



**Dr. Allan A. Ferris**

**President, The National Rose Society of Australia**

*—Photo by courtesy of Leader Associated Newspapers.*

## President's Message

In 1984, for the first time, an Annual General Meeting of the National Rose Society of Australia and an Australian Rose Championship were held in the autumn. The honour of implementing the time change from spring to autumn fell upon the Rose Society of Western Australia and how well they performed! Planning and organization were excellent, hospitality was as good as we traditionally come to expect from Western Australia, interstate rosarians attended in high numbers and friendliness was the keynote of the meeting. I hope that Victoria can do as well in 1985. Our congratulations go to Dr. Allan Campbell for winning once again, the Australian Championship and the Best Rose, a fine bloom of 'Kordes' Perfecta'.

A proposal from the Rose Society of Victoria that 5000 greeting cards be printed all featuring that fine photograph of 'Megan Louise', was approved at the Perth meeting. These cards were designed and ordered and at the time of writing, are being forwarded to State Societies. Proceeds from the sale of the cards will go to the Rose Society of New South Wales who will host the World Federation of Rose Societies Conference in 1988. An active steering committee under the chairmanship of Mr. Garth Guyatt is handling the planning and fund raising for this conference.

It is good to record that at least six of the top rosarians in Australia will be attending the World Federation of Rose Societies Canadian Convention in June 1985. Our official delegates will be Mr. David Ruston and Mr. Eric Welsh.

The efforts of National delegates, together with sustained work by our Secretary, Mr. Jim Priestly, have brought some Federal aid for Werribee Park as noted elsewhere in this Annual. However serious problems have arisen in January 1985 and these must be discussed at the 13th A.G.M. in Melbourne, April 14th, 1985.

It is unfortunate that three important matters remain "on the table" — trial ground facilities, availability of virus-free understocks and legislation to protect plant variety rights. Passing of this legislation is long overdue.

In spite of the various problems and frustrations, National and State Rose Societies are fulfilling their real purpose because in all States more people are growing better roses. We are indeed promoting the rose. Currently miniatures in particular are attracting people into the rose world.

It is my wish that you will all obtain increasing enjoyment from your association with the Queen of Flowers in all of her manifestations — large flowered, cluster flowered and miniature.

ALLAN A. FERRIS, President