



Mr. G.F. Melville, S.M.A., A.R.A.
President, The National Rose Society of Australia

President's Message

The Perth Conference of the National Rose Society of Australia in April 1990 completes the third rotation of the State Members Societies of the N.S.R.A. contribution to the promotion of the Rose.

In the past seventeen years basic promotion of the Rose has been achieved by bringing the State Societies together as a National body. In this regard we respect and congratulate the many outstanding Rosarians from all State Societies who have given of their expertise and dedication in contributing to, and creating, a sound foundation for the National body. Some unfortunately have passed to higher service. We remember them and give thanks for their endeavours and accomplishments.

We now face a new era of endeavours; and look forward to new faces — younger faces to provide even greater progress directed to the promotion of the Rose throughout Australia in the years to come.

A suggestion was put forward at the Sydney and Hobart Conferences that we should consider the promotion of Rose Gardens in each of the States, the purpose being to educate the public to an appreciation of the beauty and wonders of nature and the Rose. The gardens would undoubtedly be a boost to tourism and a help and inspiration to people developing their own gardens. Such gardens could be developed to include trial grounds both for imported and locally produced hybrids.

I would ask all delegates representing the State Rose Societies at our Perth Conference to make mention of such a project to their Societies and obtain ideas and reactions to the proposal for further consideration at the forthcoming Perth Conference. Personally I realise the difficulties that could deter us, and the years of endeavour involved in such a project; but I would ask you not to take the easy way out and put the suggestion in the "too hard basket".

In our world today there is an increasing need for us to understand the dictates of Nature and the necessity for us to abide by them; also to realise and appreciate Nature's beauty and wonders of creation.

In this regard I would express appreciation of the efforts of the promoters of the Werribee Rose Garden in Victoria. Despite difficulties and some lack of support, this Rose Garden has been developed and has received commendation from tourists and visitors.

Until we meet again I wish you all a happy and healthful year in 1990 and may your Roses continue to give beauty and satisfaction to your life.

— GEORGE F. MELVILLE, S.M.A., A.R.A., President