

At the 1998 National Council Meeting in Albury, the Walter Hazlewood Medal was awarded to Barry Di Salvia. It is given in recognition of exceptional service to the Society in the development of community regard for camellias, in the fields of administration, and the creation, distribution and recording of publications.



Since he moved to Narrandera in 1967, Barry has devoted a large amount of his time to the promotion of camellias. He has been largely responsible for Riverina Tourism adopting the camellia as the logo for their publicity on Riverina Gardens, which is distributed throughout Australia at tourist information centres. He also organised a camellia leaflet for distribution at the 1997 Riverina Tourist Display at the Melbourne Garden Festival. At the international level, he has developed contact with the Chinese Embassy in Canberra, whose members regularly attend the Narrandera Camellia Shows. He was responsible for permission being granted for an International

Camellia Society group to visit the Chinese Embassy while in the area in 1997.

At a local level he has been a tireless worker, both as a member of Hume Branch, and The Narrandera District Garden Club, in the promotion of camellias. His influence has resulted in the planting of camellias at Teloca House (Narrandera), Narrandera Primary and High Schools, and the Narrandera TAFE is about to establish a camellia garden for use by students and the general public.

The culmination of Barry's development of community interest has resulted in the establishment in 1998 by Narrandera Shire Council, in conjunction with the Narrandera Garden Club, of which Barry has been secretary for fourteen years, of a camellia garden in the main Narrandera Park.

Barry is Head Teacher of Science at Narrandera High School and his scientific training has led to research in the use of sulfur on the alkaline soils of the Riverina. He has had articles on this subject published in Camellia News and garden magazines. He is currently investigating the salt problems caused to camellia plants by bore water which is used by most gardeners in the Narrandera area.

As immediate past president of Hume Branch, and Congress Convenor of the 1998 National Congress, Barry has continued his promotion of community regard for camellias, and ACRS members present at Congress warmly congratulated him when he was presented with the Walter Hazlewood Medal at the Annual Dinner held in Albury on Saturday 5 September 1998.