighth Rose Convention of the World Federation of Rose Societies, to which we had all looked forward for so long, is now over.

It is my special privilege, on behalf of the National Rose Society of Australia, the Rose Societies of the 'other' States, and rosarians throughout Australia, to thank and congratulate the Rose Society of New South Wales for its wonderful effort in staging the Convention.

Clearly, the outstanding success of 'Rosa Australis' resulted directly from the detailed planning which had been undertaken over a period of some five years by a very dedicated Committee led by Garth Guyett. To Shirley Layton, President of the Rose Society of New South Wales, to Garth and the members of the Convention Committee, to Eric Welsh who, as National President for 1988, shouldered the final responsibility on our behalf, and to the New South Wales Regionals, whose members worked so tirelessly and for so long to raise funds necessary at critical stages of planning, a very sincere 'thank you' from us all.

What an inspired decision it proved to invite Sean McCann to be our Official Guest and Principal Speaker. I have noted with interest that the many comments written since the Convention invariably make reference to Sean. It seems that he struck a chord with all who had the pleasure of listening to him. My own most lasting impressions of him came from his first lecture on the Monday morning — a lecture described by the session Chairman as 'the greatest lecture on roses ever to have been delivered in this country'. It was during this lecture — In Praise of Modern Roses — probably as he was pleading with us to see some beauty in every rose, that Sean reminded us that 'they are not long, these days of wine and roses'.

In terms of the 'immortality' of the rose, our days truly are not long. It behoves us all therefore, to do what we may to promote the love of the rose at every opportunity, whether this be in the context of the National Rose Society, our own State Societies or as individuals in the community at large.

I believe that we will be encouraged to do this by recalling the many new friends and contacts we made in Sydney and by remembering with gratitude the friendliness, helpfulness and hospitality of our hosts from the Rose Society of New South Wales.

—IVAN LE FEVRE, President