

The President's Message

It is a pleasure for me to have the honour of holding the position of President of the National Rose Society of Australia for the coming year. I trust that I will be able to fulfil this role well and that we will all have a successful year during 2011. Thanks must go to Mr Tony Stallwood for the excellent job he has done as President during 2010.



As many of you may not know me, I would like to introduce myself and my interest in roses and rose growing.

I have always enjoyed roses. I grew up in a house in which there were always cut roses to enjoy. My father, the late Maurie Daw, was passionate about everything to do with roses. He loved his rose garden and the Rose Society of WA and he had a great deal of pleasure sharing his roses whenever possible. He was a keen exhibitor and his bowl of roses was always a treat.

While travelling overseas during the 1970's I met my future husband, Ruedi Etter from Switzerland. We decided to settle together in Australia. Although an accountant in Switzerland, Ruedi studied horticulture in Australia and together we established The Swiss Rose Garden & Nursery in 1984. Over the ensuing years we have produced countless rose bushes on Fortuniana rootstock and have run a successful rose production nursery from our property near Armadale, just outside of the Perth metropolitan area.

We have been active members of the Rose Society of WA for many years. At the Society's spring and autumn rose shows we stage a nursery display of roses for the public to enjoy. I have been on the State Council for a number of years and this is my second year as President of the Rose Society of WA.

Fortunately for many Rosarians throughout Australia, the drought which has been such a burden for the past number of years has broken. This I am sure will make gardening and rose growing in particular once more a pleasure. Now it looks like it is our turn here in the West; with severely reduced winter rains we are facing tough water restrictions during this coming

summer. Australia, being such a dry continent, will always offer gardeners a challenge through limited water resources. However, this should not deter those who enjoy gardening and roses. Ideas on clever gardening with limited water available could be something for us all to work on and to share with each other. These include informing oneself about water wise rootstocks, using waste water more efficiently than letting it all flow down the drain, using more efficient watering systems, referring to information that is available from State Water Supply companies and Agricultural Departments (and sharing that information) and perhaps other ways our members have devised to use water in their own gardens more efficiently; they are all ways to become more clever when it comes to having a beautiful rose garden in times of drought or low rain fall.

At the recent National Rose Society AGM and Rose Championships held in Brisbane in October and hosted by the Queensland Rose Society, many of us had the pleasure of meeting Mrs Sheenagh Harris, President of the World Federation of Rose Societies. Sheenagh is a great representative of the Rose on the world stage and a very hard working President.

Congratulations and a big thank you to the Queensland Rose Society for hosting such a great show and weekend of activities. Congratulations also to Mr Tony Stallwood on receiving the Australian Rose Award and to Mr Peter Burton on receiving the TA Stewart Memorial award. Both awards were announced at the gala dinner on the weekend of the NRSA championship.

Western Australia is looking forward to hosting the next NRSA Rose Championship and AGM in October 2011. We will be holding the Rose Show and Championship at Guildford, close to the Swan Valley wine growing areas, from Friday 21 to Sunday 23 with a bus tour to the South West on Monday 24 October 2011. Only 15 mins from Perth and on the banks of the Swan River, Guildford is a lovely historical area and has much to offer. We invite all rose enthusiasts to join us for what we promise will be a wonderful few days. The bus trip to the rose gardens of the members of the South West Rose Group will be a great day to enjoy the hospitality and beautiful roses of our members outside of Perth.

Wishing you all many enjoyable rosy moments during 2011 and the time to stop and smell the roses.

Warm Regards
Vivienne Etter