

Mr Ray Garnett was acknowledged for his long and dedicated service to camellias in Australia by being made a Fellow of the Australian Camellia Research Society at National Congress 2002.

Ray has been actively involved with the ACRS at both the state and national levels for over thirty years. Ray assisted Mr. Jessep in his role as National Registrar and then took over the position when Mr Jessep resigned in 1985 and he still holds that position today. He is also a Councillor for Camellias Victoria.



Ray is a keen hybridiser himself who has done much work in his endeavours to breed small leafed, small flowered hybrids. Ray has always been very discerning in his choice of plants that he has registered. His best known introduction is, of course, 'Sweet Jane', closely followed by 'Sweet Emily Kate'. His donation of the proceeds from the PVR rights of 'Sweet Jane' to the ACRS was extremely generous and has helped the ACRS in a positive way.

Ray has been writing articles for our Branch Newsletter on Culture, Hybridising and Registration for over 20 years and many of these articles are reproduced in other Branch newsletters, 'Camellia News' and in overseas journals.

He is a senior judge who judges at shows and has also assisted in the training of junior judges. He also gives talks on Culture both at our monthly meetings and at general garden clubs.

Ray received the Merrillees Gold Medal for Service to Camellias in Victoria in 1988 and he was also awarded the national E. G. Waterhouse Award in 1993.

Ray's interest in camellias has continued over a long period and he is still actively supporting both Camellias Victoria and the National Council of ACRS.