

NRSA President's Message

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How many times has it been said 2020 was a year like no other? The year did throw up many challenges which organisations not only in Australia but in so many parts of the world did adapt to. The challenges forced some to fairly rapidly up date or familiarise our self with modern technological communication skills. Zoom meetings as well as virtual shows were added to our vocabulary, especially when the NRSA 2020 AGM was held by Zoom.

It was a great disappointment that the 2020 National Championships had to be postponed for twelve months. Such postponements and cancellations became familiar aspects of Rose Societies' around the world. Only Western Australia could operate more or less as normal in regard to shows.

South Australia showed great initiative with their virtual rose show. The 2020 National Rose Trial Garden on line award presentation enabled many members who had never seen this event to share the experience.

It had been my intention to visit every Australian State during my term as National President, lock down and travel restrictions prevented this. As my Presidency will now continue into 2021 I hope to achieve this during the year.

Hopefully this year will see a gradual return to normality throughout the world. At this time positive results are being recorded for vaccines enabling us to travel domestically and internationally renewing acquaintances with friends and enjoy magnificent rose gardens in various places around the globe also enabling friends from overseas to visit Australia.

Considering the year we have experienced it is hard to find many positive aspects, but many people have rediscovered gardening. In so many places gardens have never looked better. Ironically in a year with practically no Rose Shows the Roses have rarely looked so stunning.

I look forward to welcoming rosarians to "Roses by the Sea" Australian Rose Championships at Kiama in October 2021. We see Kiama as a Curtain-Raiser to the Adelaide 2022 gathering, There is so much to see and do in the Kiama area we hope many visitors will extend their stay a few extra days.