

Australian Rose Award Nomination

Mrs Diane vom Berg

The Rose Society of South Australia Inc. believes that the service of Mrs Diane vom Berg epitomises that of “outstanding service to the Rose” and “promotes knowledge, appreciation and enjoyment of the rose by the public”, both descriptors of this award. It is therefore with great pleasure that we nominate Diane for the highest of NRSA awards—the *Australian Rose Award*.

Diane joined the Rose Society of South Australia (RSSA) in May 2001 and has since given service at a far greater level than would be expected of a Member. This has been to the benefit to activities and status of the rose and the Society, and a springboard for significant contributions by Diane nationally and internationally.

The Rose Society of South Australia

Diane was elected to the RSSA’s Council in 2005 and has continued to serve as a Councillor. In 2008, she accepted the role as Vice President and took on the Presidency in 2020, holding the position through to 2023. It was a challenging period for societies and clubs, with Covid-19 presenting significant hurdles. Diane steered the Council and the Society over these. Upon finalising her terms as the President, she took on the role of RSSA Secretary and she continues to serve in that capacity.

As a Member of RSSA’s Council, Diane has:

- chaired many Council and Monthly Meetings, both during her tenure as Vice-President and President;
- assumed the role of Secretary, but prior to taking on that role, deputised in the absence of the Secretary due to their illness or absence from the State;

- co-ordinated Christmas dinners for a number of years—planning the event, seeking venues, completing the seating plan and providing raffle prizes;
- spoken to a number of groups promoting rose growing and the benefits of Society Membership—recently setting up and manning a three-day display of roses at Unley Library, as well as giving a public lecture there on rose growing;
- acted as an informal liaison officer between RSSA Associate Member, Woodville Academy of Floral Design and our Society, encouraging Academy members to participate as exhibitors at Shows and promoting the benefits of Rose Society Membership;
- been instrumental in providing a friendly “Welcome Committee” to members and visitors to the Monthly Meetings;
- been a diligent Branch Liaison Officer for Chaffey and South East Branches of the RSSA for many years;
- undertaken guest speaker engagements at several Branch Meetings;
- provided additional support to the Roses in the Heartland branch, since its inception, by working at its Barossa Rose and Flower Show in a variety of roles;
- participated in a number of Sub Committees such as those charged with organising and staging the Spring and Autumn Rose Shows;
- organised and provided catering, sometimes jointly and at her own expense, at Rose Shows and for the President’s Official Afternoon Teas at Spring and Autumn Rose Shows;
- assisted with the organisation of Allan Campbell Lecture weekends;

- generously provided her home at Clarence Gardens as a venue for a number of the Society's Floral/Exhibitor/Judges workshops and also for many Society dinners as well as Council and sub-committee meetings;
- been a successful Rose Exhibitor for many years, displaying magnificent blooms produced in her garden for the enjoyment of fellow exhibitors and members of the public; and
- played active roles in the organising and staging of the Rose Adelaide 2008 WFRS Regional Convention and RSSA's Centenary Year of Celebration, among them, opening her beautiful rose garden as part of the Tours conducted during the Convention activities.

National Rose Society of Australia

There is significant overlap in some of Diane's activities, detailed above, with her national and international activities and responsibilities. In addition to those, Diane has:

- served on the NRSA AGM Organising Committee;
- attended many National Rose Society of Australia Annual General Meetings, as one of our State delegates;
- provided accommodation, on several occasions, for interstate delegates, as well as organising social activities, co-ordinating gifts for delegates and flowers for their rooms, and being responsible for menu selections, seating plans for dinners, name badges and the printing of conference materials; and
- fulfilled various roles for the National weekends, in addition to providing her home and garden as the venue for the Welcome Receptions.

World Federation of Rose Societies

Diane's National and State accomplishments have provided a strong foundation for an exemplary contribution by her to the international rose community. This has included undertaking the role of WFRS President with distinction since 2022. She has travelled to many member countries during her term and overseen two successful Regional Conventions. Diane has provided strong and stable leadership and is well respected. Her term will end at the 20th Convention in Japan in 2025.

She has also:

- served as WFRS Treasurer from 2012 to 2022;
- hosted WFRS Executive members including now Past Presidents Steve Jones and his wife Susie, and Henrienne De Briey, and President Emeritus Helga Brichet, plus Executive Director Derek Lawrence, at her home during visits to Adelaide;
- been an integral member of the committee to coordinate the WFRS 19th Triennial Convention, held in Adelaide in 2022, attending every meeting of the group during the seven-year planning period;
- been the main liaison person to the professional conference organisers of the 2022 Convention, involved in almost every aspect of the planning of what was a very successful World Convention; and
- been a valuable steward of the WFRS rules and guidelines, drawing mainly upon knowledge gained during her service as Treasurer and while attending a number of World and Regional Conventions.

Other activities

Diane completed a training course to become a credentialed Rose Judge and has participated in judging several State Shows as well as shows supported by RSSA in country locations.

More recently, Diane has joined judging panels at National Rose Shows she has attended.

Diane is also on the permanent Assessment Team of the National Rose Trial Garden, assessing the roses in the International Rose Garden monthly during the growing season.

Recommendation

Diane vom Berg's contribution and tireless efforts to the Rose Society of South Australia, the National Rose Society of Australia and the World Federation of Rose Societies could not be considered as anything less than extraordinary. The Rose Society of South Australia therefore requests that this nomination be given due consideration.