



## 2015 Newington Medal - Australia

***The Newington Medal recognises outstanding contributions, actions and achievements of Old Boys who have gone beyond the normal expectations. This is the highest honour Newington can bestow on an Old Boy for meritorious and commendable achievement. The Medal acknowledges an Old Boy (both Australian and International residents) whose work, profession, skill, dedication, generosity and/or support has involved meritorious and commendable achievement in business, the professions, community service, industrial development, technology, human relations, education, cultural development, sport, international relations, the arts or philanthropy.***

### **Mr Ben Swane AM (ON 1944)**

Since 1944, Nurseryman Ben Swane's dedication and passion for horticulture, in particular his beloved roses, is legendary. Not just in the nursery and garden industry but in the wider community as well. Referred to as "Gardening Royalty", Ben has reached the pinnacle of excellence as a Nursery owner of Swane's Nursery in Dural; a rose breeder of distinction; exporter; adviser and educator. He has received many accolades throughout his long and distinguished career and yet still finds time for charitable works.

Ben Swane attend Newington from 1941 to 1944, as did his brother Geoffrey, and left after completing his Intermediate Certificate. He rowed in the 2nd IV as well as singing in the College choir. In later years, he acknowledged his passion for all things plants and gardening began during his Newington years. His two sons, Robert (ON 1980) and Philip (ON 1981) attended Newington. Ben regularly returns to the College for 70 Club lunches.

His contribution to the Nursery industry has been immense, serving on boards of the Nursery and Garden Industry Association and the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW for many years, attaining life membership of both. He is valued for his eminent body of horticultural knowledge and industry experience. For many years he has been advising the Australian Citrus Propagation Association, the Elizabeth Macarthur Agricultural Institute, the NSW Department of Industry and Investment, Plant Breeders' Rights Committee with the Department of Primary Industries and the International Plant Propagators' Society. He is a long serving member of Rotary and served for three decades as a district co-ordinator for the Red Shield Appeal.

Widely acknowledged for his vast specialised horticultural knowledge and one of Australia's most accomplished rose growers, Ben's special gift is as an educator. Whether advising the novice gardener as a radio commentator, or speaking at gardening forums or conventions, his ability to engage the practical gardener in a calmly informative yet accessible manner, is unparalleled.

Ben Swane is a worthy recipient of the Newington Medal (Australia) for 2015.