

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,

Doreen was professional, pioneering, and dedicated. She remained with the Queensland State Archives for two years.

After a period away Doreen resumed her career with her appointment as Deputy Archivist at the ANU Archives of Business and Labour in January 1971. It was during the years that she was associated with the ANU Archives that Doreen's academic, professional, and management skills came to the fore as she participated in the consolidation of the Archives scattered holdings into one site in mid 1971, greatly enhanced the Archives' trade union collection with the successful negotiation and transfer of the Seamen's Union records, and began lecturing at the Canberra CAE in topics relating to the archives profession to students of librarianship. It was this aspect of her talents which had an impact on the archival professional as a whole.

These years also saw Doreen's active involvement in the nascent Australian Society of Archivists, as the Society's second Secretary during the years 1977-79, in playing a leading role in the formulation of the postgraduate course in archives at the Melbourne CAE, and in the coordination of much of the work done in 1979-80 in establishing a foundation for the Society's approach to accreditation.

The latter activities were undertaken after Doreen moved to Melbourne in 1976 to take up her appointment as BHP's first professional Corporate Archivist. First as Corporate Archivist and later as Superintendent Group Information Services, BHP, Doreen established precedents and achieved major breakthroughs, putting BHP Archives on a sound professional footing. As the sole archivist for five years, she devised and put into place all the policies and procedures for the operation of the Archives, defined its collection strategy *and* did all the work. She established the credibility of the Archives as an administrative support unit and promoted it successfully, keeping the historical role of the Archives carefully balanced and ensuring that the Archives was never regarded as a cosy repository of eccentric facts for fusty historians.

Doreen tackled and promoted the management issues in Archives, and secured commitment from management to the application of automated systems in archives. She gained recognition of the Archives as the central archives for BHP, securing positive commitment from the Company to its archives through the acquisition of new and properly equipped premises (by 1985 the Archives employed 3 full-time professional archivists and two clerical officers).

A not insignificant achievement was succeeding in a conservative, male dominated company, being one of the few women to be made a Superintendent.

Following her resignation from BHP in 1986, Doreen joined the Melbourne Port Authority, pursuing a more broadly based career in

information management, but retired from full-time employment last year to take a much earned overseas holiday.

To us, Doreen has been a mentor in the field of business archives management, education, and professional organisation and development. Her articles and reviews in *Archives and Manuscripts* reveal the professional, pragmatic, humorous (in a wry sense) qualities that we recognise so well.

She has been a pioneer, supporter and publicist for the archival profession, and has well earned the distinction of becoming an Honorary member of the Society.

(Peter Crush)