

## PATRON OF THE AUSTRALASIAN MYCOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Dr Gretna Weste, Botany School, the University of Melbourne, has agreed to become the patron of the Society.

Gretna M. Weste was born in Victoria in 1917, graduated BSc (Hons) at the University of Melbourne in the late 1930s, then worked for the Victorian Forests Commission on compression wood formation and aspects of other stress in wood. In the early 1960s she returned to the University to begin a PhD part-time with Dr L.B. Thrower. Her PhD thesis, 'A study of the biology of *Ophiobolus graminis*' was highly acclaimed by her examiners, one of whom was Professor S.D. Garrett. Among other findings she was the first to show that ascospores of *Gaeumannomyces graminis tritici* (as we now know it) were capable of infecting wheat roots. She also began demonstrating in Mycology and Forest Pathology, and for many years lectured on the impact of plant diseases in the natural environment. On completion of her PhD, she became interested in the disturbing problem of Forest Dieback and so launched into thirty years of research into the biology, pathology and control of *Phytophthora cinnamomi*. During this time she trained several PhD students, published many papers and established herself as an Australian authority on the subject. She has a broad general knowledge of native plants, larger fungi and Australian discomycetes, the latter through her collaborative research with the amateur mycologist, the late Gordon Beaton. In the years leading up to the Fourth International Congress of Plant Pathology held at the University of Melbourne in 1983, she worked very hard as Chairman of the Organising Committee to make it the outstanding success that it was. In more recent years, her outstanding contribution to mycology was recognised in her collected works on *P. cinnamomi*, with the award of a DSc by the University of Melbourne. Her enthusiasm and energy are as unflagging as ever.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 4th Annual General Meeting of the Australasian Mycological Society will be held in Sydney at Westmead Hospital, Education Block, Lecture Theatre 4, on **Saturday 21 August 1999 at 5.30 pm.**

The AGM will follow the Australasian Mycological Society Meeting, held in association with the IUMS International Congress of Mycology.

Members wishing to place items on the agenda for the AGM should contact the Secretary by **6 August 1999.**

### Call for nominations

**Nominations are requested from members of the Australasian Mycological Society for the following positions in the 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 with the Secretary by **25 June 1999**. Objects and rules of the Society can be found in the *Newsletter* for March 1995, or can be obtained on request from the Secretary.

**Please consider nominating as an Office Bearer or Councillor**

Tom May  
Secretary, Australasian Mycological Society

