

## The President's Message

Whenever I take on some task or responsibility, it is in the hope it will make a difference. It is a great honour to serve the Rosarians of Australia as President of the National Rose Society.

It is necessary to pay tribute to those rosarian forefathers who had the vision to work together to see what as a National Society we could achieve, having operated as independent State Societies for many years. There is always the need for compromise in negotiation without losing ones independence.

I have seen this wonderful principal in action working with Merv Sugars (QLD), Dean Stringer (SA), Ian Aitken (VIC) and Bob Melville (WA) to review the National Handbook for Judging Roses, a spirit of co-operation without which the task would not have been possible. We can look forward to implementing it in the next year or so.

Setting up the National website gives us a unique opportunity to establish valuable links which will be mutually beneficial. We need to learn from each other, support one another and work together to develop programs that will support membership, which is the lifeline of our State Societies.

I would like us to develop the AGM into a National Conference weekend with more members becoming involved. It is encouraging to see more and more interstate visitors enjoying these rose weekends. The friendships formed, gardens shared and knowledge gained make for very worthwhile experiences.

I wish you all a happy and successful 2003. I hope to see you all at Hunter Valley Gardens from 17th to 19th October 2003 for a memorable weekend of friendship, business and roses. I hope my term of office will continue the traditions of previous distinguished Presidents and that it WILL make a difference.

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Mr. Richard Walsh, President, National Rose Society of Australia.