

Mrs Yvonne Young was awarded the Hazlewood Award at the 1999 National Congress.

A vibrant camellia society, one that lives and breathes and prospers, requires efficient administration just as it needs botanic research.

The core of the ACRS has been enthusiastic amateurs; the members who love growing camellias as a hobby; who don't aspire to become 'experts', but who are prepared to contribute their heart and soul to create a togetherness that surrounds the hobby with happiness.

Such a person is Yvonne Young. Her close friends refer to her as YY.

Yvonne was invited to join with the ACRS by foundation members Russell and Margaret Thomas in 1961. Since then she has backed her personal love of camellias, and her many awards at camellia shows, with practical dedication to the Society's well-being.



Her contribution has included a term as National Secretary from 1976 to 1978 when Tim Dettmann was National President, and Overseas Membership Secretary since 1990. The latter position requires a lot of patience and financial know-how making use of the currency exchange rate, alternations and fluctuations to the best advantage for Australia, and sorting out lapsed memberships and non-delivery of overseas journals. This had been quite tedious over the past few years.

Yvonne is presently Membership Secretary of the NSW Branch. Her personal support of the Society's shows has been considerable, while her participation in Australian contingents attending overseas ICS Congresses between 1978 and 1999 has been an important factor in Australia's recognition as the world's most ardent contributor to the international camellia togetherness.

Yvonne has helped with Branch camellia shows, recording, setting up and exhibiting (especially her gibbed blooms) at the Blaxland Gallery, St John's, St Alban's, Bowden Brae, Elizabeth Farm, Eryldene and at National Shows. She has made regular visits to the Narrandera Camellia Show for nearly 20 years as both supporter and judge.

Many members will not realise the time Yvonne has devoted to enhancing the financial dependability that the ACRS enjoys at home and overseas. She also has many camellia friends all over the world, especially Japan, giving Japanese members home hospitality for long periods.

The 1999 Hazlewood Award of Honour for outstanding services to the Australian Camellia Research Society could not be awarded to a more deserving member.