



Volume 11, No. 4

December 2000

Locked Mail Bag 5057, Darlinghurst NSW 1300
Phone (02) 9368 2700 Fax (02) 9380 9528

Email ashm@ashm.org.au
Internet Address: www.ashm.org.au

The Melbourne-based AIDS charity, THE AUSTRALIAN AIDS FUND INC., has commissioned the production of the world's first HIV/AIDS "cause" rose. Launched by South Australian Premier John Olsen at the International Rose festival in Adelaide on October 19, the rose bears the name HOPE and is now listed on the international registry of roses. The production of the HOPE rose is intended as a fundraiser for AIDS-care groups throughout Australia and across the world. It'll come into full scale production before June 2001.

Defying the fierce South Australian heat leading up to World AIDS Day, the South Australian growers (Ross Roses of Willunga) rushed cut blooms to Sydney for WORLD AIDS DAY ceremonies via Sr. Margaret Mines at where else of course but her Tree of Hope building where eventually they were to be located in St. Mary's cathedral after a hectic round of service/ceremonies.

In Canberra, the Hope roses were presented to the November 30 gathering of The National Academies Forum "Every Eight Seconds : AIDS Revisited" held at the National Library of Australia where they were introduced by the National Academies Forum President, Professor Malcolm Gillies and presented by Queanbeyan resident KERRY HADFIELD, a hospital ward contemporary of Eve van Grafhorst and Troy Lovegrove, AIDS heroes of the mid 1980's when the pages of Australian HIV history were at their darkest in terms of shameful discrimination.

In Melbourne, a Hope rose bush was planted in the Positive Women's area of the new CCU, Fairfield House at a special planting ceremony involving children while the archbishop of Adelaide, Dr. Faulkner also planted one in the rose garden of St. Francis Xavier's cathedral in Adelaide. The Hope rose was also the centre of attraction at a joint agencies luncheon at Adelaide's Positive Living Centre on December 6 to mark AIDS Awareness Week.

ASHM newsletter readers can read more about the Hope rose...and see what it looks like...by referring to the website of The Australian AIDS Fund Inc. on www.aids.org.au. Prices for the new rose have yet to be decided. Australian AIDS Fund President Brian Hail believes the Hope rose will become one of the great international roses, perhaps even as a sister to the famous PEACE rose.

"People, sadly," he said "do live without love. But it is up to all of us to see that nobody should be expected to live without hope." Despite only setting up its website in May this year, The Australian AIDS Fund has found itself swamped....its simple domain address making it a defacto HIV/AIDS information website....over 30,000 visits to date!

Your contributions are invited. That address again www.aids.org.au.