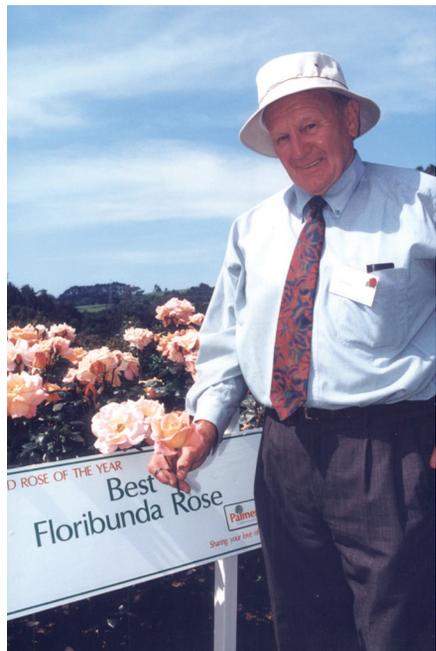


# Obituary

**Alan Livesey Mason (M.N.Z.M.)**  
**21 December 1921 – 28 April 2016**



Alan Mason at the Auckland Rose of the Year (Nov 1995). Photo courtesy *Commercial Horticulture* magazine.

Well known nurseryman, community leader, weather recorder and World War 2 veteran Alan Mason MNZM of Feilding passed away on 28 April 2016 aged 94.

After serving in World War 2, Alan studied for a Diploma in Horticulture and joined his father's nursery near Feilding. He was only meant to stay for a few months to help out but working with his father instead led to a lifetime involvement with roses. His

early involvement with roses saw him, along with his father Frank, help set up rose trials at Massey University in 1947. He also became a council member of the New Zealand Rose Society and also helped plan the Dugald MacKenzie Rose Garden and the International Rose Trials in Palmerston North.

Upon his father's death in 1956, Alan became Managing Director of Frank Mason & Son while his older brother Sam was the Office Manager. In 1964, the nursery changed from a general nursery to a specialist rose and fuchsia nursery and it was roses in particular where Alan made a significant contribution.

Frank Mason & Son Ltd became well known around New Zealand as a supplier of quality roses and acted for many years as the New Zealand agent for Harkness and Wisbech of England and Cocker of Scotland. The nursery also pioneered the production of miniature rose varieties grafted onto a short standard and also became known for its range of heritage roses.

In 1999, the nursery closed down although Alan and his wife Mary continued to service rose growers with propagation material of varieties they were handling under license. Mary Mason passed away in 2004.

With the advent of the Plant Variety Rights (PVR) Act in the early 1970s, the rose growers formed the administration body Rose Introducers of New Zealand (RINZ). Alan was appointed as Treasurer, later he served as Chairman and also as Field Officer which saw him travel around New Zealand checking budding numbers.

Alan was also a member of the RNZIH for many years and was elected to the National Executive in 1971. In 1996, Alan was presented with the Associate of Honour for the RNZIH (AHRH) for distinguished service to horticulture in New Zealand<sup>1</sup>.

Alan was also involved heavily in community activities in Feilding and in 2003 was made a member of the New Zealand Order of Merit (MNZM) for services to horticulture and the community. He served on both the Feilding Borough Council and the Manawatu District Council on many committees. Alan was also known locally as Feilding's weather man having recorded weather details since the 1970s, a remarkable achievement and even more so as his older brother and father had done the same job before him going back to July 1917.

**Obituary prepared by  
Hayden Foulds**

<sup>1</sup> *New Zealand Garden Journal*, 1996, Vol. 1, No. 4, pp. 10–11.