

President's Message

In 1974, two years after the foundation of the N.R.S.A., then President, Hugh Graham wrote the first President's Message which he headed "Patience and Optimism". Alan Campbell followed this in 1975 with a message of "Consolidation" whilst 1976 saw Alec Taylor talk of "Progress" and in 1977 Margaret Knight ended the run with her thoughts of "Participation". These headings were indicative of the early steps of the newly formed National body.

Since then each President has given a message to members expressing views on various aspects of the conduct of our affairs but all containing hope for the future of the Society in all states and the great need to work as a unit.

The days when the rose world consisted of Hybrid Teas (large flowered roses) and shows comprised Exhibition classes, Bunch and Decorative classes, now encompass classes for Floribundas (cluster flowered) Miniature, Heritage and Old English type roses, together with Seedlings.

It is this latter aspect of rose growing which is carried out in Australia purely on an amateur basis, and yet the way is wide open for some enterprising young person to pursue a career in this field. It can be pointed out that the way to success in hybridising is fraught with difficulty and disappointment coupled with a high cost structure. But when the world was presumed to be flat, to proceed beyond the horizon had the same elements of difficulty. So what of the future? Surely man has not lost that pioneering spirit?

With this thought in mind I would like to see all State Societies encourage the amateur hybridiser by making greater provision in show schedules for seedling classes. It would be most pleasing and a progressive move for the N.R.S.A. to provide a worthwhile incentive to hybridisers which could in the long term pave the way for one or more professional hybridisers thus giving birth to a new dimension of rose growing in Australia.

It is hoped this matter will be discussed at the forthcoming A.G.M.

Having experienced a wonderful Rose Festival in Adelaide last year may we congratulate the Rose Society of South Australia for the enterprise shown in establishing the gospel of the rose in that State. It will be a hard act to follow, however we look forward to meeting old friends and to making new friends at the Australian Championships to be held this year in the Willoughby Town Hall at Chatswood.

— Garth Guyett, President



MR. G. GUYETT
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