

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tom May
Australasian Mycological Society

The inaugural Annual General Meeting of the Australasian Mycological Society will be held during the Mycology Conference at the University of Melbourne on 1 October 1996. Members wishing to place items on the agenda should contact the Secretary by 19 September 1996.

Call for nominations

Nominations are requested for the following positions in the Australasian Mycological Society:
President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and two councillors.

Nominations should be submitted in writing, signed by two financial members of the Society and accompanied by the written consent of the candidate. Nominations should be received by the Secretary (Dr Tom May) by 31 July 1996. Objects and rules of the Society can be found in the Newsletter for March 1995, or can be obtained on request from the Secretary.

1996 COMMEMORATIVE CONFERENCE—MYCOLOGY CONFERENCE (MYCOLOGY BEFORE THE FLORAS)

There has been a good response with participants from most Australian states, New Zealand and Hong Kong, offering talks and posters on a range of microfungi and macrofungi, covering ecology, taxonomy, physiology and other topics. The deadline for abstracts was 31 May 1996, but late applications are acceptable, although there are only a few speaking spots remaining.

Registration forms and brochures for the Mycology Conference and the associated conferences on History (The Scientific Savant) and Botany (Beyond the Floras) are available from the Secretary.

Some financial assistance for students and unwaged members will be available at the discretion of the Council of the Society. Members seeking assistance should be presenting a paper at the Conference, and should send details of their status and a brief justification of the need for support to the Secretary by the 30 June 1996.

At the Beyond the Floras conference, which follows immediately, there will be a session on 'Orphan groups' (various non-vascular 'plant' groups). Professor David Hawksworth (International Mycological Institute) will talk in this session on 'Orphans in "botanical" diversity'.

MUSHROOM POISONINGS

J.A. Simpson

In April 1996 a 60 year old man died in Melbourne after eating basidiomata of *Amanita phalloides* (Vaill.: Fr.) Secr. (*Melbourne Age* 6 April 1996). This is the second human fatality in Australia as a consequence of eating *A. phalloides*; last year a man died in Canberra.

The *Sydney Morning Herald* of 20 June 1996 reported five people from a town in the Blue Mountains were taken to hospital after eating freshly picked mushrooms at a dinner party. I understand the mushrooms have been identified as *Omphalotus nidiformis* (Berk.) O.K. Miller [= *Pleurotus nidiformis*; = *P. lampas*].