



Mr. David Ruston
President, The National Rose Society of Australia

President's Message

In 1985 the Annual General Meeting of the National Rose Society of Australia and the Australian Rose Championships were held in the autumn for the second time. It was very pleasing to see entries from Queensland, New South Wales, Tasmania and South Australia, as well as those from the host state of Victoria, to make the National Show such a great success. In spite of an unseasonably warm spell, and a very hot show day, the National Show was a great spectacle in the lovely old Melbourne Town Hall, and the whole weekend proved a most happy and rewarding one to all delegates, thanks to expert organization from the host society.

I am happy to report that a record number of 28 Australians (previous best 14) attended the World Federation of Rose Societies Convention in Toronto, Canada from June 23rd — 29th 1985. The conference was a very happy and friendly informal affair, catering in the many lectures and discussions for the average home garden rose grower, and was well represented by delegates from 23 countries. A great number of delegates — there were 900 in all — showed interest in attending the World Federation of Rose Societies Convention in Sydney in April 1988 for our Bicentennial year. We are hopeful that there will be several hundred visitors from overseas for this great event in the history of the Australian Rose Society.

1986 is going to be an exciting year with the opening of the Werribee Park Rose Garden in October, the National Rose Society meeting in Adelaide on April 12th and 13th with the Australian Rose Championship a special feature of South Australia's Jubilee 150 Celebrations. Then from October 30th to November 3rd the second World Heritage Rose Conference in Adelaide, with delegates booked from U.S.A., Great Britain, South Africa and New Zealand.

Having attended a lot of conventions and shows here and overseas, I wonder whether we in Australia put too much emphasis on rose shows — great as they are for showing the general public the Queen of Flowers. Perhaps more emphasis on garden visits to show members what are the best roses for landscaping and garden display, and more emphasis on rose displays at such major events as 'Garden Week', would do more to boost membership, and sell ourselves to those thousands of gardeners who love and grow roses, but have no wish to exhibit them.

With the advent of the House of Meilland's new strain of Meilland Roses — no spraying, little pruning and not much dead heading, and the new so called patio, sweetheart of minifloras — in between dwarf floribundas and tall miniatures, we are in for a lot of changes in the next decade.

In conclusion, may I wish all members a happy and rewarding year with their roses.

DAVID RUSTON, President