

We have over 3,000 members nationally. Most rose society members have between 2 and 20 rose bushes and love the experience of producing these magnificent flowers in their gardens. Of course, there are also experts on hand who may grow hundreds of rose bushes and can provide advice for other members on all aspects of rose growing.

Being a member of a Rose Society introduces you to visiting private gardens belonging to members, catching up with like-minded gardening friends, learning more about rose care, and many social activities that may even take you around the world.



It is a privilege to represent Australia as President of The National Rose Society of Australia. I look forward to representing the interests of all of the States and to meeting fellow Rosarians here, in Australia, or at World Federation of Rose Societies' (WFRS) events, internationally. I will be attending the WFRS meetings in India in 2014 and Lyon in 2015, along with many of our Australian rose enthusiasts.

I wish to thank Kelvin Trimper, Immediate Past President, for the work he has done while in office. This has included leadership in the development of a bid to hold a WFRS Convention in Australia in 2021, and work to re-establish the Rose Society of Tasmania.

I also congratulate Gavin Woods, Kelvin and the rest of the South Australian team for hosting the 42nd NRSA Annual General Meeting in Adelaide. This was an outstanding event with a beautiful display of roses and included huge floral art displays representing each State. The functions were a high quality and everyone commented on how much they enjoyed the weekend. It was good to have a contingent from New Zealand present including Doug Grant, President of the New Zealand Rose Society.

It was great to see the support provided by the Adelaide Botanic Gardens throughout the weekend and the Alan Campbell Memorial Lectures.

The Australian Rose Award was announced over the weekend and was awarded to Mr David Austin from the UK, Mrs Joyce Chapman of Victoria, and Mrs Ruth Watson of South Australia. Everyone in the rose world would

recognise the enormous contribution that both Joyce and Ruth have made to roses in Australia. They would also well know the influence David Austin has had in changing the perspective of rose growers to bring perfume and old world charm back into people's consciousness.

The NRSA is in excellent shape and we are seeking ideas for new projects and initiatives. I welcome any suggestions. I also wish to thank Mary Frick, Hon. Secretary and Jim Cain, Hon. Treasurer for their most valuable contribution to ensure the NRSA operates effectively and efficiently.

The next NRSA AGM will be held on the Gold Coast in Queensland, from 2nd to 5th October 2015 and I encourage all members to attend. The Gold Coast Rose Society have been working hard to create an event that will show off the Gold Coast as well as demonstrating that great roses can be grown in subtropical climates. You can fly straight into the Gold Coast from most Australian centres and from New Zealand.

Finally, I wish to thank all Australian rose growers for their willingness to share their knowledge and to help new members with their gardens. If you haven't been to a rose meeting in a while, or at all, I would challenge you to follow the links on the NRSA website and attend a local rose meeting. You will not only learn more about roses but you will make new friends along the way.

Paul Hains

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