

Nomination for the Australian Rose Award 2026

Mrs Grace Warren

The Gold Coast Rose Society, an affiliate of the Queensland Rose Society, is proud to nominate Mrs Grace Warren for the 2026 Australian Rose Award. It is our view that Grace fully meets the criteria for this prestigious award through her extraordinary service over more than 26 years in promoting the knowledge, appreciation and enjoyment of the rose.

Grace, along with her late husband Robert, joined the Gold Coast Rose Society at its inauguration in 2000, where they quickly became enthusiastic exhibitors. From the society's very beginning she has shown outstanding and unwavering commitment to the promotion of the rose, to the society, and to the wider community through exhibition and public engagement.

In 2008, the Warrens also became members of the Queensland Rose Society, and Grace is always willing to lend her knowledge and a helping hand with schedules, handbooks and anything else that might arise.

Grace has been exhibiting roses in Queensland for nearly 30 years and remains a formidable competitor at both the QRS Autumn and Spring Shows, as well as our own Annual Show on the Gold Coast. Her dedication to growing roses of the highest standard is a testament to the passion and discipline she has brought to the art of exhibition throughout her long career.

Grace's efforts to bring the rose to the public have been tireless and wide-ranging. She was involved in the planting of the rose garden at Rosser Park within the Gold Coast Botanic Gardens, developed in conjunction with the Gold Coast City Council. She has been a regular contributor on ABC Coast FM in the lead-up to the show season, has arranged pruning demonstrations at her home and at local garden fairs, and has had her collection of more than 100 roses featured in the local press. Through these endeavours, Grace has consistently served as an ambassador for the rose and for the Gold Coast Rose Society.

In the 2014–2015 year, when the Gold Coast Rose Society found itself on uncertain ground, Grace stepped forward and accepted the role of Committee President, a role she has held with great pride ever since. Her steady and enthusiastic leadership has been central to the society's growth and stability. Always encouraging of new members, Grace is known for ensuring that no newcomer ever feels overwhelmed; indeed, our meetings often don't begin on time because Grace is at the bench helping new exhibitors stage their roses, sharing advice and giving them the confidence to compete.

A mentor to many of our members, Grace shares her extensive knowledge willingly on staging, growing, pruning, pest and disease management, and judging. Her technical knowledge is unsurpassed, something she has graciously passed on to the many trainee and now qualified judges the Gold Coast Rose Society has produced. Her enthusiasm for meetings, her embracing of change, and her encouragement of new members has never waned in over two decades. Grace Warren has championed

the rose on the Gold Coast for 26 years, and her energy and generosity of spirit remain as strong as ever.

Grace's lifelong love of exhibiting led her to pursue rose judging at the highest levels. She became a Queensland State Rose Judge in 2009 and a National Rose Judge in 2014, and she currently serves as Chairperson of the National Judges Panel - a position that reflects the respect in which she is held across the national rose community.

The Gold Coast Rose Society believes that Grace Warren has made a profound and lasting contribution to the knowledge, appreciation and enjoyment of the rose for nearly three decades, and we are delighted to commend her as a most worthy recipient of the Australian Rose Award.

Chloe Weekes

Secretary

The Gold Coast Rose Society

An affiliate of the Queensland Rose Society

23 June 2026