



MRS. N. SIMPSON, S.M.A.

## T.A. Stewart Memorial Award 1994

Mrs Nola Simpson, of New Zealand has been awarded this high honour for 1994.

Nola's long association with roses spans more than 40 years. She commenced growing roses in Horowhenua, where she helped her elder sister in their parents' garden, her interest deepening when her sister left the family farm to marry. Since leaving Horowhenua and coming to Palmerston North, Nola has developed and grown roses successfully in several gardens of her own making around the city.

In detailing some of Mrs. Simpson's achievements, we would first dwell on her talents as an administrator. Whilst in Levin, she served on the committee of the Horowhenua Rose Society, and has served 25 years on the committee of the Manawatu Rose Society, of which she was President from 1976-80. She is a National Councillor, and is currently Chairperson of the Trial Ground of the National Rose Society. In appreciation of her work for the Manawatu Rose Society, she has been created a Life Member, and was that Society's successful nominee for the Frank Penn Memorial Award in 1984.

As a researcher, whether into searching out effective cures for pests of diseases, looking at recently-introduced fertiliser samples, or the variables of newly-introduced rose varieties, Nola is a source of new information to all. No-one in the history of the New Zealand Rose Society has won more gold medals exhibiting roses than Nola; however, the real thrill she obtains from exhibiting appears when others match the quality of her own exhibits. The genuine advances in the quality of autumn roses throughout New Zealand are in considerable part due to Nola's research and experience.

Nola's genuine interest in rose-breeding has led her to concentrate part of her energies in the quest for real improvement in new roses varieties. She has won the highest Trial Ground awards; her most notable variety so far is **HOT CHOCOLATE**, a Floribunda. She has, of course, ensured the evaluation of the many seedlings left as a legacy to us all by her late husband, John. As Chairperson of the National Rose Trial Grounds Sub-Committee, Nola has introduced the most comprehensive rose evaluation system in place anywhere in the world, and using her talents as a computer scientist, has developed programmes for judging and collating Rose Trial results which have been made available to other Trial Grounds overseas.