



Mr. B. Johnson,
President, The National Rose Society of Australia.

President's Message

During recent times, the speed of personal developments within the Rose fraternity has been tantamount to a fly hitching a ride on the tail of a jet fighter. Every month seems full of exciting ventures, none more exciting than travelling to Perth for the 1990 National Rose Show and Annual General Meeting of the National Rose Society of Australia (N.R.S.A.). To be amongst our wonderful roses, renewing and establishing enduring friendships and to be subjected to that level of hospitality is what the concept of the National body is really all about.

In the 20 years since the inception of the National Rose Society, the collective effort of the States has seen this umbrella body establish its own identity, with a National perspective. Apart from the establishment of the well known Victorian State Rose Garden at Werribee Park, we are now witnessing similar ventures in other states. These include: the refurbishment of the Newfarm Rose Garden, in Brisbane, by planting 2,000 new roses; The Rose Society of South Australia convincing the City Council that roses are much more cost effective and visually appealing than annuals in many parks; The Rose Society of New South Wales involvement in the establishment of the Bert Mulley Memorial Rose Garden, in McArthur Park, Camden and the West Australian Rose Societies involvement in establishing a rose garden at the recently-saved Araluen Park Botanical Garden. All in all, the State Rose Societies under the auspices of the National Rose Society of Australia, have been very busy extending their devotion into promotion of the rose.

Owing to the difficult economic times and diversity of public attractions, the days are long gone when the public will seek out a participation in horticultural societies, in particular specialist societies, as a matter of course. We must ever be mindful of the necessity to attract (and retain) new members, for these are the watershoots of our very existence.

The World Federation of Rose Societies will be holding its World Rose Convention in Belfast, Ireland, during July, 1991 and many rosarians from Australia are keen to make the pilgrimage to Rose Emerald. I trust that events in the Middle East will allow this desire to be fulfilled, including mine.

April, 1991, will also see Melbourne hosting the National Rose Championships and Annual General Meeting of the N.R.S.A. and I personally would like to see as many rosarians as possible grace us with their precious petalled presence.

In closing, I would like to wish everyone the blessing of good health, the love of each other and the sanity of the rose, for the rose never suffers from recession, only progression.

BARRY JOHNSON, President.