

Dear members,

It is with great pleasure we share with you some wonderful and well-deserved news for The Rose Society of New South Wales Inc. and in particular the members concerned.

As some of you may be aware the Queensland Rose Society is celebrating its 95th anniversary this year. Over the past weekend, in Brisbane, the Queensland Society hosted the National Rose Championships, Conference and Annual General Meeting for the National Rose Society of Australia of which The Rose Society of New South Wales Inc. is a member. For those attending from New South Wales it was a weekend of well deserved recognition, great success and much celebration.

At the gala dinner on Saturday evening Jim Cunningham, a long time and active member of the Sydney Region was presented with the Australian Rose Award for outstanding or exceptional service to the Rose.

If this were not enough Graham Wright, a long time and active member, together with his wife Janet, of the Macarthur Region was presented with the T. A. Stewart Memorial Award. This is the highest award that may be presented to any rosarian in Australia or New Zealand.

Both Jim and Graham are extremely worthy recipients of their respective awards and Congratulations on behalf of the Northern Sydney Region and its membership have been sent to both gentlemen who have shown great friendship and provided great encouragement and guidance to us in the establishment of this region.

Concurrently with these awards, Ted and Meryl Morphett took home six championships for their exhibits while Graham and Janet Wright won the NSW Championship for theirs. This is no mean feat as it involved growing, picking, preparing and transporting their roses to Brisbane for exhibiting.

Further to these magnificent achievements today, in Albury, at the Annual General Meeting of The Garden Clubs of Australia Inc.(GCA) it was announced that Life Membership of the GCA has been awarded to long serving GCA Committee member, former GCA Membership Secretary and Rose Society Illawarra Region member Deidre McLoughlin. Deidre like Graham and Jim have provided great support and encouragement to us and we couldn't be more thrilled for her.

Our President Colin Hollis was awarded The President of the Garden Clubs of Australia Inc. Award. Other than Life Membership of GCA this award is the highest award that may be bestowed on an individual who is a member of a club affiliated with The Garden Clubs of Australia Inc. It is awarded to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to gardening and/or horticulture. This award is made even more poignant for us as it was the Steering Committee of the Northern Sydney Region who nominated Colin as we believed him to be a most worthy candidate whose achievements and contributions closely matched the articulated judgement criteria.

Our sincere Congratulations to both Deidre and Colin for their respective well deserved honours and the positive recognition they bestow.

We look forward to celebrating these magnificent achievements with Colin and Deidre when next they join us for a meeting.

At this point, after a substantial sigh, I think New South Wales may stand down and rest easy for the remainder of this week!

Regards

Kym Swaby, Kim Ward, Penny Whipp and Judith Williamson.
Committee
Northern Sydney Region