

# Honorary Members

At its Biennial General Meeting on 5 June 1989, the Society conferred Honorary Membership on two members, Margaret Medcalf and Doreen Wheeler. The following are edited versions of the nominations read to the meeting.

## **Margaret Medcalf**

Margaret Medcalf retired from the position of State Archivist of Western Australia on 10 February 1989 after 34 years of service to archives and libraries in Western Australia.

Her library career began in 1955 when she joined the staff of the Public Library of Western Australia, which later the same year came under the control of the Library Board of Western Australia. She was initially appointed to the Archives Branch and subsequently spent two years in the Library of Business, Science and Technology and the Library of Social Sciences, Philosophy and Religion before travelling overseas and working in Europe. In 1960 she returned to what had become the J.S. Battye Library of West Australian History and in 1972 she was appointed Principal Librarian and State Archivist.

During the eighteen years she held this position she played a significant role in conserving an important part of Western Australia's heritage as well as being very active in associated professional associations and societies. As State Archivist she was a member of the WA Committee of the Australian Advisory Committee on Bibliographical Services (now the Australian Council on Library and Information Services) since its inception. She held the office of Chairman of this body from 1984 to 1986.

She was president of the Archives Section of the Library Association of Australia in 1973, inaugural Convener of the Western Australian Branch of the Australian Society of Archivists from 1981 to 1985 and Convener for the 1987 ASA Conference. Her efforts in organising that event were outstanding.

Margaret's work in archives administration was carried out in the context of its integral place in the total records management cycle. She was a founder member of the WA Branch of the Records Management Association of Australia in 1982, and served as its President for the year 1988/89 and is currently Vice President.

Margaret Medcalf's contribution to the archives profession and the development of the collection of Western Australian historical sources has been exemplary. In addition to her work with government records she was instrumental in establishing a formal oral history program and encouraged what has now become a significant component of the State's historical resource. Over the last year of her service she was a driving force in the State Library Service's efforts to develop a Public Records office in Western Australia.

She has been an active member and branch Councillor for the Library Association of Australia for many years. Margaret was an inaugural member of the selection panel for the F.A. Sharr Award, granted to an outstanding student of library science in WA. In 1986 she was awarded Fellowship of the Library Association of Australia for her contribution to the fields of librarianship, archives and bibliography.

Margaret Medcalf dedicated generous time and professionalism in serving on two of the State's sesqui-centenary celebration committees (Publications, and Women's Activities) from 1977 through to 1979. Much of the meticulous detail and excellence in work produced by these committees can be attributed to Margaret's ability to organise and research the necessary resources.

Margaret is President of the Royal Western Australian Historical Society and Chair of the W.A. Museum's Maritime Archaeology Advisory Committee. As a result of the professional experience and expertise contributed to this Committee, the Museum has awarded her an Honorary Associateship.

Activities which will continue to occupy Margaret's attention after her retirement from the State Library Service will include planning for two major conferences. She is chairing the Program Committee of the Records Management Association and the International Records Management Council Joint Conference Committee which is to be held in Perth in December 1989, and is Vice-Chair of the Australian Library and Information Association 1990 Conference Committee, also to be held in Perth.

(Christine Shervington)

### **Doreen Wheeler**

Doreen commenced her career in the archives profession in 1963 when she was appointed Deputy State Archivist in Queensland. She had previously completed a Bachelor of Arts degree at Queensland University and then obtained the Library Association of Australia Registration Certificate specialising in archives administration. As Bob Sharman inferred on Friday, and as has been the experience of her archival friends,