



Mr. Ross Heathcote
President, National Rose Society of Australia.

The President's Message

It was a privilege to be elected President of The National Rose Society of Australia for the year 2002. The Commonwealth of Australia has been celebrating its Federation of the six colonies into nationhood over the last twelve months.

The Rose Society of Victoria celebrated its centenary during 1999 and the Rose Society of South Australia will celebrate theirs during 2008, with the other States some time later.

In 1972, the National Rose Society of Australia was formed and it was decided that each State Society would retain its own autonomy to cater for its own special needs such as soils, climatic conditions, different infrastructure such as regions etc., very similar in a way that the States of the Commonwealth operate.

In the case of the National Rose Society this has worked particularly well, with a growing sense of co-operation, togetherness and friendliness like never before, which ultimately benefits our beloved flower and all that it stands for, the Rose.

A recent example of this is the review of the National Judging Rules where all States are set to agree on the revised guidelines.

Congratulations go to Dr. Allan Campbell and Mr. Ern Pietsch for being awarded the NRSA Service Award. Congratulations also to Mrs. Heather MacDonell of New Zealand for being awarded the TA Stewart Memorial Award.

The Rose Society of Victoria is looking forward to hosting the AGM of The National Rose Society of Australia in Melbourne, and we look forward to seeing as many rosarians as possible, who will be made most welcome. This will be the ideal opportunity for renewing friendships and enjoying roses on what I am sure will be a memorable occasion.

*If I rise on the wings of the
dawn, if I settle on the far side
of the sea, even there Your
hand will guide me, Your right
hand will hold me fast.*

The Book of Psalms